





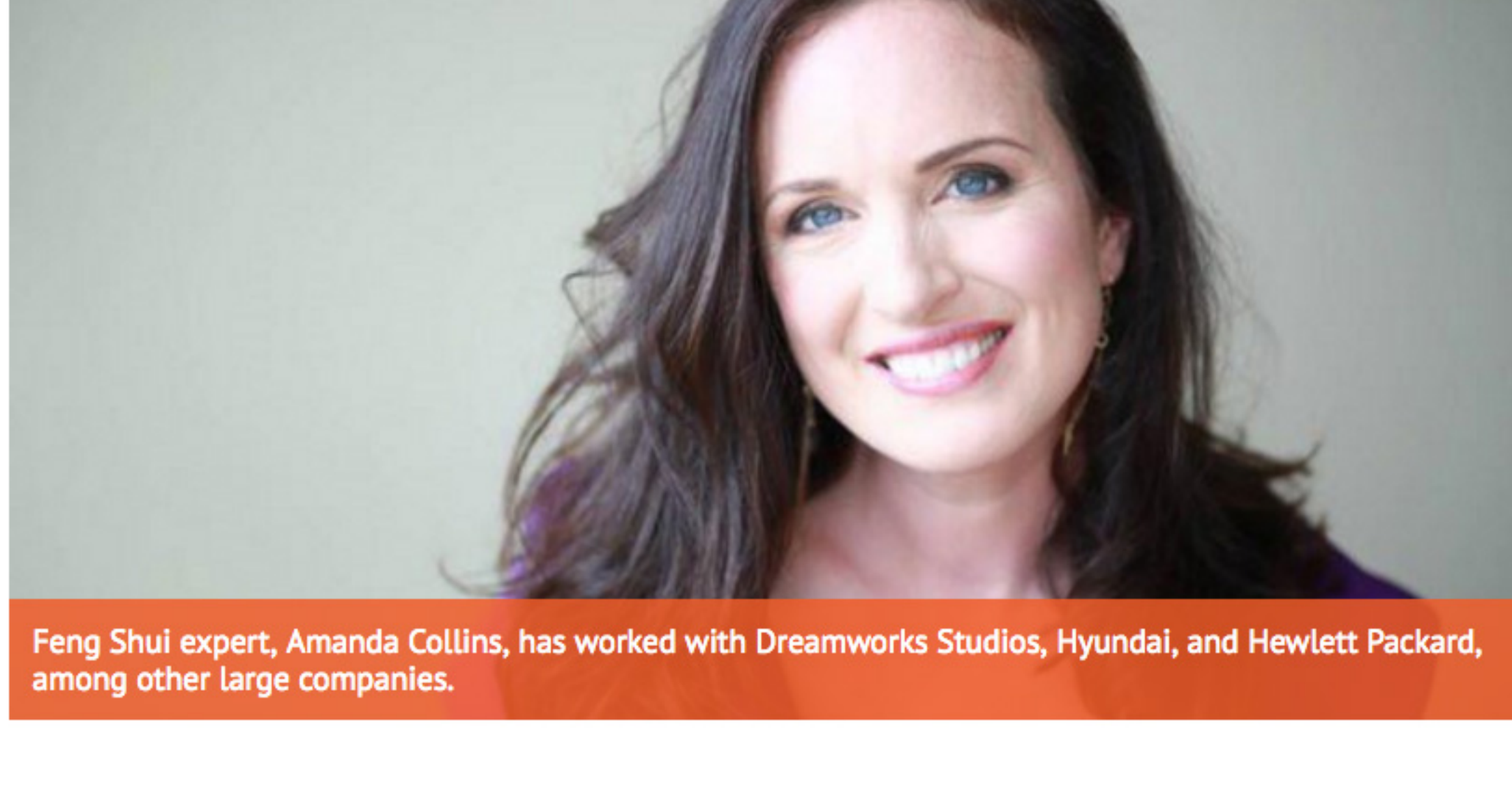
## Amanda Collins is the Irish feng shui master transforming Dreamworks

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Áilín Quinlan

She's consulted on design everywhere from Dreamworks to Bloomingdales. **Áilín Quinlan** meets Irish Feng Shui master Amanda Collins ahead of her visit to Ireland.



