

The Play Storage Dining Room?

By Andi Peterson Brown

Home staging refers to the act of preparing and showcasing a property for sale in the real estate marketplace. Many people associate the term only with carting in a houseful of rented furniture and painting the walls an unassuming white. And for certain homes, that might be the case. But in reality there is a spectrum to home staging, and for some sellers it may simply mean dressing up and rearranging what's already there, de-cluttering rooms, or merely removing some personal items during home showings. While it is common for sellers to initially feel some resistance towards staging their home, the truth is that staging is a tremendous asset. And here's why:

- **It makes for a great first impression.** Staging a home creates a neutral palate so that buyers can see themselves living in the home and making it their own.
- **It enhances the emotional experience.** A lighter, brighter, cleaner, warmer, more organized and more cheerful home will win a buyer over every time.
- **It eliminates distractions.** Many buyers can't see past the play room that ate the dining room. Personal effects should be minimized and rooms should be used for their intended purposes.

It is important to remember that staging a home can be accomplished on any budget. It is a sound investment toward the ultimate goal of obtaining the highest price possible in the shortest amount of time. And really, isn't that what it's all about?



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Late Spring's Focus on Wealth and Abundance

By Michele Duffy



Place purple silk or real flowers in the wealth area of your home office. Photos provided

Late spring in the *I Ching*, which also influences the Feng Shui Bagua map area of wealth and abundance or prosperity, is governed by wind and sun. It makes sense, since windy and sunny days are the hallmarks of the season.

In feng shui, the wealth and abundance or prosperity area is found in the far or back left portion of your home from the front entrance (see map on page D12). The wealth area of your master bedroom is also in the far left area from the bedroom door. This area is ruled by the wood element and by the number four. Wealth and abundance is all about identifying what in your life helps to make you feel prosperous. It is not just about "big money" – although this is the area associated with having money to go on a dream holiday – but it's also about connecting with what helps to make us feel prosperous. It can be the source of all our good, and can relate to our work, marriage, spiritual practice, friends or family. This area governs finding inner peace and true happiness with what you have in life and learning to be philanthropic. It is often associated with the generosity and gratitude area as well.

Since this area is ruled by wood, placing feng shui plants that are associated with great wealth like bamboo, money trees or lucky jade are all sound symbolic choices. If you are considering painting your master bedroom, and it happens to be in the far left area of your home, a soft pale agave or jade green hue is perfect to activate the wood element that rules prosperity.

The wealth area also rules desired life events like stable and increased income, receiving unexpected money or a raise, and making more money from your business.

Water features in the far left area of your garden or yard are ideal, and planting things that protect wealth, like orange trees, is auspicious.

Recently, a client in Lafayette had an issue with the wealth area in their master bedroom that had views of a neighbor's home (what surrounds us influences our energy, too). The view was causing negative feelings in the client, so we planted a wall of privacy trees to block the unsightly home and activate the wood element for the yard area. We then turned our attention to the master bedroom wealth area. We painted the entire room in a soft green hue and placed a purple orchid in the far left area on one of the nightstands. My client began to experience a notable increase in the quality and number of work-related opportunities in his life.

Remember to minimize the metal element in the wealth area, unless you want to chop your ability to prosper. Avoid the colors white, grey and silver, metal picture frames (use wood ones instead), metal sculptures or furniture.

The wealth and abundance area is a fantastic spot for a dream board, placing the images of what specific type of abundance you would like to manifest in your life. Remember to use a wooden frame. Fill the area with an abundance of fresh new round (coin shaped) leafy plants like jade. As you tend to your plants, try to set your intention to inviting new growth into this area of your life.

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