

The first way to apply this philosophy is to make use of a trained practitioner's knowledge and the skills of a professional landscaper. There are many different Feng Shui theories with deep layers in the design process. Together they can ensure that the garden design uses natural elements, shapes and introduces the basic five elements of Feng Shui i.e.: water, wood, fire, earth and metal; whether that be through colours, shapes, objects or work material.

Water is symbolic for wealth, and is best represented by non-stagnant water features, ponds or swimming pools. You can also utilise free flowing abstract garden art-work, wavy or circular shapes and the colours of blue, black and metallic. Feng Shui water features are especially powerful for the money earner of the house because water has a direct association with the flow of money in Feng Shui.

Entrances should convey an open, spacious and grand type of feeling, truly welcoming the occupant or visitor into the house. Through different advanced Feng Shui theories your practitioner can determine the location of your prosperity areas in the garden and how to boost them through landscaping. Wealth areas like ☯ be enhanced through water placement and the use of earth, wood and fire. This house is particularly fortunate as they have the current wealth star at their front door. A circular sunken water feature has been chosen that can also be turned off during the holiday time so water does not become stagnant but instead, during this period, evolves into a gorgeous garden feature. A black and dark-tone spectrum of materials has been used for the paths, surrounded by small, light planting along with up-lighting which enables energy to meander and gather prior to its entering the house.



By Kerri Dann & Paul Bradley

Feng Shui Gardens

What is Feng Shui? Feng means *wind* or *air* and Shui means *water*. Shui has a wider application that embraces our physical surroundings such as landscape, roads, streets, and buildings. Modern Feng Shui advocates believe that by proper furniture placement and landscape designed gardens, positive energy flows can be harnessed that will affect the owner's health, well being and wealth.



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Wealth areas also like strong energetic flows of chi whether that be through basic human activity or colour. Since there are no particular Feng Shui plants, the use of areas, work materials and colour can all come into play. Hot, fiery, earthen colours like red, yellow, orange and strong pink can lift the positive energy of areas in your garden; Boganvillea, Delonix (flame trees), Ixora, Hibiscus and Jatropha are excellent back drops for this area.

Wealth sections also enjoy lots of fun and enthusiastic energy. So this alfresco dining area with music, barbeque and soft lighting is perfect. This whole alfresco experience is normally a casual affair, with bare feet caressing a subtly soft textured surface with each step. No surface is better for this than the beautiful lava stone or soft sandstone from Indonesia that has been placed around this pagoda.



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Feng Shui is always about balance, diversity and remembering to always minimize clutter as this will literally drag down the energy levels of any corner or area. Taking this idea into your garden is simple - it just means that, from the outset, planting should be sparse, giving the plants room to grow and not compete against each other for nutrition or sun/shade. Paths should never be straight as this will cause the energy to burst aggressively into your home. Instead they should meander and curve gently through the garden.

Indian grass or any type of desert grasses are excellent energies for this area as these plants will not block chi but will move gently with the breeze encouraging the energy to move slowly down the path; the chi will move slowly, freely and gather positive energy.

Various Feng Shui theories can also be used to increase *human harmony* in one's home life. Human harmony areas are enhanced through what we

call in the trade "the mountain". These areas should emphasize the desire to relax, unwind and complement one's own thoughts or perhaps a good book. Through landscaping we can enhance this area by correctly placing some simple, serene focal points. Again, this is accomplished through the use of colour and the five elements. Some human harmony areas benefit from the colours of red, yellow and orange with elements of fire, wood and earth. An excellent way to boost these areas is with heavier planting, such as palm trees, using stone earthen slabs with a beautiful stone sculpture, and placing Buddha heads or large earthenware pots to capture one's eye.

Other human harmony areas benefit from the colours of white, blue and black with the element of metal. This again can be designed through landscaping by making an elevated area with a simple metal or wrought iron bench seat surrounded by gently moving flowers of white and blue.



Feng Shui gardens are constructed to capture the essence of nature in its various forms, materials and shapes, to lift the human spirit and maximise the surrounding energies.

For more Feng Shui Landscape Designs please contact Kerri at Kerri@lotusdesigns.ae (based in Switzerland), and Paul Bradley from paul@designconceptsduhai.com

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