

# Dividing a House into 9 Boxes or 8 Wedges

This appears to be a controversial issue. The two ways of analyzing the feng shui of a house have different basis. To compare them is like comparing apples and oranges. Read on to see what each method is about and decide for yourself what to follow.

Before a house is built, Heaven qi and Earth qi meet on the surface of the earth. When a house is built, it is Man building the house on Earth under Heaven. What is known as the Heaven's heart is created. A star chart can be drawn for the house according to the sitting and facing directions of the house. This chart cannot be changed until we change Heaven's heart. This is done by something equivalent to rebuilding the house to impart a new life to it. It is another complicated question.

The concept of Heaven, Earth and Man means human activities (Man) in a confined space (Earth) and time (Heaven). Referring to a house, it is the birth of the house at a certain place and during a certain period of time. The people who build the house are like the parents of the house. They may not live in the house just as some people are under the care of foster parents after birth. Changing foster parents cannot change the DNA of a person. Therefore, it is the completion date of the house that determines the Heaven's heart, not the move-in date.

## 9 Boxes

When the star chart of a house is drawn, the energy pattern of the house is fixed. The pattern is conveniently given by a 3x3 grid. For example, for a house built in Period 7 facing 90o, the chart is:

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

This chart is then superimposed on the floor plan of a house. The house is thus divided into 9 equal parts with a little flexibility when there are physical partitions.

The theory underlying this method is that the qi distribution is in accordance with the way the star flies forward or backward along the Luo Shu path. This path is also known as the "ruler measuring Heaven".

## 8 Wedges

According to Qing Nang Jing (The Cerulean Satchel Classic):

"Qi comes from eight directions."

Feng Shui masters in ancient times used a luopan and watched the different types of qi coming from the eight directions. Of course, for more accurate reading they also had to observe qi coming from 24 mountains, 64 hexagrams and even 384 yaos!

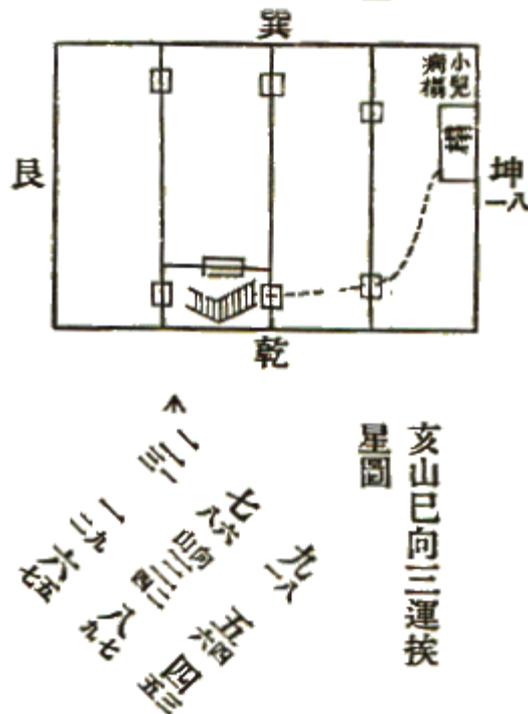
The whole idea of feng shui is to study the different types of qi coming from different directions. It is not to study the type of qi assigned to 9 boxes bounded by imaginary lines. It is not to study the type of qi assigned to 8 wedges bounded by imaginary lines. Therefore, it is not "pie shape versus square". It is "qi coming from 8 directions versus qi filling 9 boxes".

Actually qi comes into a house from all directions. The facing is most yang and therefore more influential. The sitting is most yin and therefore most receptive. Once it gets in, it will fill the house. Imagine that you have water coming from all directions towards a house. It will come in through doors and windows. It will also steal in through pores on the walls. Once it is inside, it moves freely and fills any pathway and space. You cannot distinguish the water that come in by different pathways. So you can see it is important to locate the doors and windows to see what water stars come into the house and how it is directed to fill the house.

