

Schools of Traditional Chinese Fengshui

There are three schools of traditional Chinese *fengshui* practiced today - Three Periods (*Sanyuan*), Three Combination (*Sanhe*), and Mysterious Subtleties (*Xuankong*).

The *Sanyuan* School



Yang Kunsong

Reputedly founded by Yang Kunsong during the 9th century, *Sanyuan* is the oldest system of *fengshui*. Classic *Sanyuan* focuses on evaluating the energy of landforms, and was originally designed to select burial sites. It relies heavily on using the *loupan* in conjunction with the 64 hexagrams to align the grave site with special features in the land. The *Sanyuan*

system is most useful in selecting building and grave sites on large tracts of land where the natural landform is dominant.

The *Sanhe* School

Founded by Yang Kunsong's students, the *Sanhe* school focuses on evaluating the directional relationships of a site to the surrounding mountains and waterways. *Sanhe* uses a *loupan* specially developed for its method of landform evaluation. The *Sanhe* system is most useful in environments dominated by waterways and is especially suited to landscape design.

The *Xuankong* School

Founded by Xu Renwang during the 13th century, systematized by Jiang Dahong of the 17th century, and popularized by Zhen Juren of the 20th century, *Xuankong* is divided into two branches - landform and the Flying Stars. Landform *Xuankong* examines a site's relationship to surrounding landforms and Flying Stars uncovers the directional and temporal energies in a site. The *Xuankong* Flying Stars method is most useful in urban and suburban environments where the influence of natural landform is minimal.

Applications of Traditional Fengshui

Fengshui can be used to select building sites, design and improve homes, businesses, landscapes, spiritual sanctuaries, and burial sites. When applied properly, *fengshui* can promote health, prosperity, interpersonal harmony, productivity, creativity, spiritual development, and minimize illness, disharmony, and bankruptcy.

Evaluating the External Environment

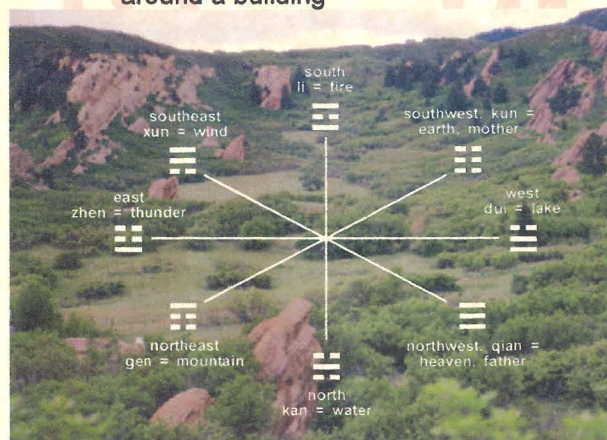
- evaluating the impact of natural landforms and human-made structures on a site or a building
- evaluating the architecture of buildings
- recommending countermeasures against structures carrying negative energy
- recommending ways of directing positive energy into a site

Evaluating the Internal Environment

- evaluating the floor plans and interior design features of buildings
- charting the flow of direction and temporal energy within a building
- recommending countermeasures and enhancements
- recommending space usage
- matching the occupants to a residence

Designing Landscape

- designing and placing landscape features to create and enhance positive energy around a building



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Mysterious Gate Fengshui

Consulting is founded by Eva Wong, a lineage carrier (*quanren*) of Zhen's *Xuankong* lineage and *Sanyuan*, and an adept practitioner of *Sanhe*. Her books on *fengshui* include: *Fengshui - The Ancient Wisdom of Harmonious Living for Modern Times*, and *A Master Course in Fengshui*.

Aims and Objectives of Mysterious Gate Fengshui Consulting Services

1. To offer traditional Chinese *fengshui* using the methods of landform, *Sanyuan*, *Sanhe*, and *Xuankong* Flying Stars for residential, commercial, spiritual, and burial site selection, evaluation, design, and improvement.

2. To promote the understanding of traditional *fengshui* through books, pamphlets, and websites.

3. To preserve the lineages of traditional Chinese *fengshui* through continuing research and translation of *fengshui* classics.



