



風水

FENG SHUI



1Q: . What is Feng Shui?

Paul Ng : Feng Shui is the science and technique to harmonize between mankind and the surroundings, but it did not begin that way. Feng Shui began about 5,000 years ago in the time of the Yellow Emperor (Huangdi), the first emperor of China.

He was fighting all the tribal forces, so he invented something called the compass.. The compass would give him the directions, where to go and where the places would be.

He would also examine the layout of the mountains, river, water, and lakes in order to set up the military strategy. So surprisingly enough, the origin of Feng Shui was for military purposes.

As time passed, Feng Shui was applied to building of houses and palaces, to bring in the best settings for , harmonization of the energies. Then it gradually became a very important tool for burials, especially for

China and many other countries in the world.

Accordingly, good Feng Shui used on burials can benefit the descendants from three to five generations.

From military to housing, all the way to burials, and then to today, including businesses, etc .Feng Shui can improve the energy of human living. Obviously some people may get away without Feng Shui . But using it wisely is the norm.

2Q : Is Feng Shui and Bagua related?

Paul Ng : Bagua is the philosophy of zero and one, so it is an underlying principle of all sciences in the world. It was created as early as about 7,000 years ago, even before the Yellow Emperor.

It was originally used to define locations, weather and climates.

Based on the way China was like, the wind would usually come from the southeast. So southeast would be defined as wind.

A lot of the highlands were on the northeast, hence they defined northeast as mountains. Also defined north as the core area. So that was the origin of what Bagua was.

Now Bagua is represented by two symbols: a straight line and a dotted line. They believed that the earth came from the universe. So the universe is the top line and the earth is the bottom line. Between the universe and earth, we have creatures like humans and other creatures, so the middle line is called mankind.

Heaven, earth, mankind. So the number is three. Each line has a yin and yang, a solid line and dotted line respectively. The different combinations are compounded to make up the Eight trigrams of Bagua. "Ba". means the number eight. "Gua" means trigram.

Then from zero and one, we derive many sciences, including Chinese medicine, Chinese form of physics, and also Feng Shui and life reading.

All of this originated from Bagua.

3Q: I am new to Feng Shui, where do I start?

Paul Ng: For a layman, Feng Shui is to examine the surroundings. They should look at the kind of houses or buildings around the neighbourhood. Also the kind of people who live there. The environment is very important.

For example, to build a mansion in a poor area, that would really devalue this mansion. On the other hand, in a well-to-do area, if you build a rundown shed in it, that kind of destroys the environment. So it's a matter of matching.

Beginners should look at their situation, their position in society, including their income to make the judgement of where to go. The environment may have trees but should not be too dense, which could be dangerous.

Look at the house, it should be a fairly smooth house, not something really pointy. These are some very basic principles.

4Q: What direction should my head be facing when I am in bed? Is there a relationship between Feng Shui and directions?

Paul Ng: Directions are the result of the magnetic field from the universe and the earth. The larger the mass, the more magnetic force it would have, so as humans, we carry our own magnetic force in our body. When our magnetic force in the earth and magnetic force give, that will bring us an easier life.

On the other hand, if they contradict, that can cause enormous hardship. Directions can only be derived by looking at the dates of birth of the person. So everyone is different.

The birth date of a person would make up an element. The five major elements are metal, water, wood, fire and earth. Each one of us belong to a particular element, from which we would determine the directions.

For example, a metal person should not face fire and fly south. A metal person should face west because west is metal. So this is one of the many examples where directions are very important.

5Q: Mirrors are always used in Feng Shui. What is the reason behind that? Is it good Feng Shui to have a mirror in the bedroom?

Paul Ng: Mirrors are for the purpose of absorbing energy. Because of that, it has to be placed in the right position. Mirrors should not be directly pointing at the main entrance of the house. So when you open the door and walk into the house, you should not be looking at a mirror right away.

