

EVERYDAY FENG SHUI
FengShui by Maria
April Column for Benicia Herald

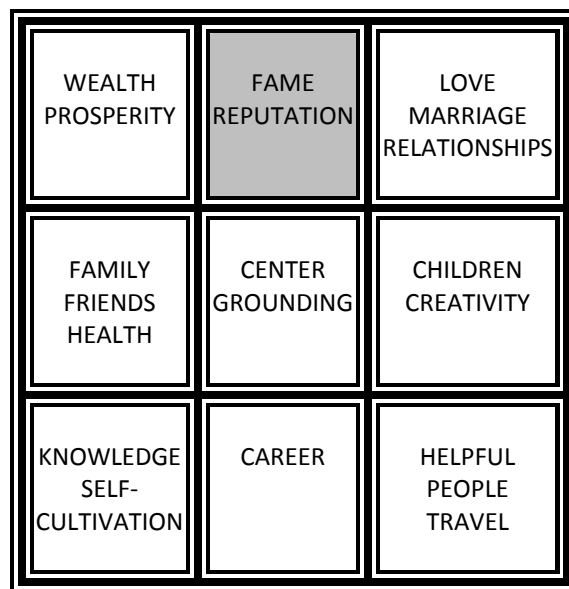
FAME – Turn the Spotlight on You

“I feel invisible at work.” “No one asks for my opinion anymore.” “How can I get more positive recognition?” There is a saying: “If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of me.” Due to these connections, when we live interdependently, giving and receiving support and assistance, a good reputation is assured. This opens our world to the synergistic connections and auspicious opportunities that occur only when trust and fair play are in place. Our life is illuminated with good will!! What you put out will come back to you.

One of the FengShui principles is that everything is connected – So if you ask yourself: Can changes I make in my home really affect my fame and reputation? – The answer is ABSOLUTELY.

In the FengShuiBagua (Ba-gua) Map, represented as a grid of nine sectors, the Fame and Reputation area is located in the center back of your home/office/business. The Bagua comes from the Chinese philosophy, “The I Ching,” and literally means “eight trigrams.” In the “I Ching” the Fame and Prosperity area of your home or business is called “Clinging Fire” because one of the attributes of Fire is that it clings to whatever it is burning. Whether good or bad, our reputation is very difficult to shake off. It clings tight, either warming or burning us into the hearts and minds of others. Therefore cultivating a good reputation helps friendly relations to spring up all around us, creating the best chances for a happy and secure future; when the opposite occurs, and we burn our bridges with friends, neighbors and the community, our future happiness can be jeopardized.

So, how can the energy in your home help you bolster your positive reputation?



↑ ↑ ↑
ENTRANCE QUADRANT

Enhancements in this area are particularly helpful if: You would like more recognition at home or at work, you want to establish a good reputation in your community, or you want to be well known for something you do.

The element for this area is Fire, and the color is anything in the red spectrum. Red is one of the most powerful colors in the Chinese culture. It represents fame, fortune, joy, festivity, longevity and protection from bad luck. Representations of this element can be used inside and outside of your home or business.

Enhancements for enhancing the Fame and Reputation area inside your home or business:

- * Personal images and symbols of fame; diplomas, awards, trophies and acknowledgements
- * Things made from animals, such as leather, feathers, wool and/or bone
- * Posters, paintings, collages, photos and figures of animals, people, fire, sunshine and favorite celebrities; vision boards that represent your dreams for the future
- * Cone, triangular or pyramid shapes
- * Items in the red spectrum
- * All pleasant lighting, including sunlight, candles, electrical lights and oil lamps
- * Quotes, affirmations and sayings pertaining to Fame and Reputation

Enhancements for enhancing the Fame and Reputation area outside your home or business:

- * Items that represent the sun, fire, stars
- * Fire pits and BBQ grills
- * Items, flowers, plants in the red color spectrum

The Elements of Fame:

In my September column I stated that the Wood Element feeds Fire, therefore adding representations of Wood, such as plants or items made of wood would help feed the fire of your dreams, enhancing your opportunities and achievements. Avoid the Water element in this center area, as Water extinguishes Fire.

