

Helwan University

Interior Design & Furniture department

Feng shui concept & its applications

In the house living areas

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Why This Research?

In feng shui terms, the main challenge with decorating a room is to create a space that has the ability to not only be beautiful and practical but also have a strong, fresh, clean, and happy energy. Living spaces that is beautiful and works well on a practical feng shui level usually takes quite a bit of planning and persistence of getting the ultimate benefit of applying feng shui.

Why is good feng shui in your room important? And how can you create good feng shui in your own living room?

Research Thesis:

1- The roots of Traditional Yang Sang Feng Shui are very ancient; its basic principles are the same as those of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture. It is a natural science that treats the environment as an integral part of the art of living.

Because of its power and effectiveness, Feng Shui knowledge was traditionally a guarded secret, one that was not accessible to the general population. The teachings were transmitted orally from Masters to a limited number of students; confidentiality was strictly required.

2- These ancient scholars are the equivalent of today's scientists. They saw the world as a unique in which 'life-force energy', or chi, was the main component. They believed that most illnesses could be prevented and that people's well being could be preserved and reinforced by applying Traditional Feng Shui to ensure a proper flow of chi in the environment, and Tai chi, chi Gong, Shiatsu Massage and Acupuncture to ensure a proper flow of chi in the body. Like those ancient scholars, today's Feng Shui masters understand the pattern of this energy flow; they understood that any living creature could benefit from this technique, especially humankind.

3- Seasonal cycles, locations, orientations and weather conditions could, however, create imbalances. The ancient scholars therefore created formulas that continue to be applied today to understand the forces of nature by analyzing the chi frequencies and the combination of elements or the lack of elements that make up our environment. They acknowledged that every element in the physical world, each with its unique energy type, is constituted of the 'life force', or chi. According to them these energy types correspond to materials that exist in nature, such as Earth, Fire, Metal, Water and Wood and there is a color scheme that corresponds to each energy type.(1)

4- Human beings were also analyzed in terms of their elemental energy groups; these analyses determined their compatibility with the surrounding environment and the results were usually subtle or very obvious, direct or indirect. In order to counteract imbalances in the environment and restore harmony to our human-environmental interaction, the ancients applied corrective prescriptions based on elaborate formulae they created.

5- In the 20th century, the discovery of Quantum Physics validated the ancient idea of a global energetic connection among every element of the physical world. According to this theory, all matter is made out of the same energy, but since this energy vibrates at varying frequencies, we are given the illusion of a material world that is perceivable through the five senses. The variety of the intensity of these vibrations is expressed through the different colors of the electromagnetic spectrum. Never created and never destroyed,

(1) Alder, N.J,A harmony theory of Chinese communication, Cincinnati, OH, southwestern,1997,p112

but constantly transforming, the energy connection between an atom's components, though it may appear weak and invisible, is very strong. For example, should you break the connection of a uranium atom, you could cause an atomic explosion; imagine such an effect on human physiology.

6- More recently, studies conducted on geo-pathological stress, an illness caused by exposure to adverse earth 'emissions' such as radon or gamma rays, have shown evidence of the relationship between people's wellbeing and the natural energies. While negative energy can adversely affect the nervous system, the genetic code and the immune system, positive energy can sustain our wellbeing, enhance our ability to counteract stressful situations and increase our potential to succeed.

7- Properly applied, Feng Shui can help balance the energy flow in our environment, which in turn can enable us to take advantage of energetic, healthy and harmonious houses. As mentioned earlier the objective of Feng Shui is to turn a house into a dream house, or an office into the most productive workspace, by maximizing the health and happiness of the inhabitants inside. (1)

What Is The Research For?

1- Among the multitude of stylistic and technological choices that have become available in recent years, Traditional Feng Shui or the Chinese Science of Placement, has become one of today's most fashionable trends for home and business owners. But what truly lies behind this popular, yet mysterious practice?

2- Properly applied, Feng Shui can help balance the energy flow in our environment. It can enable us to take advantage of favorable environments in positively energetic, healthy and harmonious houses and/or work places.

3- What is Feng Shui?, it's a personalized science; a Feng Shui expert has to first identify a person's energy type and then match it to their living and working environment. From landscape design to architectural and interior design features such as colors, lighting and furniture layout, home and business owners can use this ancient secret while they are in the process of building a new house or transforming an old one.

Research Problem:

1- Despite the fact that feng shui is an ancient chinese art and science first development about 6000 years ago; it is based on observation and a combination of math, science, geology and intuition, We are in middle east still far behind its concept. It is the study of the environment, places, people, time and how the energies of chi interact, it strives to balance the forces of yin and yang and to create harmony within your environment

2- Schools of feng shui: there are three form, compass, and black hat. The first two have merged into what is known as classical or traditional feng shui. Black hat school began the 70s and 80s "capitalizing" on the popularity of the tradition and offers "curses" such as mirrors, crystals, and red ribbons. Black hat is generally looked down on by traditional practitioners, that reflect our Arabian society is so limited in that studies unless a few numbers researchers.

