

# FENG SHUI

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## FENG SHUI – WHO? WHAT?

What do Donald Trump, Prince Charles and Kenny Loggins have in common? They're all believers in Feng Shui, the Chinese art of placement. Today, from Silicon Valley to Wall Street, Americans are using Feng Shui. Esprit de Corp, Lab Vision, Elizabeth Arden, Elektra Records and NBC *Dharma & Greg* Productions are all using this ancient art to boost good fortune.

Long practiced in Asia, Hong Kong businesses won't break ground until they consult with a Feng Shui master. The Asian offices of Citibank, Chase, Paine Webber, and the Asian Wall Street Journal all use Feng Shui. The new chief executive of Hong Kong refuses to move into the former Governor's mansion. Why? Bad Feng Shui.

With the influx of Asian immigrants and investment capital in the United States, Feng Shui's popularity among architects, builders, and brokers is growing in this country. Donald Trump is applying it to his Manhattan real estate developments. Chicago's O'Hare designed part of its airport according to Feng Shui. Ponderosa Homes in Northern California incorporates it into their residential developments.

You're probably familiar with that one location where all businesses fail. Or that one project that is cursed with problems, delays, and accidents. Or you've walked into a building and something didn't quite feel right. Each of these situations probably had bad Feng Shui.

Today, selecting the right site to build means the difference between success or failure. Feng Shui can make or break a deal. So the axiom "location, location, location" takes on new meaning with this ancient art.

When looking for the right location, you must consider the energy of the location, the balance of yin and yang energies, two primordial opposing forces that govern the universe. Good Feng Shui is created when there is a balance of yin and yang.

**Yin is female, dark, stillness, downward movement.**  
**Yang is male, light, active, upward movement.**

Yin and Yang energy is also expressed in terms of light and dark, sunlight and shade, hard rock and soft soil. For example, tall buildings, sunlight, and rivers are Yang. Low shopping malls, windowless rooms, and mountains are Yin. If there's an imbalance of Yin and Yang, you'll encounter financial or health troubles.

Feng Shui enables one to discover if Yin and Yang together are in harmony and properly balanced within a particular environment so that *chi* (the vital life force that flows through earth and people) can promote good health, peace and prosperity within the location and its people.

The Ba-gua (an octagon compass that represents perfect harmony points within the universe) is the principal tool used by a Feng Shui Expert to determine if Ying and Yang (energy) are properly balanced within a given site (exterior and interior) and if an imbalance is blocking chi (life force), or causing it to stagnate. It also enables the Feng Shui Expert to adjust or improve upon the environmental conditions by offering solutions that will bring about or promote good *chi*. (The Ba-gua will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 3 of this Feng Shui module.)

**Feng Shui What? Feng Shui Why? Well, WHY NOT Feng Shui!** By observing and adjusting environment, so that people are continuously being energized and can working harmoniously together, as well as having business thrive and prosper—are these not “celebrated” objectives all of us in business should strive for?

## ANCIENT WISDOM FOR MODERN LIVING

Literally meaning “wind and water,” Feng Shui (pronounced fung shway) is a 4,000 year-old Chinese discipline based on the belief that a vital life energy, *chi*, flows in the earth—a life force that creates mountains, makes rivers flow, and plants flourish. Positive and negative energy (chi) lines travel the earth. Chi also flows through people, keeping the mind alive and the heart beating. **A marriage of art and science, the laws of Feng Shui harness positive chi through the proper design and placement of buildings, rooms and furnishings—encouraging good health, greater wealth and serenity.**

People are now discovering that the location of a building can determine success, moving a desk to the “command position” can encourage wealth, and positioning a bed kitty-corner to the entry door can improve marital relations. The orientation of a building or the furniture layout of a room can either block the flow of chi – causing physical illness and stress – or enhance chi – leading to success, and happiness. According to Feng, our destiny is linked to our environment. It’s well known that our surroundings influence our emotions, health, relationships, and work.

