



Having talked rather extensively on vaastu, I thought it is time to give readers an insight into the intrinsic aspects of its popular Chinese counterpart feng shui.

Feng shui, pronounced as phong schway or poong schaway, was first discovered by a Chinese sage Fu His. It is based on the principle of Trigram - yin and yang balance—that goes back about 3000 years. Though, some believe the science existed even in 6000 BC.

Feng shui means wind and water. It uses these two elements in nature to correct the environment to derive a better chi or qi—energy. It does this in two ways - hindering the wind and hoarding the water - that helps in changing cycles of chi or qi patterns over a period of time. Qi in English means breath of life or the dragon's breath. Experts call it the subtle flow of electromagnetic energy. Its vedic translation is prana. John Mitchell an extensive writer on feng shui says; "Experts can actually improve the landscape manifesting its latent powers and making the pattern of its energy field confirm more closely to the ideal requirements of its inhabitants."

A qualified practitioner can make complex calculations by using basic method of pa kua method to draw personal charts and basic directions for feng shui. He can use kua number to identify good and bad directions by eight mansion formula, incorporate trigram by using advanced flying star method and visualize the qi movement in order to create the force field of energy

Feng shui in vaastu



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that protects a dwelling. All these can be learned only under an experienced master.

It is also sad to see that most modern-day practitioners have ignored the two fundamental aspects of feng shui - time and 'people - for the money spinning aspects - the buildings and environments.

They jump at any opportunity to correct faults on living promises. The traditional feng shui does not prescribe flutes, mirrors, charms, chants or other mystical objects. The edicts is to utilise wu xing or the five elements of feng shui - wood, fire, earth, metal and water to create the energy balance. Any item used must be necessarily linked or associ-

ated with the five elements.

For instance, mirror is not considered a cure since it is not related to any of the elements used in feng shui. In olden days, they were using polished metal plates for the purpose. On the other hand, water bodies are generally considered auspicious as long as the water is not still. Fishes in aquarium makes the water to circulate.

Feng shui is in total concurrence with vaastu as far as the shape of the site or building is concerned. It supports square or rectangle plots or buildings. Odd shaped plots are supposed generate negative qi. Water in northern quadrant is also in agreement

since lo shu - number one - represents north and water is element of north.

Where the Chinese science is in conflict with vaastu is the area of using mystical symbols and objects which has been discouraged by many authors of feng shui. Undeterred, some of the self-professing consultants resort to various gadgets unrelated to the elements. It is pathetic to see them using the same merchandise to correct vaastu defects.

In some way, the suggestion of popular Chinese author Lillian Too to use our swadesi yoga mudras for checking qi movement seems more sensible. William L Cassidy of the Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute says; "Feng shui has become corrupted to contain absurd notions of interior decoration, the use of charms and talismans and the runaway concept of site im-

provement, by several generations of practitioners who know nothing of its true science. There are scores of people who cater to popular superstition offering to decorate homes, improve businesses or resolve neighborhood conflicts all for a hefty fee."

It is such irrational views that triggers doubts about feng shui as a science. Dr Stephen L Field an eminent commentator on the subject says; "such analysis was scientific only in so far as it was based on empirical observation. When other factors such as numerology and astrology were consulted, feng shui becomes less a science and more an art."

Readers may not be aware that unlike vaastu the theory of feng shui is constantly changing.

Time is consistently changing and with that qi also changes. So each house during

different time is different depending upon the qi flow.

Therefore, any application or correction is subject to revision according to the changing cycle of qi. Currently, we are in the phase of ken - between 2004 and 2023 - which implies youth and simplicity. During this period our life is expected to be less complicated.

Incidentally, Sindhuja Venkatesh (writer of feng shui column in DNA Property's January 1 issue) seems to have proved her point in the concluding paragraph of her article by her misconstrued notion that vaastu also require one's date of birth for fixing doors and other faults. This is utterly incorrect.

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