



Feng Shui – Your Way to Peace, Harmony & the Best Price for Your Home

By Mark Shaw

Have you ever walked into a room or home and it “just felt” good? Conversely, you may have encountered a space that did not feel right and you just couldn’t put your finger on it. Feng Shui (pronounced fung-SCHWAY) is the ancient art of organizing our physical environments to harmonize with our inner selves, thus creating order, relaxation and ease in our lives. In the practical sense, Feng Shui compels us to look around at our home and work environments to increase the flow of Ch’i (CHEE) or life energy. There are a variety of professional consultants available to fine tune individual spaces. This short article will by no means act as a substitute for a full consultation by a qualified professional. What it will do, is give a taste of how the average household can improve their performance and quality of life by making a few simple adjustments:

ATTIC & BASEMENTS: Make sure they are well lit, organized and that everything stored has a good home and is easily accessible.

BATHROOMS: Keep all drains closed when not in use. This includes toilet seats in the down position. Ch’i can therefore remain in the home and not go “down the drain.” In addition, Ch’i can be lifted with a fresh coat of paint, new towels, artwork or a small vase with fresh flowers from the garden.

BEDROOMS: Bed and furniture placement are important factors in the bedroom. It is best when lying in bed to be able to see out of

the bedroom doorway. Keep art objects serene and sensual. Avoid pictures or paintings with busy cityscapes or chaotic themes. Move exercise equipment, televisions into another room and keep wall colors neutral and calming for maximum “rest & renewal.”

DINING ROOMS: Formal or casual, dining rooms are a sanctuary for enjoyment, nourishment and relaxation. How do the table and chairs interact? Keep chairs comfortable, in good repair and safe. Avoid sharp edges on tables with table cloths or runners. Decorate walls with artwork that’s tranquil, staying away from large mirrors that tend to over stimulate the environment.

GARAGES: Along with stables and carriage houses, garages were originally designed for the exclusive purpose of transportation and thus detached from the home at the rear of the property. Today, it is oftentimes the first appointment. Our tendency is to (myself included) park cars worth tens of thousands of dollars outside in the elements and store worthless junk in our garages. Keep garages free of clutter and organized. Install shelving or work areas that are easily accessible. If you do park in your garage, keep the garage door open for five minutes after you enter to let fumes dissipate, and so increasing the flow of Ch’i.

KITCHENS: Food is the symbol of health and wealth in Feng Shui, thus the kitchen is a very important element in any home. Keep surfaces and counters uncluttered. Ask yourself the question –

Do I use everything on my counters everyday? Store knives out of sight when not in use. Avoid piling mail on your kitchen counters. Keep recycling and trash receptacles out of sight. If you enter your home through the kitchen, consider an alternate entry. First sight of the refrigerator can promote an “external appetite.”

LIVING ROOMS: Place furniture carefully. Position the sofa so you can view the front door. Put televisions and stereo equipment behind closed doors, if possible. Pay attention to sharp corners in metal, glass or wood tables.

MIRRORS: Mirrors are a great way to activate and expand Ch’i throughout your household. Take care not to over activate bedrooms, dining rooms or place of serenity. Place mirrors so that when you walk by, you can see your head with several inches of room to spare. Avoid placing mirrors back to back for the “infinity” look as this disorients people and Ch’i.

FOUNTAINS: Water features are an integral part of Feng Shui. Running water can increase the flow of Ch’i. Bird baths are excellent as well if kept sparkling clean. Keep all pools and hot tubs safely locked or fenced and clean.

Whether doing a quick spiff or hiring a Feng Shui consultant for a complete overhaul, it is important that you feel comfortable in your space. If you feel good, so will others and when marketing your home, you may be surprised at the compliments you may receive

from your prospective buyers: “I can’t explain it, but this home just feels right.”



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