In a similar concept, sleeping is a quiet enjoyment. So when we (for example) wake up and sit up, you just don't want to confront the mirror directly facing you. It could be quite scary when you are half awake, and see a big shadow in front of you, which was actually yourself!

That is regarded as bad energy or taking away energy. However, if the mirror is on the side wall, then it is quite acceptable. The second purpose of the mirror is to make the area look more spacious.

So mirrors are important and are good but they should be used properly. You should know what you are doing before you play with them.

6Q: It seems like most people are interested in using Feng Shui to become more wealthy. Is this true? How do you find the Feng Shui money and wealth area?

Paul Ng: Feng Shui for sure is widely used to enhance wealth. But it's not just wealth to be enhanced. In today's world, more importantly could be health. Wealth and health go together hand-in-hand. And then relations, you want to move into a house and promote good relations with each other, especially couples. Good energy is needed for kids to study well. You want your children to be able to attend good schools and universities. All these things have to do with Feng Shui.

Obviously money still comes up front because you need money to pay the mortgage and daily expenses. So it is important to locate the money centre in a house. Define where it is and how to set it up. That still stands out as one of the most important of the four factors.

7Q: What is a life cycle? And how should I consult a Feng Shui consultant about my life cycle?

Paul Ng: Everything has a life cycle. Every business has a life cycle, so does every house and every human individual.

The human life cycle can only be determined by

doing a life reading or also known as the life charting of the individual. From the beginning to the end of a life of a human being, every 5 years should be a small life cycle and every 10 years will be a major life cycle .

As for a house, it will go through 10 and 20 year cycles. So 10 years will be a minor cycle and 20 years will be a major cycle.

So that means good Feng Shui or bad Feng Shui may not be forever, it has a period. We calculate the period, which is called timing.

That also means that Feng Shui is not just about looking at the shape, but you also have to calculate the timing and to combine between timing and shape to come up with the best solution.

8Q: Should I consult a Feng Shui consultant once a year to define what I should or should not do for the year? And why I would need to do that?

Paul Ng : You have to divide it into two different parts. One is the individual person. Another would be the environment, which could be the house or the business. I would say that is highly recommended because by doing that, we would know what to do and what not to do for the year.

For example, certain periods in the year, we may have some major issues, such as illnesses or accidents. By charting beforehand, we can minimize the bad effects and also we would not lose sight of good opportunities. So that is for the benefit of a person.

In terms of a house, besides the major settings in the beginning ,a yearly reading will also enhance the underlying permanent settings. For example, every year, the money centre may move to a different corner, if we can capture that, the effect is very instant.

Yearly settings are based on the permanent settings, but the combination of both, can maximize the benefits. So yes, I highly recommend people to do it yearly.

9Q: Why is Feng Shui related to my birthday?

Paul Ng : Every person has different settings. Settings are based on the person's elements and the elements can only be calculated from the birthday of the person.

For example, a metal person will favour houses fac-

ing east-west, whereas an earth or water person will be more north-south. Those kinds of elements can only be determined based on the birthday of the individual.

10Q : If I Feng Shui'ed my house, will there be a need to re-do a Feng Shui examination after a while? And if so, what would that time span be?

Paul Ng: Because a house goes on a 10 and 20 year life cycle, I would suggest every 5 years, which is a quarter part of the cycle.

Minimum once every 5 years at least or no more than 10 years, the house should be examined again.

11Q: If a church or cemetery is beside my house, what can I do with Feng Shui?

Paul Ng : Both churches and cemeteries are regarded as yin energy. Yin meaning negative energy or ghostly energy. That is particularly true in certain places such as Hong Kong, because land was so scarce there. Most cemeteries in Hong Kong are packed and scattered all over the place.

In Canada, we are very fortunate with space. I have designed 4 cemeteries in the Greater Toronto Area. Basically all these cemeteries in Canada are like gardens and parks. People like to walk there or jog there without any fear.

