

The Spiritual Feng Shui newsletter
Issue 30
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Fall in Love and You Fall Forever

Wedding Seating Plans

Also:

Feng Shui Tip
Inspirational Quotes

Dear Friend,

Welcome to The Spiritual Feng Shui newsletter for June 2009; it is good to have your company, as always! This month we head away from the home, but not to anywhere boring like work ... we're checking out Feng Shui guidelines for your wedding! We look at guidelines and ideas for everything from your outfits to the reception hall. You may be dreading deciding which of your very different family and friends will sit next to each other at the reception. We help create a harmonious atmosphere no matter what you decide. There is a breeze-through Feng Shui tip, and inspirational quotes for an inspiring time of life. May peace and harmony reign for you in June ... and the rest of your life together!

- 0x Feature Article: Fall in Love and You Fall Forever
 - Feng Shui principles are not only for homes, and weddings are an excellent place to pay attention to them.

- 0x Q&A: Reception Layouts
 - How can I ensure good conversation, minimal tension and a fun time with my reception hall layout?

- 0x Feng Shui Tip
 - Watery Weddings

- 0x Inspirational Quotes

Enjoy!

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Main Article: Feng Shui Weddings - Fall in Love and You Fall Forever

Weddings can be a stressful time ... especially if you invite your friends and family! You are spending more money than you would on any other party, you worry that if your wedding isn't perfect, your marriage won't be, and to top it all off, your mother and his mother will have to talk to each other. You're not even sure if you *want* them to get along! Applying the principles of Feng Shui to your wedding can help the day go just as smoothly and help you feel as positive as your little heart allows, just as it can when you're at home. We take a special look at Feng Shui for one of your life's turning points.

Colors

Weddings are often themed white (in the West, at least), because it symbolizes purity, innocence, and faith. In China, the color for weddings is red - white is the color traditional for funerals. I'm only pointing this out so that you know that white isn't the only color possible for a wedding theme. Different color schemes can really bring your wedding to life - where if you have too much white, it can leave the whole space feeling a little blank and lifeless. Here are some different color ideas for weddings:

- Red and pink represent passion, affection and friendship. Try vibrant hues, and plenty of these colors, to stand out against a white background.
- You might be thinking of having children soon - why not have a green-themed wedding, which encourages fertility?
- If you anticipating personality clashes at you wedding, with all the different family members, blue can create a lovely calming atmosphere.

Of course, you can still wear a white dress, and have it look just as pretty in a different colored environment! Try adding white accents to a bold color scheme for coordination, instead of hints of color on a mainly white palette.

Tables

Round tables are preferable to rectangular ones - they offer a much more regular and even flow of Chi, and everybody can talk to every other person just as easily, and gets just as much space.

Clutter

This old favorite had to pop up in a Feng Shui discussion somewhere! When planning weddings, people often go a bit crazy on table settings. Bonbonniere compete with flowers and place cards for attention, people on opposite sides of tables struggle to see each other, and there is barely a spot for wrists among all the formal knives and forks. Remember the KISS rule - keep it simple, sweetheart! Clutter is just as destructive at a wedding as it is in your home. The confused, churning Chi feels unsettling.

If you are designating who will sit at which table, why not make a single layout at the entrance that people can look at, or a central card for the table, instead of having individual ones. Try hanging flowers on the backs of chairs instead of placing them on the table, if you want to have them. Ask your catering company if knives and forks can be kept to a minimum, perhaps replaced as different courses come out, or upon request by your guests. And just because somebody invented a word for 'bonbonniere', doesn't mean that they are compulsory!

Elements of Elegance

A balance of all the natural elements is essential in any home, and even more so at a wedding! Try to include all of the different elements in your design:

- Water
- Wood
- Fire
- Earth, and
- Metal

Water can be included in the form of little fishbowls on the table (how cute!), or a water feature at the entrance. Candles are the obvious choice to incorporate fire, and wood can come from green plants in the reception hall, as well as the furniture. Metal will often come in the form of cutlery, or you could use small metal bells strung up around the hall. Earth energy can come either from the soil in potted plants, from clay or porcelain vases, or from the color accents that you choose (yellow, tan and beige represent earth).

