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YOUR MAGAZINE FOR THE WEEKEND

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LIFESTYLE OF A FENG SHUI MASTER

Pictures/ HEDY KHOO



FEATURE
FAWZIAH SELAMAT



WHENEVER feng shui master Adelina Pang hangs a wind-chime, she notices her neighbours would do the same.

Geomancy's poster girl almost invariably gets approached for feng shui tips while out shopping.

"I was looking around a condo unit (which she just bought) when this woman knocked on the door and started rattling off a series of questions like, 'I think I've seen you in magazines, are you THAT feng shui woman? You live here, is it? So this place must have good luck, right?' recalled Ms Pang, 37, who is one of the speakers at this inaugural International Feng Shui Convention.

"Others ask whether I can read their face or what numbers they should buy for 4D, while the more brazen would ask me to come over to their place and look it over to see whether it's got good luck."

But while they may be famous for supposedly changing the fortunes of others, are feng shui masters good at changing their own fortunes?

Not surprisingly, Ms Pang attributes her family's good fortune to her art.

"It all started when I used feng shui to improve the health of my elder daughter. She was always coughing but the doctors told us she was healthy," said Ms Pang who has two children.

"I changed the position of her bed and she began feeling better."

She then began experimenting with other rooms.

"My husband and I were always squabbling over trivial matters," she said.

"But after shifting the position in which we slept, the squabbling stopped."

Today, Ms Pang claims her friends and family are amazed at how much in love she and her husband are, even after 13 years of marriage. Of course, there is also something to be said for understanding one's spouse better after having spent so much time together, added Ms Pang.

Ms Pang and her husband, Mr Clive Ho, 42, live comfortably in a million-dollar three-storey terrace house. The condominium unit serves as the family's nest-egg.

And their wheels of choice? A Jaguar and a Mercedes Benz, of course.

A far cry from their previous abode of a five-room flat and a shared Volvo — before Ms Pang went into feng shui.

Then her take-home as a personal assistant was \$4,000. It rocketed to \$10,000 after a year of feng shui — and now she declines to say quite how much she and her husband, a manager of a public listed company, make.

But before you begin stalking Ms Pang and following her every move for a measure of good luck, maybe it's best to get a crash course on the ABCs of feng shui first.

"It's a very specific art. Whether feng shui works is highly dependent on the individual's birth chart, luck and karma."

"So just because it's good luck for me to hang a wind chime doesn't mean that it's going to be good luck for you."

THE CORNER OF WEALTH



Ms Pang has identified her living room and dining area as her wealth sector.

She has placed a water feature in the living room which she said will help bring her more wealth.

A model of a merchant ship loaded with gold ingots is used for the same purpose.

At the same time, a partition has been built to separate the living room from the dining area.

"This is to contain the wealth in the dining area rather than have the energy disappear," she said.

Originally the house's main door was in line with the kitchen door and the door leading to the backyard.

The partition helps to prevent the house's qi (energy) from flowing out directly.

"Without the partition, there is nothing to divert the qi from flowing out of the house."

"If the qi cannot be captured in the house, the homeowner cannot reap much benefit in life," she said.

■ The International Feng Shui Convention is on at the Suntec City Convention Centre from 9 to 5pm today. Tickets costing \$262.50 can be bought on site. An exhibition on feng shui at the same venue is open to the public for free.

THE QUARRELSOME CORNER



Using the Flying Stars system — a system used by geomancers to chart out the energy pattern of a home — Ms Pang identified this living space on the second floor of her house as having "quarrelsome" energy.

"It's not a good area for children to play or for couples to rest as it would activate quarrels," she said.

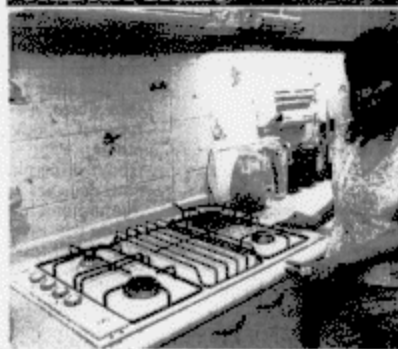
Metal is used to suppress this unwanted energy.

Ms Pang has placed metal sculptures and candle stands and chosen the colour silver for her sofa.

"I've also decided to hang a collection of ancient Chinese coins on the wall but it looks like an art piece so no-one suspects it's for feng shui reasons," she said.

The floor's carpet was also carefully chosen for its unique design, which is the symbol for metal.

THE KITCHEN



Ms Pang recommends that your stovetop sit on your "bad luck sector" and never on your "good luck sector".

This is determined through your birth data — usually the birth data of the main breadwinner is used.

"For good luck, the knobs of the stove should also be pointing in the right direction," she said.

Ms Pang has calculated that her stovetop's knobs should point to the right.

But in order to achieve

this, she's had to turn the stovetop around, which explains why the brand name is now upside-down.

Ms Pang added that stoves should not be facing a refrigerator or a sink as fire and water are clashing elements which would erode good luck.

If the items are facing each other, a simple solution would be to introduce a wood element between them such as a wooden bench or partition.