



WISDOM ACADEMY

# Introduction to Feng Shui

JAMPA LUDRUP

## Lesson 7: Essentials of the Compass School, Part 3

Reading:  
*Feng Shui: Seeing Is Believing*  
“The Five Elements,” pages 67–80

# FENG SHUI: Seeing Is Believing

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*Essential Geomancy for Beginners and Skeptics*

by Jampa Ludrup

Foreword by Lama Zopa Rinpoche



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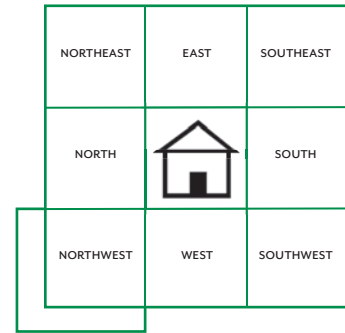
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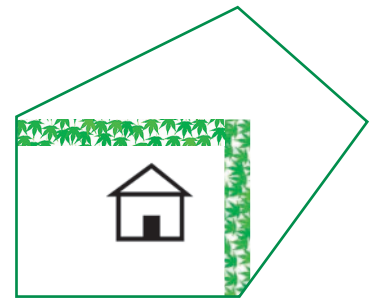
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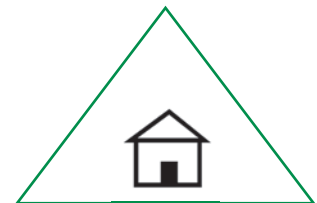
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*Protruding corner*



*Irregular*



*Triangular*



*Parallelogram*

## THE FIVE ELEMENTS

Each sector of the Lo Shu square is enhanced by the presence of one of the five elements: water, wood, fire, earth and metal. The absence of the enhancing element or the presence of negative elements causes problems with the luck of each sector, as I will explain shortly.

### Water

Water can be represented on your land by a pond, swimming pool, fountain, or water tank. You can also represent water with wavy shapes or the colors black and blue, which are associated with water. You must be careful wherever you put water features; they should not be so large that they overwhelm the house, so a swimming pool should be in proportion. Water should always be kept moving. You can recycle the water, but make sure it is kept clean.

Water is often associated with wealth in geomancy and it is important that the overall flow is toward the house, especially if the water is in front of the front door. This represents wealth coming in. A fountain that sprays water in all directions is no good; wealth



*Infinity pool*

would come in and go out just as quickly. It is better to have a small waterfall with the direction of flow toward the house. For example, the “infinity”-style swimming pool, where the water appears to drop away from the land into the horizon, looks very nice—but unfortunately all that water flowing away from the house is a problem.

Water should be situated to the left of the front door as you look out, where it brings prosperity. It should not be on the right as this is

said to cause the man of the house to have a wandering eye. Water should only be in front of the house, not behind because this goes against the armchair configuration of land recommended in the Form School; water does not give the support needed behind the house. If there is water both behind and in front it is said to be negative for young children. It should also not be on a higher level of land than the house.

Some masters consider it very negative to have water above you, such as a rooftop swimming pool or a water tank above your bedroom. Even a blue or black-colored roof is inauspicious. It symbolizes “water on the mountain,” which is the name of a very unstable configuration; when you combine the trigrams for water (Kan) and mountain (Gen) it gives the hexagram Jian, which means “hardship.” There would be difficulty in making progress in your life if you live under a pool. It would be like having some kind of disability.

## Wood

Wood is usually well represented on the land by trees, plants, hedges and fences, garden furniture, and wooden sheds. There are two types of wood in the table of the trigrams: big and small. Small wood refers to flowers, small plants, and small wooden objects, and is associated with the color light green. Big wood refers to trees and larger wooden garden structures such as pergolas and gazebos, and is associated with darker green. Wood is also represented by rectangular shapes.

Trees such as pines and cypress, which are arrow shaped, are okay if they are not in front of the house where they may send poison arrows to the front door. Wood represents growth so it is important to regularly clear out all dead wood and plants, so that they don't attract yin energy. Succulent plants are very good because they contain a lot of water, which is productive for wood. Cacti are very prickly and all those little spines give off negative energy. They are okay outside, where they give protection, but never keep them inside.

As I mentioned before, trees can represent your dragon, tiger, and turtle hills if they are missing. However, try not to have the trees overhang and overwhelm the house. They should always be kept in good proportion to the land and the house.

