

# Feng Shui Step by Step

What are the Elements and Principles of Feng Shui?

What Are the Basics to Know About this Ancient Chinese Practice?

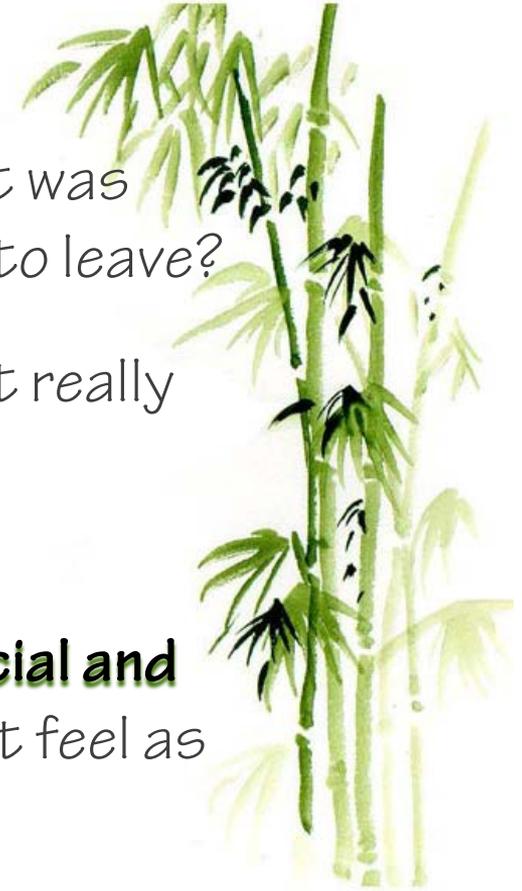
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[www.fengshuifyi.com](http://www.fengshuifyi.com)



# Feeling the Energies

- Have you ever been in someone's house that was arranged beautifully, but you couldn't wait to leave?
- Are there other places you've been that felt really good...you didn't want to leave?
- Don't you think it might improve your life to understand how to work with these **beneficial and detrimental energies** to create spaces that feel as good as they look?



# Understanding the Energies

This presentation demonstrates how to:

- Determine your personal energy;
- Identify life enhancing and life depleting energies in a building; and
- Design interior spaces with these energies in mind;

**Feng Shui allows you to create harmonious interiors.**



# What Is Feng Shui?

## Classical Feng Shui...

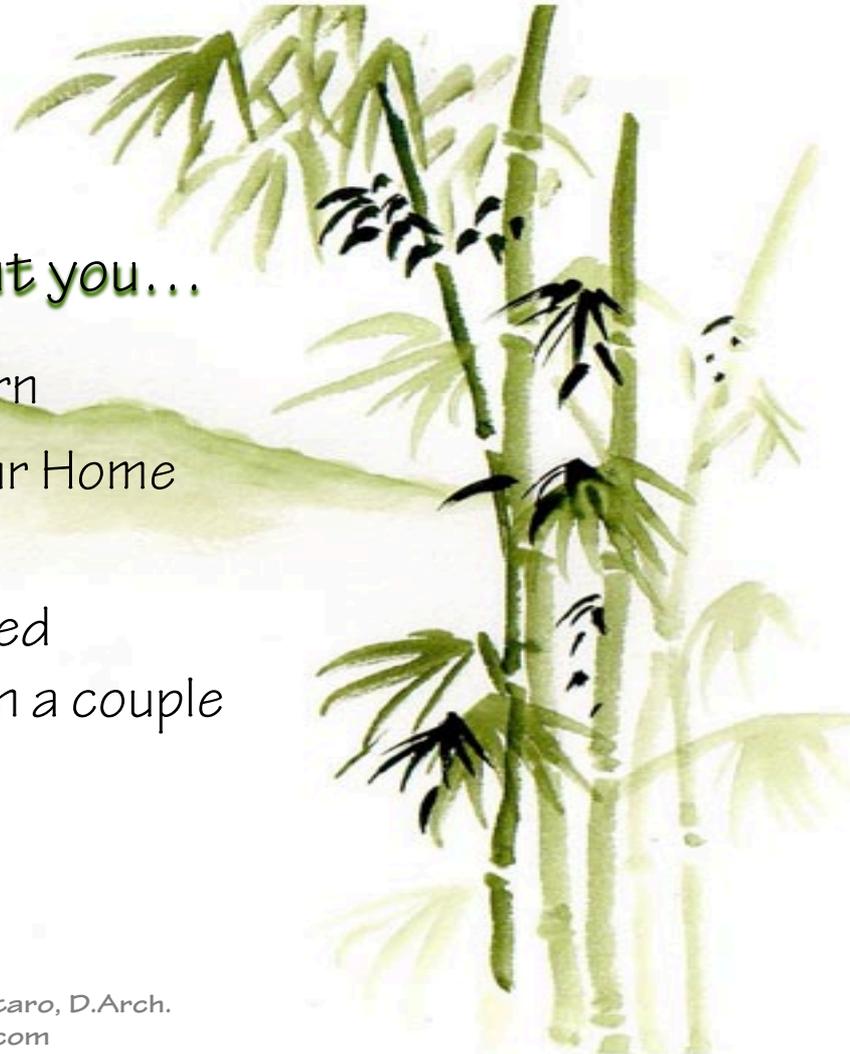
- Is an understanding of the movement of energies coming from the land and captured inside where we live and work
- Gives you ways to enhance beneficial energies and reduce harmful ones!
- Is not the pop culture version which is “intuitive” and not necessarily based on classical traditions.



# Assume You're the Client

We need to know a few things about you...

- Day, Month, and Year you were Born
- **Direction out from the Back of your Home**
- Floor Plan Sketch of your Home  
with Bedroom and Work areas noted  
(Places where you spend more than a couple  
of hours a day)



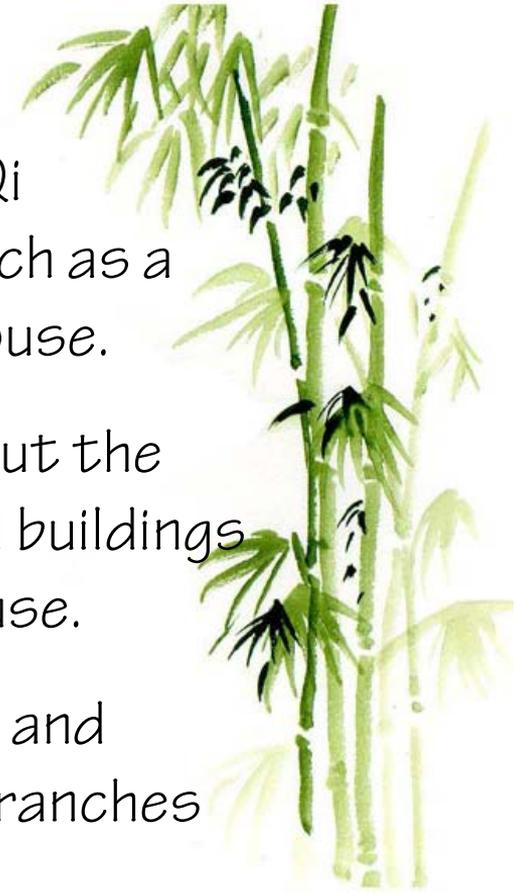
# What Is Feng Shui Energy...

- On the Land
- For a Person
- In a House or other Building
- As a Design Solution



# How Qi Flows on Property

- **Roads, waterways, and downward slopes...** Qi should flow gently, meander, not rush past such as a nearby interstate or a road pointing at the house.
- **Mountains, hills, and buildings...** As you look out the front of your home, the tallest mountains and buildings should be on the left and back sides of the house.
- **Poison Arrows...** Corners of nearby buildings and roofs, electrical transformers, or dead tree branches should not be in a direct view from your house.



