# Similarity between Chinese traditional garden Feng Shui site selection theory and prospect-refuge theory

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#### **Abstract**

The relevance of traditional Chinese gardens means the choice of which land to use as a building site before construction. It is the first step of the construction industry. In general, the location tends to be shady and yang. The ideal housing construction environment for the Feng Shui master is behind the Xuanwu Mountain. Baihu Mountain and Qinglong Mountain are the barriers to the wind, and the dragon is slightly higher. The white tiger suppresses the white tiger, and the Suzaku Mountain in front is the landmark of the land, and the house is located in the middle. In the middle of the house and Suzaku Mountain, there is a river that represents wealth[1]. The spatial pattern and prospect of ideal Feng Shui construction -The vacancy patterns created by the refuge theory are very similar. They are based on the spatial perception of the individual in the place to obtain a stable security perception and then obtain a good visual experience.

**Key words:** Chinese traditional garden Feng Shui prospect-refuge theory

## Introduction

There is an old saying in China that "small faintness is hidden in the forest, and it is hidden in the city." The reason why Chinese gardens move the landscapes of nature into the courtyard is to satisfy the literati's psychology of escaping from the world. The plants in the garden are not trimmed, the stones are not polished, and every bit is to present the true state of nature. This seemingly random, in fact, is indeed the crystallization of wisdom and aesthetics carefully crafted by the craftsman. From the perspective of overall style and Chinese philosophy, classical gardens fully embody the concept of harmony between heaven and human in Feng Shui. From the details of garden layout, the aesthetic principles contained in Chinese traditional art forms are based on the observation and interpretation of nature. Chinese people give stones, plants, water, etc. to people's character and the affiliation of the five elements, yin and yang. In the garden layout, these elements are planned and furnished according to their own characteristics, in accordance with the principle of yin and yang, and the five

elements, and they must be coordinated and unified with each other[2].

The principle of traditional Chinese garden space system is step by step, one step, one road, the road twists and turns, the landscape has a hole, but the western garden space layout is a strict geometric axis, the selection of plants and stone in Chinese traditional gardens. The standard is to imitate the form of nature, to minimize the traces of artificial, but the plants and hard materials in Western gardens have to be carefully constructed to match the spatial form of its rigorous Western geometric axis.

Habitat theory is one of the early theories in the Western world to link the living environment with human behavior. As a theory of early landscape-like environmental behavior[3], the theory points out that the aesthetic pleasure in the landscape stems from the observer experience. Conducive to the environment that meets its biological needs, the satisfaction from the landscape comes from the perception of landscape features. Based on the theory of Habitat theory, Appleton's prospects - the theory of asylum, the theory describes that humans prefer not only It provides protection from threats (refuge) and provides a large field of view (foreground)[3-5]. Appleton suggests that we prefer to provide an environment for prospects and shelters that can provide survival by predicting threats and opportunities while providing protection from protecting themselves from harm[3, 5, 6]. The valleys seen from the top of the mountain, the open landscape seen from the cave, or the savannah environment consisting of widely dispersed trees contain elements of the foreground and shelter[3, 5, 7].

The prospect-asylum theory is based on Darwin's theory of the aesthetic delight of the Western world[3], which coincides with the Fengshui site selection theory of traditional gardens in the Eastern society. Feng Shui was originally a folk culture rule for the selection of traditional buildings. It is also the predecessor of ancient geography. It is a traditional environmental science that has been handed down from various experience sets. In the process of creation and planning, Chinese classical gardens treat the theory of Feng Shui as a norm of gardening.



Fig. 1 Country, Tenerife Island, Spain Picture from QUANJINGNetwork

https://www.quanjing.com/imgbuy/ul0994-6859.html



Fig. 2 Country China, Picture from www.npic.com https://graph.baidu.com/pcpage/similar?originSign=1062090b 971d49ccd9cad01554304231&srcp=crs\_pc\_similar&tn=pc&i dctag=gz&sids=10006\_10190\_10291\_10391\_10693\_10705\_10301\_10709\_10801\_10902\_11006\_10905\_10912\_11000\_1 0014\_10117\_10016\_10018\_11021\_11032&logid=06304145 02&entrance=&promotion\_name=pc\_image\_shitu&tpl\_from=pc&image=https%3A%2F%2Fss2.bdstatic.com%2F70cFvnSh\_Q1YnxGkpoWK1HF6hhy%2Fit%2Fu%3D3204813306,406 7233772%26fm%3D27%26gp%3D0.jpg&carousel=503&ind ex=2&page=1

## Methods

According to two pictures found by the Internet search engine, one is from the rural area of Tenerife Island, Spain, and the other is from the rural area of China. From the picture, the building color of Figure 1 is orange and white, brick and stone structure of the house, located in Europe, Spain. Figure 2 is a brown building, wooden building, located in Asia, China. The types of buildings in both pictures are residential buildings. The color, material, shape of the building in the two cases are different. Located in two countries and two continents, the construction background is unknown and the building types are identical. From the picture, the location of the two buildings was chosen in the same place. The building is backed by hills, facing an open view. The hillside on the back is higher than the house, and the level of the open land in front is lower than the

level of the house. Both types of buildings are residential and living space. The geomantic omen theory is the location selection theory of traditional Chinese architecture. The ideal architectural environment is the space environment of backhill and surface water. The foreground refuge theory shows that people tend to live in a safe environment with a refuge place and an open space environment.

The buildings in the two cases are located in different social backgrounds and regions, but the two rural houses choose the same environmental location. This kind of space environment not only conforms to the space environment of foreground refuge theory, but also conforms to the space requirement of geomantic omen theory. Residential environment is the space environment with long residence time, privacy and highest security requirements. The location of residential environment can reflect people's basic needs for space experience.

### Conclusion

The relevance of traditional Chinese gardens means the choice of which land to use as a building site before construction. It is the first step of the construction industry. In general, the location tends to be shady and yang. The ideal housing construction environment for the Feng Shui master is behind the Xuanwu Mountain. Baihu Mountain and Qinglong Mountain are the barriers to the wind, and the dragon is slightly higher. The white tiger suppresses the white tiger, and the Suzaku Mountain in front is the landmark of the land, and the house is located in the middle. In the middle of the house and Suzaku Mountain, there is a river that represents wealth[1]. The spatial pattern and prospect of ideal Feng Shui construction -The vacancy patterns created by the refuge theory are very similar. They are based on the spatial perception of the individual in the place to obtain a stable security perception and then obtain a good visual experience.

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