



Plant Positive Intentions This Spring *Opportunities grown with simple Feng Shui "fixes"*

Many people who are interested in Feng Shui restrict its implementation to the inside of their home, perhaps feeling intimidated or reluctant to show the world that they are "into Feng Shui." Fear not! Garden Feng Shui is not about making your yard a showcase of Asian artifacts. It is about creating a space that is peaceful, clutter-free and welcoming. If you apply the principles of Feng Shui effectively, other people will not know why your yard looks **and** feels so good, they will simply appreciate that it does.

Here are some ways to improve the energy outdoors, to ensure that nothing but positive energy flows indoors:

The Eyes and Mouth of Chi



Stand at the front of your home and look at it with fresh eyes. What do you see? Is it welcoming... or do you want to run?

Regardless of whether or not you generally use an alternate entrance, the front door is the one that was

designed by the architect to be the main entry. The front door is *the mouth of Chi* – where energy enters your home. Think of your front door as a beacon for what you want to bring into your life. The windows are *the eyes of Chi*. **Both** are very important parts of your home.

Your first step in spring garden care should be to give this important outdoor area a "facelift":

- Ensure that trees, shrubs and vines are not blocking doors, windows or sidewalks.
- Sweep and wash the exterior area around front door area regularly.
- Replace any broken panes of glass in doors or windows.

- Ensure that the doorbell works properly.
- Ensure the door and trim are nicely painted.
- Ensure all locks and hinges work properly.
- Replace or repair broken or worn light fixtures.
- Replace burnt out light bulbs.
- Make sure all water faucets and electrical outlets work properly.
- Change decorations with the seasons.
- Replace an old and worn mailbox or give it a fresh coat of paint.
- Ensure that the fence is in good repair and that all gates swing freely and don't stick or squeak.

De-clutter

Think about your yard and garden no differently than if it was a room inside your home. Plants should be well trimmed and healthy. Ideally, dead foliage and the contents of planters should be removed in the fall, as they hold negative energy throughout the winter. Furniture, planters and statuary should be in good repair. If not, decide if an item can be repainted, repaired, recycled or should be trashed.

Act Natural

Where possible, planters, furniture and statuary should be made of wood, metal, glass or earth (clay or cement). Place accent pieces in the corresponding bagua zone, according to the element they are made of.



Photo by Terri Perrin

Think Tall

Consider the fence, as well as the back of your home and the garden shed, as the walls to your outdoor living space. Let them be your canvas! Erect metal or wood tre-lises to support beautiful flowering vines. Hang wind chimes or windsocks; install water features, religious symbols or other artistic accent pieces. Be creative, but don't make it look cluttered.

Make Waves



Photo by Terri Perrin

If possible, reshape flowerbeds and sidewalks to ensure that they have rounded and curvaceous edges, not straight lines and sharp corners. Try to emulate the natural meandering paths found in nature. If using material for borders, use bricks or rocks, rather than wood (because it rots) or plastic (because it is not "natural"). Or, considering leaving the edges bare, and tidy them several times throughout the growing season.

"In Chinese history, the garden was integral to, yet contrasted with the house. While the home followed conventions of symmetry and straight lines, the garden – like nature itself – was asymmetrical, irregular and curvilinear."

Sarah Roszbach & Master Lin Yun
~ Feng Shui Design

Water and Other Enhancements

A flowing water feature works exceptionally well when placed anywhere near your front door or in the far left hand corner of your yard, which is the "Prosperity" area of the Feng Shui bagua map. (Be sure to keep the water clean!) A gazing ball not only makes a beautiful accent piece, it can be respectfully placed in a specific area of your garden to "double" your intention. Be aware, however, that mirrors and other reflective surfaces "double" what is around them. If your gazing ball reflects a flowerbed that is in dire need of weeding and deadheading, your life may very well take a turn for the worse!



Photo by Terri Perrin

Get in the Zone

When buying plants, flowers, trees and shrubs, look for those that are proven to thrive in your specific gardening zone. Despite your best intentions, not just any plant will grow because you want it to. For the best bang for your buck, *join your local horticultural society to learn about gardening in your area.* Plant flowers of various colours, according to the colour of the corresponding bagua zone.

The Fine Art of Intention

Feng Shui works and it can work for you. But it is important to recognize that it cannot be a substitute for taking responsibility for your own life. Intention is the way to give power to your Feng Shui cures and enhancements. The physical cure is believed to influence the Chi (energy) by about 30 per cent. Your intention makes up the remaining 70 per cent. In order to see any results from your enhancements, you still have to go to work, pay your bills, reach out to others, take time to "Smell the roses" ... *and* water the planters!



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Terri now lives in Courtenay, B.C., and is available for home, garden and business consultations. She also presents a variety of Feng Shui workshops.

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