

FENG SHUI



Feng Shui (pronounced “phung schway” and meaning “*Wind and Water*” in Chinese) is part of an ancient Chinese philosophy of living in harmony with nature. While Feng Shui is often identified as a form of geomancy -- divination by geographic features -- it is mainly concerned with understanding the relationships between nature and ourselves so that we might live in harmony within our environment.

Feng Shui Philosophy

Feng Shui is related to the very sensible notion that living *with* rather than *against* nature benefits humans *and* their environment. It is also related to the equally sensible notion that our lives are deeply affected by our physical and emotional environs. If we surround ourselves with symbols of death, contempt and indifference toward life and nature, with noise and various forms of ugliness, we may corrupt ourselves in the process. If we surround ourselves with beauty, gentleness, kindness, sympathy, music and various expressions of the sweetness of life, we ennoble ourselves as well as our environment.

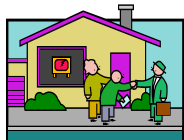
Feng Shui is the branch of classical cosmology, which gives a blue print for us to build our homes in splendid harmony with the elements of our natural environment. The Chinese proponents of Feng Shui believe that where you live, and how you allocate and arrange the elements of your home or workplace, can significantly affect the harmony of your health, wealth, and happiness.

There are four Feng Shui elements to consider when evaluating the harmony and environment of a home:

- ⦿ The Chi (positive energy or “breath of life”) potential of the neighborhood;
- ⦿ The site orientation and the direction to which the building faces;
- ⦿ The presence of the five elements – fire, water, wood, metal and earth – in each room brings good harmony; and
- ⦿ The power and significance of water in relation to the property.



When elements are harmonious, Chi flows gently and peacefully. When they are out of balance, Chi flows out the door or stops dead in its tracks. The flow of Chi is essential to the personal comfort and wellbeing of the occupants.



Feng Shui Principles for Homebuyers:

While Feng Shui is thousands of years old, it contains much common sense useful to understand by anyone. For example, Feng Shui ideally proposes that the best site for a home that will take advantage of the vital Chi is for that home to be on a south-facing slope – preferably between two hills of unequal size, with a river that runs along one side of the structure, turns in front of

the building and then disappears. This ideal home will get maximum hours of sunlight, is shielded from the chilly, health-sapping north wind and has a good supply of water for drinking and cleaning. By conveniently disappearing under the ground and gravel, the river carries away effluents and other “dirty” water.



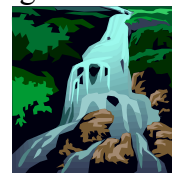
Although this idyllic home may seem more like a fantasy than a real house in the modern-day world, valuable principles and concepts may be learned from this ideal image:

1. Avoid having a straight road leading directly to the home, with people coming and going it will dissipate the good influence of Chi.
2. Avoid building at the junction of a T-street or at the end of a cul-de-sac because these locations are on the receiving end of the straight-flowing Sha (negative or bad energy). A dead-end street traps the bad Sha. If you drive through a predominantly Asian neighborhood and you find an empty lot in an otherwise fully developed cul-de-sac, you now know why.



3. The front entrance should not face the upstairs stairway.
4. The front door should not have a view of the back door. The through hallway is a no-no.
5. Heavy beams in the recreational room are a burden and interfere with Chi.
6. To have the right side low and the left side high are both unlucky. The hills to the left should be higher than those to the right.

7. Houses or buildings on triangular plots of land will bring bad luck because the strange shape attracts Sha (negative energy).



8. Water is very important and its positioning is vital to improving Chi and confounding Sha.
9. The more burners you have on your stove, the greater wealth you will have.

Feng Shui can't undo a bad location or placement, but improvements can be made. For example, a green front door and brown doormat are earth. To help a listing sell, paint the door green; create balance with a red wreath (fire) and a black doormat. Put a fountain by the door (water). Try to have the five elements visible in every room.

Place a table or potted plant in long straight walkways or hallways to slow down the Chi before it flows right out of the door.

Yin and Yang

Feng Shui is based in Taoist philosophy of Yin and Yang and how to enhance the balance of those two aspects of Universal Energy known as Qi. Yin energy is described as watery, cool, dark, night, internal, peaceful, gentle and descending. Yang is the opposite: fiery, warm, light, external, active, strong and ascending.



If a home is too Yang, we may have sleep difficulties or be unable to relax and recharge. If the house is too Yin, it may be difficult to focus, plan or accomplish life goals.

Living rooms and kitchens are Yang rooms. These rooms are for socializing, entertaining and the gathering of friends and family, so it is important that they are cheerful, uncluttered, comfortable spaces. Living rooms should be beautiful and uplifting with meaningful pictures, paintings and artwork, and comfortable, quality furnishings. Color schemes with a neutral base and bright, colorful accent pillows, rugs and window coverings establish a Yang ambience.

Bedrooms are Yin rooms and should be for rest and regeneration. This means there should be no televisions or computers, and a minimum of electrical equipment (battery-operated alarm clocks are preferable to electric ones). Get rid of the telephone or at least turn off the ringer and place it far away from the bed. Warm and soft colors are appropriate.

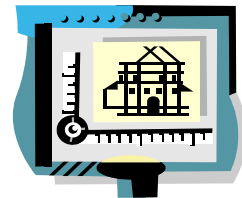
Despite the numerous complicated rules, Feng Shui adapts to many different architectural styles. Indeed, the clean, uncluttered appearance may be the only clue that a home was designed according to Feng Shui principles.

Feng Shui Links

<http://www.fengshuitimes.com/main/fst/article.asp?cid=1>

<http://skepdic.com/fengshui.html>

<http://www.realtor.org/libweb.nsf/pages/fg315#topica>



Additional Feng Shui Resources

The following materials are available through NAR's Information Central Library. Call (800) 874-6500 for assistance.

- *Realty Times*, July 2, 2002
- *Realty Times*, Feb. 10 2004
- Balancing Act: Incorporating the Ancient Art of Feng Shui When Remodeling, (*Chicago Tribune*, Sept. 8, 2000, p. 1-6)
- Feng Shui Appraisals, (*Today's Buyer's Rep*, June 2000, p. 6)
- Feng Shui: How an Ancient Chinese Art Can Help You Market a Home, (*Illinois REALTOR*[®], Nov. 1999, p. 16-19).
- Feng Shui: More Buyers Want Spiritual Inspection of Homes, (*Agency Law Quarterly*, Spring 1996, p. 5)
- Sell Your Home Faster with Feng Shui, (*Arroyo Grande, CA: Dragon Chi Publications, 2001*)
- Feng Shui Handbook, (*San Francisco, CA: Aquarian, 1991*)
- Interior Design with Feng Shui, (*New York, NY: Arkana, 1987*)