Rooted in the ancient Taoist principle of living in harmony with nature, Feng Shui strives to create compatibility between people and their environments to promote peace and prosperity. The Chinese saw themselves connected to the earth, nature and cosmos. They relied on stars, sky, and land to direct them where to live. Choosing the right place to live and plant crops meant the difference between a prosperous life and misery.

A blend of Chinese philosophy, religion, folklore, and science, some believe Feng Shui began with grave siting. It was thought that if ancestors were buried in a comfortable location--where the wind is mild, the water clear, and the land is green, --ancestors would be rewarded in their next life. If not, descendants would suffer.

The sacred knowledge of Feng Shui was confined to the aristocracy. Revered by emperors. During the mid 1800’s Opium war, European “foreign devils” wanted spoils from China, so the emperor gave them low, flat lands which were known to be riddled with malign spirits and bad Feng Shui (Shanghai, Tientsin, Hankow).

Feng Shui masters were always consulted when palaces and tombs were built, when new cities were planned. Today, builders, corporations, and homeowners call upon placement experts who offer advice from the practical to the metaphysical.

## **DIFFERENT SCHOOLS OF FENG SHUI PHILOSOPHY**

Traditional Feng Shui includes the Compass and Form philosophies.

**The Compass School (School of Directions and Positions)** relies on cardinal directions and cosmology to determine the best location for good earth chi.

**The Form School (School of Configurations)** interprets the land as being alive, animistic, and sees positive chi in the form of animals. The ideal building site should have a black tortoise (symbolizing longevity and endurance) to the North, a red phoenix (symbolizing peace and prosperity) to the South, a white tiger (symbolizing peace and prosperity) to the West and a green dragon (symbolizing guardian) to the East. The dragon, also representing goodness and strength, is a popular, powerful mythical figure in Chinese culture. Hills and mountains are seen as dragons. *Builder beware!* Cutting into hills may rupture dragon veins, unearthing misfortune.

### **The Black Sect School Of Feng Shui**

The most widely practiced Feng Shui School in America is the Tibetan Tantric Buddhist Black Sect School founded by world leading authority, Grand Master Lin Yun, who resides in Berkeley, California. Responsible for making this ancient art popular in the mainstream, Master Lin Yun is the spiritual leader of the Tibetan Buddhist Black Sect and travels the globe to meet with heads-of-state and spiritual leaders (i.e. the Pope and Dalai Lama).

Often called the “modern school of Feng Shui”, it takes into consideration the modern science of physics and psychology, architecture, design and intuition in its Feng Shui analysis. It focuses on the impact of immediate surroundings over compass directions because the *chi* (vital life force) flow of cardinal directions is influenced by so many factors of modern life – i.e. tall buildings, freeway structures, power lines, computers, televisions, etc. So Black Sect practitioners study the changing dynamics of chi by examining the immediate surroundings (landscape and conditions of nature), shapes, angles, colors, and placement. It incorporates elements of the Compass and Forms schools.

A synthesis of Confucianism, Taoism, and Tibetan Buddhism, the Black Sect School also emphasizes the spirituality of Feng Shui and recognizes the power of blessings and rituals to rid misfortune and bring peace and prosperity.

## BA-GUA

### **“BA-GUA”- A Compass That Points You Toward Success**

The Ba-gua, an octagon compass that represents perfect harmony of the universe, is the principal tool of the Feng Shui expert. It's derived from the world's oldest manual of divination, the I Ching, the 5,000-year-old “Book of Changes.” The Chinese studied the stars and earth, developing theories about man's destiny linked to the changing forces of nature. Emperors would consult the I Ching to determine when to wage war, move, or plan weddings.

The center of the Ba-gua and the center of a space is called the Ming T'ang –a place that connects man with heaven. Historically, emperors used it for ancestor worship, sacrifices, and study of clouds.

