

When a modern new skyscraper goes up in Taiwan, the owners always hire a feng-shui geomancer or xiansheng to create the best position for the main entrance. Over the years, several major new buildings in downtown Taipei have remained unoccupied and their owners have gone broke because they failed to follow the dictates of Chinese geomancy during construction.

Geomancy (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 exponents 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.

If you acknowledge and understand the all-pervasive life energy (Chi), you can affect the whole tenor of your well-being. Simple things like placing your furniture the wrong way, using wrong colours, and elemental conflicts (i.e. having the water 'refrigerator' next to the fire 'stove', can create factors that impact negatively on your life.

The xiansheng considers four factors: the Chi or "breath of life" potential of the neighborhood; the site orientation or the importance of the direction in which the building faces; the five elements -- fire, water, wood, metal, earth -- and their mutual influence upon a location; the power of water and its significance in relation to the property.

While feng-shui is thousands of years old and has seemingly strange rules, it contains much common sense useful to understand by anyone. For example, Feng-Shui 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 (the Azure Dragon and the White Tiger). Ideally, a river will be running along one side of the structure. The river should then turn in front of the building and then disappear.

Looked at another way, such a home on the south slope gets the 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 then conveniently disappearing under the ground and gravel, the river carries away effluents and other "dirty" water.

So, just plain old common sense. Any BC builder will find it extremely useful - even necessary - to understand these concepts.

Some of the basic concepts as they relate to real estate are:

1. Avoid having a straight road leading directly to the home, with people coming and going it will dissipate the good influences.
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. A dead-end street traps the bad Sha.
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 are ill-omened as the strange shape attracts Sha.
8. Water is very important and its positioning is vital to improving Chi and confounding Sha.

Fortunately (You knew it!) there are ways to rectify defects even if the defect is in the terrain. For example:

If the left is too low, plant trees to raise the height. If your neighbor builds a house higher than yours, add to the height of yours so your view of the stars is not obstructed. (Of course, you may have a problem with City Hall). If the plot is triangular, placing the door on the side of the triangle rather than on the point will counter the ill-omen. In properties which back onto a river or if the ground slopes upward from the front of a building, the entrance must be at the rear of allow Chi to gain entrance.

The Chinese also believe that a house with a front slightly lower than the back is useful in dispersing the influence of Sha. A pool of water (fishpond) is especially useful to conserve Chi. However, a large tree immediately opposite the front door is ill-omened as it d Sharp angles can be especially unlucky on an office or commercial building as these angles and straight edges drive off money, whereas curves attract money. Then again, the flat edges of buildings, which lead toward the front of your property, are fine conductors of Chi. But then again, if there is a road in front of the place, which turns at a sharp angle, this can bring about the same unhappy effect as a "secret arrow". To counter this, a driveway leading up to a front door should always approach in a gentle sweep to help the entrance of wealth.

Superstition? It really doesn't matter. What does matter is that if you are a builder it behooves you to know Feng-Shui as it relates to building. Whether you believe in it or not, feng-shui is seen by millions as an ancient science full of philosophy and practical wisdom.

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. Bad fortune comes along the street and hits the last house in the cul-de-sac. **Who would want to live there?**