# Energy on the Land

- **Yin**... still, quiet energies
- **Yang**... active, moving energies
- **Qi**... invisible life force energy permeating everything.

**Feng** means “Wind” that disperses Qi.

**Shui** means “Water” that collects Qi.



# Yin, Yang, and Qi on the Land



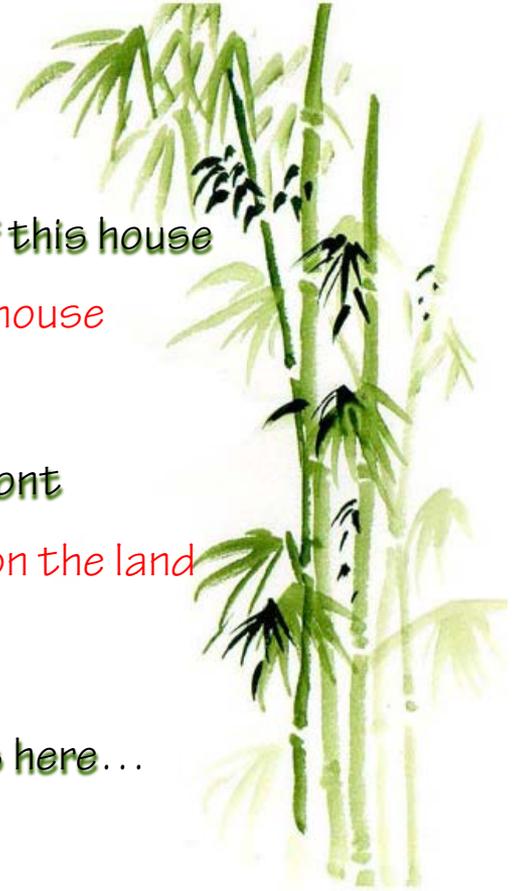
There is too much Yin Energy in the back of this house

*The mountain feels heavy against the house*

There is too much Yang Energy in the front

*The house is precariously balanced on the land*

And now a story about the family who lives here...



# Yin, Yang, and Qi on the Land

- There is a family who lives in this house...a Father, Mother, Daughter, and Son.
- The Daughter in the front can't settle down.
- The Son in the back is over-burdened by life.
- The Feng Shui Master points out the problems...
- There's **too much Yin** (mountain energy) in the back of the house and **too much Yang** (movement) in front.

Adapted From: Spears, William. *Feng Shui Made Easy*. New York: Harper. 1995, p. 111.



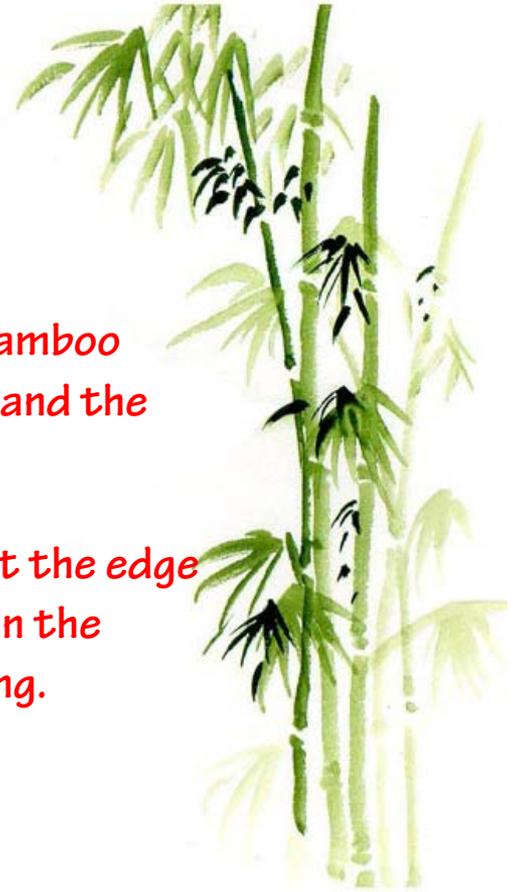
# Yin, Yang, and Qi on the Land



Solutions...

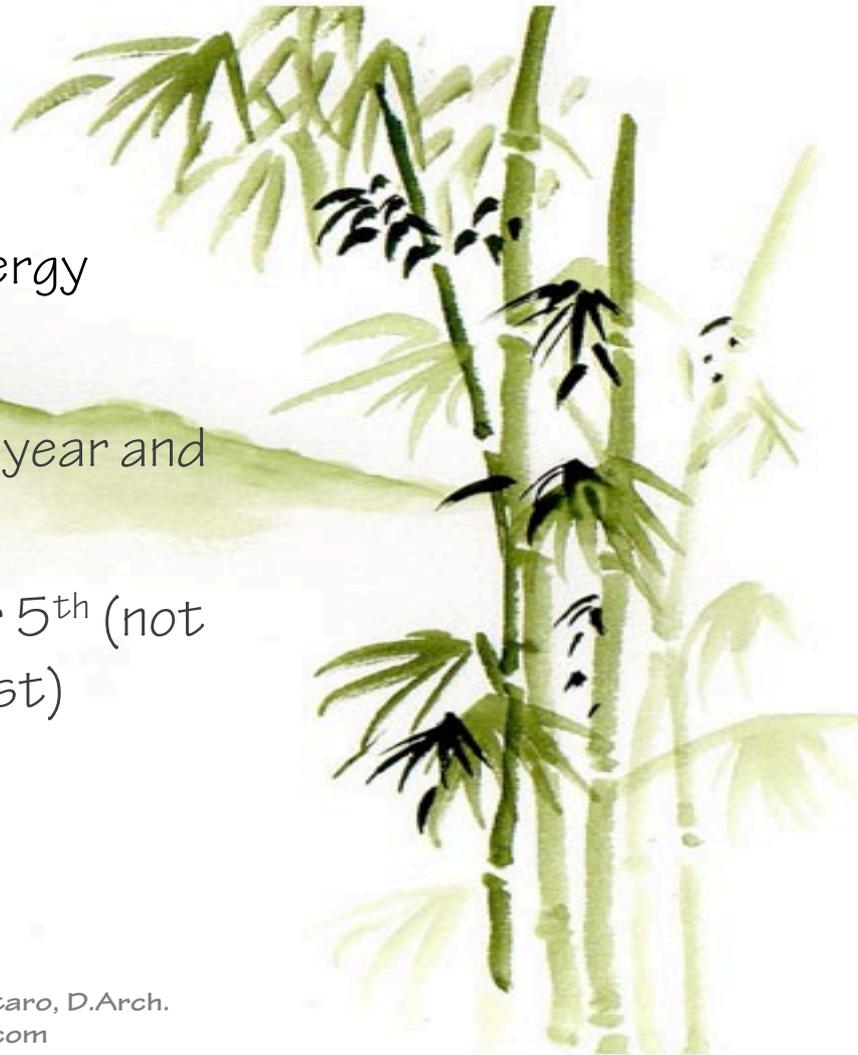
**First**, in the back, fast growing bamboo is planted between the mountain and the house.

**Next**, boulders are placed against the edge of the cliff and around the house in the front to lessen the feeling of falling.



