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New Book Offers Feng Shui Solutions Tailored to Island Homes

Watermark Publishing of Honolulu announces the release of *Feng Shui for Hawai'i* by Clear Englebert, a complete guide to creating harmony and positive energy in the Hawaiian home. According to feng shui principals, everything in and around the house creates or directs the flow of energy (*chi*) – from the slippers outside the door to the position of the beds, each item should be chosen and placed with care. Englebert, a nationally acclaimed feng shui teacher and consultant, addresses all aspects of feng shui in the home with specific attention to Island landscape, culture and décor.

Homes in Hawai'i are prone to particular sorts of feng shui problems – in Hawai'i the land around the house is sometimes quite dramatic with the *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. Island homes also frequently have open layouts – large windows and doors – to take advantage of the trade winds and beautiful views, but so much openness can cause energy to leave the home. Even our local traditions of gift-giving when we visit someone's home or keeping *lei* from special occasions can interfere with proper *chi* flow by creating too much clutter, an obstacle in the path of energy.

In the softcover *Feng Shui for Hawai'i*, author Englebert offers simple solutions to problems like these, and unlike many other feng shui guides, provides more than one option for correcting the situation. Often, the most effective feng shui solution may not be the most attractive – not everyone appreciates a multitude of crystals and mirrors in the home, or an overabundance of the color red. Englebert takes particular care to give multiple methods of improving the home's energy in instances where aesthetics may be of primary concern to the homeowner, or for renters who may not have the freedom to paint or affix items to the walls or ceilings.

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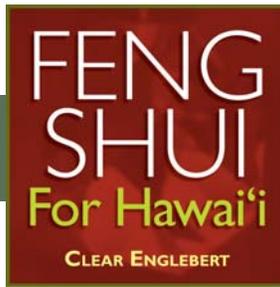
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Englebert considers feng shui “an art, like decorating...it may not be classified as a science in the modern sense, but it teaches us to consciously notice where our attention is being drawn and what symbols are around us. This is a cross-cultural belief.” He compares the ancient traditional Hawaiian role of the *kuhikuhi pu'uone* (“the one who points out contours”), who was consulted before building a house or temple, to that of a feng shui consultant who points out the symbolism of the contours surrounding a home or potential building site.

Clear Englebert has practiced and taught feng shui in Hawai'i and California since 1995. A recognized feng shui expert, he has been featured on television programs and in print media. He has published two previous feng shui titles for a national audience, *Feng Shui Demystified* and *Bedroom Feng Shui*, both from Ten Speed Press. This is his first book for Watermark Publishing.

Feng Shui for Hawai'i (ISBN 978-0-9796769-9-4) will be available in late October priced at \$19.95 at bookstores and other retail outlets, from 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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Feng Shui Facts



Energy Flow is the basis of the oldest kind of feng shui, known as Form School or Landform Feng Shui. It is concerned with the form of things: the form of the furniture and its arrangement, the actual form of the house and the form of the land around the house.



Two kinds of solutions exist for feng shui problems: real ones and symbolic ones. Real solutions fix the problem and change the situation. The degree of change necessary is often impractical, so there are symbolic solutions, ones that simply symbolize a change. Saying out loud why you are engaging in the symbolic solution strengthens it.



Wind & Water—“Feng” (pronounced “fung”) is the Chinese word for wind and “Shui” (pronounced “shway”) means water. The moving wind is a form of energy, or “chi.” Water is a source of life and symbolizes abundance.



First Impressions—Feng shui is greatly concerned with initial impressions. Because they are most memorable, they are most powerful. Hence, a great deal of importance is placed on the entrance to the home. It should be obvious, so good energy can find you. If shoes and slippers are left outside the front door, as is common in Hawai'i, they should be arranged neatly, pointed in the same direction for less chaos.



Crystals & Mirrors—Feng shui makes use of crystals and mirrors to direct or affect energy. Crystals symbolize dispersion because of their ability to disperse—refract—light into rainbows. They can be used to diffuse bad energy before it can affect the home's residents. Mirrors are used to reflect away, or push back, unwanted energy. The shiny side should always face the source of unwanted energy.

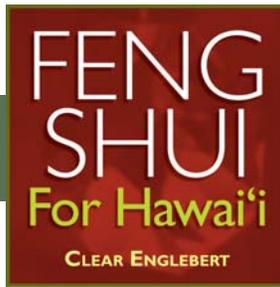


Clutter is one of the biggest, yet most easily fixable, problems in feng shui. Clutter prevents the smooth flow of energy and represents chaos. It is particularly important not to allow objects to pile up in the corners of rooms; corners are powerful places. Fewer objects in a room attracts abundance—there is plenty of space for new energy and new opportunities; too many objects say, “I don't have a place for anything new.”



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Hints for the Home



Gifts are always nice to receive, and the Islands have a culture of gift-giving. However, an overabundance of gifts can lead to clutter. Do not keep any object just because someone gave it to you. Items displayed in your home should be chosen because they appeal and feel harmonious to you. If you are the gift-giver, consider food or flowers—items that can be enjoyed, but do not linger.



***Mauka or Makai**—The strongest buildings have their official front door on the makai (seaward) side. A mauka (towards the mountain) orientation symbolizes protection when the mountain is behind your home. If the mountain is in front of you, it symbolizes an obstacle. The ocean represents abundance, and should be in front, as if you could bring in its bounty through the front door. Ocean at your back or mountain in front of you? Try putting a water feature outside the front door; the water should be flowing, and should flow toward the home.*



***Slippers at the front door** are a common sight in Hawai'i where footwear is removed before entering the home. Very often, there are too many slippers and shoes jumbled up at the front entrance, preventing chi from making a smooth entrance into the home. Keep a minimal number of shoes out front—one or two pairs per person—and find somewhere else to store the rest, on shelves or in shoe containers. Wherever they are stored, they should all face the same direction; shoes are below our feet, representing our foundation. If they face opposite directions, they symbolize our going against ourselves—you won't get far in life like that!*



***Right out the window**—A common feng shui problem in Hawai'i homes is the failure to retain energy. Many homes are made to maximize the view with large windows that are visible as soon as a visitor steps through the front door. If you can see straight through the house from the door, that is the same path energy takes—from the door right out the window. Ideally, any large back windows should be offset from the front door. If that is not possible, place an obstacle in the path—a shoji screen, sheer curtains or a “showstopper” arrangement—between the door and the window.*