

# Feng Shui, Pools and Fountains

## Liquid Serenity

Water, one of the five key elements in Feng Shui design, is related to inspiration, relaxation, and the ability “to go with the flow” in life. Simply put, water is an antidote to stress. Whether you enjoy relaxing beside a pool or listening to the soothing sounds of a fountain, the following Feng Shui design guidelines will help you choose the perfect water feature for your home.

### **Pools**

Pools are the “king” of water features and tend to visually command the area where they’re located. Because they draw so much attention and take up a lion’s share of space, pools must be beautiful – or else! (As anyone knows who has seen a pool in disrepair) When a pool is kept sparkling clean and surrounded by inviting furniture, vibrant plants, and attractive lighting, it can transform a back yard into a magical paradise. Consider adding a waterfall to your pool design and site it to flow toward your house, symbolizing the flow of good fortune into your home.

Feng Shui design observes that water, a pool in this case, is best balanced by colors and things associated with the earth element. Cement, slate, brick, or tile in earthy colors, and terracotta planters and flowerpots bring a reassuring sense of stability around the pool. Towels, patio cushions, and other pool décor in earth tones, yellow, plaids or checks can also strengthen the earth element in the pool area.

For safety reasons, good lighting around the pool is a must. The best kind of lighting suggests a nocturnal fairyland, not a over-bright sports arena. Consider how you can aesthetically illuminate every inch of the pool area so that it’s as much a paradise at night as it is during the day.

### **Fountains**

Fountains are universally appealing, as they provide a pleasing place to rest the eye... and the ear. A wide variety of interior and exterior fountains are available in every style and price range. Indoors, fountains can add a welcoming touch to the foyer and a calming influence in an infant’s room. Many people place a small table fountain on their desks to help alleviate

stress. Or, strategically locate an outdoor fountain near a bedroom, home office, or dining room window to capture the melodious sound of water. In all cases, choose fountains that flow *toward* the house, *into* the room, or 360 degrees around to symbolize the good fortune flowing into your life.

All fountains require regular cleaning and maintenance. Use distilled water in your interior fountains to greatly lengthen the time between cleanings. And be sure that nearby furniture and fabrics are not being damaged by splashing water.

Pools and fountains symbolize “the good life” and act as environmental jewelry. Just like the ring on your finger, they say a lot about your sense of style. Whether splashy, traditional, or all natural, the ideal water feature is one that captures your imagination and inspires you to relax and enjoy the moment.

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