(1) Simona F. Mainini, Dr. Arch., Feng Shui for architecture, California press, 2016

3- Who uses feng shui today? Feng shui is practiced throughout Asia and increasingly in the west. Feng shui masters are called upon to help individuals and businesses alike. But also in Arabian community we don't have its applications in social life.

4- Many corporations have used feng shui experts in the west like Trump Towers in New York City, MGM Grand Hotel and The Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas, Sydney Harbor Casino and Hotel in Australia, Disney World Hong Kong. As we see all the world go towards getting high benefits of applying feng shui we still behind off getting usage & benefit of it.

The Research Objectives:

- 1- Informs you on why certain houses feel better than others.
- 2- Shows what part of a house is the best area to sleep and work.
- 3- Shows what the fortune of the occupants will be.
- 4- Tells a story of the lives of the occupants.
- 5- Can predict the outcome of events.
- 6- Shows what illnesses and organs of the body may be susceptible to diseases.
- 7- Help you to choose a house to gain a specific outcome e.g. career improvement, birth of intelligent children, academic achievement, attract romance and a life partner.
- 8- Increase your wealth.
- 9- Improves your character and outlook on life.
- 10- Inspires confidence and peace - true Feng Shui gives you the impetus to succeed.
- 11- Gives clarity and direction - true Feng Shui helps you to know what to do in your home and business to be successful.
- 12- To promote academic research in the area of Feng Shui.
- 13- To collect publications and sources of information for Feng Shui research.
- 14- To provide news and information on academic activities related to Feng Shui. (1)

The research plan:

***Introduction**

***Historical study of feng shui**

- 1- The origins of feng shui
- 2- Early objective of feng shui
- 3- Ancient feng shui
- 4- Current academic events of feng shui

***Philosophical study of feng shui**

***The case study of applying feng shui in living spaces**

- 1) Activating compass elements
- 2) Furniture placement
- 3) Feng shui principles & tools

*** Conclusion**

*** Recommendation**

***References**

***Abstract**

Introduction:

***Historical study of feng shui**

- The Origins of Feng Shui:

The origins of Feng Shui may well go further back than six thousand years ago, the mid-Neolithic period in Chinese history. It is known that communities were well established by then, settled mainly in valley areas beside rivers. People had begun to farm, domesticate animals and grow food crops. The term for Feng Shui in ancient Chinese texts was originally Kan Yu, which means 'observe the ways of Heaven and investigate the ways of Earth'. Feng Shui literally translates as 'wind' (movement, dispersing - air currents) and 'water' (harnessing, replenishing, protecting); the two natural elements that are vital for the support of life.

- Early Objectives of Feng Shui:

An early objective of Feng Shui was to identify suitable land, well-protected from enemies and harmful natural elements, on which to build dwellings in such a way that the inhabitants would flourish. So Feng Shui was essentially about survival and success; a means to safeguard and provide for the family, and to gain status for some. Feng Shui was also notably used to locate auspicious burial sites for the emperors and other high ranking persons, with the intention to benefit their descendants.

- Ancient Feng Shui Skills:

Ancient Feng Shui practitioners were similar to skilled land surveyors and geomancers. They acquired a well-developed understanding of the mechanics of nature and utilized that knowledge so that people would live well. They studied natural formations and traced the dragons, which really meant the forces, courses and behavior of wind, water, land and subterranean features, to ensure that a beneficial flow of qi would be harnessed; they respected the natural elements and patterns of cosmic changes and sought a balance of yin and yang interaction. (1)

- Current Academic events of Feng Shui

The first International symposium on Scientific Feng Shui and Built Environment was held at the City University of Hong Kong in 2005. Subsequently the second, third and fourth international conferences were successfully completed in 2006, 2007 and 2009. Furthermore, two international conferences on Feng Shui (Kan Yu) and Architecture were hosted by Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany in 2010 and 2012. The common aim of these conferences was to provide an international platform to exchange research in the area of Feng Shui. In order to extend into the future world-wide research on Feng Shui in a sustainable way, this Academic Journal of Feng Shui is set up as an open-access online journal to give a focus for rigorously researched contributions to the knowledge of Feng Shui. (2)

(1) Alder Linda, green homes, Kent press, UK, 2006

(2) Chan,W-T, the fact of feng shui, Indianapolis,2011

***Philosophical study of feng shui:**

- Fundamental Philosophy:

The ultimate original role of Feng Shui was to enrich people's lives in places where they could enjoy a harmonious and productive connection with the beneficial rhythms of nature. Abundance might have modestly meant simply managing to produce sufficient food to thrive. Prosperity related to having wealth in personal relationships and spiritual development, just as much as material good fortune. That wise fundamental philosophy continues as the basis of traditional Feng Shui today.

