

Artful Feng Shui - for harmonious living:

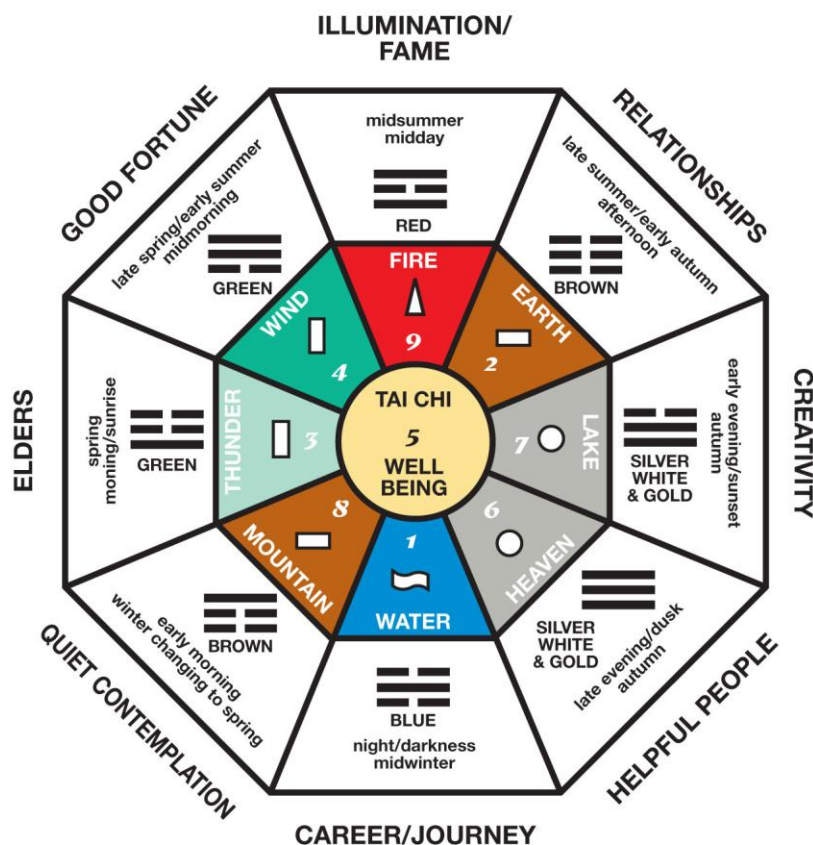
What is the art in your home saying about you and your life?

Have you ever really considered your pictures, photographs, paintings and sculpture in this light?

This is an aspect of feng shui, which is often neglected, but if you think about it, of course we are influenced by the artwork in our home and we need to pay attention not only to the subject matter but also as to how the images touch us emotionally, and to what they are saying.

Let us start with the basics by looking at the Bagua Template:-

The Bagua:



The Bagua diagram is a template which we use in feng shui to place over the floor plans of our house and which represents 9 Life Areas with different energies, colours, shapes and each with its own element, time of day and

season. If we are working with the Compass method then the “Career/Journey area” will be aligned to the North.

What scenario are you portraying by your artwork displays in your house and which area of your life is this influencing? Just as clutter, geopathic stress and other detrimental lines affect the Bagua life Areas, so too does inappropriate artwork, strongly sending out a signal which can be either good or bad.

Positive Tips:

Life Area 1: Journey/Career Area: (North). Artwork should depict a soft flowing energy to suggest flowing movement, tranquillity and progress. Water imagery, wavy shapes. This is a good place for a water feature. Colours are black and blue.

Life Area 2: Relationship Area: (South West). Aim to project a stabilising and grounding energy using earthy colours to suggest a nurturing feeling of comfort and solidity.

Life Area 3: Elders and Mentors (East) and **Life Area 4:** Good Fortune Area (South East): Look for artwork to suggest a rising upward energy projection growth and vitality. The element is Tree and the predominant colours should be green.

These are good places for plants and pictures of trees.

Life Area 5: The Tai Chi, Wellbeing- the centre of the home. The energy here, although it is predominantly earth energy also represents a mixture of all the other energies in the Bagua, and we tend to enhance the other areas around it rather than work on the area itself.

