

## Chapter 5

### Questionnaire and Results

This chapter discusses the results from the data collection and data analysis processes; divided into eight parts, each part corresponds to one of the eight techniques of modern landscape design - *Emphasis, Sequence, Simplicity, Interest, Balance, Proportion, Unity* and *Harmony*.

In order to confirm the compatibility between both disciplines, a questionnaire was drafted to test the potential of achieving the Feng Shui applications by using the modern landscape design techniques, which can be effectively utilized by architects. The results of this questionnaire, including percentages and the most frequent comments of the respondents from the verbal description answers, are presented to further verify the compatibility.

#### 5.1 *Emphasis* technique and *Water* element

Essential attributes of Feng Shui *Water* are explored in the test in order to verify their compatibility when employed by architects. They are the location, the importance and the role of the body of water as the *Emphasis* of the garden. Since the Feng Shui application supports the use of a real body of water in front of the building, playing a role in the heart of the garden.

This first part of the Questionnaire explores the use of a water feature as the *Emphasis* in garden landscape design. The purpose of these three questions is to: In Question 1, ascertain the preferred location of water bodies; in Question 2, evaluate the importance of water bodies in landscape design; and in Question 3, verify whether water body can be used as the *Emphasis* of a garden landscape.

##### 5.1.1 Question 1: *Emphasis, Position of Water*

The pond is located in three positions in this question: beside, behind and in front of the building. In Vietnamese gardens, this type of pond is normally populated with lotus, goldfish and silver carp. Feng Shui application suggests that the *Water*

feature should be in front of the building, or at least on the side, not at the rear. The Feng Shui rank is therefore 1, 2 and 3 for (C), (A) and (B) respectively.

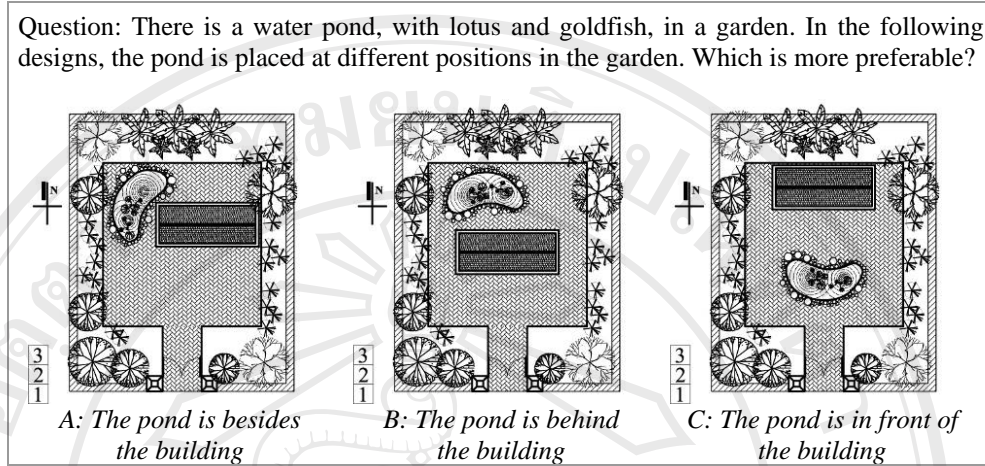


Figure 5-1: Emphasis – Position of Water

The result of the question shows a complete match between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. 67.7% of the respondents ranked (C) the first as the most favorable. 51% ranked (A) the second as favorable choice. 63.6% ranked (B) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (C), (A) and (B) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This result demonstrates that the respondents agree with Feng Shui for water location to achieve *Emphasis*.

**Table 5-1: Emphasis - Position of Water - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A			B			C		
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	55	101	42	20	52	126	136	39	26
Percent	27.8	51.0	21.2	10.1	26.3	63.6	67.7	19.4	12.9
Mode	2			3			1		
Feng Shui rank	2			3			1		

The most common reasons for the preferences of (C) are an improvement of microclimate and an increase feeling of comfort. Some respondents said that as the pond is the most decorative item of the garden landscape, it should be in front of the building, a spatial arrangement reflecting the Vietnamese traditional layout; some thought it matches with Feng Shui applications. The second Feng Shui choice (A) received attention such as the pond besides the building can provide privacy and appears natural. Option (C) did not garner any comments. It was concluded that the

pond should be in front of the building or, at least, besides the building. The comment from the respondents totally matched with objectives of the Water feature, and is used to achieve *Emphasis* in garden landscape design.

**Table 5-2: *Emphasis - Position of Water - Written comments***

	Comments	Count
(C)	Improves the micro climate	36
	Creates the feeling of comfort	29
	The pond is the most decorative element in the garden so it must be placed in the front	24
	Maintains Vietnamese traditional layout	23
	Spectacular view	8
	Provides buffered space	5
	Good Feng Shui	5
(A)	Private space for owner	16
	Natural scene	15
	Both guests and owners can enjoy the pond	9

### 5.1.2 Question 2: *Emphasis, Presence of Water*

Question 2 evaluates the importance of a *Water* feature in garden landscapes. There are three drawings - a waterless feature, a *Water* feature and a symbolic *Water* feature, shown in Figure 5-5. According to Feng Shui application, a *Water* feature is very important as it symbolizes wealth, health and a bright future. The Feng Shui rank is therefore 1, 2 and 3 for (B) - water, (C) - symbolic water and (A) – waterless, respectively.

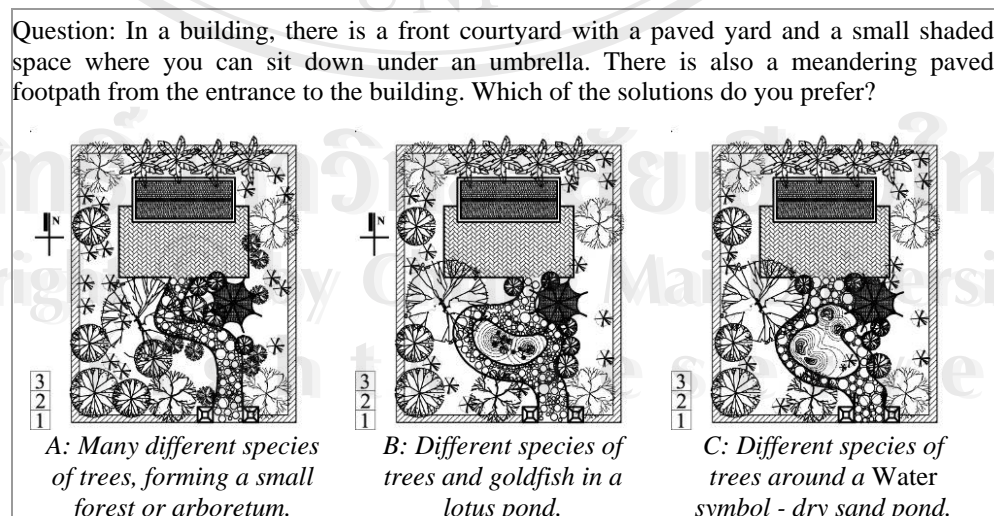


Figure 5-2: *Emphasis - Presence of Water*

The results highlight a remarkable match between the respondents ranking and the compliance with Feng Shui application. The majority of the respondents (63.7%) ranked (B), which contains the real water solution, the most favorable choice. 47.5% ranked (C) the second most favorable choice. 63.4% ranked (A) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (B), (C) and (A) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This result is in agreement with Feng Shui application.

**Table 5-3: *Emphasis - Presence of Water - Numeric Response***

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	40	31	123	130	67	7	41	94	63
Percent	20.6	16.0	63.4	63.7	32.8	3.4	20.7	47.5	31.8
Mode	3			1			2		
Feng Shui rank	3			1			2		

Table 5-4 lists the main reasons for ranking (B) the most preferable choice as the hot and humid tropical climate of Viet Nam. Another reason is that water provides a buffer between the building and the outside traffic environment. Also, the owner derives pleasure taking care of the pond, the goldfish and the lotus.

Some respondents further noted that (A) - waterless feature was the least favorable choice because waterless gardens lack interest. This result strongly supports the utility of real *Water* features in garden landscapes in Viet Nam, since much of the country is in a tropical zone. The comments also support the objectives of a *Water* body in the utility as an *Emphasis* of the garden landscape.

**Table 5-4 *Emphasis - Presence of Water - Written comments***

	Comments	Count
(B)	Water is needed in the gardens because of the hot and humid tropical climate of Viet Nam.	63
	Water is a significant factor of landscape.	24
	Water provides buffer space.	19
	Water creates pleasure for the owners in taking care for the pond and fish.	8
(A)	Waterless garden lacks interest.	15
	Too many trees are depressing.	5



### 5.1.3 Question 3: *Emphasis*, Dominant Element

This question, Figure 5-6, is to substantiate whether a *Water* feature in front of the building is the most suitable element for *Emphasis*. A traditional Vietnamese spatial arrangement, employing the usual components, was used in Question 3 since the respondents were familiar with it. Following traditional layout, the *Water* feature is located at the front yard, on the centre axis of the asymmetrical balance.

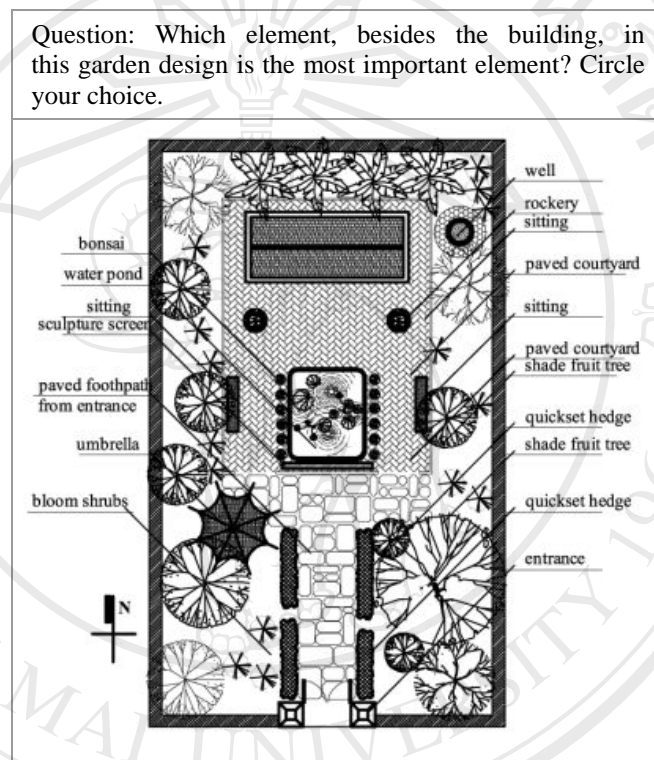


Figure 5-3: *Emphasis* - Dominant Element

The results demonstrate that the pond is considered the most important element in garden landscapes in Hué, since it was selected as the most important element by 48.8% of all the respondents. 27.5% chose trees as the most important element; following by the screen (13.3%) and the gate (10.4%).

**Table 5-5: *Emphasis* - Dominant Element - Numeric Response**

The <i>Emphasis</i> Object	Screen	Tree	Gate	Water
Count	28	58	22	103
Percent	13.3	27.5	10.4	48.8
Feng Shui rank	3	2	4	1

The main reason that the respondents chose the water pond as the most important element was because it is the focus (*Emphasis*) of the garden. The

appearance of water has a strong influence on the environment of the garden by evaporation from the stream thereby improving the microclimate of the garden. The babbling water, the reflective water surface and the lively fish in the pond make the garden become an enjoyable environment. Some respondents even thought that the *Water* feature is an important element of Feng Shui application. These can explain the potential of using water in garden landscape as an *Emphasis* functionally.

The respondents chose trees as another important element in garden as they provide a quiet, calm environment and are essential elements in a garden landscape. The respondents also regarded the *Screen* as important because it provides privacy and guards the building from *bad winds*, a Feng Shui concept.

