



"Making an Entrance" Article – Your Destiny Magazine Feb 06

Making an Entrance with Feng Shui!

The entrance to your home and business premises is vitally important as the main mouth of Chi or energy into your space. This is where you, your family and invited guests enter your home, and in the case of business, where you extend an invitation to your staff and customers. First impressions count for more than 50% of our entire experience of a place – therefore in our homes and our businesses we want to make that first impression count!

Your unconscious takes in everything it encounters in a space and sets your energy accordingly – even if you are not consciously recognising this. For example, as you arrive home, if you encounter overgrown bushes in the garden, piles of fallen leaves, papers etc, broken or cracked fittings, planters with dead or dying plants, cobwebs on the light fittings etc. What your unconscious is doing is registering work to be done, so that by the time you enter the front door your energy is often in your boots. If you encounter an obstacle course of overgrown bushes and pathways, overhanging branches etc. just to get in the front door; it will feel like a struggle to move forward in life.

Try to be as objective as possible, when analysing your space – what does your first impression tell you about the occupants? What elements can you identify which combine to give you that impression. In business it is vitally important to maintain the integrity of your company name – therefore, *at all costs avoid putting your company logo on a doormat – you are inviting the public to wipe their feet in your company name!*

Making the entrance bright and fresh and as welcoming as possible will go a long way towards creating an uplifting experience of your space. A fresh coat of paint, brushing away any cobwebs, replacing spent light bulbs etc. planting a few hanging baskets or planters at the door with bright cheerful flowers or shrubs will add life-force to the entrance of any space. This type of entrance will lift the spirits of all who enter, and show the level of respect you have for everyone who enters your space – including yourself!

It is a great idea to clearly mark the entrance not only with lighting but also to have the number or name clearly visible and positioned high up – again so that you are not looking down on your business or home.

If you have two or more digits in the number of your address it is a great idea to position the second and subsequent digits slightly higher than the first as this suggests an onward and upward motion of energy and is much more



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uplifting than a descending motion. This also goes for lettering in the name if you have a name rather than a number on your home.

Gina Lazenby in “The Feng Shui House Book” says “The more welcoming the entrance, the easier the flow of energy, people and resources into our lives”... “The more difficult it is for people to find your door, the more difficult it is for opportunity to knock on it”.

In both the east and the west animal symbolism such as birds or lions are often added to the door architecture in the form of metal ornamentation or carvings of some sort. In the east, there is a strong tradition of having symbols of protection at either side of the door – often a pair of Fu Dogs. A tall planter or shrub either side of the door can work equally well to add visual weight to the entrance. A symbol of protection often used in Irish homes is the St Brigids Cross which is placed above the front and rear door of the house – on the inside – so that you are reminded of its protection as you enter and leave the house. Use whatever symbolism is appropriate to your life.

The Garden has very special significance in Feng Shui. In the east the garden was a private contemplative space. In the west traditionally, gardens were more of a statement of affluence and more a public space. The garden is the first opportunity to set the tone for the energy of your space – no matter how large or small the garden is, it gives an opportunity to create a transition area between the outer world and your inner sanctum or home.

In the east there were often a series of “rooms” in the garden with gateways between, which screened the view of the entire garden and so drew you into it. If you can see the entire garden at a glance it is never as inviting! In the east they often used “moon gates” rounded openings in walls which make your energy more yin as you pass through them – just by virtue of their contracted nature. This made your energy more calm and introverted and allowed you to become more relaxed and contemplative as a consequence.

Whether you have a large or small area to deal with you can re-create this energy through the addition of interesting shapes in gates, doorways etc. Careful positioning of pathways so that they gently undulate towards the door instead of rushing in a straight line creates a much better chi/energy flow. This



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can easily be achieved by using stepping stones or simply implying a curve or undulation in the paving etc.

Where you have a home or business situated at the top of a "T" junction, it is important to slow the energy down. Otherwise the energy will rush toward your building and be overly yang and unsettling. In this case, try to position the gate off centre to the junction if possible and curve the driveway toward the house. You may also wish to add some planting such as bamboo or even a water feature if you have space, between the front of the house and the offending junction. The result is that the energy is slowed and gently dispersed before it enters the house.

Changing the paving at the doorway also marks the shift in energy as you transition from the outer world to the inner world. Creating a Ming Tang or bright hall by careful use of lighting and colour expands the chi as it enters the home and energises the occupant and visitor as they enter.

Doorways should open freely and easily, a creaking door is unsettling to the visitor. Furniture should not impede the full opening of doors and clutter should never be allowed to build up at the entrance to your space. Ideally doors should open back against a wall so that you have a full view of the room upon entering.

Next, it is important to note what is the first thing you see upon entering? It is much more uplifting to see a beautiful image or bunch of fresh flowers etc than a coat-stand laden down with every coat and jacket that the family owns or a jumble of shoes and boots etc. What is the first thing you smell or hear upon entering – all of the senses are involved in taking in the energy of a space. Therefore having a small water feature with some planting or a beautifully scented plant or an aromatherapy diffuser in the hall will add a very welcoming ambience.

Imagery is vitally important – it is interesting to stand back and try and be objective about how any image makes you feel – especially any image in the hallway. This will set the tone for the atmosphere you are trying to create and is equally important in both a private home and in a place of business. Choose something which fully reflects the energy you are trying to generate in your space.

The shape and scale of the door opening greatly impacts on the energy of each person as they pass through it. An arched or vaulted doorway - often used in



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traditional cathedrals and places of worship, automatically straightens the spine of the person as they enter. This aligns your energy with Heaven and makes you more attuned to your spiritual nature. By contrast a low square shaped door or one that feels more confined causes you to supplicate or bow a little as you enter- making you more yin and contracted rather than yang and expanded to accept all possibilities. The 90 degree angles of more modern architecture, is logic-oriented and box-like having less to do with the elevation of the individual.

Energy is breathed in through the front door of the building and likes to meander gently through every corner of the space before being exhaled through the back door. The area inside and outside the front door should be safe, well lit, well ventilated, uncluttered and proportionately large enough to allow sufficient energy or chi to be inhaled. If the first room upon entering is small and cramped, mirrors, lighting and colour may be utilised to give the impression of a more ample space.

You only get one chance to make a first impression, but you have the opportunity every day to influence how your energy and that of your family friends and work colleagues is impacted by your surroundings. The tone for your entire experience of the space is set at the entrance – this is your chance to introduce everyone who enters to the real essence of who you are and what you wish their experience of your space to be. Take this opportunity to use Feng Shui to **Make an Entrance** to be proud of!