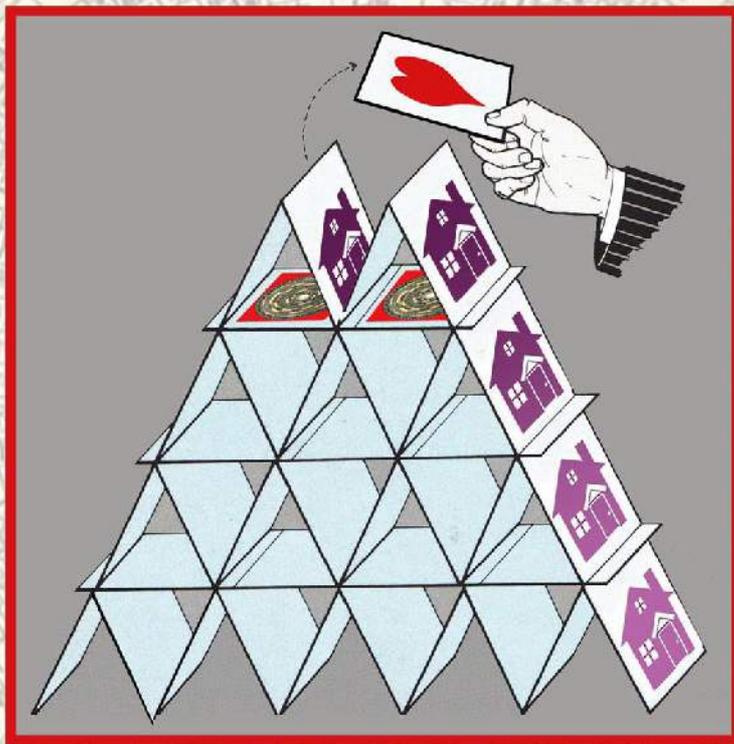
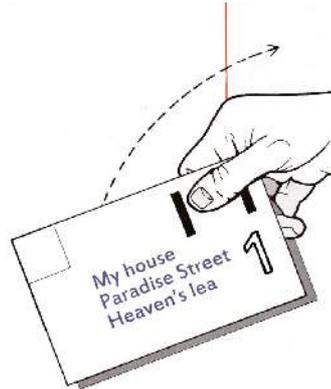


HAPPY HOME HUNTING

with the Heart of Feng Shui



FINDING YOUR HOME WITH FENG SHUI



There are already so many considerations to take into account when buying a house that it is daunting to even consider adding the subject of Feng Shui. In a fit of enthusiasm you buy a book on the subject. You pore over it endlessly, trying to decipher charts, plans, and complex pieces of information. Finally you buy three legged toads, wind chimes, and other good luck charms to enhance your chances of comfort and happiness in your new home.

An industry has grown up around feng shui that has little to do with the classical feng shui of the Chinese emperors who used astrologers and geomancers to locate the most auspicious locations for their palaces, and the most favourable rooms within those palaces.

Like early man in China we do the same thing now, searching out that particular location and home that will support us and our family. We hope to find a home that has all the usual attributes in place but yet has that extra something which appeals to us.

It may be that we see a property which does have all those attributes, but still it doesn't feel 'right' - our intuition is warning us off it for reasons we can't quite put our finger on.

Before taking feng shui into account you should trust your instincts, and investigate all aspects of a potential property fully, looking at it with a cool, clinical eye, putting aside any urgency you might feel to acquire a new home.

And finally, when all practicalities are properly taken into account you can ask yourself 'Do I truly *feel* comfortable here? – Do any parts of the property just not feel right for me? Can I, or do I want to do anything about these, or am I just tempted to ignore troubling aspects and run the risk that the irritation

or problems they cause might loom larger in the future? Once you have put the excitement of the search aside, and investigated both the property and your feelings fully, you can then consider the basic points of feng shui to enhance your choice, even employing a practitioner to investigate the property further and in more depth.

FENG SHUI - WIND AND WATER



The words feng and shui mean wind and water. The wind is the element we can feel but not see, and water is an element that can sustain or drown us. The ancient Chinese believed that where the wind stopped at the water 'chi' could gather and disperse beneficially.

Chi is the intangible energy which surrounds us, entering our homes and circulating around our environment. In the west we might define it as as 'atmosphere', and we are always looking for ways to enhance it. We each have this life force within ourselves too, and we can feel it differently at different times, and sense it in certain locations in our homes. Some rooms feel light and airy, lively and comfortable, whilst others feel cold, unwelcoming, or appear cluttered, and these do not foster a sense of well-being.

