

THE FENG SHUI WAY TO SELECT YOUR DREAM HOME

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**SECRET WEAPON
TO HOUSE HUNTING**

**What is Feng Shui's
Arm Chair Configuration?**

**HOW ROADS AFFECT
HOUSE FENG SHUI**

**How Buildings Affect
House Feng Shui**

**INTERNAL VERSUS EXTERNAL
ENVIRONMENT**

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Get that Dream Home at ALL COST!

Written by MASTER LIM ENG CHEONG 林永昌著

Like a hawk looking for its prey, I scanned the floor intently. Finally I gave up. I turned to my able assistant and asked, "Did you see my shoes, my dear?"

Do not get me wrong. I am not an unorganised person or untidy chap, who does not put things back to their original position or leaves his shoes anywhere.

I was looking for my very own pair amongst a sea of shoes that threatens to drown out every unoccupied concrete space at the entrance of the showroom of a new condominium launch. I am not exaggerating. I was on the verge of performing an instant Qi Men Dun Jia divination to sniff out my lost shoes, when I spotted my battered but reliable pair from the corner of my eye. Phew! How embarrassing it would be if I would to lose my shoes on my job.

I wasn't there at the showroom for a leisure tour. I was on a mission. I was there helping my clients to select their home, their dream home!

The Party that Refuses to End

In this Lion City, on our little red dot, the property fever just doesn't seem to subside. The market just doesn't seem to heed the policymaker's call to cool down the sizzling hot real estate arena. Despite regulatory intervention, cooling down measures doesn't seem to have a significant impact to dampen the enthusiasm and willing spirit of the eager property consumers. At least not yet.

To boost the supply to meet the voracious demand, the government is releasing more land, at a quickened pace, to be developed into exclusive residential enclaves. And we heard it so often nowadays that it probably isn't news anymore when the announcement of a new public housing launch is made. Just about slightly more than one month ago, in September, the Housing Development Board (HDB) offered a bumper of more than 8,200 flats to the ever-hungry market. HDB promises to launch another 4,200 new flats in November, bringing the total number of new flats offered to 28,000 in 2011 alone!

Your House Hunting's Secret Weapon

TO all house hunters out there, as you trample over vacant plots of land, lose your way in crowded high-decibel showrooms, listen to agents who can't wait to get your signature on the dotted line, do not rush into a deal when you aren't sure if it is the ideal home for you and your family. Besides arming yourself with site maps and floor plans, this issue of ProsperTimes™ aims to be a valuable addition to your house hunting arsenal. In the next chapters, it reveals easy-to-use Feng Shui tips and pointers that will come in handy when you have to make the crucial decision to select your new apartment, your dream home.

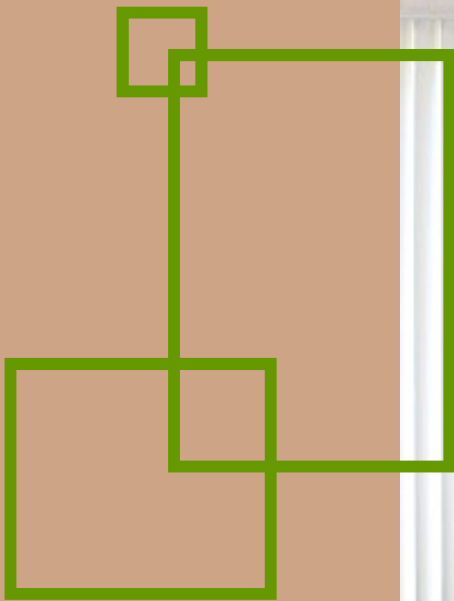
Exterior Versus Interior



The stylish bean-shaped bathtub with designer fittings can be quite distracting. The gleaming and perfectly polished marble flooring can easily blow your mind away. Not to mention the majestic chandelier that exudes an air of dignified royalty. Glamourously or luxuriously renovated as the house may be, many home buyers overlooked a crucial point when they agreed to the deal, that is, the exterior surroundings of their home.

As important as the interior layout, or even more important, the exterior environment must be studied and considered seriously before you decide to say yes to the seller. The rationale is simple. It's easier for you to make alterations to the interior design than to change the exterior environment.