As far as churches are concerned, it depends on the shape of the building. Pay attention to those that tend to be very pointed like an X shape which looks like an axe cutting into the house. But most churches are fairly rounded and not so pointy and Catholic churches (the ancient ones), they're very artistic too, like a museum. Also we have to take into consideration of the distance and the size of the cemetery or the church and also the relative position to where you live before you can decide if it is good or bad.

12Q: What are the basic things to check when I plan to buy a new home regarding Feng Shui perspective? Externally and internally?

Paul Ng: The first thing to look at the outside is the road or street or the avenue that leads to the house. Feng Shui is two words. Feng means wind, which blows things away. Shui means water to collect energy.

That means the best road would be a slightly winding road. If the street is too long or too straight,



when there are strong winds blowing , it will be fast and cannot be stopped . So you need a slow moving road to balance the energy collection.. That is the Yin and Yang effect to look for.

Second thing to look for is that the street should not be too steep. Same idea, too steep is like moving too fast, it cannot be stopped. And it would be a bit dangerous too.

Number three, the house should not be shaded too much by trees. I have seen in a lot of older neighborhoods that the trees are so huge and surrounded the house so badly that sunlight could not get in . There was too much yin energy. Because we are in a living world, we need more yang energy, that means more brightness, more sunlight from outside.. Also, on the outside, you do not want the main entrance of the house to have things like a light post or tree with very long trunks facing you. There are two kinds of trees, one is a long trunk with leaves further up and another would be with leaves growing further down. So as long as this is not a pure trunk that looks like a light post, that will still be acceptable.

The next thing to look for, is to make sure your main door outside is not directly facing the gap between two houses, because that is called the tunnel force (English) or in Chinese the heavenly saber force. It is

bad for health. So these are the basic things to avoid at the outside of a house.

For the inside, it's very complicated. One thing to look for is to make sure the foyer is wide and deep enough, because that part is like a reservoir. You need a big reservoir to hold energy, to hold water, to hold money.

As the staircases are concerned, whether or not it is facing the front door, as long as they are further away, at least 10 feet away, that would still be acceptable. These are very fundamental things to look for.

13Q: I plan to buy a house but there are two big trees in the front yard blocking the view from the front street, is that good or bad?

Paul Ng: If there are two trees, it's not too bad. One tree is bad, but all trees are different. If the tree has leaves coming almost to the ground, so it is not like a post, then it is ok.

If it is a single tree, unless the leaves are really low, it will look like a stick toward the door, so it is bad.

Two trees are not as bad because it would even out that energy, so it's acceptable.

14Q: Is feng shui a religion? Would people think I'm superstitious?

Paul Ng : Some people think so, but in reality, because it is practiced by many different so-called masters, a lot of them do get involved in some kind of religion.

That kind of violates the original idea of Feng Shui. Feng shui is a pure science. Like mathematics, like physics, like chemistry, it has its own formulas, equations to do its thing. It has nothing to do with religion or superstition. It is just a misunderstanding that some religious people would think that Feng Shui is a religion or superstitious.

15Q: There are many people of different races practicing Feng Shui ? Are there different schools and which one is most credible?

Paul Ng : Officially Feng Shui began with Chinese culture. When they brought it to other nations, it is being modified and people put in their own elements and different schools emerged.

In the old Chinese customs, Feng Shui had gone

through a long way and originated from I-Ching. The first form of I Ching was dated back to 7,000 years ago in China, a long time ago.

5,000 years ago in China, it began to take shape. 3,000 years ago, it then developed into a more scientific and organized approach..

Officially-to-date, there are five major schools of Feng Shui.

One school was kind of based on the I Ching, the 8 trigrams. Another one was based on the flying stars, which is further splitted into three combination schools. Lastly, another one is called the three origin school.

Finally the newest and most scientific one is called the school of time and space. That's the one I belong to - time and space, because Feng Shui settings are not permanent and not forever. There's a time span to it. So centers do change over time, so the time factor is taken into account, whereas the other schools mainly work on the shape.

