



Riding the Wind and Harnessing the Water

Angi Ma Wong

The house had been vacant for three weeks. Even in the twilight, there was no reason for the pervasive eeriness I felt as I slowly pushed the door open. I wanted to turn around and run out. Several steps led me into the foyer and the feeling persisted. I could not put my finger on it, but the house felt lifeless. Normally it would have been bustling with the sounds of four teenagers and two adults going about their business; now it was silent.

As I walked through the familiar halls and rooms, checking here and there, my footsteps echoed on the hardwood floors, muffling a bit as the flooring changed to tile, and finally swishing on the plushness of the carpeting. Nothing was amiss, and yet I sensed that the house was disturbed in some way and did not welcome my presence. It was not a good feeling, especially since the house was my own.

Perhaps you have been in someone's house or apartment and shared this same feeling. Instinctively, you sensed that something did not feel right. When you first moved into your own new home or office, it may have taken weeks or months of rearranging furnishings until your surroundings felt comfortable. You probably did not know it then, but you were already practicing Feng Shui.



Those of us of Chinese heritage are taught that there are five things that determine our destiny: fate, luck, philanthropy, education, and Feng Shui.

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Fate: Your fate is decided by heaven. It is your fate to be born into affluence or poverty, to be the first or fifteenth born in your family, to be an Italian industrialist's daughter, a British prince, or a beggar on the streets of Bombay. Fate influences about 70% of your destiny.¹



The next four elements comprise the remaining 30% of your destiny and are the areas where you can take proactive steps to change the course of your life.

Luck: You can always better your luck by improving your odds. Joining the neighborhood bingo game instead of buying a lottery ticket along with 6 million other people in your state is a clear example.

Philanthropy:

Doing compassionate acts of charity is certainly within everyone's ability. It does not take any money to smile, pay a compliment, or give back to your community by volunteering your time.

¹ Please refer to "Classical Feng Shui," p.109, and to learn about fate from a western astrological perspective, see "Family and Space Relationships," p. 249.

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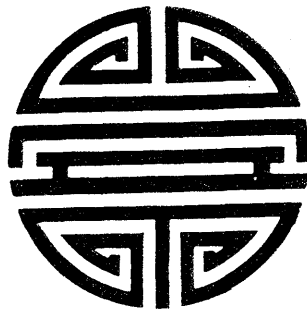
Education:

You can be actively involved in self improvement in many ways: read, listen to tapes, take a class or trip, learn a new skill, or experience something you have never done before.

Feng Shui:

Feng Shui originated in China as a means for the living to remain connected to and in communication with their departed ancestors. The compass² was invented, not as a navigational tool, but to insure the proper placement of grave sites to maintain this connection.³ Locating the most ideal grave site would insure that the descendants would be rewarded with good fortune, health, business success, large families, and prosperity. This is definitely powerful *destiny improving* help.

The same care involved in proper placement is still used today in Chinese communities and families throughout the world, whether it is finding a grave site for grandfather, an office for mother, or a new home for the newlyweds.



**Once a closely guarded secret of holy men and mystics of China,
the centuries-old practice of Feng Shui
is now accessible to everyone.**

² The Chinese compass, called the "loupan," has up to 24 concentric bands of mystical markings.

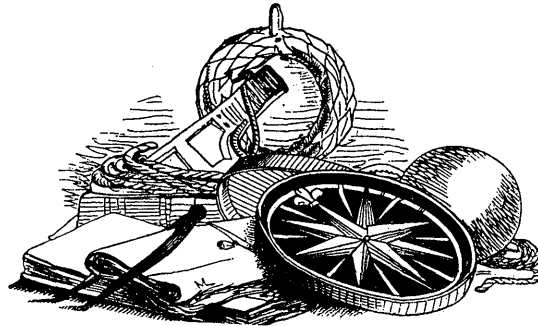
³ Please refer to "Energy Systems and Feng Shui," p. 275.

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Practicing modern Feng Shui techniques gives you the power to change your environment and consequently to change your life. You are surrounded by the universe and its magnificence. Although you cannot see its cosmic energy, you can feel it each time you take a walk in the woods, paddle down a river, or wade in the surf. It is this same energy that binds and bonds you to all people and things.

What do you want to change or improve in your life?

Each of the eight directions or compass points is associated with specific areas of life:



North:	Business Success or Career
South:	Fame and Fortune
East:	Family Life or Health
West:	Children and their Fame
Northwest:	Helpful People and Travel
Northeast:	Knowledge and Intelligence
Southeast:	Wealth
Southwest:	Marriage, Relationships, and Motherhood

These points are also associated with symbols, colors, animals, and elements. You can enhance and harmonize your environment by adding an area's corresponding element or color. To help you remember them, use the acronym **CANE** (Color, Animal, Number, Element).

Practical Feng Shui Chart ⁴



⁴ Please do not confuse Angi's Feng Shui lineage and Bagua with that of Black Hat Sect Feng Shui, which does not use compass directions with the Bagua. All Feng Shui methods have their own unique approach and have proven their validity through the centuries. Process all the schools and techniques through your intuition to determine which works best for you.

