

The International Feng Shui Guild's

 **Glossary**
of
Universal Feng Shui Terms



A Guide for Practitioners and Enthusiasts

International Feng Shui Guild® Feng Shui Glossary

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With acknowledgment for additional contributions
by
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In The Spirit of Feng Shui

The International Feng Shui Guild® offers this **Feng Shui Glossary of Universal Terms** to our members and the community at large with the hope that it becomes an instrument for unification and learning.

For a community to exist, solidify, and evolve, a common language is essential. We consider this glossary a first step in establishing and defining terminology used in Feng Shui and a movement towards the creation of a common language among the different perspectives of Feng Shui.

As our community is so diverse in orientation, education and experience, there are many instances of divergence in viewpoint and beliefs. Recognizing this diversity and the many opportunities it offers for growth and learning, we have focused this Feng Shui Glossary on the terminology that is most broadly accepted in our community, focusing first on what we have in common. Therefore, we have avoided the inclusion of some words and terminology that are the specific or exclusive creations or vehicles of any particular school.

Since the standard method of translation from the Chinese is now the Pinyin system, the glossary word definitions will appear after either the English or the Pinyin translation occurrence of the word. The older terms most commonly found in Feng Shui books are cross-referenced with the definition is found after the Pinyin translation of the word.

Please be mindful that these definitions are not a substitute for the skills of a trained Feng Shui Professional, nor are they acceptable or appropriate surrogate for professional training.

We intend this document to be a living glossary. As more information is collected and additional terms are defined, it will continue to grow and be updated periodically.

We hope that you enjoy this unique IFSG Feng Shui resource.

May you become inspired,
Namaste

How to use this Glossary

Each term in the glossary includes a detailed definition. Many terms have additional variations of spelling and references.

'Also called' directs you to another term in the glossary pertaining to the definition.

'See' refers to multiple words in the definition for further reference in the glossary.



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A

Adjustment

An object, talisman, ritual, prayer, action or intention used to achieve the greatest balance, harmony, and the most beneficial qi/chi in a space, or to suppress, neutralize or dissipate negative or stagnant energies or qi/chi.

Also called *Cure, Enhancement, Remedy*

See *Chi, Qi*

Age

A cycle of qi/chi, it is the primary requisite for construction of a Flying Star chart. It is this application of the time factor which determines the allocation of qi/chi throughout the structure. Some schools prefer to utilize the move-in date as the essential time factor. The most widely recognized method is to use the time of construction as the determining factor and more specifically the time of the closing of the roof. Each age or period lasts twenty years and begins on a year ending in the number four.

Also called *Great Cycle of 180 years*

See *Chi, Flying Stars, Qi*

The time periods are as follows:

Period 1: 1864-1883

Period 2: 1884-1903

Period 3: 1904-1923

Period 4: 1924-1943

Period 5: 1944-1963

Period 6: 1964-1983

Period 7: 1984-2003

Period 8: 2004-2023

Period 9: 2024-2043

Period 1: 2044-2063

Annual Star

In Luo Shu, Flying Stars, or Nine Star Ki, the center number is called the Annual Star. In a Flying Star chart, the energy or quality of qi/chi is represented by a number called a Star. The Annual Star moves cyclically to a different location each year.

See *Chi, Flying Stars, Luo Shu, Nine Star Ki, Qi*

Armchair

The original school of Feng Shui based on the observation of topographical features. It is the relationship of a particular place to its landform surroundings. A metaphor for the ideal form has the shape of an armchair. When looking out the front door, the structure is cradled by the Black Tortoise in the back, the Azure Dragon on the left, the White Tiger on the right and the Red Phoenix in front. In practical terms good form places a structure with the solid stable qi/chi of a mountain or hill shape in the rear and the active energized qi/chi of active water or bright sun in the front. Finding the Dragon and Tiger energy in the landscape augments the beneficial effects. These original simple ideas evolved into specific protocols for interior placement and for exterior arrangement of a site, and are often symbolized by natural focal points such as trees, plants, hills and mountains, as well as by buildings and other man-made features.

Also called *Form School, Landform Guardians, Landform School*

See *Azure Dragon, Black Tortoise, Celestial Animals, Chi, Four Emblems, Qi, Red Phoenix, White Tiger*

Astro-cartography

A western astrology horoscope which determines the most advantageous locations for an individual to reside.

Astrology, Western

A cosmological method of divination based on the positions of the Sun, Moon, Planets and other heavenly bodies, relative to time and place on Earth which is drawn into a horoscope.

See *Zodiac-Western*

Auspicious

A term frequently used in Feng Shui, Astrology, and divination to denote favorable, desirable and beneficial influences and successful results.

Azure Dragon

A symbolic animal of the Form School and one of four Celestial Animals. In the ideal armchair or cradle position of the Form School, the Azure Dragon refers to mountain ranges, rolling hills, trees, or structures that support and protect a building on the left side of the armchair when looking out the front door.

Also called *Green Dragon*

See *Armchair, Celestial Animals, Form School, Four Emblems*

B

Ba Zhai

The most basic and popular method of determining and regulating the qi/chi in Compass School. First, sitting and facing directions of a structure are determined. Then the four most auspicious and four least auspicious sectors for the space are calculated, each having specific influences on the qi/chi of a space.

Also called *East West System, Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions*

See *Chi, Compass School, East West System, Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions, Qi*

Ba Zi

Refers to Four Pillars Astrology - literally translates to Eight Characters (in Chinese) - which is composed of four combinations of Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches.

Also called *Chinese Astrology*

See *Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems*

Bagua

A diagram akin to the Chinese flowchart for the cyclical energies of the manifested universe, originating from the I Ching and the Lo Shu. The literal translation is “eight house.” It consists of eight external houses (guas) and a central one called the Tai Ji, (Tai Chi) a symbol denoting a perfect balance of the flowing energies of yin and yang, and also representing Earth. Each of the eight houses is named by a trigram, and points to a specific direction, number, element, season, color, body organ, family member, symbol, location and other life aspects in resonance with that trigram sector. The Bagua can be drawn in many different forms and is an indispensable tool in most schools of Feng Shui.

The eightguas are:

Kan (K'an)

Gen (Ken)

Zhen (Chen)

Xun (Hsun)

Li (Li)

Kun (K'un)

Dui (Tui)

Qian (Ch'ien)

Also called *Pa Kua*

See *BTB Feng Shui Bagua, Early Heaven Bagua, Fu Xi, Fu Xi Bagua, I Ching, Later Heaven Bagua, Luo Shu, Pa Kua, Pre-Heaven Bagua, Trigram, Yang, Yin. See individualguas.*

Bamboo Flute

An end-blown bamboo flute, and musical instrument, used in Feng Shui as a remedy. This flute's base includes the bamboo's root joint which is bigger and stronger than the remaining, visible joints, allowing its base to act as a support to energetically lift or raise qi/chi. The bamboo flute represents peace, harmony, and grounding.

Also called *Hsiao*

See *Chi, Remedy, Qi*

Bau-biologie

Translates from the German as building biology. A movement that has made a study of how buildings impact life and health in the living environment. Factors that it observes, measures and attempts to regulate at a building site include biophysical forces above and below the earth's surface, climatic and solar influences, air quality, and the toxicity of building materials. Bau-biologie advocates the use of safe and sustainable construction materials and the mitigation of excessive electromagnetic fields. It encourages a holistic and healing approach to home and work environments.

Beginning of Spring

The first of the Twenty-Four Seasons, which usually begins February 4th or 5th. Determining the Beginning of Spring is essential in the calculation of several divination techniques.

Also Called Li Chun

See Twenty-Four Seasons

Benker Lines

Named after Anton Benker of Germany, the dowser who discovered this system. Benker lines lie on every fifth Hartmann line and radiate up into space, but are stronger to a great degree. One side of a Benker line is positively charged, and the other side is negatively charged. They are considered to be a source of potential health problems, and are located by dowsing.

Also called Ten Meter System

See Curry Lines, Geomancy, Geopathic Stress, Hartmann Lines

Bing

The third heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yang Fire, based on the Five Elements productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more active and aggressive aspects of the Fire element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called Ping

See Earthly Branches, Five Elements, Four Pillar Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Yang, Yin

Black

Historical elemental color of water, considered mysterious and independent, associated with the direction North and Yin activity.

Black Sect Tantric Buddhist Feng Shui

BTB Feng Shui has its roots in the pre-Buddhist, Bon religion of Tibet. It was also influenced by Indian Buddhism and later took on the traditions of Chinese philosophy including Feng Shui. It was brought to the West around 1980, and its practices spread rapidly through the Americas. The BTB Feng Shui Bagua is a modification of the Wen Wang (Later Heaven) Bagua and is superimposed on a site, building, or room using the Three Door Method which aligns the entry with one of the three trigrams: Gen (Knowledge), Kan (Career) or Qian (Helpful People). BTB Feng Shui emphasizes following the flow of qi/chi (in the space and the person), the use of transcendental solutions to reinforce mundane remedies, the power of intention and self cultivation through meditation.

Also called Black Hat, BTB Feng Shui

See BTB Feng Shui

Black Tortoise

The symbolic animal of Form School, and the most important of the four Celestial Animals. In the ideal armchair position of Form School, it refers to hills, mountains, trees or other structures that support and protect a building from behind. In the ancient traditions it was best located in the North. This was based on the climatic conditions of China where the cold winds came from the North. In modern times it can be located in any direction as long as it provides the physical and energetic backing needed to offer support for the building. The same principles can be applied inside the building when orienting furnishings.

Also called *Black Turtle*

See *Armchair, Celestial Animals, Form School, Four Emblems*

Boar

The twelfth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of fertility and virility energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Hai, Pig*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Book of Changes

Translated as the Book of Changes, the I Ching is an ancient Chinese philosophical text and one of the oldest systems of describing the nature, movements, and developments of every event or phenomenon in the universe. It consists of sixty-four hexagrams based on all the possible combinations of the eight trigrams and has been used for divination, protection and philosophical guidance for thousands of years and is an important component in the formation of Feng Shui theory. Traditional methods for consulting the I Ching are through the use of yarrow sticks or coins. Confucianism, Taoism, and the Feng Shui Bagua all have common roots in the philosophy of the I Ching.

Also called *Yi Jing, Yijing*

See *I Ching*

Bright Hall

1. A courtyard, or entrance, especially where benevolent qi/chi can gather
2. A defined area serving as a transition zone between one type of qi/chi and another, sometimes containing a vortex of energy, commonly at a main entrance.
3. A gathering place

Also called *Ming Tang*

BTB Feng Shui

BTB Feng Shui has its roots in the pre-Buddhist, Bon religion of Tibet. It was also influenced by Indian Buddhism and later took on the traditions of Chinese philosophy including Feng Shui. It was brought to the West around 1980, and its practices spread rapidly through the Americas. The BTB Feng Shui Bagua is a modification of the Wen Wang (Later Heaven) Bagua and is superimposed on a site, building, or room using the Three Door Method which aligns the entry with one of the three trigrams: Gen (Knowledge), Kan (Career) or Qian (Helpful People). BTB Feng Shui emphasizes following the flow of qi/chi (in the space and the person), the use of transcendental solutions to reinforce mundane remedies, the power of intention and self cultivation through meditation.

Also called *Black Sect Tantric Buddhist Feng Shui*

BTB Feng Shui Bagua

A modification of the Wen Wang or Later Heaven Bagua sequence with the trigrams inverted so that the qi/chi moves toward the center. The BTB Bagua puts humanity at the center and represents our qi/chi returning to its essence. The Wen Wang and BTB Feng Shui Baguas together oscillate through time, representing the unity of yin and yang and creation -- how we continually create our reality, get feedback, then act or react. Based on the philosophy of Shao Yong, BTB Feng Shui equates the trigram movement of the different Baguas to qi/chi flow through the seasons. The Pre-Heaven Bagua is considered the Lesser Yang or Spring Bagua. The Later Heaven or Wen Wang Bagua, with the trigram qi/chi moving out from the center, is considered the Greater Yang or Summer Bagua. The BTB Feng Shui Bagua, where the trigram qi/chi moves back to the center, is considered the Lesser Yin or Autumn Bagua. The Greater Yin or Winter Bagua will likely follow.

Buffalo

The second earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of nourishing energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Chou, Ox*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*



C

Cardinal Directions

The four primary compass directions; North, South, East, West.

Also called *Cardinal points*

Celestial Animals

The four mythical animals of Form School: the Azure Dragon (Green Dragon), White Tiger, Black Tortoise (Black Turtle), Red Phoenix (Red Bird). Each animal represents a different earth quality or energy. Also represents landforms.

