



Feng Shui— The Four Animal Protectors

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In the last issue, I wrote about enhancing the outdoor area around your front entry. This time, let's discuss incorporating *Feng Shui* principles in your garden and landscaping, as well as your entire outdoor space. One important aspect of our immediate external environment is its ability to protect us from destructive energy, as well as enhancing and magnetizing positive *qi*.

In *Land Form Feng Shui*, there are four “protectors” that are naturally occurring in the environment. These can also be created through landscaping and creative garden design. The four animals that symbolize this protective energy are: the black tortoise, the red phoenix, the green dragon and the white tiger (the fifth protector, the snake, resides within the dwelling).

The tortoise, with his high, rounded, protective shell should reside at the rear of the house/yard. In the natural environment, this would be a rounded hilltop. A building that is taller than your home that is to the rear will also provide some protection. If you have neither of these, you can create an energetic shelter by planting tall trees.

To the left of the tortoise (left to you as you face the front of your house) is the dragon with her movement and life. Hedges, bushes, and vines are great in this location. Trees that are significantly smaller than the ones to the rear can also be used. Even a small building to your left that is painted a green or blue tone will assist in building energetic security.

On the right is the tiger, with his metal energy and crouching position. White stones and rocks, as well as low bedding plants are perfect here. A neighboring building that is stone or has a stone façade is helpful, too.

The front of your home is the phoenix—rising from the ashes to new heights and energy. The immediate front of your home should be clear and low, enabling you to see far and into the distance. A low brick border or fence around

the front portion of your yard is great. The land shape of a low ridge, if you're in a more rural or wooded environment, will create the phoenix feeling of freedom. One of the important aspects of the phoenix is to not have obstructions in the front of your yard that would hinder the flow of *qi* to your front door.

With the *bagua* and the cycle of the five elements, it would seem that the placement of the protectors are opposite to where they should be.

This is not the case for the external protectors in *yang-domain Feng Shui*. This exterior placement of the animals and their physical qualities has more to do with how the natural land is formed and contoured and things we can do to change or enhance it. If you look at it carefully, you'll notice it's actually the exact opposite of how the *bagua* is used inside the house (interior is clockwise; exterior is counterclockwise—the perfect balance of *yin* and *yang*).

It's still acceptable to use the “interior” *bagua* when creating enhancements or using colors and elements next to

the house to enhance the various *bagua* sectors in the home.

And for you flower lovers, you can plant just about anywhere around your protectors. If you cannot change the yard, place your “intention of protection” in the various areas of your yard and around the outside of your house. Intention is the most powerful aspect of the implementation of *Feng Shui* principles and theory. ■

Trained in China and the US, Michele Lewis, a Certified Feng Shui Consultant, has been a Feng Shui professional since 1998 and is available for consultations on-site or via phone. By using the timeless principles of the art and science of Feng Shui, Michele can help you bring balance and beauty to every aspect of your life. She is also a Certified Qigong Instructor of Ling Gui Healing Qigong School, Liu Dong's Method. Michele can be reached at 406.582.5724 or taodesigns@ymail.com