**Table 5-6: *Emphasis* - Dominant Element - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
<b>Water</b>	Water is the focus of a garden.	35
	It strongly influences the environment of a garden.	25
	It brings the flexibility to the garden.	21
	It creates a buffer space.	5
	It is very important to Feng Shui application.	3
<b>Trees</b>	Trees create quiet and calm environment.	26
	They are essential to a garden.	5
<b>Screen</b>	The screen prevents curious eyes from the outside, thus provides privacy.	17
	It protects the building from bad winds.	9
	It improves the value of the building.	9
<b>Gate</b>	The gate is the face of the building.	3
	It is the first look.	1

Addressing the aspect of *Emphasis*, by (1) the similarity in concept which has been shown in the comparable attributes and (2) the compatibility in application which has been illustrated in the Question 1, 2 and 3, the *Emphasis* technique in modern landscape design can substitute for the Feng Shui application *Water* feature. As the findings of the research reveal, *Water* feature in modern landscape design should be located in the dominant location with respect to the building, which is the centre of the front yard. The respondents held that designs with real water body of high quality are favoured over waterless gardens or gardens with a symbolic *Water*

feature, in Hué. By following such practices, all the objectives of the *Emphasis* technique are fulfilled.

## 5.2 Sequence technique and *Qi* element

It can be seen that *Qi* requires *Sequence* technique to be guided both smoothly and thoroughly through different sections of the landscape. These survey questions concentrate on footpath configurations in a garden landscape.

These questions explore the essential attributes and conditions of *Qi* to verify whether they are compatible with architectural practice - the characteristics of a clearly defined footpath together with continuity and connectivity between different landscape sections. Feng Shui application suggests a clearly defined footpath with relative approaches can be used to improve the flow of *Qi* in a garden landscape.

The following questions are designed to ascertain the potentiality of using the site conditions to promote a flow of *Qi* using the *Sequence* technique in garden landscape design. These questions proposed various spatial arrangements of connected spaces organized by: in Question 4, different footpath configurations; in Question 5, some connected spaces with a number of entrances that create different traffic patterns; and in Question 6, different landscape gallery system configurations. The results will confirm practicality of using *Sequence* technique to enhance *Qi* flow in a garden landscape.

### 5.2.1 Question 4: *Sequence, Paths in Landscape*

In Question 4, shown in Figure 5-4, the footpaths are configured in various layouts. In (A), the footpath encloses the whole land mass and provides access to all main sections of the gardens, thus *Qi* can flow freely throughout the whole space. In (B), the footpaths are separated and blocked by the other elements of the landscape. This can disturb *Qi* and might result in dead *Qi*. In (C), there are separate footpaths in each area of the garden, which might result in confusion. Feng Shui application requires continuous footpaths and a clear indication of dominant direction for *Qi*. Feng Shui rank for these drawings is 1, 2 and 3 for (A), (C) and (B) respectively.

Question: In a garden, there are two grassed areas, one for group gatherings, the smaller one for more private gatherings and a paved patio used for occasional barbecues or banquets. The *Emphasis* of the garden consists of decorative elements including water fountain, rocks and lanterns. Which of the following arrangements do you prefer?

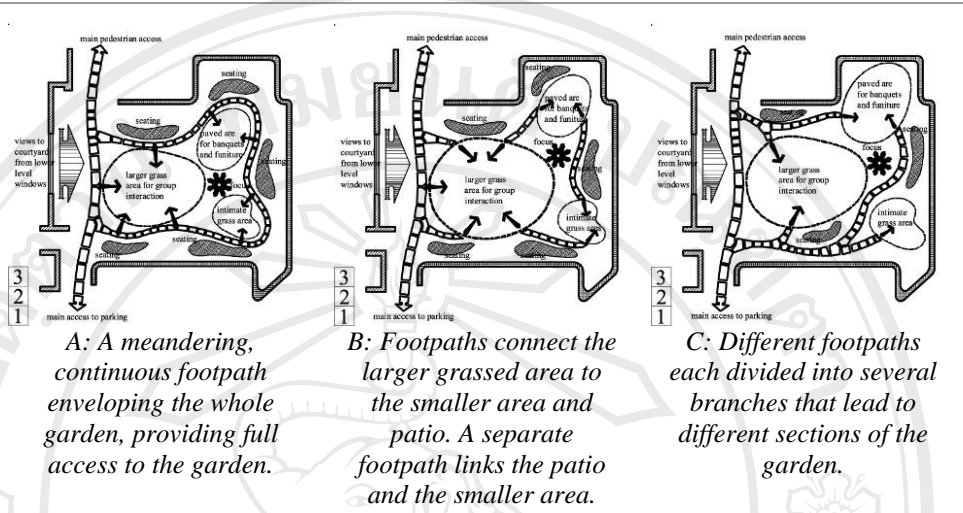


Figure 5-4: Sequence - Paths in Landscape

With respect to the most favorable and the least favorable choice, the result of the question does not show exactly the same rank between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. Most respondents ranked (A) and (C) as their most favorable choice with 38.6% ranked (A) the first; while 43.4% ranked (C) the first. As expected, 52.3% of the respondents ranked (B) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (A), (C) and (B) are, in ascending order, 1, 1 and 3, which are different from the Feng Shui rank for (C). This result demonstrates that the respondents almost concur with Feng Shui for a continuous foot path to achieve *Sequence*.

**Table 5-7: Sequence - Paths in Landscape - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A			B			C		
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	76	73	48	45	50	104	86	72	40
Percent	38.6	37.1	24.4	22.6	25.1	52.3	43.4	36.4	20.2
Mode	1			3			1		
Feng Shui rank	1			3			2		

The results do not strongly determine the best solution between (A) and (C), although choice (B) is clearly a design which should be avoided. Most respondents ranked (C) and (A) as their first and second choices, although there are not great



preferences for (A), which is the best Feng Shui choice, and (C), which is the second Feng Shui choice.

**Table 5-8: Sequence - Paths in Landscape - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
(A)	The traffic is well organized in this way.	32
	Such design of the footpath saves the area.	25
	This design improves the beauty of garden.	9
(C)	This arrangement creates privacy.	28
	There is a clear distinction between the different sections of the landscape in this design.	17
	The traffic is well organized in this way.	17
(B)	This design creates an awkward traffic.	25
	The traffic is confusing.	4

The most common reason for the respondents' preferences of (A) is the system of flow is clearly delineated and the scheme in (A) is considered practical as this both preserves and improves the beauty of the garden. In (C) the separate routes and entrances of the footpath system were thought to enhance privacy in the different landscape sections. The footpath system in (C) is tidy and again creates a clear delineation between different landscape sections. The respondents remarked that (B) exhibited an awkward overlapping movement; a small number of respondents opined that this solution (B) created confused flow or movement. Therefore, the comments do not support the reasons for the selection besides aesthetics and practicality, which could not be proved relating to *Qi*.

### 5.2.2 Question 5: Sequence, Number of Entrances

Question: In a garden, there are several areas defined by shrubs and small plants. Which of following solutions do you prefer?

**A:** A single pattern of movement meandering throughout the whole garden, with several entrances along the path.

**B:** Many entrances and exits, creating multiple patterns of movement through the garden

**C:** Sections of the garden are arranged so that visitors move in a circle inside the garden. There is only one gate.

Figure 5-5: Sequence - Number of Entrances

This question focuses on several circular spaces linked with a variety of entrances. (A) has three entrances and a few strolling routes, in which  $Qi$  can easily get in and out. (B) has four entrances and an increased number of potential routes. Note that too many  $Qi$  flows might not be beneficial because it can create confusion. (C) has only one route and a single entrance/exit, which makes it difficult for  $Qi$  to flow into and out of the garden because of turbulence at the sole access point. Feng Shui application requires avoidance of both chaos or blockage of flow. The Feng Shui rank is 1, 2 and 3 for (A), (B) and (C) respectively.

**Table 5-9: Sequence - Number of Entrances - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank	109	70	18	81	109	10	19	12	163
Count	55.3	35.5	9.1	40.5	54.5	5.0	9.8	6.2	84.0
Percent		1			2			3	
Mode		1			2			3	
Feng Shui rank		1			2			3	

It is clear from the results that the respondents' preferences match Feng Shui principles in the evaluation of the importance of clear *Sequence* in landscape design. 55.3% of the respondents ranked (A) the first as the most favorable choice. 54.5% ranked (B) the second as favorable choice. 84.0% ranked (C) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answer for (A), (B) and (C) are, in ascending

order, 1, 2 and 3. It is remarkable that most of the respondents regarded the single entrance/exit space as the least desirable choice. This corresponds with Feng Shui application.

**Table 5-10: Sequence - Number of Entrances - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
(A)	The traffic is clear in this arrangement.	26
	The number of gates is sufficient.	13
	This arrangement is a complete, relaxing strolling path.	7
(B)	In this arrangement there are many points of access to the garden	43
	The design creates somewhat awkward traffic.	24

The choice of layouts was based on optimum visitor movement. The respondents chose the system of flow in (A) which defines a clear strolling path. In (B), four gates ensure ready access to the garden, although a number of respondents state that system traffic, in (B), is somewhat confusing due to an excess of gates and routes. The reasons of the respondents strongly support the potential of *Sequence* technique objectives to create defined footpaths to induce a thorough flow of  $Qi$  in the garden landscape design, with fewer obstructions.

### 5.2.3 Question 6: Sequence, Connected Spaces

This question, Figure 5-13, is about gallery systems, or corridors, in a landscape architecture. Three drawings with different spatial arrangements including connected close spaces (A), connected open spaces (B) and connected mixed spaces (C). Since  $Qi$  needs a spacious and connected space or an open corridor to flow, the Feng Shui rank for this question is 1, 2 and 3 for (B), (C) and (A) respectively.

Question: In a landscape arrangement, different sections are connected by a gallery system. Which of the following designs do you prefer?

**A:** Different sections are closed – though connected by corridors

**B:** Different sections are open and are naturally connected

**C:** Gallery using both open and closed sections

Figure 5-6: Sequence - Connected Spaces

The result of the question shows a complete match between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. 67.3% ranked (B) the first as the most favorable choice. 51.8% ranked (C) the second as favorable choice. 59.4% ranked (A) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (B), (C) and (A) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. Guiding *Qi* through different sections in a garden is one of the core purposes of Feng Shui application and it matches the respondents' preferences.

**Table 5-11: Sequence - Connected Spaces - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	27	51	114	134	39	26	45	100	48
Percent	14.1	26.6	59.4	67.3	19.6	13.1	23.3	51.8	24.9
Mode	3			1			2		
Feng Shui rank	3			1			2		

The respondents' reasons with respect to (B) - the first Feng Shui solution - are the connected open spaces introducing a well-organized flow, whilst creating a different perspective in terms of views and ventilation. The respondents held that in landscape design, open spaces can be used to merge with the landscape.

The second Feng Shui solution, shown in (C), was favored as it allows more privacy while (A), the least favorable, created a closed feeling and confused movement. The conclusions were that in landscape design, it is necessary to have thorough connected spaces, defining the approach to the landscape stage as well as creating different perspectives to other stages.