# Personal Energy Patterns

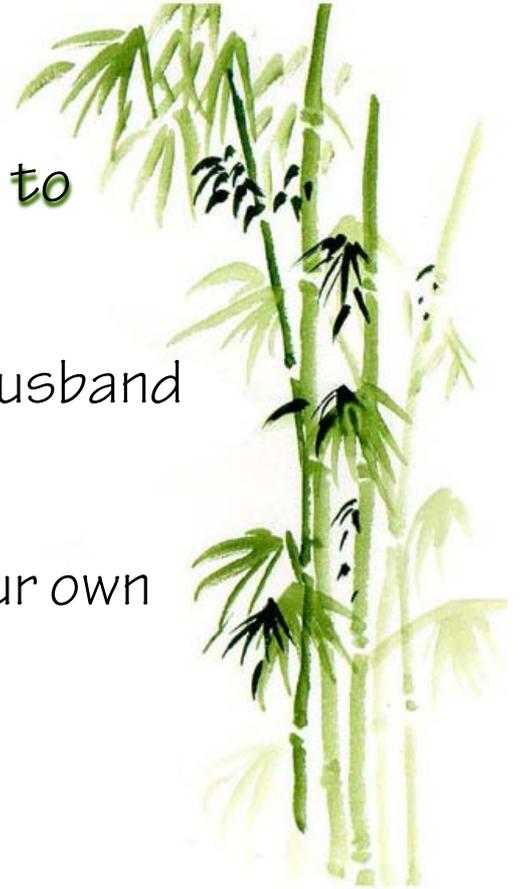
- You personally have one of eight energy patterns, called a **Trigram**
- Your **Trigram** is based on your birth year and whether female or male
- Each year begins on February 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> (not January 1, as it does here in the West)
- **Trigrams** are formula driven



# Steps for the Personal Trigram

For the next step in the process, you're going to do two things simultaneously...

- First, find the **Trigram** for a hypothetical husband and wife.
- Second, you may also want to calculate your own **Personal Trigram** for comparison.

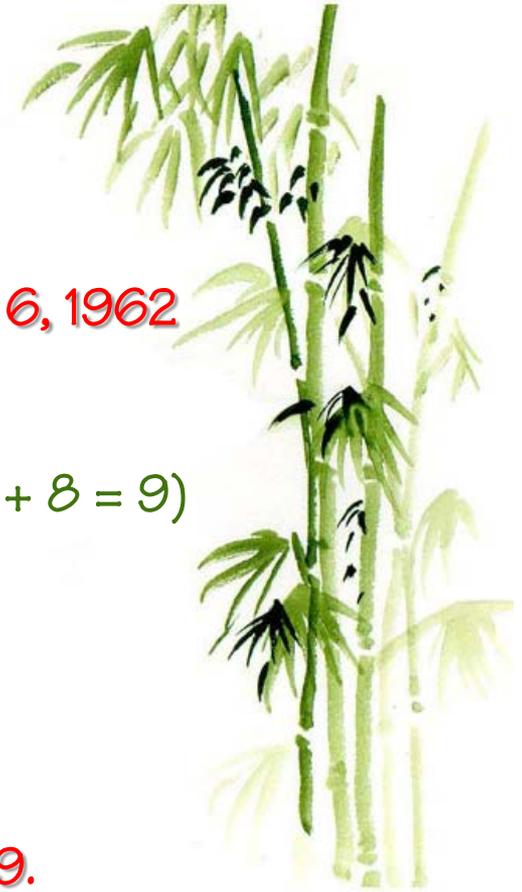


# A Woman's Trigram Formula

Add the numbers in the birth year...

For example, our woman's birthday is **February 6, 1962**

- Add the year numbers...  $(1 + 9 + 6 + 2 = 18)$
- Keep adding, until you have one number...  $(1 + 8 = 9)$
- Add "4" to this number...  $(9 + 4 = 13)$
- Reduce to one number again...  $(1 + 3 = 4)$
- If the result is a "5", use "8" for her energy.
- Your final number will be a **1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, or 9.**

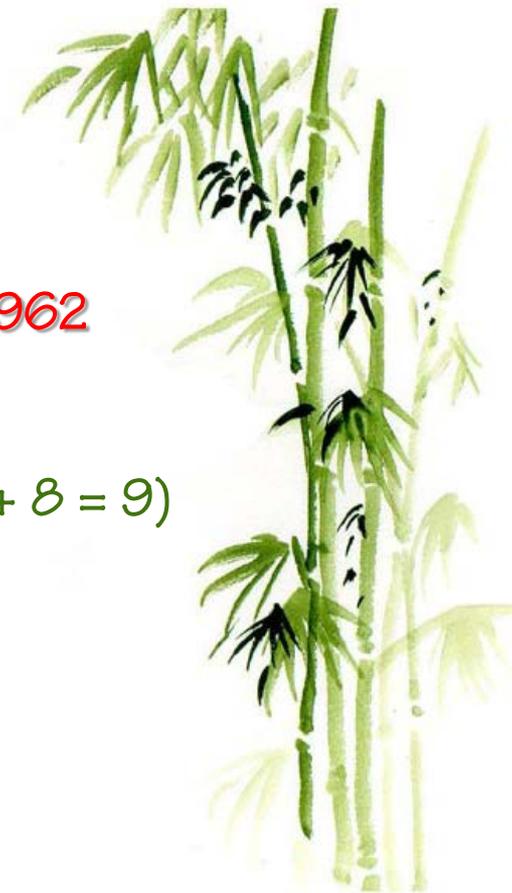


# A Man's Trigram Formula

Add the numbers in the birth year...

For example, our man's birthday is **February 6, 1962**

- Add the year numbers... ( $1 + 9 + 6 + 2 = 18$ )
- Keep adding, until you have one number... ( $1 + 8 = 9$ )
- Subtract result from "11"... ( $11 - 9 = 2$ )
- If "10" is the result, add again ( $1 + 0 = 1$ )
- If the result is a "5", use "2" for your energy
- Your final number will be **1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, or 9.**



# Personal Trigram (Note your Trigram and its #)

- If **#1** you are **Kan** 'con', Water energy
- If **#2** you are **Kun** 'coon', Soft Earth energy
- If **#3** you are **Zhen** 'shun', Hard Wood energy
- If **#4** you are **Xun** 'zoon', Soft Wood energy
- If **#6** you are **Qian** 'chi-un', Hard Metal energy
- If **#7** you are **Dui** 'do-way', Soft Metal energy
- If **#8** you are **Gen** 'gun', Hard Earth energy
- If **#9** you are **Li** 'lee', Fire energy



## Example Trigram (Note the Man and Woman's #)

- If **#1** you are **Kan** 'con', Water energy
- If **#2** Man's **Kun** 'coon', Soft Earth energy
- If **#3** you are **Zhen** 'shun', Hard Wood energy
- If **#4** Woman's **Xun** 'zoon', Soft Wood energy
- If **#6** you are **Qian** 'chi-un', Hard Metal energy
- If **#7** you are **Dui** 'do-way', Soft Metal energy
- If **#8** you are **Gen** 'gun', Hard Earth energy
- If **#9** you are **Li** 'lee', Fire energy



# Building Trigrams

- For the Trigram (**energy pattern**) of a building, follow the steps on the next few slides.
- Work with the *example* and later to help determine the Trigram for your own residence.