Basically there are five schools and the Westerners created many different things of their own, which I don't want to comment on.

16Q: In Feng Shui, people are always talking about the direction of objects and the positions they are placed either inside or outside. Does that mean we cannot move our furniture or our plants after the environment has been Feng-Shui-ed ?

Paul Ng: Yes and no. On the yes side, directions are very important because different directions carry different forms of energy. But this kind of energy has to match with the people using it. Each person also has their own elements and carries their own energy, so you have to match two of them like marriage.

Due to certain restrictions in shape and size, not every piece of furniture can always face a certain direction. For example, when you do Feng Shui in Hong Kong, chances are that you cannot move anything because everything is rigid. There is only limited space you can set. You can use different Feng Shui methods to harmonize it, to change the nature of energy. You can leave it the way it is or you can change it. If you cannot do it either way, you can use other methods to change the energy even with or without changing the furniture. That is why the an-

swer is ambiguous – it is yes and no for that reason.

17Q: If fengshui is related to the people living in a particular home, what if I have a newcomer or partner moving into my place, do I need to change everything?

Paul Ng : I would say certain changes may be necessary but not necessarily everything. Whatever should be changed will be based on the element of this person moving in, because it has to have a match with the current resident to form the perfect harmony.

18Q: If someone is engaged in illegal business, will a Feng Shui master help him/her?

Paul Ng: That's an exciting question. Feng Shui is for the purpose of creating harmony. For some people who are involved in illegal businesses, I would do my best to help and influence them to convert to legal businesses.

19Q: What will Feng Shui do to help people if they are in the down time of their lives?

Paul Ng : In our human life, our whole life is divided into parts.

Part one is called the bond with factor. All the secrets in our life are hidden in our date, time and place of birth. So in our life, we go through high points, we go through low points. If we are in the low time, we don't know what to do, then we could really be in trouble.

One solution is to make use the earth's energy. The earth factor and the human factor. The earth factor is something we can control. That is finding the right location through the proper Feng Shui setups and to minimize the negative energy and maximize the positive energy in order to elevate the low cycle of the person.

You can also get more involved with the proper people at the proper time to help out. At least the Feng Shui part is something we can control and can do something with.

20Q: If a hydro company installs an electric pole in front of my front yard, is that bad?

Paul Ng : Yes, because of the microwave energy from electric currents. The key is to make sure the hydro pole is not directly in front of the front door.

Otherwise, it may cause severe health issues, usually affecting the liver or the heart. In today's world, a lot of hydro companies have gotten a little smarter and more considerate. So usually they put it either on the corner of the street or in between two houses, instead of directly in front of a house. Thank goodness they know how to do it now.

21Q: My house is situated in a cul-de-sac, facing the exit. Is that bad?

Paul Ng : There are several kinds of cul-de-sac I would say primarily three kinds.

One kind is very narrow. If you go in there, you have to make a three point turn to come out. That is the worst because the energy gets stuck and if your house happens to be at the end, it makes it even more worse.

The other kind is like a key, meaning like a circle. So you don't need to make a three point turn, you can smoothly drive in and out. The best is a circle and with a garden at the center.. So this way none of the houses would directly confront the street. Mostly these are wealthy neighborhoods with multi-million dollar houses.

22Q: Feng Shui souvenirs, such as a jade necklace, feng shui decoration like a fish tank, will they work ?

Paul Ng: The two main things used in Feng Shui are not really related with necklaces.

For the home, usually it would be something like a money box e.g. a piggy bank.

The concept is that it has to have a coin hole, so money can get in easily and hard to get out. Where to put it, will depend on the Feng Shui measurement. The consultant has to measure the house and determine where the wealth center is and put the money box there. If placed in the wrong position, that will have no effect.

