



The Seven Portents

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There are three aspects or levels to understanding and using Feng Shui: the practical, the aesthetic, and the mystical. The design of a structure's main entrance, the most important Feng Shui area, will illustrate how each level comes into play. The entrance is important from the practical standpoint of welcoming visitors while deterring burglars. From the aesthetic viewpoint, it must be visually satisfying for both the visitor and the resident. The mystical aspect of Feng Shui views the door as the face of the building, which clearly reveals its personality.

The Chinese are comfortable with the traditional explanations for why Feng Shui cures work: they improve Qi,¹ balance the elements, and deflect evil spirits. Westerners schooled in the rational, dualistic world view prefer a more common sense approach. Increasingly though, they are disappointed if the rational explanation is not tempered with something slightly more esoteric, such as: energy flow improves by suitable interior adjustments.²

One branch of Feng Shui offers no rational or aesthetic explanations, only transcendental ones; it is the mysterious location of the Seven Portents: source of Qi, long life, celestial monad, ghosts, accidents, imps, and severance of fate. It identifies which areas of a space have *positive* or *negative* energy and suggests which areas can be used constructively and which should be avoided. It is more esoteric and perhaps more complicated to grasp than the straightforward Bagua system.

The Seven Portents offers astonishing results.

¹ *Qi is interchangeable with Chi or energy.*

² *This may signal that a shift is occurring in Western thought, that we are becoming more aware of unseen forces.*

94 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

Unlike the Bagua system, there is not a universal pattern which applies to all room layouts. The Seven Portents have eight different patterns depending on the specific orientation of the building. The pattern does not rotate logically for the eight directions. The Seven Portents change position in relation to the door and to each other. It is necessary to have eight separate charts, one for each of the eight directions: the four cardinal points: north, south, east, and west and the four intermediate, non-cardinal points.

There is no general theory which explains the whole system. Some researchers suggest that the location of good and unfavorable portents is due to the interaction of the two sequences of trigrams in the famous philosophical work, the *I Ching*. It sounds plausible but does not seem to work in practice. A likely explanation is that this system and body of knowledge developed based on the practical experience and observations of Feng Shui practitioners accumulated over the centuries. The patterns now in use are due more to practical application than to abstract theory.

Looking at examples of two of the portents gives us a glimpse into how they come into play in our lives and the power that they have to influence us.

One area is called the Imps;³ it is where annoyances reoccur. Everyone has experienced a situation where the simplest task suddenly develops into a major operation. You pound a nail into the wall to put a picture up; the nail bends. While you are looking for another, you cut your finger on something in the tool box. You go to get a bandage for your finger but cannot find the box, and so on. If this kind of thing has happened to you, it probably happened in the Imps area.

A favorable area is called the *Source of Qi*,⁴ it has a beneficial and inspiring atmosphere.

³ Also known as the Six Curses in Derek's book, *The Feng Shui Handbook and Earth Design: The Added Dimension*.

⁴ Also known as Generating Breath in *The Feng Shui Handbook and Earth Design: The Added Dimension*.

A woman contacted me because she was feeling very depressed and lacked the motivation to go out. I discovered that the room which housed the Source of Qi was her late husband's office, which she kept locked. I advised her to open up the room so the inspiring Qi could fill the house. She did, and a couple of days later, she called me delightedly to say that she now felt completely revitalized.

Determining Your Home's Orientation

You must first determine the direction your main entrance faces as designed by the architect. The front door must be used as the orientation point, even if for convenience and practicality sake, it is not the most utilized entrance. The orientation can be found in one of three ways:

- Using a compass to find magnetic north.⁵
- Observing the position of the sun at midday, when it is due south.
- Using accurate maps and charts.

Each method has its drawbacks. The compass method is the simplest, but magnetic north varies considerably from one place to another and also changes direction over time. The second method is the most accurate, but you need a working knowledge of astronomy and navigation. Maps may be misleading as they are often on too small a scale to read properly. Whichever method you use, check it by using one of the alternative methods. Once you know the orientation of the main entrance, consult the appropriate chart at the end of this article. The portents apply only if they fall within the confines of built walls.

⁵ *Try standing outside with your back against the front door with a compass in hand. The direction you are facing (where your eyes are looking) is the direction of the chart you use. If you are looking out north, use the north chart.*

Examining the Seven Portents

**Source of Qi:
Generating Breath**



This is one of three very favorable locations. It is the source of all beneficial influences in the building. It is a good place to work, especially for creative fields. While in this area, if you suddenly have an idea, act on it; you can be sure that it will be a good one.