Feng Shui in Chinese means wind and water. However, this term is roughly only 100 years old. In the Ming and Qing dynasties, it was referred to as 'the secrets of the heavens.'

The practice of Feng Shui can be traced back over 1,500 years ago and was used primarily for the selection of burial sites. Feng Shui is the science of understanding and observing the living environment to assess the potential and possible outcomes for a person living in a space.

A simple line from one of the foremost books on Feng Shui, the Burial Book, states "Chi is dispersed by the Wind and gathers at the boundaries of the Water." This simple line begins to describe the nature of water and how it plays a role in accumulating, collecting and gathering Chi.

The true objective of Feng Shui is to harness the Chi of the local environment to support us in our goals and desires. It is a science and practice of looking at the quality of a person's life by looking at their living environment and seeking to improve that quality of life by tapping into the natural energies or Chi in that environment. As the Yang part of Feng Shui, it's roles relates to activate, circulate and move the Chi.

As a result, it is a practice of living in harmony with your environment to produce tangible results naturally. It involves the intuitive, aesthetic adjustment of visible and invisible objects or factors, realigning all dimensions of the environment into a balanced, harmonious state. (1)

(1) Sylvia Benett, Environmentally friendly house plants, Luster press, Roli books,2011

*The case study of applying feng shui in living spaces

- Activating Compass Elements with furniture Pieces:



Feng shui & nature elements compass directions to maintain the "chi" energy in living spaces

If you don't address the elements in the sector where your living room is located, no amount of proper furniture placement will compensate for a lack of element activation.

Another way to activate chi energy is by adding elements that correlate to the compass direction where your living room is located.

In addition, you can also use the element that nourishes the main element to reinforce the element's energy.

North Location:

The north element is water. Examples of how to include the water element are:

- Hang paintings of waterscapes. Avoid stormy or rough sea paintings. Meandering streams flowing into room or waterfall are best. If using a painting of a boat or ship, it should always be sailing into the room, never away. The ship represents opportunities and wealth so you want it flowing toward you, not away from you.
- Add an aquarium with eight red fish and one black.
- Place a water fountain on the north wall that flows into room - never toward the door.
- Use black and blue colors in this direction.

You can also add metal sculptures or figures, because metal draws water.

South Location:

The south element is fire. Include fire in your room design by decorating with:

- Candles
- Wood furniture and design objects
- Fireplace located on south wall

- Items in red, pink, orange, and green colors

East and Southeast Locations:

The east and southeast element is wood. You can also add earth elements, since it feeds wood. Examples include:

- Wood picture frames
- Wood bookshelves and books
- Wood lamps
- Live house plants
- Fiber rug like sisal
- Green and brown colors

West and Northwest Locations:

The west and northwest element is metal. Add this element to your design in the following ways:

- Metal bowls and trays
- Metal figurines
- Metal candle holder
- Metal photo frames
- Metal furniture
- Use blue, gray, gold, tan, and bronze colors

Northeast and Southwest Locations:

The northeast and southwest element is earth. Add earth to your living room by choosing decorations like:

- Crystals and other minerals
- Pottery and ceramics, such as figurines, pots, bowls and candle holders
- Earth tones colors such as mustard, clay, brown, tan, and russet
- Cut glass and hand-blown glass objects (1)

(1) Chen G.M. prepare presented at the annual meeting of communication association, Miami Beach FL.1993

Enhance Wealth Elements with Symbols :



Some basic elements that activate wealth can be used in most living rooms.

- Bowl of crystals, coins, and various wealth symbols can be placed on the coffee table.
- A Buddha statue should be placed in a special area, never disrespectfully left on the floor or floor level.
- Coins tied with a red ribbon can be suspended in the east corner of your living room.
- A dragon-headed tortoise should be placed in the southeast corner with a coin in its mouth, facing into the room.
- A dragon painting or statue can be placed on the east wall, looking into the room.
- An elephant statue posed with its trunk trumpeting into the air will bring good luck and wealth.
- Dogs on either side of the door should face out of room, as though standing guard.
- A three-legged money toad can be placed in the southeast corner with a coin in its mouth, facing into the room.

Use Lighting to Activate Chi Energy:

Lighting is important. In addition to natural light, artificial lighting such as table lamps, and overhead lighting options are beneficial. However, there should never be more than two doors into the living room or excessive windows, since chi energy enters and exists both. Too many doors and windows create a chaotic current of chi energy that is inauspicious and damaging.(1)

Include Your Personal Touches:

While you want your living room to follow feng shui basics, you also want it to reflect your personal tastes. Don't be afraid to add your personal touches. Your room doesn't need Chinese furniture, objects, or symbols in order to follow feng shui principles. The true feng shui principles are about form and placement, not good luck symbols. If you apply sound these feng shui principles and rules to your design, you'll have a very auspicious living room.