For example, if your house is located at a T-junction where you are facing direct on-coming traffic, in Feng Shui, this is known as "Direct Spear Clash" (枪煞). It is considered as an inauspicious Feng Shui configuration, and it is most likely to lead to deteriorating health of the occupants in that house and they are also more vulnerable to accidents and injuries. I don't think you are able to cite Feng Shui as a reason to request to the relevant authorities to close the road, divert the oncoming traffic or shift the junction elsewhere. Hence it is essential and crucial to observe the exterior environment of your new home before you put down your signature on the dotted line.



The Armchair Setting

Of course, when it comes to selecting a good Feng Shui site or a good location for your new home, there are many factors to consider. It is critical to study or observe the surroundings, in particular, mountains and rivers. In our urban jungle, it is extremely rare to spot rivers or mountains. In their replacements, there are buildings, structures, religious institutions, highways, roads, bridges, flyovers, reservoirs, swimming pools, drainages, monsoon canals, etc. These have to be taken into consideration. It takes quite a bit of the trained eye to spot these landmarks and their implications to your residence. I wouldn't want you to be bogged down by complex theories, profound Feng Shui terminologies or be

overwhelmed by a huge load of information. That's why I have decided to introduce to you in this issue an easy-to-understand and easy-to-use concept for you to apply when you go house hunting. I called this simple concept the Armchair Setting.

"I want to sit over there!" one of my friends would usually say whenever we are out for a gathering. Not that she knows Feng Shui and wants to sit in her best orientation, but rather, she wants the most comfortable seat. When people visit a café, if they have a choice, they would usually and naturally prefer to settle down at a table with cushy and plushy armchairs to one

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with normal chairs or stools. Similarly, when you are studying the sitemap or scale model of a residential development, look out for the Armchair Setting in that estate in the same way as you would look for the comfy couch in the café. That particular apartment or house with the Armchair Setting is usually located in a better configuration than the rest.

Having said so much, what is actually the Armchair Setting? And what are its features? We all know that an armchair has a comfortable backrest and side-by-side armrests of even height. And when we sit down on an armchair, we would like to have ample legroom to stretch or cross our legs and we would prefer the armchair to be placed against a wall to being located in the middle of the room. Bearing in mind these traits, we search for a house or an apartment with these distinctive features. This means that it is preferred to have a mountain or supporting building (靠山) at the back of the house or apart-

ment, and it is favourable for the front of the house or apartment (明堂) to be bright, open and low-lying. When I look out of the window of the house or apartment, generally, there must be a breathing space or an unobstructed view.

In addition, the buildings to the left and right side of the house or apartment should be approximately the same height and should not be very much higher or shorter than your own. The left side of your house is known as the Green Dragon (青龙), which affects the male occupants, and the right side is known as the White Tiger (白虎), which has an impact on the female occupants. If the building or land on the right side of your house is significantly higher than the one on your left, the female occupants are usually the more domineering figures in your household. If your wife has been the one wearing the pants, you may now know the reason why.

風水

It's Really About Wind & Water

Feng Shui is really about wind and water. The wind is a medium that brings along the energies or Qi (气) and the energies will be held or retained by the water (乘风则散，界水则止). It is a study of our physical environment and how we can live in harmony with it. Birds or animals know instinctively the best place to build their nests or habitats. Human beings rely on our intelligence to devise formulas, methodologies and invent equipments to help us to identify ideal places and locations to build our homes. Our Chinese ancestors, through hard work and research, have given us Feng Shui and we would be ignorant if we choose to shut ourselves out from the richness of ancient wisdom. Applying or embracing Feng Shui speaks of Man's desire and aspiration to build a comforting, safe and conducive haven, and in which, seek in earnest harmony, tranquility, good health and prosperity.