**Long Life:
Lengthened Years**



This is another favorable area and a suitable location for the bedroom, dining room, or living room. In a business situation, it would be appropriate for storing perishable goods or the deep freeze but would be a waste of beneficial space to use for everyday cupboards or corridor space.

Celestial Monad:



This is the ancient name of the Pole Star. It is regarded as a very beneficial portent with spiritual qualities. It brings happiness and health. The Celestial Monad is never located at the rear of the building.

Ghosts:



This area is regarded with superstitious dread by some Chinese. Some ancient Chinese texts say it should be avoided at all costs. Viewed another way, it marks the gateway to the spirit world, the link between this world and the next. Those who are sympathetic to spiritual matters can place their religious symbols in this location, whether a cross, candlesticks, or Buddhist shrine. Placing photographs of past and present generations on the wall or on a small table may insure that the spirits of ancestors look after the living.

Accidents:



Do not worry if you keep breaking things in the accident zone. It is far better that a few household objects are broken than someone's limbs. This is not a good area for workshops, kitchens,⁶ or any room where people are likely to be dealing with dangerous materials. It is less of a problem when the bedroom is in this area, as most of the furnishings are soft. Houses with balconies here should fill them with plants to prevent children or guests unfamiliar with the area from wandering about and possibly having accidents.

**Imps:
The Six Curses**



Constant annoyances reoccur in this area. Make the most of it by performing your most disagreeable chores here. If you dislike ironing, do it here and release all your anger and frustration on the Imps.

Severance of Fate:

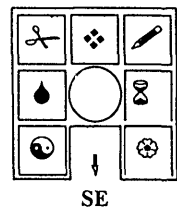


Avoid this area at all costs. Some people are able to overcome the malign influences inherent in this zone. Test the area by putting a vase of cut flowers here and a similar vase of flowers in the long life area. If both vases of flowers last for the same length of time, it can be assumed that the negative forces have lost their malign influences, and the room is safe to be used. Using it for storage is a safe recommendation. Avoid building an extension in this area.

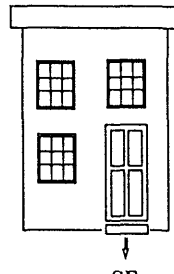
⁶ *If your kitchen falls into this area, it may be helpful to design with earth and water elements to minimize accidents by "putting out the fire." If the bathroom falls here, use earth elements to ground possible mishaps.*

Using the Seven Portents System

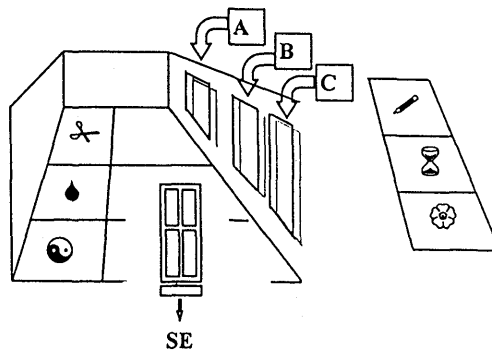
Buildings with an irregular-shaped floor plan may be more or less favorable than those with a rectangular shape.⁷ Whichever portent falls outside the structure's design is no longer a factor and does not influence the occupant. This may or may not be good depending on whether the missing section was a favorable or an unfavorable portent. The same is true if the main entrance is not centrally located with rooms on each side of the door. In this case, the wall at the side of the door shuts out that particular portent. The area immediately in front of the door and the central core of the building have no portent.⁸



South-east plan



House with door to one side



A

This area behind the wall would be favorable, *Source of Qi*. Hang a landscape or mirror here.

B

This area is unfavorable, *Severance of Fate*. It would be better to hang a portrait or architectural picture rather than a mirror.

C

Celestial Monad, another favorable area. Hang a mirror or landscape here.

⁷ Some traditional Feng Shui schools view L-shaped buildings and those that are not a complete rectangle as unfavorable.