(1) Chen G.M. prepare presented at the annual meeting of communication association, Miami Beach FL.1993

- Furniture placement:

Feng shui principles address the outside and inside of your home. You can tackle the interior of your home one room at a time. The living room is a vital seat of feng shui for your family and should be addressed with this importance in mind. Most families spend a great deal of time in the living room and because it's a gathering place, it needs to accommodate the appropriate feng shui energies to ensure the wealth, health, and happiness of the family.



The main piece of furniture in living room is usually the couch, which should rest against a solid wall, The floating arrangement is an improper feng shui furniture arrangement. Chances are you feel safe and secure when sitting on the couch against the wall, while feeling vulnerable sitting in the middle.

Living Room Location:

In feng shui, the living room should be located in a part of the house that has at least two outside walls. Avoid using a room nestled deep inside your home for a living room space. The ideal living room location allows chi energy to enter the room from outside without being slowed down or allowed to grow stagnant from moving through many rooms in order to reach the living room. This placement ensures that the chi energy is fresh and energetic enough to activate the living room elements.

Furniture Choice and Placement:

The living room should never be small. It should be large enough to comfortably accommodate the entire family and guests. A larger room size will encourage the chi energy to flow in and around the room. Where you place furniture can impact the way the chi energy enters and move around the room.

General Furniture Placement:

Never place furniture in natural pathways through the room. This type of placement will block chi energy, cause it to become stagnant, and create negative energy.

Best Couch Placement:

The main piece of furniture in a living room is usually the couch, which should rest against a solid wall. Currently, one of the popular western furniture arrangements is to place the seating group in the middle of the room without any wall support. This is called a floating arrangement and should be avoided. The floating arrangement is an improper feng shui furniture arrangement. Just as your bed should be anchored against a solid wall, so should your couch. This gives support to those living in the house and prevents instability in your family structure of home life, work, wealth, health, and relationships. Test this feng shui principle by sitting on a couch against the wall and then one set in the middle of the room. Notice how you feel with each arrangement. Chances are you feel safe and secure when sitting on the couch against the wall, while the one set in the middle of the room leaves you feeling vulnerable and uneasy, as though you need to constantly look behind you.

Sectional Placement:



The L-shaped furniture layout is inauspicious since it creates a large poison arrow in the room. You can lessen its impact by placing a plant at the end of arrow part.

Sectionals are another popular furniture choice for the living room. While they may accommodate a large family, they can be problematic when applying feng shui principles. The L-shaped furniture layout is inauspicious since it creates a large poison arrow in the room. If you can't avoid this type of furniture configuration, you can lessen its impact by placing a plant at the end of arrow part. Another technique to remedy poison arrows is to suspend a faceted crystal ball from the ceiling. Like the plant cure, the crystal ball will dissipate the energy the arrow creates. (1)

(1) Chen G.M. , towards transcultural understanding , M.K.A sante &P.O, NWOSU, 2001

Additional Furniture Placement:

When choosing the ideal furniture arrangement, in addition to a couch, you want to also include a loveseat and a single chair. These pieces of furniture afford ample places to sit while creating a space that will neatly accommodate a coffee table. Choose either a square or rectangular shaped coffee table for an auspicious shape.

Electronics such as TVs and computers are yang energy and very active, so place these in areas you wish to activate. For example, the north (career) or south (fame and recognition) sectors of the room are excellent choices.

- Feng shui principles & tools in living spaces

1. Seating area is a cozy zone, a gathering place for family members to watch TV or just relax together. Good Feng Shui design makes a living room comfortable, welcoming, well-lit and warm.
2. According to Feng Shui living room furniture placement guide, people sitting in the living room should be able to see everyone who is entering the room.



When living area look at an open space through big windows the external Chi of the air and plants come to home strongly and positively

3. Feng Shui practitioners say that the center of the living room is the good luck zone. In Feng Shui it is important to decorate a living room with some open space in its center to attract good luck and Feng Shui a home for wealth.

(1) Sally painter, http://feng-shui.lovetoknow.com/feng_shui_living_room,2011

4. Feng Shui living room decorating ideas ensure that there is no objects in the middle of the room that prevent people to enter the room. The objects and furniture pieces which obstruct the smooth flow of positive energy need to be removed.



Indoor plants and living room furniture items with rounded corners and soft edges help to improve the energy flow.

5. If the living room design has an alcove, the positive energy can stagnate in the house. Indoor plants and living room furniture items with rounded corners and soft edges help to improve the energy flow.

6. Chinese Feng Shui for room decorating suggests hanging a mirror on the wall that creates a sense of depth and stimulates the energy movement.

7. Green indoor plants, flower arrangements and soft living room lighting help create a pleasant atmosphere and Feng Shui a room in accordance with Chinese Feng Shui decorating guide. Right furniture placement and green indoor plants help the positive energy move around the room, allowing living room furnishings to breath and creating open and airy room design.

8. The living room furniture placement guide recommends pushing armchairs and sofas back to walls, creating inviting, simple and elegant interior design.

9. The TV set, placed in the corner, is a living room decorating element that attracts prosperity, creating a centerpiece that improves the Feng Shui wealth zone.