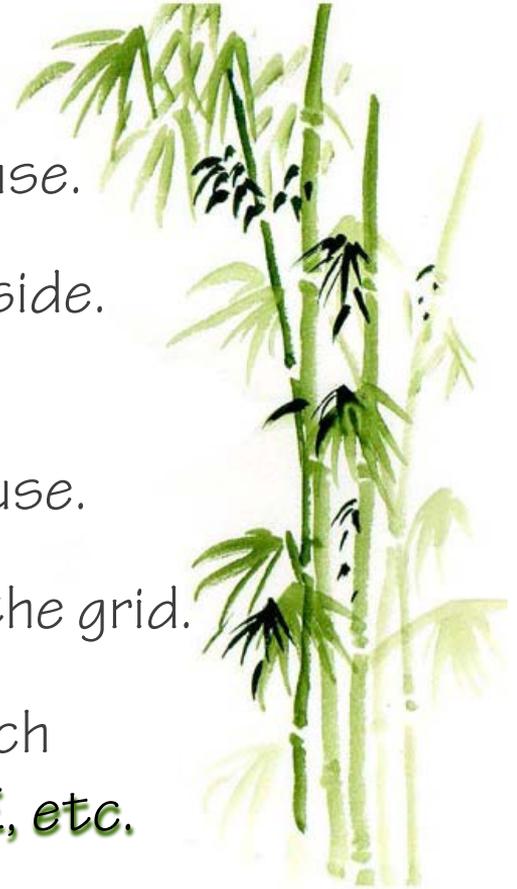
# The Next Step in the Process

- You personally are one of eight **Trigrams**. You've just determined this. Our examples are **Kan** energy for the woman and **Kun** for the man.
- Our example house is also one of these same eight **Trigrams**. We'll determine this energy pattern next.
- **End Result...** Their personal Trigrams may or may not match the House Trigram.
- **Let's examine a fit and a misfit!**

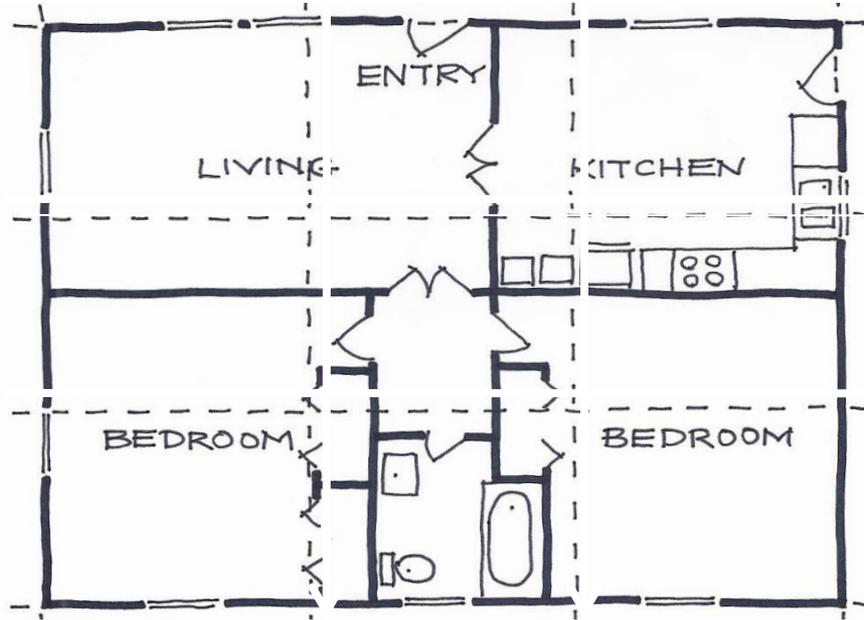


# How to Find the Building Trigram

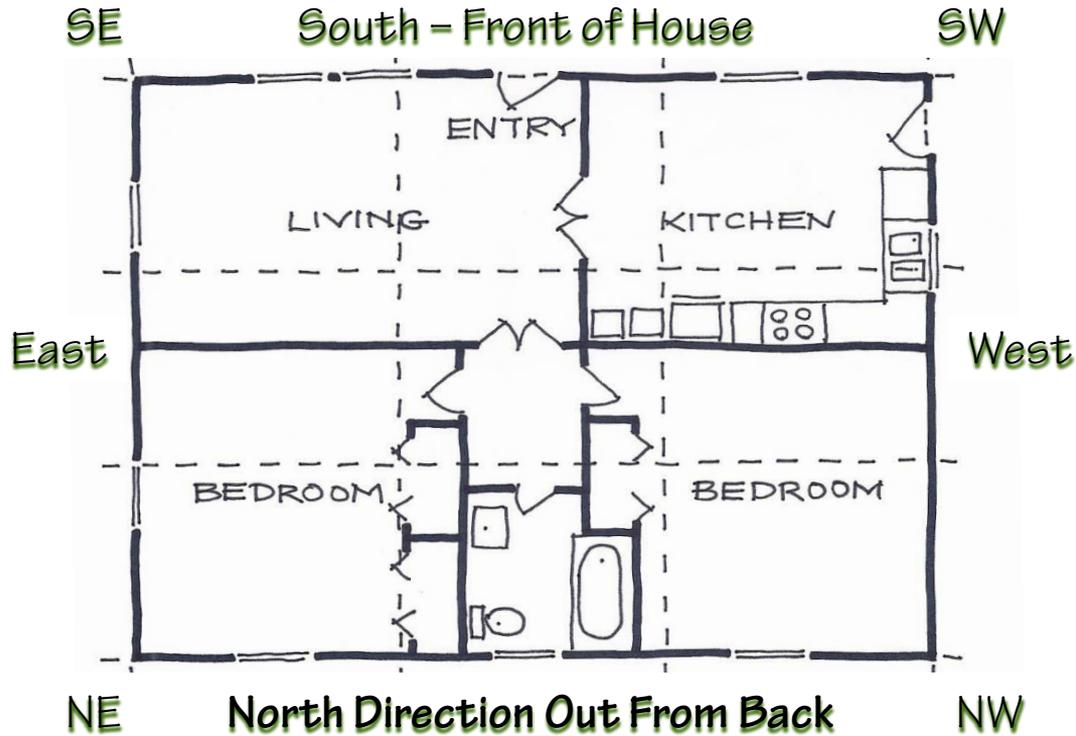
- Sketch a **proportional floor plan** of your house.
- **Grid the plan** into **9** equal segments, **3** per side. (This will resemble a tic-tac-toe grid.)
- Expand the grid to cover all areas of the house.
- Leave small jut outs, bay windows, etc. off the grid.
- Determine **compass directions** and label each segment accordingly... **North, NE, East, SE, etc.**



# Draw Floor Plan Grid



# Add Compass Directions



# House Trigrams

- If back is **North**, house is **#1** **Kan** – Water Energy
- If back is **SW**, house is **#2** **Kun** – Soft Earth Energy
- If back is **East**, house is **#3** **Zhen** – Hard Wood Energy
- If back is **SE**, house is **#4** **Xun** – Soft Wood Energy
- If back is **NW**, house is **#6** **Qian** – Hard Metal Energy
- If back is **West**, house is **#7** **Dui** – Soft Metal Energy
- If back is **NE**, house is **#8** **Gen** – Hard Earth Energy
- If back is **South**, house is **#9** **Li** – Fire Energy



# Example House Trigram

- Example is North, house is #1 Kan - Water Energy
- If back is SW, house is #2 Kun - Soft Earth Energy
- If back is East, house is #3 Zhen - Hard Wood Energy
- If back is SE, house is #4 Xun - Soft Wood Energy
- If back is NW, house is #6 Qian - Hard Metal Energy
- If back is West, house is #7 Dui - Soft Metal Energy
- If back is NE, house is #8 Gen - Hard Earth Energy
- If back is South, house is #9 Li - Fire Energy



# Information We Have Now

- For our example, assume one person is a **Female** with **Xun** energy and the other is a **Male** with **Kun** energy.
- The **House Trigram**, from the direction out the back of the house. (Our example is **North** out the back, so it has **Kan**, Water Energy)
- I'm now going to show you where **good and bad energies** are in this house for these two people.



# Positive and Negative House Energies

- In every house there are four good directions (**life enhancing**) and four detrimental areas (**life depleting**).
- The center sector is directionless, not a Trigram.
- The directions are **rank ordered** from the most beneficial or Yang energies (**+4**) to the most detrimental or Yin (**-4**).



# Two Groups of House Energy Patterns

Hang on, it gets just a bit complicated here...