## Fire

Fire can be represented by a number of things on your land; it could be a bright lamp, garden incinerator, or barbeque. The shape associated with the fire element is the triangle and the color is red. It would be good to have red flowers. Triangular-shaped objects are good, as long as they are not poison arrows pointing at the front door.

## Earth

There are two types of earth element, big earth and small earth. Big earth is represented by rocks and boulders, large pieces of marble such as statues, large earthenware pots or urns, paving stones, patios, and concrete areas. Small earth is represented by smaller pots, pebbles, small ceramic figures, crystals, and small areas of gravel or sand. They are associated with the square shape and the earth colors; ocher, terracotta, brown, and so on.

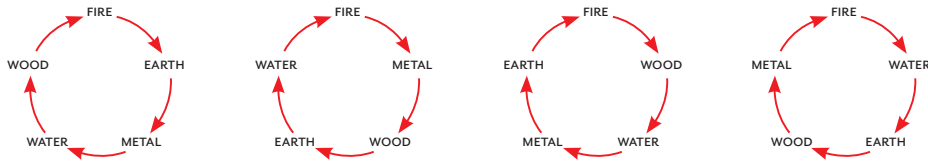
## Metal



There are also two types of metal—big and small. Big metal is represented by metal railings and gates, metal lampposts and garden tools; small metal by wind chimes, metal mobiles, and bells. The colors associated with metal are white and metallic. The shape associated with metal is the circle. Wind chimes are recommended in many different situations in geomancy. They are very effective in enhancing the metal sectors and in controlling negative Flying Star School influences. Wind chimes should always have five or six hollow metal tubes. Five represents the earth element, which produces metal in the productive cycle, and six represents the metal element itself. Solid rods do not work so well. It is best if they are hanging from a circular piece of metal or wood. The wind chime pictured here is a good one.

## THE EFFECTS OF THE ELEMENTS ON YOUR LUCK

When you have applied the Lo Shu square to the land, you can then start to enhance each of the nine types of luck in their respective sectors by putting the right elements in the right places. Let me remind you of the four cycles of the elements:



The table of the trigrams in chapter 1 shows the main element that will enhance the luck of each sector. With that information, you can use the cycles of the elements to deduce the productive and supportive elements for each sector, as shown here.

<p><b>SE</b> <b>Wealth</b></p> <p><i>Enhanced by small wood</i> <i>Produced by water</i> <i>Supported by small earth</i></p>	<p><b>S</b> <b>Reputation</b></p> <p><i>Enhanced by fire</i> <i>Produced by wood</i> <i>Supported by small metal</i></p>	<p><b>SW</b> <b>Relationships</b></p> <p><i>Enhanced by big earth</i> <i>Produced by fire</i> <i>Supported by small water</i></p>
<p><b>E</b> <b>Health</b></p> <p><i>Enhanced by big wood</i> <i>Produced by water</i> <i>Supported by small earth</i></p>	<p><b>Center</b> <b>Support</b></p> <p><i>Enhanced by earth</i> <i>Produced by fire</i> <i>Supported by small water</i></p>	<p><b>W</b> <b>Children</b></p> <p><i>Enhanced by small metal</i> <i>Produced by earth</i> <i>Supported by small wood</i></p>
<p><b>NE</b> <b>Knowledge</b></p> <p><i>Enhanced by small earth</i> <i>Produced by fire</i> <i>Supported by small water</i></p>	<p><b>N</b> <b>Career</b></p> <p><i>Enhanced by water</i> <i>Produced by metal</i> <i>Supported by small fire</i></p>	<p><b>NW</b> <b>Mentors</b></p> <p><i>Enhanced by big metal</i> <i>Produced by earth</i> <i>Supported by small wood</i></p>



For example, wealth luck is influenced in the southeast of the land. Its main element—the element that enhances it—is “small wood”: flowers and shrubs and so on. It is also produced or helped by water, and it is supported by small amounts of earth element—ceramics, pots, crystals, and so on.

There are also two elements that must be avoided in each sector. These come from the destructive and exhaustive cycles of the elements. The elements that damage the wealth luck of the southeast sector are metal and fire; metal cuts wood in the destructive cycle, and fire uses up wood in the exhaustive cycle.