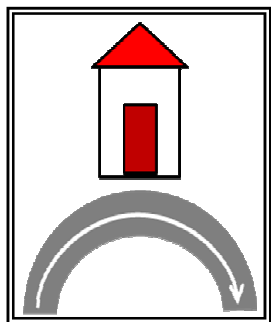
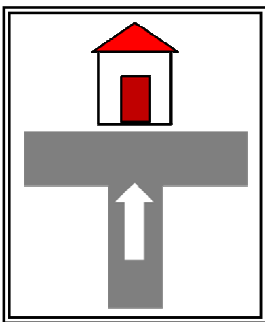
Feng Shui is really about landform, mountains, rivers and lakes. There aren't many such works of Mother Nature in our urban landscape. Instead we consider buildings as virtual mountains and roads as virtual water. Buildings, roads and other infrastructure are an integral component of our urban environment and they have a significant impact to the Feng Shui of a house or an apartment.

Are you on the Right Track?

Tracks, roads and highways connect villages, towns and cities. Winding roads resemble meandering rivers. In Feng Shui, roads are considered virtual water. Their designs and how they lead to your house or apartment have a significant impact. I am going to share with you three common road designs and reveal whether they affect you positively or negatively.

The first one, which is perhaps the most common one or the most detrimental one, is known as **“Direct Spear Clash” (枪煞)**.

A house is said to encounter such a clash when it is located facing directly a T-junction, facing the wrath of oncoming traffic and enduring the risk of some misguided drivers ramming head-on into the house. It's like positioning yourself in front of the sharp end of a thrusting spear. We should avoid buying such a house as this configuration may lead to deteriorating health of the occupants and increase the likelihood of accidents and injuries. It makes matters worse if the house faces a direction where there are inauspicious energies or negative influences.

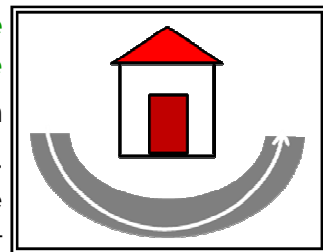


The second one is known as **“Sickle Clash” (镰刀煞)**. We associate such a clash to a house when it is located on the concave side of a road bend. If you can still remember what your geography teacher has taught you in

class, you will know that a meandering river will be constantly eroding the concave side and

depositing sediments on the convex side of the river bank. Never mind if you cannot recall your geography lessons. Not everyone is a lover of humanities. Perhaps you will have a flair for physics? Does centrifugal force ring a bell? I can hear some groans and I can see many heads shaking. Simply put, it is the outward movement of the passengers in a car when it turns a corner. If a car loses control when it negotiates a corner, it will spun outwards and crashes into the house located on the outer side of the bend. Hence we should also avoid buying a house with such configuration. In Feng Shui, this clash leads to extreme swings of fortune and it causes the occupants to be vulnerable to accidents and injuries.

Unlike the first two road designs, the third one, which is known as **“Jade Belt around the Waist” (玉带环腰)**, is an auspicious configuration. It is very similar to the “Sickle Clash”, except



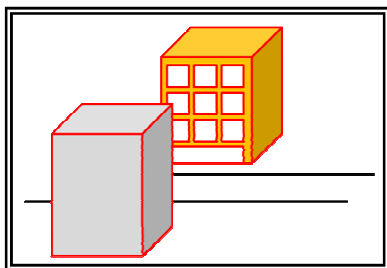
that instead of the house being located on the concave or outer side of a road bend, the house is located on the convex or inner side of the bend. Moreover, the house should preferably be built on slightly higher ground than the road. In Feng Shui, the “Jade Belt around the Waist” configuration is considered auspicious as it will help to bring good wealth luck to the occupants and as a result, the occupants are likely to accumulate substantial savings over time. It is therefore favourable to buy a house with this configuration.

When Man Meets Mountain



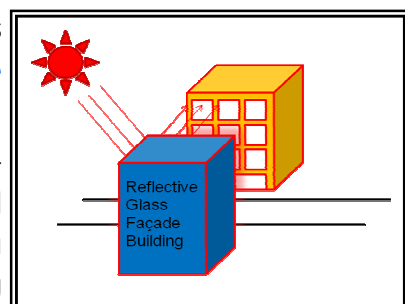
If roads are considered virtual water, buildings are seen as virtual mountains in our modern landscape. With urbanisation, it is extremely rare not to have buildings or man-made infrastructures in our near proximity. When we look out of our windows, we see buildings everywhere and they are becoming higher and higher each day. They exist in different colours, shapes and sizes, and they don't modern or sometimes exaggerating, incredible facades beyond your humble imagination. Similar to road designs, architectural icons and building designs have significant effects on the Feng Shui of a house. Now I am going to share with you insights of three such configurations.