- **Group 1** includes four Trigrams with its own common set of life enhancing and life depleting directions.
- **Group 2**, the remaining four Trigrams, has a different set of life enhancing and life depleting directions.
- **Know the house Trigram so that you can identify the four corresponding life enhancing directions.**



# Ranking of Beneficial Energies

There are different qualities of beneficial energies...

- +4 is the most active or productive area in a house
- +3 is a good area for healing, health, and longevity
- +2 is the place for harmony and romance
- +1 is a peaceful area, good for meditation or sleep



# Best Directions for **Group 1** Trigrams

- Kun (+4) NE (+3) W (+2) NW (+1) SW
- Gen (+4) SW (+3) NW (+2) W (+1) NE
- Qian (+4) W (+3) NE (+2) SW (+1) NW
- Dui (+4) NW (+3) SW (+2) NE (+1) W

**Be patient, our example house is in Group 2**



# Best Directions for **Group 2** Trigrams

- Zhen (+4) S (+3) N (+2) SE (+1) E
- Xun (+4) N (+3) S (+2) E (+1) SE
- Li (+4) E (+3) SE (+2) N (+1) S
- Kan (+4) SE (+3) E (+2) S (+1) N (house)

**Next we're going to match the homeowners' energies to this Kan house**



# Best Locations for the Man

Does this list look familiar? It is the Group 1 Trigrams.

- Kun (+4) NE (+3) W (+2) NW (+1) SW (male)
- Gen (+4) SW (+3) NW (+2) W (+1) NE
- Qian (+4) W (+3) NE (+2) SW (+1) NW
- Dui (+4) NW (+3) SW (+2) NE (+1) W

We have a Group 1 male living in a Group 2 house.  
This is a misfit.



# Best Locations for the Woman

Does this list look familiar? It is the Group 2 Trigrams.

- Zhen (+4) S (+3) N (+2) SE (+1) E
- Xun (+4) N (+3) S (+2) E (+1) SE (female)
- Li (+4) E (+3) SE (+2) N (+1) S
- Kan (+4) SE (+3) E (+2) S (+1) N (house)

Here we have a Group 2 female living in a Group 2 house.  
This is a fit.

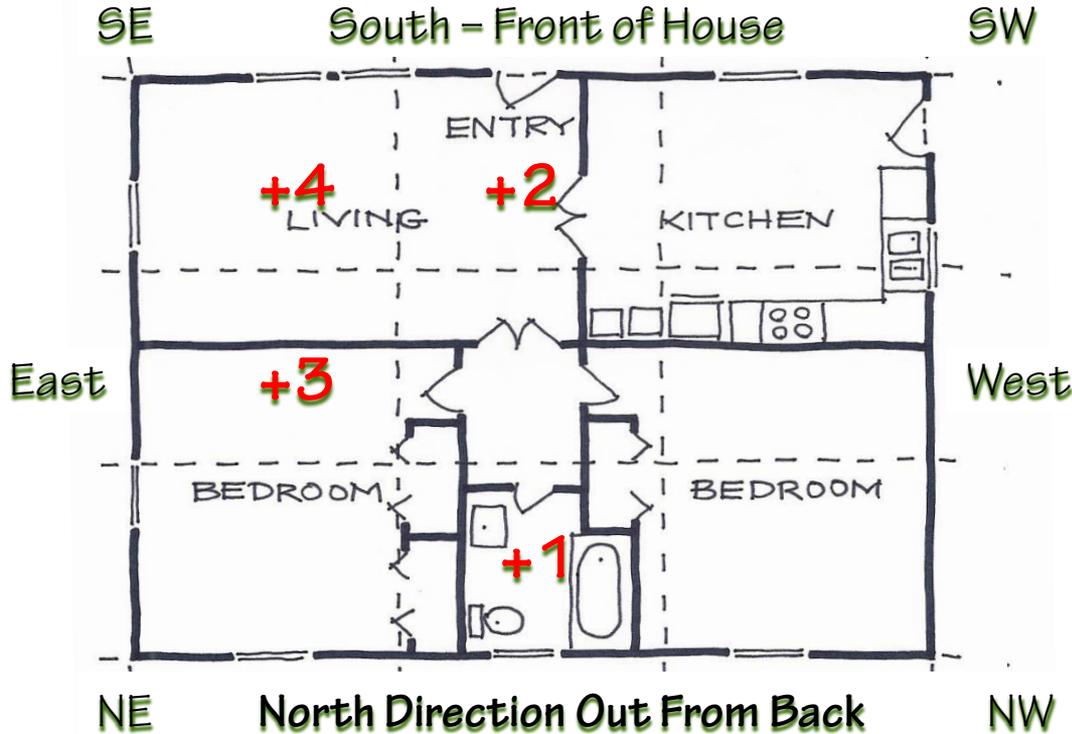


# What Do We Now Know?

- The homeowners are living in a **Kan** house.
- The **husband** experiences **life depleting energy** in this house.
- The **wife** experiences **life enhancing energy** in this house.
- **How do we make this house work for both these people?**



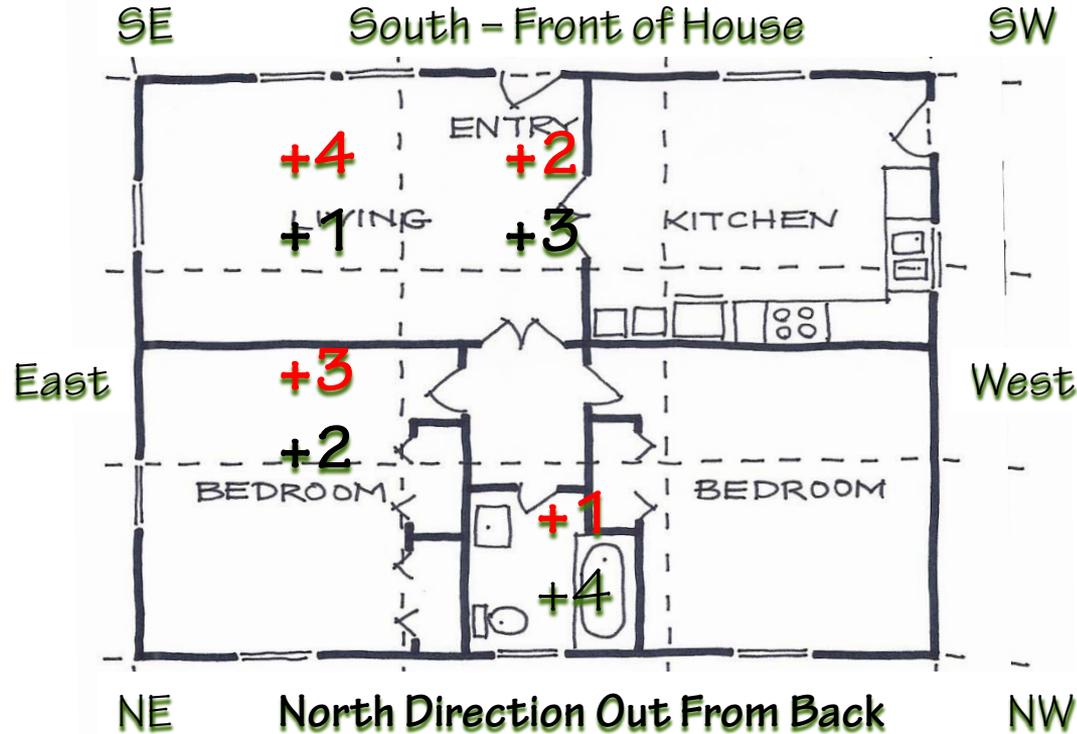
# Example Floor Plan - Kan House



Best Places  
in Kan House  
(noted in red)