You can start learning the flying stars with the 9 squares because it is easy to understand. This is the basic level. At a higher level, we have to seek guidance from the important classics. So it is not right or wrong but different levels of understanding.

A lot of people say that the ancients used the 9 palaces when they did a feng shui audit. Is it true?

Ancient books do not have good diagrams. Even in books published about 100 years ago, the diagrams are of very poor quality. Usually the floor plan is accompanied by a flying star chart. The chart is rotated to indicate how the house faces. The grids are *\*not\** there.



Jiang Da Hong actually repeatedly emphasized on the importance of using the 8 directions. Here are quotes from his writings:

From <<Ba Zhai Tian Yuan Fu>>

"...If you want to know what is true in the eight houses, you have to know the numbers in the 9 palaces...."

....Generally speaking you have to discuss the shape of the house, and to examine the door and pathways. If it is square and regular, then there are the 8 palaces. If it is wide or long, then two trigrams will dominate...."

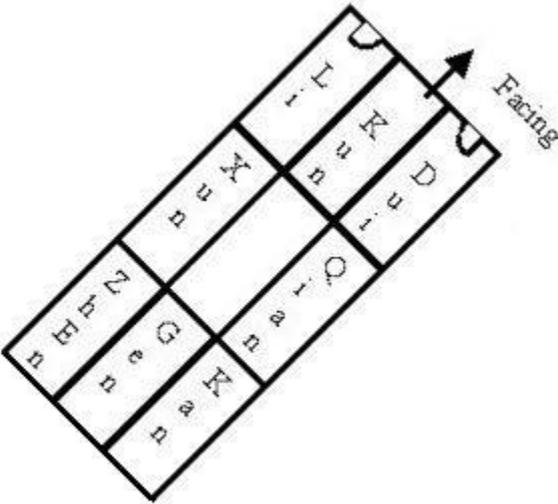
....If a house facing Kun is deep and long, then the Dui and Li doors do not correspond...."

The first paragraph mentions "numbers" only. It does not say that the palaces are squares or rectangles. He mentions 9 palaces because the numbers are in all 9 palaces of the star chart.

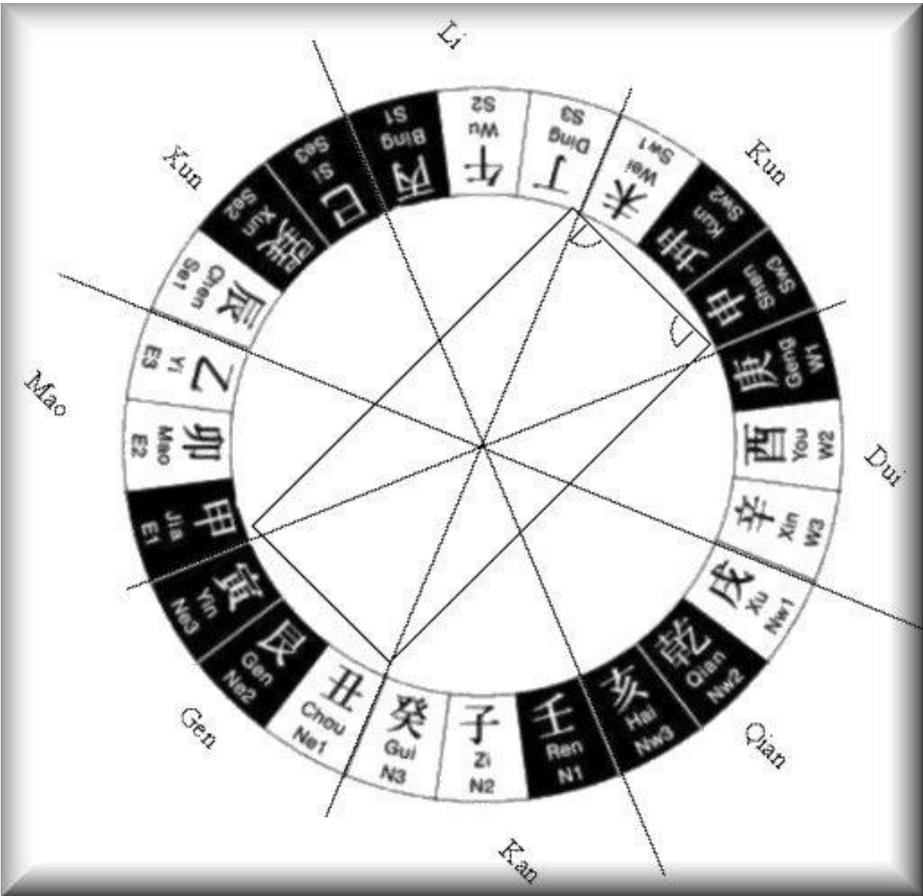
The second paragraph is clear enough. For a regular house in the form of a square, the 8 (not 9) palaces are more or less the same. For a long or wide house, there are two palaces that are much more influential. This tells us clearly that dividing a house into 9 equal parts by the 3x3 grids is not the way.