**Table 5-12: Sequence - Connected Spaces - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
(B)	The traffic in this drawing is well organized.	52
	The (B) creates different perspectives of views	21
	The environment in the drawing is ventilating.	15
	The open spaces should be used to design with landscape	14
(C)	This arrangement creates some private spaces.	11
	The mixed spaces bring pleasant feeling.	6
(A)	This (A) creates a muggy feelings	32
	The traffic in this drawing is confusing.	23



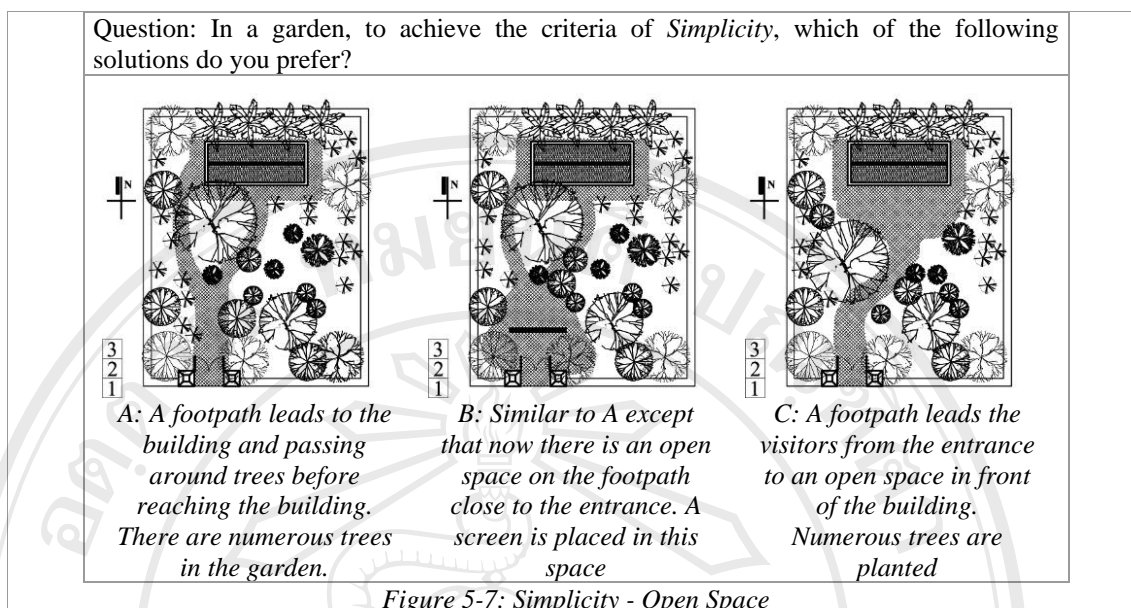
In summary, with regard to the *Sequence* (1) the similarity in concept was shown in the comparison of attributes and (2) the compatibility in application which was illustrated in the results from question 4, 5 and 6, they illustrated that the *Sequence* technique could guide *Qi* in a landscape design. The respondents' comments completely supported the objectives of the site arrangement for a flow of *Qi* in garden landscape design. The findings of these questions suggest direction of both visitors and *Qi* through a garden landscape can be achieved by carefully organizing traffic systems and creating continuous connected spaces. In doing so, all the objectives of both the *Sequence* technique of the modern landscape design and the site conditions of *Qi* are fulfilled.

### **5.3 Simplicity techniques and Bright Court and Four Emblem Animals Elements**

The following part examines the results from three survey questions about *Bright Court* and *Four Emblem Animals*, confirming the compatibility of Feng Shui application and *Simplicity* technique employed in a front courtyard (as *Bright Court*) or trees (as *White Tiger* and *Green Dragon*) and the screen (as the *Red Phoenix*). Feng Shui application requires an open space in front of a building indicating an optimistic future and *Animals* surrounding the landscape, safe-guarding the occupants.

#### **5.3.1 Question 7: Simplicity, Open Space (Bright Court)**

This question has three layouts with different arrangements of footpaths and open spaces: (A), no open space; (B), the open space is distant from the building, next to the entrance; and (C), the open space is in front of the building. The question is designed to evaluate the importance of an open space to a building and to determine an appropriate location for an open space.



There is no open space in (A), symbolizing the *Bright Court*. Although (B) has a screen, a symbol of *Red Phoenix*, it blocks the open space and forces *Qi* to tumble and turn many times. The open space in (C), in front of the building, is considered good Feng Shui, with a simple footpath welcoming *Qi*. The open space, which is close to the building, is more favourable according to Feng Shui application. Therefore, Feng Shui rank is 1, 2 and 3 for (C), (B) and (A), respectively.

**Table 5-13: *Simplicity - Open Space - Numeric Response***

Drawing	A			B			C		
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	38	55	106	12	101	80	161	37	7
Percent	19.1	27.6	53.3	6.2	52.3	41.5	78.5	18.0	3.5
Mode	3			2			1		
Feng Shui rank	3			2			1		

The result of the question shows a complete match between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. 78.5% of the respondents ranked (C) the first as the most favorable choice. 52.3% ranked (B) the second as favorable choice. 53.3% ranked (A) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (C), (B) and (A) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This result reveals that the respondents agree with Feng Shui for the use of an open space to achieve *Simplicity*.

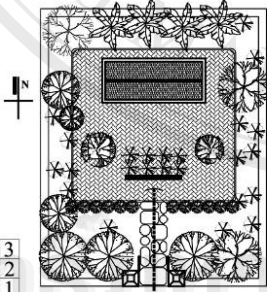
**Table 5-14: *Simplicity* - Open Space - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
(C)	A simple meandering footpath is favourable.	56
	The traffic in this design is well organized.	34
	The open space is necessary (for relaxation and ventilation purposes as well as for other common activities).	17
(B)	The design with the open space is a visual resting place.	33
	The screen should be in the middle of the building.	6

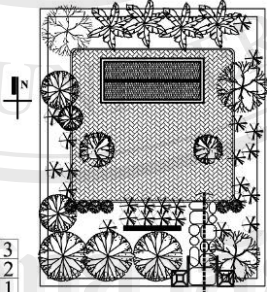
Analysis of comments suggests that solution (C) is favoured the most due to its *Simplicity* and the fact that the pedestrian flow in the design is well organized. The respondents also held that the open space is necessary to organise various common activities as well as for relaxation and ventilation purposes. On the other hand, the open space in solution (B) appears to be a visual resting place. Some of the respondents suggested that the screen should be in the centre axis of the building. The comments from the respondents are fully compliant with the objectives of the *Bright Court*, whose role is to bring the clarity to garden landscape design.

### **5.3.2 Question 8: *Simplicity*, Location of Path and Screen**

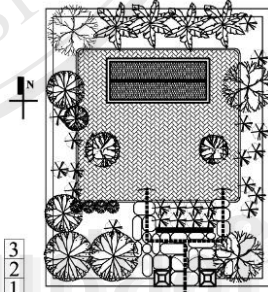
Question: The following designs are different in terms of the locations of the footpath and the screen. Which one do you prefer?



A: A screen is placed on the yard. Both screen and footpath are in the main axis of the land.



B: A footpath is placed at the left side of the site. A screen is at in the main axis and outside of the courtyard.



C: A wide footpath leads to the courtyard, with a screen - both to one of the main land axis. The screen is outside the yard.

*Figure 5-8: Simplicity - Location of Path and Screen*

This question is designed to compare Feng Shui principles with respondents' opinions on suitable locations for a screen and the significance of open space in a garden landscape. In both (A) and (B), the screen is located in the main axis of the building. However, in (A), the screen is positioned within the courtyard; in (B), the

screen is outside the courtyard creating an illusion of more spaciousness. In (C), on the other hand, the screen is located on the right side of the main axis of the land. According to the Feng Shui application, the screen should be on the main axis to protect the building from strong harsh winds and the open space needs to be spacious and neat. Therefore, Feng Shui rank is 1, 2 and 3 for (B), (A) and (C), respectively.

**Table 5-15: *Simplicity - Location of Path and Screen - Numeric Response***

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	66	55	73	123	74	2	18	60	144
Percent	34.0	28.4	37.6	61.8	37.2	1.0	9.4	31.3	59.4
Mode	3			1			3		
Feng Shui rank	2			1			3		

The result of the question shows a promising match between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. 61.8% of the respondents ranked (B) the first as the most favorable choice. 37.6% ranked (A) the third as the least favorable choice; and 59.4. % did the same for (C). The modes of the answers for (B), (A) and (C) are, in ascending order, 1, 3 and 3, different from the Feng Shui rank for (A). The participants agreed that the first and the last solutions in the question matches the best and the worst Feng Shui application.

**Table 5-16: *Simplicity - Location of Path and Screen - Written comments***

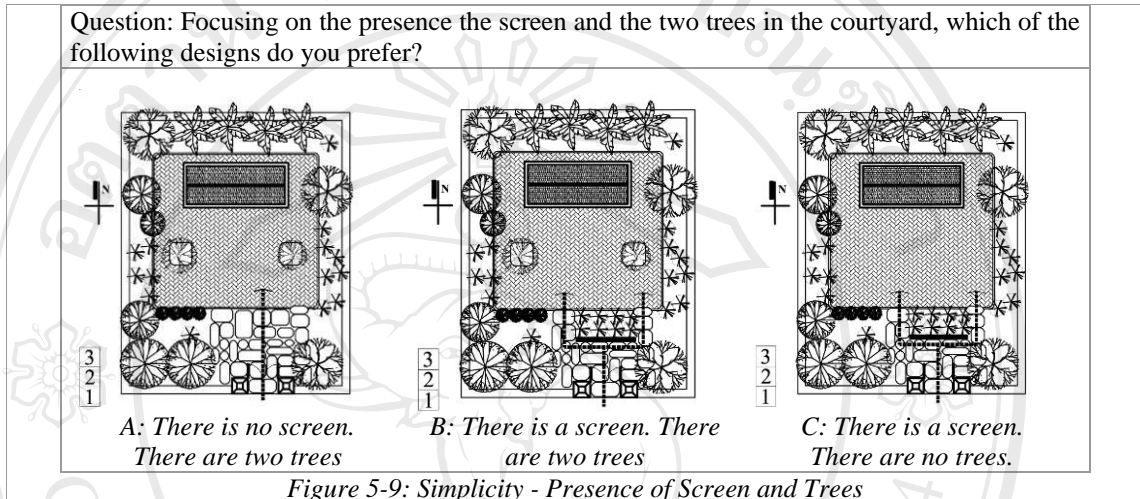
	Comments	Count
(B)	The courtyard looks spacious in this design.	37
	The screen should be in the main axis of the land.	29
	The screen does not block the entrance, so it is possible to see the building from a distance.	17
	This is a traditional spatial arrangement.	6
	This schematic corresponds to good Feng Shui.	6
(A)	The arrangement is balanced and symmetrical.	9
(C)	The footpath is large.	4

The main reason that (B) was ranked the first was the courtyard looked more spacious when compared with (A). The screen or guard must be centred, but not within the courtyard so as to make it visually bigger. The solution of (B) brings mystery for the land by providing a glimpse of the building from a distance, while maintaining both traditional spatial arrangement and Feng Shui applications. It is important to note that, there are some comments from the respondents indicating a



balanced and symmetrical arrangement in (A), which means they prefer a formal spatial layout. The comments from the respondents strongly supported the objectives in the use of the *Bright Court* and the *Animals* within a balanced and clarity structure of landscape design.

### 5.3.3. Question 9: *Simplicity, Presence of Screen and Trees*



This question focuses on the presence and arrangement of the screen and the two trees in the courtyard. Here the screen is the *Red Phoenix* symbol and the two trees are the symbolic representations of the *White Tiger* and the *Green Dragon*. In Feng Shui application, the *Red Phoenix*, or the screen, protects the land from *Dead Qi* and bad wind, thus the screen should be located on the main axis of the land. Although this means that the position of the screen in both (B) and (C) is wrong, placing the screen in the centre of the footpaths could reduce the negative influence of *Dead Qi* which could face the house. Since the layouts with *Animals* symbols are preferable over the one without (C), Feng Shui rank is 1, 2 and 3 for (B), (A) and (C), respectively.

Notwithstanding (B) was the least favorable choice of the previous question (Question 8), it merits the highest rank in this one; (A) has two trees simulating two *Animals*, while (C) has no *Animal*, and the screen is wrongly positioned. Therefore, (A) is well recognized within the Feng Shui rank.

**Table 5-17: *Simplicity* - Presence of Screen and Trees - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank									
Count	67	40	91	110	56	34	34	97	68
Percent	33.8	20.2	46.0	55.0	28.0	17.0	17.1	48.7	34.2
Mode	3			1			2		
Feng Shui rank	2			1			3		

55.0% of the respondents ranked (B) the first as the most favorable choice. 48.7% ranked (C) the second as favorable choice. 46.0% ranked (A) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (B), (C) and (A) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This is compliant with the Feng Shui rank for only the first rank (most favourable).

