



Utilize All Your Resources

Jami Lin

Because we live in the twenty-first century, our homes and offices do not look like traditional Chinese paintings. As an interior designer with over twenty years of experience, I have never hung a Chinese flute as a Feng Shui cure, and without reservation, I can say that I probably never will. While flutes are said to move Chi, in my opinion, they are neither decoratively attractive nor relevant to contemporary life. It would be a decorative anomaly to hang a flute near your Van Gogh reproduction or next to your contemporary stone sculpture.

It is important to use life experience and all your resources when designing your home or office according to Feng Shui. Just like the ancient and contemporary Earth Designers, you need to adapt the energy of the natural laws and the traditional rules to your personal needs. Traditional Feng Shui rules should not be used *just because* they are traditional. They must be evaluated by using your intuition, and they should be modified to produce real change in your current lifestyle.

**Only *you* know what feels right for you.
There are no absolutes!**

There are guidelines that can help you integrate traditional Feng Shui wisdom with the fountain of all truth, your own inner knowing, to create a balanced and harmonious life:

**Always Set the Intent.
Use Intuition and Common Sense as Your Guides.
Use Your Body as a Feng Shui Tool.
Combine Your Resources with the Rules of Feng Shui.
Be Aware and Re-evaluate.**

Setting the Intent

Setting the intent is critical to making design changes that enhance life experiences.¹ To set the intent means to add the power of thought to all your Feng Shui adjustments. The strength of the mind to change physical reality has been the subject of scientific debate throughout time. Though the scientists may never agree, you can decide for yourself. Look at your own life experiences to see where intention has helped you manifest your desires and goals.

Intention is Everything!

While I was teaching a Feng Shui course for interior designers, the sponsor, Sue generously suggested I stay at her home. As she was respecting my off-duty time, we did not talk much about her home or her Feng Shui requirements. I did notice, however, that she had a pair of ceramic love birds in the marriage area of the living room.

During our private time, we got to know each other. She told me about the problems she was having with her boyfriend of over seven years. "A boyfriend of seven years!" I said to myself, "Why isn't she married, or why haven't they both moved on?" In class the next day, with Sue's permission, I mentioned where her love birds were located. Through giggles she said, "So why is my love life so messed up?"

I have found that people often intuitively place an accessory in the right place. Placing love birds in the marriage corner was the "right" thing to do. So why had seven years gone by and produced a stalemate? Because intention is everything! Unless conscious intent for change is attached to the Feng Shui placement, manifestation will not occur in acceptable time parameters or with the proper intensity.

A month later Sue called, "You won't believe what happened! I started talking to my love bird; I asked them to help bring love into my life in the same way that made them close and happy. Now, not only has Bob, my boyfriend of seven years, asked me to marry him, I've also met someone new. I have the opportunity to choose the love that is really right for me!"



¹ Please refer to "Setting the Intent" in my book Earth Design: The Added Dimension.

Intuition and Common Sense

Both intuition and common sense are indispensable guides for making appropriate decorative Feng Shui changes and enhancing functional design. Traditional Feng Shui dictates that when a front door is painted red, it auspiciously welcomes good fortune. However, if your home is painted a color that would be unattractive or even clash with a red door, you just *know* that it would not be supportive of your goals in life. Common sense and intuition, along with the traditional Feng Shui color and five elements theory² will help you choose a more appropriate color that meets *your* needs.

Knowing exactly what you want to accomplish will help determine the best adjustment to make.



Ask yourself, “What color will enhance my specific goals in life and look aesthetically attractive with my house?” Do you want more nurturing relationships, new business, and social opportunities to flow through your front door? What would common sense and intuition tell you is an appropriate color to welcome these specific goals? How about green, the color of spring’s rebirth? What if you are looking to increase your financial riches? A faux metallic-finish would definitely invite financial riches into your life. The options are endless. Deep ocean blue can bring greater sensitivity and emotion, and black, the color of a purposefully empty mind, can give occupants clarity of thought and improved communication skills. Once you have defined your goals and chosen a color, remember to set the intent.

