



# 狗 Year of the Dog

The early months sees the arrival of the Chinese New Year, and endless searches as to what each animal means to each person. However, what is less commonly known is that the Chinese zodiac works in conjunction with the ancient Chinese art of feng shui, with each year not only being assigned an animal, but also an element.



Guilia Scott  
Monet Dog

Resene  
Fizz

Narrow Neck  
Blue-White Vase

Resene  
Havelock Blue

Arts and  
Crafts Cushion

Resene  
Sushi

Fornasetti  
Malachite Cabinet

Resene  
Home Run

Design 55 Yves Klein  
Coffee Table

Resene  
Half Resolution  
Blue

Chinese culture views these five elements – metal, earth, fire, water, and wood – as essential not only in their material benefits but also through the forces they exude. 2018 is the year of the Earth Dog.

The goal of feng shui is to harness the natural life force of qi (pronounced 'chee'), a positive or negative force similar to the French concept of élan vital. A key way of doing this is through furniture. While feng shui has some requirements that would be difficult to accommodate (not everyone has a business on the side of a mountain facing the sea), the sleek and simplistic furniture promoted by feng shui is in keeping with the sparse and minimalistic contemporary trends.

Earthy tones that reflect the colours of nature will keep your guests at ease. Green is an obvious starting point and can be achieved through something as simple as the addition of accessories like the Arts and Crafts cushion, in Resene Sushi, from Marthas. Practicality is a key tenet of feng shui and the Fornasetti Malachite Cabinet, akin to Resene Home Run, is a sensible addition to a space.

Also important to feng shui is the idea of yin and yang – complementary forces, one giving, one receiving. By using furniture sets such as the Lebello Chair 7 and Plank Table from Statement ID, you can harness the flow of the room through sharp, defined angles and natural tones. The wood of the table acts a counterpoint to the Resene Japanese Laurel of the chair and the Resene Ashanti which frames both items in a gentle earthy green. The addition of a light leather and wood chair, like the Reid Leather Armchair from Hawthorne Antiques in Resene Geebung, is a good way to create an univisual contrast and bring wood tones to green-themed environs. On the darker side of the palette, the Ceno Chair from Matisse evokes Resene Bullseye in reflecting a rich, volcanic soil.

Blue and yellows are two of the most positive colours in nature, reminiscent of clear days and bright skies. Consider upholstery in colours like Resene Float – Linen L99 from Frost Textiles is a good example, and the natural feel of the linen will only serve to enhance the aesthetic experience. The Yves Klein coffee table from Design 55 is a striking piece in Resene Half

Resolution Blue which combines sharp angles, clear glass and blue pigment. Chinese-style art maintains its popularity into the 21st century with the collection from Shibui Interiors – try a piece such as the Narrow Neck Blue-White Vase in a colour like Resene Havelock Blue. Yellows like Resene Broom can tie in an earthy theme, working well with rich greens. Try the Montreaux Chairs Allure.

Combine yellow and green with a nod to the animal itself with the Monet Dog by Guilia Scott – a mix of greens with a splash of Resene Fizz. ●



Montreaux  
Chairs Allure

Resene  
Broom

Statement ID  
Plank Table

Resene  
Ashanti

Statement ID  
Lebello Chair 7

Resene  
Japanese  
Laurel

Hawthorne Reid  
Leather Armchair

Resene  
Geebung

Frost Textiles  
Linen L99

Resene  
Float

Matisse Ceno  
Chair

Resene  
Bullseye