

LOS ANGELES CONFIDENTIAL™

FALL FASHION BLOWOUT
THE LOOKS, DESIGNERS,
ICONS, SHOPS, AND HOT SPOTS
YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

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EXCLUSIVE!

Rebecca Romijn



UGLY SURE IS
GORGEOUS
THESE DAYS!

PLUS!
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CAMERON DOUGLAS
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COLLEEN BELL
AND MORE!

Balancing Act

Our resident feng shui disciple retrofits the Asian principle of harmony for the Western household.

BY ANITA ROSENBERG

CREATING GOOD FENG SHUI involves a lot more than clearing clutter and keeping the toilet lid down. Everything from shopping for Buddha to romancing your bedroom brings it into play, and as one of Los Angeles' leading practitioners, I'm convinced that feng shui has the power to bring success.

This Chinese art has been around for 3,000 years, so it's clearly not a passing fad. Translated as "wind water," feng shui involves things we see (the material) and things we don't see (the spiritual). Under its precepts, a person's intentions manifest his or her reality, and environment has a profound impact on all aspects of life.

Good feng shui is all about improving the world, one house at a time.

All this explains the emphasis that Asian cultures place on the spiritual and the superstitious. For example, if you'd been born in Asia you'd have at least one altar or shrine and possibly more. Lighting incense and candles would be a daily routine. Demon guardians would stand in your foyer to drive away evil. Dragons would be your power symbols and "lucky cats" would bring good fortune to your business. Your life, in short, would be full of spirit and you'd have an innate understanding of the interconnectedness of all things.

As Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, and Taiwan have entered the 21st century, feng shui has remained a powerful force. But it has its adherents on our shores as well, and in high places: Power players like Donald Trump, Donna Karan, Steven Spielberg, Tiger Woods, and Oprah Winfrey rely on feng shui wisdom.

Our challenge now is to reinterpret feng shui style with a Western vibe, knowing that when you change your home, you change your life. Good feng shui is, after all, all about improving the world, one house at a time.



FENG SHUI STYLE	WESTERN VIBE
INVITING HAPPINESS AND GOOD LUCK	
<p>Flanking every entryway throughout China are bright red banners with gold letters that read DOUBLE HAPPINESS. Purchased during the Chinese New Year, they're hung upside down to bring good luck into the home. The message of these banners is one of happiness to come.</p>	<p>Paper banners may work in Chinatown, but not in front of your fabulous Hollywood bungalow. Usher in good fortune without appearing tacky by painting the front door red. In China, red symbolizes happiness. Test various shades to find the perfect complement to your exterior color.</p>
PROTECTING GOOD FORTUNE	
<p>The Chinese believe people should be strong like rocks, so they use large rocks in gardens both public and private. Placed in the entryway to a temple or home, a rock protects and holds in good fortune while keeping out evil. Well-placed rocks prevent the escape of precious ch'i (life force) energy, and a large decorative specimen can create a sense of anticipation about what lies hidden beyond.</p>	<p>A gigantic boulder may not fit in with your décor, so you may need to get creative with your landscaping to hold in ch'i and protect yourself from nosy neighbors. Meandering pathways and exquisite fencing lend an air of mystery to a home. When protected by bushes, bamboo, or an intriguing wall, a front door not only looks luscious, but it holds in good fortune.</p>
PAIRS PROMOTE LOVE	
<p>The Chinese love to decorate in pairs. This is an affirmation of the yin and yang of life, and two of everything is much better than one. Pairs reinforce the duality of love, so where there's a phoenix (female) there's always a dragon (male). Pairs of guardian foo dogs are always found in front of public buildings. The female has a baby under her paw while the male has a ball under his. When pairs are present, love is in the air.</p>	<p>Whether you're single or in a relationship, it's good to decorate with pairs. It's all about the tango of two when you hang a pair of pictures together or balance your bed with two bedside tables and two bedside lamps (they don't have to match). If you tend to buy single items, you may want to change your focus to twos, because the good life is about our relationships with others.</p>
FORTUNATE BLESSINGS	
<p>Virtually everything in Chinese culture is done with an eye to attracting wealth and good fortune, ensuring longevity, finding lasting love, and protecting against negative energy. Happy Buddha is the most popular Chinese statue, and rubbing his fat belly brings good luck. Other powerful luminaries include Quan Yin, the female goddess of compassion; Guan Gong, the fortune god; and Pi Yao, the baby dragon who holds your good fortune in his stomach and guarantees that it never runs out.</p>	<p>Unless you want your house or office to look like a souvenir shop, you should pick and choose your Asian images with care. A "money toad" or jade good-luck charm can serve as a focal point of magic. The best place to start your collection is in downtown Chinatown along Broadway. I suggest starting your search for treasures with a scrumptious dim sum lunch, then head off under the famous Chinese archway for Ching coins and a feng shui crystal.</p>

