

# American Feng Shui Institute

## FS350 – The Secrets of the Five Ghosts



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Thank you for enrolling and we hope you enjoy the class!

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# The Secret of Five Ghosts:

## How and When to Use the 5 Yellow Star

### Introduction

The name 'Five Ghosts' has a mystique in Chinese feng shui. Various techniques are given this name. They are supposed to bring good fortune, as if the recipient had five ghosts working for him, going out and gathering money and precious objects for him. Some techniques with this name are very complicated and others are relatively simple. All have been treated as secret knowledge.

Many Feng Shui masters will tell you that they know how to use the *Five Ghosts Carry Wealth* technique but will not or cannot tell you their theory and their way of doing so. They only tell you that it will solve your problems.

Some of these masters mix the *Five Ghosts Carry Wealth* practice with conjuring ghosts and spirits. They make it seem very mysterious; some just try to confuse you because they can not explain it themselves. By claiming they possess this knowledge, they feel superior and proud. You can see what an important role *Five Ghosts* plays in feng shui.

In the old days, how was feng shui used to help the poor? The answer is in knowing how to utilize the *Five Ghosts to Carry Wealth* technique.

The fact is, the essence of feng shui is the knowledge of how to utilize time, space, and location. With this knowledge you can turn poison into medicine and tragedy into a miracle. This is the most profound level of feng shui.

*Five Ghosts Carry Wealth* is one of the guarded secrets in feng shui. In the old days, it was only passed on to the master's son, not even the daughter. Today, this theory and method is taught at the *American Feng Shui Institute*. Anyone receiving it should treasure this knowledge, and use it to help those in need.

## The Theories

To use the *Five Ghosts* technique, you need to understand a few concepts:

- |       |          |               |
|-------|----------|---------------|
| 1. 合十 | heshi    | Add-to-Ten    |
| 2. 零神 | lingshen | Zero Spirit   |
| 3. 城門 | chengmen | City Gate     |
| 4. 擇日 | zeri     | Day Selection |

### 1. Add-to-ten:

This phrase has a few meanings. One is putting the palms together and bowing in respect, as in this way, the ten fingers are combined. Ten is a number that represents completion. So we begin learning these techniques with an attitude of complete respect.

Here is another meaning for the phrase: The relationship between the 5 yellow star, the palace to which it has flown, and the center star. This is best explained by giving an example:

Take period 9, after 2024.

8	4	6
7	9↓	2
3	5↑	1

9 purple is in the center, so 5 yellow is in the north.

The north is the home position of 1 white.

The origin of 5 yellow is in the center of the magic square.

5 yellow prefers to be in the center; it will trade with the center star to go home.

5 yellow, then, is a substitute for the star in the center.

So the 5 yellow in the north actually represents 9 purple.

The north is 1 white's homeland.

1 white (north, the location of 5 yellow) and 9 purple (from the center) add to 10.

This is always the case wherever the 5 yellow star lands. Let's try another example:  
Take period 3.

2	7	9
1	3→	←5
6	8	4

3 jade is in the center, so 5 yellow is in the west.

The west is the home position of 7 red.

The origin of 5 yellow is in the center of the magic square.

5 yellow is a substitute for the star in the center.

So the 5 yellow in the west actually represents 3 jade.

7 red (west, the location of 5 yellow) and 3 jade (from the center) add to 10.

You can also think of it this way: the wang number (star) of a construction period will add to ten with the number (star) in the opposite palace of the magic square.

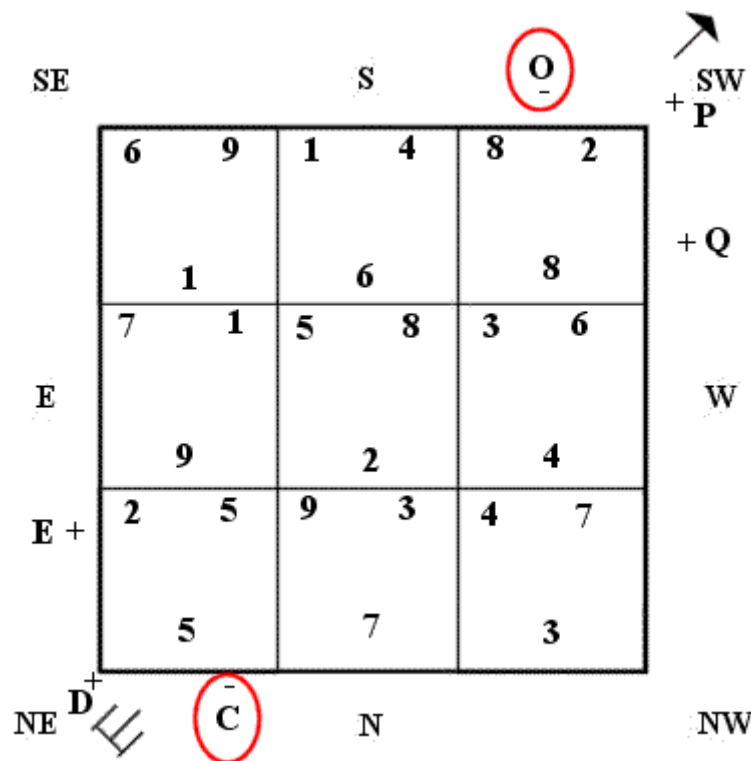
4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

3 jade is the wang star during period 3. It belongs to the east in the magic square. It adds to ten with 7 red, in the opposite direction (west) of the magic square. This direction, west, is the location of 5 yellow during period 3.

**Conclusion:** The palace of the 5 yellow star has some special characteristics as the original star that homes to that palace will add to ten with the star that is in the center at the time. They are connected by the presence of the 5 yellow star in that palace.

To some degree, you are already familiar with this theory, even if you weren't aware of it. Do you remember the rule for determining whether a 5 yellow flies ascending or descending when it is the central mountain (people) or facing (money) star? It depends on the yin (even) or yang (odd) of the period star.

“The number 5 earth is the center. Because it is the center, it does not relate to either Yin or Yang. When you get a 5-construction number in either the Sitting or Facing, the 5 is like a chameleon. It adopts the ‘gender’ or Yin and Yang pattern of the original center construction number. So if you have a 5 on the sitting side and the original construction number was 6, then the pattern would be - + +. If the 5 is on the sitting side and the construction number is 7, then it would be + - -. This would apply if the five were on the facing side as well. Let’s look at an example below:”



Here, the 5 yellow *period* star in the northeast is a substitute for the 2 black period star, the wang number at the time the house was built. So the 5 yellow is influenced by the yin (even) nature of the 2 black period star (The 5 yellow wants to switch with the 2 black in the center, and the 2 black adds to ten with 8 white, the northeast



palace.). When a house is built sitting northeast during that time, the 5 is brought to the center as the mountain (people) star, and retains this yin nature. Because of this, the three sub-sections of the northeast take on the - + + (yin/yang/yang).

\*

While the above discussion was based on the stars of the construction period, any nine-palace chart, regardless of its basis, will have the characteristic of adding to ten in the palace of the 5 yellow star. The 5 yellow constantly desires to go back to the center, so the star in the central palace will always have an influence on the palace of the five yellow.

This can be applied to xuan kong feng shui readings in general as follows:

In the past, we learned to always avoid the 5 yellow at all costs and in every case to remedy it with lots of metal, even moving metal with sound. We are also taught to keep still where the 5 yellow is: avoid movement or activity in that palace. This continues to be the case with the *annual* 5 yellow, which is a ‘guest’ star and not built into the house. However, while we should be cautious with 5 yellow as the mountain (people) or facing (money) star, we can interpret them a little more flexibly now.

The five yellow will switch with the center star at its same level. For example, the 5 yellow on the money side (water star) wants to switch with the star in the center on the money side (center water star). The 5 yellow on the people side (mountain star) wants to switch with the star in the center on the people side (central mountain star).

