



FENG SHUI 101 FREE COURSE

Joseph Yu

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 0

SOME COMMON TERMS

Qi In Chinese this is the word "air". The difficulties of the Chinese language lies in that a single word has intrinsic meaning that is different in special contexts. In Feng Shui, qi is like energy, more often than not organic in nature, that flows in space. Our five senses can feel the existence of qi.

Sheng Qi Vibrant life energy. When we see that a place is full of life, it is filled with sheng qi.

Sha Qi Killing energy or harmful energy. When we feel that we are being attacked by something invisible we are feeling the existence of sha qi.

Feng Shui Literally feng means wind and shui means water. In Guo Po's Book of Burial:

Qi is dispersed by wind and retained by water.

Qi in this context refers to sheng Qi. It is dispersed by wind but is retained by the existence of water. Feng shui is therefore the study of how to choose a site devoid of attack by dispersing wind and maintained vibrant by the presence of water.

Dragon The dragon is a legendary creature. In China the dragon symbolizes the Emperor. In the Feng Shui aspect it symbolizes vital energy that exists on earth. Its existence can be traced in mountain ranges. It can also be traced in rivers and streams. Mountains are referred to as mountain dragons while waters as water dragons. Beautiful mountains and waters are vibrant dragons and are capable of

emitting sheng qi. Ugly mountains and waters are sick dragons or even dead dragons and are capable of emitting sha qi.



Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 1

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

This is a series of lessons offered to the public who have the desire to know what this ancient art is about. It deals with the most fundamental concepts put into practice and explained without referring to abstract theories. The three levels of my correspondence courses give a formal discussion of Feng Shui. The 101 series introduces some practical steps everyone can follow. They are not tailor made feng shui for an individual location and therefore cannot replace formal feng shui audits. They are like harmless vitamin pills that may help you to keep healthy. Therefore, safety is my first concern. If you are trying some do-it-yourself feng shui, some safety measures are to be taken.

Safety measure #1 : Do not employ anything red in color to "enhance your wealth luck" without knowing the qi map of the house.

In fact, red symbolizes fire and is not an ingredient to enhance wealth luck. It may give strength to a certain fortunate wealth star. The danger lies in the fact that fire can activate sickness energies and cause financial difficulties if used in inappropriate places.

Safety measure #2 : Do not use mirrors to try to "repel sha qi".

It simply does not work. If your front door is attacked by, let us say, a straight road heading directly and you hang a Ba Gua mirror on top of the door. Assuming that it can reflect the sha qi hitting on the mirror surface, can it repel all the sha qi attacking the entire door? Imagine you have thousands of arrows shooting onto your door. A few of them may miss the door and hit your mirror. The rest simply

hit the door. The only thing the mirror can do, is to occasionally reflect light into the eyes of the driver of a car, causing an accident. The car may lose control and head for your house.



Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 2

INTUITION

Nearly all animals have an instinct to sense where danger lies. Most people can feel whether a place has good feng shui. When you go into a house and you feel at home, then this house must enjoy good feng shui. On the other hand some houses just give you the feeling of uneasiness and discomfort. Such houses have bad feng shui. Your intuition can tell.

Some people have stronger intuitive power than others. I know a lady whose profession is interior design. She is gifted to feel how the qi in a house flows. Real estate agents ask her to rearrange the furniture of a house that has been on the market for some time. After she makes the suggestions the house is sold within two weeks. According to her she has a 100% success record.

In ancient China there is a school of feng shui called the "Qi Watching School". To these masters qi can be "seen" (with an inner eye). Actually we all can do it with practice. It is more reliable than consulting a feng shui practitioner because nine out of ten are charlatans. Feng shui, after all, is only a combination of environmental studies, interior design, landscaping and town-planning. The sense of balance is most important. If feng shui deviates from beauty-seeking, it is not feng shui. In fact, when you get into a house and see weird objects like the Ba Gua mirror at the front door, flutes under a beam, a kitchen painted red, an abacus under the roof, I don't think you feel comfortable. These so called feng shui cures do not improve the feng shui of a house but rather destroys the harmony.

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 3

CONFORMITY

The **Principle of the Golden Mean*** is the most important philosophical idea in China. This can be applied to houses. It simply requires your house to be of more or less the same size as your neighbors'. If your house is exceptionally tall, it is subjected to the attack of winds from all directions. If it is exceptionally tiny, it is being suppressed like a small child being intimidated by older kids. In the former case the house is vulnerable to the attack of sha qi. In the latter case it is difficult for the house to admit sheng qi. You may ask, "Is it not that a much taller house is easier to receive sheng qi because it is not blocked by its neighbors?" Sheng qi comes in a meandering path. An over exposed building is subjected to direct impact with the qi that flows from all directions. If qi is not guided, it tends to flow in a straight line and is more likely sha qi than sheng qi.



Internally, the size and amount of furniture must also conform with the house. For a small house to have large furniture the qi cannot flow without obstruction to all parts of the house. On the other hand, for a large house to have small sized furniture the house is too "empty" and the qi cannot be retained. Likewise a large house is not suitable to be the home of a small family of one or two persons. The

house lacks the warmth of human qi. On the other hand, too many people living in a small house will generate conflict and thus sha qi.

The Principle of Conformity is true universally at all times.

* The Principle of the Golden Mean (中庸之道) is the core of Confucianism. It has nothing to do with the geometric golden section 0.618, one of the wonderful numbers in Mathematics.

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 4

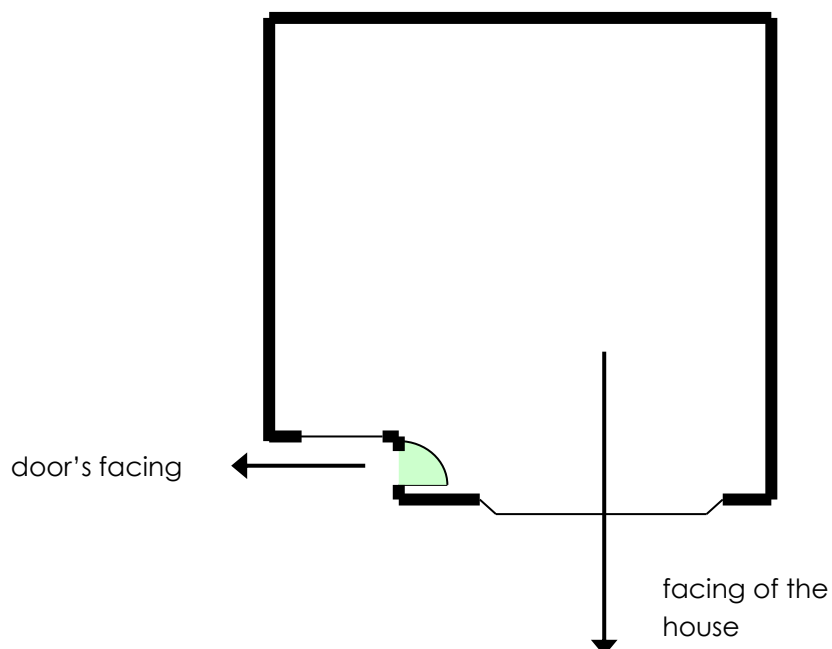
FACING OF A HOUSE

To define the facing of a house is no easy task. In most houses the door is opened at the front. The door facing is the facing of the house. A house usually faces a street, so does the door. For most houses we can agree on the definition of facing.