Feng Shui expert, Amanda Collins, has worked with Dreamworks Studios, Hyundai, and Hewlett Packard, among other large companies.

ARE you desperate for a soul-mate or an income hike? Is your business failing to thrive?

Wicklow-born Feng Shui expert Amanda Collins may have the answer.

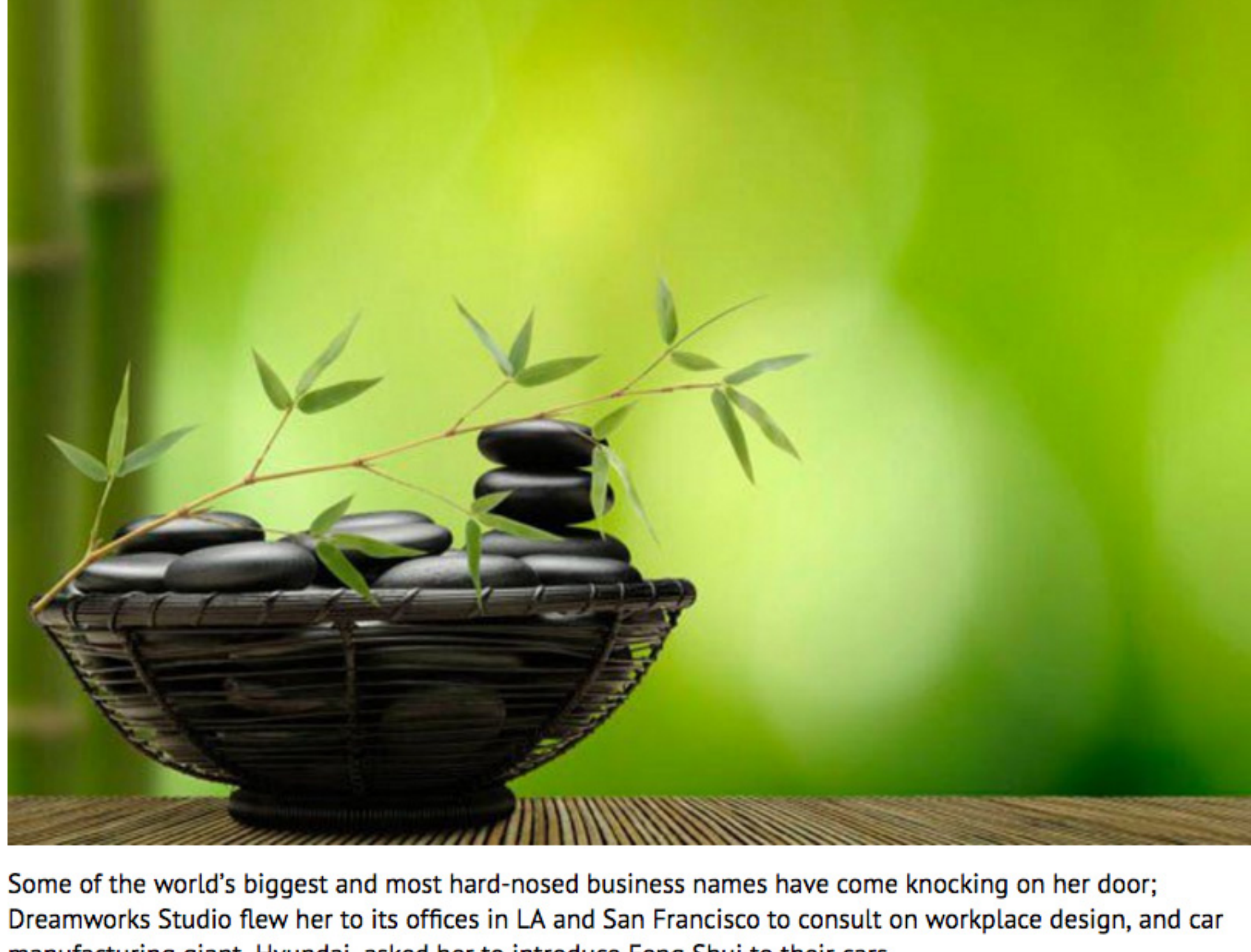
Working with individuals and businesses throughout America and Europe, she removes the bad energy from a home or work place, and introduces elements that promote good energy.