Look at the following chart, from period 9, sitting i (chen) and facing u (xu):

山

9 9 8	4 5↓ 4	2 7 6
1 8 7	↙ 8 1↑ 9	6 3 2
5↗ 4 3	3 6 5	7 2 1

↘

The people (mountain) 5 yellow in the northeast switches with the people 8 white in the center. This gives an 8-4 combination in the northeast; it is a hidden combination meaning injury to youth or broken bones. Normally, you would use fire to remedy an 8-4, but do you dare to use fire here? Some might. Probably you will still remedy the 5 yellow with metal, and keep in mind that if the 5 yellow does bring problems, it will be broken bones or injury to young people.

Even though the 8 white is auspicious now, it is not useful as a quick money remedy in this chart, as it is the mountain star. But if a money (water) 5 yellow in a 4-5 combination switched to make a 4-8 combination, and the family was in desperate need of money, you could add fire for a short period of time. However, as soon as some unexpected money comes in, you should remove the fire. Otherwise you are inviting disaster. This should not be used if the need is not extreme. Master Sang says, “Don’t be greedy!”

In the above chart, the money (water) 5 yellow in the south switches with the money 1 white in the center. This results in a 4-1 combination in the south. Perhaps you can use it to promote romance. However, there is more possibility that this romance would bring trouble than if the 4-1 combination came from the original stars in the palace. Still, you could use water in a metal container to be sure the 5 yellow is suppressed and to water the peach blossom.

**Summary and cautions:** On occasion, you can use a combination that came from a 5 yellow switching with the central star, but you should use a lot of caution. You should only use it in desperate situations for a jump-start, and then you should return to adding metal as a remedy for the 5 yellow.

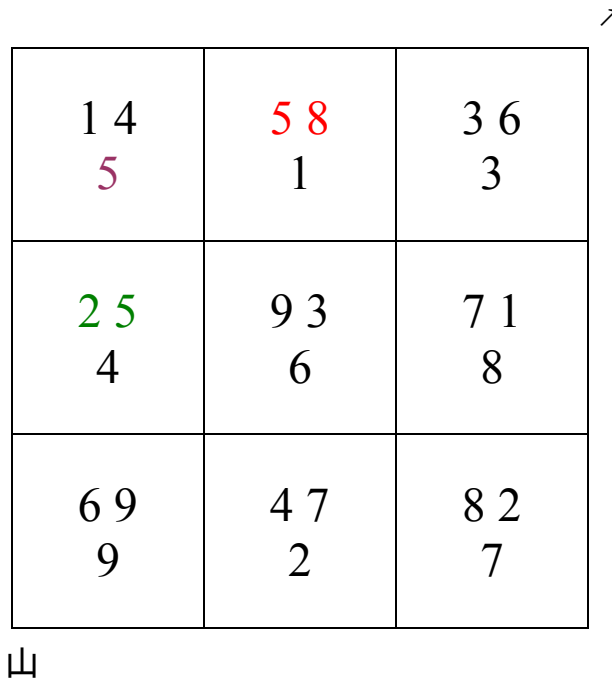
You can also use the switched combination to predict the nature of any trouble that may arise from the 5 yellow.

If you do use the 5 yellow, keep the environment clean and free from sha. A poor environment can also cause adverse effects to manifest.

Do not be greedy and use the 5 yellow if the need is not great. You wouldn't go to a gangster for help unless there were no other alternatives. The risk is that the gangster will cause you trouble after he has aided you. So always replace any other remedy with metal as soon as you have received the benefit.

And **never make use of the *annual or monthly* 5 yellow in this way.** They are too strong and may cause an uncontrollable reaction.

## Quiz 1

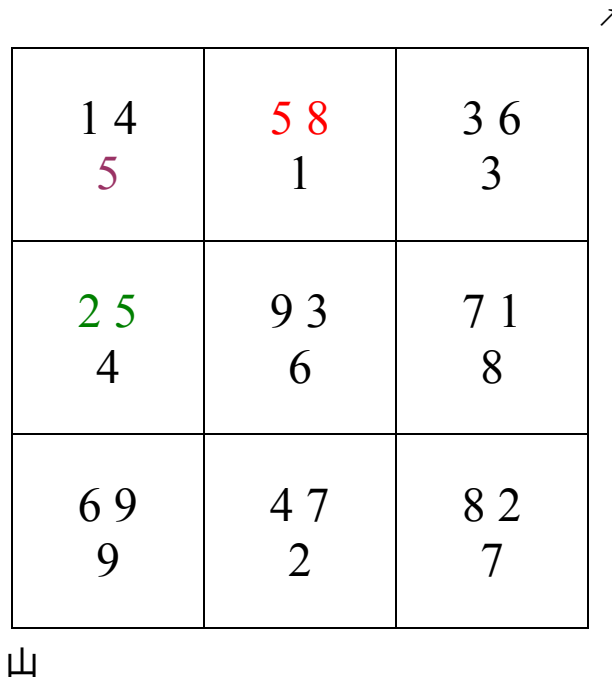


1 4 5	5 8 1	3 6 3
2 5 4	9 3 6	7 1 8
6 9 9	4 7 2	8 2 7

山

1. In this chart, (e-q yin to shen, period 6), how else can you read the **east palace**?
2. In this chart, how else can you read the **south palace**?
3. In this chart, what does the **period star 5 yellow** represent?
4. The owner of this house really wants to go on a vacation to Hawaii and does not have enough money. He asks if you can use feng shui to bring in some quick cash. His main entrance is in the south. What do you tell him?
5. In a house built during period 7, what does the period star 5 yellow represent?

## Quiz 1 Answers



1 4 5	5 8 1	3 6 3
2 5 4	9 3 6	7 1 8
6 9 9	4 7 2	8 2 7

1. In this chart, (e-q yin to shen, period 6), how else can you read the **east palace**?

**Answer:** 2-3, trouble from arguments and lawsuits. The 5 yellow on the right switches with the 3 jade in the center, as they both belong to the same aspect: water (money).

2. In this chart, how else can you read the **south palace**?

**Answer:** 9-8, generally a good combination for money as the fire of 9 purple enhances the earth of 8 white. 8 white is inherently a money star and is also wang until 2023. Here it lies on the money (water) side. The 5 yellow in the south switches with the 9 purple in the center, since they both belong to the same aspect: people (mountain).

3. In this chart, what does the **5 yellow period star** represent?

**Answer:** 6 white. It switches with the 6 white period star in the center.

4. The owner of this house really wants to go on a vacation to Hawaii and does not have enough money. He asks if you can use feng shui to bring in some quick cash. His main entrance is in the south. What do you tell him?

**Answer:** Sorry, you cannot use the 5 yellow in the south to switch with the center 9 purple as it is not a desperate situation. While it is possible to add fire to the door in the south to enhance the 9-8 that forms from the 5-8, it is not worth the risks. Perhaps

you can find another way to bring money but a vacation in Hawaii is not worth the risk.

5. In a house built during period 7, what does the period star 5 yellow represent?

**Answer:** 7 red. The 5 yellow always stitches with the center star, and the center star is the period star.

## 2. Zero Spirit (零神 ling shen):

The zero spirit is the weak star, where the qi is weak. This is the direction opposite to the home of the current period; for example, it is the east during period 7, since 7 red's home is in the west. It is weak, because it is opposite the power position of the period.

The zero spirit is also where the 5 yellow of the *current* construction period lands, so it is the same location as the add-to-10 position. The '0' in zero spirit comes from the 0 in the number 10.