You may feel the 'Chi' strongly when you walk into a potential new home. Is there a contented and happy atmosphere, or one which feels sad or dreary? Is the entrance welcoming? There may be signs of neglect such as damp patches, broken things or unkempt gardens, or even something you just can't explain - simply a feeling you get as you walk around. Be aware of your feelings at this early stage. If you find that the previous occupants moved on to a bigger property, or retired in style, or otherwise bettered themselves, or simply enjoyed themselves in 'your' house, how much happier it makes *you* feel. You might almost think that you would benefit from their well-being, basking in the goodwill that they leave behind.

Estate agents may hesitate to tell you that someone died at the property, and whilst divorce is not such

a major issue these days nevertheless it is still an unhappy experience for the couple involved. If the previous occupants left due to divorce, do you feel superstitious about that? If they had debt problems do you want to inherit the feeling that they may have left behind, or would you rather inherit a house that had been full of fun, light, wealth and laughter?

If the house feels sad or dingy you could do a personal space clearing exercise, or hire a space clearing practitioner, reclaiming the house as your own. Or you could simply redecorate, brighten and improve it, and thus your chance of your new home.

THE POWER OF FORM



The term 'Form' relates to the shape and structure of the property and its surroundings. To have good form the property should, ideally, be regular in shape (rectangular or square), with well kept supporting structures at the back and sides, and a pleasant outlook to the front.

The front vista is your 'Bright Hall'. Even if you step from your house directly onto a public path this bright hall can be still be present. You can keep your step clean and polished, your door freshly painted and shiny, and clean curtains and a vase of flowers in your front window.

THE FOUR HEAVENLY GUARDIANS

Four animals; 'heavenly guardians', sit around your house, and are represented by the physical structures of adjacent or adjoining houses, fences and walls, and by the view at the front of the property. These guardians like their physical representations to be well kept, supportive and attractive.

AT THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE - 'THE PHOENIX'

The front of the house represents wealth and opportunity, and the animal here is the phoenix.

The 'bright hall at the front of your house should be clear and clean to support the phoenix. A well-kept lawn or other attractive area, no matter how small, and an absence of clutter or debris will encourage chi to gather and enter the home. As the phoenix represents your future an inviting area at the front of your house will presage a bright future for you.

It is not comfortable or beneficial to have a large dominant building looming over yours. Would you like to look out onto a derelict old warehouse, large falling down fences or a junk filled area? In addition look out for sharp corners, eaves, or tall posts pointing at you, or in front of your door, which are blocking the chi. Is this view at the front of the house, one that represents your future, at least a pleasant one? Could you improve it yourself?

AT THE BACK OF THE HOUSE - THE TORTOISE

The animal sitting at the back of your house is the tortoise, or turtle, representing health and relationships. The tortoise support is provided by buildings, walls or high solid fences. The more solid and substantial the support at the back of your house, the more you are protected. The preferred form of land at the back should be flat or gently undulating, and should not fall away. Its outline shape should be regular. If only one of the of the four symbolic guardians is in its place it should be the Tortoise at the back of the property. Even in conventional terms it makes sense to have good support at your back, be it in your chair or at the rear of your house. A broken fence cannot support the healthy growing life of plants, and it will not support you.

AT THE SIDES OF THE HOUSE - THE GREEN DRAGON

At the right, *as you face your house*, sits the green dragon, bearing yang, lively energy. This animal symbolises the present, helpful people, and support for the males of the family. The dragon structure needs to be solid, substantial, and not too far from the building. A neighbouring house, or your own substantial fence, painted green, or covered in greenery, if you wish, forms your dragon support.

THE WHITE TIGER

The white Tiger, to the left of the building as you look at it, symbolises the yin or female aspects, and support for the women and girls of the house. Like the dragon, it is represented by buildings or other

well kept structures such as fences or walls. Being yin, and therefore quieter, this is the calmer side of the house, and as such is not good for bin storage, car parking, or other ugly or noisy activities. The sleeping tiger does not like to be disturbed! We hope for structures on the tiger side to be lower than those of the dragon side, and painted white if appropriate. A flower bed or something feminine in nature or appearance will enhance the tiger side and support the ladies.

IN SHORT -

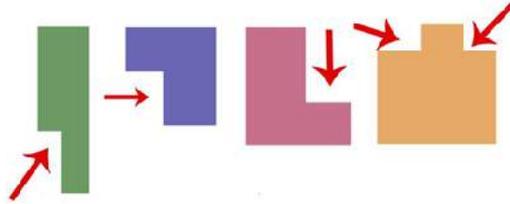
The tortoise, if substantial enough, gives support at the back, and protects the family's health; the phoenix at the front, if attractive, provides a 'bright hall', and enhances your wealth. The dragon structure to the right of your house as you look at it should be more imposing than the tiger on the left. If you are looking at a row of terraced houses it is good if yours has a similar number of houses on each side. If a house is at the end of a road, with a long line of houses on one side and a short on the other this signifies a lack of support for either a male or female in the house, depending which side is lacking the support of other houses. If your terraced house is at the top of a long sloping road the lower houses will benefit from the chi travelling up the road towards your house!