**Table 5-18: *Simplicity* - Presence of Screen and Trees - Written comments**

Comments		Count
(B)	The screen prevents curious eyes seeing the building.	27
	The screen brings privacy to the building.	25
	The two trees bring some shade to the courtyard.	22
(A)	The space is too vacant.	15
(C)	The courtyard is empty.	29
	The yard is too exposed to the sun without a tree.	19

A popular reason for the respondents ranking (B) the first is that the screen can block the curious eyes and increasing privacy. They also agreed that trees in the courtyard protected the building from overexposure to sunlight. The lack of a screen in (A) makes it less favoured even though it boasts trees. Therefore (B), which has both screen and shade trees were the optimum solution whilst retaining simplicity.

With respect to the aspect of *Simplicity*, (1) the similarity in concept was demonstrated in the comparison of attributes; and (2) the compatibility in application was demonstrated in the results from questions 7, 8 and 9. A screen (*Red Phoenix*) in front of the building or on the main axis is necessary. The trees, representing the *White Tiger* and the *Green Dragon* symbols, are decorative items that provide some shade and create interest in the courtyard.

The conclusion is that the courtyard (*Bright Court*) in front of the building is very important both for a variety of activities and for relaxation. The *Bright Court*

with *Four Emblem Animals*, form a Feng Shui structure that could be satisfied by the *Simplicity* technique through the essential functions of the elements, whilst sufficiently decorative and yet not overcrowded front yard can create a simple, spacious building appearance.

#### 5.4 Interest technique and *Yin-Yang* element

Since the manifestation of *Yin-Yang* principle has similarity with the concept with *Interest* technique of landscape design, the compatibility is examined in the questionnaire in the following part. Question 10 centers on sharp lined surroundings and combined with a constructed lake. Question 11 focuses on natural surroundings associated with a constructed mountain. Finally, Question 12 deals with geometrically formed grouping.

##### 5.4.1 Questions 10 and 11: *Interest* – Main Object Shape – Lake – Mountain

In Question 10, Figure 5-10, the two waterfalls and the rockeries represent *Yang*. The lake in (A), with a sharp contour (*Yang*), was combined with the *Yang* surroundings; thus resulting in excessive *Yang* characteristics. The lake in (B), which is mostly *Yin* due to the natural contour, was matched with *Yang* characteristics of the waterfalls and the rockeries, producing a contrast solution. An intermediate transition between (A) and (B) is shown in (C), in which the lake was designed with both rectangular and curved lines. The Feng Shui rank is 1, 2 and 3 for (B), (C) and (A) respectively.

Question: In a large garden, a lake is designed in different ways with two waterfalls, some rockeries and benches. Which solution do you prefer to attain the criteria of Interest?

A: The shape of the lake is rectangular -straight lines and angles

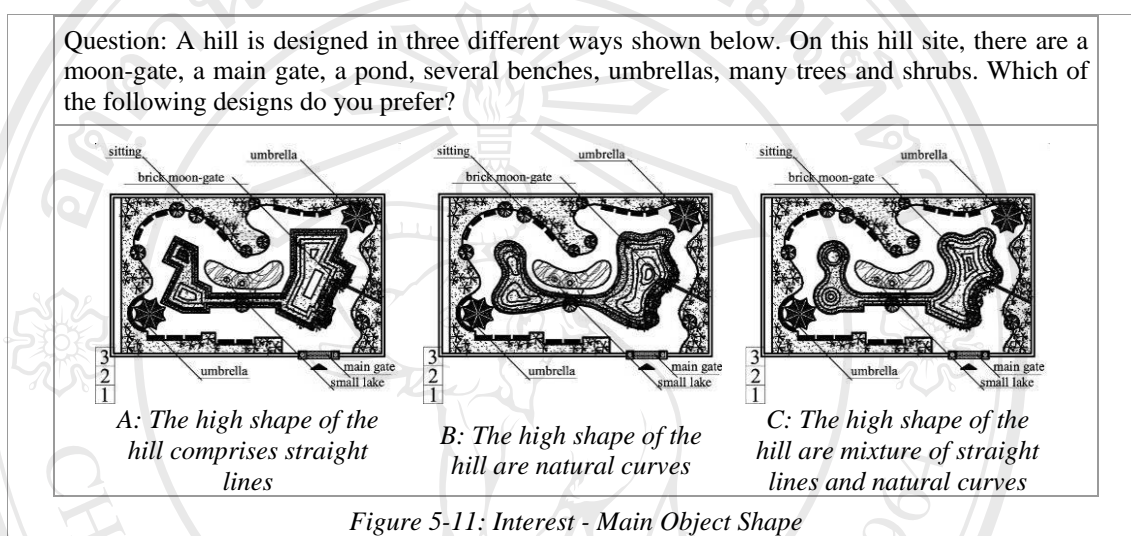
B: The lake is designed with a naturally curved shape

C: The shape of the lake comprises of semi-circles or rectangles

Figure 5-10: Interest - Main Object Shape

In Question 11, Figure 5-11, the surrounding elements of the hill (the gates, pond, benches, umbrellas, trees and shrubs) balance themselves. The hill itself is a

*Yang* element that requires some *Yin* characters to maintain the balance of the whole landscape. The optimum Feng Shui choice is, therefore, (B), where the contours of the hill are natural curves (*Yin*). The second choice is (C), where the contours are mixtures of natural and sharp curves. The worst choice is (A), where the sharp profile of the hill makes it the most *Yang* environment. Therefore, Feng Shui rank is 1, 2 and 3 for (B), (C) and (A), respectively.



There is a similarity between the results of the two questions, showing an agreement between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. For Question 10, 58.0% of the respondents ranked (B) the first as the most favourable choice. 52.2% ranked (C) the second as favourable choice. 66.8% ranked (A) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (B), (C) and (A) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This is in agreement with Feng Shui applications.

**Table 5-19: Interest - Main Object Shape - Numeric Response**

Question 10									
Drawing	A			B			C		
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	26	38	129	112	46	35	69	105	27
Percent	13.5	19.7	66.8	58.0	23.8	18.2	34.3	52.2	13.4
Mode	3			1			2		
Feng Shui rank	3			1			2		



**Table 5-20: Interest - Main Object Shape - Numeric Response**

Question 11									
Drawing	A			B			C		
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	14	13	166	131	58	12	64	120	13
Percent	7.3	6.7	86.0	65.2	28.9	6.0	32.5	60.9	6.6
Mode	3			1			2		
Feng Shui rank	3			1			2		

The result of Question 11 also shows a complete match between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. Respondents' preferences for Question 11 show that they ranked the three solutions similarly to Feng Shui rank. 65.2% of all the respondents ranked (B) the first as the most favorable choice. 60.9% ranked (C) the second as favorable choice. 86.0% ranked (A) as the third and least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (B), (C) and (A) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This is in good agreement with Feng Shui applications.

**Table 5-21: Interest - Main Object Shape - Written comments**

Comments Question 10		Count
(B)	The lake looks natural in this design	70
	The lake is in different shape with surrounding harmoniously.	16
(C)	There is a harmony in this design.	8
	The contour is creative.	6
(A)	Create the shape unification between the lake and the surrounding.	8

Comments Question 11		Count
(B)	It looks natural.	67
(C)	There is a harmony in this design.	7
	The contours are creative.	6

The main reason for ranking (B) the first in both questions is the natural beauty of the garden, with either the lake or hill. For Question 10, the respondents described (B) as this solution does not blatantly interfere with nature; and the lake contrasts with the surroundings. In Question 11, the mountain is not considered a focus of the landscape, the respondents just harmonized it with the natural surroundings. The reason for ranking (C) as the second most favorable choice was also harmony and design creativity. This shows an agreement to employ a balance

between contrast and harmony in landscape design to achieve the *Interest*, concurrently satisfying the criteria of *Yin-Yang* in a Feng Shui application.

#### 5.4.2 Question 12: *Interest* – View Spot Shape

In Question 12 (Figure 5-12), the shapes of the view spot and the lantern were either circular (*Yin*) or square (*Yang*). In Feng Shui, within *Yin*, there must be *Yang*; and within *Yang*, there must be *Yin*. An excess of either *Yin* or *Yang* is considered a poor solution. Therefore, the Feng Shui rank for these four drawings is 1, 2, 3 and 4 for (C), (B), (A) and (D), respectively.

Question: In a landscape, there is an elliptic lake with a view spot and a stone lantern. Which of the following designs do you prefer?

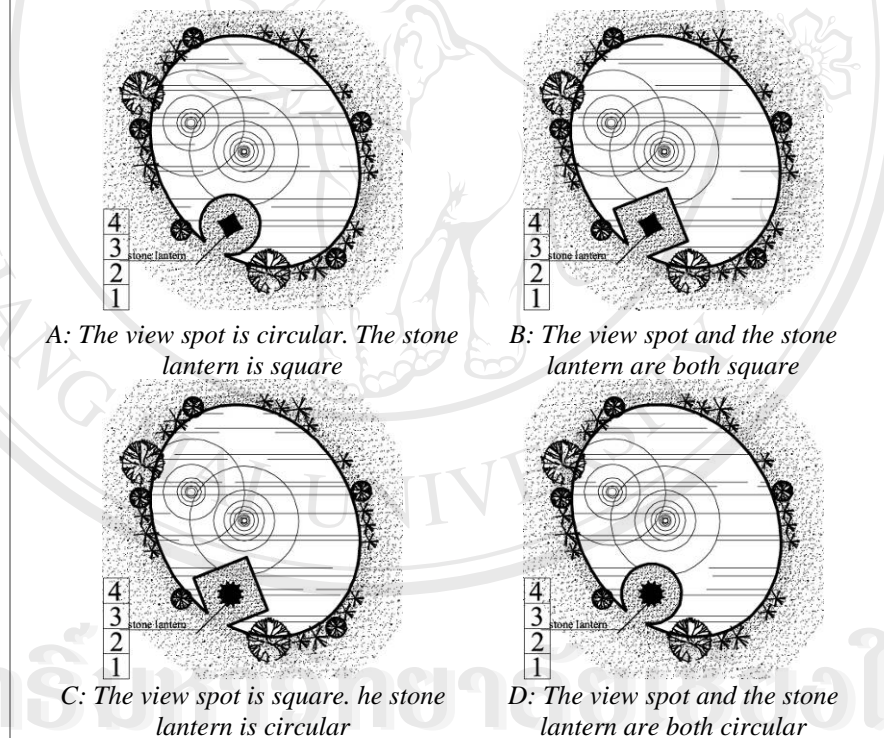


Figure 5-12: *Interest* – Spot View Shape

The result of the question shows an adequate match between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. As predicted, (C) and (D) were ranked in the survey as the most and least favorable choices, respectively. Of all the available respondents in the survey, 42.6% ranked (C) the first as the most favorable choice. 37.0% ranked (A) the second as favorable choice. 37.9% ranked (B) the third as less favorable choice. Finally, 50.3% ranked (D) the fourth as the least

favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (C), (B), (A) and (D) are, in ascending order, 1, 2, 3 and 4. Although the ranks are not exactly the same between those of Feng Shui and the respondents', this is an adequate agreement with Feng Shui applications.

**Table 5-22: Interest - Spot View Shape - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A				B				C				D			
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Count	59	70	49	11	20	45	72	53	83	53	32	27	45	17	32	95
Percent	31.2	37.0	25.9	5.8	10.5	23.7	37.9	27.9	42.6	27.2	16.4	13.8	23.8	9.0	16.9	50.3
Mode	2				3				1				4			
Feng Shui rank	3				2				1				4			

Respondent's reason for ranking (C) the first was contrast even though (B) has more contrast between rectangle and circle. They also emphasized that variety (the change of shape) and unity (the repeat of shape) in (C) as integral for a good landscape design. The comments from the respondents strongly support the objectives of using *Yin-Yang* principle to create *Interest* in a garden landscape design.