Each leg of the Ba-gua represents life fortunes. The octagon compass also has 5 elements that influence chi: Fire, earth, metal, water, and wood. **There needs to be a balance of these 5 materials in construction and in work and living spaces.**

The “life fortunes” on the Ba-gua apply to business in the following manner:

Fame: Reputation, respect

Relationships: Personal and professional

Children: Creativity, new projects

Career: Business growth, success

Helpful people: Connections, networking, investors

Knowledge: Worldliness, staying on top of your field, spiritual cultivation

Family/Ancestors: Relations with supervisors, bosses

Wealth: Business profits

There are corresponding colors that enhance each life area. If you wanted your business to be more well known, you would apply the color red to the fame area of the building by painting a wall or hanging art that has a shade of red.

Corresponding colors that enhance each life area in business:

Fame and Reputation: Red

Relationships and Associates: Pink

Creativity: White

Benefactors: Gray

Career and Profession: Black

Knowledge: Blue

Family Relationships: Green

Finances: Purple

By superimposing the Ba-gua over property or a building, you can determine where energies of life areas correspond to different places on the land or structure. Known as the “Three door Ba-gua”, you orient it from the entry, the “mouth of chi.” Align the bottom of the Ba-gua along the wall of the main entry which will fall into either the “Knowledge,” “Career,” or “Helpful People” areas.

You can improve your business fortune by adjusting the Ba-gua. For example, if your main entry is located in the “Career area” which is associated with the water element, you can place a water fountain nearby to promote business success.

If the building design creates a missing space on the Ba-gua, energy will be lacking in that life area. For instance, if the “Wealth area” is missing, financial success will be difficult. One remedy would be planting a tree to symbolically square off the missing area on the Ba-gua. Or planting a hedge of plants with purple, red, or blue flowers—colors that enhance wealth.

One BA-Gua is used to determine the (yin-ying) balance of the entire business site, and each office within the business location also uses a Ba-gua for the same purpose (to determine balance). All the Ba-Guas associated with the business site should work together to produce (as a whole) a harmonious and balanced environment.

For almost every Feng Shui problem, there is a solution.

## **BUILDING – ENVIRONMENT FACTORS**

### **Landscape**

Good chi is reflected in gentle, undulating landscapes. Flat land has too much still (Yin) chi and is exposed to harsher winds and possible floods. Lush green vegetation indicates healthy chi. Dry, barren land reflects a lack of chi in the earth.

Buildings ideally, should be located with a mountain (black tortoise) in the rear to protect from winds or dangerous chi flow, a low white tiger hill to the left (as you're facing the entry), a higher hill (green dragon) to the right. And a lower hill (red phoenix) in front.

Symbolism plays a vital role in Feng Shui analysis. In an urban setting, highrises, roads, and neighboring structures represent animals and nature. Tall trees behind a building symbolize mountains. A lower building on the left represents the white tiger and a slightly taller building on the right resembles the dragon. Open land in front is seen as the watchful phoenix gathering chi power. The location should give the feeling of being protected by an "armchair" or being in the "dragon's lair."

### **Roads - "Poison Arrows"**

Streets are arteries of chi. Occupants of a building at the end of a T-section have dangerous, fast-moving chi, known as "poison arrows," directed at them. This type of bad Feng Shui can hurt finances and health. Being at the end of a cul-de-sac traps energy, creating stagnant chi that translates to "stagnant" finances.

Wide boulevards are favored business locations over narrow streets which have less chi flow.

### **Freeways**

Situated near flyovers or freeways generates strong chi flow that can hinder employee productivity and business growth.

### **Overpowering Buildings**

If there are taller buildings on either or both sides of your location, success will be difficult and limited.

### **Sharp Angles**

Acute angles from rooftops and neighboring designs send "poison arrows" of chi.