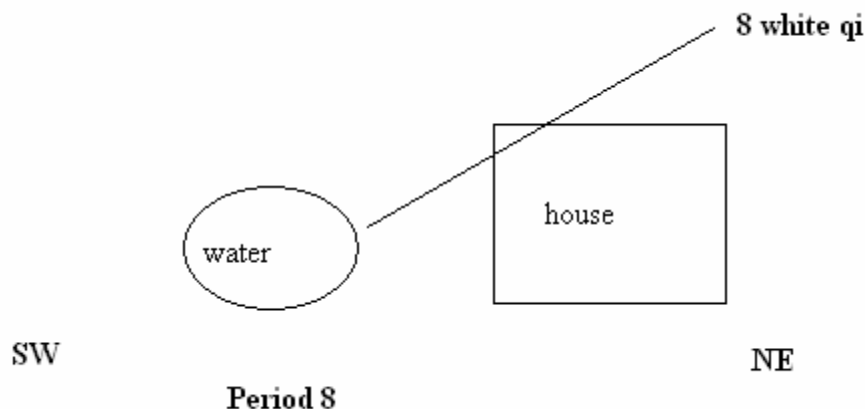
The zero spirit is the weakest area, so we strengthen it by adding water. This water is not the *element* water. Remember, wind scatters qi and water condenses qi. This water is for collecting qi to strengthen the weak area.

The *Burial Classic* says:

氣：乘風則散，界水則止。《葬經》

Qi: scatters when it rides the wind; stops when it reaches the edge of water.

Perhaps you can think of it this way:



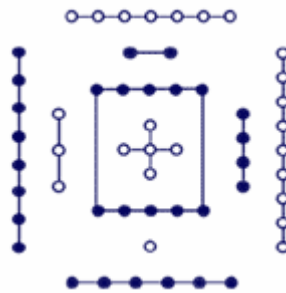
During period 8, we want to keep the wang qi of 8 white from leaving. This 8 white qi originates in the northeast. Since qi stops when it reaches the edge of water, when water is on the southwest side of the house, the 8 white qi lingers in the vicinity of the house and does not leave the area.

Adding water to the zero spirit of the *current* construction period brings financial gain and prosperity. This is **not** the same as the 5 yellow from the *original* construction period of the house, if the construction period has changed since it was built.



**An additional area to add water to bring money during a construction period:**  
Take the *current* construction period star and add or subtract 5 to get a number between 1 and 9 inclusive. The home palace of this star is another area that will bring financial benefit when water is added. It is called the *shining spirit* (照神 zhao shen).

In this case, we have what are called the birth-completion numbers (生成數). This comes from the river map (河圖 he tu):



This is an ancient diagram related to *Yijing* theory (易學). It is related to the perfection of before-heaven (先天 xian tian). The black dots represent yin (even) numbers and the white dots represent yang (odd) numbers. Note that, in the north there is one white dot and six black dots. The difference is five. 1 is the birth number and six is the completion number. These numbers are considered especially harmonious together.

Birth-Completion Numbers of the River Map			
Direction	Birth number	Completion number	Difference
North	1	6	5
South	2	7	
East	3	8	
West	4	9	
Center	5	10	

The directions for these numbers in the before-heaven river map are different than their direction in the after-heaven (後天 hou tian) luo script (洛書 luo shu) that we use in xuankong feng shui. (The numbers of the luo script are also called the ‘magic square.’) However, these pairs of numbers retain an affinity for each other.

So the auspicious luck of the shining spirit is based on the birth-completion numbers.

Note also that the home palaces of birth and completion numbers will be adjacent. For example, 1 and 6 are a birth-completion pair. 1 white homes to the north and 6 white homes to the northwest, adjacent to the north. All of the pairs are like this.

In addition, the relationship called the five combinations of the heavenly stems is also based on birth-completion numbers: stem 1 (jia) combines with stem 6 (ji), etc.

Back to adding water to bring prosperity, we can now make a table:

<b>Where to Add Water for Money</b>				
<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>Add to 10 (zero spirit)</b>		<b>Add or subtract 5 (shining spirit)</b>	
1	9	S	6	NW
2	8	NE	7	W
3	7	W	8	NE
4	6	NW	9	S
5				
6	4	SE	1	N
7	3	E	2	SW
8	2	SW	3	E
9	1	N	4	SE

During period 1, the homeland of 6 white (northwest) is the shining spirit. Water in this area will also help to bring prosperity.

Period 5 doesn't have its own zero spirit or shining spirit, but you can use the directions for period 4 for first 10 years, and period 6 for last 10 years of period 5.

You have already learned these two areas to add water in the Advanced Feng Shui Class, although we did not discuss the reasoning behind it there.

Water in either place, whether inside or outside of the house, will enhance money luck.

As you know:

- Water must be kept clean.
- The amount of water must be adequate for the size of the room or house.
- Water has a stronger effect if it is circulating and making some sound.
- However, if the sound is too loud or if the flow of water is too strong, it can actually have an adverse effect.
- If water is outside the house, it must be close enough and large enough that you can feel it, see it, or hear it. Otherwise it will not have effect. An ocean of water that is three blocks away will usually not have effect.
- The container or surroundings can affect the strength of the water. Earth element is not as good for water as metal. Something like glass or plastic is neutral. Earth containers may be necessary, but make sure it feels like water in the earth, not like a lot of rocks with a little water trickling through it.

Remember, this water is not used as an element. It is used because water stores qi.

**Where NOT to put water:** There is one more direction that can be calculated from the construction period, but this is a direction where water actually reduces the income. This is called the principal spirit (正神 zheng shen). The principal spirit is the home direction of the construction period star (the wang star), so it is the main or principal palace of the period. The rule is:

*Do not place water in the direction that is the home position of the period star.*

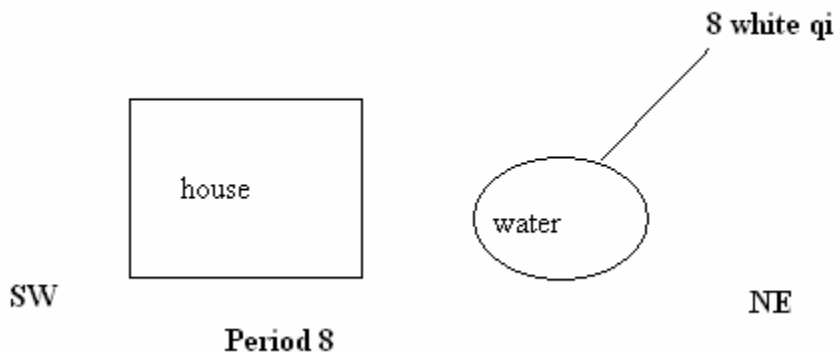
For example, period 8 runs from 2004 until 2023. 8 white homes to the northeast. Therefore, water in the northeast reduces prosperity during this period of time.

To understand this, think of a construction period as having its own sitting and facing. It ‘sits’ in its own direction and ‘faces’ the opposite direction.

In fengshui, if you use only the environment, without calculating the flying stars, then the rule is that water should be placed on the facing side; mountain, not water, should be on the sitting side.

Analogous to this is using water in the ‘facing’ direction of a period and avoiding water in the ‘sitting’ direction of a period.

Another way to look at it:



During period 8, the wang qi comes from the northeast. Since qi stops when it reaches the edge of water, when water is northeast of the house, the wang qi is unable to reach the house.

One thing to keep in mind: if you are installing a large water feature that is difficult to move, you might want to avoid putting it in the principal spirit direction for the next construction period. A swimming pool is okay in the south now, but in period 9 (beginning in 2024) it will cause problems for whoever is living there.

We can now complete the table for how water affects prosperity during each construction period:

<b>Location of Water</b>						
<b>CONSTRUCTION PERIOD</b>	<b>Lose Prosperity</b>		<b>Bring prosperity</b>			
	<b>Same as period (principal spirit)</b>		<b>Add to 10 (zero spirit)</b>		<b>Add or subtract 5 (shining spirit)</b>	
1	1	N	9	S	6	NW
2	2	SW	8	NE	7	W
3	3	E	7	W	8	NE
4	4	SE	6	NW	9	S
5						
6	6	NW	4	SE	1	N
7	7	W	3	E	2	SW
8	8	NE	2	SW	3	E
9	9	S	1	N	4	SE

For the first ten years of period 5, follow the data from period 4.  
For the last ten years of period 5, follow the data from period 6.