# Example Floor Plan - Kan House - Xun Woman



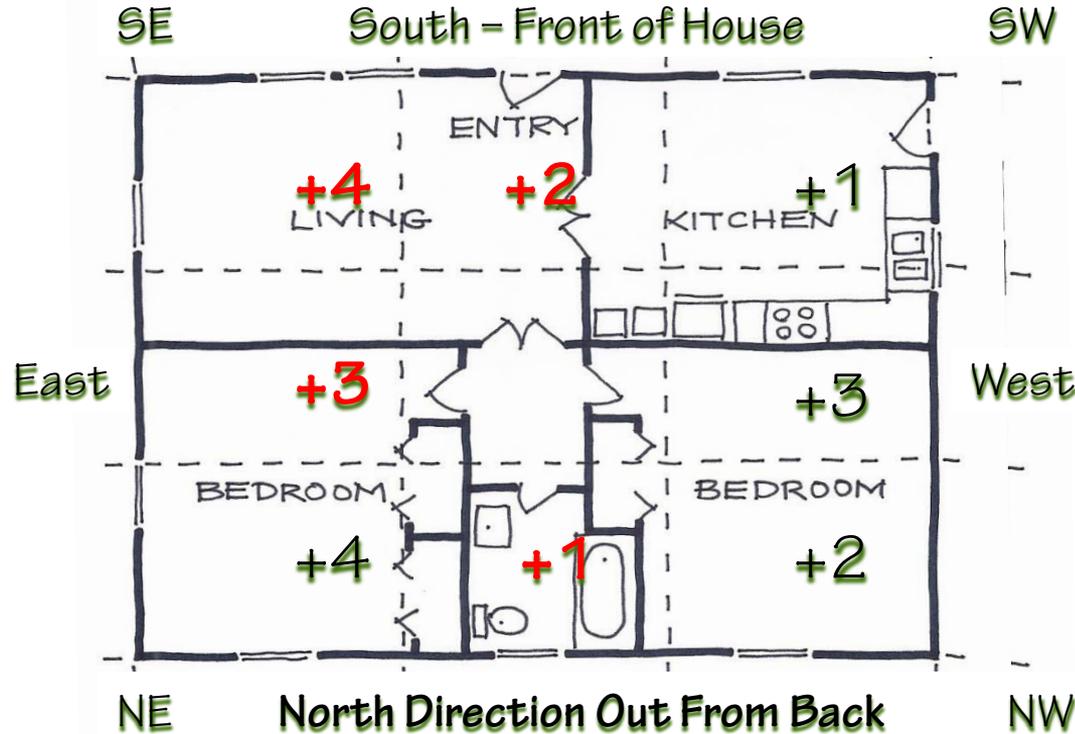
Best Places  
in Kan House  
(noted in red)

Best Places  
for a Xun Woman  
(noted in green)

No Problem...  
Good areas in  
House are the  
Good areas for  
the Xun Woman!



# Example Floor Plan - Kan House - Kun Male



Best Places  
in Kan House  
(noted in red)

Best Places  
for a Kun Male  
(noted in green)

Big Problem...  
Good areas in  
House are the  
Bad areas for  
the Kun Male!

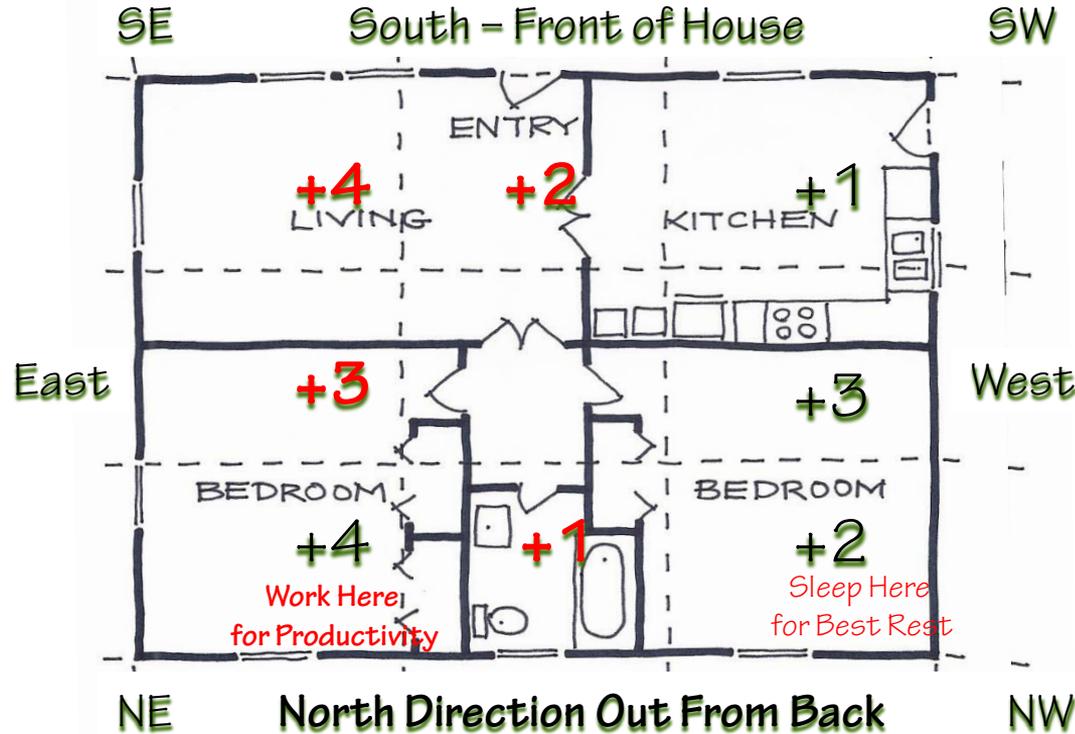


# How to Correct for a Mismatch

- **Find a new house** that has life enhancing energies in the right places for both homeowners (typically impractical).
- **Spend time in the life enhancing spaces in your current house** that complement your personal energy (sometimes unconventional).
- **Be creative in designing the spaces to work for both people (a win-win solution).**



# Example Floor Plan – Corrections for Kun Male



Best Places  
in Kan House  
(noted in red)

Best Places  
for a Kun Male  
(noted in green)

The NE is the  
best location for  
the Man to work.  
He should sleep  
in the NW.

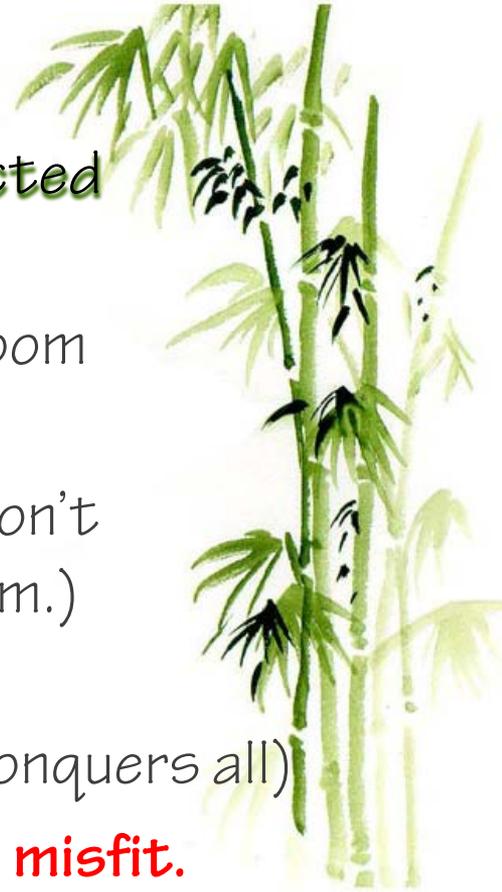


# Where Should They Spend Their Time?

The husband and wife are not going to be attracted to or feel good in the same spaces.

