



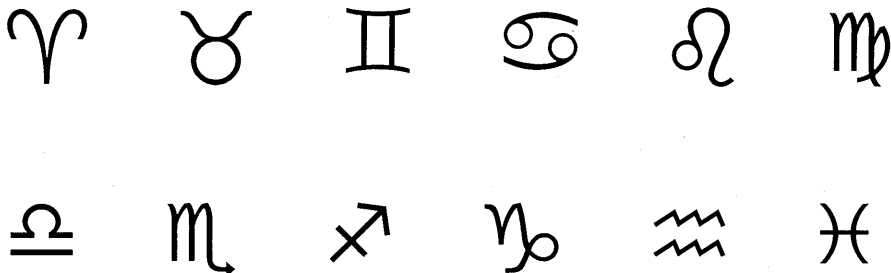
Family and Space Relationships

Pamela Tollefson

Many people want to improve their loving relationships and create better harmony among family members. They want their space to contribute to good communication, a happy daily routine, and peaceful coexistence. It is important to implement Feng Shui cures that appeal to a family's lifestyle, decor, and personal taste. Understanding the people who live and work in a space is important for creating a supportive environment.

Western astrology is a useful tool for gaining insight into interpersonal relationships. It uses the macrocosm of the planets' configurations and the relationship of their energy patterns to understand the microcosm of human interaction. The placement and the relation of the planets to each other at the time of birth becomes a road map for what a person is meant to do in this lifetime. When you use astrology in conjunction with Feng Shui, you can begin a path of self-knowledge, which can lead to greater understanding of family relationships in your home.

The astrological signs give you valuable personality information. For example, emotional water signs like Cancer, Pisces, or Scorpio have a *feel* for a space. The intellectual air signs, Gemini, Aquarius, and Libra *think* about how a space looks. Aries, the initiator of the zodiac, *reacts* to a space and starts implementing changes right away.



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By looking at where your sun sign falls in your astrological chart, you get a glimpse into your style:



Aries underestimate their decorating skills. They are able to sustain the uncluttered, efficient home most people want.



Taurians are often messy, but they love luxury and have quality furnishings.



Geminis have many magazines, books, and bookcases. They crave light and need many work centers.



Cancers have very comfortable furniture. They love their kitchen and always offer food to their guests. The Cancer man will do anything to make his home a better place.



Leos make their home a stage. They are focused, striking, and flamboyant. They enjoy entertaining and want their house to enhance their personal appearance.



Virgos have perfectly clean, neat, and functional homes, but if you find a rare messy one, watch out because the mess will be unbelievable. Visual appeal is usually secondary to functional use.



Libras love beautiful homes. They admire charming floral patterns along with visual and spatial balance. They already have Feng Shui mirrors.



Scorpios have tall hedges surrounding their patios and lots. They need secluded private spaces. They are concerned about every detail in their daily routine.



Sagittarians have eclectic taste and home decor. They feature objects and statuary acquired while traveling.



Capricorns are well-organized; they have many file cabinets and traditional decor.



Aquarians usually have company, lots of seating, and the latest electronic equipment.



Pisceans have full laundry baskets and dishwashers. Their creativity can be seen in every room of the house. Even their clutter looks artistically arranged. They love to add fish tanks and water fountains to their spaces.

These descriptions give you a general sense of how each sign views their space. The key to your true aesthetic sense is determined by Venus, the planet of love and beauty. The sign in which Venus falls in your astrological birth chart,¹ tells you more about your aesthetic sense and favorite decorative concepts. You can use the combination of your sun sign and Venus sign to determine which approach would be best for implementing Feng Shui adjustments.

¹ *In astrology, the heavens are divided into twelve areas and given names: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, and so forth. Your birth or sun sign is based upon which of these twelve areas the sun was positioned in at your time of birth. Because all of the planets, including the sun, were in the sky on your birthday, they also can be identified and analyzed to provide life information. (For example: Sun in Libra and Venus in Cancer.)*

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If your Venus is in Libra, for example, you are a natural for Feng Shui. Looking for balance and harmony is a lifetime goal. The visual takes priority over function; proportion and style are vitally important. If your Venus is in Taurus, you like to acquire great paintings, sculptures, and tactile arts. You love buying luxury items but can be very thrifty when replacing items like dishwashers and clothes dryers. The basics do not excite you. Combining your sun sign and Venus placement, you can gain insight into your sense of style.²



You can take this base of astrological information about you and your family and begin assessing your home. Spatial layout is another important factor in family relations. There are two common architectural features that plague family relationships:

The location of bedrooms:

Many modern houses have the master bedrooms protruding out in the front of the house. If the children's rooms are in the back of the house, in the command position, the children will run the household.³

² *Astrology is a valuable intuitive science that requires quite a bit of knowledge. If you get stuck, please continue to read because Pamela provides excellent Feng Shui ideas.*

For more information on how to incorporate astrology with your Feng Shui, as the ancients always incorporated the relationship of the heavens, earth, and man, please refer to "Astrology and Color," and how to overlay your "Local Space Chart" on your floor plan in, Earth Design: The Added Dimension.

