



Feng Shui

A local expert brings an ancient Chinese art to Southwest Florida

by Ann Marie O’Phelan

Feng Shui (pronounced fung shway) has become as much a part of some U.S. homes as fine furniture and decorating.

This Chinese practice—the name literally means “wind-water”—dates back thousands of years and combines placement and arrangement of space in order to achieve harmony with the environment. It brings geographical, aesthetic, and mathematical considerations to the art of decorating and is still used in China today to help increase wealth, improve health and well-being, and speed up the search for the perfect mate. In recent years Feng Shui has become popular in the West for the same reasons, as well as to help people sell their homes faster or even address family problems.

While Feng Shui can be learned with the aid of books and the Internet, a quicker solution is to hire a Feng Shui consultant such as Deb Luten, owner of

Pine Island Feng Shui. In addition to teaching Feng Shui classes, she also makes “house calls.”

“People call for all sorts of reasons,” says Luten. “They may have recently purchased a home and want the old energies cleared, they may have financial or health issues, or they may want to sell a home.” Luten recently consulted at a home that had been for sale for a year. Two weeks after her visit the home sold.

Feng Shui analysis utilizes a bagua (pa kua) map which is an octagonal diagram divided into categories, each representative of significant aspects such as wealth, family, and health. The categories are all associated with a color, shape, and element. For instance, the wealth area is associated with the color green, its shape is rectangular, and its element is wind-and-wood. When a bagua is used to correctly map a home or office (taking into consideration the room placement as well



Feng Shui expert Deb Luten uses a number of tools to achieve harmony, including this Tibetan Bowl (top) and energy crystals (above) that she creates herself.

PHOTOS BY ANN MARIE OPHELAN

as the direction and placement of the home or office itself), information about what should be added or removed from each room can be evaluated. For example, a room that is mapped for “relationship” can be enhanced by adding colors (yellow, brown, pink, or peach), shapes (square), or elements (earth) that are associated with it. Equally important is correct placement of objects within each room, as well as understanding the intent behind the placement.

Luten brings a bagua map to every consultation and customizes it for her client’s home or office. “This is a reference for the consultation and a worksheet to help figure out what needs to be done,” says Luten, who explains that you can actually overdo a room by adding too much of one thing. “It’s about balance,” she says.

Luten also brings other Feng Shui tools to each consultation such as reference books and simple every day items like salt, rice, candles, sound, light, sage, incense, and certain color objects. “They can increase energy or slow it down,” explains Luten, who also creates her own energy crystals that are sold at Wind and Water in Bokeelia.

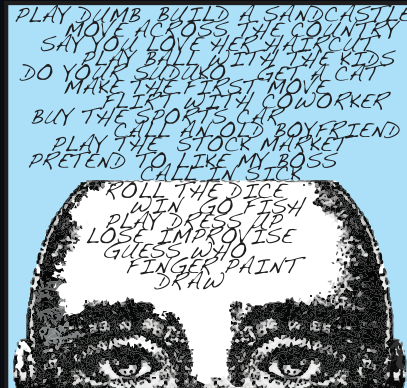
While her clients may have called



Candles are just one of a number of Feng Shui tools Luten brings to each consultation.

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Feng Shui can be learned using books such as those found at Wind and Water (above), but for a quicker solution, call in an expert.



for a consultation on a specific topic, such as how to speed up the sale of a home, Luten often finds other issues that need to be resolved. “I have an ability to sense the types of energy present, and in working with the client I try to determine if this energy is compatible with them in particular,” says Luten. “My focus is on how they feel, so I may walk into a bedroom and ask ‘Do you feel comfortable here?’ only to find that they do not use the room because they cannot relax in the room. With discussion, I may find the reason why—like the prior resident of the home was unstable and this was the room he slept in.” In such a case Luten can help clear the energies and set a new tone in the room by the use of the tools, rearranging furniture or objects, or incorpo-

rating certain colors or fabrics.

Don’t bother to straighten up before Luten arrives. “I need to see the real deal. I ask that people not make changes before I come. I need to see why something is not working,” says Luten who generally spends about 2 1/2 hours at a home for each consultation.

While some people call after their home has been purchased and lived in, Luten also suggests that her services are valuable before the home is purchased and could potentially save buyer money later on. “While many energies that may be working against the home can be shifted, slowed, moved, sped up, or protected against, others may be just too hard to undo,” says Luten.

After the hurricanes, the energy in many homes was shifted downward, so

people called for a consultation. “People wanted to make their homes work again. The energy was bad for them,” says Luten who adds that the use of blue tarps only added to depressed feelings. “Blue represents water, and that just added to the feeling of being overwhelmed and depressed—it amplified their feeling of drowning,” says Luten who recommends using a green tarp instead. “But, of course, I hope you never have that need,” she says. 🙏

Ann Marie O’Phelan is a contributing writer for several publications in Southwest Florida, where she resides with her son.

For More Information

Pine Island Feng Shui

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Consultation Fee:

Home consultation: \$162.00 (for one session up to 2 1/2 hours)
Business consultation: \$333.00 (for one session up to 3 hours)
Group lectures: \$144 (for up to 5 people for a lecture up to 1 1/2 hours)

For Products and Classes:

Wind and Water
5509 Pine Island Road NW
Bokeelia (At the Center behind Subway) 239-283-5512

