



homestyle

Make Feng Shui work for you in the home and office

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FENG Shui could be the key to increasing work productivity for people working from home.

In a cluttered office space at home, where there seems every distraction under the sun stopping business work getting done, the ancient Chinese system of Feng Shui could be the solution.

The system of aesthetics, which uses the laws of both Heaven and Earth, helps improve life by receiving positive 'Qi' and can create a working environment that makes it easier to think and achieve deadlines.

Priya Sher, Feng Shui Solutions, based in Ilford, suggests a series of ways to improve the layout of an office space. She says: "Position your desk diagonally opposite the room's door – this is the power position, and ensure you do not place a dustbin in this position.

"When sitting at the desk your back should be against a solid wall and you should have a good view of the full room – avoid sitting with your back to the window or open shelves



Declutter your life: Feng Shui can also apply in the workplace.

as open shelves act as arrows in your back."

And Priya believes that simple changes could make big differences in business, adding: "Place a live, round leaved, plant in the corner diagonally opposite your office room door – this will increase finances.

"Three live green bamboo sticks in a vase with water on your desk will soak in the electromagnetic stress from computer equipment and ensure no files are on the floor, since this represents deterioration in business. Place photocopiers and printers away from your desk and ensure there is no clutter in the

office and throw or archive all old files."

But Feng Shui methods also extend to harmonising the rest of the home. "Ensure the path to your front door is clear and there is nothing blocking it and the hall should be bright, clear and smell nice. Do not store shoes in the hall unless in a closed cupboard," Priya explains.

"Keep colours calm, neutral and light, the home should be a place to relax. If you have beams, cover them with a false ceiling."

Call 0208 554 2334 or visit www.fengshuisolutions.co.uk.



Create a summer oasis

A POND can transform a dull looking garden, adding an interest point and attracting new wildlife to the area.

And they can be built fairly quickly – so one weekend's hard work could result in a beautiful water feature.

Nick Wood, of My-Oasis Garden Design in Chelmsford, told In2: "I always speak to the client about why they want a pond – whether it is for sight or sound, or a combination of both. That way you can design it so it fits into the garden and their lives.

"In terms of location, you don't want it in isolation in the middle of the garden because it will look ridiculous," he explains. "For natural ponds we will make

sure there are bog plants, waterside plants and marginal plants to bring in wildlife and make it blend in."

And size is also an important factor when it comes to designing your new garden feature.

"The size of the pond is important because they can freeze up in the winter," Nick advises, "and size is also important because if they are too big it might be too much maintenance.

"If there are fish in the pond then the water needs to be moving with a water feature, so it's fresh. Ponds can be a great feature – as long as it suits the individual needs," he adds. Visit www.my-oasis.com or call 01245 494 258.