See *Azure Dragon, Black Tortoise, Form School, Four Emblems, Red Phoenix, White Tiger*

Chen

1. The trigram located in the East of the Luo Shu square representing Ancestors/Family.

See *Zhen*

2. The fifth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of strong and active energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Ch'en, Dragon*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

3. In Form School, the armchair position of the Azure Dragon.

See *Armchair Position, Azure Dragon, Form School*

Chen Pi

Aged dried tangerine skin used to purify a space.

Also called *Tshen Pei*

Chi

1. The motivating life-force also called "Cosmic Breath," "prana," or "Dragon's Breath." It has also been referred to as vital energy, primordial breath, air, breath, and energy. Existing everywhere, it is the term that refers to all forms of energy and its flow and is considered the universal energy between heaven and earth. It is the movement of life force energy within our living space or body, which can affect our well being either auspiciously or inauspiciously. Feng Shui concerns itself with the movement and containment of qi/chi to create the most beneficial support for a person in their environment.

Also called *Chi, Ki (Japanese)*

See *Auspicious, Chi, Energy, Inauspicious, Qi*

2. The sixth heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yin Earth, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more inward and recessive aspects of the Earth element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Ji*

See *Earth, Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Yang, Yin*

Chi Cultivation

Techniques, such as meditation, qi kung, tai ji or other techniques, rituals, acupuncture, and Feng Shui that are used to enhance or adjust personal qi/chi, allowing it to flow smoothly throughout the body.

Also called *Qi Cultivation*

Chi Gong

1. A martial art which gathers qi/chi in the body.
2. A series of choreographed movements based on this martial art said to bring health benefits.

Also called *Chi Kung, Qi Gong, Qi Kung*

Chi Kung

1. A martial art which gathers qi/chi in the body.
2. A series of choreographed movements based on this martial art said to bring health benefits.

Also called *Chi Gong, Qi Gong, Qi Kung*

Chia

The first heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yang Wood, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more active and aggressive aspects of the Wood element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Jia, Zhe*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Wood, Yang, Yin*

Ch'ien

One of the eight trigrams, quas or sectors of the Bagua, associated with the Northwest, the number 6, the element Metal, late Autumn - early Winter, the colors grey, white, metallic gold or silver, the head, lungs, large intestines, skin and the sense of smell, Father or boss, the symbol Heaven and relates to travel, benefactors and other life aspects. In the I Ching, Qian is denoted by three solid lines and is the most yang trigram.

Also called *Chien, Chyan, Qian*

See *Eight Trigrams, Trigram*

Chinese Almanac

An annual Chinese book with advice about the best, worst, and appropriate activities, locations and more, for each day of the year. It has been widely used in China to predict everything from the size of the yearly harvest to the electoral success of public officials. In its almanac form it is used for the selection of auspicious and inauspicious dates for all types of activities.

Also called *Tung T'su, Chinese Calendar*

See *Ten Thousand Year Calendar*

Chinese Astrology

Refers to a group of divination techniques first used in China, based on astrological or cosmological assessments. The most common form assigns to the person a Zodiac Animal based on the natal year as determined by the Chinese Lunar Calendar. This term also refers to several other methods commonly used in Feng Shui.

See *Zodiac-Asian*

Chinese Calendar

Begins 2698 BCE on the first day of the reign of Huang Di, the “Yellow Emperor.” Describes the movement of qi/chi for ten thousand years and is an essential tool in the creation of Four Pillars charts and other forms of divination. Each volume covers 100 years of information.

Also called *Ten Thousand Year Calendar*

Chinese New Year

Falls on the first day of month one in the Lunar calendar, usually somewhere between the middle of January and the middle of February. Determining the start of the New Year is essential in the calculation of several divination techniques used in Feng Shui.

Chou

The second earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of nourishing energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Buffalo, Ch'ou, Ox*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Chueh Ming

One of the eight Portents indicating severed fate or total loss. The most inauspicious or worst location in Eight House Feng Shui.

See *Ba Zhai, East West System, Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions, Jue Ming, Portent*

Clashing Doors

Doors that hit each other when opened.

Classical Feng Shui

The most widely practiced category of Feng Shui worldwide. Based on the two original types first used in China, Classical Feng Shui consists of Form School and Compass School principles and methods. Contemporary Classical Feng Shui is related to, and utilizes, a variety of modalities.

Also called *Traditional Feng Shui*

See *Bagua, Ba Zhai, Ba Zi, East West System, Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions, Flying Stars, Four Pillars Astrology, Ming Gua, Pa Kua*

Clutter

The obstruction of life force, qi/chi, typically through the accumulation of too many items within a space (can be physical, mental, emotional or spiritual), thus creating a stagnation of the energy within that space.

See *Chi, Qi*

Command Position

1. The best Form School location for the interior placement of furniture, especially the bed, desk, or stove. This position is usually farthest from and facing the door, with one's back to a solid wall. This position is considered the safest and most powerful, providing the widest view of the room with the ability to see the door without being directly in line with the door.

2. The best Form School location of a building on its site, creating the classic armchair with the Black Tortoise (Black Turtle) in the rear, the Red Phoenix in front, the Azure Dragon and the White Tiger to the sides.

Also called *Power Position*

See *Azure Dragon, Black Tortoise, Celestial Animals, Form School, Four Emblems, Red Phoenix, White Tiger*

Compass

The compass used for Feng Shui, called the Luopan, utilizes the Later Heaven or Wen Wang Bagua sequence, with the qi/chi moving out from the center. From its humble beginnings as a magnetic needle floating in a bowl of water, the Luopan evolved into a complex system of rings able to reveal advanced Feng Shui information. In its modern form it has been translated and color coded to simplify its use as a Feng Shui tool. The Luopan is part of the rich cultural heritage of Feng Shui.

See *Chi, Later Heaven Bagua, Luopan, Wen Wang Bagua, Qi*

Compass School

An early school of Feng Shui that developed after Form School. At first a simple needle and bowl compass were utilized to determine the best directional and solar orientation for a structure. Eventually Compass School incorporated principles of the I Ching and other Taoist modalities. The simple needle and bowl compass evolved into the Luopan compass which reveals many layers of information in its complex ring system. In Compass School Feng Shui, the Bagua is a diagrammatic representation of the Luopan compass and is oriented using the actual directions. e.g., North sits on North of the floor plan.

Also called *Fujian School*

See *Bagua, Ba Zhai, East West System, Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions, Flying Stars, Form School, I Ching, Ming Gua, Pa Kua*

Confucius

Chinese philosopher, teacher, sage, and father of Confucianism (551BCE - 479BCE) whose teachings were centered around the development of virtuous ethical behaviors and high moral standards to uphold peace and prosperity in society.

Constantly Turning Dharma Wheel

A BTB transcendental solution to clear inauspicious qi/chi.

See *BTB, Chi, Inauspicious, Qi*

Constructive Cycle

Refers to the cycle in which each of the five elements creates, nourishes, and enhances the subsequent one as we observe the elements in a clockwise circular pattern. They do so in the following sequence: Wood enhances Fire, Fire enhances Earth, Earth enhances Metal, Metal enhances Water, Water enhances Wood.

Also called *Creative Cycle, Nourishing Cycle, Productive Cycle*

See *Earth, Fire, Five Elements, Metal, Water, Wood*

Controlling Cycle

Refers to the cycle in which each of the five elements controls, weakens or dominates another in a pentagram pattern as they are viewed in their natural circular diagram. They do this in the following sequence: Wood controls Earth, Earth controls Water, Water controls Fire, Fire controls Metal, Metal controls Wood.

Also called *Destructive Cycle, Five Element Destructive Cycle*

See *Earth, Fire, Five Elements, Metal, Water, Wood*

Crystals

1. Any of several minerals having a crystalline structure that is a three-dimensional structure made up of atoms, molecules or ions arranged in basic units that are repeated throughout the structure. These can be used as amplifiers or transmitters of energy and other specific healing purposes.

2. A clear high quality man-made product, usually leaded, glass objects, sometimes faceted to create a specific shape used in Feng Shui.

Crystals are used in Feng Shui as remedies and in many other ways.

See *Adjustment, Cure, Remedy*

Cure

An object, talisman, ritual, prayer, action or intention used to achieve the greatest balance, harmony, and the most beneficial qi/chi in a space, or to suppress, neutralize or dissipate negative or stagnant energies or qi/chi.

Also called *Adjustment, Enhancement, Remedy*

See *Chi, Qi*

Curry Lines

A global grid network of naturally occurring electrically charged lines in the earth. These run diagonally to the poles, Northeast-Southwest and Northwest-Southeast, and were first discovered by Dr. Manfred Curry and Dr. Wittmann. The lines themselves are not necessarily problematic. The places where they intersect with other (North-South, East-West) grid lines, faults, or underwater streams are thought to be possible sources for certain health problems. They can be located by dowsing.

See *Benker Lines, Dowsing, Geomancy, Geopathic Stress, Hartmann Lines*

Cutting Chi

Cutting Chi refers to all types of negative, harmful, and inauspicious energy both indoors and out. This can include a straight alignment of landform features such as trees, poles, or nearby buildings, sharp corners, sharp objects, stagnant water, beams and trusses, and grave sites.

Also called *Killing Breath, Poison Arrow, Sha Chi*

D

Dao De

Virtue and character, bringing good karma and good will from others.

Daoism

The philosophical foundation of most major religions in Asia. Taoism is not a religion but rather a way of being and emphasizes compassion, moderation, and humility. Taoism professes “non credo” - “do not believe anything and accept all things” and is largely based on the observation of the natural order.

Also called *Taoism*

Day Master

In Four Pillars Astrology, the self element residing in the Heavenly Stem of the day pillar. This element has either a yang or yin quality.

See *Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Yang, Yin*

Destructive Cycle

Refers to the cycle in which each of the five elements controls, weakens or dominates another in a pentagram pattern as they are viewed in their natural circular diagram. They do this in the following sequence: Wood controls Earth, Earth controls Water, Water controls Fire, Fire controls Metal, Metal controls Wood.

Also called *Controlling Cycle, Five Element Destructive Cycle*

See *Earth, Fire, Five Elements, Metal, Water, Wood*

Ding

The fourth heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yin Fire, based on the productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more inward and recessive aspects of the Fire element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Ting*

See *Fire, Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Yang, Yin*

Divination

The art or practice that seeks to see or foretell future events or discover hidden knowledge or information by means of intuitive powers, reading omens, and/or use of a tool or interpretation of external objects. Divination is a universal cultural phenomenon that anthropologists have observed as being present in every religion and culture throughout history to the present day.

Divining Rod

Any of a group of devices of various configuration and material used for dowsing. Some of the most commonly used are the L-rod, the Y-rod, the bobber or tensor, and the pendulum.

Also called *Dowsing Device*

See *Dowsing*

Dog

The eleventh earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, it is representative of possessive, watchful and dominant energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Hsu, Xu*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Double Facing House

In a Flying Stars chart, double stars meet in the Facing Palace. For example, for cycle eight, both the water eight and mountain eight reside in the Facing Palace. The energies for this structure are said to be good for money (wealth), but not for people (health and relationships).

Also called *Xing Dao Xiang*

See *Flying Stars*

Double Sitting House

In a Flying Stars chart, double (matching) stars meet in the Sitting Palace. For example, for cycle eight, both the water star eight and mountain star eight reside in the Sitting Palace. The energies for this structure are said to be good for people (health and relationships) but not good for money.

Also called *Xing Dao Zuo*

See *Flying Stars*

Dowsing

Geomantic ('geo' referring to earth) divination, or methods of locating and diagnosing unseen energies, especially those located underground. Dowsing has been used to locate underground water for thousands of years, and can also be used to locate other influences at a site or on a plan or map. The practice of dowsing can also discover other concealed information.

Dowsing Device

Any of a group of devices of various configuration and material used for dowsing. Some of the most commonly used are the L-rod, the Y-rod, the bobber or tensor, and the pendulum.

Also called *Divining Rod, Pendulum*

See *Dowsing*

Dragon

1. The trigram located in the East of the Luo Shu square representing Ancestors/Family

Also called *Zhen*

See *Luo Shu*

2. The fifth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of strong and active energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology

Also called *Ch'en, Chen*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

3. In Form School, the armchair position of the Azure Dragon

See *Armchair Position, Azure Dragon, Form School*

Dragon Veins

Dragon veins are concentrated channels of qi/chi, magnetic fields, typically found in mountain ranges; and are the pathways of earth energy.

See *Chi, Qi*

Dragon's Lair

In Form School Feng Shui, the location that attracts and retains the most benevolent qi/chi and is the most auspicious site to build a home or to bury the dead.