The fish tank is a bit tricky because fish tanks are for speculating money. Similarly, you have to calculate and locate where the speculative money center is and put the fish tank there. They always say if the fish dies when it was first put in, it actually blocked away some negative energy for the owner. There is actually some truth to it. If you don't know where the speculative money center is, better not bother putting one.

23Q: To pick a cemetery place, you may consult a Feng Shui master, what about a sea burial or a sky burial or fire burial?

Paul Ng: All of them would actually have to get a Feng Shui master involved in order to obtain the best results. Among the forms of burial, the best is obviously earth burial, underground that is. Because in doing so, you get the best benefit from the sky, the earth, and also the environment. So when the DNA of the bones get the nourishment, the descendants would also benefit from it.

For sea burial or water burial. That would be a bit tricky because nobody would know where the body would flow to. So that means the descendants won't get the best benefits of it.

In doing so, you have to pick the oceans or large rivers . If the waters were polluted , it definitely be not good to the living or to the dead.

The other one is cremation, which is kind of the middle of the road, because quite a bit of the bone ashes will still remain, so as long as you put it in an urn and bury it underground or in some kind of mausoleum, the descendants will still get the benefit, but the positioning and the timing have to be decided by a good Feng Shui master. If all the ashes are spread all over the place, that means all the carrying benefits to the descendant effects will be gone. It maybe more suitable for people with no children.

24Q: Can Feng Shui solve or reduce company politics?

Paul Ng: Company politics exist as long as there are people interactions, no one can avoid politics. You can say politics is also a science . It depends how you deal with it.

There are two factors to tackle this . Number one is to check if settings of the offices are harmonious or conflicting. If there are lots of sharp angles such as pointed walls, ceiling beams, etc., this is not satisfactory.

The second factor is to check the birthdays of the individuals, are they matching with one and other or are they in conflict?

So those two factors have to be well considered in order to ease off office politics.

25Q: What are the qualifications of a Feng Shui master or consultant?

Paul Ng: I would suggest any Feng Shui practitioner has to be highly educated because the true master requires two opposite thinking processes.

Number one is logical thinking. How to analyze, how to observe, and put things together.

The other is an intuitive mind. That initial feeling during the process has to be very distinctive.

So, in my opinion, a genuine responsible Feng Shui master must at least have a university degree or similar, because you are doing something very drastic for the public.

A lot of so-called, self-taught masters are people who read a few books, people that attended a few courses and dare to practice Feng Shui in public, they are really destroying the society instead of helping the society.

26Q : Is Feng Shui based on I-Ching? Is that Taoism? Are there any conflicts with other religions?

Paul Ng: Feng Shui is by all means a science, very mathematical. So it has nothing to do with any religions or superstitions, even though I would say some so-called Feng Shui masters would bring in religion and bring in superstition into the mix unfortunately.

Taoism was not a religion when it first came out. It's a philosophy and I-Ching is mathematics, it is actually binary mathematics. I-Ching is the first form of computer in the world created in China.

So with that, there's definitely no conflict with any religions or any superstitions. Treat it as a science.

27Q: Nowadays, we can find a lot of information regarding Feng Shui on the internet. Why do we still need to consult a Feng Shui consultant?

Paul Ng: Two main reasons:

Reason number one is anybody can claim to be an expert on the internet. There is no checking and credibility is hard to justify

Number two, even though it is correct in some cases, it is too general. Every reading is very specific. Every house, every business and every purpose is very different.

So you still need a genuine reputable Feng Shui master to do the work. To help in both the general work and also the specific purpose of the readings.

28Q: Since Feng Shui is from ancient China, how are we able to apply it to the western world if human development and history are different?

Paul Ng: Because it is a science, it has no national differences. The same principles can be applied anywhere, except the Master has to be familiar with the particular area, like the mountain ranges, the high-ways, the water ranges, and the population demography as it would be different from place to place.

