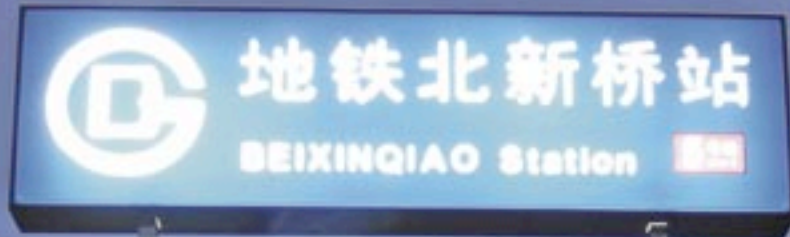


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# tbjhome



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The dazzling world of global subway design



Beijing's coolest **office spaces**

American hotelier **Dennis Melka**

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## Contributors

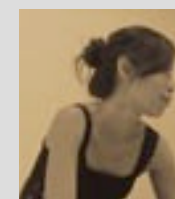


Master **Boon Yap** is a feng shui expert already well known in Malaysia, her country of birth, and Australia, her country of residence. She grew up steeped in the ancient wisdom of Chinese philosophy, where the traditions and practices of feng shui, Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism and *wushu* were part of her everyday life. Her early calling was to science, becoming a researcher in blood plasma, and subsequently to business, introducing life-saving technologies from the West to Asia. Now she is fulfilling her vision of enriching people's lives by spreading Chinese wisdom, reinterpreted for our modern times (see p89).



**Joseph Kan** studied architecture in Montreal, and now finds himself working as an architect in Beijing's construction craze.

Although most of his time is spent slaving away in the studio, he squeezes in time to work on side projects – such as writing about architecture and urbanism for *tbjhome* (p24), making comedic shorts on YouTube, and building websites for emerging pop stars. He has also been actively involved in various humanitarian projects in the US and in China.



While home may be Singapore, freelance writer **Wyn-Lyn Tan's** work and nomadic itch to get out and about takes her all over the world.

She started out as a food writer, and in the course of her nine-year writing career, has freelanced for a variety of lifestyle magazines. From fine Iranian caviar to crisp, fried scorpions, her taste buds have been honed to appreciate cuisines that run the gamut from the delectable to the weird. She makes her *tbjhome* debut this issue, exploring the colorful cuisine of Malacca (see p44).



# Habitat

Compiled by Kristina Pérez

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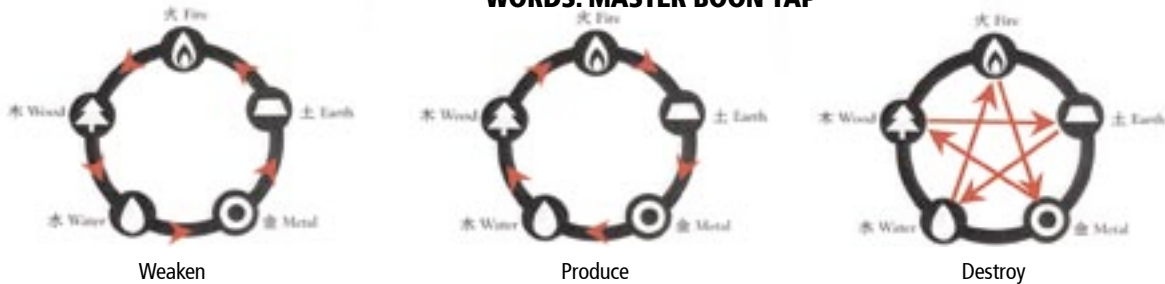
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# Color Me Good

The feng shui color theory can have a strong impact on the way you live your life

WORDS: MASTER BOON YAP



Cultural conditioning and personal preferences strongly influence our appreciation of color. Color symbolism is a conscious association that varies from person to person; which might explain why your interior designer thinks the purple and yellow she painted your bedroom walls is her greatest inspiration, but the garish scheme only serves to give you a headache. Color is energy that occupies the visible part of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Feng shui is all about *qi* (energy), which encompasses the electromagnetic spectrum and perhaps much more. Feng shui is not a superstition or a set of dos and don'ts. The practice of feng shui incorporates both the study (the science) of assessing the effects of the environment on our lives, and the practice (the art) of harmonizing these effects.