## Quiz 2

1. Where is the zero spirit (ling shen) in period 8? Can you place water there?
2. Where is the principal spirit (zheng shen) in period 6? Can you place water there?
3. Where is the shining spirit (zhao shen) in period 3? Can you place water there?

## Quiz 2 Answers

1. Where is the zero spirit (ling shen) in period 8? Can you place water there?

**Answer:** Southwest. Yes, water here brings income. This is the opposite direction from the period star's home position. 8 white belongs to the northeast. The southwest is opposite.

2. Where is the principal spirit (zheng shen) in period 6? Can you place water there?

**Answer:** Northwest. No, water here reduces income. This is the home direction of the period. 6 white belongs to the northwest.

3. Where is the shining spirit (zhao shen) in period 3? Can you place water there?

**Answer:** Northeast. Yes, water here brings income. The shining spirit is the period star number plus or minus 5. Here,  $3 + 5 = 8$ . 8 white lives in the northeast.

### 3. City Gate:

This method is called 五鬼運財大法 *The Great Method of Five Ghosts Carry Wealth*. ‘Great method’ also can be translated as ‘fundamental law.’ It was discussed in a book called *Master Shen’s Xuan Kong Knowledge* 《沈氏玄空學》.

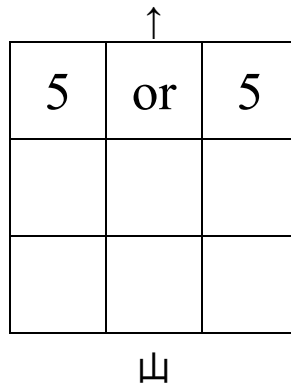
*Five ghosts* refers to the 5 yellow star.

There are two names for this technique, but both refer to the same thing:

- a. 五鬼城門 Five Ghosts City Gate
- b. 五黃城門 Five Yellow City Gate

This method uses the stars from the 20-year construction period, nothing else.

*City gate* refers to the palace on the front right or left of the house. By front, we specifically mean the facing side.



*Five Ghosts City Gate* is the condition where the 5 yellow star from the construction period is located in one of these two palaces: in the front on the right or left side.



Let's look at an example. The following numbers refer to the stars for the period of 7 red.

6	2	4
5	7	9
1	3	8

A house facing northeast, built during period 7 will have five ghosts city gate in the east, the front right palace. A house facing southeast, built during period 7 will have five ghosts city gate in the east, the front left palace. No other house built during period 7 can have this condition.

Obviously, not all houses have *Five Ghosts City Gate*. During period 8, the 5 yellow is in the southwest. So houses that face south or west will have the 5 yellow in the front left or right.

Since we are talking about the facing, this concept affects money, not the health and happiness of the people. You should understand, though, that it does **NOT** involve the facing (money) star. It is a separate method to bring financial benefit.

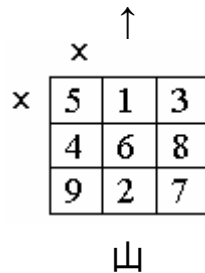
Remember, we are using the construction period when the house was built, **NOT** the current construction period.

This technique is stronger in a new house. The reason is that the central construction star is the wang star in a new house. If the house is 20 years old, its central construction star will already be declining. If it is even older, the central construction star may be quite weak.

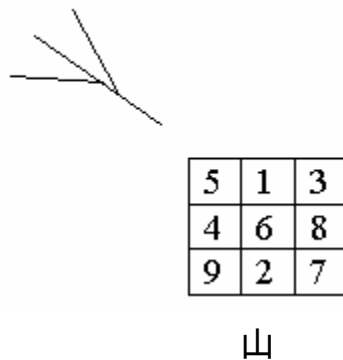
To conclude this section, when the 5 yellow from the construction period is on the right or left in the front of the house, it is called *Five Ghosts City Gate*, and it is also special because it meets the condition of 'add-to-10' and 'zero spirit' (if it was built during the current construction period) as well.

### Using Five Ghosts City Gate

What do you do at the Five Ghosts City Gate? Add water. The water can be placed in the front or to the side of the Five Ghosts City Gate.



It traditionally said 三叉水 three forks of water coming toward you from this direction is perfect. A road where three forks meet would also meet this requirement.



Most of the time we cannot find three forks of water or road. Perhaps we can build a fountain with three bamboo spouts pouring water together towards the Five Ghosts City Gate area.

**Caution:** Use Five Ghosts City Gate carefully. If you are not sure of the facing of the building, it might not be the city gate. If you do it and it is not the city gate, it can cause accidents.

### Quiz 3

1. Which houses built during period 4 have the possibility of using city gate? What directions would these buildings face?
2. Does a house that sits west built during period 7 have city gate?
3. In which palace would you place water in a house with city gate built during period 9?

### Quiz 3 Answers

1. Which houses built during period 4 have the possibility of using city gate? What directions would these buildings face?

**Answer:** They would face north or west, as the 5 yellow would be in the northwest.

3	8	1
2	4	6
7	9	5

2. Does a house that sits west built during period 7 have city gate?

**Answer:** No. It has the 5 yellow in the facing section, but not on the left or right.

6	2	4
5	7	9
1	3	8

3. In which palace would you place water in a house with city gate built during period 9?

**Answer:** You would place water in the north, where the 5 yellow is, but this house must face either northeast or northwest. Otherwise it does not have city gate.

8	4	6
7	9	2
3	5	1

### ***Houses with City Gate***

The following are charts for each time period. The location of the 5 yellow period star is highlighted in yellow. The two sections with the numbers in red are the two facing directions for houses built during that period that have city gate.

9	5	7
8	1	3
4	6	2

1	6	8
9	2	4
5	7	3

2	7	9
1	3	5
6	8	4

3	8	1
2	4	6
7	9	5

5	1	3
4	6	8
9	2	7

6	2	4
5	7	9
1	3	8

7	3	5
6	8	1
2	4	9

8	4	6
7	9	2
3	5	1

<b>Houses with City Gate</b>		
<b>Period</b>	<b>Location of 5 yellow</b>	<b>House built in this period must face</b>
1	S	SE or SW
2	NE	N or E
3	W	NW or SW
4	NW	N or W
5	center	none
6	SE	S or E
7	E	SE or NE
8	SW	S or W
9	N	NW or NE

## 4. Day Selection:

Choosing the correct day to install a remedy is important in feng shui. It can help increase the benefits that the remedy will bring. Below, we tell you how to calculate the best day to place the water for this remedy. However, we will not explain the theory in detail, as it is already available in the Day Selection Classes that the *American Feng Shui Institute* offers on-line:

<http://www.amfengshui.com/ashop/catalogue.php?cat=5>

Install the fountain, or (more important) first turn on the water on a 禄存 lu cun prosperity day. This is the day to release the water and let it circulate. Using the prosperity day helps to stir up the money luck.

There are two ways to calculate the prosperity day. One is based on an individual's birth year stem:

Lu Cun (禄存) Prosperity Day				
Birth Year Stem		Year Ends In	Day Branch	
Jia	甲	4	Yin	寅
Yi	乙	5	Mao	卯
Bing	丙	6	Si	巳
Ding	丁	7	Wu	午
Wu	戊	8	Si	巳
Ji	己	9	Wu	午
Geng	庚	0	Shen	申
Xin	辛	1	You	酉
Ren	壬	2	Hai	亥
Gui	癸	3	Zi	子

For example, 1980 (after February 4<sup>th</sup>) ends in 0. That means a person born in 1980 is born in a geng stem year. Therefore, s/he should turn on the water fountain on a shen branch day.

To find what day this is, you can use the *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar*, available in our on-line bookstore. You can also find it in our *Annual Feng Shui and Astrology Guide*. The page from the *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar* for the current year is included in the back:

<http://www.amfengshui.com/ashop/catalogue.php?exp=&cat=2>

If you calculate the prosperity day by birth year, it will bring the biggest benefit for the individual on which the calculation was based, although everyone in the house will receive some benefit. The remedy will benefit everyone but the day will benefit the individual.