**Table 5-23: Interest - View Spot Shape - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
(C)	There is an interesting contrast in this design.	25
	The shapes of the elements of the design change harmoniously.	21
	Variety and Unity, two essential rules in landscape design, are included in this design.	18
(B)	There is an interesting contrast in this design.	16

In conclusion, as regard to the *Interest* aspect, by (1) the similarity in concept which has been shown in the comparable attributes and (2) the compatibility in application, which has been illustrated from the results of the Question 10, 11 and 12, the survey's results and the personal opinions of the respondents have shown compatibility between *Yin-Yang* balance and the *Interest* technique.

All of the designs with a good balance of *Yin* and *Yang* characteristics have been ranked the best, according to the respondents whose focus was on the *Interest* technique. According to the results, too much *Yin* or too much *Yang* in landscape design is unfavourable; the most favoured way is to combine *Yin-Yang* characteristics alternatively.

### 5.5 Balance technique and Feng Shui site plan

The balance of a garden landscape in these questions relates to the layout along a central axis. In these drawings, this axis is considered as horizontal axis to create a balanced site plan in Question 13 or as vertical axis to create a balanced visual view in Question 14. A traditional site plan of Vietnamese buildings whose spatial arrangement is balanced on a vertical axis is also proposed in Question 15.

These questions are intended to express the Feng Shui site plan in order to ascertain preferences of the respondents for the balance in modern landscape design. It is essential that Feng Shui application seeks the balance and harmony between human and nature through the natural and solemn man-made landscapes and architectures. Normally, in the traditional structure of Huế building architecture, perfectly symmetrical balance on a vertical axis is achieved; but in a garden landscape, asymmetrical balance conveys the performance of plants, pavilion and fence, in the site plan of the whole environment.

#### 5.5.1 Question 13: Balance, Elements' Characteristic

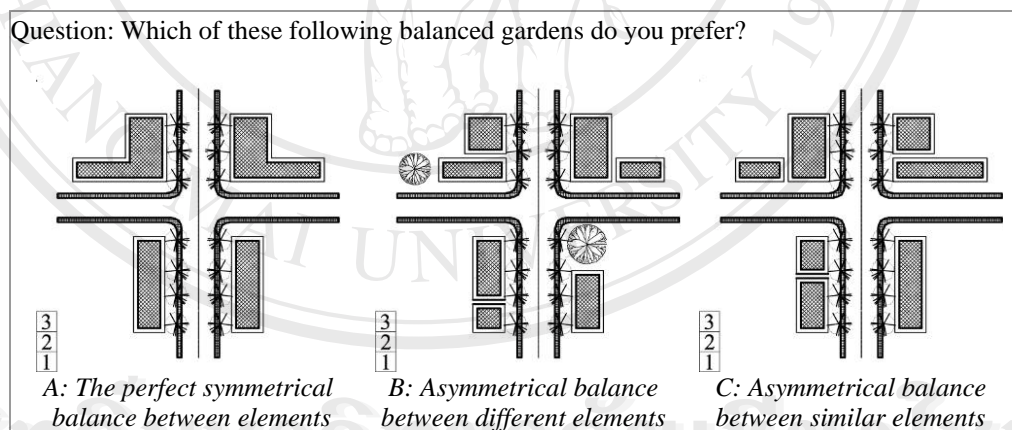


Figure 5-13: Balance - Elements' Characteristic

Question 13 concerns the symmetrical and asymmetrical balance of landscape design, using similar and different elements. In a Feng Shui site plan, the natural beauty is sought through the elements arranged in visual or spatial balance. The more natural they appear the more harmonious and favourable the garden landscape becomes. Solution (B), which shows the asymmetrical balance performed by different elements, is the first rank of Feng Shui. Solution (C) and (A) are respectively the second and the third in Feng Shui rank. It is presumed that the respondents would



rank (B) the first as their most preferable choice. Therefore, the Feng Shui rank for these four drawings is 1, 2 and 3 for (B), (C) and (A), respectively.

**Table 5-24: Balance - Elements' Characteristic - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank	15	31	146	122	53	29	73	108	17
Count	7.8	16.1	76.0	59.8	26.0	14.2	36.9	54.5	8.6
Percent	3			1			2		
Mode	3			1			2		
Feng Shui rank	3			1			2		

This question's results conform to the presumption and match the Feng Shui solution. 59.8% of the respondents ranked (B) the first as the most favorable choice. 54.5% ranked (C) the second as favorable choice. 76.0% ranked (A) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (B), (C) and (A) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This is in good agreement with Feng Shui applications.

**Table 5-25: Balance - Elements' Characteristic - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
(B)	This design creates a flexible balance	26
	This design looks natural	21
	Variety criteria is necessary in landscape design	7

The respondents selected (B) as the most preferable choice because this solution proposes a flexible balance and it blends with nature harmoniously. Some respondents thought that the variety of elements in garden landscape is necessary to avoid the visual monotony. The other two solutions, (A) and (C), did not garner many comments from the respondents.

It has proved the *Balance* in a landscape design using a variety of elements rather than just a symmetrical balanced arrangement. The comments from the respondents support the application of different elements in the Feng Shui site plan via the *Balance* technique of the modern landscape design.

### 5.5.2 Question 14: Balance, Vertical Asymmetry

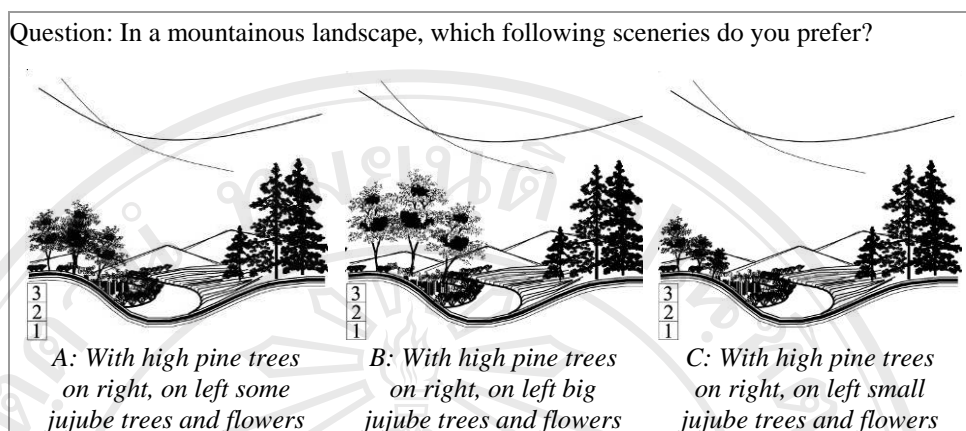


Figure 5-14: Balance - Vertical Asymmetry

In Figure 5-14, Question 14 focuses on visual balance displaying through the vertical axis in a mountainous landscape. The cluster of pine trees on the right is identical in three drawings. The size of the left group of trees is changed gradually among the three drawings.

In Feng Shui site plan, the asymmetrical balance using hierarchical elements is suggested especially for the *Green Dragon* and *White Tiger*, since “*Green Dragon* elevates higher to the left, *White Tiger* squats lower to the right” (Xu, 1994). An example is that a good landscape should have both *White Tiger* and *Green Dragon* elements, since the omission of one element signals bad omen. Besides, *White Tiger* should not be higher than *Green Dragon*, since *Green Dragon* acts freely above the sky. In a garden landscape, it is not required to use exactly the same elements; rather, the achievement of an asymmetrical balance is more important. The Feng Shui rank is 1, 2 and 3 for (A), (C) and (B), respectively.

**Table 5-26: Balance - Vertical Asymmetry - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A			B			C		
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	123	69	13	34	51	113	54	73	67
Percent	60.0	33.7	6.3	17.2	25.8	57.1	27.8	37.6	34.5
Mode	1			3			2		
Feng Shui rank	1			3			2		

The result of the question shows a complete match between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. 60.0% of the respondents

ranked (A) the first as the most favorable choice. 37.6% ranked (C) the second as favourable choice. 57.1% ranked (B) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (A), (C) and (B) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This corresponds with the Feng Shui rank, (Table 5-26).

**Table 5-27: Balance - Vertical Asymmetry - Written comments**

Comments		Count
(A)	This landscape looks balanced	41
	There is an interesting change from left to right side	22
	It is suited to the principle of balance in landscape design	5

The common thread for the respondents' preference for (C) is that the scene appeared visually balanced, with the differing tree heights adding interest. Both (B) and (C) drew few comments from the respondents.

The conclusion is that in landscape design, to achieve interesting movement of vision, it is necessary to design both sides of a scene in asymmetrical balance. In the *Balance* technique in landscape design, tall and large plants on one side can be balanced with a small but diverse grouping on the other. This technique matches the Feng Shui application.

### 5.5.3 Question 15: Balance, Feng Shui site plan

Question: Focus on the footpath, from entrance to building, which design do you prefer?

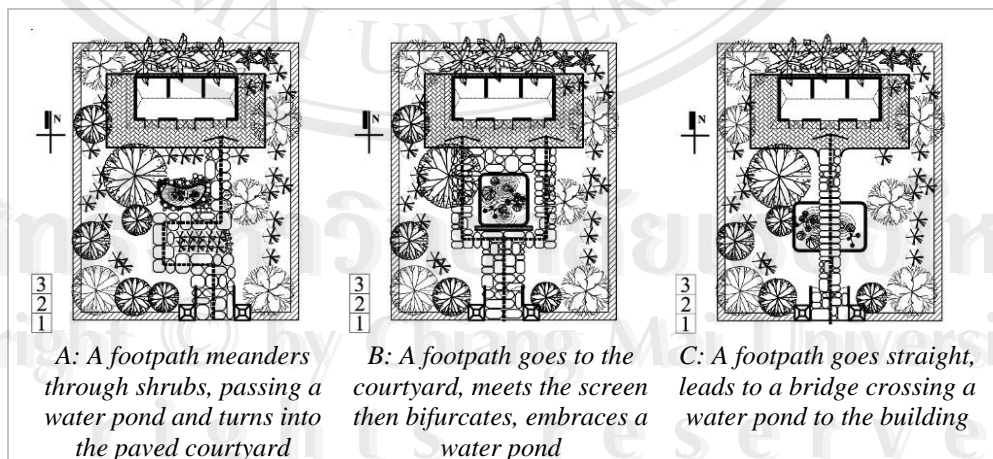


Figure 5-15: Balance - Feng Shui site plan

This question is the most important one since it relates to the site plan of a Vietnamese building. The drawings differ with meandering footpath (A), bifurcated footpath (B) and straight footpath (C). The asymmetrical balance using different

elements of differing dimensions are tested in the following questions, in which the Feng Shui site plan is explored. According to Feng Shui application, diagram (B) shows the most beneficial solution since it attracts  $Qi$  and gently passes  $Qi$  throughout the land. Diagram (A) ranks second as the flow of  $Qi$  is conducted by a meandering footpath; but it has a complex corner. Diagram (C) is the third rank of Feng Shui as excessive  $Qi$  enters the building too directly.

**Table 5-28: Balance - Feng Shui site plan - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	33	87	76	140	47	18	38	59	99
Percent	16.8	44.4	38.8	68.3	22.9	8.8	19.4	30.1	50.5
Mode	2			1			3		
Feng Shui rank	2			1			3		

The result of the question shows a complete match between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. 68.3% of the respondents ranked (B) the first as the most favorable choice. 44.4% ranked (A) the second as favorable choice. 50.5% ranked (C) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (B), (A) and (C) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This corresponds with the Feng Shui rank (Table 5-32).

The results once again demonstrate the compatibility between Feng Shui solutions and the preferred solutions of site plan according to the preferences of the respondents. The idea of creating *Balance* by using a traditional Feng Shui site plan obtains preferences from the respondents.