See *Chi, Form School, Qi*

Du Shu

Education with effort, one of the Five Aspects of Destiny. Even with the best luck, we will miss out if we do not participate in life. We must do the work required.

Dui

One of the eight trigrams,guas or sectors of the Bagua. It is associated with the West direction, the number 7 and the element Metal, the season of autumn and the color white. It correlates with the sense of smell, mouth, large intestines, lungs, and skin. It represents the youngest daughter, children, descendants, creativity and symbolizes the Lake. In the I Ching, the Dui trigram is composed of one broken line over two solid lines.

Also called *Lake, Tui*

See *Bagua, Eight Trigrams, I Ching, Pa Kua, Trigram*



E

Early Heaven Bagua

The oldest arrangement of the eight trigrams. In this version of the Bagua, the trigrams opposite each other are complimentary, symbolizing the opposite forces of yin and yang, and representing an ideal state when everything is in balance or static. The Early Heaven Bagua is only used outdoors.

Also called *Pre-Heaven Bagua*

See *Bagua, Later Heaven Bagua, Pa Kua, Yin, Yang*

Earth

1. One of the Five Elements represented by the color yellow. Its movement is horizontal. Earth energy is balanced, centered and grounded. It represents the Northeast with the number 8, the Southwest with the number 2 and the center of the Bagua with the number 5. Its shape is flat, rectangular, or square. It is the later part of the four seasons and the belly and pancreas.

2. Classically related to the trigram Kun and the Bagua area associated with relationships.

Also called *Tu*

See *Bagua, Five Elements, Pa Kua*

Earth Base Star

In a Flying Stars chart, the energy or quality of qi/chi indicated by a number, representing the birth of a structure (determined at the time the roof is closed), within a proscribed twenty year time cycle, enclosing the earth energies of that time period into the structure.

See *Chi, Flying Stars, Qi, Twenty-year Cycle*

Earth energy grids

Electro-magnetic energy lines in the earth. The planetary energy grid exists in geometrical patterns that follow specific symmetries. The grids meet at intersecting points, forming a matrix. Some of the strongest power places on the planet are located on these grid intersection points. Earth energies at grid intersection points can affect human activity and health in a positive or negative way.

See *Benker Lines, Curry Lines, Geopathic Stress, Hartmann Lines*

Earthly Branches

1. Refers to the twelve energies and twelve archetypes, specific divisions in time and space offering information about the quality and movement of qi/chi. The Earthly Branches and the Heavenly Stems are the two primary components of the Four Pillars Astrology method and appear as a ring on the Luopan compass.

2. The twelve animals of the Zodiac-Asian.

See *Chi, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Luopan, Qi*

East

One of the four cardinal directions, signifying new growth. The related element is Wood and is considered to be the starting point of the Five Elements energy cycle.

Also called *Zhen*

See *Five Elements, Wood*

East Life Group

In the Eight House method, every person and building belongs to either the East life or the West life group. Northern hemisphere individuals or buildings having a Ming gua of 1 (north), 3 (east), 4 (southeast), and 9 (south) are said to belong to the East group and these directions are considered their auspicious directions.

See Auspicious, Eight House Feng Shui, Ming Gua, West Life Group

East West System

Part of Eight House Feng Shui. People and buildings are divided into two types: the East life group and the West life group, using the Later Heaven Bagua sequence.

See Eight House Feng Shui, Later Heaven Bagua

Eight House Feng Shui

One of the methods used to determine auspicious and inauspicious locations of a dwelling, to analyze whether the dwelling and the individual are compatible and to determine the individual's auspicious and inauspicious directions. This method divides the house into nine sections (the eight directions and the center) of the luoshu grid, determines the four most auspicious and four inauspicious locations. Each direction is weighted and has a particular aspect or quality of qi/chi.

Also called Ba Zhai, East West System, Eight Mansions

See Inauspicious

Eight Mansions

One of the methods used to determine auspicious and inauspicious locations of a dwelling, to analyze whether the dwelling and the individual are compatible and to determine the individual's auspicious and inauspicious directions. This method divides the house into nine sections (the eight directions and the center) of the luoshu grid, determines the four most auspicious and four inauspicious locations. Each direction is weighted and has a particular aspect or quality of qi/chi.

Also called Ba Zhai, East West System, Eight Mansions

See Eight House Feng Shui

Eight Trigrams

The eight trigrams are an essential component of all Baguas used in Feng Shui and can appear in two different versions; the "Early or Pre-Heaven Bagua" and the "Later Heaven Bagua." When stacked in pairs hexagrams are formed, creating the sixty four combinations of the I Ching. The eight possible combinations of symbols consisting of a combination of three yin (broken) or yang (solid) lines. Each trigram is associated with phenomenal aspects of the world expressed as a direction, an element, a number, an organ, a color, a family member and other life aspects, and makes up the essential components of "Eight House" or "Eight Mansions" Feng Shui. Each trigram is a coded description of a quality of qi/chi.

Also called Trigrams

See Bagua, Chi, Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions, Hexagram, I Ching, Later Heaven Bagua, Early or Pre-Heaven Bagua, Pa Kua, Qi

Electro-magnetic field

An energy field. Whenever electric current (voltage) is running through a wire or a conducting source, an electric field is present in a space creating a magnetic field. Over-exposure to excessive electro-magnetic fields is believed to be harmful to health.

Also called *EMF*

Elements

The Elements are Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water. Interaction between these elements and qi/chi form the foundation theory for achieving Feng Shui balance. There are at least three cycles affecting the five types of qi/chi represented by these elements. Each element exists in a yin and yang form and governs a specific aspect of life.

Also called *Five Elements, Five Phases*

See *Chi, Earth, Fire, Five Elements, Metal, Qi, Water, Wood, Yang, Yin*

Empty door

An interior doorway or door frame without a door which is considered inauspicious.

Energy

It is the term that refers to all forms of qi/chi, universal life force that exists everywhere. It is the movement of life force within our living space or body, which can affect our well being either auspiciously or inauspiciously. Feng Shui concerns itself with the movement and containment of energy to create the most beneficial support for a person in their environment. The quality of energy is determined by its flow and the frequency of its vibration. By raising that frequency we improve its quality and beneficial influence.

Also called *Chi, Qi, Ki (Japanese)*

Enhancement

An object, talisman, ritual, prayer, action or intention used to achieve the greatest balance, harmony, and the most beneficial qi/chi in a space, or to suppress, neutralize or dissipate negative or stagnant energies or qi/chi.

Also called *Adjustment, Cure, Remedy*

See *Chi, Qi*

F

Facing Palace

The direction or sector in the Lo Shu grid or Flying Stars chart where the qi/chi is the most yang or active, at the front (facing) of the house, opposite the Sitting Palace and ideally where the active living areas are located.

See *Chi, Flying Stars, Lo Shu, Qi, Sitting Palace, Wind, Yang*

Feng

Wind.

Feng Sha

A destructive, ill wind that dissipates and blows away benevolent qi/chi.

See *Chi, Qi, Wind*

Feng Shui

Translates as wind and water. Chinese geomancy, known in ancient times as Kan Yu, is said to be over 5000 years old. Feng Shui comes from the I Ching and is grounded in Five Elements Theory. It is the art and science of harmonizing the person with their environment and heavenly influences. This is done with the knowledge of landforms that gather and retain qi/chi and by the selection of a site in an auspicious location and in accordance with the energies present. A living or work environment is then designed in which the presence of the most beneficial qi/chi connects the energies of Heaven and Earth with the person. This connection is enhanced by the placement of objects within the house to create the best flow of benevolent qi/chi, the best balance of yin and yang, the most auspicious use of space in accordance with energies present, and by mitigating negative energies and enhancing positive energies.

See *Chi, Five Elements, Geomancy, I Ching, Qi, Yang, Yin*

Feng Shui Consultant

A Feng Shui consultant is a trained professional that has studied and mastered the principles and practices of Feng Shui. The modern Feng Shui practitioner may be schooled in a variety of Feng Shui and other modalities from traditional to eclectic customs and practices. The International Feng Shui Guild® has defined a standard level of knowledge, called the Universal Topics, which all members of the IFSG must demonstrate for recognition as a premiere professional member.

See *Feng Shui Practitioner, International Feng Shui Guild*

Feng Shui in Modern Times

The art of Feng Shui has changed and adapted as it has moved through time and transitioned from culture to culture. There are many different modalities and perspectives throughout the world; in addition to being an independent practice, Feng Shui is incorporated into many different fields including design, architecture, real estate, fashion, etc.

Feng Shui Practitioner

A Feng Shui consultant is a trained professional that has studied and mastered the principles and practices of Feng Shui. The modern Feng Shui practitioner may be schooled in a variety of Feng Shui and other modalities from traditional to eclectic customs and practices.

The International Feng Shui Guild® has defined a standard level of knowledge, called the Universal Topics, which all members of the IFSG must demonstrate for recognition as a premiere professional member.

See Feng Shui Consultant, International Feng Shui Guild

Feng Shui Shien Sheng

A Feng Shui master.

Fire

1. One of the Five Elements represented by the color red. Its movement is upward, outward, expansive and explosive. Fire energy is very active and vibrant. It represents the South sector of the Bagua, the number 9, triangular shape, Summer season, and correlates with the heart and small intestines.

2. Classically related to the trigram Li and the Bagua area associated with fame and reputation.

Also called **Huo, Li**

See Bagua, Five Elements, Pa Kua, Trigram

Five Aspects of Destiny

The Five Aspects of Destiny -- Karma, Fate, Feng Shui, Luck, and Good Works (also education and self-improvement) -- are believed by the Chinese to greatly affect or control the fate or destiny of individuals. Each aspect accounts for approximately 20% of the factors of life.

Five Element Destructive Cycle

Refers to the cycle in which each of the five elements controls, weakens or dominates another in a pentagram pattern as they are viewed in their natural circular diagram. They do this in the following sequence: Wood controls Earth, Earth controls Water, Water controls Fire, Fire controls Metal, and Metal controls Wood.

Also called **Controlling Cycle, Overcoming Cycle**

See Earth, Fire, Metal, Water, Wood

Five Element Productive Cycle

Refers to the cycle in which each of the five elements creates, nourishes, enhances the subsequent one as we observe the elements in a clockwise circular pattern. They do so in the following sequence: Wood enhances Fire, Fire enhances Earth, Earth enhances Metal, Metal enhances Water, and Water enhances Wood.

Also called **Creative Cycle, Constructive Cycle**

See Earth, Fire, Metal, Water, Wood

Five Element Reducing Cycle

Refers to the cycle in which each of the five elements reduces the previous element as we view them in their natural circular, counterclockwise pattern. They do this in the following sequence: Wood reduces Water, Water reduces Metal, Metal reduces Earth, Earth reduces Fire, Fire reduces Wood.

Also called *Reductive Cycle*

See *Earth, Fire, Metal, Water, Wood*

Five Elements

The Elements are Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water. Interaction between these elements and qi/chi form the foundation theory for achieving Feng Shui balance. There are at least three cycles affecting the five types of qi/chi represented by these elements. Each element exists in a yin and yang form and governs a specific aspect of life.

Also called *Elements, Five Phases*

See *Chi, Earth, Fire, Metal, Qi, Water, Wood, Yang, Yin*

Five Phases

The Elements are Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water. Interaction between these elements and qi/chi form the foundation theory for achieving Feng Shui balance. There are at least three cycles affecting the five types of qi/chi represented by these elements. Each element exists in a yin and yang form and governs a specific aspect of life.

Also called *Elements, Five Elements*

See *Chi, Earth, Fire, Metal, Qi, Water, Wood, Yang, Yin*

Five Yellows

Five Yellows is the most inauspicious of the Three Afflictions. Five Yellows is determined by the position of the Yellow Star 5 that moves to a different 45 degree section of the compass each year.

Also called *Wu Wang*

See *Annual Star, Three Afflictions*

Flying Stars

The astrology of the building. A Flying Stars chart is the horoscope for the building, describing its energetic condition over time. The Flying Stars method uses the sitting and facing directions of a building and its age (determined by the twenty-year cycle in which it was constructed) to create the Flying Stars chart, a numerological diagram. By studying the number combinations that are revealed in each of the eight sectors of the space we are able to determine the state of balance and qi/chi for each. Remedies from the Five Elements are used to balance the energies by reducing inauspicious influences and activating auspicious ones.