Master Jiang was still afraid that this was not clear enough. In the third paragraph, he tells people that using a 9-rectangle grid will misplace the doors. He mentions a long house facing Kun. What appears to be a door in the Dui palace is actually not influenced by the qi from the

Dui direction. What appears to be a door in the Li palace is actually not receiving the qi from Li. The following diagrams illustrate the situation.



Using 9 boxes places the doors one in Li and the other in Dui Palace.



The 3x3 magic square only tells you the rule for the stars to move. It is not to be viewed as a spatial chart. The ancients intelligently called this magic square the "ruler to measure heaven". It means that it is the "rule" and not the space.

The pie shape does not mean that there are eight palaces each in the shape of a pie. It only means that the different qi in the star chart come from these directions. Now it should be clear how to analyze the qi in a house by the flying stars.



This article was published in Master Joseph's Yu website:

<https://www.astro-fengshui.com>

Check other articles and find valuable knowledge in the courses and seminars in our Feng Shui Research Center! Welcome and enjoy!

**Joseph Yu B.Sc. 余若愚** was born during the second world war in a small village in South China. He spent his childhood as a country boy and did not receive any formal education until he came to Hong Kong at the age of eleven. A lot of people suggest to him that he should create a story of learning Astrology and Feng Shui in early childhood from a monk as do many a famous Feng Shui Master. He prefers to tell the truth.

Yu studied Mathematics and Physics in the University of Hong Kong in the early 1960's. He abhorred all kinds of superstition and vowed to destroy such absurd beliefs of ignorant people. He then frequented libraries, trying to find fault with Astrology and Feng Shui from ancient books. The deeper he went into the subject, the more excited he became about the rich legacy of ancient Chinese culture.

Whether or not to become a professional astrologer and geomancer or continue in the fields of mathematics and physics, became a constant dilemma. Astrology and Feng Shui have been viewed as superstition by their skeptics. Astrologers and Feng Shui masters have been linked with fraud for centuries.

Someone wrote in his book, "If more knowledgeable men provide true Astrology and Feng Shui services, the ignorant and fake 'professionals' will vanish." Sharing the same view, Yu decided to provide useful services and correspondence courses at an affordable price.

While Joseph Yu was a mathematics teacher after his graduation, he was lucky to have as his neighbor one old Feng Shui master. This old master was very kind to disclose a lot of secrets of the five arts to him even though he was not one of the old master's apprentices.

In one Chinese New Year party at the old master's home, the master said to his disciples, "This young man, though not officially under my care, has learned more than most of you because he has a logical mind and dares to argue with me on various issues."

The old master passed away a few months later. Joseph Yu did not feel comfortable in the company of the disciples of this good master. He is grateful, but circumstances make it impossible to express his gratitude towards the master who passed on to him a lot of invaluable knowledge.