

FENG SHUI

with **Grandmaster Datuk Dr Yap Cheng Hai** and son, **Boh Chu**

WHAT TO DO for condos and apartments



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IN FENG SHUI, it is essential that a property faces the auspicious direction of its owner. This is true regardless of the school of feng shui practised.

For a landed property, the direction it faces is equated to the direction of the main door. There is no quarrel here. But what about condominiums and apartments?

The confusion arises because the owner has to enter the common entrance to the condo or apartment grounds before getting into his or her own unit within the block. So, which entrance is considered the property's main door? The common entrance (foyer) or the one that leads directly to the owner's dwelling?

With the popularity of condo and apartment living on the rise, its a question many are asking. We ask Grandmaster Yap and his son, Boh Chu, who point out that there are two options one can consider. This is provided for under two major schools of feng shui — Ba Zhai (8 mansions) and the popular Flying Stars.

Ba Zhai

This school of feng shui is very clear. The entrance to the respective condo or apartment unit is considered its main door. So, this is where the owner should tap his auspicious direction.

On the other hand, while the common entrance to the condo or apartment project is not important to the individual unit owners or dwellers, it is important to the developer.

Flying Stars

Some find this school of feng shui confusing. The entrance is considered as the qi koh or mouth of qi (energy) of the property. In other



words, the main door represents the mouth of the property — where the all-important qi is ushered into the premises.

In ancient China where feng shui originated, most dwellings had only one main door and a back door. This is often no longer the case in modern times. Condos and apartments, in particular, have multiple entrances — the guarded gate, at the respective block and, often, the balcony door.

Some feng shui practitioners see the main entrance to a condo block as the most important. Others point to the balcony door instead, reasoning that as the largest opening in the unit, this is where the greatest inward flow of qi is.

Yet another school of thought insists that the main entrance of a dwelling should be the unit door itself.



(top) Although some condos and apartments have a balcony door, this is not considered the main entrance because it is not possible to come in or leave through it
(left) Under the 'Ba Zhai' school of feng shui, the entrance to the respective condo or apartment unit is considered its main door

Conclusion

The Yaps consider the specific door to a condo or apartment unit as its main entrance because this is the door that determines one's entry into the dwelling. The next important things would be the entrance to the condo or apartment block, where relevant.

This is, however, only a guideline and not a definitive answer. Diligent feng shui practitioners should take into account the direction of both doors — common and specific.

"In our opinion and experience, the balcony door does not qualify as the main door. This is taking into consideration that the doorway is defined by the action of entering and exiting a property, and in the process, bringing in the qi from outside the property," say the Yaps.

One can't possibly walk in through the balcony door, nor can one exit from the

balcony door to leave the unit.

Imagine if your unit were on the 20th floor. It would be impossible to 'enter' the balcony from the outside unless you are into extreme sports, rappelling from the roof or with the help of a helicopter!

The same applies to windows. They cannot be considered 'entrances'.

Feng Shui Q&A takes a break this week and will resume next week

If you have any questions regarding feng shui practices, please send your queries by e-mail to propertyplus@thesundaily.com or fax *Propertyplus* at 03 7660 8568. *theSun* reserves the right to publish answers as it deems fit.