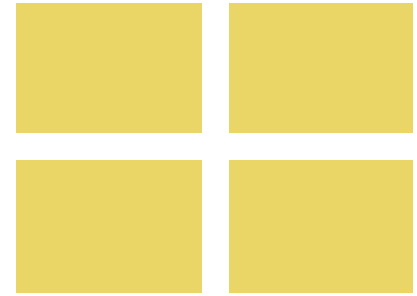


feng shui



Using Feng Shui for building design and renovations is becoming increasingly popular in the Western world as more people seek guidance for designing a property that will help to bring them success and good fortune.

What's the purpose of Feng Shui in designing a renovation or new home?

Feng Shui is an option to consider when renovating or building, as this is the time when you have the maximum chance of implementing change. Whether or not you use Feng Shui is a personal choice. It could be likened to investing in a building inspection before buying a house. The purpose of the inspection is for peace of mind: problems can be identified so that you can do something about them. A Feng Shui analysis will let you know what energies are there so you can do something about them. Some people would rather not know what negative energies are in their house. However, the energies are there whether they chose to know about them or not. At least if you have the knowledge, you have the power of choice: you can choose what you want to do.

Can I Feng Shui my own house?

'DIY' is very popular now, with lifestyle shows filling our TV screens. There are many books on Feng Shui that you might like to read for interest. Books, however, can be confusing when one recommends one thing and another recommends something entirely different to address what seems to be the same issue.

To answer the question 'Can I do it myself', there are some things that you could implement to improve the Feng Shui of your home. However, some Feng Shui 'remedies' can do more harm than good if used incorrectly. For this and other reasons, do-it-yourself Feng Shui can be very hit and miss. For a thorough analysis, a professional consultant is recommended.

What will a consultant do?

The aim of a Feng Shui analysis in the design of a building is to determine how to best enhance the positive energies and reduce the negative energies at the site.

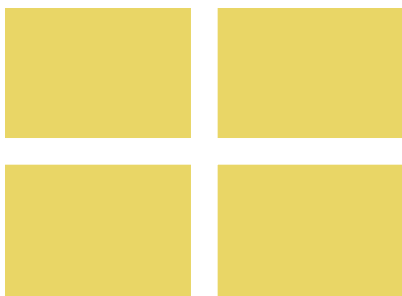
A thorough analysis should include the following:

- analysis of the area surrounding the site
- analysis of the site itself (the property)
- analysis of the best placement of the building on the site
- mathematical calculations to determine the best Feng Shui chart for the building
- design of the floor plan to enhance auspicious energies and minimise negative energies. This includes designing to allow ideal furniture placement and use of supporting colours for each of the rooms/areas. Of course, functionality of the resulting floor plan is very important.
- landscaping recommendations

A consultant can draw from a number of different 'schools' of Feng Shui. Three commonly used schools of Feng Shui are: Form School, Compass School and Flying Star School. These are briefly described below.

Form School : Form School involves the analysis of forms. Forms are any physical objects in or around the building and the site. Forms include furniture, trees, hills, lakes, fences and neighbouring buildings. All forms have their own Qi, which contribute to the Qi of the site. **Compass School**: Compass School involves determining the compass direction that a building faces, then dividing the site into nine sectors that relate to eight directions of the compass (North, North-East, East, South-East, South, South-





feng shui

West, West and North-West) and a central Tai Ji sector. Each sector relates to a different aspect of your life, such as career, family, marriage etc. The general Qi in the different sectors can influence the respective aspects of your life.

Simplified versions of Compass School are popular in the general media, such as magazines and television, as they are easier to explain than the more complex forms of Feng Shui. However, as they are highly simplified, they have a low chance of actually being correct or accurate if used alone. Therefore, these simplified forms of Feng Shui should always be used in conjunction with Flying Star School.

Flying Star School: Flying Star School is considered to be the most sacred and comprehensive school of Feng Shui. It is used to calculate the natal chart of the building, which identifies the more specific Qi in each of the nine sectors. Flying Star School takes into account the age of the building, which is something that the other schools of Feng Shui do not consider. All Feng Shui recommendations should take into account the Flying Star analysis, as Flying Stars School can override recommendations based on the other schools. To make suggestions without a full analysis has the potential to do more harm than good.

There are many different schools with many different names. However, the majority of them would fall into one of the above schools.

When do I engage a consultant?

Ideally engage a Feng Shui consultant as early as possible once you have decided what you want in the house. For example, you might want 3 bedrooms, a study, kitchen with separate dining room, and so on. It is best to involve the Feng Shui consultant before architectural drawings are done. This is because the Feng Shui analysis will determine the ideal placement of the rooms, according to where the positive and negative energies are at your site. Once the layout is proposed, then the architect can take it from there.

If you are at the stage where the architect has already drawn up the plans, it's not too late. A Feng Shui analysis can be used to determine how to improve on the plans. If the rooms are not ideally placed and you don't want to make changes, the Feng Shui consultant can at least give you suggestions as to how to make the best of the positive energy and reduce the impact of the negative energy within the existing plans.

How do I choose a consultant?

The Feng Shui industry in Australia is currently unregulated. Therefore, the training and experience of Feng Shui consultants varies greatly; from consultants who might have read a few books, to consultants who have studied and trained for years. Ask your consultant about their training and about their experience in the type of job for which you want to engage them.

The Association of Feng Shui Consultants was formed with the objective to define, promote and maintain a high level of standards in the practice of Traditional Feng Shui, and to ensure the Feng Shui profession has an outstanding reputation. If you require the services of a competent Feng Shui practitioner please visit www.afsc.org.au or email AFSC at enquiries@afsc.org.au



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