**Table 5-29: Balance - Feng Shui site plan - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
(B)	This design creates privacy for the owner	36
	This design is related to the Vietnamese traditional layout.	23
	This design creates a reasonable traffic.	21
	This design creates the surprisingness.	18
	This design looks balanced.	6
(A)	This design creates interesting hidden view.	16
	This design looks natural.	8
(C)	Guest can quickly enter.	7
	It shows the beauty of the building directly.	5



The most frequent reason given in ranking (B) the first was that this solution created privacy for the occupants and endorses the traditional Vietnamese site plan by using the bifurcated footpath that creates an intimate feeling for the occupants, and a surprise while maintaining balance. It has clear function and reasonable traffic flow. The respondents agreed that (A), a meandering footpath, is complicated although, it can create interesting hidden views and therefore blend with the nature. With (C), the respondents stated that the straight footpath is too direct, that people can enter the building quickly although some suggested this solution reveals the beauty of the building.

The Comments from the respondents matched the objectives of the Feng Shui site plan, which are to create the *Balance* spatial arrangement in garden landscape design; to maintain the intimate atmosphere for the building and to facilitate the flow of *Qi*.

In conclusion, there is compatibility between the concept of *Balance* technique and the application of Feng Shui site plan. This has been shown by (1) the similarity in comparison of attributes and (2) the compatibility in application which has been illustrated in the previous questions. To achieve the *Balance* in the garden design, it is possible to use the traditional site plan of the Feng Shui spatial arrangement of Hué buildings. As the results reveal, the spatial arrangement are not necessary to be symmetrical balance; instead, the asymmetrical balance of vision are emphasized. The balance within man-made and natural landscape is related to the prospect of *Qi* performance and in doing so; all the objectives of the *Balance* technique of the modern landscape design have been fulfilled.

### **5.6 Proportion technique and *Harmony of Five Elements***

In the following questions, the repetitive use of an element is explored together with the large-scale, human-scale and small-scale environments, which are expressed through the application of the *Five Elements* to verify the compatibility with the *Proportion* technique in landscape design. Feng Shui application requires every element and feature to be in appropriate proportion. Too many or too little elements are considered to be a cause of misfortune.

This part discusses the survey results of *Proportion* in garden landscape design. In question 16, the quantity of trees in the garden is considered in the context of the climate conditions of Viet Nam. In question 17, three scales of landscape design are also proposed. To determine the architects' preference for an optimal solution, the change in the number of trees near a path is proposed in question 18 to obtain the optimum combination.

### 5.6.1 Question 16: *Proportion, Tree Density*

This question addresses the traditional buildings of Hué in a treed garden. In Feng Shui, trees represent the superlative manifestation of *Qi* and a garden landscape. The number of trees should be compatible with other elements such as buildings and decorative items in the landscape as a whole. Too many trees create excess *Yin*; and more *Wood* elements create a gloomy feeling; while too few create excess *Yang*, causing the building to be exposed to *Yang* or hot sunlight. Occupants should be in harmony with nature, including light or shade in the building. It is believed that *Living Qi* is exhausted in places that are too dark and dank or too bare. The Feng Shui rank is 1, 2 and 3 for (A), (C) and (B) respectively.

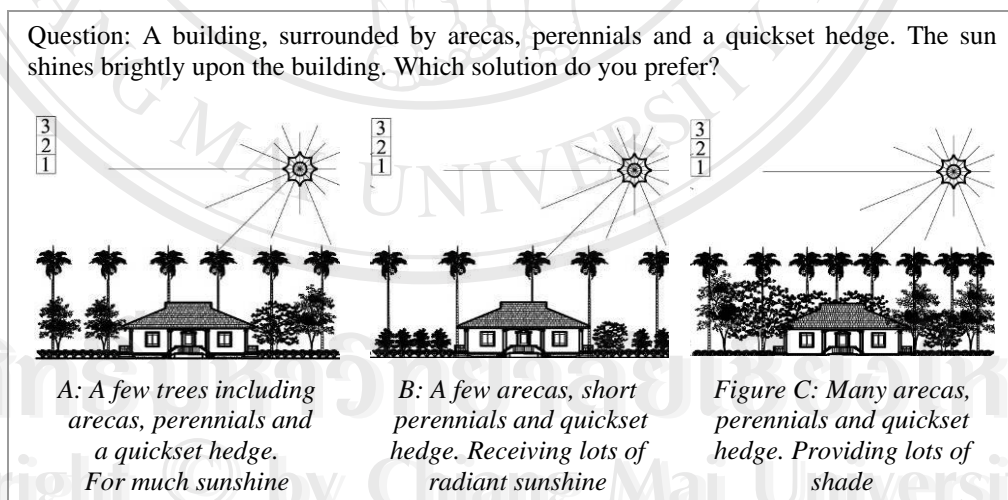


Figure 5-16: *Proportion - Trees Density*

The result of the question shows a potential match between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. 53.5% ranked (A) the first as the most favorable choice. 44.8% also ranked (C) the first as most favorable choice. 80.6% ranked (B) as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (A), (C) and (B) are, in ascending order, 1, 1 and 3. This is different from the Feng

Shui rank; however it demonstrates an acceptable agreement with Feng Shui applications.

**Table 5-30: *Proportion - Trees Density - Numeric Response***

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank	107	82	11	14	24	158	90	87	24
Count	53.5	41.0	5.5	7.1	12.2	80.6	44.8	43.3	11.9
Percent	1			3			1		
Mode	1			3			2		
Feng Shui rank	1			3			2		

The comments in support of (A) as the most preferred choice suggested the use of moderate shade and light and thereby saving energy. Trees in (A) are distributed rationally; and the whole landscape is in harmony with nature. The respondents mentioned (C) as a solution where the building enhances nature while many trees in a garden can improve the microclimate, especially in the hot damp climate of Viet Nam.

The worst case Feng Shui choice (B) caused respondents' comments that this solution was not suitable for the Vietnamese climate as there was a lot of hot sunshine in this part of the country. Too few trees would expose the building to intense light, although some respondents thought that this would provide an airy space. The conclusion was that the quantity of trees in garden landscape should be in moderation. The comments from the respondents agreed with the objectives of the *Proportion*; too many or too few trees in garden landscape are considered unwise.

**Table 5-31: *Proportion - Trees Density - Written comments***

	Comments	Count
(A)	This building has enough shade, enough light	52
	It is reasonable density of trees	19
	It saves energy of lighting	16
	It is harmonious with nature	9
(C)	Building stays in nature	21
	It improves microclimate	10
(B)	This building has a lot of sunshine	8
	It creates well-aired space	6

### 5.6.2 Question 17: *Proportion, Design Scale*

This question concerns the use of scale in garden landscape, where small-scale scheme in (A) refers to miniaturization; a large-scale scheme in (B) refers to space or objects that cause feelings of wonder and amazement; and human-scale scheme in (C) refers to the proportion of space and objects, which can be easily recognized as ratio of the human body. Feng Shui suggests human-scale be used in garden landscapes and the small-scale to be used in man-made sceneries. The Feng Shui rank for these scenes is 1, 2 and 3 for (C), (A) and (B), respectively.

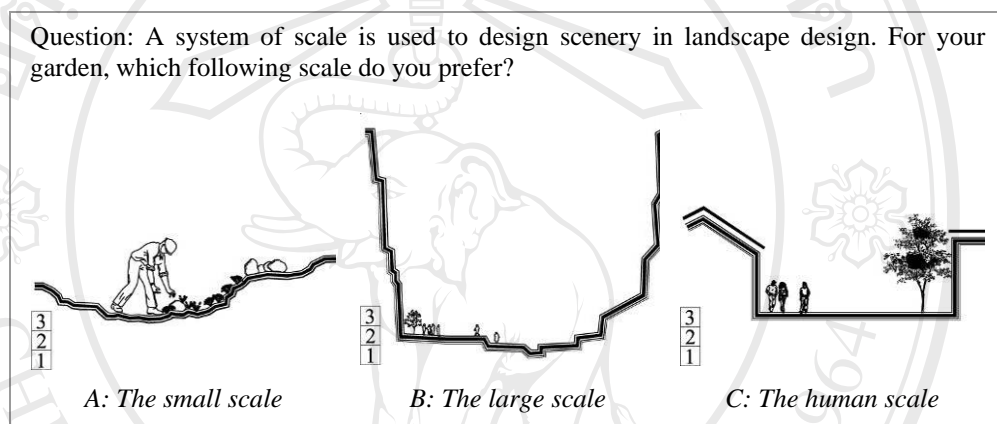


Figure 5-17: *Proportion - Design Scale*

The result of question 17 shows a complete match between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. 69.7% of the respondents ranked (C) the first as the most favorable choice. 57.5% ranked (A) the second as favorable choice. 64.6% ranked (B) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes for (C), (A) and (B) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This again correlates with Feng Shui rank. Respondent's preferences strongly correspond to that of Feng Shui application in the use of scale in garden design.

**Table 5-32: *Proportion - Design Scale - Numeric Response***

Drawing	A			B			C		
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	26	111	56	40	29	126	145	54	9
Percent	13.5	57.5	29.0	20.5	14.9	64.6	69.7	26.0	4.3
Mode	2			3			1		
Feng Shui rank	2			3			1		

(A) did not obtain enough comments; while (B) attracted few comments. (C) - human-scale - was ranked the first because it provided comfort and created harmony



between humans and landscape. Some even remarked that human-scale reflected Vietnamese practice.

**Table 5-33: Proportion - Design Scale - Written comments**

Comments		Count
(C)	This scale creates comfortable feelings	62
	This scale reflects the harmony between human and nature	25
	This scale corresponds to Vietnamese anthropometry	11
(B)	Large scale provides superb view	6

### 5.6.3 Question 18: Proportion, Amount of Trees

This question addresses the number and form of trees along a footpath where similar trees are planted. Another specie is added by (A) two trees, (B) three trees, or (C) only one tree. Feng Shui application suggests that trees should be placed in groups rather than individually, where the solitary element is easily overwhelmed and weakened. The Feng Shui rank is 1, 2 and 3 for (B), (A) and (C) respectively.

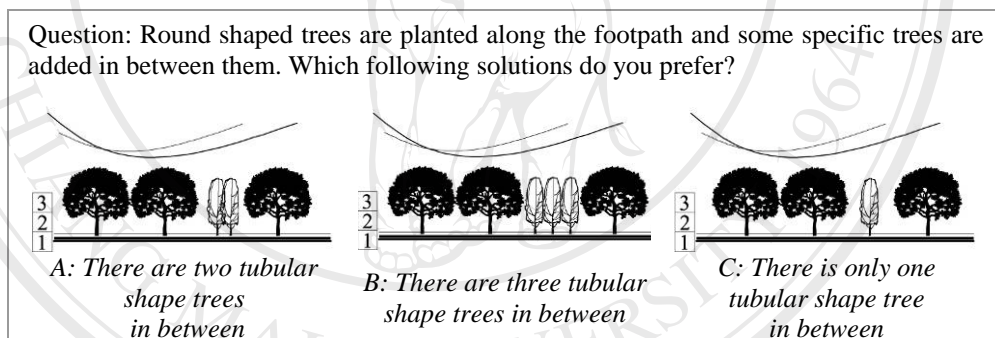


Figure 5-18: Proportion - Amount of Trees

The survey results demonstrate strong compatibility between Feng Shui application and modern landscape design in the use of proportional quantity of elements in a garden landscape. Most (64.8%) of the respondents ranked (B) the first as the most favorable choice. 62.8% ranked (A) the second as favorable choice. 79.3% ranked (C) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (B), (A) and (C) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This is in good agreement with Feng Shui solutions.

**Table 5-34: Proportion - Amount of Trees - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank	63	123	10	125	45	23	18	22	153
Count	32.1	62.8	5.1	64.8	23.3	11.9	9.3	11.4	79.3
Percent	2			1			3		
Mode	2			1			3		
Feng Shui rank	2			1			3		

Comments supporting the selection of (B) as the first rank stated that this arrangement is both multiform and united. The three trees in repetition complete a general rhythm in the landscape. The respondents mentioned that in (A) trees must be in pairs rather than in isolation. Respondent's comments matched application of Feng Shui in creating harmony in the combination of the *Five Elements* in coordination with surrounding landscape.