## **Entry Location**

Since the main entry is the “mouth of chi,” where energy enters through a building, its location/orientation is crucial to prosperity. The more chi, the greater the opportunities. There shouldn’t be anything blocking the front door or poison arrows directed from roads and adjacent buildings.

## SITE TIPS

When choosing a site remember the following:

- Select a site that has healthy greenery (trees, plants, etc.). Dry, brown land has little chi.
- Ideal locations for banks, retail shops, restaurants are on street corners. The main door should be diagonal to catch the chi of pedestrians and money from all directions.
- Research the history of the land: Was it a burial ground? Death has strong Yin energy and can cause sickness or bad luck. The Denver International Airport was built on an Indian burial site. The airport's opening was saddled with problems. Is there water diversion or a well underground? Since water is associated with abundance, wealth will be drained away. If you're renovating a building, were the previous occupants financially successful, healthy? If not, the bad chi lingers. (A Feng Shui ritual can be performed to get rid of it.)
- Avoid building across from police stations, funeral homes, churches, and hospitals. They have too much negative chi and hinder opportunities.
- Avoid overshadowing buildings, especially ones shaped like dangerous symbols, i.e. knives, arrows.
- Power lines emit bad chi that can cause illness. Never build an entry directly across from one.
- Property Shapes: Rectangular is best. Triangles and irregular shapes upset the harmony of the land.
- Building Design: L, T and U-shaped structures have missing corners and feel incomplete, unbalanced. They also have several areas missing on the Ba-gua. If the "wealth" and "fame" are missing, it means that occupants will face possible bankruptcy and law suits. The problem can be resolved through landscaping.
- Rounding off building corners creates good chi flow and good relations with neighboring companies. Round corners don't create poison arrows.
- Paint the exterior of large buildings an earth element: gold, yellow, sienna, bronze, or brown to be compatible with the energy of the land (earth).
- A water fountain near a building's entry will promote prosperity. Water symbolizes abundance and has active Yang chi that attracts business.
- Escalators or stairs should not directly face the main entrance. The chi of money and opportunities is directed out the door.
- Try to locate the CEO's/principal's office in the "command position"—at the rear of an office space where one benefits from maximum chi flow.
- Avoid address numbers containing 4 or 7 (associated with death).

Good Feng Shui is good city planning and land use. Architectural structures should have synergy with the environment, not dominate it. With Feng Shui, you invoke the power of nature to create harmony—and give your destiny a nudge.



## **SYMBOLISM**

### **PLANTS**

Azalea.....	Longevity and Feminine Grace
Chrysanthemum.....	Joy and Longevity
Jasmine .....	Sweetness, Affection and Love
Lotus.....	Fruitfulness and Opportunities
Narcissus.....	Good Fortune and New Beginnings
Oleander.....	Beauty
Orchids .....	Love, Beauty, and Perfection
Rose .....	Beauty, Frame and Strength

### **TREES**

Bamboo .....	Long Life and Youth
Cypress.....	Nobility
Magnolia .....	Feminine Sweetness
Mulberry.....	Domestic Peace
Oak .....	Male Strength
Pine.....	Longevity
Willow .....	Gentleness and Feminine Grace

Fruit Trees (In General) .....	Abundance
Apple .....	Peace
Cherry Tree.....	Feminine Beauty
Orange.....	Good Fortune, Happiness and Prosperity
Peach.....	Immortality
Pear .....	Purity and Long Life
Persimmon.....	Joyousness
Pomegranate .....	Many Prosperous Offspring
Plum Blossom.....	Long Life and Strong Spirit
Tangerine.....	Prosperity

### **FLOWER COLORS**

Blue (Yin Color).....	Sky and Hope
Green (Spring).....	Growth and hope
Orange (From Chinese Word - Kum).....	Abundance and Wealth
Pink (Inspires Love).....	Romance
Purple (Commands Respect).....	Powerful and Rich
Red (Promotes Good Chi) .....	Happiness and Fame
Yellow (Royalty).....	Longevity, Wisdom and Power