

Framing Focus

Decorating With Feng Shui

Whether decorating your home or office, following the laws of Feng Shui (pronounced fung shway) can help to create harmony and success in your life. This Chinese practice, which dates back 4,000 years, translates into “wind and water,” and focuses heavily on the elements of nature.

The principles are based on the belief that every space has an invisible energy, called Chi. This Chi is affected by a number of factors, including the placement and types of objects in that space. According to this practice, Chi must move flow steadily through a space (not too quickly or too slowly) in order for positive events to occur in the inhabitant’s life. Therefore, the type and the placement of the art in your home or office would be quite important in harnessing this energy to maximize health, wealth, and anything else you strive to attain. Although, Feng Shui originates from an ancient Asian culture, the practice has become increasingly mainstream.

When hanging art, consult the Bagua Map which Feng Shui practitioners use to analyze a space. You can orient any room or building structure with the Bagua Map by aligning it with the entrance to the room or to the front door. The wall with the entrance should be aligned with the side of the map containing: knowledge and self-cultivation; career; and helpful people and travel. While your most important guide in choosing art for your home or office should be your own personal preferences, consider these suggestions and use them as a source of ideas.

- The recommended colors for the wealth area are blues, reds, and purples. Also, choosing a piece of art with flowing water will generate positive Chi and stimulate life in this area.

- To enhance fame and reputation, decorate the area with art that represents light. Here, fire is the element that needs to be emphasized.

- In the love and marriage corner, you may want to hang a picture of you and your partner during a happy

Rear Left <i>Wealth & Prosperity</i> BLUES, PURPLES & REDS	Rear Middle <i>Fame & Reputation</i> REDS (Fire)	Rear Right <i>Love & Marriage</i> REDS, PINKS & WHITE
Middle Left <i>Health & Family</i> BLUES & GREENS (Wood)	Center YELLOW & EARTHTONES (Earth)	Middle Right <i>Creativity & Children</i> WHITE & PASTELS (Metal)
Front Left <i>Knowledge & Self-Cultivation</i> BLACK, BLUES & GREENS	Front Middle <i>Career</i> BLACK & DARKTONES (Water)	Front Right <i>Helpful People & Travel</i> WHITE, GRAYS & BLACK

Use the Bagua Map to determine favorable places to hang your art.

time. You can foster other relationships in your life in this area as well.

- If you have children, the children and creativity area is a great place to hang favorite framed photos of them. This is also a good area to frame examples of your own artwork and other creative endeavors.

- In your helpful people and travel corner, display photos or keepsakes from a favorite vacation, or artwork that suggests places you’d like to visit. For helpful people, hang photos or artwork related to or by a person you admire.

- If you are looking for a new job or a promotion, concentrate on images in your career colors, which are black and other dark tones. Images of water are also powerful here.

- The knowledge and self-cultivation corner should contain images of landscapes, particularly mountains. The mountain is the symbol for knowledge in Feng Shui.

- The health and family area is the perfect place to hang pictures of pleasant family events. Also, in order to encourage a healthy existence, hang artwork with vibrant and positive images.

Small Art, Big Impact

Do you have a very small print, photo, or keepsake that you treasure? Would you like to display this piece so that you and others can appreciate it on a daily basis, yet are reluctant because of its size? Well, consider the many creative framing techniques which can emphasize these mini treasures.

Framing small art is one of the hottest trends in picture framing today, according to The Art & Framing Council. "You and your framer can achieve a really dramatic, exciting piece that makes a large statement on the wall by treating something small in a new way," says Kim Ahern, executive director of The Art & Framing Council.

Smaller pieces can be surrounded with large mats, multiple mats, or sometimes by building a frame within a frame. The result is a much larger piece that draws the eye powerfully to the art object, giving it special importance. It's a great way to enjoy that special object that you've been keeping tucked away.



Placing this small hummingbird print in a frame within a frame adds to its visual impact.

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