Neutral colors, nature themed wall decor and right living room furniture placement for good Feng Shui designs.

10. Living room design that includes traditional bookcases with doors instead of storage furniture with open shelves, is recommended by Chinese Feng Shui teachers.

11. Bookcases and cabinets can emit destructive energy, so they should be kept closed to make living room design look organized and neat, and Feng Shui home interiors in elegant style. (1)



Bookcases and cabinets can emit destructive energy, so they should be kept closed. The TV set placed in the corner creating a center piece

(1) Ena Russ, http://www.lushome.com/feng-shui-home-living-room_decorating/2849,2013

12. Books on open shelves can lead to illness, bad mood and depression over the time, classic Feng Shui practitioners say. If you had books on open book shelves in the living room for a while, Feng Shui room decorating guide recommends to position the roots of your indoor plants at the level of shelves edges (basically to place house plants on the shelves in the living room) and reduce the harmful effect of open storage furniture. No doubt, book shelves decorated with green indoor plants will look more beautiful in your living room.

13. Living room furniture placement guide does not recommend to have wooden shelves in the south-western, north-eastern or central parts of your living room.



Feng Shui teaches do not suggest decorating with glass shelves, if your living room is located in the northern part of the house to correlate with compass elements to allow chi energy to flow correctly

14. Feng Shui teaches do not suggest decorating with glass shelves, if your living room is located in the northern part of the house.



You can decorate living room walls with your family photos, but the collection must include the photographs of all family members living in the house. People on the photographs should be alive and look happy to decorate your living room with cheerful and pleasant images.

15. You can decorate living room walls with your family photos, but the collection must include the photographs of all family members living in the house, Feng Shui room decorating experts suggest.

16. People on the photographs should be alive and look happy. Only happy photos bring good luck, according to classic Chinese Feng Shui practitioners, and decorate your living room with cheerful and pleasant images.

17. Living room furniture corners and columns should be rounded or cut at 45° angle to help the energy flow. Room corners and sharp edges can be decorated with beautiful indoor plants with rounded leaves and climbing house plants.

The ancient Chinese Feng Shui home decorating guide recommends using live indoor plants or artificial plants to hide room corners. Indoor plants help the positive energy flow freely around the living room and through all home interiors.

18. Clutter Free and Organized



Living spaces should be clutter free as feng shui could not be exist if the space is clutter & non organized

A living room that is clean and clutter free is the only foundation for good feng shui. Yes, we know you might have heard that many times, but this essential first step has to be emphasized again. There can be no solid and good feng shui energy in a space that is infected by clutter, the two of them cannot co-exist; it is either one or the other.

We encourage you to explore our [easy feng shui clutter clearing system](#) if you need help with clearing your clutter and then look for some good organizational solutions based on your specific needs. Having a clear organization system is also a must for good feng shui in your living room, especially if you have children (1)

(1)Sally painter,http://feng-shui.lovetoknow.com/Feng_shui_living_room,2011

19. Air and Light:



Good Quality create the foundation of good feng shui energy if you have only few small windows add some mirrors to bring more natural light

The next step in good feng shui living room decorating is to be sure your room gets as much natural light and good quality air as it possibly can. Good quality air and good quality light create the foundation of good feng shui energy, and there are many ways to help you do the best with this feng shui step. For example, if you have only a few small windows, decorate with mirrors to bring more natural light, as well as be sure to layer your indoor lighting.

What does layering your lighting mean? Simply stated, it means you have several different levels of lighting. So, in addition to a ceiling fixture, you will also have a floor lamp and several table lamps, for example. If you limit your living room lighting to just your ceiling lamp or just a floor lamp, this will tend to create a sad and potentially depressing quality of feng shui energy in your room.

How about fresh air? The benefits of fresh air to your health are obvious, so along with opening your windows often we highly suggest you go for a good quality aromatherapy diffuser to benefit from the healing power of pure essential oils. Stale air and poor lighting are big enemies of good feng shui, so be sure you pay attention to the quality of air and light if you want to have good feng shui in your living room.

20. Practical Beauty



Even though living space is a multi-purposes room, each item should have its own space so no clutter or mess to permit chi to flow

Having a welcomed, relaxed and beautiful! space for both children and adults to spend time in can be a challenge. Well, we should include pets, too. It is important to know that you can create a very beautiful living room, but if it does not work on a practical level and you keep worrying about your kids messing it up or do not want your pets to be there, then no matter how beautiful your room is, this is not good feng shui.

Basically, a good feng shui space is a space that does the best job for its specific purpose, and beauty at the expense of practical use is just not good feng shui.

Contrary to the popular belief, children *can* help you with keeping the living room clean, it is just a matter of clear organization and clear communication, of course.