Like traditional Chinese medicine, feng shui has a rich and subtle tradition dating back 5,000 years, with a standardized body of knowledge that takes years of formal training to master. "Feng shui color" theory pertains to the universal subconscious effect of color, which feng shui practitioners over the ages have used to enhance people's lives. Put simply, color surrounds us, plays a vital role in the world we live in, governs our moods, and affects our behavior.

So, how can we make use of the beneficial effects of "feng shui color" theory in our everyday lives? Feng shui colors are based on the Theory of the Five Elements, each of which is represented by the energy hues of certain colors: Fire (pur-

ple/red), Earth (brown/yellow), Metal (gold/silver/white), Water (blue/black) and Wood (green). Each of us is represented by one of these five; to work out which feng shui element you belong to, crosscheck the accompanying reference table with your birthday.

The Five Elements interact in a strengthening, weakening or destroying manner. As you'd expect, we want to benefit from the strengthening cycle, and generally avoid the other two. As a general rule, colors representing your elements can bring you good fortune, and those representing elements unfavorable to you can bring misfortune. For example, suppose your feng shui element is fire. Fire supports fire and is your friend; wood fuels fire and strengthens you; as fire burns and becomes ashen earth, the fire in you is weakened; finally, water quenches fire and destroys you. Therefore, as a fire person, the colors that can make you feel good are those that support you (violet/red/orange spectrum) and strengthen you (olive/green/lemon spectrum).

However, following the wisdom that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, bear in mind color is only one element of this ancient art, and that many other factors can affect your personal harmony.

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Date of Birth	MALE	FEMALE	Date of Birth	MALE	FEMALE	Date of Birth	MALE	FEMALE	Date of Birth	MALE	FEMALE
4 Feb 1950 - 3 Feb 1951	E	W	4 Feb 1965-3 Feb 1966	E	M	4 Feb 1980-3 Feb 1981	E	WO	4 Feb 1995-3 Feb 1996	E	W
4 Feb 1951 - 3 Feb 1952	WO	E	4 Feb 1966-3 Feb 1967	M	E	4 Feb 1981-3 Feb 1982	W	E	4 Feb 1996-3 Feb 1997	WO	E
4 Feb 1952 - 3 Feb 1953	WO	WO	4 Feb 1967-3 Feb 1968	M	F	4 Feb 1982-3 Feb 1983	F	M	4 Feb 1997-3 Feb 1998	WO	WO
4 Feb 1953-3 Feb 1954	E	WO	4 Feb 1968-3 Feb 1969	E	W	4 Feb 1983-3 Feb 1984	E	M	4 Feb 1998-3 Feb 1999	E	WO
4 Feb 1954-3 Feb 1955	W	E	4 Feb 1969-3 Feb 1970	WO	E	4 Feb 1984-3 Feb 1985	M	E	4 Feb 1999-3 Feb 2000	W	E
4 Feb 1955-3 Feb 1956	F	M	4 Feb 1970-3 Feb 1971	WO	WO	4 Feb 1985-3 Feb 1986	M	F	4 Feb 2000-3 Feb 2001	F	M
4 Feb 1956-3 Feb 1957	E	M	4 Feb 1971-3 Feb 1972	E	WO	4 Feb 1986-3 Feb 1987	E	W	4 Feb 2001-3 Feb 2002	E	M
4 Feb 1957-3 Feb 1958	M	E	4 Feb 1972-3 Feb 1973	W	E	4 Feb 1987-3 Feb 1988	WO	E	4 Feb 2002-3 Feb 2003	M	E
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