Also called *Xuan Kong*

See *Auspicious, Chi, Facing Palace, Five Elements, Qi, Sitting Palace*

Form School

The original school of Feng Shui based on the observation of topographical features. It is the relationship of a particular place to its landform surroundings. A metaphor for the ideal form has the shape of an armchair. When looking out the front door, the structure is cradled by the Black Tortoise, the Azure Dragon on the left, the White Tiger on the right, and the Red Phoenix in front. In practical terms good form places a structure with the solid stable qi/chi of a mountain or hill shape in the rear and the active energized qi/chi of active water or bright sun in the front. Finding the Dragon and Tiger energy in the landscape augments the beneficial effects. These original simple ideas evolved into specific protocols for interior placement and for exterior arrangement of a site, and are often symbolized by natural focal points such as trees, plants, hills and mountains, as well as by buildings and other man-made features.

See *Celestial Animals, Chi, Four Emblems, Landform School, Qi*

Former Heaven Bagua

The oldest arrangement of the eight trigrams. In this Bagua, the trigrams opposite each other are complimentary, symbolizing the opposite forces of yin and yang, and representing an ideal state when everything is in balance or static. This Bagua is used outdoors only.

Also called *Early Heaven, Pre-Heaven Bagua, Pa Kua*

See *Bagua, Eight Trigrams, Pa Kua, Yang, Yin*

Four Emblems

In early Form School Feng Shui, before cardinal directions were used with the development of the compass and the Compass Schools, the Chinese used relative direction: Red Phoenix as the front of a site, Black Tortoise (Black Turtle) as the back, the Azure Dragon as the left, and the White Tiger as the right.

See *Celestial Animals, Compass School, Form School*

Four Pillars Astrology

A horoscope system derived from an individual's time, date and place of birth. A natal chart consists of four columns or pillars; a year pillar, month pillar, day pillar, and hour pillar. Each pillar contains a combination of animal archetypes and elements that through their interactions and inherent qualities describe the condition of the individual's qi/chi at birth.

Also called *Ba Zi, Chinese Astrology, Zi Ping*

See *Chi, Elements, Qi*

Fu

One of the three deities said to be symbolic of life achievement. Fu is symbolic of happiness.

Also called *Fuk*

Fu Dog

A statue or figurine historically used as a protective cure for palaces, government offices and residences.

Also called *Chinese Lion*

See *Cure*

Fu Wei

Overall harmony, clarity in thinking, and achieving peace. The fourth best location in Eight House Feng Shui.

See Eight House, Portent

Fu Xi

An early ruler of China who was believed to have discovered or created the trigrams.

Also called Fu Hsi

Fu Xi Bagua

The oldest arrangement of the eight trigrams. In this Bagua, the trigrams opposite each other are complimentary, symbolizing the opposite forces of yin and yang, and representing an ideal state when everything is in balance or static. This Bagua is used outdoors only.

Also called Fu Hsi Bagua, Former Bagua, Pre-Heaven Bagua

See Bagua, Eight Trigrams, Pa Kua, Yang, Yin

Fujian School

An early school of Feng Shui that developed after Form School. At first a simple needle and bowl compass were utilized to determine the best directional and solar orientation for a structure. Eventually Compass School incorporated principles of the I Ching and other Taoist modalities. The simple needle and bowl compass evolved into the Luopan compass which reveals many layers of information in its complex ring system. Currently, western versions of the Luopan exist that have been color coded and translated to simplify its usage. The Luopan remains one of the most effective tools for diagnosing and diagramming the energies within a space and linking them to the eight trigrams, the Five Elements, Yin/yang and the twelve energy cycles. In Compass School Feng Shui, the Bagua is a diagrammatic representation of the Luopan compass and is oriented using the actual directions. e.g., North sits on North of the floor plan.

See Bagua, Compass School, Eight Trigrams, Five Elements, Form School, I Ching, Luopan, Pa Kua, Yang, Yin

G

Gen

One of the eight trigrams, guas or sectors of the Bagua, associated with the Northeast, the number 8, the element yang Earth, late Winter to early Spring, colors brown to yellow and blue to green, the spleen, stomach, pancreas, the sense of taste, the youngest Son, and the symbol Mountain. It is the area of the Bagua influencing inner knowledge, spiritual, personal and self-actualization aspects of life. In the I Ching, Gen is denoted by one solid line over two broken lines.

Also called *Ken*

See *Bagua, Eight Trigrams, I Ching, Pa Kua, Trigram*

Geng

The seventh heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yang Metal, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more active and aggressive aspects of the Metal element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Keng*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Metal, Productive Cycle, Yang, Yin*

Geomancy

The art of creating balance and harmony between people and the energies of the earth. The study of the energies of the Earth and earth-based divination techniques that have appeared in nearly all cultures and spiritual traditions. In modern times it is a study of geomantic, geopathic stress and environmental influences with the intention of mitigating those energies that appear to have an adverse effect on health and well-being.

See *Benker lines, Curry lines, Divination, Geopathic Stress, Hartmann Lines*

Geopathic stress

A potentially harmful energy field generated underground and radiated upward by mineral deposits, water streams, geological faults, decayed organic matter, graves, burial or ritual grounds, and man-made or other causes.

Goat

The eighth Earthly Branch in the cycle of twelve life energies. It is representative of friendly, calm energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Ram, Sheep, Wei*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stem*

Grand Duke Jupiter

One of the Three Afflictions, it is an inauspicious energy that moves to a different 15 degree section of the compass each year.

Also called *Tai Sui*

See *Three Afflictions*

Great Cycle of 180 Years

Refers to three sixty-year cycles, encompassing three twenty-year cycles, and is the basis of Flying Stars Feng Shui. A particular qi/chi is prevalent during each twenty year cycle which is based on the alignment of the planets Jupiter and Saturn, causing a major energy shift.

Also called *San Yuan*

See *Chi, Flying Star, Qi*

Green

The historical elemental color of Wood. Its movement is upward, expansive and symbolizes growth. The direction East.

See *Wood*

Green Dragon

A symbolic animal of the Form School and one of four Celestial Animals. In the ideal armchair or cradle position of the Form School, the Azure Dragon refers to mountain ranges, rolling hills, trees, or structures that support and protect a building on the left side of the armchair when looking out the front door.

See *Armchair, Azure Dragon, Celestial Animals, Form School, Four Emblems*

Gua

Translates as house or sector. In Compass School, refers to one of the eight sectors connected to the eight compass directions. One of the eight outer positions in the Lo Shu square, the Bagua, and the Luopan compass. In BTB Feng Shui, each gua represents a symbolic direction and its life aspects and is relative to the position of the entry.

Also called *Kua*

See *Bagua, BTB Feng Shui, Compass School, Lo Shu, Luopan, Pa Kua*

Gui

The tenth heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yin Water, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more inward and recessive aspects of the Water element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Kuei*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Water, Yang, Yin*

Guild

An association or group of people with the same profession or common goals, created to protect mutual interests and maintain standards for the benefit of the community.

H

Hai

The twelfth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of fertility and virility. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Boar, Pig*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Hartmann lines

The Hartmann grid consists of naturally occurring charged lines in the earth, running north-south and east-west. Named after Dr. Ernst Hartmann, a German medical doctor who first described it soon after the Second World War, they are considered it to be a source of potential health problems.

He

Harmony.

Also called *Ho*

Heaven

1. Associated with the shape of the circle, Heaven refers to the nature of the universal order, balance, and harmony of the cosmos.

2. In astrologically-linked Feng Shui, includes consideration of the positions of the stars and planets at a given time, and this positional influence on earthly and human affairs.

3. The primal and spiritual source of qi/chi.

4. Classically related to the trigram Qian and the Bagua area associated with Helpful People and travel.

Also called *Chien, Ch'ien, Chyan*

See *Bagua, Chi, Feng Shui, Qi, Trigram, Pa Kua*

Heavenly Stems

Refers to the cycle of ten as the Five Elements go through the cyclical transformations of their yin and yang phases. The stems are one of the two primary components of Four Pillars Astrology and represent the influence of heaven in the creation of material reality.

The ten include:

Jia (Chia)

Yi

Bing (Ping)

Ding (Ting)

Wu (We)

Ji (Chi)

Geng (Keng)

Xin (Hsin)

Ren (Jen)

Gui (Kuei)

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Yang, Yin*

Heaven's Heart

The central Palace of the Lo Shu grid. Also refers to the center point of a structure.

See *Lo Shu*

Hexagram

A symbol from the I Ching made up of six solid or broken lines formed from two trigrams. There are sixty-four hexagrams in the I Ching representing all known combinations of energies. They are used to divine a probable course of future events, and are studied for their philosophical and inspirational insights.

See *I Ching, Hexagram, Trigram*

Ho

Harmony.

Also called *He*

Horoscope

A chart that is drawn using the time, location and cosmology aspects of the birth of an individual or building, to be used for the purpose of divination or gaining an understanding of hidden information.

See *Divination*

Horse

The seventh earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of expansive energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Wu*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Hsiao

An end-blown bamboo flute, and musical instrument, used in Feng Shui as a remedy. This flute's base includes the bamboo's root joint which is bigger and stronger than the remaining, visible joints, allowing its base to act as a support to energetically lift or raise qi/chi. The bamboo flute represents peace, harmony, and grounding.

See *Bamboo Flute, Chi, Remedy, Qi*

Hsien Tien

Time and intuition-based divination, related to Plum Blossom I Ching.

Also called *Hu Tien*

See *Divination, Plum Blossom I Ching*

Hsin

The eighth heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yin Metal, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more inward and recessive aspects of the Metal Element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Xin*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars, Heavenly Stems, Metal, Productive Cycle, Yang, Yi*

Hsu

The eleventh earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, it is representative of possessive, watchful and dominant energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Xu, Dog*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Hsueh

Considered the ideal Feng Shui location.

See *Xue*

Hu tien

Time and intuition-based divination, related to Plum Blossom I Ching.

Also called *Hsien Tien*

See *Divination, Plum Blossom I Ching*

Huo

1. One of the Five Elements. Its movement is upward, outward, expansive and explosive. Fire energy is very active and vibrant. It represents the South sector of the Bagua, the number 9, triangular shape, Summer season, and correlates with the heart and small intestines.

2. Classically related to the trigram Li and the Bagua area associated with fame and reputation.

Also called *Fire, Li*

See *Bagua, Five Elements, Trigram, Pa Kua*

Huo Hai

One of the eight portents indicting accidents and mishaps; the disaster location in Eight House Feng Shui/Eight Mansions.

See *Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions, Portent*

Hwang

Prosperous, vigorous.

I

I Ching

Translated as the Book of Changes, the I Ching is an ancient Chinese philosophical text and one of the oldest systems of describing the nature, movements, and developments of every event or phenomenon in the universe. It consists of sixty-four hexagrams based on all the possible combinations of the eight trigrams and has been used for divination, protection and philosophical guidance for thousands of years and is an important component in the formation of Feng Shui theory. Confucianism, Taoism, and the Feng Shui Bagua all have common roots in the philosophy of the I Ching.

Also called *Book of Changes, Yi Jing*

See *Bagua, Divination, Eight Trigrams, Hexagram, Pa Kua*

I Ching Feng Shui

A Compass School method utilizing the hexagrams of the I Ching on the Luopan.

See *Compass School, Hexagram, Luopan*

Inauspicious

A term frequently used in Feng Shui to denote unfavorable, undesirable, harmful influences and unsuccessful results.

See *Auspicious*

Inhale Exhale method

A method used to balance and harmonize personal qi/chi.

See *Chi, Qi*

Intercardinal points

The four compass directions that reside between the cardinal points: Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest.

See *Compass*

International Feng Shui Guild

The International Feng Shui Guild® is the premier professional organization dedicated to Feng Shui. We serve as the central resource for our members and the greater Feng Shui community, uniting all professional practitioners, educators, and students as we embrace and support all approaches in this ancient art.

See *Feng Shui, Guild*

J**Jen**

The ninth heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yang Water, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more active and aggressive aspects of the Water element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Ren*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Water, Yang, Yin*

Ji

The sixth heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yin Earth, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more inward and recessive aspects of the Earth element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Chi*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Water, Yang, Yin*

Jia

1. The first heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yang Wood, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more active and aggressive aspects of the Wood element and is used in Four Pillars.

Also called *Chia, Zhe*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Water, Yang, Yin*

Joss paper

Used for Feng Shui remedies. Ornate tissue-thin rice paper that is rough, feels handmade, often contains imperfections and inconsistencies, and may contain metallic leaf. Some Joss papers are blessed in Buddhist temples and are used in Asia in rituals, holiday observances and in Feng Shui.

See *Remedy*

Jue Ming

One of the eight portents indicting severed fate or total loss. The most inauspicious, worst location in Eight House Feng Shui/Eight Mansions.