Some houses have their front doors at an angle to the front of the house but the front and back of the house are well defined. In such cases the facing of the front of the house is the facing of the house. The facing of the door is different in such cases. It is the facing of the house that defines the star allocation of the house and is therefore more important. The location of the door is important as this defines

the kind of energy (qi) entering the house. The facing of the door will define the amount of such energy entering the house.



Sometimes it is not easy to visualize the front and the back of a house. In such cases we have to take into consideration the following:

- The side of the house that admits most light into the house.
- The location of the foyer.
- The location of the road/street/path leading to the house.

The guideline is that facing is yang and sitting is yin. Yang is bright, active, movement. Yin is dark, inactive and stationary. Since there are new designs of houses all the time we have to use valid reasoning to determine the facing. There is no simple rule to follow.

For high rise apartments, the situation is even more complicated. I will talk about that in the next lesson.

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 5

FACING OF AN APARTMENT BUILDING

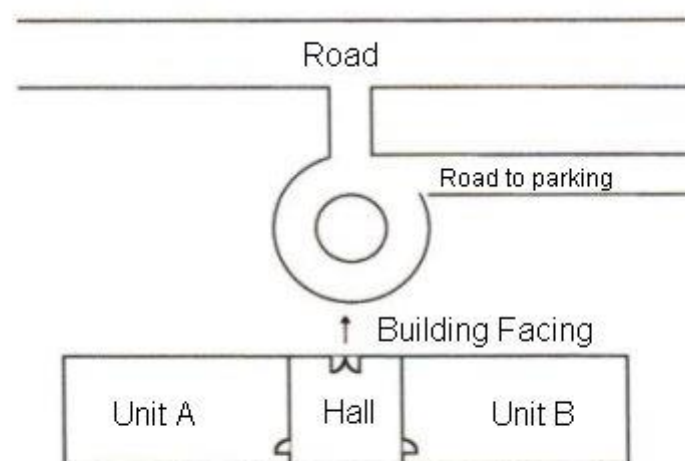
For high rise apartment units we have to consider

1. The facing of the entire building and
2. The facing of the unit.

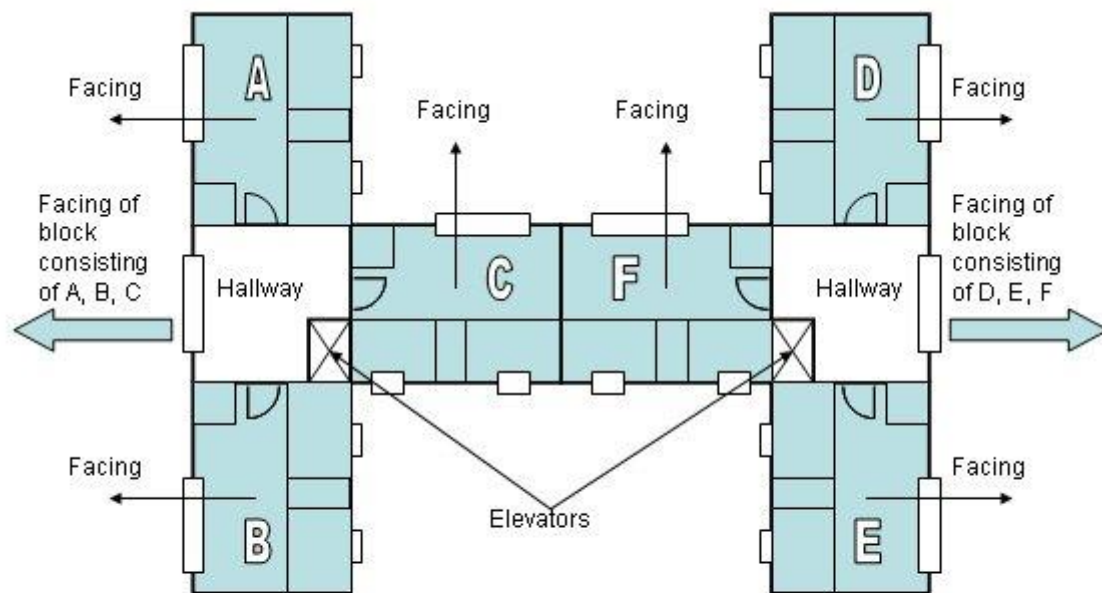
For the facing of the building we consider the following :

1. The road leading to the building.
2. The main door of the building.
3. The design of the entire building.

Usually all the three agree to give you the facing without doubt. Sometimes they may not. You have to choose the facing supported by sound reasoning.



The road, the main entrance and the design all agree to give the facing of the building. The units most likely will also have the same facing as the building.



Facing of A and B are the same as the left block.

Facing of D and E are the same as the right block.

Facing of C and F are different from the blocks they belong to.

The facing will determine the type of qi entering the entire building through the main entrance. For the individual units we still have to consider their respective facings that are more important than the facing of the building as a whole. We will talk about that in the next lesson.

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 6

FACING OF AN APARTMENT UNIT

To find the facing of an apartment unit we have to consider the following points.

- (1) The floor plan. Usually the side with the most windows is the facing side of the unit. This is especially true if there is a balcony.



- (2) If there are two sides with the same amount of windows, then we have to consider the location of the principal rooms. We have to consider the external environment. The side facing the road or the garden is more likely the facing than the side facing a neighboring unit.

In the following diagram, by merely judging from the floor plan, we can hardly tell which side is the facing. If there is a road running E-W on the north side, and a neighboring building on the west side, then the unit faces north. If there is a road running N-S on the west side while the north side faces a parking lot, then we consider the unit faces west. If there are roads both on the north and the west side, then we have to take into consideration the facing of the entire building. If it faces north then the unit will be considered facing north, and if it faces west then the unit will also be considered facing west.



