



■ Healing hands



■ Striking a balance

■ Final frontier: Space clearer Chris Colgan believes more is less when it comes to quality of life

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Unlucky in love? Your house could be to blame

■ Laura Kendall

CHRISS Colgan is not a hippy. He doesn't chant or wear a kaftan and his hair is respectably short. He's a working father of one whose life is rooted firmly in practicality. But Colgan does believe the spaces we live and work in have energetic "memories" which have an indelible effect on our lives - and he has built a successful career on altering this energy to change people's destinies.

Croydon-based Colgan is a space clearer; a type of feng shui practitioner-cum-counsellor who rids houses and offices of negative vibes.

"Everything around us has an energy. Almost like a hard drive on a computer, a building will store memories of arguments or relationship break-ups in the fabric of the building. Our possessions will store memories of who gave it to us and how we were at the time we got it. It's about reading the energy and finding out what the story is," Colgan says.

"The other bit is about changing that. There's a process where we take out all the old rubbish and put in people's intent: how do they want to

feel when they walk in the door? A lot of people just move in and don't give it any thought."

The 40-year-old gave up his high-powered job as a customer services manager for an international telecommunications company to work as a full-time space clearer four years ago. He has since become locally and internationally sought-after, teaching space clearing workshops and clearing up to four homes and offices each week.

Clearing a space can be as simple as rearranging furniture, though Colgan says removing some objects entirely is usually necessary - and on three occasions he has advised clients to move house.

One couple who were desperate for children called on Colgan when they were unable to conceive; by reading the energy in their flat he determined the previous tenants had been an elderly couple who didn't like children. A neighbour later confirmed this.

A woman living in Hammersmith, west London, was unable to sell her flat - Colgan felt a spiritual entity was present and the woman later learned a former owner had died in the flat and lain undiscovered for three weeks. In that case, Colgan actually helped the woman re-decorate her flat in order to help her sell.

"I use my hands. By passing my hands over something I get a reading and sometimes a

thought will pop into my head, then it's just a matter of translating it. I can tell if someone has died there or if a relationship has broken up," Colgan says.

A building's energy can also be altered with a space clearing ceremony, which sees Colgan use feathers and purifying sage, as well as clapping, drums, native American rattles and bells to reach every nook and cranny of a room. The ceremony can last anywhere from four hours in a one-bedroom flat to his longest engagement: nine hours in a four-bedroom house.

"If you look in a car park the corners are always full of leaves and crisp wrappers, where the wind blows them. It's the same in a space; if there's no movement it gets clogged in the corners. Sound has a vibration that will go through anything... it's like a deep level cleansing," he says.

Colgan, who also teaches DIY space clearing workshops, says many common problems can be linked to habits in the home which create unfavourable energy. A history of bad relationships, for example, could be attributed to keeping photographs of former partners on display in the home. And couples moving in together should buy a new bed, rather than keep one with energy from a previous relationship.

"People want to change their lives and they spend all this money on workshops and books, then they get stuck because they go home and live in the same place with the same junk around them," he says.

"There will be one item in a house that will unlock everything. The amount of people that will keep photographs of exes or who get divorced and one partner keeps the old bed is amazing. The bed stores more than anything else in the house.

"Bedrooms are the most important because when you wake in the morning you've got a split second of 'download time'. The first thing your eyes alight on should empower you. What you don't want is to have clutter around your bedroom."

While it may sound esoteric, Colgan says space clearing is a practical and necessary process.

"You don't have to believe in it for this stuff to work. When I go into someone's house and start telling them stuff about themselves and their space, they believe," he says.

"My background is very practical: I go in and fix problems. I improve and make things better."

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