Location

Look for reception venues that are quiet, not adjacent to any hospitals, police stations, graveyards, churches, train stations and airports. These venues often have negative energy associated with them. While these buildings most definitely won't 'taint' your marriage, or have any effect on you beyond your proximity to them, they could make your reception less than harmonious!

All the little bits and pieces that can make a big difference to your home can make a big difference to the harmony factor of your reception, also. If you are able to leave windows or doors open, do so. Try to let as much natural light into the venue as you can. Don't forget to balance the flow of Chi within the reception venue by ensuring that the corners aren't ignored, by trying to maintain a balanced layout. If the walls of your reception venue are empty, have some large photos printed to fill the space temporarily, or bring some of your pictures from home. Alternatively, you could put up a big poster or photo which your guests can sign. Dual purpose Feng Shui!

Your wedding is an important day (although remember, it is *just a day!* Relax, and it will be much easier, and more pleasant for you). Use Feng Shui to help create a beautiful, vibrant, harmonious atmosphere on one of the happiest days of your life!

Q&A: How should I try to arrange my tables, the bridal table, the dance floor and other areas according to Feng Shui principles?

Great question! This can be very important in creating a harmonious, happy atmosphere for your wedding reception. We touched on a few points in the main article, like using round tables, but didn't look into the overall floor plan for your wedding.

Tables

Feng Shui tells us that sitting with our backs to the door creates uneasy feelings. It's sort of like sitting on a train with somebody looking at you the whole journey! Try to arrange tables so that most people aren't sitting with their backs to the door. If you can also arrange them so that people aren't sitting with their backs to a major walkway, or to the bulk of the room, it will feel much more natural.

When you have taken the advice of the main article, and used round tables, you may be wondering how to arrange this! The simple solution is to leave part of each table empty. Practically, as well as Feng Shui-wise, this is preferable anyway; people will have more room to spread out, and your table decorations won't get in the way.

Bridal table

If possible, why not put the bridal table in the Love and Relationships area of the reception hall?! This is the rightmost square of the top row, so is conveniently one of the furthest areas from the door. If you have a photo display for your reception, of all your happy times together, this is also a great place for that. The bridal table is often a long, rectangular arrangement, even if all of the other tables in the hall are circular, and sits best against a wall, anyway.

Dance floor

The ideal placement for a dance floor would be in the Creativity Gua, which is the rightmost square of the middle row. This puts the dance floor directly next to the bridal table, which will sit well with some people's sensibilities, and not with others! As with all things in Feng Shui, see if they feel right to you before following the advice strictly.

If you can't, or would prefer not to, place your dance floor in the creativity Gua, you can still enhance it according to Feng Shui with energetic colors like orange, red and yellow, and by ensuring a good supply of fresh air.

Band

Some wedding receptions have a dance floor without a band, or vice versa. If you have a dance floor, of course, you'll want the band to stick with that. If the band is stand-alone, the energy all that gorgeous music brings would be well used in your Reputation and Fame area or your Family Gua at a wedding. Your family area is the leftmost square of the middle row, and probably optimal placement if you have the bridal table in the Love and Relationships Gua.

Feng Shui Tip: Don't Let Mom's Tears be the Only Water at Your Wedding!

While candles are a common sight at weddings, the passion and raging energy they bring needs to be balanced with something much calmer and cooler. Unfortunately, the only water most people have at their wedding is in a jug in the middle of the table!

Water features are a lovely way to incorporate this soothing, tranquil element into your wedding, helping smooth over arguments before they start and create that peaceful, easy feeling.

You may be able to rent water features, rather than buying one - check with landscaping suppliers and wedding planners in your area. Alternatively, try to find a reception venue that has a fountain out the front for a magnificent 'shower'!

Inspirational Quotes

Love does not consist of gazing at each other, but in looking together in the same direction. ~Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Love - a wildly misunderstood although highly desirable malfunction of the heart which weakens the brain, causes eyes to sparkle, cheeks to glow, blood pressure to rise and the lips to pucker. ~Author Unknown

But what is happiness except the simple harmony between a man and the life he leads? ~Albert Camus