



## The Inside Scoop on Outside Feng Shui Part I



### *Where on earth do you put a compost bin?*

*Last winter I had the privilege of shopping for a new home from a Feng Shui perspective. I certainly had fun, however, I know it was frustrating for both my husband and our realtor! I am sure they rolled their eyes behind my back on more than one occasion!*

House hunting, for us, turned into a parade of ‘drive by viewings’ as I would announce at a glance, “No good! It has a hidden doorway.” Or “Unacceptable ... I could never live with this street chi.”

While there is no such thing as a *perfect* Feng Shui home – at least not one that was in my price range – we did find one that was close. We settled on a two-story home on a rectangular-shaped lot. With only a slight upward grade from street level to the front door and a flat back yard – both desirable features in Feng Shui – my husband and I agreed it was the home for us. An added bonus was that the lot provided a clean canvas to incorporate Feng Shui in our landscaping.

With plenty of ideas, but a limited budget, I established both long- and short-term gardening plans. While I had fun choosing trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables according to the bagua, I was in a quandary about the placement of the compost bin.

Considerable time was spent researching the ideal location for a vessel that would – essentially – contain rotting plant matter. I wondered if compost represents good or bad chi? In contemplating compost bins I came to one conclusion – they are unattractive. I would certainly need to be creative to provide some beautification.

My next step was to forget about Feng Shui and learn more about composting. I learned that a compost bin must be easily accessible from your kitchen, so it is convenient to use. I was assured that, if properly constructed and maintained, it would not smell and it should not attract flies and other pests. I had always thought a composter needed to be in direct sunlight to effectively ‘cook’ the compost, but this is not so. A sunny location helps, but is not a pre-requisite.

Once I felt confident with the basics of ‘Composting 101’, I began my research from a Feng Shui perspective. I looked through a myriad of Feng Shui books, Googled the Internet and ... came up with very little. While I found several mentions of compost bins, no one stated exactly *where* the bin should go!

Last spring, I posted my compost concerns as a question for a Feng Shui Connections meeting. As a result of this, I was able to gain some insight. Feng Shui Practitioner and Certified Master Gardener, Eileen Conti Weklar, offered this welcome wisdom:



*“I like to think about gardening as partnership - a beautiful interaction with you and the earth. You offer the seeds and the earth accepts, cares and shares in your work. Everything that happens in a manmade garden is about partnership.”*

*“Composting is [a part of that] partnership - giving back, renewing, co-creating with nature. I would place compost bins in the Love and Relationship area because it represents the Earth element. Composting is about being ‘down to earth.’”*

*“The Earth element also represents your support and stability in life. Earth energy moves downward thus holding things into place and symbolizes a nurturing environment for things to grow.”*

Although he didn’t disagree with Eileen, Feng Shui instructor David Lai’s recommendation was that the compost bin be put on the line *between* Relationships and Creativity and Children. This, he explained, takes the building cycle into consideration because earth creates metal.

It was time for my Type A personality to prevail and analyze the situation. Here is my take on the composting issue:

## Composting creates new earth *and* positive chi

Composting creates nutrient-rich, new earth from what would otherwise be waste. Food represents abundance and, by composting kitchen and yard waste, we are honouring the 'gift of green' from the Universe. Do not think of your compost bin as a 'waste receptacle.' Think of it as an 'earth generator' and, every time you add to your compost heap, set the intention that you are creating health, wealth and happiness. When you 'harvest' your compost, give thanks for this gift.

## The best location for compost bins

Make functionality your priority. Choose a location that is easily accessible and *then* think Feng Shui.

The best guas are those that represent the Earth element: Skills and Knowledge, Health or Love and Relationships. That said, I would not recommend placing a compost bin in the Health sector. Being in the centre of the bagua map and your property, this is usually where your home is located. You should also consider that the Health sector touches all other eight sectors the bagua. A compost bin here – supercharging the Earth element – could result in unintentional fueling of a destructive cycle for other guas.