"I don't leave dragons and frogs all over the place," she laughs. Much of her work — she's spent 16 years in California, consulting with high-end clients — involves repositioning furniture and adding positive elements.

"When people feel good in a space, they thrive, and their nervous system can relax. As we know now, everything is made up of energy and energy can become blocked. When that happens, things don't come through. Contracts don't happen!

"We can create good energy flow, or chi, through a building," she says, adding that this can involve the addition or removal of objects.

As a sought-after Feng Shui master, this mother-of-two has spent 16 years manifesting the things her clients desire most: love, prosperity, and success.



Some of the world's biggest and most hard-nosed business names have come knocking on her door; Dreamworks Studio flew her to its offices in LA and San Francisco to consult on workplace design, and car manufacturing giant, Hyundai, asked her to introduce Feng Shui to their cars.

She has consulted with the multinational technology company, Hewlett Packard, financial services guru, Morgan Stanley, and the prestigious New York retail store, Bloomingdales, not to mention top banks, including Bank of America.

Her contacts book might be crammed with the names of Hollywood movie producers and other high-end clients, but Collins remains tight-lipped about personal clients. She's bound by iron-clad confidentiality agreements.

Feng Shui is based on a 5,000-year-old Chinese system of laws governing the spatial arrangement and orientation of buildings in relation to the flow of energy or chi, whose favourable or unfavourable effects are carefully assessed and, where necessary, re-aligned.

Collins's calculations are based on a number of criteria, including the age of the building, the direction it faces, and the need for the introduction of important elements such as water, fire, wood, metal and earth.

Feng Shui can improve different areas of our lives. What Feng Shui can do for romance, she quips, is probably best illustrated by an anecdote about a successful Californian sports agent.

When he requested a consultation, he explained that his one great sadness was that for 10 years he had failed to find true love.

When she called to his home on the agreed Saturday morning, Amanda asked the thirty-something whiz-kid to give her the tour.

Very quickly, she recalls, the problems started to appear.

"When we went into the bedroom, which happened to be in the south-west area of his house, it was all grey," she says.

"There was just a single bed, one nightstand, a single chair and three photographs, all of them pictures of himself on his own," she says.

The young man's wardrobe, meanwhile, was jammed to bursting with expensive clothing.

"Any woman who came in would say 'there's no room for me here!'" Collins quips.

"That's what his home was shouting."

She advised him to buy a new, queen-sized bed, dump the photographs of him on his own, get a second nightstand and chair, and make space in his wardrobe for somebody else's clothes.

"After doing my calculations, I also decided that he needed the element of fire, through the colour red," she says, adding that she advised him to put a maroon candle and a maroon rug in the bedroom, and to write a sincere letter to his dream soulmate.

The client rang her Monday.

Being wealthy and determined — and this being California — he had gone out and bought everything she recommended. He had also purchased a beautiful print of Gustav Klimt's famous painting of two lovers, The Kiss, and had put it on his bedroom wall.

After everything was done, he went to a dinner party at a friend's house — and met the woman of his dreams, to whom he is now happily married.

Businesses, too, find that Feng Shui gets results. Collins says:

"I once worked with a client in banking, who put these huge filing cabinets in all their employees' offices."

After being called in for a consultation, she recommended, she says, the disposal of these cabinets, which were crammed with old files that were no longer in use.

The management complied, and made other tweaks that Collins recommended, including a comprehensive repositioning of furniture and the introduction of a number of Feng Shui elements to the work space.

"I heard that, within a week, their sales had doubled," says Collins, who, these days, divides her time between Ireland and the USA, where she consults and teaches, while running her International Feng Shui School.

Feng Shui master Amanda Collins will be speaking at the Mind, Body, Spirit and Wellness Festival in Dublin's RDS from Saturday, October 29 to Monday 31.