Familiarity of the Feng Shui master with the area and also the understanding of how the energy flows is very important in applying good analytics. Hence having an experienced Feng Shui Master is necessary to provide good advice.

29Q: Are there any connections between Feng Shui and Horoscopes?

Paul Ng: They may look similar, but they are different. Horoscope is based on the galaxies in the universe. The shapes of the galaxy will develop different forms. So you have signs like Taurus, Capricorn, etc. It is a very general concept. It is very good at predicting personalities and some global stuff, but using that to analyze the actual settings in the human life, I think it is a bit deficient. In the Chinese philosophy, Feng Shui is for the material, for the house, for the business, for the city, etc. But there's another side called the life charting, online reading, which goes into much deeper details. It depicts a person's entire life from the beginning to the end, stage by stage, including the inter-relations, including their health, etc. So, in my opinion, Feng Shui is more detailed and can have a deeper profile.

30Q : If one were to get advice from a few Feng Shui consultants, is this a wise approach or vice-versa?

Paul Ng: Because every master comes from a different background, some are better than the others. If one goes out and gets several different readings and they all say something different, it will be very confusing and one will not know what to follow. I would say the key is, before picking a consultant, check the consultant's background, what kind of work that person has done, how reliable they are,

and when one sees the person, what is the feeling like?

That is very important. And once one finds the one consultant that really works,(results will tell), then they should stick with that consultant instead of constantly changing.

31Q: If someone was sick for a long time and tried getting help from Feng Shui, like changing their environment, does that work at all?

Paul Ng: It will work. The reason is that we live in an environment surrounded by eight different energies. One of the basic ideas of Feng Shui is to harmonize the home to bring out the healing power, the health power and obviously other power centers such as wealth and relations.

So if one has been working or sleeping in the sick center, that might be a major problem. Feng Shui will either relocate them or do something to re-harmonize that center in order to bring better health to that person.

32Q : In terms of getting a pet, like a dog or a cat, do we need to check their birthday, so as to avoid conflicts with the pet owner's Feng Shui?

Paul Ng: With pets, I don't think there is any need to check their place of birth because they belong to a different category. However, they do work out as a very good way to ease off the sentiments of people in the homes, such as old people and lonely people. These pets are like companions. However, one thing to avoid is not allowing them to litter all over the place, it could end up causing a lot of negative energy.

The trickiest pet is fish, because fish represents money and also speculating money in particular, so you have to know where to put the fish tank or aquarium. If they are done incorrectly, it can cause the opposite effects, such as losing money instead of making money . For protection ,you need a good master to help you locate where they should be placed..

33Q: Some condos for sale have stated that the building has been Feng Shui-ed, does the buyer still need to get advice from a Feng Shui consultant on their individual unit?

Paul Ng: Number one, we need to check the qualifi-

cations and reputation of the Feng Shui Master who did the certification of the building. We have to be sure that the consultant is reliable.

Number two, even if the Master is well-certified, it's a general concept. That means the whole building may agree with good Feng Shui principles in general, but you still need specific settings for specific families or specific individuals living in the unit.

So regardless, you still need a good master to do the work for you.

34Q: If one were to change careers, will it affect the Feng Shui harmony of their family?

Paul Ng: Yes, careers are a very crucial part of Feng Shui because in a Feng Shui setting, you need to determine how to set up based on the kind of work the person or persons do. The nature of the work has to be taken into consideration in order to have the best results.

So the answer is yes, even for changing jobs, you have to check the birthday of the person and determine what kind of work that person should do or should not do, and also look at the timing based on the life cycles to determine whether it is the right time to change. It should be taken into careful consideration and done strategically.



***Feng Shui 101** is a video program produced by **TorontoTV**. Feng Shui Master Paul Ng provides his insight on Feng Shui questions. Maggie Ng is the host. Transcript by Maggie Ng. Edited by Anita Chan. Feng Shui 101 videos in PaulNg.com and FengShuiMaster.ca