Instead, you can pick a day based on the direction of the Five Ghosts City Gate. This day will benefit all people in the house equally:

**Day Stem based on Lu Cun 禄存 and the Direction of the Five Ghosts:**

bing wu	ding ji	geng
yi		xin
jia	gui	ren

If you determine that the Five Ghosts City Gate direction is in the south, you can choose a ding stem day or a ji stem day to turn on the water fountain (look in the south palace of the above diagram). If it is in the west, you would use a xin stem day (and even a xin stem hour).

To find what day this is, you can use the *Ten-Thousand Year Calendar* or our *Annual Feng Shui and Astrology Guide*, as explained above.



As an aside, note that the south and southeast have two days that can be used. The south has the strongest yang qi and the qi of the southeast is almost as strong. In the old days, prisoners were executed at the south wu gate 午門 of a city. The idea was that spirits could not stand the heat and sunlight, the yang of the south. This is the same idea as bringing in more yang through a door, window, or skylight to make spirits leave a haunted house.

## Quiz 4

1. In a house built during period 7, facing southeast, you have a city gate configuration. The owner was born in 1943. What are the two days to turn on the water? One is for the owner, and the other is for the direction of city gate.
2. In a house built during period 8, facing west, you have a city gate configuration. The owner was born in 1968. What are the two days to turn on the water? One is for the owner, and the other is for the direction of city gate.
3. In a house built during period 9, facing northeast, you have a city gate configuration. The owner was born in 1972. What are the two days to turn on the water? One is for the owner, and the other is for the direction of city gate.

## Quiz 4 Answers

1. In a house built during period 7, facing southeast, you have a city gate configuration. The owner was born in 1943. What are the two days to turn on the water? One is for the owner, and the other is for the direction of city gate.

**Answer:** A zi branch or a yi stem day.

a. 1943 is a gui stem year. His personal prosperity day is zi branch.

b. The 5 yellow is in the east, to the left of the facing. A prosperity day for the east direction is an yi stem day. This will benefit everyone in the house.

6	2	4
5	7	9
1	3	8

2. In a house built during period 8, facing west, you have a city gate configuration. The owner was born in 1968. What are the two days to turn on the water? One is for the owner, and the other is for the direction of city gate.

**Answer:** A si branch or a geng stem day.

a. 1968 is a wu stem year. Her personal prosperity day is si branch.

b. The 5 yellow is in the southwest, to the left of the facing. A prosperity day for the southwest direction is a geng stem day. This will benefit everyone in the house.

7	3	5
6	8	1
2	4	9

3. In a house built during period 9, facing northeast, you have a city gate configuration. The owner was born in 1972. What are the two days to turn on the water? One is for the owner, and the other is for the direction of city gate.

**Answer:** A hai branch or a gui stem day.

a. 1972 is a ren stem year. His personal prosperity day is hai branch.

b. The 5 yellow is in the north, to the left of the facing. A prosperity day for the north direction is a gui stem day. This will benefit everyone in the house.

8	4	6
7	9	2
3	5	1

<b>Houses with City Gate and the Day to Turn on the Water</b>			
<b>Period</b>	<b>Location of 5 yellow</b>	<b>House built in this period must face</b>	<b>Day to turn on the water</b>
1	S	SE or SW	ding or ji
2	NE	N or E	jia
3	W	NW or SW	xin
4	NW	N or W	ren
5	center	none	none
6	SE	S or E	bing or wu
7	E	SE or NE	yi
8	SW	S or W	geng
9	N	NE or NW	gui

## ***When to Avoid Using City Gate***

Now that we have learned the four aspects of Five Ghosts City Gate, let's revisit some issues.

What if the direction to place water for city gate is the same direction where water should be avoided during the current construction period, the principal spirit (zheng shen)?

You can use five ghosts, but remove the water when some money arrives.

In fact, this is the case for all five ghosts remedies. They are not permanent remedies. You must know when to stop. This is like going to a casino. Stop when you win some money. If you keep gambling after the money comes in, you are likely to lose it back to the house.

Also, don't use Five Ghosts City Gate if the location also contains the annual 5 yellow or the three sha. (The three sha are described in detail in the Day Selection Classes and also in the Tai Sui, Year Breaker, and Three Sha Class.)

Here is a house built during period 6. If it faces south or east, then it has Five Ghosts City Gate in the southeast. However, in 2003 or 2012, 6 white will be in the center, so the annual 5 yellow will be located in the southeast, coincident with Five Ghosts City Gate. Therefore, we should not add water during those years.

5	1	3
4	6	8
9	2	7

If someone insists on doing it despite the danger, at least they should add water in a metal container, and have plenty of metal in this section to inactivate the annual 5 yellow. But remember, Master Sang says, "Don't be greedy."

## ***When Can We Use the 5 Yellow?***

Let's talk some more about using the 5 yellow... In the Intermediate and Advanced Feng Shui Classes, we are taught to always avoid using any 5 yellow and to always add metal as a remedy for it. This is never wrong. But now you have progressed to an even more advanced class, so we can teach you something more sophisticated. However, if you use the 5 yellow improperly, it can cause a lot of harm, so you must be quite careful.

Regardless of how the 5 yellow is calculated (whether it is the period star, mountain (people) star, facing (money) star, annual star, or monthly star), you can determine what the 5 yellow is a substitute for, and use that in making predictions of the outcome. For example, a 2-5 where the 5 yellow switches with a 3 jade in the center would make a 2-3 combination. The disaster of the 2-5 would probably be related to some kind of serious argument or lawsuit (2-3).

However, you can only try to take advantage of the 5 yellow when it is the period star, the people star, or the money star. These are stars that are native to the house, built into the house when it was constructed. You should **never** try to use the visiting 5 yellow stars, such as the annual or monthly 5 yellow. This will only cause disaster. The visiting qi is much more dangerous because it is stronger than qi that is native to the house.

I realize that we are repeating these cautions frequently. But remember, in medicine, the first rule is FIRST DO NO HARM. We should also follow this in the practice of feng shui. In medicine, sometimes you need to take a pill that has side effects or is somewhat toxic in order to get a cure. But this type of pill is only used when it is really needed, and then only for short periods of time. It is the same with five ghosts. Doesn't the name of this technique suggest that it has some power that could cause trouble if misused?

I repeat to be sure you got it: **Don't be greedy.**

## Using Fire at City Gate

Sometimes people use fire instead of water to activate Five Ghosts City Gate.

7	3	5
6	8	1
2	4	9

Note that in a house built during period 8, the 5 yellow in the southwest switches with the 8 white in the center. As long as the rest of the stars in the southwest will not react badly to fire, you can use fire to stir up the Five Ghosts City Gate in this case.

Water is more commonly used, as fire has its own dangers... safety, for one, as well as its ability to activate the 5 yellow and the 2 black.

It should be pointed out that fire and water are not being used here primarily as two of the five elements. Water collects qi and fire warms and brightens it. Both activate qi. However, when using fire or water like this, we should still check to see if one or the other is more compatible according to the elements. We also should avoid using an element if it will cause harm. In other words, we should check the enhancement on two levels:

1. Is it appropriate for the location as an enhancement for City Gate?
2. Will the element be compatible with the other stars there?

Here is one example of how you could use fire to safely activate city gate: Someone desperately needs to sell a house. No one is currently living there. Activating city gate with fire during period 8 may help a sale to go through quickly. The danger is also reduced because no one is occupying the building.

When using fire, probably a red light bulb is best.

## Quiz 5

1. When should we avoid using city gate?
  - a. when its direction coincides with the principal spirit (zheng shen)
  - b. when the annual 5 yellow is in the same palace
  - c. whenever we see the 5 yellow
  - d. all of the above
2. How long should we leave in the enhancement for city gate?
  - a. it is a permanent remedy
  - b. only during the current construction cycle
  - c. only during the current year
  - d. until money comes in, then remove it
3. What should you consider in using fire or water for city gate?



