

Shui to Go!
presents

On the street where you live

Attracting success and happiness to your front door



A free Feng Shui lesson
by Aisling D'Art
www.ShuiToGo.com

These are the notes for the audio lesson, “On the street where you live,” by *Shui to Go!*, the website that makes Feng Shui easy and fun.

If you have not yet received your free audio lesson, please sign up at our website, <http://www.ShuiToGo.com>

The usual disclaimer

This information is presented for entertainment purposes only. No results are guaranteed. Aisling D’Art and the staff of *Shui to Go!* accept no responsibility for the application of information presented in this free course.

Feng Shui is the ancient Chinese art of placement. It is used throughout the world, by people of all backgrounds, nationalities, religions and design philosophies.

We use Feng Shui as the basis of landscaping, architecture, and interior design. While we acknowledge and enjoy the folklore associated with Feng Shui, our primary focus is on placement, color and design in homes and businesses.

At *Shui to Go!*, we practice a unique form of Western, modern Feng Shui. It is a mix of classic Black Hat Feng Shui, and our intuitive understanding of space and movement in it. Though we respect other Feng Shui traditions, we describe techniques that have been tested by our staff and clients, and modified for practical, everyday use.

Nevertheless, your results may differ. We make no guarantees. If you have questions about Feng Shui, ask any trained Feng Shui teacher or consultant, or use the Contact Form at our website, www.ShuiToGo.com.

--- Aisling D’Art, for *Shui To Go!*

Shui to Go! lesson
On the street where you live

What you will need

- Comfortable clothing and footwear
- Paper and pen or pencil, or an audio recorder
- An MP3 player to listen to your *Shui To Go* lesson

You will need at least 30 minutes for this portion of the lesson.

Part 1 - Observe and take notes

Walk one and a half blocks in the direction that your visitors usually come from. When you arrive there, observe the following about the area, and take notes.

- First impressions
- Overall reaction to what you see, hear and smell
- Condition of street
- Condition of sidewalk

Jot down your thoughts, and continue taking notes as you walk towards your home. Examine each house (or building or business), start with your “first glance” impressions. Look at the perimeter of the house, including the sidewalk, fence (if any), and driveway.

For each house, note the following.

House by house

General appearance of house

Condition and cleanliness of street and sidewalk

Condition of fence, front gate, or shrubs, if any

First impressions - from the street

- Condition of driveway
- Condition of garage if visible
- Impression of car, if visible
- Pleasant sounds such as happy people or soothing music
- Disturbing sounds such as unruly children, annoying music, arguments, too-loud TV

Closer examination

- Obvious signs of upkeep or neglect
- Evidence of success or poverty
- Style, condition, and colors of house, trim, and doors



Landscaping

- Fresh-cut, beautifully manicured lawn? Average? Neglected and overgrown?
- Garden? Any dead or overgrown plants? Weeds? Showcase garden?



Things to avoid with your own home

- Maintenance you associate with the lesser homes
- Colors and decor that you associate with the lesser homes

Things to copy, echo or use as inspiration for your own home

- Maintenance you associate with the better homes
- Colors and decor you associate with the better homes

The houses next door to yours

Do the same sort of examination, but in greater detail, when you reach the house next to yours. After taking notes there, pass your own home and do the same detailed study of the house on the other side of yours.

Your own home

You're going to look at your own home just as you did the homes of strangers and neighbors. However, you'll be studying your home in the greatest detail of all.

General appearance of house

Condition and cleanliness of street and sidewalk

Condition of fence or shrubs, if any

First impressions - from the street

- Condition of driveway - Pavement? Dirt? Rock covered? Is the edge of the lawn trimmed? Oil stains? Cracks or holes in pavement?
- Condition of garage if visible - Paint? Trim? Condition of windows? Roof? Can you see into the garage, and -- if so -- how does it look?
- Impression of car, if visible - New? Old? Clean? Dirty? Budget or affluent? Gas hog, average car, or hybrid?
- Pleasant sounds such as happy people or soothing music
- Disturbing sounds such as unruly children, barking dogs, annoying music, arguments, too-loud TV

Closer examination

- Obvious signs of upkeep or neglect
- Evidence of success or poverty

- Style, condition, and colors of house, trim, and doors
- Curtains and/or blinds - Visible? Matching? Clean and well-maintained?
- Windows (and screens) - Clean? Maintained? Any confusing décor?

Landscaping

- Fresh-cut, beautifully manicured lawn? Average? Dry or bare patches? Weeds? Neglected and overgrown? Pet issues?
- Is there a garden? Colors -- are they planned or random? Any dead or overgrown plants? Weeds? Is it a showcase garden?
- Trees, shrubs and vines - Healthy? Pruned? Any dead leaves around them?
- Children's toys, bicycles, etc., left in front yard?