There is no rigid rule to follow. Experience and logical reasoning will provide us with the answer. We have also to verify our choice by the events that happened in the past to confirm the star chart. In other words, one needs to have a scientific mind to practice feng shui though it is considered an art more than a science.

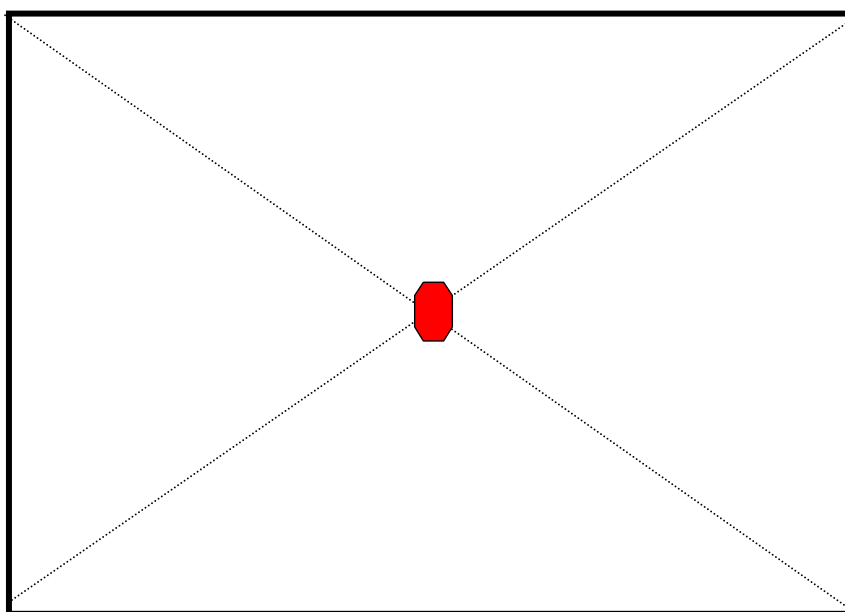
Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 7

CENTER OF A HOUSE I

It is important to find the center of a house because it is the reference point for the energy distribution in the house. To make the practice of feng shui more scientific we must draw accurate diagrams and precise energy maps called star charts of houses. These techniques are not known to feng shui practitioners who have not received modern education. The world is in constant progress. The profession of feng shui practice should also raise its standards. This is the mission of the Time-Space School of Feng Shui.

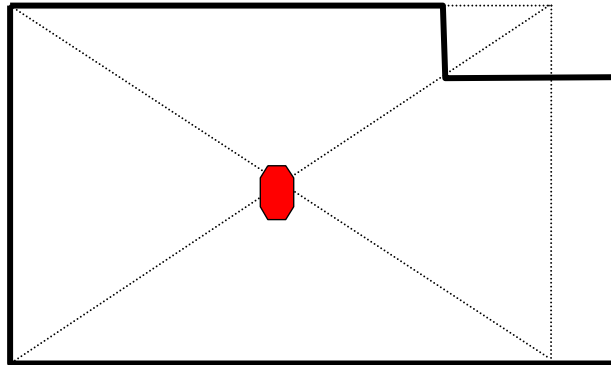
Rectangular House

For a rectangular house the center is simply the center of the rectangle, i.e. the intersection of the diagonals of the rectangle.



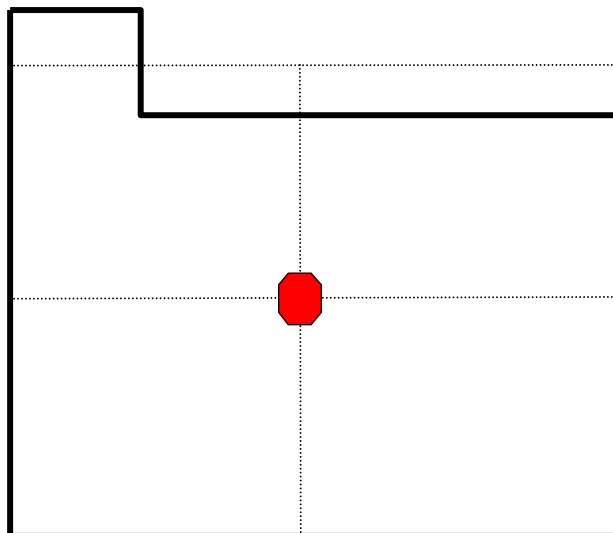
Missing Corners

For a house with missing corners we just complete the rectangle and find the center. The criterion is that the missing part is small compared with the entire house.



Removing Protruding Parts

For a house with protruding parts we remove these parts before finding the center. The criterion is that the protruding part must be small compared with the house.

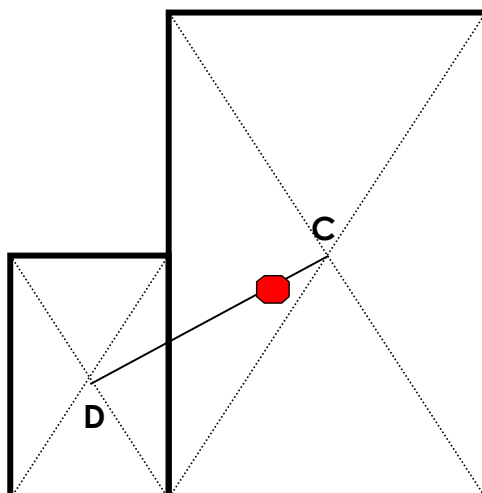
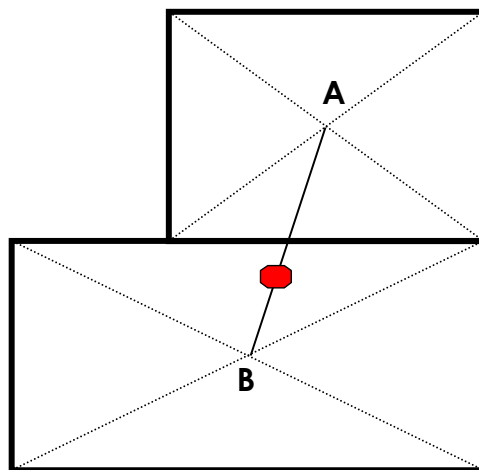


We shall consider more complicated cases in the next lesson.

