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## Articles by Consy Malasoma

### Real Estate & Staging With Feng Shui

The recent headlines announced that December 2009 had the lowest home sale values since 1963. We are now seeing lenders; builders and the federal government's Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac change the process of qualifying and buying the American Dream of owning your own home. Many neighborhoods in pockets of the U.S. have lost home values to short sales and foreclosures and the end is not yet in sight. So how does Feng Shui play a role in meeting the challenge of this economic meltdown?

When preparing a home for sale, those who live and breathe Feng Shui understand that a key element is to clear out the clutter that has accumulated and set our intention to allow fresh, new energy and new beginnings into our lives. Clutter translates to stagnant energy in our spaces and creates an impediment to the introduction of the desired new energy. Another Feng Shui aspect is tapping into Nature's five elements: water, wood, fire, earth, and metal. The combination of these elements equally represented in a décor or building's interior adds a sense of beauty and balance. There appears to be a natural order to our Universe and more and more healers know it plays a large role in our lives.

Curb appeal using Feng Shui is another logical and necessary step in the preparation of a property. A meandering, curved walkway to the main entrance is much more visually pleasant to straight, linear lines. A clean front door with fresh potted plants and outdoor lights in working order is another must to showcase a property whether it is on the market for sale or occupied. Care, upkeep, and maintenance are a sign of pride of ownership and love for a property. This equates to higher property values and a sense of community in a neighborhood.

According to the Chinese, we may not have control over our birth date, or the birth luck that we have in our lives, but with Feng Shui there is some measure of control over our environment by where we choose to live, the "lay of the land" and the rivers and valleys we choose to live on and around. Feng Shui is more popular today than ever before, because we look for ways to de-stress, to connect back to nature, to meditate and find the time and space to connect with our Spirit and with others on a meaningful level.

Realtors, builders, stagers, architects and even zoning officials would be served well to work with a Feng Shui practitioner. A great example is the house or building that sits on the T of a street that virtually has energy or Sha Chi rushing towards the main entrance. It is similar to pushing strong energy towards the structure. I have dealt with several clients who could not understand why their home business failed or their luck changed after moving into a different property. Compass directions, water ways, steep hillsides and busy intersections all have an impact on our homes and eventually on our lives.

Attending a planning commission meeting in your community to look at the parks we play in and use for future generations would be enhanced with curves, colorful beds of flowers and places to

meet and congregate which are all Feng Shui elements.

Using the Bagua or nine sections of a home or commercial office lends to a natural flow between rooms, hallways and doorways. Feng Shui principles use the natural beauty and co-existence in nature to promote balance and feelings of well-being in the interior and exterior of a home. Wind chimes at the front or back door clear the Chi or energy and have a lifting affect. Using colors according to the elements of nature accent architectural features that help to showcase a home.

A home staged with design enhancements and Feng Shui elements is sure to improve salability in a slow market.