**Table 5-35: Proportion - Amount of Trees - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
(B)	The trees are multiform but united in this design	37
	This design creates general rhythm	12
	The repeat criteria is important in landscape design	5
(A)	This design has a nice proportion	7
	The combination of trees must be in pair	6

In conclusion, an important point in garden design is to use *Proportion* to express Feng Shui harmony in combining every element in a moderation, for the human-scale or small-scale scheme. For the *Proportion* technique, the solutions suggested by Feng Shui application are in concord with respondents' preferences. The combinations of characteristics of *Five Elements* through colours, materials, textures or shapes were not explored as they will be discussed in the next technique, *Unity*.

### 5.7 Unity technique and theme of each of the *Five Elements*

In this part, the highlights of the themes, which are made by qualities of elements are drawn and explored in the questions. They are the combination of different shapes of *Emphasis* in garden design, combinations of different tree species in a scene and the use of different geometric shapes. In order to create a theme, it is suggested that the characteristics of such an element of *Five Elements* is used, with

some additional characters of other elements. It is important to combine elements by following the cycle of production.

In this survey, the theme of each of the *Five Elements* of Feng Shui application is used to achieve *Unity* in modern landscape design. An *Emphasis* of shape is studied within the surrounding boundary (Question 19). Different shapes of some species of trees are explored in a garden scene (Question 20). Finally, a combination of a circular shape with geometric shapes is proposed (Question 21). These questions are used to detect the combination preferred by the respondents for *Unity*.

### 5.7.1 Question 19: *Unity*, Focus Profile

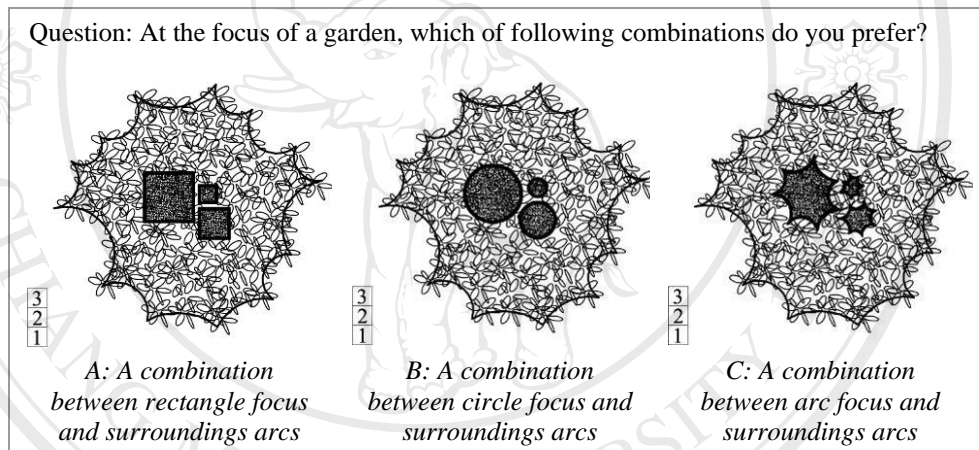


Figure 5-19: *Unity* - Focus Profile

This question refers to the complimentary profile of an *Emphasis* in the garden. A pointed arc (symbolized *Fire*) is used to design the backgrounds. In Figure 5-19: in (A), the focus is designed with rectangle or squares – creating the combination of *Fire* and *Earth*; in (B), the focus is designed with circles – symbolizing *Metal*; in and (C), the focus is designed with pointed arc – creating the combination of *Fire* and *Fire*. According to the cycle of production, (A) is the first choice since the *Earth* focus has been produced by *Fire* background; (C) is the second choice since the *Fire* focus has been undestroyed by *Fire* background; and (B) is the third choice since the *Metal* focus is destroyed by *Fire* background. The Feng Shui rank is 1, 2 and 3 for (A), (C) and (B) respectively.

**Table 5-36: Unity - Focus Profile - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank	100	50	50	56	111	31	55	32	112
Count	50.0	25.0	25.0	28.6	56.1	15.7	27.6	16.1	56.3
Percent	1			2			3		
Mode	1			3			2		
Feng Shui rank									

Figures in this survey have shown the match only between the first rank of the respondents' preference and the first rank suggested by Feng Shui. The ranking of the last two choices is not matched with that from the respondents. 50.0% of the respondents ranked (A) the first as the most favorable choice. 56.1% ranked (B) the second as favorable choice. Lastly, 56.3% ranked (C) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (A), (C) and (B) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. The combination between the pointed arc background and the rectangular Emphasis has been proven.

**Table 5-37: Unity - Focus Profile - Written comments**

Comments		Count
(A)	This design creates the contrast	43
	This design looks balanced	16
(C)	This design remains the unity	5
(B)	Focus has a connection with the boundaries	12

The respondents' comments in selecting (A) as the first choice is an *Emphasis* could be combined well with boundaries to create the strong impression; in strong contrast yet look balanced with defined boundaries. The rectangle-circle combination is therefore the optimum solution. The respondents' second choice was (B) as the circle has faultless profile that is mirrored in the arc-boundaries. They were not attracted to (C) and only a few of them agreed that this solution has unity in profile.

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### 5.7.2 Question 20: *Unity, Theme of Shape*

Question: In a garden, various tree species of are planted. To the right side, there is a clump of cone-shaped trees. Which following solutions do you prefer?

A: At the left, some tubular shaped trees; centrally, round shrubs with red flowers

B: Some cone-shaped trees; centrally, sharp leaves shrubs with red flowers

C: Tubular shaped tree at left; centrally, sharp leaves shrubs with red flowers

D: Some cone-shaped trees at left; at the middle, rounded shrubs with red flowers

Figure 5-20: *Unity - Theme of Shape*

This question refers to the combination between varieties of shapes of trees in a garden landscape. On the right side, a group of cone-shaped trees is permanent. The shape of the left group is changed alternatively from rectangular to triangular. The shrubs in the middle are also changed from pointed foliage to round-shaped foliage, alternatively. The theme of *Fire* element, including pyramid, triangle and pointed shape, is used to achieve the *Unity* in this landscape. The best theme of *Fire* element is (D), which carries characters of *Fire*, and also includes an additional quality of roundness symbolizing *Metal*. The Feng Shui rank is 1, 2, 3 and 4 for (D), (B), (C) and (A) respectively.

**Table 5-38: *Unity - Theme of Shape - Numeric Response***

Drawing	A				B				C				D			
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Count	31	24	44	96	86	47	24	36	31	46	94	21	59	71	30	32
Percent	15.9	12.3	22.6	49.2	44.6	24.4	12.4	18.7	16.1	24.0	49.0	10.9	30.7	37.0	15.6	16.7
Mode	4				1				3				2			
Feng Shui rank	4				2				3				1			

The survey result, Table 5-38, shows a partial match between the optimal Feng Shui solutions with the respondents' preference. 44.6% of the respondents ranked (B) the first as the most favorable choice. 37.0% ranked (D) the second as favorable choice. 49.0% ranked (C) the third as less favorable choice. Finally, 49.2% ranked (A) the fourth as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (B), (D), (C)

and (A) are, in ascending order, 1, 2, 3 and 4. This is a potential match with Feng Shui applications.

**Table 5-39: Unity - Theme of Shape - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
(D)	There are both change and repeat of shape in this design.	12
(B)	The shapes of different trees resemble each other in this design.	18
(A)	There is a variety of shapes in this design.	5

The most frequent comment for ranking (B) the first is that the shapes of trees in this landscape are similar to each other. The reason for ranking (D) the second is that there are both change and repeat in this solution. The (A) was ranked the fourth as it refers to the variety of shapes of trees. The comments from the respondents are not a strong support for the objective of the use of *Five Elements* theme as the *Unity* symbol in garden landscape design, however, it can be concluded that respondents emphasized on the harmony and the resemblance between the elements in the landscape.

**5.7.3 Question 21: Unity, Shape Combination**

Question: For a landscape design, which of following combinations is your preference with circle?

A: With meandering line

B: With square

C: With rectangle

D: With triangle

E: With circle

Figure 5-21: Unity - Shape Combination

This question is about the combination of circles and other geometric forms, which are curved line, square, rectangle, triangle and circle. According to principles of *Five Elements*, circle is the attribute of *Metal*; therefore, it should go with *Earth* element and avoid *Fire* element, which is represented by triangle because of the rule of *Destructive Cycles*. The first choice is (B), in which *Earth* (as square) supported *Metal* (as circle). Other elements can be easily combined with *Metal* except *Fire*. The

Feng Shui rank is 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for a circle combining with square (B), curved line (A), circle (E), rectangle (C) and triangle (D), respectively.

**Table 5-40: Unity - Shape Combination - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A					B					C					D					E				
Rs' Rank	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Count	84	25	42	28	14	72	50	50	19	7	20	64	45	35	24	16	15	18	45	97	16	33	34	62	47
Percent	43.3	13.4	21.6	14.4	7.2	36.4	25.3	25.3	9.6	3.5	10.6	34.0	23.9	18.6	12.8	8.4	7.9	9.4	23.6	50.8	8.3	17.2	17.7	33.2	24.5
Mode	1					1					2					5					4				
FS Rank	2					1					4					5					3				

The respondents' most favorable and least favourable choices matched with the Feng Shui rank. 36.4% of the respondents ranked (B) the first as the most favorable choice. 50.8% of the respondents ranked (D) the last as the least favorable choice. 43.3% of the respondents also ranked (A) the first. The findings were that the circle was selected to combine with curved line, square and rectangle and not to combine with the triangle. The modes of the answers for (B), (A), (C), (E) and (D) are, in ascending order, 1, 1, 2, 4 and 5. This result shows a somewhat compatibility with Feng Shui solutions.

**Table 5-41: Unity - Shape Combination - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
(B)	The circle can match easily with square	16
(A)	It is a flexible combination	7
	This combination includes both variety and unity	6
	This combination looks harmonious	5
(E)	This combination creates the unity criteria	9

In Table 5-41, the most frequent reason from the respondents for ranking (B) the first is because the circle and square match each other. Those ranking (A) the first opined that this combination of circle and curved line appears flexible and harmonious. For (E) the reason is the unity of the combination of circles. This demonstrates the agreement from the respondents to combine the circle with square and to reject combinations of the triangle.

With respect to the aspect of Unity: (1) the similarity in concepts has been shown in the comparison of attributes; and (2) the compatibility in application has been illustrated by the results in these questions. Only the characters of *Five Elements*, which carry their own unique identification, can facilitate the *Unity* manifestation in the garden landscape design. In this research, the distinct shape characteristics of the *Five Elements* are studied as applied in garden design. Although this survey did not take into account other aspects of the *Five Elements* such as materials, textures and colours, it helps achieve a simple elegant *Unity* of the design. This is a very promising result.

### **5.8 Harmony technique and *Qi* prospect**

Since the *Qi* prospect is matched with the *Harmony* technique of modern landscape design, the compatibility of the matching pair is tested in the following questions. In this part, three questions employing the principle of *Qi* prospect in a garden were proposed. The purpose of these three questions is to determine the selection of the respondents in such contexts of landscape, which are: A natural landscape with pond; trees and hill (Question 22); man-made landscapes with parks, streets and buildings (Question 23); and a residential landscape near a river (Question 24) based on the *Harmony* technique.



### 5.8.1 Question 22: *Harmony, Preferable Scenario*

Question: There are some plots of land with surrounding trees, a hill and a pond. Which of following properties do you prefer to live in?