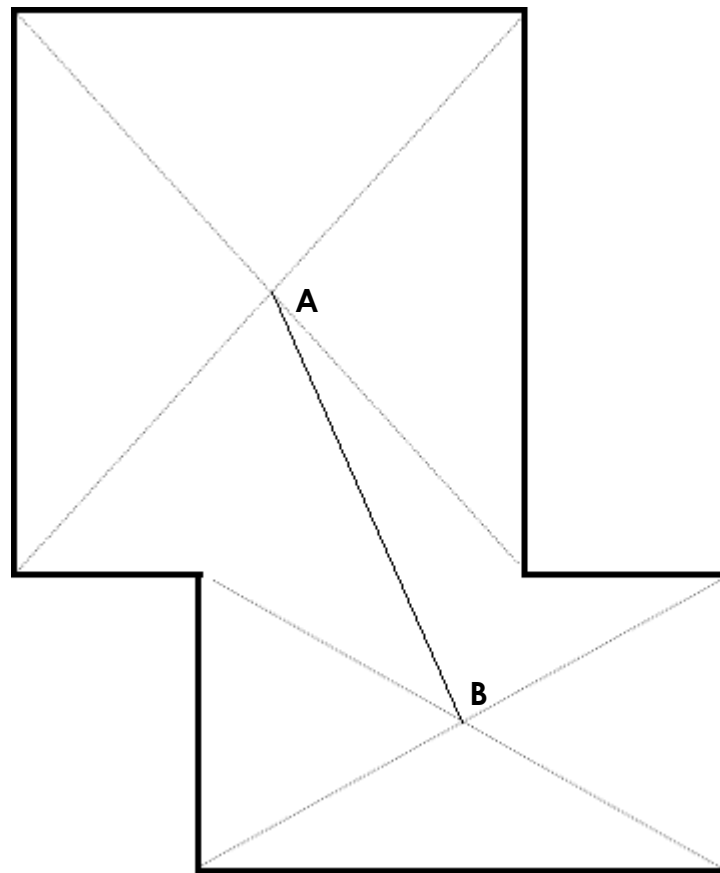
Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 8

CENTER OF A HOUSE II

In more complicated cases we try to find the center of gravity of the plane figure that represents the floor plan. The diagrams are self explanatory.

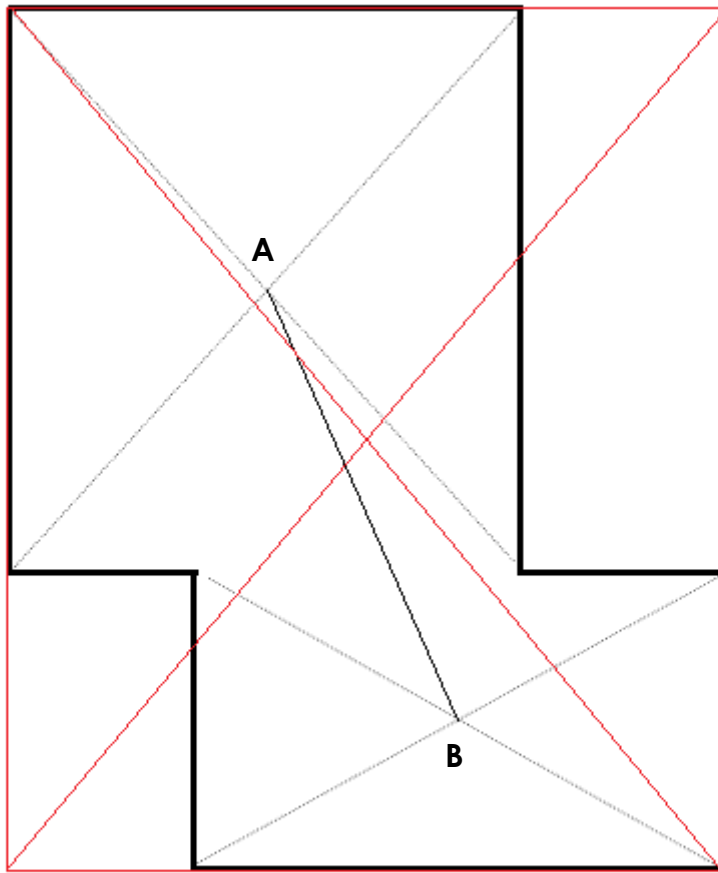


The center of the house must lie on both AB and CD. Draw the two dissections on the same diagram. The intersection of AB and CD gives the center of the house.



In this case the center lies on the line AB but it is difficult to locate it. If the two rectangles are of the same area then the center is the midpoint of AB. If one is larger than the other then the center lies closer to that of the larger rectangle. A good estimate can be made. In the above diagram it will be closer to A than to B.

We cannot use the method of completing the rectangle because the missing parts are not balanced.