A Missing Fame and Reputation Area:

If your Fame and Reputation area is missing from your floor plan, you can anchor the area by doing one or a combination of the following cures: Anchor the missing area structurally, such as building a trellis or deck, planting flowers in a flower garden or planter boxes in the red spectrum, planting a tree with red leaves, such as an ornamental cherry tree, adding a seating arrangement with red pillows and umbrella or garden art representing stars, or celebrating figures, adding up-lighting, twinkle lights or tiki torches. If the area outside is not accessible, you can symbolically anchor from the inside by hanging a 30 mm round faceted crystal, placing a mirror, and/or a picture representing fame on the wall by the missing area.

A bathroom is especially important to enhance when it is in your Fame and Reputation area. Always remember that ALL drains and toilet lids must be kept closed when not in use, to keep the flow of fame from "pouring down the drain." Using the enhancements stated above, you can turn your bathroom into a beautiful shrine to your fame.

FengShui at work:

In our home office we enhanced the fame wall by hanging awards, certificates and pictures of recognitions. Half the wall holds my husband's awards and the other half mine. These are framed in wood to further feed the fire. Spending time in here is a pleasant reminder of our accomplishments and acts as a boost to our egos.

My daughter has this area missing from her home Bagua. She had struggled with finding a job where she was appreciated and able to learn and grow. Together we went shopping and, in her patio (the Fame and Reputation area) she hung 3 large stars on the fence, cleared the area of garbage cans and bikes, placed a large BBQ grill under the stars, and added a wicker seating arrangement with red cushions. Shortly after making these enhancements, her reputation earned her a position as a director of a fast growing company where her skills are both utilized and appreciated.

Small changes can make a big difference. When you find that you're struggling, it's important to recognize what small changes you might have made and what effect they had. A client once had colorful paintings of dancing ladies on her Fame wall. During that time, everything was going great for her at work. On a whim, she found some beautiful burgundy, green and gold wall hangings and decided to replace the celebrating/dancing lady wall art.

Almost immediately, she felt the shift. Her new boss changed existing procedures and meeting structures, and she was no longer involved in higher level meetings. She felt slighted and unimportant. A consultation indicated the problem. Although beautiful, the new hangings had vertical asymmetrical shapes representing water instead of fire. She chose to place them in her Career area foyer alongside a large mirror instead, since water feeds career. The dancing ladies returned, and she was able to retire with great recognition and started a lucrative consulting business. She will someday replace the ladies but she will definitely choose more carefully.

Affirmations:

Remember that in FengShui, intent plays a significant role in enhancing any area of your home or business. That's why all enhancements need to be made with intentionality; written or stated affirmations are very important. It is also important for them to be expressed as if they are already happening.

Examples or affirmations for the Fame and Reputation area:

"I am honored and respected in every way by the people I work with, and for the work I do", "I enjoy an abundance of support and enthusiasm for my accomplishments", "My reputation for honesty and compassion grows daily."

For questions or home consultations email at mtmccull@aol.com and put "FengShui" on the subject line, or visit my website at www.fengshuibymaria.com, (where you can read past columns), or Facebook "FengShui by Maria", where I post pictures as examples to enhancements.

* **I NOW have a BLOG** – Just go to the website and click on "Blog": You can view many pictures and, I will respond to your questions quickly.

I will be teaching three more 3 hour classes through the Benicia Parks and Recreation:

Fri. April 6th - 9:00 am, Sat. May 5th – 9:00 am, Sat. July 21st – 9:00 am

These are the same classes repeated. The Parks and Recreation Guide is now available, if you'd like to register. (Participants will receive \$40 off a home consultation.)

Until then...Blessings!

Maria McCullough - Bio

Maria McCullough, a Benicia resident, is the owner / founder of ***FengShui by Maria*** (www.fengshuibymaria.com) and is a speaker and educator with over 15 years of experience. She specializes in residential, landscape and business consultations. She is a graduate of the Western School of FengShui and has personally trained with Terah Kathryn Collins, founder of the Western School of FengShui, specializing in Essential FengShui® and author of numerous books including "The Western Guide to FengShui."