

# THE FENG SHUI WAY

Can't afford to coat your office walls with non-toxic paint or lay down low-VOC carpet to green your job space?

There may be another way to attain a work environment that feeds the mind, body and soul.

Two words. Feng Shui.

Go ahead and smirk – you know you want to. Renee Spears, president of Rose City Mortgage Company, would probably understand the urge. She had doubts herself

when she first heard about using feng shui, the Chinese art of placing objects in buildings and rooms based on a belief that all things possess a vital force or energy that can influence the way a person – and even a business – functions.

But then Spears started reading about how some of the top business successes like The Donald of Trump fame had become advocates of the method. And while she wasn't completely convinced – "I had my doubts," she admits – she decided to give feng shui a shot when it came time for her company to move to larger digs.

Spears tapped into the services of local consultant Linda King, who she met through their mutual association with a Portland women's marketing group called The Greener Good.

King started by asking Spears and her employees what kind of energy they wanted to strive for in the



different areas of their new office space. A wish for energy that would result in abundance for the company resulted, for example, in a space that features a million-dollar bill and red, the color of power.

Other feng shui influences were less obvious: rearranging the placement of furniture, giving employees advice for how to arrange items on their desks, and for Spears, a new chair at her desk.

"Being a short woman, but a power woman in the office, (Linda) wanted me to get a higher-backed chair," Spears says. "I really do believe it's working. Maybe it's a subtle thing, but if it's working I'll take it."

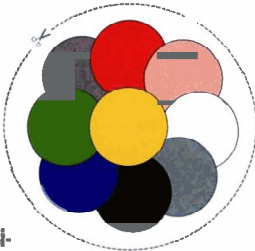
And although she can't say whether it's the result of better channeling of energy or a trick of the mind, Spears says others have noticed the feng shui changes, although they may not be aware of exactly what the difference is.

"Everybody who comes in mentions how great our place feels," she says. "We work in a really stressful industry, and it really calms everybody down in the office. Something as simple as paint color can make a difference." – Stephanie Basalyga

## IN THE BAGUA

Considered a road map of sorts for traveling the feng shui path to better energy flow, the bagua is a nine-color "grid" that corresponds with the nine main components of life: **BLACK** = career/life path; **BLUE** = wisdom/skills; **GREEN** = family; **PURPLE** = prosperity/abundance; **RED** = fame/reputation; **PINK** = relationships; **WHITE** = creativity/children; **SILVER/GRAY** = helpful people & travel; **YELLOW** = health.

While formally outfitting a desk in the feng shui mode requires placing an item of each color in specific positions on a desk,



there's an easier way for those looking for a low-budget, quick-feng-shui fix. Cut out the flower which contains all nine sections of the bagua. Now tape the flower to the top of your desk with the black petal closest to you, the green petal to your left and the white petal toward your right.

## calendar of events

### OCTOBER 3

Shop Talk @ Salty's on the Columbia  
Networking program at different locations that feature member introductions, a brief host presentation and a door prize drawing.  
**WHERE** Salty's on the Columbia  
**FEES** Free  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Portland Business Alliance,  
503-552-6770

### OCTOBER 4

Investing in Clean Energy in the Pacific Northwest  
Top authorities on clean energy investment trends will be on hand to discuss the intersection of energy, private investment and public policy.  
**WHERE** Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle  
**FEES** \$195  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Stoel Rives, 503-294-9506  
[www.stoel.com/cleanenergyconference](http://www.stoel.com/cleanenergyconference)

### OCTOBER 6

The Business of Biofuels in the Pacific Northwest  
A conference on biofuels with an overview of the industry and production of biodiesel and bioethanol.  
**WHERE** Mt. Hood Community College  
**FEES** \$100  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Oregon Science and Technology Partnership,  
[www.ostpartnership.org](http://www.ostpartnership.org)

### OCTOBER 7

AIA Design Awards and IIDA/AIA/IDSA Interior Awards Celebration  
AIA, IIDA and IDSA team up for a joint celebration.  
**WHERE** Wonder Ballroom  
**FEES** \$50  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
AIA, 503-223-8757