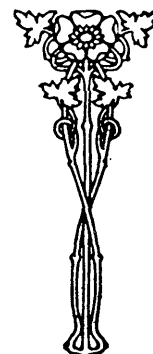
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Bring more wealth into your life

There are four different directions that relate to wealth: north for career and business success, east for fortune, south for prosperity, and southeast for wealth. Use a compass⁵ to find those four directions in the space you are working on. Look around the room to see how you can move furnishings and accessories to enhance the energy of the area and to affect changes.

In the north part of your space, you could add *one* (the Number associated with north) object that was not there before, or something *black* (the Color associated with north); anything representing *water* (the Element); or a *tortoise* (the Animal symbol). Use what you have.⁶ Rummage around your home or office and you will probably find what you need. It makes no sense to spend money when you are trying to increase wealth! This anecdote underlines the point:

A client told me that ever since she moved into her new, very expensive home, she was spending money at an alarming rate. Imagine my astonishment when she told me that a Feng Shui assessment had already been done on her home, and she had spent over \$2,000 on wind chimes, crystals, and flutes. Although I have heard of spending money to make money, the amount was excessive and unnecessary.



Now look at east on the chart to determine alternatives. Notice the Color is green, the Animal symbol is a dragon, the Number is three, and the Element is wood. Increasing your cure in the east could be to add three green plants. In the south, you might put a collection of nine red birds.⁷

⁵ Compass School Feng Shui was developed by the Northern Chinese to determine various directions in the part of their country which lacked distinguishing geographical and topographical features. A Western style camping or scout compass can be used here.

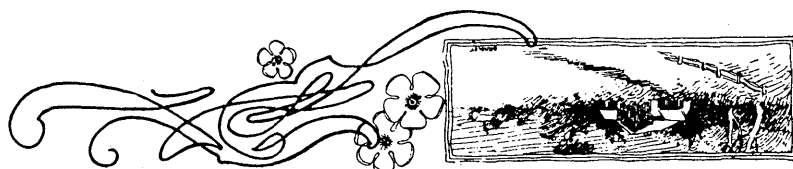
⁶ Syndicated columnist Jane Applegate once said, "Use what you have and you'll always have what you need."

⁷ The secondary compass points: NW, SE, NE, and SW do not have animal symbols or elements.

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Try to select items that are symbolically meaningful for what you want to accomplish. In the southeast, consider wealth-enhancing purple satin pillows or four purple pencils in a wealthy looking brass pencil holder.

What can you place around your room in the appropriate spots? The answer is just about anything: flowers, plants, pottery, statues, stuffed animals, books, paintings, photographs, or pictures and other artwork.



One client, a public relations professional for writers, had a wall-to-wall bookcase in the southeast area of her study. We found four books with purple covers and grouped them together on the same shelf.

Another client, a free lance writer, wanted to stimulate new income. We moved a large, potted indoor plant into the wealth corner of her office. The next day, she received four commissions.

Enhancing relationships

If you are interested in enhancing your relationships (including finding a life partner) or would like to have a child, you need to concentrate on the southwest area of the Bagua. The number related to this direction is two, the color is yellow, and the element is earth. If you desire parenthood, painting the master bedroom walls a light yellow and hanging a grouping of pictures of children on the southwestern wall are effective cures. A fertility icon would also be an ideal addition.

If you have marriage or a committed relationship in mind, add souvenirs and photographs of weddings, anniversaries, or a loving couple in the southwest area. Yellow flowers like irises, sunflowers, or roses are nice

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additions. Remove dried flowers, branches, or brooms from your bedroom as these are dead things and considered detrimental to both your love and sex life. The bedroom must be a cocoon, a sanctuary that nurtures, rejuvenates, and refreshes your mind, body and spirit, while reflecting the *inner you*.

As a general rule, caution must be taken when adding objects of unknown origin to your space. Avoid introducing antiques,⁸ except from people you have known, loved, and respected. Remember that objects absorb the energies surrounding them, both positive and negative. These energies will emanate into their new environment, namely *your* home or office. Avoid: funeral masks, burial pieces, and jewelry from tombs, as they symbolize death, and your goal is to bring vitality into various aspects of your life.

Remember that you can apply Feng Shui to one or all of your rooms. You may wish to change everything around at once, or just one item, giving yourself time to become accustomed to the change. Use what you already have before going out to make new purchases. You have the power to create an environment that will give you control over your surroundings so you can proactively participate in your own destiny.

Good Feng Shui suggests it is most important to tap into your own creativity, intuition, and common sense so that your home or office feels simply wonderful.

Practical Feng Shui can ensure that your environment is always energized and harmonized, which is the way of nature and the universe. A simple activity like opening all the doors and windows and letting the wind and sunshine move through your space can bring a *dead* home back to life. Using Feng Shui will empower you and help you live a more natural, intuitive, and spiritual life. You too can ride the wind and harness the water of Feng Shui.

⁸ Create your own ceremony to cleanse the ancestral history of antiques when including them in your Earth Design.

**Excerpted from
*The Feng Shui Anthology***

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No where in *The Feng Shui Anthology* does it explain how once your Feng Shui is designed, it changes every year, month and day. By easily moving a few accessories to the right place at the right time, you will maximize Feng Shui effectiveness day-by-day, month-by-month, year-after-year...

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