



Feng Shui For Real Life E-zine
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Welcome to Feng Shui for Real Life, a monthly e-zine that provides Feng Shui tips and other information that can help you bring simple Feng Shui improvements into your life. This e-zine is available by request. To subscribe or unsubscribe, visit: <http://www.FengShuiForRealLife.com>.



Carol M. Olmstead, FSII

New on My Website!

The Feng Shui For Real Life On-Line Store

By popular demand, I have added an On-Line Store to my website, where you can buy items and off-site services to help make Feng Shui adjustments in your home or office. The Store includes such things as bagua mirrors, off-site consulting services for floor plan review or website review, special reports, and of course, purse hangers to keep your purse off the floor. You can access the store from my website (www.FengShuiForRealLife.com) by clicking on the store icon in the bottom right corner. I will continue to add items to the store over the next few months, so e-mail me if there is something you would like me to include.

Feng Shui Tip: Sell It Quick with a Feng Shui Makeover

In this slow real estate market, I am getting many requests from sellers and realtors to do a Feng Shui *makeover* to help sell a home. A few strategic Feng Shui improvements can increase the value, emotional appeal, and marketability of your house and solve design and structural challenges. Here are a few of my favorite tips to get you started:

- **Mark the Spot.** Have your realtor place the For Sale sign to the right of the house, since people

naturally look to that side when they approach a home.

- **Clear the Way.** Clear away dead shrubs and branches that block the pathway so buyers have a clear route to the front door, then place two healthy plants in attractive planters on either side of the door to "greet" them.
- **Clean and Refresh.** Clean the front door, repaint if cracked, old, or faded, add a fresh new doormat, and make sure the doorbell works.
- **Help Buyers Visualize.** De-personalize the home by removing family photographs and personalized items so buyers can visualize their own family items.
- **Improve the View.** Create a beautiful view by cleaning all windows until they sparkle and dusting all the doors and around the doorframes.
- **Ready, Set, Go.** Pack up five of your most treasured possessions and seal them in a moving box as a symbol you are ready, willing, and able to move!

Clutter Clinic: Read and Release

Is a summer of reading resulting in too many books cluttering your shelves? No matter how much you enjoyed reading that novel, if it has made the rounds among your friends and come back, you will probably never read it again. Instead of cramming even one more book into your already crowded bookcases, practice the *Read and Release Principle*: donate it to a charity, *forget it* at Starbucks, leave it at the grocery store, drop it on a park bench, trade it at a used bookstore. With security concerns these days, it is probably best to avoid leaving books on planes and at airports, but most other locations are fair game. Releasing your books makes room in your home for new things to flow into your life. Plus you enrich the universe by sharing the pleasure of reading with someone else.

Success Story: More Small Steps

We all have to start somewhere, so here are more stories from clients who took small Feng Shui steps that yielded immediate results:

Ever since your visit our lives have been fantastic: more prosperity, more wonderful adventures, more fun dinner parties at our house, and feelings of love and light in each room.

I took your advice and moved the small trampoline out of my bedroom because you said it represented bouncing away from the sleep that had eluded me. You were right...blissful sleep has finally returned. I never used the thing anyway so I gave it away.

We weeded and re-landscaped the front of the property to be much more welcoming to our friends and family. And what a change in our energy, too. My wife and I are communicating much better.

My house is looking so much better since I cleared all that clutter. I found I did have a dining room table under all that mess. The kids are doing their homework in their rooms instead of in my dining room, and we are actually able to have family meals there again. The only problem is the more clutter I clear, the more I am bothered by the mess that I still have to tackle!

Feng Shui Q & A

Q: Is it ever bad luck to have a tree planted near your house?

A: The basic rule is to avoid planting a tree directly in line with the front door because it blocks the

flow of positive energy into your house. It is also recommended that you avoid planting trees so close to your house that the limbs hang directly over the roof, since heavy branches could fall on the house during a storm. If you already have large trees near your house, the solution to these issues is to take care of and nurture your trees. If you keep your trees properly pruned and trimmed they will represent positive energy sheltering your home. If a tree dies, be sure to remove immediately.

In the News:

Keeping Love Alive

I am quoted about bedroom Feng Shui for the article *14 Places To Go and Things To Do To Keep The Romance Alive* in the July/August issue of **Bethesda Magazine** (www.BethesdaMagazine.com). You can read an excerpt from the article on my website: www.fengshuiforrealife.com/14placestogo.html.