If each item in your living room has its own space, the possibility of mess and clutter is greatly diminished, and everyone can feel happy and enjoy good feng shui energy.(1)

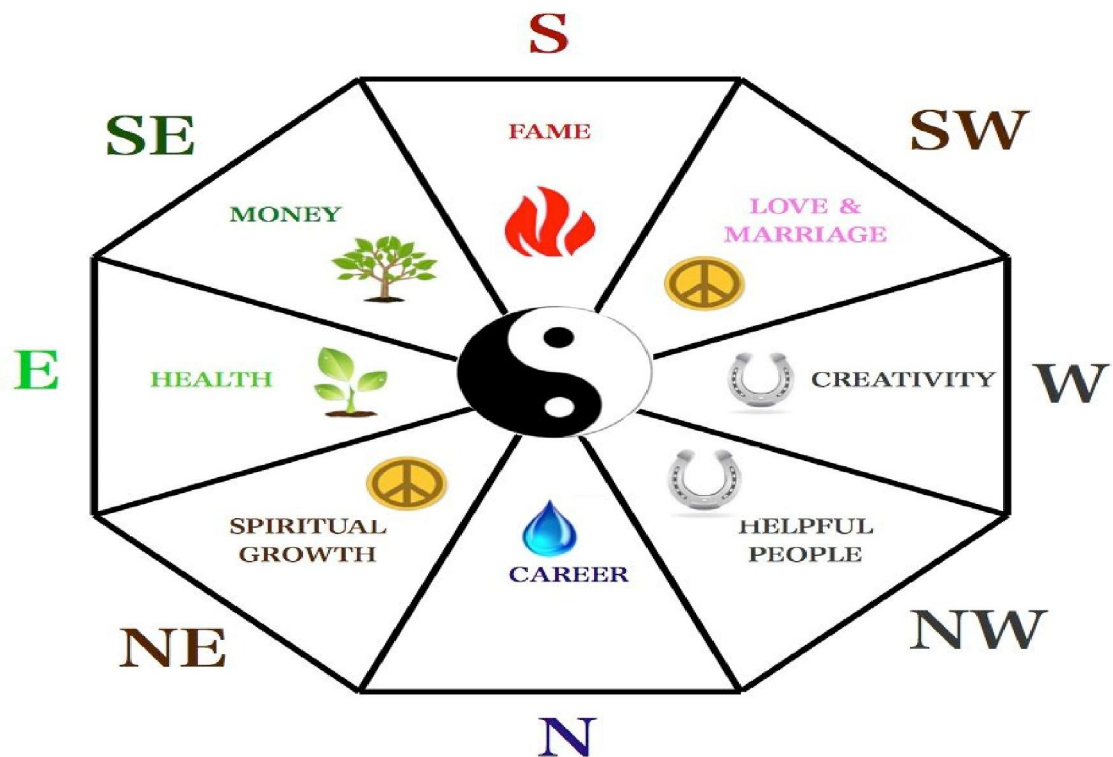
(1) James Barrett, feng shui your life , T&H, 2001 , p88

21. Your Living Room Color Scheme

We start with the color scheme, of course, because color is an expression of light and it has the biggest impact on our mood. It is also very important for good feng shui because each color is an expression of a specific feng shui element.

Choosing a good feng shui decor scheme for your living room usually requires a bit of work. It is best to start with understanding the feng shui bagua, or energy map of your home. It provides us with the correct energy through the nature elements: water, fire, earth, air

22. Define and Use the Bagua



The bagua the energy map that enable us to apply feng shui

(S) element : fire / color : red, orange, pink, yellow

(L) element: water / color : blue, black

(SW, NE) element: earth / color: skin, earthy and sandy color

(E, SE) element : wood / color : green, brown

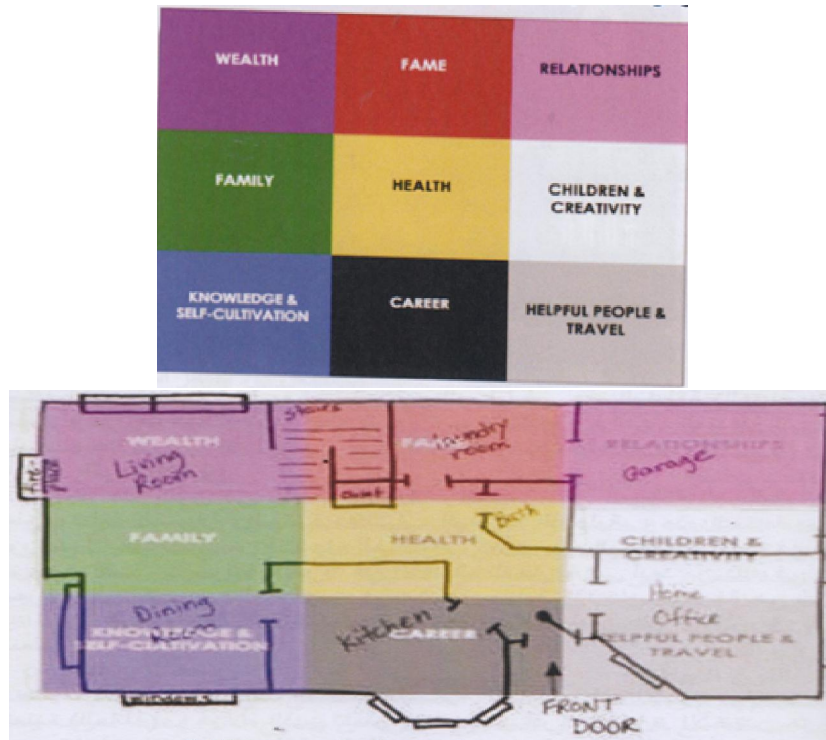
(W, NW) element : metal / color : white, grey