The front gate

- Well maintained?
- Easy to open, and quiet?
- Does the gate close on its own? Or, does it need the attention of every visitor to close and look tidy?
- Is the path to the door smooth, clean, and crisply edged?
- Are your front stairs even and well maintained? If there is a railing, is it clean and does it feel sturdy?

The front door

In Feng Shui, we often think of doors as if they are able to swing a full 180 degrees. That is, as if it is a swinging door. Of course, the door should be able to open fully in its usual direction. However, visitors should perceive enough space for the door to swing fully in the other direction as well.

It is fine to have temporary, seasonal decorations on either side your door, as long as they don't block the free movement of the door as it opens. On the other hand, this should be seasonal and brief (weeks, at most), not routine.

Windows near the door

If there are windows in the door, or next to the door, they must be kept clean.

In addition, people should never have a clear view into your home. (Check this during the daytime and after dark.) Your home should always look inviting, but you should also have some sense of privacy, and visitors should perceive a sense of boundaries.

Consider placing sheer curtains over windows in or next to the door, so light can get through but privacy is maintained.

During the day, sheer curtains are a wise choice on most first floor windows, as well.

No matter how decorative, grillwork over windows or doors shout “crime area” to passersby. Remove those barriers, unless security is a real concern.

Your doorbell

Your doorbell or door knocker should look clean and welcoming. It should not be tarnished or dirty.

Visitors should be able to hear whether the doorbell is working, and the knocker should sound loud enough. No one should wonder if you know that they are waiting outside your door.

Opening the door

The handles on your screen door and main door should be clean, at a comfortable height, and feel solid in the hand. As each door opens, it should swing smoothly and silently with only average resistance.

Things to avoid

- Maintenance you associate with the lesser homes
- Colors and decor that you associate with the lesser homes

Things to copy, echo or use as inspiration

- Maintenance you associate with the better homes
- Colors and decor you associate with the better homes

Part 2 - Analyze your notes, then prioritize and plan

After concluding your study of the neighborhood, the houses next to yours, and your own home, spend at least 30 minutes reviewing your notes and clarifying them. Never assume that you'll remember something that is not written down. You'll be consulting these notes regularly over the coming weeks.

Then, wait a least a day before prioritizing necessary changes. Your outlook will be fresh.

Your plans to improve the Feng Shui outside your home should begin with the *one change* that will make the biggest difference, and can be accomplished in the shortest amount of time.

Although budget may be an issue, always plan to make the biggest, fastest splash with your initial changes.

If you are not sure where to start, ask a friend or relative who does not see your house very often.

Do not ask a neighbor unless you admire his or her house. Do not ask someone who lives with you, unless he or she is always a genius at home improvements and decorating.

(People who see your house every day are generally less objective than others.)

Then, get to work.



Unless your situation is desperate, such as an important party, a wedding at home, or the urgent sale of your house, do not make more than one large change per week.

Even positive changes can be unsettling and uncomfortable when there is no *pressing* need for them. Pace yourself so that your family, your neighbors, and you don't feel rushed or uneasy.

For more information

I hope you have enjoyed this lesson in Feng Shui. For additional articles and lessons like this, visit the *Shui To Go!* website, at <http://www.shuitogo.com/>

(*Shui to Go* is pronounced like “Shway to go!”)

Special notes if you're trying to sell your house

If you are planning to sell your home, start with general Feng Shui issues. These include clutter, as well as design elements both inside and outside your home.

Begin with the external elements that prospective buyers see whether they drive past your home.

When you are selling your home, first impressions are especially important. Though you probably can't do anything about the condition of your neighbors' homes and landscaping, those *will* influence buyers' perceptions.

As much as possible, your home should be a shining example of the best homes on your street. If there are shabby homes on your street, avoid any colors, design, or landscaping details that echo theirs.

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Do *not* try to make your home look *too* different from your neighbors', whether good or bad. Your home should *not* look as if it doesn't belong in the neighborhood.

It's fine -- perhaps important -- to make your home look its best.

On the other hand, if your home *already* looks like the best on the street, merely apply Feng Shui to the maintenance and decor around your home.

Most realtors will advise you not to attempt to fix your home up far beyond the average homes in your neighborhood.

If the average home on your block sells for \$200,000, it is unlikely that you can use Feng Shui alone to increase your selling price to \$300,000.



For that, the buyer will expect a considerably larger house lot, a spectacular swimming pool, a guest house, or something else that makes your higher priced property a worthy investment.

However, you can use Feng Shui to improve your *odds* of selling a house at the same or slightly higher price as similar homes in your area. In fact, Feng Shui can create such a sense of positive energy, it stands out from the crowd and sells first.

If you are not sure whether you are making the best use of Feng Shui, hire a Feng Shui consultant who will work with both your realtor and you.

Whether the Feng Shui consultant spends an hour with you or several days, it can be a wise investment.