Anxious Chinese Officials Feng Shui Their Way Out of Fix

The courthouse in Shenzhen, a city outside of Hong Kong, used to have 11 steps, but two were removed because nine is a luckier number than 11. Workers also broadened the stairway and placed two stone lions at another entrance. The reasons for the redesign have not been made public, but news reports suggest that agitated officials wanted to halt a run of bad luck so they decided to Feng Shui their way out of the fix. The renovation of the courthouse in this industrial boom city is only one of many recent cases in which local officials resorted to ancient beliefs despite membership in the Communist Party, which upholds atheism and condemns Feng Shui and other such practices as feudal superstitions. The party is worried that Marxism holds little appeal in the fiercely capitalist China of today, so they turned to tradition for guidance on practical matters. The entire article appeared in the [The Baltimore Sun](http://TheBaltimoreSun.com).

Need Feng Shui News and Tips for Your Newsletter, E-zine, Article, or Teleseminar?

If you need Feng Shui information to include in a news article, e-zine/newsletter, or marketing materials, call me at 1-800-652-9038 to discuss the range of topics that I can provide. Feng Shui is also a terrific topic for teleseminars and Internet radio programs.

Consultations and Workshops

Home and Office Consultations

Nationwide, I schedule consultations for homes and offices on request. On a regular basis I schedule consultations in the **Northeast** (DC Metro Area and Maryland Suburbs, Baltimore, Annapolis, Northern Virginia, New York City, and New Jersey) and the **Southwest** (Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Los Alamos, Denver). Appointments do fill up fast, especially on the weekends, so schedule your appointment now.

Where in the World Is Carol This Month?

Here is my schedule for late July-Early August:

Santa Fe/Albuquerque: July 23-August 3

Washington, DC/Maryland/Northern Virginia: August 6-9

New Jersey/NYC: August 10-12

Future Trips:

I have been requested to schedule consulting trips to the following cities. Please contact me if you are interested in a consultation while I am in your area:

Charlotte

Chicago

Nashville

South Florida

I welcome your referrals in these and other locations nationwide.

Do you want to schedule a consultation in a city not on my current schedule? Please e-mail me (carol@FengShuiForRealLife.com) for details about scheduling a consultation in your location.

Custom Workshops

Feng Shui is a popular topic for luncheon and dinner meetings, special events, fund-raisers, college and university training sessions. My Feng Shui workshops are customized to meet the needs of your group or organization. Whether it is a talk at the golf group luncheon, the garden club meeting, office staff development session, or holiday luncheon, my Feng Shui presentations are fun and **always sell out!** Call 1-800-652-9038 to schedule a workshop.

Here are some of the most popular topics I have presented:

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Themes (May)

Bedroom Feng Shui

Feng Shui Clutter Clinic

Feng Shui for Children's Rooms

Feng Shui Goes To Work

Feng Shui in the Garden

Feng Shui, Love, and Relationships

Feng Shui and The Secret

Holiday Luncheons (December)

Home Office Feng Shui

Introduction to Feng Shui

Look Twice, Buy Once for Home Buyers

Quick Feng Shui Fixes for Common Decorating Mistakes

Sell It Fast with Feng Shui

Bring this workshop to your city!

E-mail me (carol@FengShuiForRealLife.com) or call 1-800-652-9038 for details and special rates for scheduling this session for your group in your location:

Feng Shui and the Law of Attraction: Rearrange Your Stuff, Shift Your Thoughts, Improve Your Life

An interactive full-day or half-day workshop co-presented by Carol Olmstead, Certified Feng Shui Practitioner and Dr. Mark Arcuri, Transformational Coach.

Partner Profile: Artwork by Vera Vandendries

Vera Vandendries creates artwork with symbolic images ranging from abstract to suggestive representational forms. A printmaker, Vera describes her art as a convergence, where tradition meets innovation, tactile meets visual, concrete meets ethereal, kinetic meets digital, and eastern philosophy meets Western technology. Each signed art Giclee print belongs to a small limited edition. You can see the collection at www.art-and-beyond.com, where you can contact her about purchasing or commissioning a work of art. Vera offers a special discount to readers of the *Feng Shui For Real Life E-zine*.