Due to scarcity of land, houses, apartments or condominiums are built closer to each other. As a result, **"Flying Blade Clash"** (飞刃煞) has become a common sight and a common Feng Shui issue. A house is said to encounter a "Flying Blade Clash" when it faces the edge of a building and the opposite building is in close proximity to the house. It is likened to having the blade cutting into you or putting you under the knife all the time. Occupants of the house encountering the "Flying Blade Clash" are more



likely to fall sick and they usually have poor health or weak constitution. If you come across a house with this configuration, you may want to reconsider your purchase option.

The second one is known as **"Reflective Clash"** (反光煞). With more and more buildings designed and built to possess a glossy and gleaming look, we have seen



an increase of instances of such a Feng Shui configuration. If a house or apartment faces a reflective glass façade building and it reflects sunlight into the house or apartment at different times of a day, it is considered to encounter the "Reflective Clash". This is undesirable. Occupants, who stay in such a house or apartment, tend to blow their tops easily and get frustrated at the slightest matter or issue. If someone gets agitated easily after moving into their new house or apartment, "Reflective Clash" may be the culprit. Besides rising temperatures, occupants are more likely to sustain injuries or meet with accidents or misfortunes. When it comes to buying your new house or apartment, this is another configuration to avoid.

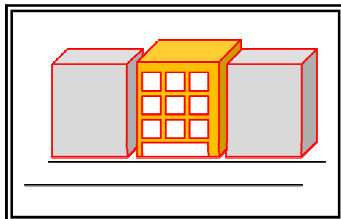
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When Man Meets Mountain



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The third one, which I am going to share, is an auspicious configuration that you should hope to attain. It is known as the **“Dragon & Tiger Embrace” (龙虎抱)**. If you have been reading my earlier chapters on the Armchair Setting, then the “Dragon & Tiger Embrace” should not sound foreign to you. A house is said to enjoy such auspicious configuration when it is flanked on the left- and right-side by two other buildings that are of the same height or slightly lower than the house. In Feng Shui terms, we called them the Green Dragon and White Tiger (左青龙, 右白虎). “Dragon & Tiger Embrace” is an auspicious and desirable configuration. If a house, a building or an apartment is identified with such a configuration, occupants in this house, building or apartment are more likely to enjoy good support or assistance from their subordinates, employees or people around them. On the contrary, if the Green



Dragon and White Tiger are very much higher than the house or building itself, instead of receiving favourable support and assistance, occupants are most likely to be suppressed or bullied by their subordinates or employees. Can you imagine sitting on an armchair with a pair of armrests that are higher than you? Instead of resting your arms comfortably, you will be hanging your arms in an awkward position. I wouldn't want to sit in that kind of armchair. I believe you don't want as well.



What have we got Internally?

Having said so much about the exterior environment, how about the interior layout? Is it unimportant? Of course not! A house or an apartment with good Feng Shui must have both favourable exterior environment and pleasant interior layout. A house or an apartment must be designed in a way such that its interior is bright and airy. It lifts the spirits of the occupants and helps to dispel gloominess and pessimism. Avoid buying a house that is dark and stuffy. A house must have sufficient windows or openings to allow ample sunlight to enter the compound.

We are also more used to reside in spaces that are regular in shapes. The next consideration is therefore to select a house or apartment, which is more regular in shape with minimal missing corners. Square rooms or rectangular spaces are more desirable. Avoid houses or apartments with irregular spaces or triangular rooms as they may lead to poor health of the occupants. Energies or Qi are more evenly distributed in regular spaces than in irregular ones, resulting in a more harmonious and conducive living environment.