Also called *Chueh Ming*

See *Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions, Portent*

K

Kan

One of the eight trigrams,guas or sectors of the Bagua, associated with the North, the number 1, the element Water, mid-winter, the colors black and dark blue, the kidney, bladder, ear, and the sense of hearing, the middle Son, the symbol Deep Water, and relates to your success and your relationship with the world outside your home, and other life path aspects. In the I Ching, Kan is denoted by one solid line between two broken lines.

Also called *K'an*

See *Bagua, Eight Trigrams, I Ching, Trigram, Water, Pa Kua*

Kan Yu

An early designation for Feng Shui. The study of a site with reference to the time factor.

Ken

One of the eight trigrams,guas or sectors of the Bagua, associated with the Northeast, the number 8, the element yang Earth, late Winter to early Spring, colors brown to yellow and blue to green, the spleen, stomach, pancreas, the sense of taste, the youngest Son, and the symbol Mountain. It is the area of the Bagua influencing inner knowledge, spiritual, personal and self-actualization aspects of life. In the I Ching, Gen is denoted by one solid line over two broken lines.

Also called *Gen*

See *Bagua, Eight Trigrams, I Ching, Pa Kua, Trigram, Yang*

Keng

The seventh heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yang Metal, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more active and aggressive aspects of the Metal element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Geng*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Metal, Productive Cycle, Yang, Yin*

Ki

The Japanese word for qi/chi.

Also called *Chi, Ki*

See *Chi, Qi*

King Wen

Shang Dynasty King who arranged the eight trigrams of the I Ching according to the law of "periodicity" or the cycles and rhythms in Nature.

See *Eight Trigrams, I Ching, Later Heaven Bagua*

Kong

Color, space, form, emptiness.

Kua

Translates as house or sector. In Compass School, refers to one of the eight sectors connected to the eight compass directions. One of the eight outer positions in the Lo Shu square, the Bagua, and the Luopan compass. In BTB Feng Shui, each gua represents a symbolic direction and its life aspects and is relative to the position of the entry.

Also called *Gua*

See *Bagua, BTB Feng Shui, Compass School, Gua, Luopan, Lo Shu, Pa Kua*

Kuei

The tenth heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yin Water, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more inward and recessive aspects of the Water element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Gui*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Gui, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Water, Yang, Yin*

Kun

One of the eight trigrams, guas or sectors of the Bagua, associated with the Southwest, the number 2, the element of yin Earth, the season of late Summer-early Autumn, the colors brown to yellow, the spleen, pancreas, stomach (belly), and sense of taste, mouth and the symbol Mother. Relates to marriage, relationships, fertility and other life aspects. In the I Ching, Kun is denoted by three broken lines and is the most yin trigram.

Also called *K'un*

See *Bagua, Earth, Eight Trigrams, I Ching, Trigram, Yin*

L

Lake

Classically related to the trigram Dui and the Bagua area associated with children.

See *Bagua, Dui, Pa Kua*

Landform Guardians

The four Celestial Animals of Form School. Each animal represents a different earth quality or energy. Also represents landforms.

See *Armchair, Celestial Animals, Form School, Four Emblems*

Landform School

The basic landform configurations consist primarily of dragon veins, mountain landforms, and water dragons. Each configuration has a unique shape associated with it. Dragon veins are concentrated channels of chi, magnetic fields, typically found in mountain ranges; and are the pathways of earth energy. Mountain landforms have configurations that align with the Five Elements shapes. Water dragons are paths of energy in water.

See *Armchair, Chi, Five Elements, Form School, Landform Guardians, Qi*

Lao Tzu

6th century BC Chinese philosopher, legendary author of the Tao Te Ching, and contributor to Taoism, whose teachings advocated nonviolence, simplicity, and the constant appreciation of Nature, as "the Way" to sustain personal and societal peace.

See *Taoism*

Later Heaven Bagua

A circular or octagonal arrangement of the eight trigram directions, this is the Bagua sequence used in the Feng Shui Luo Pan compass. Kan is placed in the North, Li in the South, Zhen in the East and Dui in the West. Unlike the Earlier Heaven, static Bagua, this is a dynamic Bagua where energies and aspects of each trigram cycle into the next. It has become the most often used sequence in Feng Shui analysis.

Also called *Later Heaven Sequence, Wen Wang Bagua*

See *Bagua, Dui, Early Heaven Bagua, Zhen, Eight Trigrams, Kan, Li, Luopan*

Ley Lines

Alignments and patterns of invisible earth energy said to connect various sacred sites, such as churches, temples, stone circles, megaliths, holy wells, burial sites, and other locations of spiritual importance.

Li

One of the eight trigrams, trigram or sectors of the Bagua, associated with the South, the number 9, the element Fire, Summer, the color red, heart, small intestine, blood, eye, and the sense of touch and feeling, the middle Daughter, the symbol Fire, and relates to fame, rank, reputation and other life aspects. In the I Ching, Li is denoted by one broken line in the center between two solid lines.

See *Bagua, Eight Trigrams, Fire, Gua, I Ching, Li, Pa Kua, Trigram*

Li Chun

The day the Annual Star changes; the Beginning of Spring which usually begins approximately February 4th or 5th of each year.

Also called *Lap Chun*

See *Annual Star, Beginning of Spring*

Lion

A statue or figurine historically used as protective cure for palaces, government offices and residences.

See *Fu Dog*

Lo Shu

The foundation of all Feng Shui numerology. It is a three by three grid with a sequence of numbers said, in myth, to have been discovered on a giant tortoise shell that rose up from the River Lo. It is also called the magic square because any three sectors add up to fifteen along any diagonal, vertical, or horizontal line.

Also called *Magic Square*

Luck

Good or bad fortune, composed of heaven luck, earth luck, and human luck as it relates to Feng Shui.

Lui Sha

One of the eight Portents denoting unfortunate happenings and obstacles, also missed opportunities; inauspicious but not disastrous in Eight House Feng Shui / Eight Mansions.

Also called *Liu Sha*

See *Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions, Portent*

Luk

One of the three deities said to be symbolic of life achievement or wealth.

Lunar Year

354 Days, based on twelve cycles of the moon. The lunar month is the time interval between full moons, approximately twenty nine and a half days.

Also called *Lunar Calendar*

Luopan

The divination compass used for Feng Shui which utilizes the Later Heaven or Wen Wang Bagua sequence, with the qi/chi moving out from the center. In Compass School, the Luopan is utilized to determine the best directional and solar orientation for the structure, yin and yang positions, sitting and facing directions, and all energies within a space linking them to the eight trigrams, the five elements, and the twelve energy cycles. From its humble beginnings as a magnetic needle floating in a bowl of water, the Luopan evolved into a complex system of rings able to reveal advanced Feng Shui information. In its modern form it has been translated and color coded to simplify its use as a Feng Shui tool. The Luopan is part of the rich cultural heritage of Feng Shui.

Also called *Luo Pan*

See *Chi, Compass School, Eight Trigrams, Feng Shui, Five Elements, Later Heaven, Qi, Wen Wang Bagua, Yang, Yin*



M

Magic Square

The foundation of all Feng Shui numerology. It is a three by three grid with a sequence of numbers said, in myth, to have been discovered on a giant tortoise shell that rose up from the River Lo. It is also called the magic square because any three sectors add up to fifteen along any diagonal, vertical, or horizontal line.

Also called *Lo Shu*

Mantra

A ritualistic, spiritual, or sacred chant that is repeated either silently or audibly, and can induce an altered state of consciousness.

Mao

The fourth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of the energy of rapid growth and self-accomplishment. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars astrology.

Also called *Rabbit*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Metal

One of the Five Elements represented by the color white or grey. Its movement is still, inward and contracting. Metal energy is very precise, logical, and has leadership qualities. It represents the West sector of the Bagua with number 7 and Northwest with number 6, spherical shapes, Autumn season, and the lungs and skin.

Also called *Xin*

See *Bagua, Five Elements, Pa Kua*

Method of Minor Additions

Refers to the addition of simple, natural energy (such as plants, light, water, etc.), along with intention to affect Feng Shui changes without the need for major renovations.

Ming

Destiny, life, or fate.

Ming Gua

A person's destiny trigram with its associated number, element, and life aspects, based on gender and year of birth; an astrological method of divination providing information about a subject, including the four most auspicious directions for the individual.

Also called *Ming Kua*

See *Auspicious, Chinese Astrology, Trigram*

Ming Tang

1. A courtyard, or entrance, especially where benevolent qi/chi can gather
2. A defined area serving as a transition zone between one type of qi/chi and another, sometimes containing a vortex of energy, commonly at a main entrance.
3. A gathering place.

Also called *Bright Hall*

See *Chi, Qi*

Monkey

The ninth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of restless and flexible energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Shen, Sh'en*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Mountain

Classically related to the trigram Gen and the Bagua area associated with knowledge and self cultivation.

See *Bagua, Gen, Pa Kua*

Mountain Star

Expressed as a number denoting the quality of qi/chi in a sector of a structure. The Mountain Star represents the sitting (rear) direction of a structure in Flying Stars Feng Shui, and is associated with people, health and relationships.

See *Chi, Flying Star Feng Shui, Qi*

Mouth of Qi

The main entrance where qi/chi or energy enters a structure. It can also refer to entry points of land or property.

Also called *Mouth of Chi*

See *Chi, Qi*

Mu

One of the Five Elements represented by the color green. Its movement is upward, expansive and symbolizes growth. Wood energy is influential and flexible. It represents the connection between Heaven and Earth, the East sector of the Bagua with the number 3 and Southeast with number 4, columnar shapes, Spring season, and the liver.

See *Bagua, Five Element, Pa Kua, Wood*

Mudra

A hand gesture often used with a mantra to clear the energy of a person or place, or to offer a blessing.

See *Mantra*

N**Nine Star Ki**

A form of divination similar to the Ming Gua method that uses the eight trigrams and all related information. Although it is Japanese in origin, its use was adopted by many of the early Feng Shui practitioners in the West. It differs from the Ming Gua method in that it uses the same calculations for both male and female subjects.

See *Chinese Astrology, Eight Trigrams, Ming Gua*

North

One of the four cardinal directions associated with the Element Water and the Trigram Kan.

See *Kan, Trigram, Water*

Northeast

A compass direction associated with the Element Earth and the Trigram Gen.

See *Earth, Gen, Trigram*

Northwest

A compass direction associated with the Element Metal and the Trigram Qian.

See *Metal, Trigram Qian*

Numerology

The study of numbers and the occult manner in which they reflect certain aptitudes and character tendencies, as an integral part of the cosmic plan.

Q**Ox**

The second earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of nourishing energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Buffalo, Chou*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*



P

Pa Kua

A diagram akin to the Chinese flow chart for the cyclical energies of the manifested universe, originating from the I Ching and the Lo Shu. The literal translation is “eight house.” It consists of eight external houses (guas) and a central one called the Tai Ji, a symbol denoting a perfect balance of the flowing energies of yin and yang, and also representing Earth. Each of the eight houses is named by a trigram, and points to a specific direction, number, element, season, color, body organ, family member, symbol, location and other life aspects in resonance with that trigram sector. The Bagua can be drawn in many different forms and is an indispensable tool in most schools of Feng Shui.

The eightguas are:

Kan (K'an)

Gen (Ken)

Zhen (Chen)

Xun (Hsun)

Li (Li)

Kun (K'un)

Dui (Tui)

Qian (Ch'ien)

Also called *Pa Kua*

See *Bagua, BTB Feng Shui Bagua, Fu Xi, Gua, Later Heaven Bagua, Pa Kua, Pre-Heaven Bagua, Trigram, Yang, Yin*

Palace

Name for each of the nine sections of the Lo Shu square (grid), used to calculate a Flying Stars chart.

See *Flying Stars, Lo Shu*

Pendulum

A weighted apparatus that swings freely on a chain or string under the influence of gravity. Like Divining Rods, pendulums are used for dowsing.

See *Divining Rod, Dowsing*

Period

A cycle of qi/chi, it is the primary requisite for construction of a Flying Star chart, based upon the year a structure is built. Each age or period lasts twenty years and begins on a year ending in the number four.

The time periods are as follows:

Period 1: 1864-1883

Period 2: 1884-1903

Period 3: 1904-1923

Period 4: 1924-1943

Period 5: 1944-1963

Period 6: 1964-1983

Period 7: 1984-2003

Period 8: 2004-2023

Period 9: 2024-2043

Period 10: 2044-2063

See Age, Chi, Flying Stars, Qi

Phoenix

A symbolic animal of Form School, the red phoenix represents water features in front of a structure in the Form School armchair metaphor. It also represents Summer and the color red.

Also called Red Bird, Red Phoenix

See Armchair, Celestial Animals, Form School, Four Emblems

Piercing Heart Doors

Three or more doors in a row which is considered inauspicious.