Beyond Feng Shui: Sell Your Cell Phone Contract

Whether you are just tired of your old cell phone or craving an iPhone, your current cell phone contract can make you feel stuck, especially in light of costly fees for early termination. However, there is an alternative: you can sell the balance of your contract. As seller you get out of your contract with no termination fee and get rid of your old phone, while the buyer gets a short-term cell phone plan with no activation fee. You register the contract you want to sell, wait for a buyer to respond, then the service provider will make the change. The cost to the seller ranges from free to around \$20, much less than a cancellation fee. Check out www.celltradeusa.com or www.cellswapper.com and see if this is an option for you.

*Note: This tip came from **The Mortgage Market Guide (MMG)**, a highly informative weekly newsletter from my colleague Bill Hughes, Executive Director of Sales and Marketing for Legacy Mortgage. If you want to receive the MMG, send an e-mail to bhughes@swcp.com, and put in the subject line: **Please add me to the MMG Weekly.***

Coming Soon: E-book on Clutter Clearing

Watch this E-zine for details about ordering your copy of the upcoming e-book, ***Clutter Free and Clear: Take Charge of Your Time and Space!*** I wrote the chapter *Feng Shui and Clutter Clearing: You Are What You Keep* for this collaborative e-book. In addition to Feng Shui, other chapters covers computer clutter, time boundaries, hoarding, handling events and parties, clutter clearing for aging parents, clutter clearing in various rooms throughout your home, and much more. This must read advice will be in the form of an e-book, which you can download and read on your computer rather than printing it out and cluttering up your bookshelves!

Feng Shui For Real Life On-Line Store

This section highlights products and services for your home that you can buy on my website, www.FengShuiForRealLife.com/on_line_store.htm.

Purse Hangers to Keep Your Purse Off the Floor

In Feng Shui, putting your purse on the floor represents disregard for your wealth. Plus, scientific evidence shows that putting your purse on the floor can transmit bacteria. Click here to order an attractive, sturdy purse hanger to keep your purse clean, safe, and off the floor in restaurants, restrooms, and offices: www.fengshuiforreallife.com/pursehanger.htm.

MarketPlace: Services to Help You

This section features business-to-business services that can help you grow your entrepreneurial ventures. When you access these companies via the web address listed, you will be eligible for any special discounted services.

NEW! Artwork by Vera Vandendries

Vera's artwork deals with symbolic images ranging from abstract to suggestive representational forms. Each signed art Giclee print belongs to a small limited edition. The collection can be seen on www.art-and-beyond.com, where you can contact her about purchasing or commissioning a work of art. Vera offers a special discount from her gallery prices so you can use her art to help make Feng Shui adjustments.

Broadcast Interview Source

Broadcast Interview Source is a great way to bring the media to your website and promote your business, product, or services. I issue monthly press releases about my Feng Shui consulting service through this service, and they receive hundreds of "hits" each month. You can save \$100 on your membership if you use this link: www.expertclick.com/referral/Carol_M_Olmstead.

Designer Fabrications by Anne Sanderoff-Walker

Noted fiber artist and weaver Anne Sanderoff-Walker creates quilted and woven wall art and Judaica Legacy pieces in rich colors and textures you can use to make Feng Shui adjustments in your home. Choose a completed piece from Anne's gallery, or commission a custom, one-of-a-kind design to decorate your home. Anne also crafts wearable art pieces in a range of colors. Check out Anne's gallery for the body, spirit, and home at www.designerfabrications.com.

The Publicity Hound, Joan Stewart

If you want to learn how to generate thousands of dollars in free publicity, check out the website for Joan Stewart, also known as The Publicity Hound. Joan offers a free monthly newsletter of PR tips and advice, and she sells low-cost tools to teach you how to develop relationships with the media. Click here to check out her website and subscribe to her free e-newsletter:

www.marketerschoice.com/app/?af=374705.

The Sussman Company, Virtual Office Assistant

Administrative services for small businesses that need desktop publishing, general administrative tasks, with a specialty in real estate support services. www.SussmanCompany.com.

My Client-Centered Approach to Feng Shui: When I recommend cures for a home or office, I consider the goals of each client. I try not to recommend anything that you will find unattractive or unacceptable. Rather, I suggest practical, appropriate, and workable cures that are based on solid Feng Shui principles and fit in with the way you live. I try to recommend several practical solutions that are appealing to you and fit your decor and your budget.

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1-800-652-9038

Make sure you receive every issue of the Feng Shui For Real Life e-newsletter. To ensure receipt, please add this e-mail address (carol@FengShuiForRealLife.com) to your Address Book or Approved Senders list. Thank you!