³ *Please refer to "Feng Shui and Children," p. 349.*

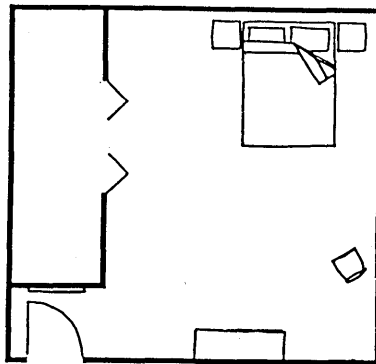
The brick or blocking wall syndrome:

This occurs when you encounter a wall directly after crossing a threshold. Walking into a wall when you enter a room creates blockage in your life, usually in the life area which that wall represents on the Bagua.⁴

Case Study 1: Widow in the Wrong Room/Son in Command

Blocked Wall
Knowledge
and Self-cultivation
Area

Parent in less
Powerful
Room than Child



After the tragic death of her husband, Jane bought a new ranch-style house to live in with her three children. She was a Pisces who exhibited typical Piscean creativity, but she had little confidence in the direction her life had taken. She was in college but had been unable to concentrate, and her grades were dropping. She knew she had to improve her grades or leave the program.

When I examined the horoscope of Matthew, her fifteen year old son, I found that he had a totally opposite personality from his mother. Being a Virgo, the sign associated with being a perfectionist, he could handle the day-to-day routine of the house better than his watery Piscean mother. However, displaying the negative traits of his Virgo sign, he opposed his mother's every move.

⁴ Please refer to "The Bagua," p. 35.

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In her effort to help Matthew accept the move, he got to choose the bedroom he wanted in the new house. He took the right rear bedroom, which put him in the command position of the home. Jane took a front bedroom. Though located in the powerful *helpful people* area of the Bagua, not being in the command position left her at a disadvantage.

Her room also had a *brick wall* created by a blocking closet wall. Jane walked into a blocked *knowledge* area every time she entered her bedroom. Is it any wonder her opportunities for academic success and self-improvement were stagnant?

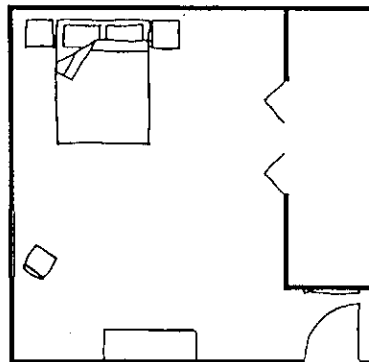
To remove the blockage, we put in a full length mirror to open the space. Now, Jane could see herself as she turned, and it gave her a moment to reflect on her self-image. We also put a crystal in the closet to get her knowledge *out of the dark*.

Changing the balance of power with Matthew was not as easy. Rooted in his Virgo rigidity, he did not want to change rooms or make any changes for the sake of family harmony. Though changing rooms would have been the best solution, we did not want to increase Jane's friction with her son. Instead, we worked on strengthening Jane on every level. I supplied her with crystals to put in strategic positions, such as pull chains for her ceiling fan and bedside lamps. I suggested that she meditate to strengthen her focus and set aside a time and place for family discussions. Jane's self image greatly improved. She felt that she was able to take control of her family and the direction that her life was taking. She is now an "A" student, and Matthew will soon be in college.

Case Study 11: An Angry Teenager

Blocked Wall in
Helpful People Area

Unsupportive Colors
Electromagnetic
Fields



Adam was a very angry teenager with a lot of problems. His room was positioned at the end of a long hallway. Chi was funneled fast and hard down the hall and hit the blocked entry. Adam was also *banging* into this brick wall every time he entered his room; there were even dents where he had taken out his frustrations on the wall. This blocked wall was further complicated by Adam's astrological sign. Adam, a fiery and independent Aries, had a quick temper. His chart confirmed that he was his own worst enemy.

Adam's room reflected his unhappiness and contributed to his distress. Black and reddish-orange were his main decorating colors: Black seemed to contribute to his depression, and the reddish-orange stimulated his anger. The room needed repainting. I suggested changing it to a bluish green for a calm visual effect and to represent the colors of growth and knowledge.⁵

To open up the blocked wall, we put up a rock music poster, which we had framed with reflective glass. The poster was much more to his liking than a mirror. It gave the blocked wall some depth, and it made Adam happy.

I also sensed an irritating energy when I was in Adam's room. Suspecting an electromagnetic field,⁶ I tested the room with a simple sound amplifier and found there was a magnetized water pipe above the head of his bed (The electricity had been grounded to the water pipe.) We moved Adam's bed out of the direct line of energy, catty corner to the door, and the magnetized water pipe was fixed. Adam is much calmer, his angry outbursts have dissipated, and he sleeps much better.