<div>SE</div> <div>Wealth</div> <div>Destroyed by metal</div> <div>Exhausted by fire</div>	<div>S</div> <div>Reputation</div> <div>Destroyed by water</div> <div>Exhausted by earth</div>	<div>SW</div> <div>Relationships</div> <div>Destroyed by wood</div> <div>Exhausted by metal</div>
<div>E</div> <div>Health</div> <div>Destroyed by metal</div> <div>Exhausted by fire</div>	<div>Center</div> <div>Support</div> <div>Destroyed by wood</div> <div>Exhausted by metal</div>	<div>W</div> <div>Children</div> <div>Destroyed by fire</div> <div>Exhausted by water</div>
<div>NE</div> <div>Knowledge</div> <div>Destroyed by wood</div> <div>Exhausted by metal</div>	<div>N</div> <div>Career</div> <div>Destroyed by earth</div> <div>Exhausted by wood</div>	<div>NW</div> <div>Mentors</div> <div>Destroyed by fire</div> <div>Exhausted by water</div>

Now you can see why it is so important to memorize the cycles of the elements. If you do, then when you look at any object on your land or in your house, you can tell whether it is helpful or harmful.

You can use large amounts of the main element and the productive element in each sector; for instance, a bright lamp in the southwest will help relation-

ship luck. However, you should not use large amounts of the element from the supportive cycle. A little water in the southwest can help to make the earth element fertile; too much will make relationships very muddy. You should avoid the destructive-cycle elements altogether, or at least keep them to a minimum; they are always harmful. This means that it is not good to have large plants and trees in the southwest of the land. Likewise the element from the exhaustive cycle will deplete the luck of the sector, so too much metal in the southwest will affect relationship luck adversely.

Now I will explain in detail the effect of each element on each of the nine types of luck.

### **Reputation**

The southern sector of the land influences reputation and fame. If you are suffering from unkind gossip or feeling undervalued, or if your business is not becoming well known and respected, then you may have a problem in this sector.

The table of the trigrams in chapter 1 shows that the element associated with the south is fire. That means that the main element to enhance your reputation is fire, so first of all you should have at least one bright light here. Three or four lights would be good because those are the numbers of the wood element, which produces fire in the productive cycle. Put the light or lights on a wooden pole about five feet tall and keep it on at least eight hours a day. The lamp casing should have a triangular-shaped top because the triangle is associated with fire and represents growth and upward movement. The lamppost is better made from wood than concrete because the earth element exhausts fire energy. Metal is a friend to fire in the supportive cycle, so a metal lamppost is also okay.

You can also have a lot of wood in the southern sector, so trees are good. If the land faces south, however, remember to make sure that they are not in front of the front door and are not inhibiting heaven's breath from entering the land. You can use other objects made from wood, such as fencing, flower

boxes, garden furniture, and so on. Use green and red colors in this sector; for example you could plant red flowers. Rectangular-shaped objects are good.

You must avoid having water features such as swimming pools in the south because water destroys fire in the destructive cycle of the elements. Do not have blue flowers here or any wavy-shaped objects, as these are associated with water. You should also avoid having the earth element; rocks, concrete, earth colors, square-shaped objects, and so on, because this exhausts fire energy.

### **Relationships**

During my consultations I usually ask my clients if there are any particular problems that they would like to try to deal with using geomancy. Relationship problems are usually at the top of the list, closely followed by money worries. It seems that at this time in our world we most need to learn how to form stable relationships and maintain them; not just between man and woman but between friends, nations, ideologies, and religions. So much suffering is caused by the attitude that others are here to help us, rather than the opposite. Anyway, geomancy has much to offer in the way of improving relationship luck, and as I jokingly tell my clients, “I can guarantee interest but not necessarily quality!”

If you or your family members are having marriage problems, problems finding a partner, disharmony in the house or at work, loneliness and lack of friends, or the feeling that people seem to be against you, you must look at the southwest sector and see what elements you have there.

The main element of the southwest is big earth: large rocks and boulders, concrete, gravel or sand, large stone sculptures, and large earthenware pots. The color for this sector is ocher and other earth colors; the shape is square.