Finally, despite being located in a good exterior environment and having a good interior layout, a house or an apartment is still considered unfavourable if its orientation is unsuitable for its occupants. A house or apartment may be auspicious for one family but inauspicious for the next. Based on our birth data or BaZi (八字), certain elements are favourable to us, while certain elements are not. From these favourable elements, we shall be able to determine one's favourable or lucky directions. It is then desirable to stay in a house or apartment, which is orientated to our favour, has its main door facing our lucky direction, and is designed in a way such that the stove and bed can be placed in a configuration that is ideal for us. A Ferrari may be a super car but it may not be suitable for everybody. You buy a car that suits your needs. I think you get my point.

Trust Your Gut & Happy House Hunting!

A hand is shown from the palm side, reaching out towards the left. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame. The background is a soft, blue, ethereal glow that fades into white at the top, creating a dreamlike atmosphere. The hand appears to be pressing against or reaching towards the text.

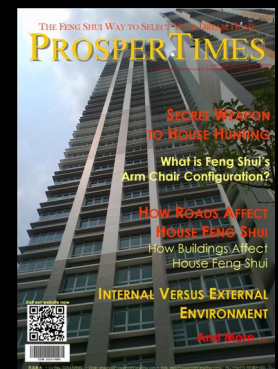
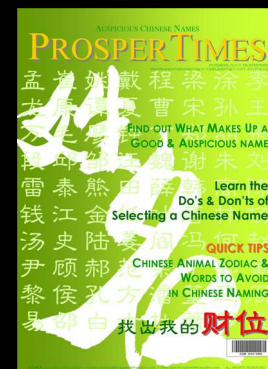
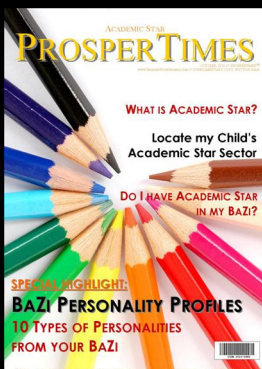
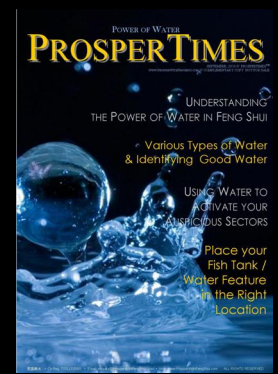
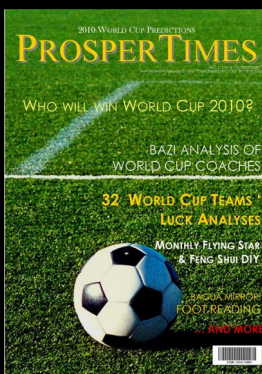
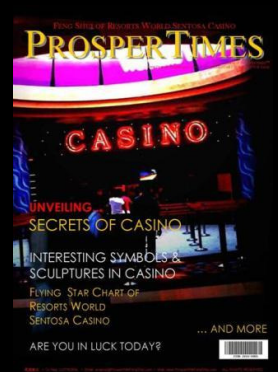
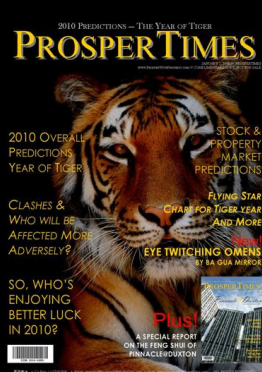
When you go searching for your dream home, it can be a very exciting process and it can also be a very frustrating one. Nevertheless, keep an open mind, consider your options carefully and do not be pressurised into closing a deal.

Given the prices today, buying a property is a major investment. Before you say yes, logical and financial considerations aside, ask yourself if you feel good about the place and your prospective home. Very often, we rely on our logical deductions and on what we see and hear but we neglect a very important factor, that is, our gut feel. If you feel good about the place, buy it. If you somehow don't feel good about the place, then don't buy it, even though it is a very attractive offer that you find it hard to resist.

In this issue of ProsperTimes™, I have shared with you some Feng Shui pointers on selecting your dream home. I hope they are useful and come in handy for you when you go house hunting. I wish you good luck and all the best. Happy House Hunting!

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Page 4: Beautiful bathroom by MH Architects

Page 5: Cosy interior by MN Design

Page 6: Contemporary interior by FDesign

Page 10: Cushy armchair by CL

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