Pig

The twelfth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of fertility and virility energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called Boar, Hai

See Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology

Ping

The third heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yang Fire, based on the Five Elements productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more active and aggressive aspects of the Fire element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called Bing

See Fire, Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Yang, Yin

Plum Blossom I Ching

I Ching divination by time and space. Used to divine a current event or any date when a present event strikes you as an omen.

See Hsien Tien, I Ching

Poison Arrow

Poison Arrow refers to all types of negative, harmful, and inauspicious energy both indoors and out. This can include a straight alignment of landform features such as trees, poles, or nearby buildings, sharp corners, sharp objects, stagnant water, beams and trusses, and grave sites.

Also called *Cutting Chi, Killing Breath, Sha Chi*

Portent

An omen or sign of something to come, manifested as a resonance with a persisting quality of energy; identified by the Eight House or Eight Mansions method. Each of the eight sectors of the Bagua has a portent depending on the Ming Gua calculation for the person or building, and is associated with a degree and quality of auspicious or inauspicious qi/chi.

The following are the eight Portents:

Sheng Chi

Tien Yi (Tian Yi)

Yen Nien (Yan Nian)

Fu Wei

Ho Hai (Huo Hai)

Wu Kwei (Wu Gui)

Lui Sha (Liu Sha)

Chueh Ming (Jue Ming)

See *Auspicious, Bagua, Chi, Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansion, Inauspicious, Ming Gua, Qi*

Pre-Heaven Bagua

The oldest arrangement of the eight trigrams. In this Bagua, the trigrams opposite each other are complimentary, symbolizing the opposite forces of yin and yang, and representing an ideal state when everything is in balance or static. This Bagua is used outdoors only.

Also called *Early Heaven Bagua or Sequence, Former Heaven Bagua or Sequence*

See *Bagua, Chi, Eight Trigrams, Fu Xi Bagua, Later Heaven Bagua, Pa Kua, Yang, Yin*

Predecessor Qi

The residual energy left behind by the previous inhabitants of a space.

Also called *Predecessor Chi*

Productive Cycle

Refers to the cycle in which each of the five elements creates, nourishes, enhances the subsequent one as we observe the elements in a clockwise circular pattern. They do so in the following sequence: Wood enhances Fire, Fire enhances Earth, Earth enhances Metal, Metal enhances Water, and Water enhances Wood.

Also called *Creative Cycle, Constructive Cycle, Five Element Productive Cycle*

Q

Qi

The motivating life-force also called “Cosmic Breath,” “prana,” or “Dragon’s Breath.” It has also been referred to as vital energy, primordial breath, air, breath, and energy. Existing everywhere, it is the term that refers to all forms of energy and its flow and is considered the universal energy between heaven and earth. It is the movement of life force energy within our living space or body, which can affect our well being either auspiciously or inauspiciously. Feng Shui concerns itself with the movement and containment of qi/chi to create the most beneficial support for a person in their environment.

Also called *Ki (Japanese)*

See *Auspicious, Chi, Inauspicious, Energy, Qi*

Qi Cultivation

Techniques, such as meditation, qi kung, tai ji or other techniques, rituals, acupuncture, and Feng Shui that are used to enhance or adjust personal qi/chi, allowing it to flow smoothly throughout the body.

Also called *Chi Cultivation*

See *Chi, Qi, Tai Chi*

Qi Gong

1. A martial art which gathers qi in the body.
2. A series of choreographed movements based on this martial art said to bring health benefits.

Also called *Chi Gong, Chi Kung, Qi Kung*

Qi Kung

1. A martial art which gathers qi in the body.
2. A series of choreographed movements based on this martial art said to bring health benefits.

Also called *Chi Gong, Chi Kung, Qi Gong*

Qian

One of the eight trigrams, guas or sectors of the Bagua, associated with the Northwest, the number 6, the element Metal, late Autumn-early Winter, the colors grey, white, metallic gold or silver, the head, lungs, large intestines, skin and the sense of smell, Father or boss, the symbol Heaven and relates to travel, benefactors and other life aspects. In the I Ching, Qian is denoted by three solid lines and is the most yang trigram.

Also called *Ch'ien, Chyan, Quian*

See *Bagua, Eight Trigrams, I Ching, Metal, Pa Kua, Qian, Trigram, Yang, Yin*

R

Rabbit

The fourth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of the energy of rapid growth and self-accomplishment. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars astrology.

Also called *Mao*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Ram

The eighth Earthly Branch in the cycle of twelve life energies. It is representative of friendly, calm energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Goat, Sheep, Wei*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Rat

The first earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of reproductive energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Zi*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Red

Historical elemental color of Fire, considered a very auspicious color, the direction South, vitality, Yang activity, happiness, good fortune, and prosperity.

See *Auspicious, Fire, Yang, Yin*

Red Bird

A symbolic animal of Form School and one of the celestial animals, the red bird represents water features in front of a structure in the Form School armchair metaphor. It also represents Summer and the color red.

Also called *Phoenix, Red Phoenix*

See *Armchair, Celestial Animals, Form School, Four Emblems, Red Phoenix, Red*

Red Envelope Tradition

This tradition was developed in ancient China to ritualize, respect and honor information given to acknowledge the exchange of energy between client and divination master. The number of red envelopes given was relative to the significance of the information provided and the recipient's economic situation.

In modern times and in BTB Feng Shui this tradition refers to an exchange of red envelopes containing some amount of money between a client or student and a BTB Feng Shui practitioner or teacher who has been asked for, and has provided, enhancements, remedies or transcendental solutions. It is believed to bring prosperity to both parties involved in the exchange.

See *BTB Feng Shui, Enhancement, Remedy, Transcendental*

Red Phoenix

A symbolic animal of Form School and one of four Celestial Animals, the red phoenix represents water features in front of a structure in the Form School armchair metaphor. It also represents Summer and the color red.

Also called *Phoenix, Red Bird*

See *Armchair, Celestial Animals, Form School, Four Emblems*

Reductive Cycle

Refers to the cycle in which each of the five elements reduces the previous element as we view them in their natural circular, counterclockwise pattern. They do this in the following sequence: Wood reduces Water, Water reduces Metal, Metal reduces Earth, Earth reduces Fire, Fire reduces Wood.

Also called *Five Element Reducing Cycle*

See *Earth, Five Elements, Metal, Water, Wood*

Remedy

An object, talisman ritual, prayer, action or intention used to achieve the greatest balance, harmony, and the most beneficial qi/chi in a space, or to suppress, neutralize or dissipate negative or stagnant energies or qi/chi.

See *Adjustment, Chi, Cure, Enhancement, Remedy, Qi*

Ren

The ninth heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yang Water, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more active and aggressive aspects of the Water element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Jen*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Water, Yang, Yin*

Reverse House

In a Flying Stars chart, when the Water Star resides in the Mountain or Sitting Palace and the Mountain Star resides in the Water or Facing Palace. For example in Period 8, the eight Water Star resides in the sitting direction and the eight Mountain Star resides in the facing direction.

Also called *Shang Shan Xia Shui*

See *Facing Palace, Flying Star, Mountain Star, Period, Sitting Palace, Water Star*

Reversed door

A door that opens to the smallest part of the room or to a wall.

Rooster

The tenth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of receptive energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *You*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

S

Sacred Architecture

The practice of architectural design based on observing the patterns occurring in nature and the cosmos, then reflecting and replicating these structures to create a resonance with nature and the divine. Temples and cathedrals were built according to these principles. The incorporation of sacred architecture in Feng Shui today combines aspects of sacred geometry and sacred proportions with an intuitive and energetic understanding of the site and the client to achieve these goals.

See *Sacred Geometry*

Sacred Geometry

The study of proportion and inherent order in space, including how shapes affect energy. It is an ancient study that has been preserved in certain mystical traditions. Measurements, properties and relationships of points, lines, angles, surfaces and solids are observed and related to the pure principles existing in nature.

San Cai

The three treasures; heaven, earth and humanity. An essential principle of Taoist thought and Feng Shui, it refers to the three levels of qi/chi and luck that influence our lives.

See *Chi, Taoist, Three Treasures, Qi*

San He

A method using the astrological 120 degree relationship in Feng Shui, Ba Zi and Four Pillars to identify or create harmonious relationships. There are sets of three compass positions 120 degrees apart, represented by their corresponding set of three animals of the zodiac that are in harmony with each other. This system is used to determine those with who a person is astrologically in resonance or harmony.

Also called *Three Harmonies Method, Trinity*

See *Ba Zi, Four Pillars, Zodiac-Asian*

San Sha

One of the Three Afflictions, a residual energy resulting from the conflict of the animal affinity triangle and its cardinal direction. It moves to a different 90 degree sector of the compass each year.

Also called *Three Killings*

See *Three Afflictions, Five Yellows, Grand Duke, Jupiter*

San Yuan

San means 3, Yuan means 60 years and together they create the 180-year cycle referred to as the Great Cycle. Each Yuan is made up of three cycles of twenty years and is the basis of Flying Stars Feng Shui. A particular qi/chi is prevalent during each twenty year cycle. These twenty year cycles are based on the cycles of the planets Jupiter and Saturn. Every twenty years they align, causing a major energy shift.

Also called *Great Cycle of 180 Years, Twenty Year Cycle*

See *Chi, Flying Star Feng Shui, Twenty Year Cycle, Qi*

Sau

One of the three deities said to be symbolic of longevity.

Seam needle

One of the directional needles on a San He Luopan. The seam needle was originally used in Yin House Feng Shui as the guideline to locate the "sands" and "water."

See *Yin House Feng Shui*

Secret Arrow

Refers to all types of negative, harmful, and inauspicious energy both indoors and out. This can include a straight alignment of landform features such as trees, poles, or nearby buildings, sharp corners, sharp objects, stagnant water, beams and trusses, and grave sites.

Also called *Cutting Chi, Killing Breath, Poison Arrow, Sha Chi*

Sha

Destructive, negative, harmful, inauspicious.

See *Inauspicious*

Sha Chi

Refers to all types of negative, harmful, and inauspicious energy both indoors and out. This can include a straight alignment of landform features such as trees, poles, or nearby buildings, sharp corners, sharp objects, stagnant water, beams and trusses, and grave sites.

Also called *Cutting Chi, Killing Breath, Poison Arrow, Secret Arrow*

Shan

Mountain.

Shang

To ascend, up, above.

Shang Shan

In a Flying Stars chart, double stars meet in the Facing Palace. For example, for cycle eight, both the water eight and mountain eight reside in the Facing Palace. The energies for this structure are said to be good for money (wealth), but not for people (health and relationships).

Also called *Double Facing House, Xing Dao Xiang*

See *Flying Stars*

Shang Shan Xia Shui

In a Flying Stars chart, when the Water Star resides in the Mountain or Sitting Palace and the Mountain Star resides in the Water of Facing Palace. For example in Period 8, the eight Water Star resides in the sitting direction and the eight Mountain Star resides in the facing direction.

Also called *Reverse House*

See *Facing Palace, Flying Star, Mountain Star, Period, Sitting Palace, Water Star*

Sheep

The eighth Earthly Branch in the cycle of twelve life energies. It is representative of friendly, calm energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called Goat, Ram, Wei

See Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology

Shen

1. Spirits
2. Sh'en

Sh'en

The ninth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of restless and flexible energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called Monkey, Shen

See Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology

Sheng

Life, growth, benefit.

Sheng Qi

1. The prime location in places that have auspicious features such as clean water, fair breezes, and good light and sun exposure. An upward moving flow of positive qi/chi. This is the qi/chi we strive to create in our structures and our bodies. The prosperity and most auspicious location in Eight House Feng Shui / Eight Mansions.

2. One of the eight Portents indicating the best location for love, prosperity and happiness.

Also called Sheng Chi

See Auspicious, Chi, Eight House Feng Shui, Portent, Qi

Shou

One of the three deities said to be symbolic of life achievement.

Shui

Translates as water; general term for river or waterway.

Si

The sixth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of strong and active energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called Snake

See Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology

Si Qi

Negative energy that is dull and lifeless. It lessens the positive qi/chi and brings a low energy to the area.

Also called Si Chi

See Chi, Qi

Sitting Palace

The direction or sector in the Lo Shu grid or Flying Stars chart where the qi/chi is the most yin or quiet, at the rear (sitting) of the house, opposite the Facing Palace and ideally where the inactive or resting areas are located.

Also called *Mountain Palace*

See *Chi, Facing Palace Flying Star, Lo Shu, Qi, Yin*

Snake

The sixth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of strong and active energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Si*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Solar year

365 days, the time of a complete revolution of the earth around the sun.