Fire is the element that is productive for earth, so you can have lights, red colors, and triangle shapes to help relationship luck. It is very effective to have a lamp, but probably better if it is not red! It should be on a post that is about five feet tall and made from concrete, stone, or plastic. The top casing can be triangle shaped, like the lamp for the southern sector. A friend of mine had a

lamp like this in the southwest of her garden, which she used humorously to interfere with her daughter's love life. When her daughter had trouble finding a boyfriend, she would turn on the lamp. When a boy would come to take her daughter out, she would turn the lamp off if she didn't like him. She repeated the process until her daughter found a partner she approved of and now she is happily married.

It is okay to have a little water in the southwest sector, as it has a friend relationship with earth in the supportive cycle. But, as is the case with all the supportive cycle elements, it is better not to overdo the amount. As I mentioned before, if there is too much water in the southwest then relationships can get very muddy and complicated.

You must avoid having the wood element in the southwest. Wood destroys earth in the destructive cycle of elements. This is difficult in a garden, but you should try to keep it to a minimum. There should be no large trees, and flowers should be red or yellow. This makes the southwest the perfect place for a rock garden or a Zen-style garden made primarily of rocks, gravel, and raked sand. You must also avoid having metal here. Metal depletes earth luck in the exhaustive cycle of the elements.

## Children

The sector that affects the luck of the children of the house is in the west. If your children are having difficulty with health, school, and so on, or you are experiencing difficulty in having children in the first place, you must check the elements in the west of your land.

The main element here is small metal, so you can have wind chimes and other metal mobiles, small metal sculptures, or metal bowls and bells. I have often found that placing one or more wind chimes with six hollow metal tubes is extremely effective. The best color is white or metallic colors such as gold, silver, or copper. The best shape is the circle. Metal is produced by earth in the productive cycle so you can have pots, stone statues, gravel, square shapes, earth colors,

and so on. It is supported by wood so it is okay to have plants here but probably better not to have large trees. You can paint a white tiger on the wall here, but make sure you have a green dragon on the eastern wall first to provide balance.

You should avoid the fire element as this destroys metal in the destructive cycle, so no bright lights or red color. The element that exhausts metal is water so you must avoid having pools and ponds, blue or black colors, or wavy shapes in the western sector.

### **Mentors**

The northwest sector is associated with the luck of mentors. Everyone needs help from those who are knowledgeable and skilled, but it is not easy to find people who are willing to help us to grow. A mentor could be someone who takes an interest in your career, a school or college teacher, a spiritual guide, a sports coach, or just someone willing to give good advice. If you feel you are not getting enough help and encouragement in your work or study, or feel you are not making spiritual progress, then you need to look at the elements in the northwest of the land.

The main element to enhance mentor luck is big metal; large wind chimes with five or six hollow tubes, metal sculptures, large metal decorative pots, a metal shed and garden tools, and so on. White and metallic colors, and round objects are good.

Metal is produced by earth in the productive cycle so you can have pots, stone statues, gravel, square shapes, earth colors, and so on. Again, metal is supported by wood, so white-flowered plants are okay but it is better not to have large trees.

Fire destroys metal in the destructive cycle. You must avoid having the fire element here, so no bright lights, incinerators, or barbeques. Avoid red color and triangular shapes. In the exhaustive cycle, water exhausts metal, so no pools, ponds, or other water features. Avoid having blue or black colors, or wavy shapes here.

## Career

Career luck is influenced by the northern sector of the land. If you are having trouble getting the job or important promotion that you want or you just seem to be stagnating in a particular job, then you must check the elements in the north. Activating this sector should remove blockages to career progress, or may even trigger a move to a completely new career; you have to have a mind that is open to new opportunities when they come.

This is, unfortunately, a complicated sector. The main element of the northern sector is water, but the Form School recommends that the land face south and also says that you should not have water behind the house, in the north. So if your house faces south, it is best to put metal objects in the north, because metal produces water in the productive cycle of the elements. You should also keep a turtle here in a metal bowl of water. A turtle made of metal is very good in this location.



If your land faces any of the other directions you can have a water feature such as a pond or swimming pool in the northern sector, but keep it in proportion to the land; it shouldn't be too overwhelming. A swimming pool should be shaped to embrace the house, not curve out toward it. Just one water feature is enough as one is the number associated with the north. Make sure that the water is active and that the general flow is toward the house. Blue and black colors and wavy shapes are good. You can also have metal objects here, as previously mentioned. Fire is a friend to water in the supportive cycle, so small lights are okay.