The bagua is the feng shui energy map of your space. In order to create best feng shui energy in your living room, it is best to define the bagua of your home first. Once you know the feng shui area of your living room, you will have clarity on the best choice of colors, shapes, and materials based on the feng shui element that needs to be supported there.

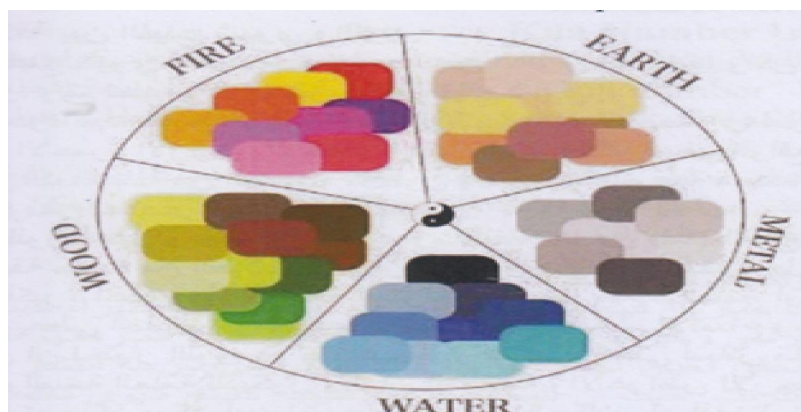
For example, if your living room is in the South feng shui bagua area, then it is excellent to decorate your living room with colors of the Fire and Wood feng shui elements. So

colors red, orange, yellow, purple, along with green and deep brown will all create excellent feng shui energy in your South facing living room.

By the same token, a black or blue color scheme is not recommended for a South facing living room because it will create a weak feng shui energy due to the clashing effect of feng shui elements (blue and black colors are the expression of the Water feng shui element that puts down the Fire needed in the South area). (1)



The bagua application on home spaces to choose the correct color scheme



The essential five elements of bagua with their colors

(1) Barlett Albert, the Bagua secret in dwelling design, Kingstone press, UK,2009 , p.111

23. Shapes and Materials



wavy shapes are recommended to be used in a North facing living space with its bagua element : water and its color blue that embodies feng shui correct application

Just as there are specific colors that will help you create good feng shui energy in your living room, there are also specific decorating shapes that can strengthen the desired prosperous and happy feng shui energy in your living room.

Each shape is an expression of a specific feng shui element, so choose the best shape based on the bagua area of your living room. For example, if you have a North facing living room, then wavy shapes resembling the flow of water can create wonderful energy.

The same principle applies to various decorating materials. To continue with the example of a North facing living room, best feng shui decor materials for it would be predominantly metal, glass or mirror-like surfaces. The materials to avoid in excess in a North facing living room are Wood furniture or decor items, as well as a lot of earthenware. Because plants belong to the Wood feng shui element, too many plants will weaken the feng shui energy of a North facing living room, so choose wisely.(1)

(1) Rodika Tchi, the spruce, easy steps to feng shui living room, 2017

24. Watch for Balance



Good feng shui embodies couch rested on the wall, family happy photos & good choice of colors

While it is important to emphasize the colors and shapes that are most needed for good feng shui in your living room; to completely avoid other colors and shapes would be a mistake. An all-pink color living room in your love area or an all-blue color living room in your career area is not really good feng shui.

Feng shui is all about health, balance, and harmony, and we need all 5 feng shui elements in our environment in order to thrive and be happy. So, good feng shui in your living room is based on a subtle dance of all colors and shapes, with two or three taking the main stage based on the feng shui bagua requirements. For example, you can still have a mirror (Water feng shui element) in the South bagua area (ruled by the Fire feng shui element) if you do not make it into a focal point. For this purpose, choose a mirror with a fiery shape (like a sunburst mirror) and Fire element material (gold finish is a good expression of the fire element).

25. Best Living Room Arrangement

The best feng shui living room arrangement is an arrangement where all your family members plus guests feel at ease and relaxed. This means there is enough breathing room for everyone, and the basic design principles are taken into consideration.