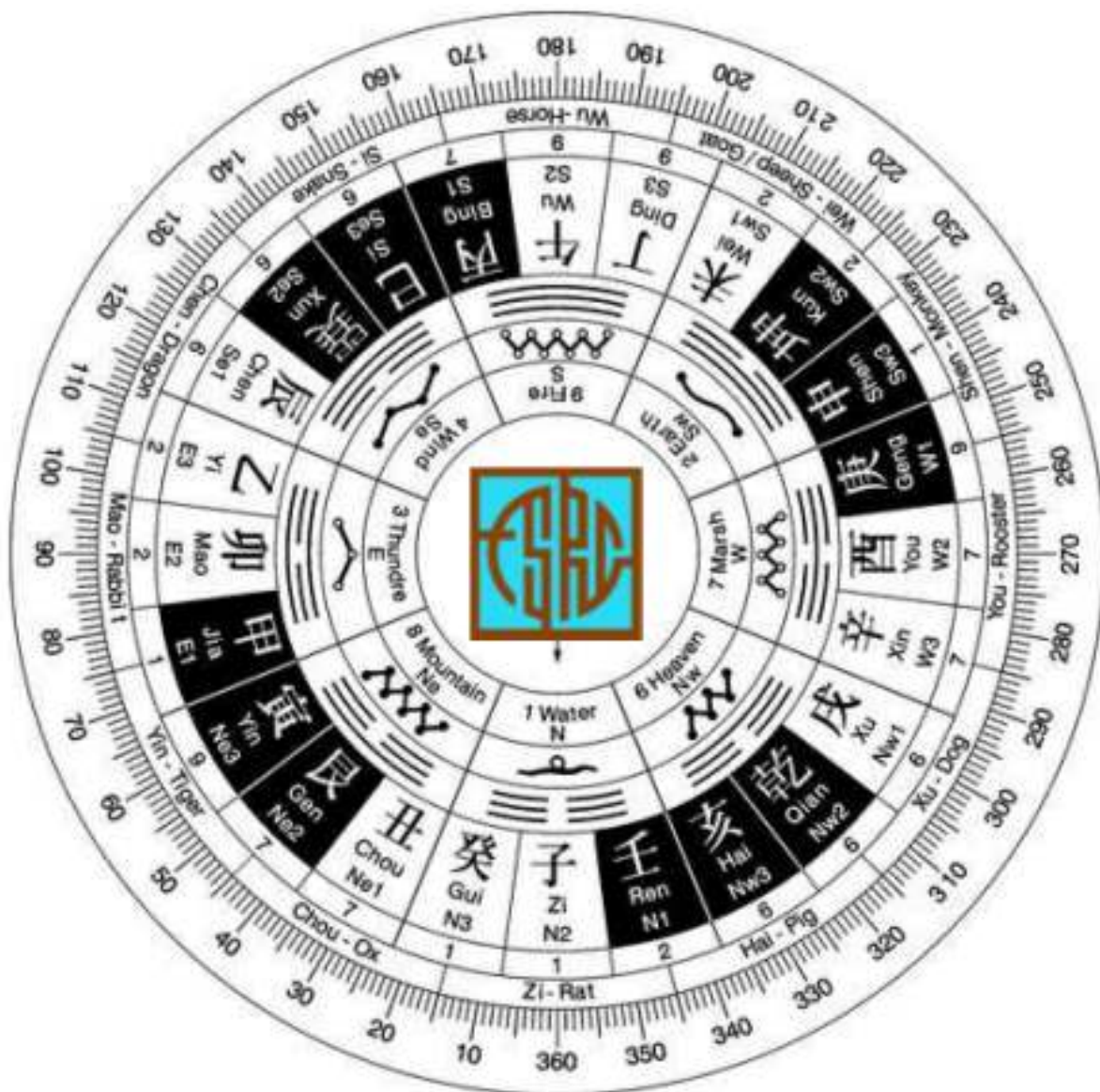


This diagram, however, gives you some idea how much closer the center is to A than to B.

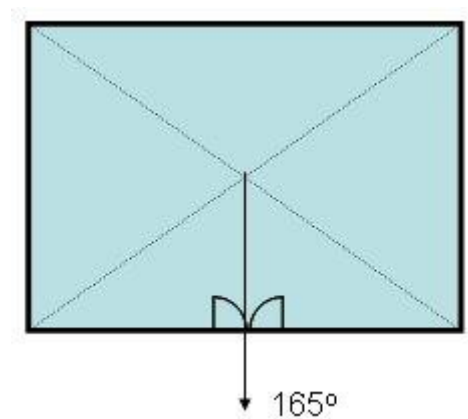
Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 9

DIVIDING A HOUSE INTO EIGHT SECTIONS

First of all print the following diagram on a transparency. It is called a Feng Shui Template which shows the most important parts of the Luo Pan as well as the degree measurements.



Overlay this Feng Shui Template on the floor plan of a house with the center of the house at the center of the Lo Pan. Draw the line showing the facing direction of the house, say, 165 degrees. Let this line fall on the degree reading of the template. The house is now divided into eight sections by the lines on the stencil.



Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 10

SITTING OF A HOUSE

There are several schools of Feng Shui. They allocate the energies in a house according to :

1. The sitting direction of the house
2. The facing direction of the house
3. The facing direction of the main door
4. The birth year of the master of the house

We shall delve into the fundamentals of each school of Feng Shui and try to draw reasonable conclusions.

The Sitting Direction of a House

A house is defined by the sitting direction according to the following table.

Name of House	Qian Heaven 	Kan Water 	Gen Mountain 	Zhen Thunder 	Xun Wind 	Li Fire 	Kun Earth 	Dui Marsh 
Sitting Direction	North west	North	North east	East	South east	South	South west	West

Eight kinds of energies are allotted to the eight sections of a house. These energies are called the Eight Wandering Stars.

The Four Auspicious Energies

1. Sheng Qi meaning Energizing
2. Tian Yi meaning Heavenly Doctor
3. Yan Nian meaning Longevity
4. Fu Wei meaning Stability

The Four Inauspicious Energies

1. Jue Ming meaning Death
2. Wu Gui meaning Five Ghosts
3. Liu Sha meaning Six Demons
4. Huo Hai meaning Mishap

The degree of fortune and misfortune is according to the order. Sheng Qi is the best direction while Jue Ming is the worst. Tian Yi and Yan Nian may be of the same degree of fortune depending on what is the requirement of the individual.

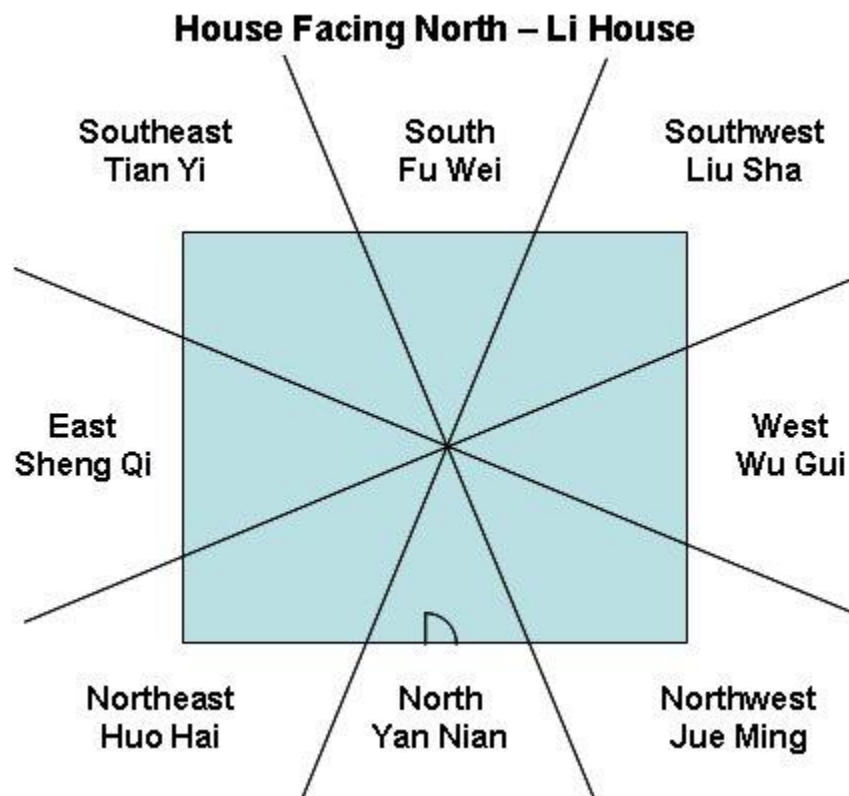
For example, the energy map of the Li House is shown in the diagram below.