Her talks will include 'Finding Financial Freedom Through Feng Shui' and 'Enhancing Relationships Through Feng Shui'.

For dates and times, see [www.mindbodyspirit.ie](http://www.mindbodyspirit.ie)

For more information on Amanda Collins, visit [www.internationalfengshuischool.com](http://www.internationalfengshuischool.com)

[www.amandacollins.com](http://www.amandacollins.com)

### Feng Shui do's and don'ts for healthy relationships, abundance and success

- Avoid empty spaces in your home.

Don't allow stagnant space to manifest in your home. Furnish available space like empty bedrooms or guest-rooms to inspire you to do the things you love – crafts, music, reading, meditation or simply to sit back and relax.

"It's about setting up your home to suit you. This is then reflected in the person's lives – they may want to learn piano but they never get to do it and it is reflected in the home," Collins explains.

- Don't hang what you don't like.

You may have been given a gift you don't need, use or love and still display it: "This can block prosperity or relationships and all the things that you want to come into your house. "Good Feng Shui is about only having stuff you love in your life and that makes you feel good and inspires you."

- Keep everything in good working order.

Don't tolerate leaky taps, broken clocks or faulty rings on the cooker. "One client had a lot of clocks, some of which were broken. Her complaint was that she felt stuck and when I walked into her home it was stagnating. I told her to get the clocks fixed or take them down. Leaky taps are related to a lack of money and prosperity - sometimes people feel money comes in one door and goes out the other

- Maintain your home well.

Ensure your front door opens easily and that the paint is not chipped or dilapidated. Check that access through the front door is not blocked, for example by wellies, fallen coats or mountains of post in the porch. This can cause an energy blockage.

### Your home is an outward reflection of your life

- If there are dying or dead plants in your home, nurse them back to health or get rid of them, advises Collins: "I have visited thousands of homes over the years, and there is a connection between dying or dead plants and the health of the occupant," she says.
- Avoid plastic plants. Avoid placing prickly or thorny plants near your front door.

"Cactus or prickly plants can make it very hard to get energy in the front door," she warns.

- Avoid having sharp pointed objects in the bedroom — this could even be something apparently positive, like a statue of Cupid with bow and arrow or a beloved sculpture with angles.

"If you want to have a good relationship remove these objects," Collins counsels.

- Use your front door regularly.

If you have a tendency to enter or leave your home through the garage or the back door, begin using your front door regularly to ensure energy gets through it to flow around the house.

### Relationships

- Recently broken up and looking for a new love?

Let go of everything from past relationships. Get rid of old love letters and anything else connected with your former relationship

- Emphasise pairs when furnishing your bedroom – a double bed, two lockers, two chairs! An excellent general rule, says Collins, is to avoid displays of sharp or pointed objects such as knives, machetes or old guns. Have harmonious art-work on your walls.

"If something looks depressing that's what it will bring into your life," says Collins, who adds that if you want to improve family or sibling relationships, create a family wall with images of your loved ones at a time when they were happy.

### Seeking prosperity?

- If you are working it's always a good idea to position your desk so that you are facing the door.

"You should not be facing a wall. Have the wall behind you and be able to see the door that way you see and welcome opportunities. When you're facing the door, you're empowered.

Things are not happening behind your back."

### For love or money

- Avoid positioning your bed under a window. Your headboard should be placed against a solid wall, but not on the other side of a bathroom wall. Plumbing can lead to loss of finances.

Have a solid wooden headboard because wood absorbs energy, which is good. Energy bounces off metal and is then restless

Your bed should not be in line with the door — this can block the energy coming in and you may not feel supported in your life.

- Clear out clutter — even if it's in your car or even your email inbox. Clutter blocks prosperity. If your purse or wallet is full of old receipts empty it out. If it's torn get a new one. The south east corner of your home is all about prosperity. Have something there that reminds you of abundance — for example, hang a beautiful piece of artwork there.
- Find out what element you are made of, she advises. If you're told that an earth element, bring beige, creams and soft browns to your home, as well as some reds to help you feel supported. Earth tones such as yellow, brown or red are recommended, along with crystals, amethyst or citrine, all of which would help with prosperity.