Working with scale and proportion, creating a good relationship between your furniture pieces, creating good conversation areas - these are all well-known decorating principles that you are probably familiar with. Feng shui agrees with the importance of all these principles with just one condition - there has to be a good Chi flow.(1)

(1) Karen Kingston, Clear your clutter with feng shui , 2013, King press , P.75

26. Create A Flow and Go with It



By correct furniture arrangement we can achieve the chi flowing

The notion of Chi flow is one of the main principles of feng shui that has to be respected if one wants to benefit from good energy. The Chi - another name for Universal energy - has to flow smoothly in your living room, nourishing it and filling it with energy.

Chi flow can be viewed as water flow, so with this comparison in mind take a look at your living room arrangement and decide if the water (imaginary water as Chi flow) coming in from the living room door would flow smoothly and cheerfully about your living room. Will it get stuck in some areas? Will it easily escape through a big window without having the chance to actually nourish your living room?

Play and experiment with several furniture arrangements until you find the one that allows for the easiest and most graceful flow of Chi/energy.

27. Avoid Sha Chi and Keep Good Company



Avoid sha chi, sharp edged pieces in interior design big features like fire place mantel, coffee table, etc

At any time during your living room interior design process, be sure there is no attacking energy - called Sha Chi in feng shui - pointing at areas where you and your family spend the most time. In your living room, Sha Chi is the attacking energy that can be created by sharp corners from furniture such as coffee tables or bookcases, architectural features such as the fireplace mantel or various elements such as big candleholders or modern lamp bases, for example.

To avoid the detrimental effects of Sha Chi, place your furniture pieces and major items so that no sharp energy is pointing directly at any seating areas or play areas if you have created some in your living room for your kids.

Another aspect of bad feng shui energy is called Si Chi, which is basically low, sad, and depressing quality of energy. Hopefully, you will never have to deal with it! To prevent it from taking roots in your living room, be sure to use basic feng shui space clearing steps after a strong family argument, unpleasant guests, etc. Even better, make a habit of clearing the energy in your space regularly, this is easy to do and a pleasure to experience. (1)

***Conclusions:**

1- Although feng shui is mysterious and some people continue to consider it as a superstitious practice, it has shown a great influence on almost every aspect of Life, including the way people does business, the way they communicate, and the way they perceive and practice architecture. Feng shui is so engrafted upon the social life that it has firmly intertwined with every possible event of domestic life. It not only reflects, but also shapes most of the traditional cultural values. More significantly, it continues to play an important role in modern societies. Thus, there is a need for scholars in different disciplines to systematically study feng shui in order to better understand the way of thinking and behavior.

2- If we carefully examine feng shui from a human communication discipline, we would find that it provides us with abundant resources that can be studied from the perspective of nonverbal communication, especially those ideas regarding space, time, direction, and color.

3- Feng shui concerns the use of space in home using activating elements compass for arrangement & the bagua for color scheme. The master bedroom, kitchen, and living room are the three most important sites for positive living in the house. Using the living room as an example, according to feng shui, it is the area where family and family friends gather, and it is best situated on the ground floor. Furniture in the living room should be placed at an appropriate place. The corner facing the entrance door of the living room is known as the wealth spot. Any moving object placed in that spot will seep the family fortune away. Thus, the spot is better placed with a big round leaf plant that is believed to prosper the family.

4- Feng shui uses color to represent different things and meanings. For example, the Five Elements are associated with five special colors, blue&green representing the Wood element, refers to the blue of the sky, or the green of plants. Red is associated with the element of Fire, representing a lucky color which is dominant in the activities of New Year's Day, birthdays, and weddings. Yellow is associated with the element of Earth, which is regarded as the royal or imperial color (while used in the temples or palaces, yellow is often represented as skin color , earthy & sandy colors. White symbolizes the element of metal which is the glint of iron or silver and used to indicate purity. It is commonly applied to the funeral activities .Finally, black symbolizes the element of Water. Traditionally, black was considered as a lucky color which represents money, but its meaning has changed to associate with the macabre. Feng shui suggests that the use of color can change the mood of people.

(1) Rodika Tchi, the spruce, easy steps to feng shui living room, 2017

5- Feng shui not only contains mysterious knowledge, but also possesses many ideas that can be explained and studied by using the contemporary research methodology, both empirical and interpretative. The study of Feng Shui might open a door for us to better understand the societies.

***Recommendations:**

- 1- Feng shui from a scientific point of view is highly recommended to be taught in those fields of educations that could be highly influenced by feng shui concept & principles.
- 2- The field of interior design & furniture is highly influenced by applying the usage of feng shui concept so it's highly recommended to be applied in the internal areas of the houses & work areas, entertainment places.
- 3- When applying Feng shui in interior design spaces through its scientific concepts like: activating elements compass, furniture right placement & the bagua in a correct way is considering a great added value that has the chi energy flowing in the living spaces which has a strong positive impact on human life
- 4- Advertisement & social media can have a big role to enlightened the role of feng shui in interior design that enables the practioners to spread their useful experiences among interior & furniture designers.

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