The second best guas are those with the metal element: Helpful People and Travel and Creativity and Children. Remember, earth creates metal, so you are working with the building cycle here. I placed my round compost bin in the right-hand centre of my yard, which is my Children and Creativity gua. (Circles and round shapes are desirable here.) The centre area of a yard represents the present and I wanted to create new beginnings now! I selected this area first and foremost, however, because it is easily accessible. It is also out-of-sight when I sit on the patio to enjoy my garden.

## Not so good locations for compost bins

I quickly ruled out the Prosperity, Fame, and Relationship sectors of my yard. I did not want the compost bin to be a showcase feature in the back yard. Intuition also told me that placing a waste receptacle in the Prosperity and Fame guas could not be a positive thing. You want Fire in your Fame sector ... not fruit flies!

Considering that they both represent Wood element, the Prosperity and Family sectors should only be used for the compost bin as a last resort. (Wood penetrates Earth.) Adding the Earth element to the Career gua is also destructive because Earth dams Water. Also, consider that the Skills and Knowledge, Career and Helpful People sectors are aligned with the main entrance to your property. Who wants to be greeted by a compost bin when approaching your front door?

## Balancing the unattractive with the Five Elements

As for the 'ugly factor,' I placed three black metal trellises to curve around my compost bin, so that when you enter the yard through the side gate the compost bin is hidden. (One side must be kept open to access the compost.)

At a glance, it is just your average trellis. Upon closer inspection however, it introduces three more Elements to the existing Earth element of the compost bin. The colour black and the glass inserts both represent Water. The three suns represent Fire. The metal is Metal.

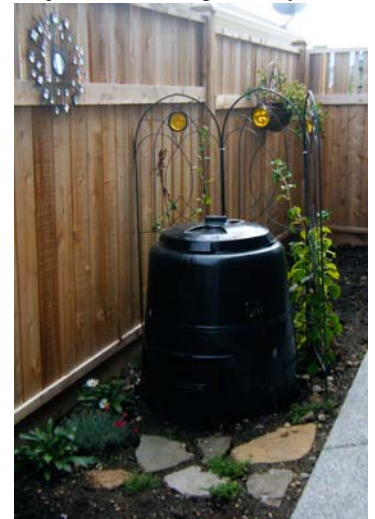
To add the Wood element, I planted two climbing Hydrangeas. In our West Coast climate this vine will be green year 'round and sport large circular white blossoms in late spring. A couple of Shasta daisies add another splash of white and, for me, a sense of fun. Daisies always make me smile and, when I think of them, I see envision little girls in white dresses skipping through fields of flowers with bouquets of daisies in their hands! A ruby red dianthus, dwarf Astible with flame-shaped burgundy blossoms, and red-



leafed sedum add more of the Fire element. A few flagstones are placed near the bin's access portal and a carpet of wooly thyme will eventually connect the stones together.

The crowing glory is a starburst metal wall sculpture, with a mirror in the centre and square and round glass jewels adorning the 'rays'. It is hung on the wooden fence, incorporating the Wood, Fire, Metal and Water elements in perfect harmony.... I have enough of the Earth element with the compost bin itself.

With all of these Feng Shui cures and enhancements in place, I have now balanced the Five Elements of Feng Shui and created a pleasing focal point in my side yard. My compost bin is now an eco-friendly, Feng Shui-perfect thing of beauty. Let the decomposition begin!



*Watch for Part II in next month's Feng Shui News.*

Terri Perrin is certified as a Feng Shui Practitioner through Mount Royal College, in Calgary, Alberta. Committed to continual learning and expanding her knowledge of Feng Shui, Terri is a member of the International Feng Shui Guild and Feng Shui Connections Canada. She is also proud to be a student and disciple of Grandmaster Thomas Lin Yun.

Terri now lives in Courtenay, B.C., and is available for home, garden and business consultations. She also presents a variety of Feng Shui workshops.