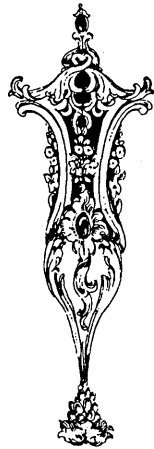
² Please refer to “Color” and “The Elements” in my book, *Earth Design: The Added Dimension*, and “*The Five Phases of Energy*,” p. 81.

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Function and Beauty

William Morris, a famous nineteenth-century English designer and artist, said, "Design should be part of normal daily life." In accordance with his advice, ask yourself, "Is my floor plan layout, this piece of furniture, that art or accessory useful and beautiful?" Common sense and basic design philosophy can help you answer this question. However, you must also listen honestly to what comes from your intuitive voice. The first step in any Feng Shui design is to evaluate what you already have. Be honest with yourself.

First ask yourself, "Is this piece of furniture, art, or accessory enhancing my home? Is it serving its true purpose?"



If you answer, "Yes it is! And I love it; it is perfect!" Go no further.

If you answer, "Yes it is functional, but I do not like it." Ask yourself if it can be decoratively modified with traditional or personal Feng Shui symbolism to enhance your life. Or can you wait for a sale to replace it with something that you do love?

If you answer, "No, this piece of furniture is not really functional." Get rid of it. It is blocking Chi flow in your home and creating unnecessary clutter.

Now ask yourself, "Do I find it beautiful and meaningful?"

If you answer, "Yes, I love it; it belonged to my grandmother; it makes me feel loved," or "Yes, I bought it on a fantastic vacation. What a great time I had." Then ask yourself where the piece can be moved to better enhance aspects of your life that are created from its symbolic memories.



If you answer, "No, I never liked it. It came from an old lover that never made me happy." How can that piece possibly make you happy now? Give it a send off!

Once you begin to use common sense while trusting your intuitive feelings, it is easy to follow the basics. If you like it and it is functional, keep it. If you do not like it and/or it serves no purpose, then this *stuff* has become old baggage and is keeping new opportunities from entering your life. By holding on to *things* that no longer serve you, you are holding on to *issues* or *ideals* that no longer serve you. Clean out the old. Now is the time to begin fresh; Isn't that why you are reading Contemporary Earth Design?³

Fill those boxes and plastic bags: Have No Mercy!

Get rid of what is holding you back; welcome new opportunity! Recycle it.⁴ Give it to a charity so it can go to someone in greater need who *will* find it functional or beautiful!



³ “When the student is ready, the teacher appears.” When you are ready to make a change, coincidences in your life present themselves until you take notice and act.

⁴ It is not appropriate Earth Design to add to landfills.

Combining Your Resources and the Rules of Feng Shui

Now that you are left with only functional furniture along with the art and accessories that you love, you can begin to experiment with what will support you. The life-situation Bagua⁵ is a very important tool in Feng Shui. Because your life is an intricate web of archetypal experiences and energies, the major life areas represented in the Bagua are mirrored in your house and your life.⁶ These energies should be combined to support one another for a balanced and complete *whole* life experience.

It is beneficial to use all of the Guas or life areas to energetically enhance the others.

When you are using the Bagua on a floor plan, remember that there has been a great emphasis on the *wealth* and *marriage* areas while the *self-cultivation* and *helpful people* areas have not been used to their full capability. Self-cultivation and helpful people can greatly enhance opportunities in other areas. All the energies are mutually interdependent. They can and should be combined and used to enhance one another.



Wealth

A Feng Shui wealth adjustment does not necessarily mean putting a symbol of monetary wealth in your wealth corner. To be a wealthy person, you need to know yourself (self-cultivation!) The most important wealth is being rich in spirit and enjoying life.

⁵ Please refer to “The Bagua” in my book, Earth Design: The Added Dimension, and the article “The Bagua,” p. 35.

⁶ Going one step further, since everything is linked, one level of being is a mirror for the rest; the Bagua can also be overlaid on your body to give you similar information and solutions. *Please refer to “The Bagua.” p. 35.*

For Wealth of Spirit:



In the wealth area of the major rooms of your home and office, place a symbolic piece of art or an accessory that reminds you to cultivate your greatest wealth, your spirituality and inner self. Let it remind you to take a breath and be glad you are alive.

