



Feng Shui for the Heart

Happy New Year 2007. This year is the Chinese lunar year 4705 - the year of the Fire Boar - last of the Chinese astrological animals in the twelve-year cycle. The Chinese New Year arrives a bit later than usual this year (February 18) because 2006 contained an extra lunar month. Since the Chinese New Year falls near the celebration of the Western holiday Valentine's Day, it seems a good time to talk about the Relationship area of your home or office. Located in the far right corner (from the front door) of your building and property, Relationships represent your marriage, your romantic partners *and* your business liaisons. Anyone you spend time with on a regular basis is influenced by the energy in this space.

One of the first things to consider in evaluating the Relationship area is what the space is used for. First, begin outside. Is the far right corner (from the street) of your property accessible and inviting, or is it remote and uninspiring? Broken lawn equipment or furniture, a dumpster, thorny plants or property that slopes away speak to how well your relationships might be going. Is there a bathroom in the Relationship sector of your home or office "draining" romance from your life, or perhaps a fireplace or microwave oven "heating up" discussions? Is the area "missing" from your floor plan or sealed off from the remainder of your space, effectively "disconnecting" your Relationship energy and your bonds with others?

The colors pink, or red and white, are used in Feng Shui to represent Relationships. We use pairs of objects to reinforce togetherness when seeking new companions or for strengthening existing relationships. Red and pink flowers and heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are commercially used to depict romance. Feng Shui uses photographs or artwork of couples, soft lighting, seating for two, or a pair of figurines to create connectivity. In your office, a picture of two or more people accomplishing something together (sailing a boat, shaking hands, or building a skyscraper) represents the spirit of cooperation necessary for strong business relationships. Solitary images or representations of conflict (stormy seas, battlefields, etc.) would be better suited elsewhere.

The New Year is a good time to evaluate what energy you are holding onto from the passing year and decide whether to carry it with you into the future. Take a look at your surroundings, your belongings *and* your relationships at this time. Clear both your physical and emotional clutter. Take time to cultivate the relationships you want to flourish in the New Year, and distance yourself from those that diminish you. The ancient Chinese sages called mutual attraction between two people "*hsien*," which means "*to touch the heart*." Represented by the symbols of a lake over a mountain, these elements, like good relationships, stand strong with individually complex properties and functions. But like good relationships, the lake and the mountain exist in nature because they support and nurture each other in a complementary way.

Once you have created a loving environment around you, look to your connection with others and your impact on their lives. May your heart be touched by loving relationships this year, and, as always, an abundance of good ch'i.

Diane Gallin

Keep a green tree in your heart, and perhaps a songbird will come.
Chinese proverb