- She will work most productively in the living room and he in the NE bedroom. (Not a problem)
- He will sleep best in the NW bedroom, but it won't be as peaceful a room for her. (This is a problem.)
- The house energy works for her, so she should compromise on the bedroom location. (Love conquers all)

**The Five Elements can also be used to remedy a misfit.**



# Feng Shui Remedies

The Five Elements are...

Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water



# What Are the Five Elements?

- The **Five Elements** come from the earth, each one resonating at a different energy frequency.
- Place enough of the correct element in a room and you will positively alter the way the space feels.
- Elements can **amplify**, **dampen**, or **create havoc** with the energy in a room.

**You have to be careful mixing and matching elements.**



# How Can Designers Use the Elements?

- **Wood** – use green colors or a cluster of plants
- **Fire** – use red colors, candles, or a working fireplace
- **Earth** – use tans and browns, stone or ceramics
- **Metal** – use gold, silver, white or moving metal art
- **Water** – use blues and black, or a large aquarium

**Knowing Feng Shui allows you to select the proper elements to remedy or enhance the energy in a space.**



# Why Interior Designers Need Feng Shui?

- Most of us know that some spaces feel good and others don't.
- If you trust your senses, shouldn't you be determining spatial energy patterns first and then applying the best design solutions to meet your particular needs?

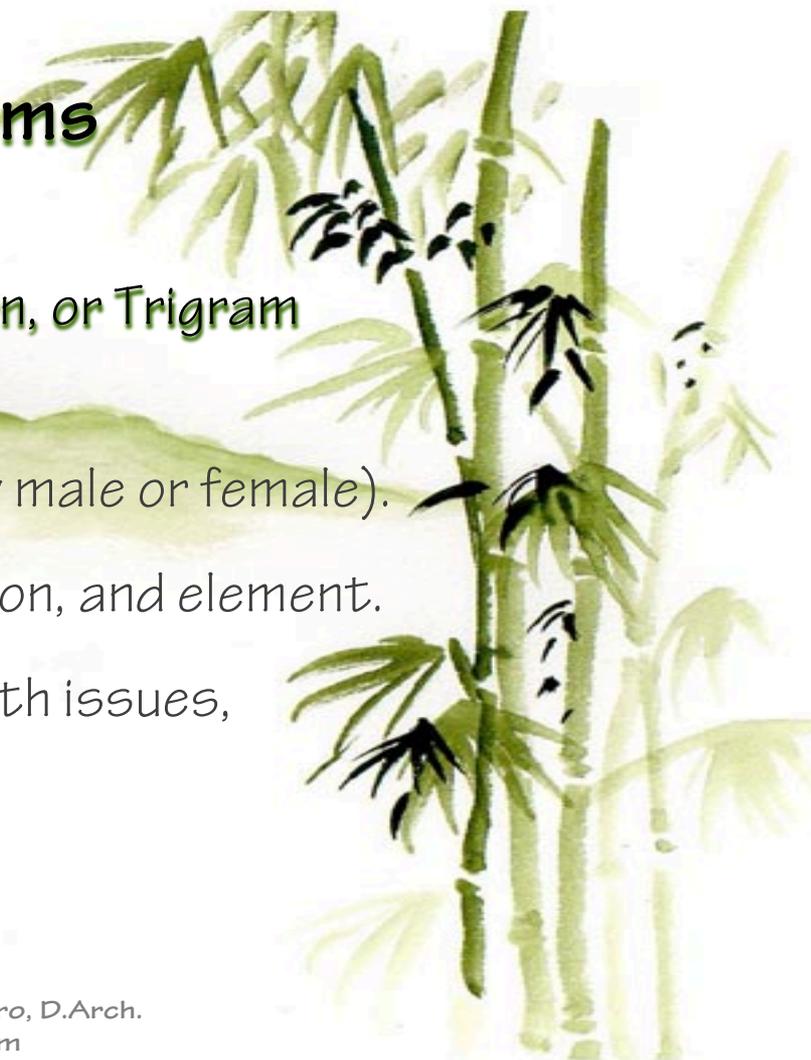
**I'd rather give my clients a good design that feels great, rather than a great design that is not livable. How do you feel about this scenario?**



# Appendix A – Personal Trigrams

Determine your personal energy pattern, or Trigram from the following charts:

- Find your year of birth (classified by male or female).
- Note the number, name, pronunciation, and element.
- Review energy characteristics, health issues, and associated colors.



# #1: Kan 'con' Water Energy

Women born: 1932, 1941, 1950, 1959, 1968, 1977, 1986, 1995, 2004

Men born: 1927, 1936, 1945, 1954, 1963, 1972, 1981, 1990, 1999, 2008

- Energy “to adapt”, can be a hurricane or still pond
- Goes with the flow, good networkers, mediators
- Can be manipulative, persistent like a drippy faucet
- Health Issues – ears, blood, kidneys, bogged down, diarrhea
- Kan colors – blue and black
- Kan direction – North



## #2: Kun 'coon' Soft Earth Energy

Women born: 1933, 1942, 1951, 1960, 1969, 1978, 1987, 1996, 2005

Men born: 1932, 1935, 1941, 1944, 1950, 1953, 1959, 1962, 1968, 1971, 1977, 1980, 1986, 1989, 1995, 1998, 2004, 2007

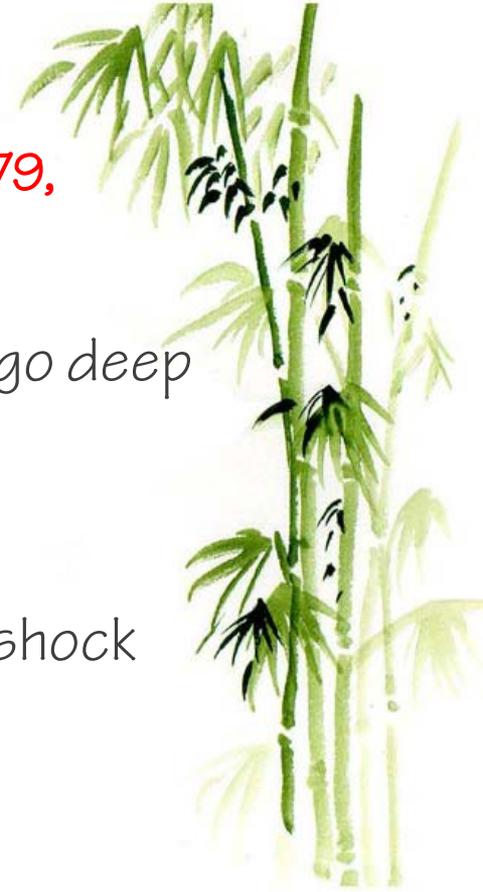
- Energy “to nurture”, of the rolling hills, soil, protective
- Down to earth, practical, reliable, good natured
- Emotionally sensitive, internalizes emotions
- Health Issues – abdomen, stomach, reproductive organs
- Kun colors – yellow, tan, or brown
- Kun direction – Southwest



# #3: Zhen 'shun' Hard Wood Energy

Women and Men born: 1925, 1934, 1943, 1952, 1961, 1970, 1979,  
1988, 1997, 2006

- Energy “to take responsibility”, like an oak, roots go deep
- Determined, exuberant, fearless
- A force to reckon with, similar to thunder can yell
- Health Issues – feet, liver, sore throat, hysteria, shock
- Zhen color – green
- Zhen direction – East



## #4: Xun 'zoon' Soft Wood Energy

Women born: 1935, 1944, 1953, 1962, 1971, 1980, 1989, 1998, 2007

Men born: 1924, 1933, 1942, 1951, 1960, 1969, 1978, 1987, 1996, 2005

- Energy “to travel or move”, like a birch, flexible
- Optimistic, romantic, social, varied interests
- Blows in the wind, bends rules, emotional ups and downs
- Health Issues – hips, thighs, buttocks, wind/gas
- Xun color – green
- Xun direction – Southeast