Or hang a photo in a gold (wealth) frame of what gives you the most joy: your children, pets, or your favorite place. Do not forget to set the intent! *I am blessed for having such a wonderful life, may this photo always remind me of how rich I am.*

Use an empty gold box as the main accent on the table in the self-cultivation area. *I place this beautiful box here to be filled with the riches each new day will bring.*

For Wealth in Business:

For intuitive business acumen and to be financially rich, (No one said having money was not a good thing) put a clear crystal ball for clarity of vision on a gold metal stand for financial wealth in the career or wealth area of your office or on the wealth area of your desk. *I place this crystal ball in my career area to help me know myself clearly and to intuitively make good business decisions, which in turn will generate profitable results.*

For Wealth of Relationships:

For a loving marriage, you need to know *who you are* to be able to choose a partner that will make you happy. You need to have the clarity to recognize when a potential mate does appear. Put a carved rose quartz heart in the arms of a loving stuffed animal and place it in the self-cultivation area of your bedroom or in the self-cultivation area of your night stand. *May I know my own heart to accept love from my partner and to give it back in return.*

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Helpful People

They are part of everyday life. From the mailman to the dentist to the grocery store clerk and car repairman, helpful people are critical in your life. They are your children's teachers and baby sitters. They are your family, friends, and associates. How many times in conversation has a *helpful person* provided another perspective that helped you solve a problem?



For Helpful People in Your Daily Life:

In your helpful people area, place a collection of personified creatures (Some people collect owls, angels, or dolls), of many different colors, materials and/or design. *May these helpful people be abundant and come from many different sources to support all aspects of my life. I ask that they also help me be of service to others.*

For Helpful People in Business:

Helpful people for your business are your family and friends. They are clients, vendors, support staff, and employers. They are the phone company, the copier repairman, and the person that delivers lunch. They are the people that support your business and provide referrals.

In my office, located in the wealth corner of my home, I have a brass (metal for wealth) basket full of small gifts or *red envelope tokens*⁷ given to me by students and clients. I have placed these tokens from my most *helpful people* in the *career* area of my office. These *helpful people* help generate financial *wealth* and *wealth* of being self-fulfilled.

Notice how all the Guas and energies work together.

⁷ As in the Native American tradition, Feng Shui is "good medicine." I incorporate acceptance of a "medicine gift," which is symbolic of the work or has special significance to further solidify and set the intent of the traditional Feng Shui Red Envelope energetic exchange. *Please refer to "The Red Envelope," in the Glossary p. 427.*

One of these special gifts is a Guatemalan pin with six cloth people on it. I set it on the top of the basket and set the intent: *May I have many helpful people from all different arenas. I fill my wealth basket with the good medicine of those I have served in order that they support my Feng Shui work by sharing it with others.*

For Helpful People for a Successful Marriage:

Your best helpful person is your soul mate. A helpful person may have introduced the two of you. Helpful people may include your spiritual counselor and friends that share in your partnership happiness.

If you have a mate, put a photo of your love in a nurturing wood frame or perhaps a memento of your relationship in the helpful people area. *May this symbol of our unity set the intent to help us take care of each other.*

If you are looking for partnership, put a pair of something in the marriage corner. *May this set of romantic pink⁸ candles bring the light of love into my heart and life.* Also place a symbolic accessory in your helpful people area to bring in potential introductions from your friends and associates.



Use Your Body as a Feng Shui Tool

Learn to listen to your body and the signals that it gives you. How does a room make you *feel*? Agitated, peaceful, uncomfortable, sleepy? Once you hear what your body is telling you, you can begin receiving intuitive insights.

⁸ While red is a traditional color of marriage and romance, experience has shown me that red may be *too hot to handle* and those relationships tend to burn out.

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At the end of a long and exhaustive day of travel, you finally reach your hotel. With your twelve pieces of luggage and very cranky family, you walk into a crowded lobby with people darting everywhere. What is the first thing you really see? Isn't it the flower arrangement on the main entry table?⁹ For one brief moment, your focus shifts, and what happens to your body? You take a breath, which alters Chi, and you relax.

