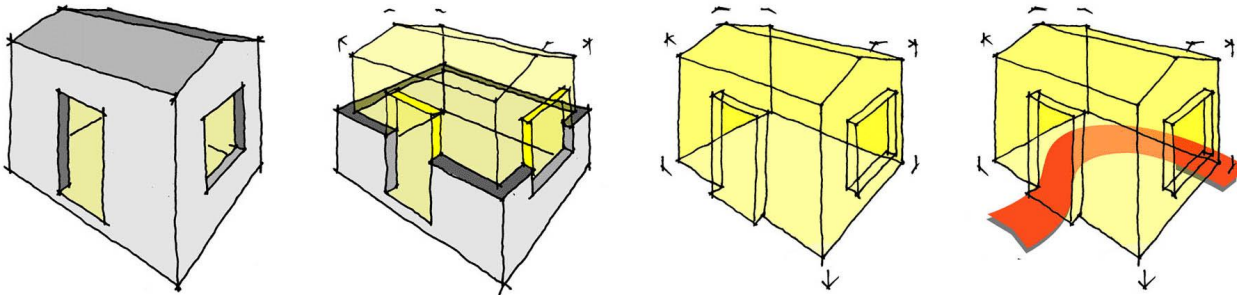




Feng Shui Architecture

The fengshuiPC program had its origin in my work as a Feng Shui architect and still receives its strongest development impulses from the various requirements of my building projects. Feng Shui is an ideal complement of architecture.



*„Thirty spokes share the wheel's hub, it is the center hole that makes it useful.
Shape clay into a vessel, it is the space within that makes it useful.
Cut doors and windows for a room, it is the holes which make it useful.
Therefore value comes from what is there, usefulness from what is not there.“*

Sketch and quote from Lao Tzu provide a fresh alternative to the traditional understanding of architecture. While modern architects place their focus almost exclusively on the building envelope or the physical appearance, it is understood through Feng Shui, that the essence of architecture lies in the formless, in the quality of the enclosed void. Architecture needs to place emphasis on the quality of this "emptiness" in order to make best use of the available resources to the advantage of the client.

Western design criteria support the planner with little more than hygienic requirements for fresh air, appropriate temperature and sufficient sunlight. Feng Shui on the other hand offers a variety of methods to describe the quality specific to the construction date and orientation of the building or the date of birth of the inhabitants. This additional depth of information gives rise to design decisions that produce a building fitting its environment and serving best its specific purpose.

These are some of my Feng Shui inspired design criteria:

- Yin/ Yang: One of the fundamental principles of life says that Qi flows only when there is a sufficient contrast between Yin & Yang. Therefore the planning process needs to create appropriate clarity of front & back / high & low / light & dark / loud & quiet / free & protected / open & closed etc. in order to assure vitality. A desirable balance is never the static 50-50 balance, but a dynamic balance such as 60-40 / 70-30. All Feng Shui techniques refine the understanding of Yin & Yang.
- Potentials: It is fundamental to investigate the existing situation by meticulous, unbiased analysis. The comprehensive view of what the existing conditions offer allows judging how much support is already available for the new purpose or how the environment has to be altered to best support the project.
- Simplicity: The pursuit of simple, not complex solutions can be achieved if the planning process develops along the prevailing forces of the situation and not against them. This is also an imperative of economy and energy conservation.
- Mutual Resonance: Powerful solutions show up in the analysis, when the aspects of the "San Cai" (3 gifts of heaven, earth and human) are mutually reinforcing. For example, if we find that a powerful timely mountain star (heaven) in a bedroom is supported by a physical mountain (earth) and the Ming Gua of the inhabitant (human) in this direction is also beneficial. This creates the ideal situation: do the right thing, at the right time and at the right place.
- Affection: All ambition and efforts to achieve an optimal adaptation must be preceded by the care for affection. The aim is to create a place that encourages social interaction through its spatial configuration and creates a positive emotional attachment of the inhabitants.

The following two projects exemplify the application of Feng Shui design principles. Both buildings have the same orientation and therefore the same Feng Shui calculations but are located in a different environment. See how radically different solutions are generated as proof how wonderfully responsive Feng Shui solutions are.

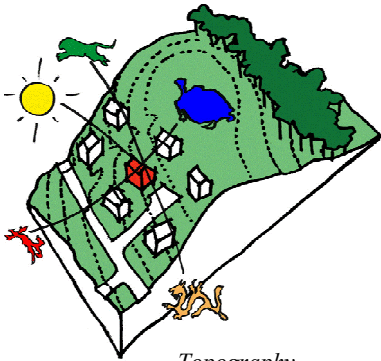
Two project with identical calculations:

Facing: 180°
 Sitting: 0°
 Construction: 2006/2010
 Clients: young family with 2-3 children
 Environment: hilly area near Stuttgart
 Site: recently developed site at the border of small village with special conditions for local residents

NW 5-2 9	N Center 9-7 4	NE 7-9 2	NW (-80)	N (+60)	NE (-70)
W 6-1 1	Center 4-3 8	E 2-5 6	W (-60)		E (+80)
SW 1-6 5	8-8 3	SE 3-4 7	SW (-90)	S (+70)	SE (+90)