South

One of the four cardinal directions, signifying full growth. The related element is Fire, the trigram is Li.

See *Fire, Li*

Southeast

A compass direction.

See *Wood, Xun*

Southern Hemisphere Feng Shui

Southern Hemisphere Feng Shui is a recent adaptation of Compass School Feng Shui that enables accurate compass calculations and determinations based on the solar orientation and seasonal changes specific to the Southern Hemisphere.

See *Compass School*

Southwest

A compass direction

See *Earth, Kun*

Space clearing

Refers to any method used to raise vibratory level, dissipate negative, stagnant, or inauspicious qi/chi or energy in a space, whether residual or current. Found in most cultures and traditions throughout time, space clearing can be used to revitalize a space after an illness, conflict or stressful event, to set intentions and to bless a place. Methods include, but are not limited to, the use of sound, incense, smudging, ritual, dance, pendulum techniques, or simply intention. Space clearing sometimes refers to the mitigation of ghosts and spirits.

See *Auspicious, Chi, Inauspicious, Qi*

Star

A number representing an energy or quality of qi/chi which moves cyclically through time in a Flying Stars chart.

See *Chi, Flying Star, Qi*

Sun

One of the eight trigrams,guas or sectors of the Bagua, associated with the Southeast, number 4, the element Wood, the season of late Spring, the colors green or purple, liver, gall bladder, ligaments, tendons, muscles, hips, thigh, and sense of sight, the eldest Daughter, the symbol Wind, and relates to wealth, prosperity and other life aspects. In the I Ching, Sun is denoted by two solid lines over one broken line.

Also called *Xun*

See *Bagua, Eight Trigram, I Ching, Pa Kua, Trigrams, Wood*



I

Tai Chi

1. Any of several martial arts grounded in Taoist ideologies that are performed at a slow pace.
2. The primal separation into yin and yang, the Tai Chi is the center of the Lo Shu square and the Bagua represented as the flowing yin/yang symbol.

Also called *Tai Ji*

See *Bagua, Tai Ji, Lo Shu, Pa Kua, Taoist, Yang, Yin*

Tai Ji

1. Any of several martial arts grounded in Taoist ideologies that are performed at a slow pace.
2. The primal separation into yin and yang, the Tai Ji is the center of the loo shu square and the Bagua represented as the flowing yin/yang symbol.

Also called *Tai Chi*

See *Bagua, Tai Ji, Lo Shu, Pa Kua, Taoist, Yang, Yin*

Tai Sui

One of the Three Afflictions, it is an inauspicious energy that moves to a different 15 degree section of the compass each year.

Also Called *Grand Duke Jupiter*

See *Three Afflictions, Inauspicious*

Taoism

The philosophical foundation of most major religions in Asia. Taoism is not a religion but rather a way of being and emphasizes compassion, moderation, and humility. Taoism professes “non credo”; “do not believe anything and accept all things” and is largely based on the observation of the natural order.

Also called *Daoism*

Ten Meter System

Named after Anton Benker of Germany, the dowser who discovered this system. Benker lines lie on every fifth Hartmann line and radiate up into space, but are stronger to a great degree. One side of a Benker line is positively charged, and the other side is negatively charged. They are considered to be a source of potential health problems, and are located by dowsing.

See *Curry Lines, Geomancy, Geopathic Stress, Hartmann Lines*

Ten Thousand Year Calendar

Begins 2698 BCE on the first day of the reign of Huang Di, the “Yellow Emperor.” Describes the movement of qi/chi for ten thousand years and is an essential tool in the creation of Four Pillars charts and other forms of divination. Each volume covers 100 years of information.

See *Divination, Four Pillars, Chinese Calendar*

Three Afflictions

Inauspicious energies that move to a different section of the compass each year.

See *Five Yellows, Grand Duke Jupiter, Three Killings*

Three Door Method

The Feng Shui method, derived from the BTB Feng Shui Bagua, of superimposing the Bagua on a site, building, or room relative to the entry (Mouth of Qi) by aligning the entry with one of the three trigrams Gen (Knowledge), Kan (Career) or Qian (Helpful People).

See Bagua, Gen, Kan, Pa Kua, Qian, BTB Feng Shui Bagua

Three Harmonies Method

A method using the astrological 120 degree relationship to create harmonious relationships. There are sets of three compass positions 120 degrees apart, represented by their corresponding set of three animals of the zodiac that are in harmony with each other. This system is used to determine those with who a person is astrologically in resonance, or harmony.

Also called San He, Trinity

See Zodiac-Asian

Three Killings

One of the Three Afflictions, a residual energy resulting from the conflict of the animal affinity triangle and its cardinal direction. It moves to a different 90 degree sector of the compass each year.

Also called San Sha

See Three Afflictions, Cardinal Directions

Three Secret Reinforcements

A transcendental and ritualized use of thought, action and speech to imbue Feng Shui adjustments with conscious intention.

Also called Three Secrets

See Adjustment, Transcendental Solutions

Three Secrets

A transcendental and ritualized use of thought, action and speech to imbue Feng Shui adjustments with conscious intention.

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Three Treasures

The three treasures are referred to as heaven, earth and humanity. An essential principle of Taoist thought and Feng Shui, it refers to the three levels of qi/chi and luck that influence our lives.

See Qi, San Cai

Thunder

Classically related to the trigram Zhen and the Bagua area associated with family and ancestors.

Tien Chai Zhe

Heaven luck

Tien Yi

One of the eight Portents indicating healing from Heaven. The health and second best location in Eight House Feng Shui / Eight Mansions.

See *Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions, Portent*

Tiger

1. The third earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of the energies of moving ahead rapidly. It is used in Chinese Astrology, Four Pillars Astrology.

2. A symbolic animal of Form School and one of the four Celestial Animals, called White Tiger. In the ideal armchair or cradle position of the Form School, it refers to mountain ranges, rolling hills, trees, or structures that support and protect a building on the right side of the armchair when looking out the front door. The Tiger is associated with yin and peaceful energy.

Also called *White Tiger, Yin*

See *Armchair, Celestial Animals, Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Form School, Four Pillars Astrology, Yang, Yin*

Time

The perception of the linear conception of the distance traveled by consciousness. Several of the divination methods of time calculation include Local Apparent time, Local Mean time, Standard time, and Daylight-Saving time. When determining the "double-hour" of birth in Chinese astrology, use Standard time for the hour and day pillar.

Ting

The fourth heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yin Fire, based on the productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more inward and recessive aspects of the Fire element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Ding*

See *Five Elements, Fire, Heavenly Stems, Four Pillars Astrology, Productive Cycle, Yang, Yin*

Tortoise

The symbolic animal of Form School, and the most important of the four Celestial Animals. In the ideal armchair position of Form School, it refers to hills, mountains, trees or other structures that support and protect a building from behind. In the ancient traditions it was best located in the North as a protection from the cold winds. In modern times it can be located in any direction as long as it provides the physical and energetic backing needed to offer support for the building. The same principles can be applied inside the building when orienting furnishings.

Also called *Black Tortoise, Turtle*

See *Armchair, Celestial Animals, Form School, Four Emblems*

Traditional Feng Shui

The word 'traditional' is sometimes substituted for 'classical' in describing the Form and Compass Schools practiced for thousands of years in Asia.

See *Compass School, Classical Feng Shui, Form School*

Transcendental Solution

A spiritual, symbolic or ritualistic solution used to complement and reinforce the mundane, common sense solutions.

Also called *Adjustment, Enhancement, Transcendental Cure, Remedy*

See *Adjustment, Enhancement, Remedy*

Trigram

A symbol originating in the I Ching. There are eight trigrams or symbols in the Bagua, each denoting a different phase of qi/chi, yin and yang relationships, and different aspects of human life. Each cycles into the other. A trigram is represented by a combination of three horizontally drawn straight and broken lines and is read from the bottom up. Traditionally, the bottom line represents Earth, the middle line represents man, and the top line represents Heaven. Each person has a personal trigram related to their gender and birth date, called their Ming Gua.

The eight trigrams are:

Kan (K'an)

Gen (Ken)

Zhen (Chen)

Xun (Hsun)

Li (Li)

Kun (K'un)

Dui (Tui)

Qian (Ch'ien)

See *Bagua, Chi, I Ching, Ming Gua, Pre-Heaven Bagua, Qi, Trigram, Yang, Yin*

Tshen Pei

Aged dried tangerine skin used to purify a space.

Also called *Chen Pi*

Tu

1. One of the Five Elements represented by the color yellow. Its movement is horizontal. Earth energy is balanced, centered and grounded. It represents the Northeast with the number 8, the Southwest with the number 2 and the center of the Bagua with the number 5. Its shape is flat, rectangular, or square. It is the later part of the four seasons and the belly and pancreas.

2. Classically related to the trigram Kun and the Bagua area associated with relationships.

Also called *Earth*

Tui

One of the eight trigrams,guas or sectors of the Bagua. It is associated with the West direction, the number 7 and the element Metal, the season of Autumn and the color white. It correlates with the sense of smell, mouth, large intestines, lungs, and skin. It represents the youngest daughter, children, descendants, creativity and symbolizes the Lake. In the I Ching, the Dui trigram is composed of one broken line over two solid lines.

Also called *Dui, Lake*

See *Bagua, Eight Trigrams, I Ching, Pa Kua, Trigram*

Tung T'su

An annual Chinese book with advice about the best, worst, and appropriate activities, locations and more, for each day of the year. It has been widely used in China to predict everything from the size of the yearly harvest to the electoral success of public officials. In its almanac form it is used for the selection of auspicious and inauspicious dates for all types of activities.

Also called *Chinese Almanac*

See *Auspicious, Inauspicious, Ten Thousand Year Calendar*

Turtle

The symbolic animal of Form School, and the most important of the four Celestial Animals. In the ideal armchair position of Form School, it refers to hills, mountains, trees or other structures that support and protect a building from behind. In the ancient traditions it was best located in the North as a protection from the cold winds. In modern times it can be located in any direction as long as it provides the physical and energetic backing needed to offer support for the building. The same principles can be applied inside the building when orienting furnishings.

Also called *Black Tortoise, Tortoise*

See *Armchair, Celestial Animals, Form School, Four Emblems*

Twelve Zodiac Hours

Each Chinese hour is two western hours long and is given the name of one of the twelve animals of the Asian zodiac.

See *Zodiac-Asian*

Twenty-Four Mountains

1. Each "mountain" represents a 1/24th, or fifteen degree sector of the Luopan compass, each possessing certain unique qualities.
2. They comprise the twelve Earthly Branches, the eight Heavenly Stems and the four corner trigrams.

See *Earthly Branches, Heavenly Stems Four Pillars Astrology, Luopan, Mountain, Trigrams*

Twenty-Four Seasons

In the Chinese calendar each month has 2 seasons, the first season is referred to as the Joint, the second season is referred to as the qi/chi, creating Twenty-Four Seasons. Each Joint and Chi has its own significance. The Twenty-Four Seasons start approximately on February 4th with Li Chun and continue at regular fifteen-day intervals throughout the year. The exact time when each particular Joint or Chi starts depends on the Month Stem and Month Branch.

See *Chi, Earthly Branches, Heavenly Stems, Qi*

Twenty-Year Cycle

A 20-year period of time, or Yun, in Flying Stars Feng Shui that is governed by its own star and has a predominant energy that is prevalent during that period. These twenty year cycles are based on the cycles of the planets Jupiter and Saturn. Every twenty years they align, causing a major energy shift.

There are 9 Twenty-years Cycles and they are combined to create larger cycles. Three Twenty-Year cycles combine into the Sixty-Year cycle called a Yuan. Three Sixty-Year cycles [Yuans] combine in the 180 year cycle called the Great Cycle of 180 years.

See *Great Cycle of 180 Years, San Yuan, Yuan, Yun*

W

Wang Shan

Prosperous mountain.

Wang Shan Wang Shui

A Flying Stars chart in which the energies are good for people and good for money. The Water Star resides in the Water Palace, and the Mountain Star resides in the Mountain Palace.

See Flying Star, Water Star, Water Palace, Mountain Star, Mountain Palace

Wang Shui

Prosperous water.

Water

1. One of the Five Elements represented by the color black. Its movement is wavy and deep. Water energy portrays a depth of emotion and introspection. It represents the North sector of the Bagua, number 1, wavy or amorphous shapes, Winter season, the kidneys and sense of hearing.

2. Classically related to the trigram Kan and the Bagua area associated with career and life journey.

Also called Shui

See Bagua, Black, Five Elements, Kan, North, Pa Kua

Water Star

The star represented as a number denoting the quality of qi/chi that represents the facing direction (front) of a structure in Flying Stars. The Water Star is associated with the energies of money.