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR



What you imagine to be the front of your property might not, in feng shui terms *be* the front. The front is not always where the main door is, but is the part which faces an active area; a road, river or railway line, as these are the channels through which chi flows into your house. If you look carefully at your house (or even google it) you can usually decide which is the true front. Sometimes what we call the front door is at the side of the house, so take time to ascertain what is the true front of the house.

MISSING AREAS



A square, rectangular, or symmetrically shaped house is desirable in feng shui terms. A house which has been extended fully across one side has simply enlarged its footprint, but one which has been extended to jut out partly has created what is known as a 'missing area' in the void which is created.

This is understood clearly if you 'square up' the floor plan of the property. Draw a line around the outside of the floor plan of the property to form a square or rectangle, including the extension, and you will see that the extension has left another part of the floor plan empty. This can have an effect on individual family members. It is possible to determine who in the family this relates to. If this does have indications for someone living at home in the property the area can be filled in, lit, or made into an outdoor living or sitting area to bring it 'into' the family living space and give support to the disadvantaged occupant. In addition elements or sculptures representing the 'missing' family member can be installed. (This could be a male or female deity or something representing the male or female. Put simply, for example, a house with a missing sector in the East represents an oldest son, or a male of a certain age (amongst other things). You may not have a son, or he may be travelling, at university, or living away from home, and therefore often absent. If so this will have less impact than if he were in permanent residence. If, for example, it is the north east which is missing, this can be detrimental to the youngest son, (or a young boy) who might still be living at home, and who may be feeling left out or unheard.

A missing area in the south west can be detrimental the mother, or mature females, so if you are a single lady or a mother of a family looking for a house ensure that the area in the South West is intact, or you might feel as though you don't exist!

PATHWAYS TO HAPPINESS



Paths and doors are of prime importance in feng shui. Chi should be encouraged to meander towards your door, linger in the bright hall at the front of your house, enter through an attractive doorway, and circulate gently around your house. If possible a long straight path towards your door should be avoided. A gentle curve in a path is more attractive and slows down chi to a gentle pace. Plants and containers bordering your path should not totally obscure it; dead plants are a no-no, inside the house and out!

Your door should be freshly painted, and well-lit, with a functioning doorbell or knocker. (You would be surprised to realise how many people are unattainable via their front door due to bells that don't work, and knockers that are insignificant.) Round shrubs and metallic round forms on either side of the door signify the shape of money: Placed at the front of the house they are in the the wealth area too.

THE WAY OF WATER



Water is of prime importance in feng shui. Waterways and virtual waterways (roads) bring the breath of chi to your door. Ponds and water features in your garden can drain or enhance your finances. This is a complex topic, and beyond the remit of this little publication, but suffice it to say that there are beneficial and non-beneficial directions for actual water in your garden. Those that are favourable are the east, south-east, and, if these are not available, the north. Water in the south is in a conflict position, as it is in the north-east, south-west, and north-west, all of which in feng shui terms drain the energy of water, and thus of wealth.

If you have a water feature in your garden keep the water moving and do not let it become stagnant. If it is in the front of your house pay attention to the direction in which it is *located*. (See above.) If possible the flow of water if it is running, should be towards you, and should not be too fierce – a gently rill is better than a tumbling torrent!

A JOURNEY INTO THE INTERIOR.



A feng shui practitioner will examine each room in your house; who and what is affected by the direction and sector in which it is located, and what colours and activities are suitable for each area. Some rooms will be 'quiet' rooms and some more active. Astrological calculations can indicate which rooms may be susceptible to particular occurrences during different periods.

You can make some basic investigations yourself however. The first thing you need to know is that each direction, south, south-west, west, north-west, etc. has its own associations – with a family member, a season, parts of the body, and other things.

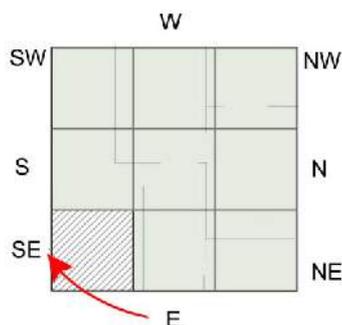
First ascertain what, in feng shui terms, is the front of your house. (Remember that the front of your house is not necessarily where the front door is). Standing at the centre front, and using a simple compass, take a reading of the direction in which your house faces. Make a note of this direction.

Now obtain a floor plan of the house, and divide it into nine equally sized sections. (See below)

Mark on the floor plan the direction of the front of the house.