What Is Fengshui?

Fengshui is about understanding the nature of energy or *qi* in the universe so that we can build and design homes, workplaces, and towns to help us live harmoniously with positive energy and avoid negative energy.

There are two kinds of energy in the universe - form energy and directional/temporal energy. Form energy (*xingqi*) is carried in natural landforms such as mountains, valleys, rivers, lakes, and in human-made structures such as buildings and roads. Directional/temporal energy (*liqi*) is energy that enters a space at a particular time from a given direction. The practice of *fengshui* is concerned with evaluating the energetic structure of a space as determined by these two kinds of energy so that we can live in harmony with them.

Fengshui is a system of terrestrial divination, and is both predictive and prescriptive. It can predict events that can happen in a space, and it can also, given the predictions, prescribe actions and measures to enhance benevolent energies and neutralize or avoid malevolent energies.

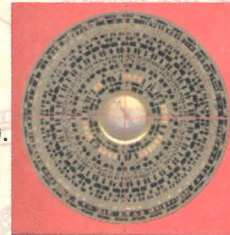
For thousands of years, *fengshui* has been used by the Chinese to situate towns and cities, build homes, businesses, spiritual sanctuaries, and bury the dead. Rooted in Daoist philosophy and the understanding that our place in the universe is not to dominate but to live in harmony with the natural forces, *fengshui* inspires us to see and experience the flow of energy in the land, so that we can appreciate the flux and permanence of the Dao and intuit the interdependency between all things.



A Brief History of Fengshui

Several thousand years ago, ancient China's shamans, diviners, and sage-kings laid down the building blocks of *fengshui* - the compass, the theory of change (*yi*) described in the pattern of the 8 trigrams (*bagua*), the calendar, and landform classification (*dili*).

Legend has it that the Yellow Emperor invented the compass, which later became the twenty-four direction geomancer's compass (*loupan*). Around 2000 BCE a cyclical calendar system emerged, and during the 12th century BCE King Wen formulated the *bagua*. By the 3rd century CE, the first text on landform classification was written.



It was between the 3rd century BCE and the 3rd century CE that *fengshui* became a distinct system of knowledge. Called *kanyu*, it was the study of energy embodied in landform. (*Kan* means mountain and *yu* means valley or lowland.) *Kanyu* practitioners believed that land is filled with *qi*, and that significant amounts of this energy are carried in mountain ranges, valleys, and water. Benevolent land energy can bring prosperity to a nation and malevolent energy can destroy it. Emperors and nobles were the first patrons of *kanyu*, and used the services of geomancers to select propitious sites for capitals, cities, and burial grounds.

By the 5th century CE, ordinary citizens began to use *kanyu* to choose sites for homes, businesses, and graves. *Kanyu* reached its height of development between the 7th and 13th centuries. The geomancer's compass (*loupan*), with its twenty-four directions, was incorporated into *kanyu* practice, and Yang Kunsong, one of the greatest *kanyu* practitioners of all time, founded the Three Periods (*Sanyuan*) system. His students expanded his teachings and went on to found the Three Combination (*Sanhe*) system.

During the 13th century, Xu Renwang set down the principles and method of charting and evaluating energy captured within a space at the time a building was erected. This concept of time-dependent directional energy became the foundation of the *Xuankong* system. As cities grew and more houses were built away from natural landforms, the discipline of *kanyu* also changed. Instead of focusing solely on evaluating the energies of mountains, waterways, and valleys, the system now examines energy that circulates within a building as well. The expanded field of *kanyu* is now called *fengshui*.

Fengshui's last phase of development occurred between the 17th and the 20th centuries. During this time Jiang Dahong documented the methods of *Xuankong fengshui* and named its technique of charting spatial and temporal energy the Flying Stars. Following Jiang, Zhen Juren popularized the *Xuankong* system even more by writing his monumental books on *Xuankong* landform theory and Flying Stars. The publication of Zhen's books makes *Xuankong* the most widely-practiced system of traditional *fengshui* today.