Calculation of Flying Stars and house trigram (Zhai Gua)

Project A – Access from the side, relative flat site

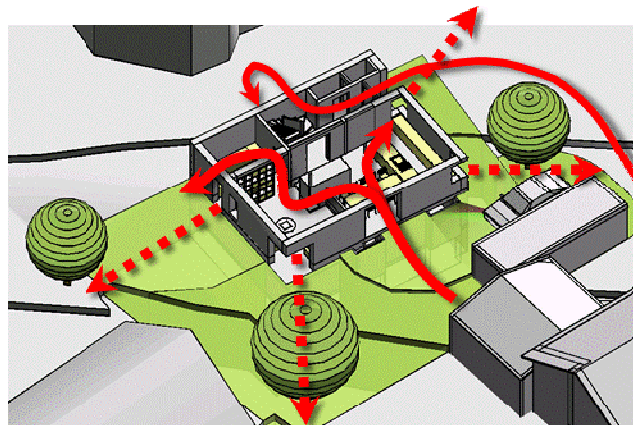


Topography

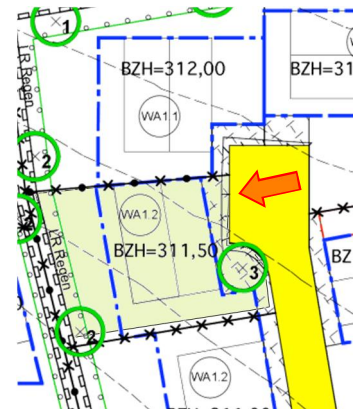
The south facing property is accessed by a residential street from the West. Due to the small plot size, the zoning allows for building on the Northern property line. The windowless boundary wall creates a strong back.

To the East the future water star "9" in the Northeast palace provides an excellent entrance with a large quiet space in front. The energy is directed primarily to the upper floor with a generous staircase open to the sky.

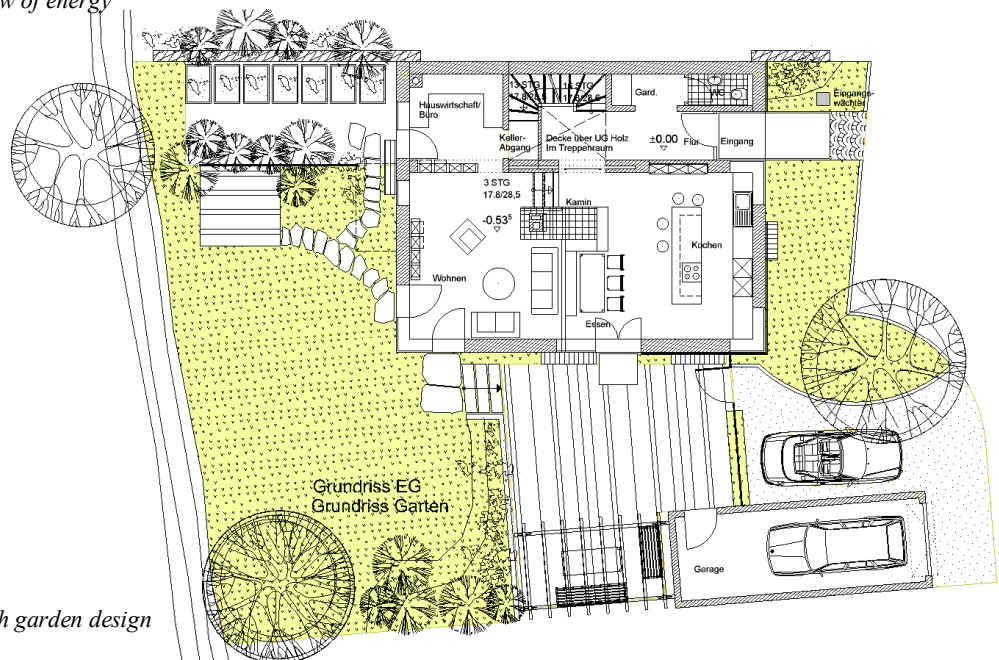
The large living/ dining and kitchen area on the ground breathes strong current "88" energy through a large glazing in the South palace. The spacious 55m² room follows the elevation of the terrain, dividing the space in areas of different height and orientation. The diagonal visual relationship to the environment is reflected by openings in the corners.



Flow of energy



Site plan



Ground floor with garden design

Project B – Access from the front, steep site

Car access from the front and the steep building site made the central entrance at the South side basement level the compelling solution. A courtyard on the only level portion of the site with play area, fountain, trees and garage gathers the Qi and leads generously to the entrance.

A large access and communication space over 3 levels distributes the strong timely "88" energy of the Flying Stars in the South palace. All rooms are directly connected without additional corridors.

The division of the living room as family space and dining-kitchen area as entertainment area corresponds to the habits of the owner. The garage on the lower level provides an open dining room with a great view into the valley. The separate basement apartment provides for income and flexibility as the family grows.