Moving clockwise through the eight outer boxes, mark in all the 8 directions. (e.g., S, S.W, W, N.W, N, N.E, E, S.E).

The centre box is left blank. This is the centre of all things; the Tai Chi. It should always be kept clear and uncluttered. It is inadvisable to have a toilet in the Tai Chi.



The floor plan above shows a missing area in the south-east. The south east indicates the eldest daughter and mature women, and the missing area is detrimental to them. Conversely the area which just out in the east and north-east can benefit sons of the family.

THE NORTH



This is the direction symbolised by water. Deep, dark and still, it represents winter and yin female energy, career and travel aspirations. The person represented by the north is the middle son. Because of its stillness it is an area suitable for sleeping in, and due to its watery nature, is one of the areas acceptable for a bathroom. Suitable colours for the north are blues, blacks, whites and metallics. If a northerly room becomes too dark or damp you can drain the water energy by introducing earth/yellow colours, and the greens of fresh plants.

THE NORTH-EAST



This is the area of the Earth element, and in feng shui terms it is known as the 'Mountain'. Its 'person' is the youngest son. Cave-like, it is a contemplative area, and one which is good for study, storage, or a bedroom. Colours for this area are earth colours; creams and shades of brown and yellow. If a room in this location feels a bit turgid you can drain the heavy earth energy with greens or whites and metallics.

THE EAST



Known in feng shui as the area of 'Thunder', the east is of the wood element and represents, and is supportive of the eldest son. As the direction in which the sun rises, its energy is young, energetic and upward thrusting, indicating youth and creativity. An ideal location for a kitchen, play room, studio or workroom. Plants and green colours in here will support the wood energy of the East, colours of water will support it. It is an area of rapid growth: dreams can be brought to reality in this area.

THE SOUTH-EAST



This is the area known as 'Wind' and that of fortunate blessings. The breeze of communication and creativity flow through this sector. As the second wood area it represents the continuing upward energy of late spring and is ideal for a family room, kitchen or bedroom for a young person. The south-east is supportive of the eldest daughter. Greens and blues are good enhancing colours for the south-east.

THE SOUTH



The fiery south is hot, inflammatory active and volatile. It represents intelligence, fame, recognition, sociability, and the middle, or second daughter, it is a potent area; a good one for dining rooms and kitchens, and anywhere where lively conversation takes place. Colours to support the South are reds and purples, and if the atmosphere needs calming, the introduction of yellows, creams and browns should do the trick.

THE SOUTH-WEST



Another area of the earth element, it represents the main female or mother of the family, home, hearth and marriage. A good location for a kitchen diner, bedroom or anywhere where the family gathers.

Yellows, creams and other earth colours are suitable for this area. Other supportive colours would be flashes of red or fire colours which serve to support the earth.

THE WEST



The west is known as the area of 'Lake', and represents children, projects and the future. It supports the youngest daughter, and is the direction in which the sun sets; a relaxing area and one to chill out in. The west relates to money, and metallic colours and white will enhance the energy of this area. To support it further yellows and earth colours can be used.

NORTH-WEST



The north-west is also an area of metal, and known in Feng Shui as 'Heaven'. It has associations with authority and religion, and relates to the father or main man of the family. It is a good room for an office space, particularly for the main wage-earner, as its energy is focussed and sharp. Again, metallic colours supported by earth colours are suitable for use in here.



REMEMBER- if you find a house you like and feel comfortable in but you are worried by the realisation that there are missing areas, or there is damp in the bathroom, small dank windows in northerly rooms, a boiling hot south facing conservatory, or tumble down fences or structures in the garden – Do not worry-

ALL IS NOT LOST!

You can remedy most things.....

Make your own notes below as you look around your prospective property:

Fences and walls needing to be mended or constructed to give support at the rear and sides?

Attractive view to the front of the property? Opportunity to construct a bright hall?

Bin or other storage areas needing addressing?

Door bell / knocker / door name / number / lighting / condition of door?

Missing areas needing to be addressed by building usable spaces to 'bring them into the family'?

Ugly views requiring screening with structures of your own?

Uncomfortable structures or colours inside the house?

Suitable areas for water features if required? (check direction.)

Condition of bathrooms and toilets? Need to be brightened, or even moved?

Gardens and paths needing to be designed or re-orientated to enhance chi?

FINALLY

The healing arts of China are not cures but preventions. If you use your intelligence and intuition in the first stages of your house search you are in with a good chance of happiness. If you sense one disastrous feature that you can't do anything about remember how much more important it might be to you in the future if you ignore it and go ahead. Use a clear head, raise your antennae and use your intuition, and if you feel you need to, employ a Feng Shui practitioner to investigate the areas you may feel you have missed.

“Enjoy your journey into feng shui.”

“HOME IS WHERE THE HEART OF FENG SHUI IS”



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