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# A tribute to our beloved teacher

His Holiness Grandmaster Professor Lin Yun



What a sad day to us all when the news filtered through that our beloved His Holiness Grandmaster Professor Lin Yun had passed away peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday August 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm Pacific Time.

This is one of those days that everyone will remember where they were, what they were doing and how they were feeling at this precise time. For me, I was on the golf course and during the lead up to this time I had this profound feeling of loss and experienced dark shadows across my eyes. I have heard stories of a similar nature from other students of the Professor.

My deep appreciation of the Professor started just a few short years ago when I had the privilege of meeting him for the very first time at the World Feng Shui Conference, March 29 and 30 2008, on the beautiful island of Curacao. It was during this event that the Professor graciously embraced me as one of his disciples and whole heartedly agreed to write the foreword for my book 'The Forces Behind Feng Shui' and allow a photograph of himself and me to be inserted.

In addition, he agreed to come to Calgary to offer a two day workshop which was realised last year, August 22 and 23 2009. To top it off, HH Grandmaster Professor Lin Yun visited my home and offered additional Feng Shui advice. An achievement in itself to have the Professor come to your home city, but quite another to have him actually come to your home. How honoured and privileged I feel right now.

The privilege of receiving such teachings and mentorship from such a great man has brought so much direction and fulfilment to my life.

I always knew that Feng Shui was an incredibly powerful tool, however after the Professor's guidance and instruction, the results I have experienced have been totally mind blowing!

I would like to share one particular teaching that I learned from the Professor that has been most useful to me in so many ways:

1. *Accept your problems;*
2. *Deal with them; and*
3. *Move on.*

Stories and jokes by the Professor were addressed with such

humour and ease of understanding but with a profound meaning that was touched by all.

These experiences will live with me forever and I am eternally grateful for the time I was able to share with him.

His Holiness Grandmaster Professor Lin Yun was the founder and supreme leader of the contemporary Black Sect Tantric Buddhism at its fourth stage and is preceded by Her Holiness Crystal Chu Rinpoche who now guides us into the fifth stage.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Dawn Hankins  
August 16th, 2010



Dawn Hankins enjoys a visit with HH Grandmaster Professor Lin Yun



# Karen Rauch Carter

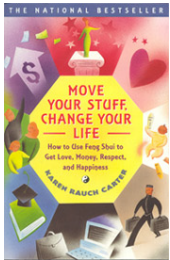
BEST-SELLING FENG SHUI AUTHOR, CONSULTANT & EDUCATOR



# CHANGE YOUR LIFE

October 2 & 3, 2010

Join Karen Rauch Carter, Feng Shui expert and author of the bestseller, "Move Your Stuff, Change Your Life," for a weekend of great workshops at a special price.



## MOVE YOUR STUFF, CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Practical exercises, anecdotes and life-changing advice that makes creating ideal personal space simple and meaningful. Karen demystifies Feng Shui with her laugh-while-you-learn teaching style and her witty delivery. Her comical but no-nonsense methods leave no confusion as to what to change in your space to bring about that life change you so desire.

Learn simple techniques to activate your house and workplace for optimal prosperity, health, and happiness in this hands-on Feng Shui workshop. Participants are encouraged to bring their floor plan (hand drawn is OK) and pictures of their living spaces for the fun and enlightening Q and A session.

Karen's methodology integrates time-tested, researched, and sound practices for bodies, minds, spirits, and surroundings.

As a participant, you'll learn how to:

- Create change with the bagua map and overlay it on to your home
- Place your furniture in the most favourable position
- De-clutter quickly and effectively
- Design several energy-shifting solutions for your spaces
- Use Feng Shui's 5 elements to your advantage
- Identify and deal with health-robbing items within the home
- . . . and so much more

Saturday, October 2, 2010  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
NAIT Calgary Campus  
816 - 55 Avenue NE, Calgary, AB T2E 6Y4



## FENG SHUI AND BEYOND:

**Mind, Body, Spirit and Environment**  
—Shifting Techniques that get Great Results!

Most Feng Shui courses stop where this course begins! Experience many of the "Feng Shui and beyond" techniques that Karen uses to get quick, life-changing results for her clients. This information is practical for everyone, and this seminar is geared towards Feng Shui consultants who are looking for additional tools to help their clients.

