Directions for Using the Lo Shu Square & Bagua

The Bagua
The bagua is an eight-sided octagon that relates to the “Eight Aspirations.” The Eight Aspirations are the eight things the Chinese believe correspond to a happy life. These include good family relationships, children, health, good education, wisdom, assistance from helpful people, etc.

The eight aspirations also correspond with a person (mother, father, daughter, son), an element (fire, water, metal, etc.), a number, and a direction (north, south, northwest, etc.), among others.

When these are all grouped together in an octagon, this is called a bagua.

The bagua is essentially a roadmap of how to harmonize your home with the directions, elements, etc.

By applying the bagua to the footprint of your home, you can determine if there are elements at odds with a particular sector. Or, you can also tell if you are missing a sector.

If you are, then chances are the aspiration that corresponds to that particular sector is impacted. So, for instance, if you are missing the south sector, it is possible that you have few friends or you have troubles with your good name.

The example on the next page illustrates how to apply a lo shu square over your house or space.

The lo shu square is essentially the feng shui bagua, but in a square shape.
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This is generally considered the easiest way to assess the individual areas of your house or whatever space you choose to apply the Lo Shu Square to.

The house diagram that follows is a good example of a house that has some positives and negatives going for it, and it shows how to overlay the lo shu square correctly onto your house plan.

**Directions for applying the lo shu square to your house or office layout:**

Using graph paper, measure and mark off the outline, or “footprint,” of your house. Try using 1 square for each 2 feet of space.

Or, on plain paper, use .5 inches for every three feet.

Next, you will want to divide the space into nine equal squares. Divide these equally by measuring the width and dividing by three. This will be the width for each square. Draw your width lines here. Next, measure the length, and again, divide by three and make a mark at each measurement. Draw your length lines here.

Next, using a compass, determine the direction of your front door.

- Measure this by taking a direction reading standing in the center of the doorway, looking out, and with the door open.
- Stand just inside the threshold.
- Hold the compass level and be sure not to have jewelry, belts, or other metallic objects on you while taking the reading. This is the reading you will use to determine the direction your house faces (provided your house and door are parallel).

Now, mark the box with the direction of your front door, wherever that box is. In the example below, you’ll see that the front door faces South.

That means that the next box, going in a clockwise direction, is then SW. Continue labeling the boxes in this manner.
Next, try to be certain that the boxes, and the corresponding house corners, do actually correspond to the actual directions that they are labeled as.

Below are four examples of how to apply the Lo Shu Square. It’s followed by a full size bagua that you can apply over your floor plan.

EXAMPLE 1: Door in the CENTER SECTOR
EXAMPLE 3: Door opens to the left of center
Notice the door opens in the SE, but is FACING EAST. You would say this house faces EAST. The deck on the house is not included in the square.

EXAMPLE 2: Do not include the patio
EXAMPLE 4: Door opens in the center
The Red Lotus Letter Lo Shu Square

**Southeast**
Wealth, abundance, prosperity,

- **Element:** Small wood
- **Shape:** Rectangle
- **Color:** Green (purple, blue, black)
- **Person:** Eldest daughter
- **Objects:** Small plants, flowers, fish, waterfalls or fountains
- **Number:** 4
- **Enhanced by:** Wooden objects, small plants
- **Exhausted by:** Metal, white objects or fire

**South**
Fame, recognition, dreams, social status

- **Element:** Fire
- **Shape:** Pyramids, triangles, pointed objects, arrows
- **Color:** Red (yellow, orange, purple)
- **Person:** Middle daughter
- **Objects:** Barbecue pits, fireplace, lamps, candles, trees, wood objects, flowers
- **Number:** 9
- **Enhanced by:** Wood, red colors, fire
- **Exhausted by:** Earth, rocks, stones, clay, water, metal

**Southwest**
Romance, marriage, relationships

- **Element:** Big earth, mountains
- **Shape:** Square
- **Color:** Beige, yellow
- **Person:** Mother, matriarch
- **Objects:** Stones, pairs, vases, crystals, globes, urns
- **Number:** 2
- **Enhanced by:** Lamps, fire, candles, round stones or objects, clay pots and ceramic vases
- **Exhausted by:** Wood, metal objects

**East**
Health, family relationships

- **Element:** Big wood
- **Shape:** Rectangle
- **Color:** Brown or dark green
- **Person:** Oldest son
- **Objects:** Plants, large wood furniture, medicines, exercise or play equipment, herbs, fruits, trees, bamboo
- **Number:** 3
- **Enhanced by:** Water, water symbols (fish)
- **Exhausted by:** Metal, metal objects, or fire

**West**
Children, creativity, projects

- **Element:** Small metal
- **Shape:** Round, cylinder, tube, column, arches
- **Color:** White, silver
- **Person:** Youngest daughter
- **Objects:** Windchimes, small metal objects, mobiles, metal garden items
- **Number:** 7
- **Enhanced by:** Pottery, ceramic vases, metal objects or electronic items, stones
- **Exhausted by:** Water, fire

**Northeast**
Education, wisdom, spirituality

- **Element:** Small earth
- **Shape:** Flat, low mounds, square shape
- **Color:** Beige, yellow
- **Person:** Youngest son
- **Objects:** Stones, cement or stone benches, rocks, bricks, anything made from earth, small hills or bumps, vases
- **Number:** 8
- **Enhanced by:** Stones, boulders
- **Exhausted by:** Trees, plants

**North**
Opportunities, Career, Prospects, Music, Art

- **Element:** Water
- **Shape:** Waves, curls, curves
- **Color:** Black, blue
- **Person:** Middle son
- **Objects:** Ponds, fish, aquarium, turtles, frogs
- **Number:** 1
- **Enhanced by:** Metals, gold
- **Exhausted by:** Earth, stone, clay, wood

**Northwest**
Helpful people, mentors, supporters, trade, international travel

- **Element:** Big Metal
- **Shape:** Circular, circles, arches
- **Color:** White, silver, or gold
- **Person:** Father, patriarch
- **Objects:** Metallic objects, windchimes, bells, stereos, computers, statues of religious figures
- **Number:** 6
- **Enhanced by:** Bowls, metals
- **Exhausted by:** Fire, pyramids, red colors, water

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**DIAGRAM 1:** How to Line Up the Bagua for the Whole House

The two examples below show how to place the bagua. In the diagram of the house below, the front door faces south. Therefore, the bagua is turned to the direction of south and lined up this direction. There is a school of feng shui that says all front doors are always north. However, this goes against classical feng shui rules. Traditional Chinese feng shui always uses the true compass directions of a house to line up the bagua.

**DIAGRAM 1**

**DIAGRAM 2:** How to line up the bagua by room. Notice the two rooms below. The bagua is applied to each room according to the directions of the WHOLE HOUSE — NOT the door opening.

**NOTE:** Print the next page on a transparency for an at-a-glance feng shui tool!
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