## Quiz 5 Answers

1. When should we avoid using city gate?

- a. when its direction coincides with the principal spirit (zheng shen)
- b. when the annual 5 yellow is in the same palace**
- c. whenever we see the 5 yellow
- d. all of the above

**Notes:** City gate can be used with the principal spirit, although the results will probably be lessened. City gate must use the 5 yellow, so c. cannot be correct.

2. How long should we leave in the enhancement for city gate?

- a. it is a permanent remedy
- b. only during the current construction cycle
- c. only during the current year
- d. until money comes in, then remove it**

**Notes:** City gate should only be use for relatively desperate situations and should be removed when money comes in. Playing with the 5 yellow is dangerous. It should not be left for long.

3. What should you consider in using fire or water for city gate?

**Answer:** Fire is more dangerous than water. However it can be used to activate city gate as long as it does not conflict with the elements in the area. Water is more commonly used as it is less dangerous. Since the 8 white likes fire, we sometimes use it if the 5 yellow is a substitute for 8 white.

## Using 5 Yellow to Release a Lock

Look at the chart for a k-w (si to hai) house built in period 3. It is locked for money during period 4 because the facing (money) star in the center is also 4 green. Lots of water in any direction outside the house will unlock it.

山

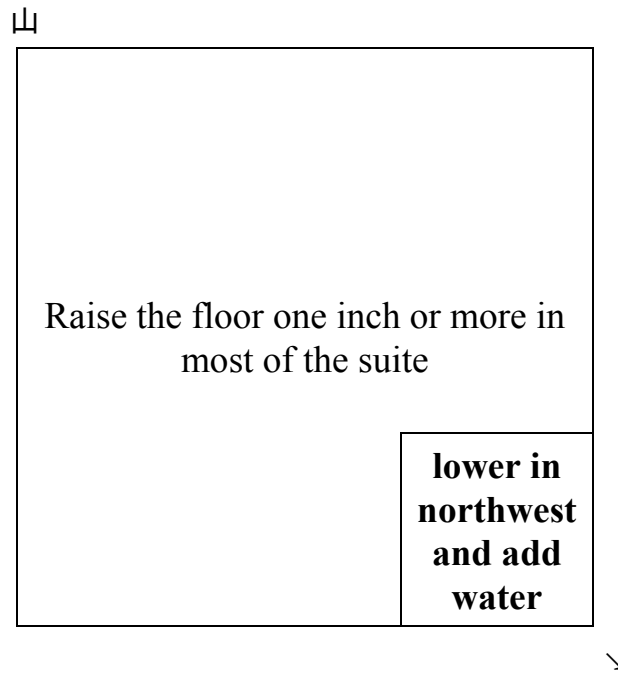
1 3 2	6 8 7	8 1 9
9 2 1	2 4 ↘ 3	4 6 5
5 7 6	7 9 8	3 ↖ 5 4

water releases ↘ lock

Perhaps this is a unit in an office building and the occupants cannot place water outside. There is another way to remedy the lock, using the 5 yellow star.

Since this is a money lock, we are concerned with the money star, the number in the top right in any of the nine palaces. The 5 yellow star that represents money is in the northwest palace. Water placed *inside* the unit in the northwest will unlock it.

Since water runs downwards, a lower level represents water. Therefore, a lower level in the northwest area inside the house may also help to unlock it. It is best to use both: *water* in the *lower part* in the northwest.



While it may be expensive to raise the floor in most of the suite, the cost is relative. The feng shui may generally be good and the occupants have made good money in that location in the past. If they notice that the income dried up at the change of a twenty-year construction period, they may come to understand that the change in income is related to the change in feng shui and timing.

Since a lock lasts for twenty years, they may decide the investment in construction is worth the money they will make over time in an unlocked building.

Unlocking INSIDE the building can only be done using 5 yellow. There is no other way. Water in this direction can also be used outside, but we already know that water outside in any direction is able to unlock a building.

Running water is best able to unblock the situation. This is because in a lock, the qi is blocked up. The movement of running water unblocks and releases it.

If water is inside a room with a closed door, it does not affect the house as a whole. If the door is left opened, it will more easily affect the rest of the house. If the water is in a very open space, like a living room, it has the best affect. When outside the house, water can also affect the whole building.

It is best if there is open space stretching from the palace of the house with water into the center region so that the qi can circulate between the center and the outside.

Water to release a lock is acceptable in the direction that is prohibited for the construction period. If locked, there is no income. Water in the prohibited direction means a reduced income, but since it unlocks the house, income at least exists.

山

3 9 4	7 4 9	5 2 2
4 1 3	2 ↙ 8 5	9 6 7
8 5 ↗ 8	6 3 1	1 7 6

↙

o-c (wei to chou) period 5

During period 8, the money benefits of this house are locked up. The remedy would be water in the northeast. However, the northeast is the home direction of period 8, so water is generally not considered beneficial there.

However, the net gain will be better (although not necessarily good) if we add water in the northeast. It will unlock the money so that income can flow in, but the income will be less than could be expected if we could use a different palace.

## What Is A Lock?

The Chinese name for a lock actually means ‘the command star enters prison’ (令星入囚). It is referring to the current wang star, the period star, losing its freedom to interact with the wang qi outside of the building.

A building can never be locked during the period in which it is built because the wang stars will always be in the sitting or facing palaces. They will be on the outer perimeter of the building, not locked in the center.

山

1 3 2	6 8 7	8 1 9
9 2 1	↙ 2 4 ↘ 3	4 6 5
5 ↗ 7 6	7 9 8	3 ↖ 5 4

↘

k-w (si to hai) house built in period 3

In the above house, built in period 3, the people (mountain) 3 jade star is in the facing, in the northwest, and the money (water) 3 jade is in the sitting, in the southeast. During period 3, these stars can communicate with the wang qi outside.

However, during period 4, it is different. The people (mountain) 4 green is okay, since it is in the west, on the outer perimeter of the house. But the money (water) 4 green star is locked or imprisoned in the center. If water is placed in the northwest where the money (water) 5 yellow is, it ‘reflects’ the 5 yellow back to the center, and allows the 4 green to make the switch to the outside. Now the wang 4 green inside

can communicate with the wang cycle 4 qi outside, and bring the effects of the wang qi into the house.

In a similar way, during period 2, the people will be locked because the 2 black is stuck in the center and cannot communicate with the wang 2 black qi outside. However, water in the northeast will enable the mountain (people) 5 yellow to switch and thus remedy the lock.

## ***Other types of locks***

This technique is different than Five Ghosts City Gate, which uses the construction period stars, not the facing (money) stars. Also, with five ghosts, you expect a quick boost in income, and then you should remove the water. If you are unlocking a building using the 5 yellow, it is a remedy that stays in place for the duration of the construction period.

This technique is not used for annual locks. The annual 5 acts differently; it is called five ghosts lianzhen sha (五鬼廉真煞) and cannot be used to bring benefit.

Besides that, annual locks are not as important. Business always has ups and downs and if the business is healthy, it can easily survive a year of slower income. This type of arrangement is not worth the trouble it would take to remedy a problem of short duration.

If the lock involves the people (mountain) stars, you only need to use water wherever the 5 yellow resides on the people (mountain) side. The people are represented by mountain so you do not need to construct a lower place.

## Using Open Space, Doors and Skylights to Remedy a Lock

山		water releases lock
8 3 9	4 7 5	6 ↙ 5 7
7 4 8	9 2 ↗ 1	2 9 3
3 8 4	5 6 6	1 1 2



i-u (chen - xu), period 1 house

The usual way to release a money lock in this house during period 2 would be to add water in the southwest, inside or outside the house, because the 2 black can then switch out into the position of the 5 yellow.

A big open space outside the section of the house that contains the relevant 5 yellow also unlocks it. So does opening a door or skylight in this section, but it must be used and open often. Even a big window that is often opened can work. Any of these helps the wang star from the center communicate with the wang qi outside.

It is best if there is open space from that palace of the house into the center region so that the qi can circulate from the center to the outside and vice versa.