According to this school of Feng Shui, half of the house is filled with inauspicious energies. These areas are best used for:

1. Toilet
2. Store room
3. Stove

The other half of the house is filled with auspicious energies. These areas are best used for:

1. Living room
2. Dining room
3. Family center
4. Bedrooms



Furthermore, the main door should be situated at an auspicious section.

Each of the Eight Wandering Stars is assigned an element. We can then use colors and shapes of objects to either support a fortunate wandering star or to weaken an inauspicious wandering star. In this way, inauspicious areas can also be used. There are additional "secret" rules. The details are discussed in the Intermediate Level Correspondence Course.

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 11

TAI SUI

During the Ming and Qing Dynasties there was a school of feng shui known as the "San He Pai" that was most popular. Master Jiang Da Hong attacked the theories of this school bitterly, with good reasons. The disciples of the San He Pai were mostly professional feng shui practitioners who took the short cut to practice feng shui. The methods were quite stereotyped and easy to follow. It was recorded that there were people reading a book in the morning and became practitioners in the evening. The sad thing was that people preferred to use practitioners of the San He Pai instead of Master Jiang's superb skill. This was because Master Jiang was proud and solemn and his clients had to show him respect and sincerity before he agreed to offer his consultation. On the other hand, the San He practitioners were very good at commercial gimmicks.

However, Master Jiang hinted that despite the nonsense of the San He Pai, their Tai Sui and San Sha theories were not without grounds. It shows that Master Jiang's attacks on the San He theories were not because of jealousy. He was actually concerned about the mistakes they made that could be harmful to the consumers. When their theory was right, he endorsed it. When it is not right, he battered it. This is the attitude I have learned to take.

When we divide 360 degrees into twelve equal parts, each part will be 30 degrees. Sui Xing is the planet Jupiter. It requires twelve years (or more accurately in 11.86 years) to complete a sidereal revolution. Tai Sui is a fictitious star corresponding to Jupiter but it moves in the clockwise direction covering exactly 30 degrees each year.

The following table shows the position of Tai Sui.

Year	Position of Tai Sui (Degrees)
Rat	345 - 15
Ox	15 - 45
Tiger	45 - 75
Rabbit	75 - 105
Dragon	105 - 135
Snake	135 - 165
Horse	165 - 195
Goat	195 - 225
Monkey	225 - 255
Rooster	255 - 285
Dog	285 - 315
Pig	315 - 345

If you take the center of your house as reference point, the Tai Sui position should not be disturbed. Disturbance in this location will result in disasters. By disturbance we mean extensive digging and construction in this direction.

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 12

THREE SHA

We divide 360 degrees into 12 equal parts and assign the 12 animal signs accordingly as in the table:

Rat	Ox	Tiger	Rabbit
345 - 15	15 - 45	45 - 75	75 - 105
Dragon	Snake	Horse	Goat
105 - 135	135 - 165	165 - 195	195 - 225
Monkey	Rooster	Dog	Pig
225 - 255	255 - 285	285 - 315	315 - 345

In the year of the Tiger, the three sha are in the Pig, Rat and Ox directions or 315 - 45 degrees. For simplicity we say that the three sha are in the North.

In the year of the Horse and the year of the Dog, the three sha are in the same direction as in the year of the Tiger.

The direction of the three sha in different years can be tabulated as follows.

Year	Rat, Dragon, Monkey	Tiger, Horse, Dog	Rabbit, Goat, Pig	Ox, Snake, Rooster
Three Sha	South	North	West	East

Again the directions of the three sha should not be disturbed. If the three sha are disturbed, the people in the house will suffer from sickness and injury.

Some Feng Shui practitioners are of the opinion that if the Tai Sui or Three Sha are at the main door, they are disturbed. The cure is to place a pair of metallic animal (called Qi Lin) inside or outside the door.

I will not consider opening and closing the door as a disturbance, but if the object used is beautiful, it is beneficial

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 13

ROMANCE I

Romance is an important part of life. A lot of people ask me how to enhance the romance luck using feng shui. In Flying Star Feng Shui we have to examine the star structure of the house before we can tell how. It is usually a complicated process. However, there are some simple do-it-yourself methods that do not violate feng shui principles and are reported to be effective.

In the analysis of the four pillars according to the birth year, month, day and time of a person there is a certain combination called "Peach Blossoms". The relationship of the animal sign of a person and the "Peach Blossoms" is shown in the chart below:

Animal Signs	Peach Blossom
Tiger, Horse, Dog	Rabbit
Rabbit, Goat, Pig	Rat
Rat, Dragon, Monkey	Rooster
Ox, Snake, Rooster	Horse

Peach Blossoms are related to romances. In the last lesson we have the table showing the location of the animal signs. The rat is located in the north (345 - 15 degrees). The rabbit is in the east (75 - 105 degrees). The horse is in the south (165 - 195 degrees). The Rooster is in the west (255 - 285 degrees).

If the Peach Blossoms are activated then the person of the corresponding animal sign will likely have romance. The way to activate the Peach Blossom is the use of fresh flowers in a beautiful vase with clean water. Care must be taken to use fresh flowers and remember that the vase must be filled with clean water. Otherwise the romance will turn sour. Romantic colors like pink and red (both for the flowers and the vase) are more effective psychologically.

Married people should not activate their Peach Blossoms as this will induce extramarital affair and is destructive to family harmony.



Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 14

ROMANCE II

In the analysis of the four pillars according to the birth year, month, day and time of a person there is a certain combination called "Peach Blossom". The relationship of the animal sign of a person and the "Peach Blossom" is given below. In Lesson 13, by the animal sign we mean the earthly branch of the year of birth. In recent years people tend to use the earthly branch of the day pillar as reference point. The table is the same but the animal sign refers to the day pillar.

Animal Signs	Peach Blossom
Tiger, Horse, Dog	Rabbit
Rabbit, Goat, Pig	Rat
Rat, Dragon, Monkey	Rooster
Ox, Snake, Rooster	Horse

Peach Blossom is related to romances. In the last lesson we have the table showing the location of the animal signs. The rat is located in the north (345 - 15) degrees. The rabbit is in the east (75 - 105) degrees. The horse is in the south (165 - 195) degrees. The Rooster is in the west (255 - 285) degrees.