**Feel the energy in your body
by watching it respond to a space,
and you will receive great feng shui insight!**

When you walk into a room with a very low ceiling, notice how you *feel* like crouching. What common sense and decorative measures will give the illusion that the ceiling is higher? How does your chest *feel* when you walk into a musty room? What intuitive solution can you find to bring life back to the space? How do you *feel* when your home is at the end of a T-intersection and there is the ever present threat of oncoming cars? What can you do to creatively put up a protective shield? Trust yourself. *Feel the Force*¹⁰ of your experience and intuition.

Be Aware and Re-evaluate

Evolution takes time, millions of years. Like evolution, your life is always changing. You are not the same person you were ten years ago, last year, or even yesterday. So how can a Feng Shui evaluation be the same for you today as it was a year ago? When you re-evaluate, you will see how your priorities have changed and how your Feng Shui adjustments have worked to help you on your path. You now have to readjust your Feng Shui cures to reflect, project, and balance the new you. These do not have to be expensive or major changes. For example:

⁹ Though they may be plastic and full of dust, even the most moderate hotel has flowers.

¹⁰ Please refer to mythology and Feng Shui in "Earth Design: The Roots of Our Nature," p. 25.

You invited your love partner into your life by placing an empty heart-shaped box in the marriage area; now replace it with a romantic picture of the two of you in a nurturing wood or stable earth frame.

Your career has taken off and you are on the cover of Newsweek; if you have forgotten how to play with your children, place a stuffed animal on your bed or put your softball trophy in the children area of your nightstand.

Now that you have won the lottery and realize that money cannot really buy love,¹¹ paint your self-cultivation room purple, and hang pictures of nature in all its beauty to expand the abundance of self-understanding and your ability to love others.

With the awareness that you are evolving, make subtle decorative Feng Shui adjustments to augment the changes in your life. While you can usually see these energetic shifts from the adjustments within a moon cycle, learn to be patient with yourself.



Evaluate Mind, Body, and Spirit

Sometimes the energetic shift needed to create change is greater than just a physical manifestation *of the body*. Be aware, try alternative solutions and be open to the possibility that the problem may lie deeper within you.

I am in the effect of the six curses energy, using Compass School.¹² It means that I have a lesson to learn, and it will be repeated until I get it right. Give me a brand new computer and in six months it will have problems that not even the smartest techno-heads can solve. Two laptop

¹¹ The contemporary mythology of John, Paul, George, and Ringo.

¹² This is an extremely revealing Feng Shui modality that goes beyond the scope of this article. It is based on energetic directions and their corresponding influences. Please refer to "The Energy of the Eight Directions" in Earth Design: The Added Dimension, and "The Seven Portents," p. 93.

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computers have crashed wherever they were located. I have figured out that it is not an energetic location problem, which could easily be remedied by moving the computer to a more beneficial area.

If the problem can not be resolved on the physical plane, you may need to assess your *mind* or mental process and make honest adjustments there. Watch all your life experiences. What lessons can they teach you that can be applied to your persistent problems?

Back to my computer mayhem...The more stressed out I get, the more it is crash-city. It appears to be a mental problem! Using common sense and intuition, it is painfully obvious that I need to enlighten-up, relax, and perhaps pull some weeds in the garden. This level of resolution takes longer and requires more disciplined work since it is an issue of perceptions, habits, and the entire mental process.

When therapy does not solve your computer problems and there is still no energetic shift, the deepest *spirit*, or karmic level, needs be evaluated. This evaluation requires the most time, perhaps lifetimes. Not daring to speculate that my techno-cure is located on the karmic level, I can only suggest for myself and others that we be the best people possible and continue to cultivate ourselves spiritually.



Become the reality of all you can be. Learn to live within the perfection of your perfect vessel. Combine all your resources: set the intent, use your intuition while observing your life experiences. Hold nothing back.

This is your life! Enjoy it!

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The Feng Shui Anthology

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In *The Feng Shui Anthology*, when the **Bagua** is discussed, **only the Life-Aspiration Energies are mentioned** (except in Derek Walter's article.). **To work with the Bagua and to maximize your Feng Shui with the information of all the masters, you must include your 8) Best Directions and 9) Flying Star Energies.**

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