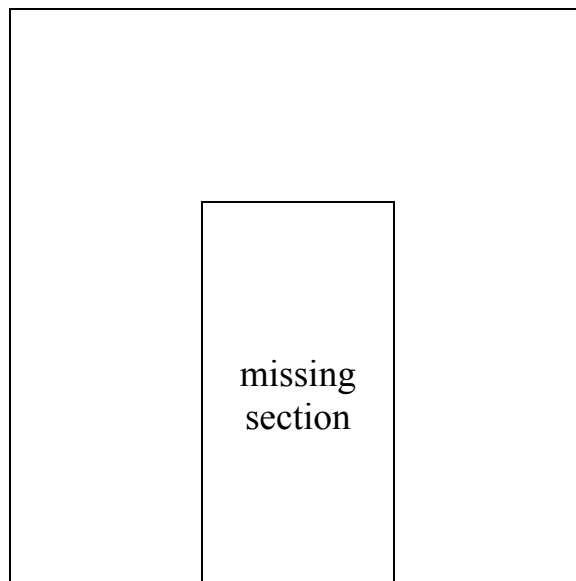
## ***Houses with the Center Missing***



The old Chinese-style houses had a central courtyard (四合院). They could not be locked because the center was always open. Regardless of construction period, the wang star could circulate freely.

Remember the stars in the center do not represent a space. They are like the DNA for the house as a whole. They do not need an enclosed space to be built into the house.

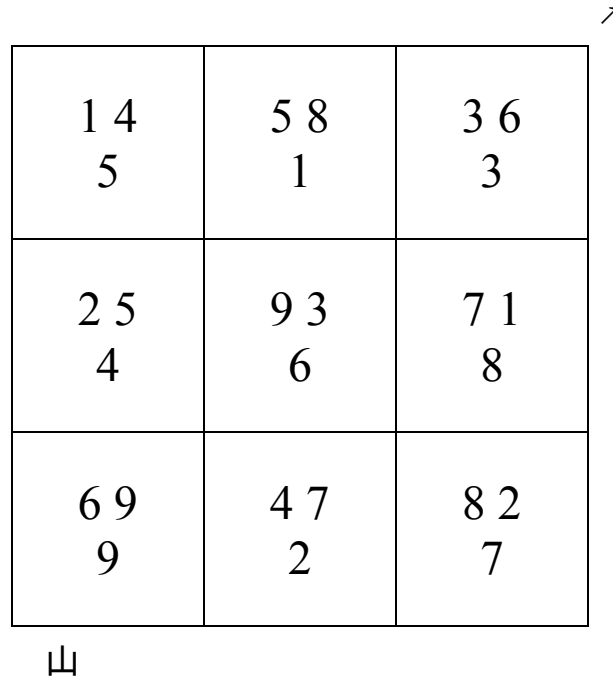
A U-shaped house also cannot become locked if the opening is deep enough to enter the center region.



But this is not a good configuration because either the sitting or the facing palace will be missing. The sitting palace represents the people and the facing palace represents the money. The house does not give a lot of support to whatever aspect is missing.

## Quiz 6

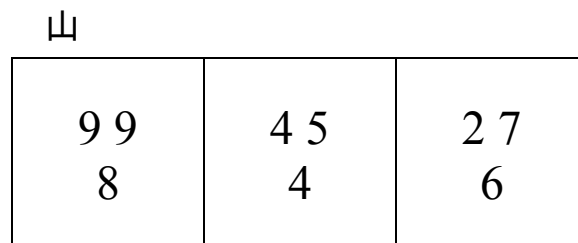
1. In this chart, (e-q yin to shen, period 6), where would you place water during period 3 to unlock the building?



1 4 5	5 8 1	3 6 3
2 5 4	9 3 6	7 1 8
6 9 9	4 7 2	8 2 7

2. What else could you do to help unlock it?

3. In this chart (i-u chen to xu, period 9), where would you place water during period 1 to unlock the building?



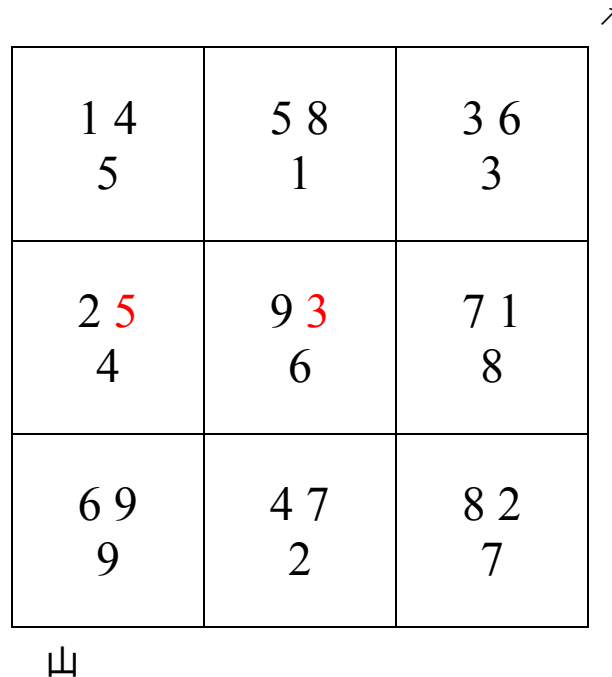
9 9 8	4 5 4	2 7 6
----------	----------	----------

<div>1 8</div> <div>7</div>	<div>8 1</div> <div>9</div>	<div>6 3</div> <div>2</div>
<div>5 4</div> <div>3</div>	<div>3 6</div> <div>5</div>	<div>7 2</div> <div>1</div>



## Quiz 6 Answers

1. In this chart, (e-q yin to shen, period 6), where would you place water during period 3 to unlock the building?



1 4 5	5 8 1	3 6 3
2 5 4	9 3 6	7 1 8
6 9 9	4 7 2	8 2 7

山

**Answer:** East, where the facing 5 yellow lies.

2. What else could you do to help unlock it?

**Answer:** Make the floor lower in the east section and make sure there is open space so that the qi can circulate between the east and the center. Use doors, windows, or skylights in this section.

3. In this chart (i-u chen to xu, period 9), where would you place water during period 1 to unlock the building?

山

9 9 8	4 5 4	2 7 6
1 8 7	8 1 9	6 3 2
5 4 3	3 6 5	7 2 1



**Answer:** South, where the facing 5 yellow lies.

## A Few Extra Topics

### *Understanding a reverse house*

The actual Chinese phrase for a reverse house is:

上山下水 (Water star) ascends a mountain, (mountain star) descends into the water

This refers to the water (money) star being in the sitting (mountain side of the building) and the mountain (people) star being in the facing (water side of the building).

Here are two lines are from the 《青囊經》 *Green Satchel Classic*.

上山下水

收山出煞

(Water star) ascends a mountain, (mountain star) descends into the water  
Gather a mountain and expel the sha

This is discussing a reverse house. ‘Gather a mountain’ means building a mountain in front, putting the wang mountain (people) star on the facing side in a higher place. ‘Expel the sha’ means placing water in the back, putting the wang water (money) star in the sitting in a lower position.

In a reverse house, an empty area in back, especially with water, fixes the imbalance, as does a tall mountain-like thing in front. People sometimes try to make a ‘mountain’ inside the house as an experiment, but this is not classical and the results are uncertain.

If a reverse house were on **PERFECTLY** flat land, the effects of the reversal would not manifest. The reverse is not activated. However, in the real world, it is next to impossible to find perfectly flat surroundings for a house.

While the remedies for a reverse house really must be outside, the *Five Ghosts* technique is effective whether used inside or outside of the house.

### **Add-To-Ten Revisited**

We discussed the meaning of add-to-ten in the beginning of this class. Actually, add-to-ten has a few meanings in feng shui. But whichever meaning is used, add-to-ten always implies something beneficial, some type of completion.

Note in the two charts below, the period star and either the mountain (people) or facing (money) star add to ten in every palace.