If the Peach Blossom is activated then the person of the corresponding animal sign will likely have romance. The way to activate the Peach Blossom is the use of fresh flowers in a beautiful vase with clean water. Care must be taken to use fresh flowers and remember that the vase must be filled with clean water. Otherwise the romance will turn sour.

Married people should not activate their Peach Blossom as this will induce extramarital affair and is destructive to family harmony. Which one is more effective? I would recommend you give it a try for 3 months using one position and then if it does not work, use the other position for another 3 months.

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 15

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Academic success is another important part of life. It is especially important for families with children who are attending school or university. In Flying Star Feng Shui we have to examine the star structure of the house before we can tell how to enhance academic luck. Not every house has the desired combination of stars that is responsible for academic achievement. However, there are some simple **do-it-yourself** methods that do not violate feng shui principles and are reported as effective.

In the analysis of the four pillars according to the birth year, month, day and time of a person there is a certain combination called "Academic Success". The positions most favorable for people born in different years are given in this table :

Last Digit of Birth Year	Position For Academic Success
0	NW
1	N
2	NE
3	E
4	SE
5	S
6	SW
7	W
8	SW
9	W

It is effective to place the desk in the position for academic success . If the room is in the respective position of the house and the desk is in the respective position of the room then the result is most prominent. If this is not convenient then place some objects in these positions to activate the academic chi. Four pencils in a pen holder placed there will work wonders. An ornamental tower will also work.



Note that the solar year begins usually on February 4. Sometimes it may fall on the 3rd or 5th. People born on these days can ask me for confirmation of the year.

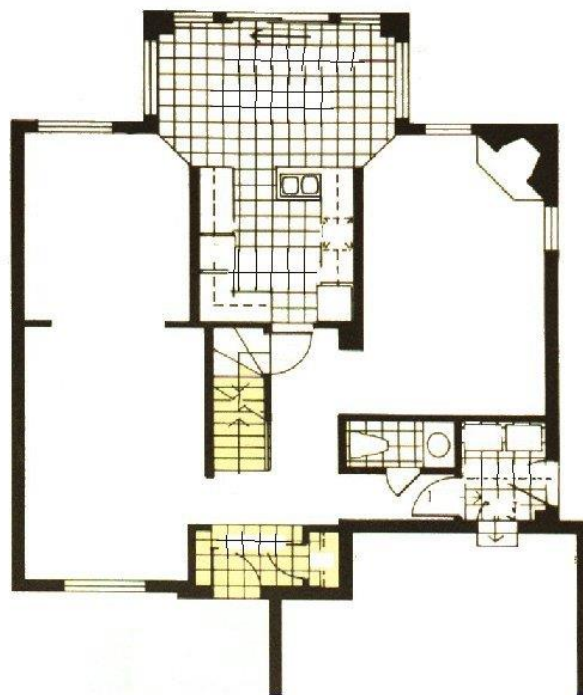
Another simpler method is to use the Wind Palace of the house. The Wind Palace is assigned the Luo Shu Star #4 which is responsible for academic success. The Wind Palace is the SE section of the house.

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 16

STAIRCASE FACING THE DOOR

A lot of people do not like the staircase inside a house to face the main entrance. They are of the opinion that there will be loss of wealth because of this design. Wealth luck simply rolls down the stairs and rolls out of the house through the main door. Some feng shui masters recommend a screen to be placed between the staircase and the door to retain the wealth luck. How true is it?

Let us study the following two diagrams. In House A the staircase is almost right at the door (8 ft from the door). Whatever sheng qi entering the house from the main door will be blocked by the staircase and repelled out of the house. It can hardly reach other parts of the house. This is of course a bad design.



House A

In House B the staircase is over 15 feet from the door. It does not create any difficulty for the qi entering the door to reach all parts of the house. If a screen is placed somewhere between the door and the staircase, a barrier is created to block the qi from reaching other parts of the house. Good feng shui is being changed into bad feng shui. You can see how one fallacy can be spread to become feng shui gibberish.



House B

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 17

THE OCTAGON – A BEAUTIFUL MISUNDERSTANDING

The octagon is used as the symbol of the Ba Gua. This is in fact an accepted fallacy, a beautiful misunderstanding.

The Xian Tian Ba Gua was constructed according to the following description.

The Heaven and the Earth determine the positions.

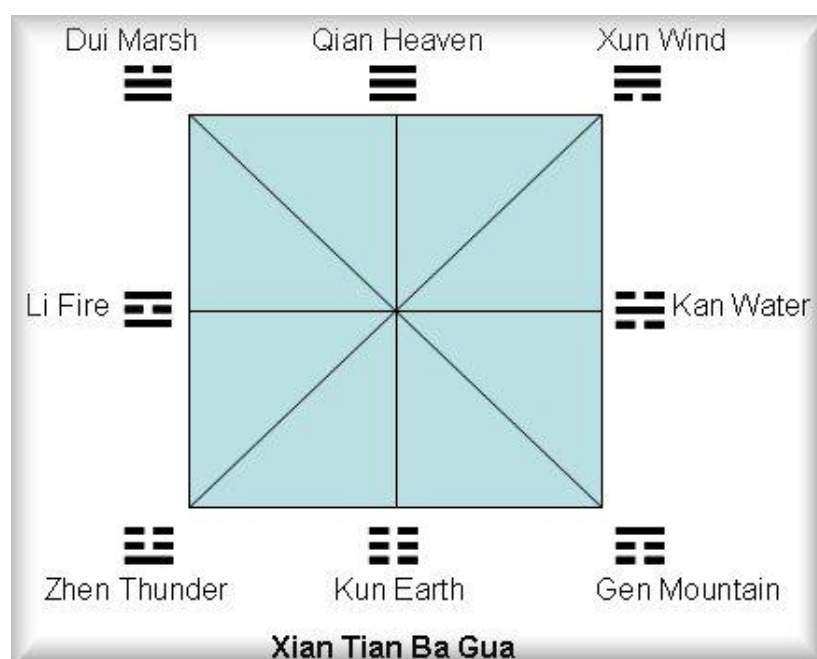
The Mountain and the Marsh can interchange qi.

The Thunder and the Wind echo.

The Water and the Fire do not assail each other.

It was just logical to visualize Heaven as above and Earth below. This determines the positions of the eight trigrams.

The other three opposite pairs are Mountain and Marsh, Thunder and Wind, Water and Fire.



The above diagram is quite symmetrical horizontally and vertically but not quite radially. Some artists thought that it would be more appealing to the eye if an octagon was used instead of the square. Thus the Ba Gua takes the shape of an octagon instead. However, it would have been more symmetrical if the circle was used to represent the Ba Gua and draw the trigrams with arcs instead of lines! The reason why this was not adopted was just because it was difficult to draw.