You must avoid the earth element, which destroys water in the destructive cycle. Do not have large pots, areas of concrete, stone sculptures, and so on. Wood depletes water in the exhaustive cycle, so minimize the number of trees and large plants. Blue flowers are okay. Avoid square and rectangular-shaped objects, as well as green and earth colors.

## Knowledge

The northeast sector affects knowledge luck. If you or your family members are having trouble with study, acquiring knowledge, passing examinations, and so on, you must check the elements in the northeast of your land.

The main element is small earth, so you should have small pots and ceramics, small decorative rocks, crystals, and small stone sculptures. Earth colors and square shapes are good. In the productive cycle, earth is produced by fire, so you can have lamps in this sector as well as red-colored and triangular-shaped objects. Earth is supported by water so you can have a small pond or birdbath here. Be very careful not to overdo the amount of water.

In the destructive cycle, earth is destroyed by wood, so it is better not to have trees. As with the southwest sector, this is a good place to have a Zen-style garden made primarily of rocks, gravel, and sand. It is better not to have any plants as even small wood can damage small earth. If you must have some plants, then make sure they are low and small, and have red, yellow, or orange flowers.

## Health

It is rather curious that health concerns usually come third after wealth and relationships when I do consultations. When people think about it seriously, though, they realize that their health is really the most important. It is also one of the most difficult types of luck to activate. Bad health, once acquired, is very difficult to deal with, so it is doubly important that you protect and enhance the eastern sector of your land. According to Buddhism, the cause of health is nonviolence, particularly not killing even small animals and insects. It is particularly beneficial to save animals from harm by rescuing those that would otherwise be killed.

The main element for the eastern sector is big wood, so it very important to have large trees here. Three are enough as that is the number associated with the east. The eastern side corresponds to the dragon hill, if your house faces the

recommended southern direction, so it is okay to have big trees on this side of the house. However, if the east is on the right-hand side of your land, you should place large wooden objects instead: wooden sculptures, heavy wooden garden furniture, a gazebo or pergola, wooden barrels with large plants, and so on. Remember that arrow-shaped trees such as cypress and pine are good as long as they do not face the front door. Green colors and rectangular-shaped objects are good. Wood is produced by water, so this is a good place for a large water feature such as a swimming pool or fountain. As in the previous example, make sure that the fountain flows toward the house. If you have a pond or irregular pool, ensure that it embraces the house.

It is good to have an image of a green dragon in the east of your land, where it will attract a very positive energy. You can have lots of plants in this sector, particularly ones with blue flowers. Earth is a friend to wood in the supportive cycle, so you can have the same earth-element features as I mentioned for the northeast sector. Avoid metal, which destroys wood in the destructive cycle. Also avoid the fire element, which exhausts wood; do not have lamps in this sector.



## Wealth

Wealth luck is influenced by the southeastern sector of the land. It is rare for people to tell me that they have enough wealth; usually we can do with more. Please remember that wealth has a cause, which is generosity and altruism; you cannot get something for nothing.

The main element of the southeast is small wood; small plants, shrubs and flowers, wooden wind chimes with four or five tubes, and other small wooden objects. The best shape for this sector is the rectangle and the best color is light green. The plant growth in this area should be luxuriant but not overwhelming: a garden but not a jungle. Keep it free of dead leaves and plants. As with the health sector in the east, water is productive here. A small fountain, pond,



or pool can be very effective here. Again, it is very good to have a lot of blue flowers in the southeast sector. Small earth-element features are also good. As with the eastern sector, avoid metal, which cuts wood energy, and fire, which exhausts it.

### **Support**

The central sector is associated with support for the whole house, family, or business enterprise. So if you feel that your overall situation is unstable or not progressing as you would like, then you must check the elements here. The main element for the center is earth and the recommendations for the productive, supportive, destructive, and exhaustive elements are the same as for the southwest and the northeast sectors.

Do not have a large empty area in the center of the land. Make sure that the earth element is present, or at least that there are strongly defined square shapes. Five squares are good because five is the number associated with the central sector. Do not have large amounts of the wood element here or you will destroy support luck. Similarly, metal will exhaust it. Bright lamps are good in this sector because they produce earth-element energy. I do not recommend having any water here as it is a fluid, changeable element and may reduce the stability that we are trying to achieve.

That concludes our look at the external environment and the effect it may have on your fortunes. Next we will look at the importance of the front door and ways of protecting your building from negative influences.