Theoretically: An add-to-ten house on the mountain (people) side is good for relationships. People are healthy and harmonious. They will have descendants. This example is period 7, a-m (zi to wu) or b-n (gui to ding):

↑

4 1 6	8 6 2	6 8 4
5 9 5	3 2 7	1 4 9
9 5 1	7 7 3	2 3 8

山

Theoretically: On the facing (money) side, money runs into your pockets. It brings unexpected money. This example is period 7, m-a (wu to zi) or n-b (ding to gui):

山



1 4 6	6 8 2	8 6 4
9 5 5	2 3 7	4 1 9
5 9 1	7 7 3	3 2 8

↓

One reason for the benefit is that since the time star always ascends, the people or money star must descend. Otherwise, it cannot add to ten in all palaces. As you know, if the people or money star descends, that side will be beneficial. In a wang shan wang shui house, both sides flow downward.

In reality, the benefit a house brings depends on much more than any one characteristic of its chart. Is the entrance good? Is the bedroom good? Is it locked? What is the environment like? You have to look at the whole picture. But an add-to-ten house does have potential benefits.

## Conclusion

This class taught when the 5 yellow can be used and when it cannot. It taught how to use the 5 yellow safely and effectively. We also reviewed and explored a few uses of water as an enhancement. We attempted to deepen your understanding of some of the theories you already knew on a practical level.

We present this class in the hopes that it will bring you benefit, but also that you will use it to benefit others who are in need. Remember, there are five influences on your life:

1. 命 fate
2. 運 luck
3. 風水 feng shui
4. 陰德 doing good works for others
5. 讀書 hard work to achieve your goal

In Chinese, the fourth factor, doing good works for others, is literally called ‘yin virtue.’ This is doing good works that are concealed from others (yin). If someone is in dire need, and you help them without asking for reward, without telling everyone what you did, then you accumulate some good karma in your karma bank. So using five ghosts to help people in need will actually bring benefit to you, the practitioner as well.

A constant caution in this class is “Do not be greedy.” In the *Principles of Feng Shui*, Master Sang has a few pieces of calligraphy. One says, “In order to attain real happiness, one should not expand his assets but rather lessen his desires.” This is a common theme in Chinese culture. Here are a few more examples of this type of thought:

Laozi’s Daode Jing 老子《道德經》 says in Chapter 67:

我有三寶，持而保之：一曰慈；二曰儉；三曰不敢為天下先。

I have three treasures. I support and protect them. The first is called compassion. The second is called restraint. The third is called not daring to act as the first under heaven.

Compassion is helping others. The word that is translated here as ‘restraint’ is used in phrases meaning ‘self-restraint.’ It also has the connotation of financial restraint, frugality. Paragraphs could be written about ‘not daring to act as the first under heaven,’ but it certainly includes the idea of humility.

寡慾則心清，心清則寡慾。馮曦晴《頤養詮要·卷之一》

When there are few desires, the heart is clear. When the heart is clear, there are few desires.

Ping Xiqing (Qing dynasty)

清心而寡慾，人之壽矣。崔敦禮《芻言·卷上》

A clear heart results in few desires and longevity for people. Cui Dunli (Tang dynasty)

怒是猛虎，欲是深淵。金纓《格言聯璧·存養》

Anger is a fierce tiger. Desire is a deep abyss.


Jin Ying (Qing dynasty)

Desire really is a deep abyss. There is never an end to it. We must remember that playing with the 5 yellow involves danger. Therefore, we should not treat it lightly. If we use it properly, we can follow in the footsteps of Master Yang, who helped the poor at the end of the Tang dynasty. If we do not use it properly, we can cause harm to ourselves and others. But when the risks are worth the potential benefits, this is a powerful technique.

## Final Exam

1. Which house has city gate and why?

a. d-p (gen to kun) period 8 (sitting northeast)



1 4 7	6 9 3	8 2 5
9 3 6	2 5 8	4 7 1
5 8 2	7 1 4	3 6 9

山

b. n-b (ding to gui) period 8 (sitting south)

山

4 3 7	8 8 3	6 1 5
5 2 6	3 4 8	1 6 1
9 7 2	7 9 4	2 5 9

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c. g-s (mao to you) period 8 (sitting east)

5 2 7	1 6 3	3 4 5
4 3 6	6 1 8	8 8 1
9 7 2	2 5 4	7 9 9

2. Your clients are designing a new home (built during period 8). They are retiring in their 50s and intend to live here the rest of their lives, so they want to build it right. Here is the chart for their house. In which place(s) would you have them build a water feature? Where would you make sure they avoid water? (There is a lot to consider here, so think about it.) a-m (zi to wu) period 8 (sitting north)

↑

3 4 7	8 8 3	1 6 5
2 5 6	4 3 8	6 1 1
7 9 2	9 7 4	5 2 9

山

3. The owners of this house are your neighbors. You find out that the company they work for went bankrupt and they have been out of work for six months. They have fallen behind on the mortgage, and now they are afraid they will lose the house. What can you do to help them? Look for both long-term and short-term solutions. v-j (qian to xun), period 7 (sitting northwest)

↖

7 5 6	3 1 2	5 3 4
6 4 5	8 6 7	1 8 9
2 9 1	4 2 3	9 7 8

山

## Final Exam Answers

1. Which house has city gate and why?

**Answer:** c. g-s (mao to you) period 8 (sitting east)

5 2 7	1 6 3	3 4 5
4 3 6	6 1 8	8 8 1
9 7 2	2 5 4	7 9 9

This is the only choice with city gate. This building faces west. The 5 yellow from the period star has arrived in the front left palace, the southwest.

2. Your clients are designing a new home (built during period 8). They are retiring in their 50s and intend to live here the rest of their lives, so they want to build it right. Here is the chart for their house. In which place(s) would you have them build a water feature? Where would you make sure they avoid water? (There is a lot to consider here, so think about it.) a-m (zi to wu) period 8 (sitting north)

↑

3 4 7	8 8 3	1 6 5
2 5 6	4 3 8	6 1 1
7 9 2	9 7 4	5 2 9

山

**Answer:**

This building will not have a period lock during their lifetime, so we do not need to worry about that.

It is not double sitting, so we do not need water in back (although we do need mountain in front).

This building does have city gate in the southwest, but their situation is not desperate, so we do not need water to activate that. However, if they do have severe financial problems in the future, city gate is available.

During period 8, the zero spirit is in the southwest. However, since that direction is also city gate, let's save it until it is needed.

During period 8, the shining spirit is in the east. We can have a water feature outside the house in the east to help them to keep a good flow of money in their retirement.

The principal spirit is in the northeast, so we should avoid water there.

Since these people want to live here for many years, they will probably be here in period 9 as well. In period nine, the principal spirit is in the south, so we should also avoid water there. The zero spirit will be in the north and the shining spirit will be in the southeast. If they want a large water feature, perhaps it could stretch from the east to the southeast and in that way benefit them in both period 8 and period 9.

3. The owners of this house are your neighbors. You find out that their child has been sick and medical bills have piled up. They have fallen behind on the mortgage, and now they are afraid they will lose the house. What can you do to help them? Look for both long-term and short-term solutions.

v-j (qian to xun), period 7 (sitting northwest)

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7 5 6	3 1 2	5 3 4
6 4 5	8 6 7	1 8 9
2 9 1	4 2 3	9 7 8

山

**Answer:** This is an urgent situation. It is a disaster for a family to lose a house. This building does have city gate in the east and we can use it. This is a short term solution that should be removed when some money starts to come in.

For long-term solutions, this is a reverse house, so we need a mountain in front and water in back. This would be a permanent remedy.

The house is also locked for people during period 8. Since their problems are all based on the sick child, it is important to unlock the house. The mountain 8 white can switch with the mountain 5 yellow in the southwest if water is placed there. In addition, water in the southwest is good for money during period 8. This remedy should stay in for all of period 8.

In addition, of course we need to look at the stars in the bedrooms and at the entrance and add remedies or enhancements, depending on the findings.

And don't forget to clean up and beautify the environment, eliminating any sha.