



feng shui

feng shui for enriching your life

TEXT LAURA LEE PHOTOS ANTHONY TAN

Feng shui, which literally means wind and water in Chinese, not only has the ability to ensure our general well being but also the power to enrich our lives. According to Master Boon Yap, classical traditional feng shui has a history dating back to more than 5,000 years where the classical texts have been passed down to the masters.

“Feng shui is an ancient science and a formulated knowledge. It is very systematic. It is tried and test, and it works!,” she told the crowd who attended the evening talk on “Feng shui for enriching your life” which was organised by Prestij Permai Sdn Bhd, the developer of Aman Sari in Puchong.

Boon, the daughter of grandmaster Datuk Yap Cheng Hai, went on to elaborate that the feng shui is based on the Tao philosophy and the I-Ching classics. It is a study of qi or energy flow as governed by the roads, water and corridors and knowing where it gathers.

“Roadways are water. A good road represents good water in feng shui. You want it (water) to flow and meander. You do not want it to stagnant. Water can also be in the form of a little fountain. It does not have to be flowing all the time.”

She said water is one of the five elements often mentioned in feng shui besides metal, wood, fire and earth (See table). Water features play a very important role in your home. Normally water is quite peaceful but too much of the sound water can be negative and disruptive.

Boon also pointed out that feng shui involves an understanding the influence of time although its ultimate purpose is to seek harmony and balance. As such, the year you bought your property and which date you move in are of significance to the master or practitioner who is doing a feng shui assessment of your home.

“Feng shui is about possessing knowledge of Yi Ji Ba Gua, which concerns the forms and locations relative to the compass direction, key principles, theories, various systems and methodologies plus numerous heuristics.”

While reiterating that feng shui is very much alive today, she said it is an art because it is about the skillful execution of this knowledge.



Master Boon Yap

“This knowledge is for us to access and use it. It involves cultivating one's skills and the intuition to foretell the fortune of the occupants of a particular property bestowed by nature. It is about you sleeping in a particular position.”

She said in China, where feng shui originated from, the country was very much a farming community and had a lot of land and open expanse.

“In the modern context where feng shui is practiced today, our property or home is within the confine of your land area measuring 80 ft by 40 ft for instance. You cannot do a lot outside of this area but you can look within the property and change what you can. The beauty of feng shui is you can correct the negative qi and harnessing the good qi.”

In any purchase decision of a property, Boon said the factors to consider are still location, budget and design. Often when buying a property, the purchasers are preoccupied with the size, number of rooms and built-up but they do not think about where the main door faces and where the room or the toilet is located.

Boon said a good proportion of the feng shui is for the individual. It is about looking for the auspicious space for the various family members staying in the same house.

Touching on how feng shui manifests itself, in the interplay of the cosmic trinity between heaven, man and earth, she said the heaven is our destiny or the ship we are given.

“This represents one third of our luck. It is determined by the time, date and the year we are born. There are certain paths to follow.”

Where man is concerned, Boon said, “We are the captain while the wind is the feng shui. How good we are in tapping the win and reaching our destination represents the other one third of our luck.”

She added, “Feng shui is here for us to use. It can help improve your luck by a third but it is not a panacea for everything.”

The third factor in the cosmic energy is earth, which is represented by the environment or ocean. Purchasers looking at a certain property development would want to know if it is a good suburb area to be in and whether amenities such as schools are located nearby.

In feng shui, Boon said what is considered to be the environment relates to whether the place is hilly, flat, mountainous and rugged. Is it lush with trees? Are there busy roads and cul de sac near your property? What is critical here are also the direction and location of these physical forms in relation to your house.

Basically, there are two aspects of feng shui, xing fa and li qi. The former is about visible forms and features. She cited some examples of forms to include shapes (round, square, etc), colours, contours (wavy, high or steep) and appearance (rocky, beautiful, lush or ugly) in relation to your house.

Li qi, the invisible energy influences, is concerned about the flow direction, quality and nature of qi. Land forms play a vital role in guiding the energy flow. Boon added that feng shui should be very practical. It is using what is good for you in a practical way.

“When you do feng shui, you must ask for a little token back. It is not a small thing. We are changing someone’s luck and the environment’s luck. They need to draw from somewhere. It is a symbolic gesture of receiving something so that you do not lose your luck. You must have enough power or energy within yourself to do that. It is important to remember this exchange of value.”

The Five Elements

Element	Description	Number	Colours	Shape
Metal	Big metal (ore, mine, soft metal)	6	White, Silver, Gold	Round
	Small metal (ring, hard metal)	7		
Wood	Big wood (forest, tree trunk)	3	Green	Rectangular
	Small wood (bushes, leaves)	4		
Fire	-	9	Red, Orange	Triangle
Water	-	1	Black, Blue	Wavy
Earth	Mountain earth (fortune)	8	Yellow	Square
	Bad earth (disaster, volatile)			
	Universal earth (sickness, stable)			

Source: Yap Cheng Hai Academy

Lou Pan a tool used in feng shui

