



Partway through writing this book, I had a conversation with my publisher about the importance of gardens in feng shui. He said, “I wouldn’t have thought there was that much to say about what’s outside the house.” But the interior of a building is a very controlled environment; **exteriors are just as important as interiors in feng shui**, and once you’re outside, *anything* can happen! Many feng shui concerns arise that influence how to landscape, and where and what to plant.

There is an emphasis in feng shui on the relationship between humans and nature—a call to *notice* nature. Your garden is the opportunity for nature to lure you outside. Its beauty can refresh your spirit as nothing else does. In and of itself, feng shui is not an aesthetic art. An ugly presentation can still be technically correct from a feng shui standpoint. **With this book, I hope to guide you in creating a beautiful and traditionally correct garden.**

Feng shui uses symbolism to establish solutions to less-than-ideal physical situations. For example, plants represent landforms. They can make the home feel snug and nested. But if used incorrectly they can stifle the energy of the home. Feng shui uses a lot of common sense, and you will notice results.

Gardening, like any relationship, requires patience and commitment. I’m an avid gardener myself, and these two mottoes are near and dear to my heart:

“The best fertilizer is the gardener’s footprint.” There is no substitute for your own chi energy when you work with plants. The more time you spend in your garden, the more you will want to spend time in your garden.

“Work with what’s working.” This is my personal motto inside or outside a home. Outside, it often means that if you have a plant you like and find easy to grow, consider planting more.

There are several lists of plants included throughout this book. Not every plant is suited to all areas. In fact, some plants I list I advise *against* using.

Please **avoid introducing plants into your neighborhood that will become weeds on neighboring properties or have potential to choke native growth.** It’s bad feng shui and bad common sense, but it’s often done quite innocently—a gardener is simply unaware a plant has weedy or invasive potential.

We live on magnificent islands with a huge variety of plants available. **The art of feng shui gardening lies in picking the right plants for your location.** Use this book as inspiration; may the information help you to create a garden that makes your heart soar and your life flow.

~ Clear Englebert, author, feng shui consultant



Your garden is your first and best opportunity to create positive energy for your home. Feng Shui for Hawai'i Gardens is the complete guide to landscaping your garden—from use of natural features on your property to the plants you select and where you locate them. Here are a few of Clear Englebert's simple, easy-to-implement solutions to invite good energy into your home, balance your home in its surroundings and protect it from harsh or threatening energies.



The first thing your garden can do for you is to invite good energy onto your property and to your door. **The place where your driveway meets the road is the mouth of your property. Give that mouth a bit of lipstick to attract good chi.** Put colorful plantings on each side of your driveway where it meets the road. Red is an ideal color at the entrance because it is a strong, noticeable color. Don't color the entire front of your property red—that's not the idea. Because red is so important, it is used very deliberately in feng shui.



A feng shui garden brings a feeling of balance to the property around your house. The balance of the landscape signifies better balance in your life and within the home. A stream in front of the home can symbolize good fortune coming in, and a stream or gulch behind a home indicates that good fortune is leaving. **Water features such as ponds or fountains are perfect in the front yard; just make sure any direction of flow is toward the house.** If the flow is away from the house and you can't change it, add a small, discreet mirror at the edge of the pond showing the flow reflected back toward the house.



Using your garden to protect your home is an extremely powerful way to strengthen your life. Use plants or other objects to undo the influence from harsh or negative energy—known as sha chi or shar chi—such as unfriendly neighbors. To help create peace and harmony, **put plants that you love along the property line of unfriendly neighbors**, especially if the plants have fragrant flowers. You are installing sweetness and love between you and the problem people. **The best colors to plant between unfriendly neighbors are pink or yellow.** Avoid red because it can signify fiery energy.



Foreboding objects are a large category in feng shui. **Anything that looms over the home in a threatening way is doing the home and its occupants no good.** Some other examples of (and solutions for) foreboding objects:

- The ocean—plant palm trees between your home and the ocean.
- Trash cans on your property don't have a foreboding energy, but they symbolize uselessness and should be screened from frequent view.
- A view of a dead tree fairly close to your home, especially if it's the first thing you see as you leave your driveway, or the first thing you see when you get home—plant a vine or vine-like plant to quickly cover and add life to the dead tree.



Good fortune symbolically accumulates behind a house. The front yard invites it, and the back yard holds it. The back yard should be as big as, or a bit bigger than, the front yard. **If the back yard is significantly smaller than the front, good fortune has a hard time accumulating.** If the back yard is too small:

- Put a mirror at your back property line to symbolically expand the back yard.
- Add lighting in the back yard. The lights do not have to be turned on every night, but they do need to be kept functional.
- Paint a trompe-l'oeil ("fool the eye") mural on the back fence. Paint a scene with depth of perspective. This, too, will make the yard seem larger.

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A Guide to Creating Positive Energy with Your Tropical Garden

Watermark Publishing announces the release of *Feng Shui for Hawai'i Gardens*, the newest book by feng shui expert Clear Englebert. A nationally acclaimed feng shui teacher and consultant, Englebert presents a thorough guide to landscaping and maintaining your tropical garden to create positive energy in the home. The garden, he notes, is your first and best opportunity to invite good energy, balance your home in its surroundings and protect it from harsh or threatening energies. *Feng Shui for Hawai'i Gardens*—a lavish, full-color, 216-page book—provides simple, easy-to-implement solutions, from using a property's natural features to selecting plants and where to locate them.

Island homes are prone to their own special variety of feng shui problems. In Hawai'i, for example, a house's setting can be quite dramatic with a *pali* (cliff) on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. Even a home with a less spectacular location can feel "unbalanced" from a feng shui point of view, based on the home's *mauka* (mountain) and *makai* (ocean) orientation. In Hawai'i's more densely populated areas, neighbors or nearby structures can be undesirable sources of negative energy. As a result, Englebert explains, paying attention to feng shui outdoors can be as critical as applying feng shui inside the home: "Exteriors are just as important as interiors in feng shui, and once you're outside, *anything* can happen! Many feng shui concerns influence how to landscape, including where and what to plant."

In *Feng Shui for Hawai'i Gardens*, a follow-up to his best-selling *Feng Shui for Hawai'i* (Watermark Publishing, 2008), Englebert offers simple solutions to challenges like these and, unlike many other feng shui guides, provides more than one option for correcting a problem. "In and of itself, feng shui is not an aesthetic art," he says. "An ugly presentation can still be technically correct from a feng shui standpoint. With this book, I hope to guide you in creating a beautiful and traditionally correct garden."

Color photographs and easy-to-comprehend line drawings throughout the book illustrate key concepts. Detailed lists of plants suited for specific purposes (and appropriate to the tropical climate) are included, with example photographs of numerous specimens.

— more —

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Book Offers Guide to Using Your Tropical Garden to Create Positive Energy in Your Home

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Clear Englebert has taught feng shui in Hawai'i and California and consults on homes, gardens and commercial spaces throughout the Islands. He has been featured on television and in a variety of print media and has published two previous feng shui titles for a national audience, *Feng Shui Demystified* and *Bedroom Feng Shui*, in addition to *Feng Shui for Hawai'i*, now going into its third printing.

Feng Shui for Hawai'i Gardens (ISBN 978-1-9356901-5-3) is priced at \$22.95 in soft cover and will be available in mid-February at bookstores and other retail outlets, online booksellers, or direct from the publisher at www.bookshawaii.net. Contact Watermark Publishing, 1088 Bishop St., Suite 310, Honolulu, HI 96813; telephone (808) 587-7766; toll-free (866) 900-BOOK; fax (808) 521-3461; e-mail sales@bookshawaii.net.

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