The Ba Gua is actually just a concept. The octagon is a pictorial representation of this concept. It could have been represented by a square or a circle. The octagon is not the Ba Gua and the Ba Gua is not an octagon.

The Hou Tian Ba Gua was derived from the Luo Shu which was a square divided into nine equal squares. This is used in Feng Shui studies as an energy map on a two dimensional surface.

Xun Wind	Li Fire	Kun Earth
Zhen Thunder	Center	Dui Marsh
Gen Mountain	Kan Water	Qian Heaven

If a "Ba Gua" is to be used to overlay on a floor plan to analyze the feng shui of a house the square is actually more convenient than the octagon. However, neither the square nor the octagon is the correct one to use. (See Lesson 9)

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 18

WIND CHIMES, MIRRORS AND FLUTES

Wind chimes are to be made of metal. It is the metallic sound we want to cure sickness generated by #2 sickness star. This must be used in a place with wind to make it sound.

It does not matter whether the tubes are solid or hollow. The important thing is that the sound produced is beautiful.

However, in a place with #2 and #5 this is not suitable because a wind chime is #6 in form. #6 represents Heaven, #2 Earth and #5 Man. When Heaven, Earth and Man are all present it will invite spirits (special combination of energy) and will cause nightmares and illusion.

Mirrors in ancient China were made of bronze and can reflect light. So this is also a good source of metallic energy, this time in the form of light.

It can be used to cure #2 and #5. A Ba Gua made of bronze has a weaker effect because it is not shiny and cannot reflect light effectively. The mirrors we use today are made of glass coated on one side. It can be used to give the feeling of having more space and brighten up a room if designed correctly. It is not to be used to "reflect sha qi". A Ba Gua mirror cannot dissolve the sha qi brought about by a "poison arrow" at a T-junction. In fact, the head beam of cars coming towards the house may be reflected to the driver and may cause an accident.

Flutes are made of bamboo which is wood (dead wood). If placed where the #5 star is, it will irritate that evil star which is earth in nature and will bring misfortune. If it is placed where the combination #2 & #3 is, it will bring argument and lawsuit. If it is placed where the combinations #3 & #8 or #4 & #8 is, it will bring physical injury to young children.

Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 19

AQUARIUMS AND PLANTS

Aquariums are widely used as a Feng Shui item. Usually a Feng Shui master would recommend to put 6 gold fish and 1 black fish in the aquarium. He may explain that the gold fish is to bring wealth to the family or business while the black fish is to absorb the sha qi. The black fish is more vulnerable to the attack of sha qi and will therefore more easily die. The dead fish must be removed and replaced by another black fish. This is simply not true.

The reason why we use aquariums in Feng Shui is because we want to use water in certain areas of a house. The fish there is to make the water move and have "life". Water is used to retain sheng qi. It is irresponsible teaching to say that the black fish is to absorb sha qi. When a fish dies, it does not die for its master. A dead fish, of course, has to be replaced. The reason why we use 6 gold fish and one black fish is because

1. 1 and 6 together represent water in the River Chart.
2. Gold is metallic color and metal enhances water.
3. Black is the color of water.

It is the water that brings wealth if appropriately placed and not the gold fish. It is the water that softens the sha qi and not the black fish.



Living plants are also frequently used in Feng Shui. It is said that plants with large leaves will bring wealth while plants with thorns will repel sha qi. This is only partially true. Plants with broad leaves are preferred as they are soft and harmonious.

The use of plants is two fold. When we use potted plants we are using the elements Earth and Wood. If the plant is sturdy, we are using more wood than earth. If the plant is slender, we are using more earth than wood. We are also using a large potted plant to represent a "mountain". This has more to do with health than wealth. A healthy plant represents "life" and it can also manufacture oxygen under the sun. If a water plant is used, we are using the elements Wood and Water. This is to enhance academic success and romance. Fresh flowers in a beautiful vase have the same effect.



Feng Shui 101 - Lesson 20

9 PALACES AND 8 DIRECTIONS (ADVANCED STUDENTS)

[1] Luo Shu

As accepted by all Feng Shui practitioners, the Luo Shu was found on a giant turtle's shell in the form of colored dots in 9 places of the shell. There dots were not separated by lines. The turtle shell was not divided into 8 wedges or 9 squares.

[2] Heaven Heart

In Chinese Philosophy, the heart is all and the heart is nothing. This means that the heart covers the whole space and it covers no space.

In Xuan Kong Feng Shui, the heaven heart is the Period Star. This, together with the sitting and facing directions of a house, defines the Star Chart of the house.

[3] Central Palace

The word "Palace" is not necessarily used to mean a space. For example, "Life Palace" does not occupy any space. The central palace does not occupy any space but it is the most important palace in a star chart. Not only does it govern the location of all other stars in the eight direction, the facing star and sitting star at the center tell us a lot about the house.

[4] What is in the ancient books.

In books written over 100 years ago, diagrams were drawn free-handedly with the brush. These diagrams only have an indication how a chart is to be read. Attached to a rough floor plan there is a star chart (with no square grids) oriented in such a way as to show the direction of facing and sitting. It is not a 9 square grid superimposed on a floor plan. You have to imagine what direction contains the stars. In some modern books, the twenty-four mountain ring of the Luo Pan is superimposed on a floor plan so that all interior and exterior objects can be located

as coming from each of the twenty-four mountains. This helps the readers to understand the situation better. I am sick of people insulting the good work done by these modern writers.

When I do an audit, I can tell from experience the location of the stars and objects in most houses. When in doubt, I still have to superimpose a template on the floor plan to locate exactly where the door and other exterior objects are. That is why it is necessary to locate the center of a house. This is called "zhong yang li ji".

[5] What is a Palace like?

Does a palace look like a rectangle, a wedge or a trapezium?

It does not look like any of these figures. We are interested only in the direction of objects relative to the center of the house. The template of the Luo Pan to be superimposed on the floor plan clearly indicates the directions of objects. It also clearly indicates from which direction the "stars" come.

Inside a house, each room may contain more than one palace. Then the room is subjected to the qi from these palaces. All combinations have to be considered. This is because "qi rides with the wind" and "qi will stop at a barrier". With no walls to separate different palaces, the qi will simply mix together. However, exterior forms only act on the stars in that particular palace.

You can easily visualize that if you use 9 rectangles in your chart, you cannot tell from which mountain does the qi come, from which mountain does a road originate, to which mountain is a road heading etc.