# #6: Qian 'chi-un' Hard Metal Energy

Women born: 1928, 1937, 1946, 1955, 1964, 1973, 1982, 1991, 2000, 2009

Men born: 1931, 1940, 1949, 1958, 1967, 1976, 1985, 1994, 2003

- Energy “to lead”, someone who makes/breaks rules
- Leader, disciplinarian, goal oriented, focused
- Lonely, proud, bossy, perfectionist
- Health Issues – head, bones, lungs
- Qian color – gold, silver, white
- Qian direction – Northwest



# #7: Dui 'do-way' Soft Metal Energy

Women born: 1929, 1938, 1947, 1956, 1965, 1974, 1983, 1992, 2001, 2010

Men born: 1930, 1939, 1948, 1957, 1966, 1975, 1984, 1993, 2002, 2011

- Energy “to babble” like a brook; good speaker
- Processes information verbally, vivacious, attractive
- Argumentative, cut with words, life can be challenging
- Health Issues – mouth, teeth, tongue, phlegm
- Dui color – gold, silver, white
- Dui direction – West



# #8: Gen 'gun' Hard Earth Energy

Women born: 1930, 1936, 1939, 1945, 1948, 1954, 1957, 1963, 1966, 1972, 1975, 1981, 1984, 1990, 1993, 1999, 2002, 2008, 2011

Men born: 1929, 1938, 1947, 1956, 1965, 1974, 1983, 1992, 2001, 2010

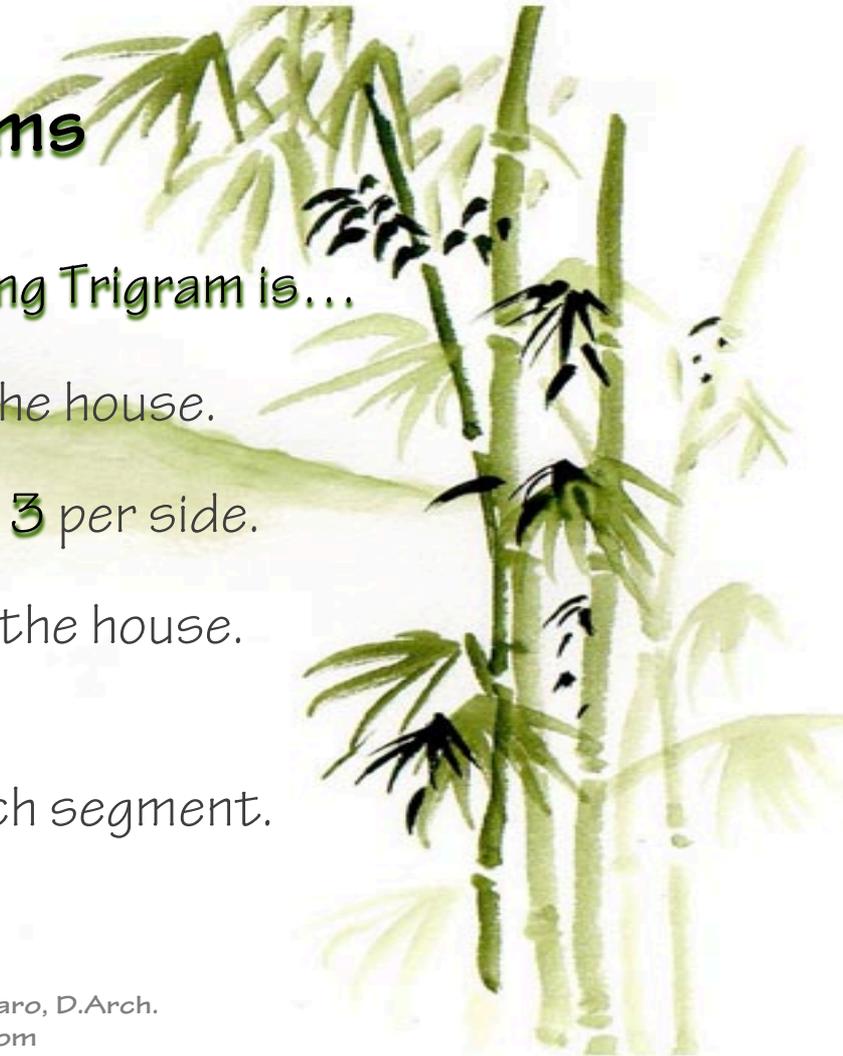
- Energy “to be of service”, like a mountain, immovable
- Traditionalist, stable, loyal, good with money
- Mulls things over, stubborn, can hold grudges
- Health Issues – hands, fingers, arthritis, limbs injuries
- Gen color – yellow, tan, brown
- Gen direction – Northeast



# Appendix B – Building Trigrams

The process for determining the Building Trigram is...

- Sketch a **proportional floor plan** of the house.
- **Grid the plan** into **9** equal segments, **3** per side.
- Expand the grid to cover all areas of the house. Leave small jut outs off the grid.
- Label the **compass directions** for each segment.



# The Meaning of the Building Trigrams

- +4 is the most active, productive area in a building
- +3 is health, longevity
- +2 is harmony, romance, good relationships
- +1 is the most peaceful area, good for sleep
- 1 is frustrations, obstacles, hassles
- 2 is arguing, lawsuits, relationship issues
- 3 is robbery, treachery, evil influences
- 4 is unproductive, brings illness



# The Best Locations for Group One

Best Locations for Group 1... from most active to most peaceful. (+4) is very active, good for work; (+3) is busy; (+2) is calm, loving; (+1) is for deep sleep.

- Kun (+4) NE (+3) W (+2) NW (+1) SW
- Gen (+4) SW (+3) NW (+2) W (+1) NE
- Qian (+4) W (+3) NE (+2) SW (+1) NW
- Dui (+4) NW (+3) SW (+2) NE (+1) W



# The Best Locations for Group Two

Best Locations for Group 2... from most active to most peaceful. (+4) is active, good for work; (+3) is busy; (+2) is calm, loving; (+1) is for deep sleep.

- Zhen (+4) S (+3) N (+2) SE (+1) E
- Xun (+4) N (+3) S (+2) E (+1) SE
- Li (+4) E (+3) SE (+2) N (+1) S
- Kan (+4) SE (+3) E (+2) S (+1) N



# Appendix C – Five Element Cycles

There are two ways to use the Five Element Cycles...

- Choose an element that enhances your beneficial personal energy **(from the Productive Cycle)**
- Choose an element that reduces detrimental energy around you **(from the Reductive Cycle)**



# The Productive Cycle



**Arrows Indicate How One Element Feeds the Next**

# The Reductive Cycle



**Arrows Indicate How One Element Reduces Another**

# Recommended Reading List



Skinner, Stephen. *Flying Star Feng Shui*. Boston: Tuttle Publishing. 2003.

Wong, Eva. *Feng Shui: The Ancient Wisdom of Harmonious Living for Modern Times*. Boston: Shambhala. 1996.

Moran, Elizabeth, et.al. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Feng Shui, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.* Indianapolis, IA Alpha Books. 2005.

Sang, Larry. *The Principles of Feng Shui*. Monterey Park, CA: American Feng Shui Institute. 1994.

May you enjoy peace and harmony in your life  
and I hope you enjoyed this presentation.

-Nancy

Many thanks to Thomas Rawdon for the lovely graphics, Mary Ann Venable, Cheryl Samas,  
Gene Lavers, and Mary Ann Love's bridge group for allowing me to practice on them, and  
my dear sweet husband, Jim, who gave me so much technical support.