⁵ When you are working in a child's room, it is very important that get the child's permission. Ask if you may enter and talk directly to him or her about the room and the changes you think would be beneficial. Within reasonable limits, a teenager should be allowed to design his/her space in order to have it support and also reflect his/her personality.

⁶ Testing is especially important in the bedroom. You sleep there for eight hours and are very receptive to the energy around you in your subconscious state. The sound amplifier brings inaudible sounds into the audible range. *Please refer to "Energy Fields, Feng Shui, and Fragrance," p. 339.*

Case Study III: The Clashing Sisters

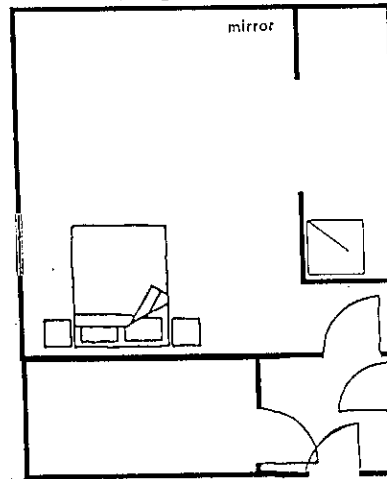
Bed on Same Wall as
Bedroom Door

Astrological
Incompatibility

Arguing Doors

Entry Blocked with
Wall
and Scales

Clutter



When doors do not line up and doorknobs clash against one another, expect disharmony and arguments among family members. Barbara, divorced with adult children, was a Taurus - a fixed sign that hangs on to everything, especially the past. She had turned her old Victorian home into a rooming house, and she had only her bedroom to truly call her own.

This room had a series of blocked walls and clashing doors at the entrance. In addition, Barbara had added another obstacle: a hospital style scale was right inside her door. Stagnant relationships, sibling rivalry, and weight, Barbara's three biggest concerns, were visible in her bedroom entrance. The bedroom door hit the closet door which was filled with clothes that did not fit. They had been given to her by her older, controlling sister for *when she had lost weight*. (Her sister was a Leo, who thought her personal appearance must be sensational.) Barbara had lost 100 pounds when her sister had been abroad for a year. But since her sister's return, Barbara had started over-eating again and had gone back to her feelings of inferiority and habit of hanging on to the past.

In Barbara's room, there was so much clutter that her sister had given her such as old clothes and travel mementos, that there was no room for Barbara. We began to discuss how to get rid of the clutter and leave space for new opportunities and people. Using the Bagua, we made adjustments to her marriage and partnership area to open the way for a new relationship. Little by little, Barbara has moved out a dozen boxes

(especially hard for a Taurus who clings to things), lost twenty pounds, and has noticed a lessening influence from her sister. The process has been a gradual but important step to Barbara's self-empowerment.

Case Study IV: Love and Space

Good romantic relationships are high on the list of what people want from Feng Shui adjustments. A Libra client had her bed in a placement that could lead to one of the partners leaving the relationship. The bed was on the same wall as the door and had a view of the office, which was an addition within the bedroom. Lori did not want to place a barrier to disguise the office because it would also obscure the fireplace her husband really liked. Libras thrive on good relationships and must play a significant role in their mate's life.

Her Capricorn husband was a workaholic. Capricorns generally get their fulfillment from working, but his total absorption in work coincided with the completion of the new office. He was obsessed with starting new businesses and had been ignoring his wife for some time.

She followed my other Feng Shui recommendations but could not get herself to move the bed. Her husband did end up leaving the relationship, and the old bed went with him. Lori replaced the bed with a style of her liking and put it in a good Feng Shui position. She has found that she no longer lacks male companionship.



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Love the One You Are With: Yourself

A successful romantic relationship can be very elusive and hard to maintain in these complex times. Sometimes it is tempting to look for someone to bring financial security and unconditional love and to supply the elements you feel you are missing. But you need only look in your Feng Shui mirror to see the person you must love unconditionally and work to sustain financially, yourself. Be your best partner. Synchronistically, when you are whole, self-sustaining, and do not need a partner, the ideal partner will appear.

By comparing your birth chart with the rest of the family and by checking the current movement of the planets, you can get valuable information on relationships. When planets are in close proximity or aspect, Chi or energy is created. If the energy is positive, great opportunities and relationships may result. If there is conflict between the planets, there may be tension. Some tension is necessary in life to help propel you forward. Who does not need a little push now and then? But too much tension and extreme incompatibility are not positive or healthy for living arrangements. Feng Shui cures can help you make changes to foster better family relationship and to regain balance in your home.



Astrology and Feng Shui masters over thousands of years have passed on their knowledge and astute observations of how the heavens and earth help determine who you are, but you are the only one who can take that knowledge and determine who you will become.

Excerpted from
The Feng Shui Anthology

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