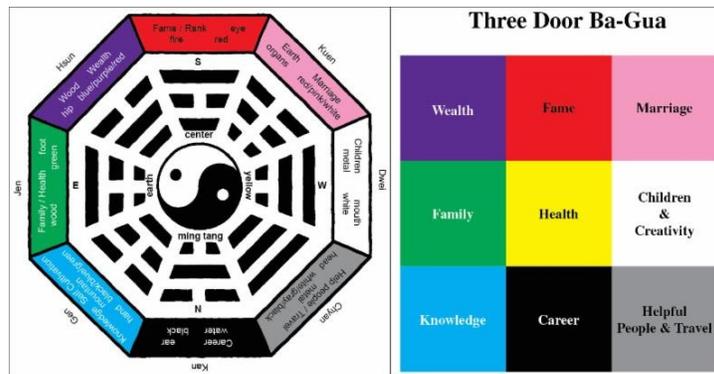




Katherine Ashby, left, above, with a colorful marigold and landscape examples of use of the bagua. Below, the bagua, showing the octagon and the square. The octagon has the colors, elements and body parts on it, and the square one (Three Door Bagua) is the one to overlay on the property, so you have to use both in the article to make sense.



Feng Shui Your Garden for a Happy Home

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Feng shui deals with the energy of a place, called qi (chee). The goal of landscape feng shui is to harness beneficial qi from the land and direct it to enter the house. To increase beneficial qi in your garden, consider these simple tips:



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- Identify the eight sectors of your garden by overlaying the bagua (BAH-gwa) on the lot, with the bottom part of the bagua (Knowledge/Career/Helpful People) on the property line that contains the driveway. The driveway will then fall into one of those sectors.
- Use colors and elements of the bagua in corresponding sectors of the garden. Example: the center front of the property is Career, the colors are blue and black, and the element is water. A water feature would be perfect here.
- A red-hot tip: place red plants in the center back garden to activate the Fame sector. It might help you get a promotion at work or free advertising for your business.
- Attract qi to your property with color near the street. This is especially important if your house is hidden from the street.
- Put colorful guardian plants on both sides of the building's main door, especially if the door is hidden from the street.
- Transform a walkway that is too long and straight into the perception of a curved walkway by placing asymmetrical flowerbeds on both sides of the walkway. A curved walkway directs benevolent qi to the door, whereas a straight walkway brings aggressive qi.
- Replace dead plants immediately. Depending on the location, dead plants can affect different parts of the body. For example, dead plants in Family can hurt the feet.
- Landscape lighting is an instant energizer. Lighting sculptures, water features, and majestic trees adds more energy to the property.
- Make some of the plants in your garden edible or aromatic. Think roses, basil, and rosemary. Grow them organically and eat them!
- Help your children by adding metal wind chimes in the Children sector of the garden. Chimes stimulate the mind, helping students do better in school.

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