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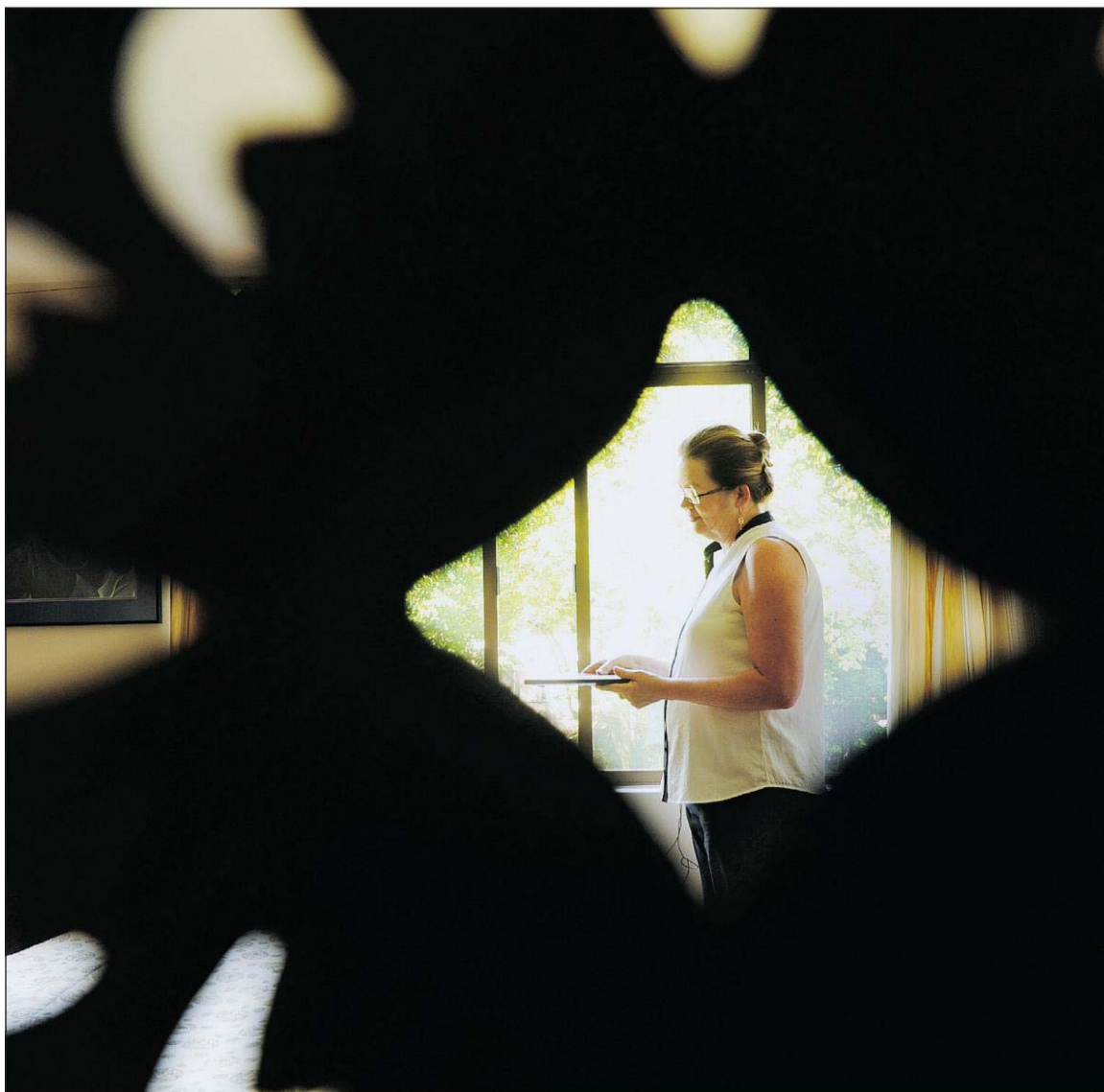
Feng Shui - Developers can improve sales by using feng shui before building

For a quicker sale, or for wealth and happiness in your new home

Larissa Cahute

Province

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Marlyna Los says developers can improve sales by using feng shui before building.
Photograph by: Gerry Kahrman, PNG , The Province

Don't ask yourself how many square feet you need in your new home, ask: "What is it you want to bring into your life?"

"Is it more money, or is it a relationship, or is it peace?"

These are questions Vancouver feng shui consultant Marlyna Los first asks her clients looking for the perfect home.

But no matter how many times you move your couch around you may never achieve the opportunities that come with the perfect feng shui.

"In North America there's a lot of misconceptions about what feng shui really is," said Los. "Traditionally in China, 70 per cent of feng shui is determined by the outside."

"And [Vancouver's] had so many Asian residents - it's huge."

According to Los, the city attracts its flux of Asian immigrants because the land itself boasts all the ingredients for good feng shui - "mountains and water."

So Los said it's about time Vancouver developers implement feng shui at the blueprint stage, if they want the Asian market to invest in the properties.

"Most Asians will have either some knowledge of feng shui or will have a feng shui consultant that they bring with them before they invest," said Los. "So it would be smart on [the developer's] part that the way that they've - laid out the building or the doors conform to basic feng shui principles so that they're able to tap into that market."

Gavin McLeod of Vancouver's Aterra Developments is already onto the trend and hired Los to work on a development in the Dunbar area.

"The Chinese are people that are coming over and spending that type of money - you don't want to exclude them as a potential buyer," said McLeod. "We've been aware of feng shui, but this one we just wanted to make sure we had the qi flowing."

So Los came in and revamped the blueprints.

Better to have the qi flowing from the get-go.

According to Los, the key three points of feng shui in a house are the main door, the kitchen - specifically, the stove placement - and the master bedroom. "If those three don't line up a lot of Asian people wouldn't look further at the house."

And it's all based on calculated formulas or the principles of yin and yang.

To begin, since feng shui usually dictates the home should be placed on an angle, the main door of the home is positioned according to a compass degree and usually favours the south.

"South particularly because qi comes from light, so when you have a front door that's in sunlight - automatically you're bringing positive energy into the house," said Los.

The front door should also never be in line with the back door.

"You would be hard pressed to have a Chinese person buy a house where you can see the back door from the front door," said Los. "They think all the energy comes in and goes right out the back door."

In the kitchen, the stove should be placed on an outside wall - or if you're really into it, it's calculated according to the owner's birthday.

And the master bedroom needs to place the bed along a solid wall and the room can't have too many doors.