Life Areas 6 and 7: Helpful People and Creativity respectively (North West and West). These are both metal energies so look to enhance the chi here with your artwork using silver and gold colours, with images of domes, spheres to create an energy which is contracting, and suggests leadership, organisation and stability. These would be good places for your bronze statues and other metal artworks whilst area no 7 relates to our children and creativity so this is the ideal place for your photographs of your children.

Life Area 8: Quiet Contemplation (North East). Again this is an Earth energy area, so look for earthy colours to create a stabilising energy to suggest warmth and nurturing qualities, such as terracotta, browns, pinks, stone sculptures. This would be an ideal place for your Buddha statue and other spiritual artwork to create a quiet place for reflection.

Life Area 9; Illumination/Fame/Appreciation (South). The element here is fire so look to promote red and orange colours with star and diamond shapes, pictures of the sun to create an expanding and outward energy representing illumination, recognition, fame and passion.

What to avoid:

I have found that the three most popular areas, if you can call it that, where Clients ask for help are the Journey, Relationship and Good Fortune Areas:

- **Journey Area:**

Does the picture of the flowing river in your Journey area show a river gently meandering away into the distance, or does it have a rough journey beating against boulders and rocks as it goes on its way? No one really wants an uncertain and difficult way forward in their career.

Learn to be strong and to put aside pictures which you might like at heart but which depict difficulty and disaster. I once went to a farm in Kent for a consultation. As I walked into their Journey Area I saw a large oil painting dominating the area of two horses, straining with a great deal of difficulty to pull a huge tree trunk. I wondered what difficulties they were having with the farm and they later confirmed they were in severe financial difficulties, despite all their efforts.

- **Relationship Areas:**

Another Client was very anxious to improve her Relationship Area . When I walked in she proudly showed me an oil painting she had painted herself of a shipwreck which she had placed right in the middle of this Area. When I suggested it be taken down, her answer was “Where should it go?” to which my reply was ,” Well, in which area of your life do you want a disaster?” The same client also had a large assortment of African masks which she said she

“loved”. In fact after a short session of kinesiology where the muscles in her arm lost their strength when looking at these masks, she realised that the effect on her and the energy in that area was particularly negative. I often combine dowsing or kinesiology where appropriate to help the Client move forward.

I recently did a consultation for a single gentleman. He owned an art gallery and so he had some really interesting and diverse art, bronzes and sculpture in his home. Unfortunately many pictures and bronzes were of single people, and were displayed mostly in his Relationship Areas. Hopefully he can now move on to meet a new partner. Personally, when I was new to feng shui, I found I had made the same mistake by mis-placing a stone statue of a Chinese lady but as soon as I realised this error and changed her position, my life did begin to change too.

I also remember one of our feng shui teachers recounting the story of Clients where he was called in to look particularly at influences in their Relationship Area. There was a prominent photograph showing both husband and wife in separate sailing boats sailing away from each other in opposite directions, and two photographs in the hallway, back to back showing the wife facing the kitchen and the husband facing the front door. This was exactly what was happening in their marriage.

- **Good Fortune Area**

If you are unlucky enough to have your Good Fortune Area situated in your bathroom, search for some artwork which will help to prevent your good fortune “going down the pan”. Pictures showing an upward energy will help here, and try to avoid single placement, putting everything in pairs as far as you can.

Predecessor Chi: We also need to give some thought to the energy of hand-made artefacts. Has it been lovingly crafted, or could there be some negativity instilled in its making? We may need to do some energetic cleaning with intention or to abandon the artefact or piece of furniture if the energy does not feel “right”.

So, you can understand how your artwork and pictures can in a subconscious way reflect the reality and influence your life depending on many aspects of the item itself, its predecessor chi, emotional portrayal, colour, framing, Bagua position, and yin/yang balance, so do take another careful look at all these criteria to ensure a harmonious and happy home.

Susan Scott Powell FSSA



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www.energeticsolutions.co.uk



Susan is an accredited consultant with the Feng Shui Society with a corporate property background, based in South Bucks, and specialising in comprehensive feng shui consultations for the home. She specialises in the location and remedial action for geopathic stress and other detrimental energies, using dowsing, often working remotely from plans.

She is also on the professional register of the British Society of Dowzers.

www.energeticsolutions.co.uk and www.thamesvalleydowzers.org.uk. Tel 01494 813 214