Learn how to integrate techniques specifically designed to optimize the mind, body, and spirit into a traditional Feng Shui consultation. Identify the top potential health-robbing materials in modern living environments and learn what to do about it. If you are sick or don't want to be, this seminar is for you. If you are a Feng Shui practitioner that wants a contemporary tool to help your clients alleviate health issues, this seminar is for you.

In this multi-faceted event you will learn how to:

- Detect and mitigate "sick house" unhealthy materials and invisible fields in the home
- Identify body types and foods from a yin and yang perspective, so you can help yourself or your clients make healthier choices considering their body type and health issues
- Experience and learn an energy transfer technique to dismantle beliefs that limit Feng Shui results
- . . . and so much more

Bring an open mind because this isn't your typical Feng Shui workshop!

Sunday, October 3, 2010  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
NAIT Calgary Campus  
816 - 55 Avenue NE, Calgary, AB T2E 6Y4



Karen Rauch Carter has over 20 years of experience studying methods and modalities that produce consistent results. Her extensive knowledge of Feng Shui, bau-biology, performance coaching, longevity health counseling and other modalities has led her to develop a unique set of programs to change one's awareness and to provide the tools needed to absorb all that life has to offer.

**Early registration until September 4, 2010 - \$185/day or \$350 for both days**

**after September 4, 2010 - \$200/day or \$395 for both days**

For more information or to register,  
call **403.295.7336** or visit [www.fengshuimarket.ca](http://www.fengshuimarket.ca)

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## Online Specials

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### 20mm Personal Crystal – Regular \$14.95 **Save 10%**

Take good energy everywhere you go with a Clear 20mm Personal Crystal! Send good energy with your children while they are away from home. Also referred to as a 'Gratitude Crystal', children love to have one to remind them to be grateful and thankful of the positive things that they have in their life. This Swarovski Feng Shui Crystal will add positive, protective energy and redirect negative energy as you go about your day. Packaged in a red gift pouch, it is convenient and easy to tuck this lovely 20mm Feng Shui Crystal into a backpack, purse, or briefcase.

Excellent for redirecting negative energy when traveling.

[Order early - this is the Perfect Gift for all your Friends and Family!](#)

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### Sapphire Blue 30mm Feng Shui Crystal – **Save \$5.00**

This lovely sapphire blue Swarovski 30mm crystal vibrates with spiritual energy and the energy of hope. This colour promotes calm and stillness. Improve your personal spiritual growth by hanging this crystal in either of the spiritual areas - **Skills & Knowledge** or **Helpful People & Travel**. Add calming energy to any area in your home that is undergoing upheaval.

[Order Today!](#)

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### I-Ching Coins with Good Luck Knot & Tassel **Introductory Price \$4.95**



This strand of three I-Ching Coins, approximately 9" in length, is hung from a good luck knot and finished with a red and gold tassel. Chinese coins tied together are powerful symbols to attract prosperity and good fortune. Place in your **Prosperity** gua to attract auspicious money and good fortune; in your handbag or wallet so you will never run out of cash; on your accounting ledger or share portfolios to increase business fortune; on your cash box or cash register so that they are always full of money; on your computer or telephone to maintain busy sales.



[Order Today!](#)

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## New Projects ...

Do you have a favourite Feng Shui success story and/or any stories of HH Grandmaster Professor Lin Yun that you would like to share? Kelly Kaur, Certified Feng Shui Practitioner is looking for a selection of stories to include in a book that she is dedicating to Professor Lin Yun. If you would like to contribute or have any additional questions, please contact Kelly directly at [kaurkelly@hotmail.com](mailto:kaurkelly@hotmail.com).

We want Kindness in every corner of the globe.  
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Calgary Feng Shui Practitioners have joined leading North American Feng Shui specialists to

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