



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

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Feng Shui

Front entrance refresh

By Michele Duffy

We all know intuitively that the first impression a home makes, specifically the front entrance, is important for setting the tone for the entire home. Subliminal, hidden and unintended consequences can result from the myriad choices we make, so what's the skinny on preferred doors and why? And what other components enter into creating an entryway that's ready to receive blessings for everyone in the household?

Creating balance means we include all Five Elements (water, wood, fire, earth, metal) and if we do so skillfully with a professional, then we have yin-yang balance. While it's true that we always want all Five Elements to be present for balance, it can vary by room. In the master bedroom, for example, we usually want it to be quieter, more Zen-like or on the yin side so we can sleep, rest and connect with intimacy. The front entranceway has a completely opposite energetic or Qi goal from the master bedroom. Front entrance Qi is active, lively and yang, and it's important that there is a lot of strong yang Qi and lots of activity and movement there. The front entrance is also known as the first pillar or "Power Area" and is where we first place the Feng Shui Bagua map, according to the Ancient Bon Buddhist Feng Shui lineage I practice. Often called the "Mouth of Qi" the front entrance must abundantly amplify nourishing energy to support the energetic needs of whole structure.

Not only is the front entryway door important, but Feng Shui includes the journey leading up to the front door. If on the way to your home the energy meanders along curvy paths that gives the Qi a chance to gather there, and ideally, there should be lots of tidy colorful garden blooms and absolutely no garbage, clutter, or debris anywhere around the front entranceway. That first impression begins outside your home so try to create a front yard that is inviting and welcoming.

In terms of Feng Shui, the actual front door first must provide safety, privacy and a protective barrier from the outside world. Feng Shui always prefers solid wood doors for this reason. There are exceptions, for example, if your front entranceway has very little natural light we approve of glass panels but only along the very top of the front door. If the door is designed with lots of glass panels it can easily be broken and provide a way in for uninvited guests. As for the color of the door, from a Feng Shui perspective there are several reasons why red is often chosen. First, red serves a dual function of protecting the home but also red attracts Qi toward the home and strongly activates the front entrance door with red since it is a yang color.

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Photo provided

Meandering paths and front entrance doors flanked with plants are excellent Feng Shui.