



ST FILE PHOTO

Mr Dennis Foo, CEO of St James Power Station, says he turned to fengshui after going through a bad patch.

# 45-degree door for nightlife veteran

**Judith Tan**

The undisputed king of the local nightlife scene, Mr Dennis Foo, 59, is a great believer in fengshui.

Naturally, his office is “fengshui-approved”.

The door is at a 45-degree angle, his desk is parallel to the door, a curly bamboo plant in water in a vase sits on his desk, and a large purple crystal on a settee table and a rotating crystal ball on a shelf are to his left.

“Actually, my wife Jenny started me on it, but not without reason,” the CEO of St James Power Station told *The Sunday Times*.

The door’s angle prevents distraction while the desk offers a clear view of anyone who enters. The large purple crystal between the door and his desk provides “protection”.

Apart from helping to usher in wealth and prosperity, “a good

part of fengshui is psychological. We do it for the peace of mind”, he said.

“But I will not go to the extent of entering my company through a particular door at a certain time or buying fixtures that are beyond my means to change my luck.”

Mr Foo, who has been in the nightlife business for more than 30 years, said he turned to fengshui after going through a bad patch.

“It was a long-drawn court dispute,” he said, referring to the high-profile \$300 million Raffles Town Club lawsuit of 2001.

It was then that Mr Foo met a fengshui master, known only as Mr Tan.

“He only charges \$288 for consultation and never once did he suggest that I buy or change this or that to change my luck. This shows he is genuine and very ethical,” Mr Foo said.

And he has never regretted heeding Mr Tan’s advice against taking

up premises at Orchard Hotel or at The Esplanade. It was “simply because the locations were wrong for me”, he added.

He was looking at those locations to set up clubs when the spaces were up for tender.

“It was also Mr Tan who told me to invest in St James Power Station. This was contrary to what economic analysts were saying as there was going to be an integrated resort at Sentosa. Look at St James today,” Mr Foo said.

Once a coal-fired power station in the 1920s, the St James Power Station reignited in 2006 as a mega club under a joint venture between Mr Foo and retailer F. J. Benjamin.

With about 130 full-time singers, dancers, DJs and musicians on its payroll, St James is Singapore’s largest employer of entertainers.

But Mr Tan died before he could advise Mr Foo on the fengshui of renovating the place.

Today, Mr Foo consults geomancer Adelina Pang.

“She is from the same sect as Mr Tan so I decided to put my trust in her. She is good. Last year, she told me one of my outlets that had been doing well wasn’t going to while another that wasn’t great would become popular. You know, she was right,” he said.