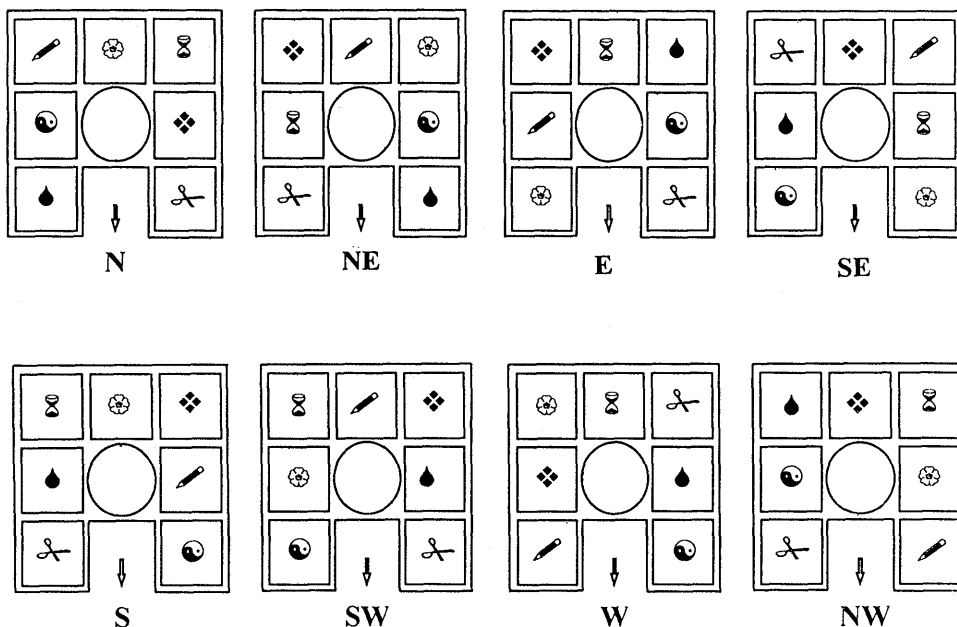
⁸ The area immediately inside the front door is known as the Favorable Welcome area in *The Feng Shui Handbook* and *Earth Design: The Added Dimension*. This area should be open, expansive, and inviting. The central core, the Tai Chi, of the household is also favorable and is a good position for the living room.

In the building on page 98, the portents marked B are considered to be outside the house and have no effect on it. If there were to be new construction in those areas, the influence of the portent would be introduced.

When the portent beyond the wall is a favorable one such as Source of Qi, its beneficial influences can be coaxed into the building by placing a mirror on the wall. This gives the impression that there is another room behind the wall in a favorable location. Alternatively, you could place a picture with a long distance vista or an expansive ocean view. On the other hand, if there is an unfavorable portent (Accidents) beyond the wall, shut it out with a picture that has no depth, perhaps an architectural engraving, a building, a still life, or even a portrait.

The Charts

The accompanying eight charts of the Seven Portents show where they can be found in buildings facing each of the eight directions. For people not used to working with a magnetic compass, the center of each chart has an indicator showing the position of north. Simply note the position of the needle when standing by the main entrance, and consult the chart it matches.



100 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology



Source of Qi

Inspiration



Long Life

Healthy Constitution



Celestial Monad

Recuperation and Healing



Ghosts

Gateway to the Spirit World



Accidents

*Not a Place to Have a Workshop
or Balconies*



Imps

Recurrent Annoyances



Severance of Fate

Time Runs Out

Using a transcendental branch of Feng Shui like the Seven Portents seems intimidating at first, but these seven areas begin to take on meaning and come into focus more clearly as you begin to assess your home and start making the appropriate changes. When you begin experiencing the benefits of your cures, you will be a Seven Portents convert.⁹

⁹ Thanks to Derek, The Seven Portents provide my clients and I with valuable information all the time.

Excerpted from
The Feng Shui Anthology

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In *The Feng Shui Anthology*, when the **Bagua** is discussed, **only the Life-Aspiration Energies are mentioned** (except in Derek Walter's article.). **To work with the Bagua and to maximize your Feng Shui with the information of all the masters, you must include your 8) Best Directions and 9) Flying Star Energies.**

Your [Personal Success Bagua-Map](#)
will optimize Feng Shui & Design Success

If you are a Feng Shui beginner or an expert...

Your Personalized Success Map
contains ALL essential, at-a-glance solutions
that Jami Lin provides during a private consultation.

IMPORTANT: Popular Feng Shui misconceptions!

- REAL Feng Shui is not a "one size fits all"
- There is not one Feng Shui map generic to everyone's home.
- If you moved in your home between 1984 and 2048, there are 2048 Bagua maps.
- **ONLY ONE BAGUA-MAP is correct for YOU**
and Your Home: and it is called YOUR [Personal Success Map!](#)

Check out YOUR Custom [Personal Success Map](#)
and [Listen About it!](#)

**Because YOU are now on your Feng Shui journey,
I made it really easy for you to personally benefit with my experience.**

- Schedule your private, **“by-the-Minute Consultation:”**
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(With its **☆☆☆☆ “Hidden Treasure” review!**)
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