See Chi, Flying Star, Qi

Wei

The eighth Earthly Branch in the cycle of twelve life energies. It is representative of friendly, calm energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called Goat, Ram, Sheep

See Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology

Wen Wang Bagua

A circular or octagonal arrangement of the eight trigram directions, this is the Bagua sequence used in the Feng Shui Luopan compass. Kan is placed in the North, Li in the South, Zhen in the East and Dui in the West. Unlike the Early Heaven, static Bagua, this is a dynamic Bagua where energies and aspects of each trigram cycle into the next. It has become the most often used sequence in Feng Shui analysis.

See Bagua, Dui, Early Heaven Bagua, Eight Trigram, Kan, Li, Luopan, Pa Kua, Zhen

West

One of the four cardinal directions, signifying autumn harvest. The related element is Metal and the trigram is Dui.

See Dui, Metal

West Life Group

In the Eight House method, every person and building belongs to either the West Life or East Life Group. Northern hemisphere individuals or buildings having a Ming Gua of 2 (southwest), 6 (northwest), 7 (west), or 8 (northeast) are said to belong to the West Group. All members and buildings belonging to this group share these directions as auspicious.

See *East Life Group, Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions, Ming Gua*

White

The historical elemental color of Metal. Its movement is still, inward and contracting, and symbolizes completion. The direction West.

See *Metal, West*

White Tiger

A symbolic animal of Form School and one of the four Celestial Animals. In the ideal cradle or armchair position of Form School, it refers to mountain ranges, rolling hills, trees, or structures that support and protect a building on the right side of the armchair when looking out the front door. The White Tiger is associated with yin and peaceful energy.

See *Armchair Position, Celestial Animals, Form School, Yang, Yin*

Wind

Classically related to the trigram Xun and the Bagua area associated with wealth and prosperity.

See *Bagua, Trigram, Pa Kua, Xun*

Wind Chimes

Wind chimes are chimes constructed from suspended tubes, rods, bells or other objects and are often made of metal or wood. They are a common Feng Shui cure or remedy and are used to create positive qi/chi. Metal chimes are often used where moving metal or strong metal energy is needed.

See *Adjustment, Chi, Cure, Metal, Remedy, Qi*

Wood

One of the Five Elements represented by the color green. Its movement is upward, expansive and symbolizes growth. It represents the connection between Heaven and Earth, the East sector of the Bagua with the number 3 and Southeast with number 4, columnar shapes, Spring season, and the liver.

Also called *Mu*

See *Bagua, East, Green, Pa Kua*

Wu

1. The fifth heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yang Earth, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more active and aggressive aspects of the Earth element. It is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

See *Earth, Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Yang, Yin*

2. The seventh earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of expansive energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Horse, We*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Wu Kwei

One of the eight Portents that generates the kind of bad luck resulting in fires, burglary, or loss of income or employment in Eight House Feng Shui / Eight Mansions.

Also called *Wu Gui*

See *Eight House Feng Shui, Eight Mansions, Portent*

Wu Ji

A boundless, homogeneous state. The universe condensed into Wu Ji after the creation, according to Taoist scripture.

See *Taoist*

Wu Wang

The most inauspicious of the Three Afflictions, Five Yellows is determined by the position of the Yellow Star 5 that moves to a different 45 degree section of the compass each year.

See *Annual Star, Five Yellows, Grand Duke Jupiter, Three Killings*

Wu Xing

Translates as the Five Elements. In Chinese philosophy, the concept of "Wu Xing" has a prominent standing. In Chinese medicine, astrology, acupuncture and Feng Shui, Wu Xing is used extensively. This term has been conveniently translated as "Five Elements" or "five phases." The word "Wu" means "five." "Wu Xing" is actually the short form of "Wu zhong liu xing zhi" or "the five types of qi/chi dominating at different times." The qi/chi of Water dominates in winter, Wood in spring, Fire in summer, and Metal in autumn. Between any two seasons, the transitional period is dominated by Earth.

Also called *Five Elements, Five Phases, Five Transformations*

See *Chi, Earth, Fire, Metal, Water, Wood, Qi*

X**Xia**

To descend; down, below, low.

See *Shang*

Xin

The eighth heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yin Metal, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more inward and recessive aspects of the Metal Element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Hsin*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Metal, Productive Cycle, Yang, Yin*

Xing Dao Xiang

In a Flying Stars chart, double stars meet in the Facing Palace. For example, for cycle eight, both the water eight and mountain eight reside in the Facing Palace. The energies for this structure are said to be good for money (wealth), but not for people (health and relationships).

Also called *Double-Facing House*

See *Facing Palace, Flying Stars*

Xing Dao Zuo

In a Flying Stars chart, double (matching) stars meet in the Sitting Palace. For example, for cycle eight, both the water star eight and mountain star eight reside in the Sitting Palace. The energies for this structure are said to be good for people (health and relationships) but not good for money.

Also called *Double-Sitting House*

See *Flying Stars, Sitting Palace*

Xu

1. The eleventh earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, it is representative of possessive, watchful and dominant energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Dog*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

2. The Feng Shui spot, the ideal location.

Also called *Hsueh*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Xuan

Hidden, dark, obscure, profound, secret, time or progressing time. Xuan is a concept that describes an unknown or deep sense of meaning and is often used in a philosophical context. In Feng Shui practice, Xuan relates to time.

Xuan Kon

Literally translated as time and space.

See *Flying Stars*

Xun

One of the eight trigrams,guas or sectors of the Bagua, associated with the Southeast, number 4, the element Wood, the season of late Spring, the colors green or purple, liver, gall bladder, ligaments, tendons, muscles, hips, thigh, and sense of sight, the eldest Daughter, the symbol Wind, and relates to wealth, prosperity and other life aspects. In the I Ching, Xun is denoted by two solid lines over one broken line.

Also called *Sun*

See *Bagua, Eight Trigrams, I Ching, Pa Kua, Trigram, Wood*



Y

Yang

The active polarity of the yin and yang relationship of yin/yang concept. Yang is symbolized by light, activity, movement, Heaven, rigidity, strength, and the masculine. In the Feng Shui of homes and businesses, slightly Yang conditions are preferred. In the Feng Shui of cemeteries and mortuaries, slightly Yin conditions are preferred.

See *Yin, Yin/Yang, Yang*

Yang Chai Zhe

Houses for the living.

Yang House Feng Shui

The Feng Shui study of houses for the living.

Yellow

The historical elemental color of Earth, associated with enlightenment and intellect; it stimulates brain activity.

See *Earth*

Yen Nien

the third best location in Eight House Feng Shui / Eight Mansions.

Also called *Yan Nian*

See *Eight House Feng Shui, Portent*

Yi

The second heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yin Wood, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more inward and recessive aspects of the Wood Element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Wood, Yin, Yang*

Yi Jing

Translated as the Book of Changes, the I Ching is an ancient Chinese philosophical text and one of the oldest systems of describing the nature, movements, and developments of every event or phenomenon in the universe. It consists of sixty-four hexagrams based on all the possible combinations of the eight trigrams and has been used for divination, protection and philosophical guidance for thousands of years and is an important component in the formation of Feng Shui theory. Confucianism, Taoism, and the Feng Shui Bagua all have common roots in the philosophy of the I Ching.

Also called *Book of Changes, I Ching*

See *Bagua, Divination, Eight Trigrams, Hexagram, Pa Kua*

Yin

1. The passive polarity of the yin/yang. Yin symbolizes darkness, stillness, flexibility, weakness, Earth and the feminine. Yin qi/chi, or energy, must be balanced in all situations by an appropriate presence of yang energy.

See *Chi, Earth, Qi, Yin/Yang*

2. The third earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of the energies of moving ahead rapidly. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Tiger*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Yin Chai Zhe

Translated as “dark house,” meaning tomb or grave site.

Yin House Feng Shui

The Feng Shui study of houses for the dead (burial sites). Many ancient rulers believed that burial on land with nourishing energy brought prosperity to their dynasty.

Yin/Yang

A concept from the I Ching denoting the opposite polarities that came into being when the universe came into manifestation; the Taoist idea that unites all opposites as complimentary inseparable forces.

See *I Ching, Taoist, Yin, Yang*

You

The tenth earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of receptive energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Rooster*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Yuan

1. Period of sixty years that is made up of 3 individual Twenty-Year cycles. Three Yuans combine to create a San Yuan cycle, or Great Cycle of 180 years

See *San Yuan, Twenty-Year Cycles*

2. Unit of Chinese currency

Yun

Luck that fluctuates with time and can be predicted.

Z

Zen Shan

A perfect moment of insight and complete understanding.

Zhe

1. The first heavenly stem in the cycle of ten, denoting Yang Wood, based on the Five Element productive cycle of the Five Elements as they go through their yin and yang phases. It refers to the more active and aggressive aspects of the Wood element and is used in Four Pillars Astrology.

2. House

Also called *Chia, Jia*

See *Five Elements, Four Pillars Astrology, Heavenly Stems, Productive Cycle, Wood, Yang, Yin*

Zhen

1. One of the eight trigrams,guas or sectors of the Bagua, associated with East, number 3, the element of Yang Wood, Spring, the color green, the sense of sight and eyes, as well as the liver, gall bladder, extremities, muscles, tendons and ligaments, the elder Son, the symbol Thunder, and is associated with Ancestors/Family and history. In the I Ching, it is represented by 2 broken yin lines over a solid yang line.

Also called *Chen*

See *Bagua, Eight Trigrams, Green, I Ching, Pa Kua, Trigram, Wood, Yang, Yin*

2. The direction associated with the, Azure Dragon, one of the mythical Celestial Animals of Form School.

See *Azure Dragon, Celestial Animals, Form School*

Zi

The first earthly branch in the cycle of twelve life energies, representative of reproductive energy. It is used in Chinese Astrology and Four Pillars Astrology.

Also called *Rat*

See *Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology*

Zi Ping

A horoscope derived from an individual's time, date and place of birth. A natal chart consists of four columns or pillars; a year pillar, month pillar, day pillar, and hour pillar. Each pillar contains a combination of animal archetypes and elements that through their interactions and inherent qualities describe the condition of the individual's qi/chi at birth.

Also called *Four Pillars Astrology*

See *Ba Zi, Chi, Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Heavenly Stems, Qi*

Zodiac-Asian

A diagram, consisting of twelve animal archetypes that are metaphoric representations of twelve types of qi/chi, which are linked to the cyclical movements of the heavens and earthly relationships. Although the archetypes have existed for thousands of years it is not certain when they were given their animal names.

The twelve are:

Rat, Zi

Ox, Buffalo, Chou, Ch'ou

Tiger, Yin

Rabbit, Mao

Dragon, Chen

Snake, Si

Horse, Wu

Ram, Goat, Sheep, Wei

Monkey, Shen, Sh'en

Rooster, You

Dog, Hsu

Pig, Boar, Hai

See *Chi, Chinese Astrology, Earthly Branches, Four Pillars Astrology, Qi*

Zodiac-Western

A diagram divided into the twelve astrological signs, each bearing the name of a constellation. The twelve are Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces.

Our History

In the International Feng Shui Guild® our history is as important as our present and future. We were founded in respect and honor of all perspectives and traditions of Feng Shui – traditions that are paramount in all that we do and are supported by the IFSG Mission, Bylaws, and the Code of Ethics. It is through the foresight, dedication, and passion of our valued community leaders that we continue to shape the future of our organization, enrich all our memberships while cultivating the growth and awareness of Feng Shui worldwide.

Our Mission

As a professional non-profit organization, the International Feng Shui Guild's mission is to:

- Advance the practice, teaching and use of Feng Shui worldwide
- Promote and serve our membership with resources, networking opportunities, publications and a content-rich website
- Unify the Feng Shui community by establishing and upholding universal standards in professional practice and education
- Inspire public confidence in the professionalism of our members as demonstrated in our by-laws, Code of Ethics and the Feng Shui Universal Topics.

Our mission is important to us! It is our intention to nurture the growth of Feng Shui worldwide, build empowering member benefits, and offer valuable public resources.

The International Feng Shui Guild is a large worldwide network of professionals who are shaping the future of Feng Shui and its practical application in the home, business, and community. Our Board of Directors and IFSG Committees work diligently to develop and create vast opportunities. **These volunteers dedicate themselves to Feng Shui and the International Feng Shui Guild.**

We believe standards and professional excellence – as shown in our **Organization Bylaws**, the **IFSG member Code of Ethics**, and the **Feng Shui Universal Topics** – key to the success of our members, our organization, and the Feng Shui community.

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