That's only the tip of the feng shui iceberg - a home with good qi is also divided into quadrants according to different family

members.

All in all, feng shui is goal specific, said Los. Asian belief is that our lives are affected equally by three factors: our home, our actions and what we're born with.

"So the feng shui becomes quite important if it's a 30 per cent influence on your life," said Los.

"They are all choosing their homes and places where they live and work based on [this] knowledge."

The benefits - or negative results - extend to anyone who lives in the space, says Los.

"We all know businesses that have gone bankrupt and the next business that goes in there goes bankrupt and the next - well, there's something about the feng shui of that place that keeps on affecting the people that are there."

So when looking for a home, Los suggests asking what happened to its previous dwellers.

"If the people that were there before went bankrupt and divorced - run. Don't buy it, don't move in," she said.

"The energy there doesn't support the people."

VIDEO

Feng shui consultant shows us how to achieve the perfect qi in your home. theprovince.com

FENG SHUI: WHAT TO AVOID

- A front door too close to the street
- A front door directly in line with the back door
- Something obstructing the front door, like a tree or telephone pole
- A stove directly opposite a door
- Slanted or uneven ceilings in the bedroom

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Before You Buy A House: Feng Shui Checklist

5 steps to ensure your new home has good feng shui



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By [Rodika Tchi](#)

Updated September 06, 2016.

Buying a house can be a fascinating experience, even if at times filled with fear and doubts. Applying [feng shui](#) to the process of buying a house is a wise investment on many levels - it will give you peace of mind, as well as assure that [your house](#) is a good financial investment.

Good feng shui means good energy, and people are always attracted to it! This will help you with the [house sale](#) in the future. Good feng shui also means good [health](#), happiness, and prosperity, and are those not the very hopes you have for the new home?

This easy feng shui checklist will assure you make the right choice. Study it well.

1. LOCATION, NEIGHBOURHOOD and LOT PLACEMENT

In [feng shui](#), the real estate notion of location takes a deeper meaning as it deals with the quality of energy entering your home. Be sure your house receives good energy from its surroundings - a clean street, good neighbours, no [Sha Chi](#) from nearby structures, no sloping land behind the house, etc.

In general feng shui terms, you want the house to have some breathing room, and classical feng shui positioning of a house on a lot is when the backyard is slightly larger than the front yard. You also want good backing (the mountain energy in feng shui) as well as a good min-tang, which is good quality energy and ample view in front of the house.

- [Feng Shui of a Cul-De-Sac House](#)
- [House Next to Railroad: Bad Feng Shui?](#)

receives its [Chi](#), or energy nourishment. Feng shui-wise, people start looking right away at the feng shui direction of the house to see if it fits one of the [lucky feng shui directions](#) for the family members. While this is always a good idea, do not forget to look at all the elements of a strong feng shui front door - its size and proportion in relationship to the rest of the house, as well as the pathway that leads to it. Sometimes you can change a bad feng shui pathway with easy landscaping, and sometimes you just can't - be mindful about it.

- [What is A Strong Front Door in Feng Shui?](#)
- [How Do You Determine the Feng Shui Front Door?](#)

3. FRONT DOOR - BACK DOOR, and ALL OTHER DOORS

Once you are past the inspection of the outside feng shui of a home, as well as are happy with the energy of the front door, time to step in and check where this good feng shui energy is going. Does the house have a front door - back door alignment? Unless you plan to [renovate the house](#) and change the positioning of the back door, it is wise to avoid a house with direct doors alignment. The same feng shui principle, but to a lesser degree, applies to all doors in the house. As a feng shui rule of thumb, no direct door alignment is good, as it creates a strong rush of Chi, thus a loss of good energy.

- [Feng Shui Solutions for Direct Door Alignment](#)
- [Doors and Windows in A Good Feng Shui Floor Plan](#)

4. MAIN ENTRANCE and ENTRYWAY

How well the house is able to maintain and nourish good energy is much determined by what is happening in the main entryway. What do you see as soon as you come into the house? Assuming you do not see the back door right away, what else is there that would be a potential bad feng shui set-up? Do you [face a wall](#) as soon as you come in? Is there a [staircase](#) facing the front door? A bathroom door or a closet door? An upstairs bathroom right above the front door? Unless you plan a major renovation, these are all important factors to consider when looking for a good feng shui home.

- [Feng Shui of the Main Entrance Staircase](#)
- [Bathroom over the Main Door: Bad Feng Shui](#)
- [What Makes a Good Feng Shui Main Entrance](#)

5. ROOM POSITIONING: KITCHEN, BEDROOMS, BATHROOMS

The floor plan is obviously one of the first things you look at when buying a new home. However, what *exactly* are you looking for, what is your understanding for a [good feng shui floor plan](#)? What is the best location for a good feng shui kitchen? A good feng shui bedroom? What do you know about bad feng shui bathrooms and how to remedy their negative effects?