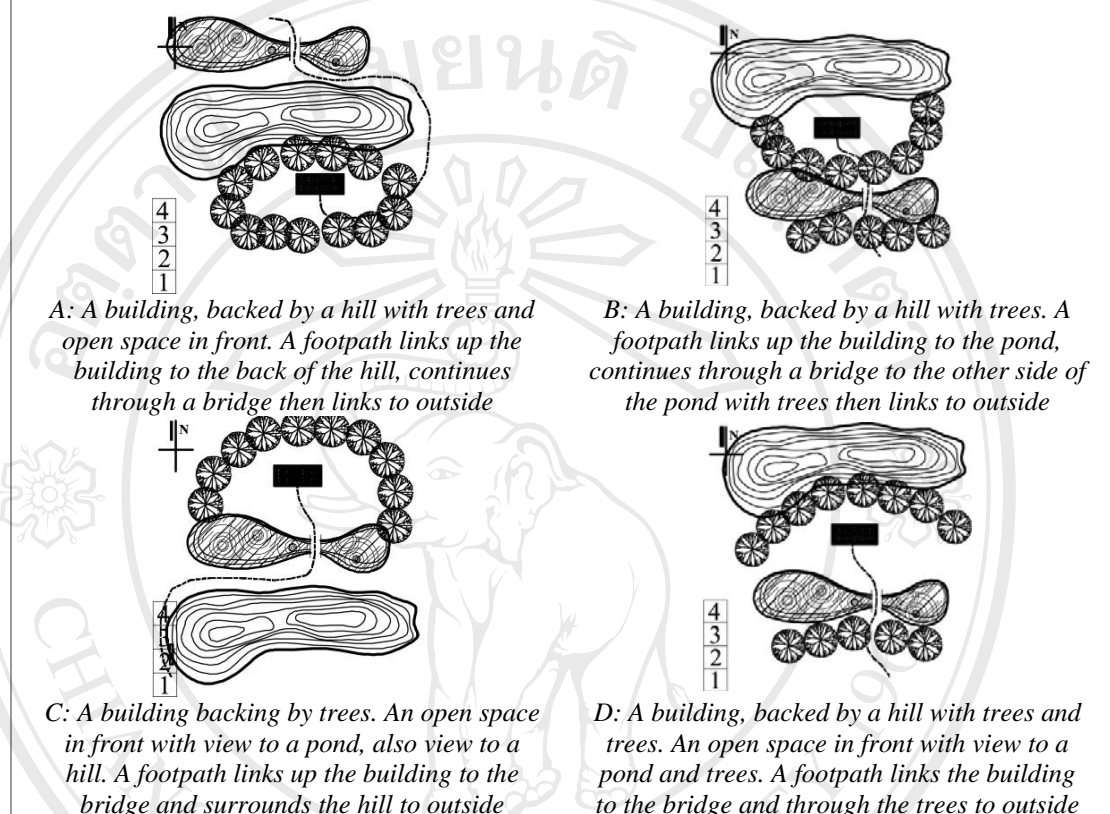


Figure 5-22: *Harmony - Preferable Scenario*

This question is adapted from the drawings of surrounding environment derived from Yu (1998). Four scenarios were provided to the respondents, representing different combinations of buildings, hills, ponds, open spaces, trees and paths. The optimal land should have a stable mountain behind as the shelter and pond in front as the bright future. The Feng Shui rank for these drawings is 1, 2, 3 and 4 from (D), (B), (C) and (A), respectively.

**Table 5-42: *Harmony - Preferable Scenario - Numeric Response***

Drawing	A				B				C				D			
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Count	0	11	50	131	37	132	25	6	12	19	114	52	162	31	1	3
Percent	0.0	5.7	26.0	68.2	18.5	66.0	12.5	3.0	6.1	9.6	57.9	26.4	82.2	15.7	0.5	1.5
Mode	4				2				3				1			
Feng Shui rank	4				2				3				1			

82.2% ranked (D) the first as the most favorable choice. 66.0% ranked (B) the second as the next favorable choice. 57.9% ranked (C) the third as the less favorable choice. Finally, 68.2% ranked (A) the fourth as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (D), (B), (C) and (A) are, in ascending order, 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The modes from the respondents are also completely coincided with the Feng Shui rank. The survey results totally matched Yu's results and have shown that the respondents in Hué chose the same solutions that Feng Shui suggested.

**Table 5-43: *Harmony - Preferable Scenario - Written comments***

	Comments	Count
(D)	Open space in front is preferable with nice scene	35
	This landscape provides sustainable environment	26
	This landscape conveys reasonable traffic	23
	This landscape is harmonious with nature	19
	Good Feng Shui	6
(B)	Reasonable traffic	7
	Sustainable environment	6

The most popular reason for the respondents' preferences for (D) is the open space in front of the building illustrating a beautiful scene. Furthermore, this solution was mentioned as related to a sustainable environment and reasonable traffic, and harmonious with nature. Some architects even said that this solution is favourable with Feng Shui. The comments of reasonable pedestrian flow and sustainable environment were also made on (B). The other drawing (C) and (A) drew no comment from respondents. The conclusion is that the comments from the respondents totally matched the objectives of a Feng Shui landscape, which links between the man-made architecture and the nature.

### 5.8.2 Question 23: *Harmony, Man-made Landscape*

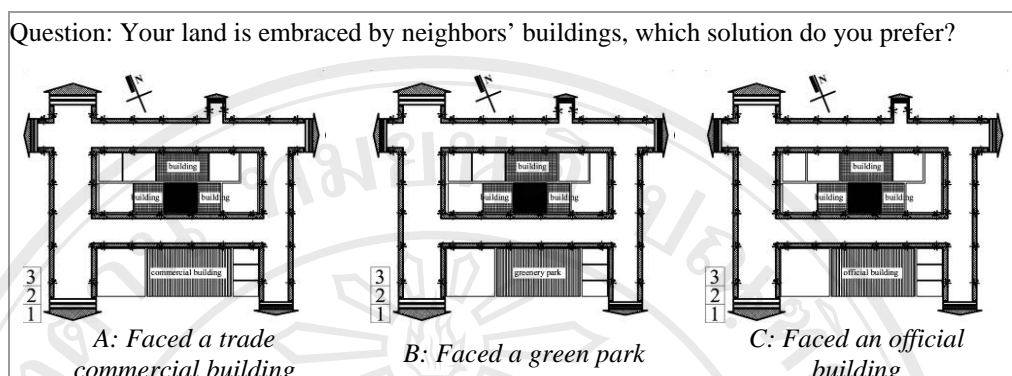


Figure 5-23: *Harmony - Man-made Landscape*

This question refers to the spaces in front of the building. There are three different spaces, which are commercial building (A), green park (B) and an official building (C). Traditionally, residence should stay as close to nature as possible. *Living Qi* appears where there are verdant trees, blooming shrubs or prosperous residences. Feng Shui rank in this question drawing is 1, 2 and 3 for (B) - building faces a greenery park; (A) - building faces a commercial building and (C) - building faces an official building, respectively.

**Table 5-44: *Harmony - Man-made Landscape - Numeric Response***

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	9	102	80	192	14	0	9	74	113
Percent	4.7	53.4	41.9	93.2	6.8	0.0	4.6	37.8	57.7
Mode	2			1			3		
Feng Shui rank	2			1			3		

The result of the question shows a complete match between the rank of Feng Shui application and the rank by respondents' preference. 93.2% of the respondents ranked (B) the first as the most favorable choice. 53.4% ranked (A) the second as the favorable choice. 57.7% ranked (C) the third as the least favorable choice. The mode of the answers for (B), (A) and (C) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. The respondents have shown their preference in the environment which is closer to nature and the survey results express total compatibility with the Feng Shui characteristics.

**Table 5-45: *Harmony - Man-made Landscape - Written comments***

Comments		Count
(B)	The park provides fresh environment	45
	This environment is closed to the nature thanks to the park	31
	There is an open space in front of the building	9
	It proposes a good view from building	5
(A)	It is an active and populous environment	8
(C)	It is security environment	5

The main reason for ranking (B) as the most preferable choice is that a nearby park: provides a fresh environment; takes the role of an open space in front of the building; creates a good view for the building, and brings the building closer to nature. Some respondents who preferred their building to face a commercial building opined that it is the active and crowded environment. Finally, reasons for positioning a building to face an official building is that it can inherit the security from around the building zone. It is concluded that building should be located in harmony with nature, to take full advantages from nature such as having a fresh air, beautiful scene and pure environment. The comments from the respondents totally supported the objectives of the site conditions of *Qi* prospect.

### 5.8.3 Question 24: Harmony, River Landscape

Question: A building is located at different sections of a river. There are some shrubs scattered at the riverbanks and a small isle. Which of following locations do you prefer?

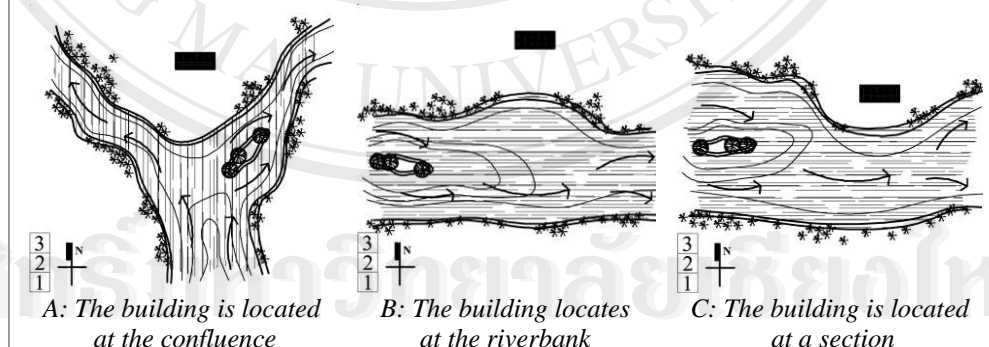


Figure 5-24: Harmony - River Landscape

This question refers to a residential site which is close to a river. There are three solutions, in which the building is placed at the confluence of the river (A), with some distance from the river (B) or adjacent to the river (C). They were proposed to attain the preferable choice of residential placement from the respondents. Feng Shui principles dictate that a residence facing water is considered a good place. However, a building should not locate at the confluence of a river, since the flow of water could



point directly to the building causing *Qi* to flow very strongly. Instead, a building should maintain some distance from a river, gaining the advantages of nature while avoiding natural calamities. Feng Shui rank for this question is 1, 2 and 3 for drawing (B), (C) and (A), respectively.

**Table 5-46: *Harmony* - River Landscape - Numeric Response**

Drawing	A			B			C		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Respondents' Rank	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Count	39	48	107	92	61	52	80	87	31
Percent	20.1	24.7	55.2	44.9	29.8	25.4	40.4	43.9	15.7
Mode	3			1			2		
Feng Shui rank	3			1			2		

The figures from the question have shown the compatibility between respondents' preferences and Feng Shui solutions. 44.9% of the respondents ranked (B) the first as the most favorable choice. 43.9% ranked (C) the second as favorable choice. 55.2% ranked (A) the third as the least favorable choice. The modes of the answers for (B), (C) and (A) are, in ascending order, 1, 2 and 3. This is in good agreement with Feng Shui applications.

**Table 5-47: *Harmony* - River Landscape - Written comments**

	Comments	Count
(B)	The building get security from natural calamities	26
	It is a good Feng Shui location	14
	It takes full advantage of landscape	8
(A)	It can exploit the river traffic advantage	6
	It has a spectacular view	5

The security of (B) from natural disasters was mentioned most often. Some respondents considered (B) a solution with good Feng Shui and natural advantages. Location at the confluence of river in (A) was also selected as the first choice by few respondents with the reasons of river traffic advantage and the spectacular scene.

With respect to the aspect of *Harmony*, (1) the similarity in concept has been shown in the comparison of attributes; and (2) the compatibility in application has been illustrated in the questionnaire, satisfying the site conditions of *Qi* prospect that totally correspond with the *Harmony* technique in modern landscape Design. From the questions in this survey, the respondents select the most preferable location

according to their judgments consciously. This has shown the potential of achieving the *Qi* prospect in the garden landscape by implementing the *Harmony* technique.

## 5.9 Conclusion

In a conclusion of this chapter, in order to successfully prove that Feng Shui applications are compatible with modern landscape design techniques, it is first essential to study the similarity between the two approaches and proved the compatibility by using a questionnaire survey.

The survey in this research was designed to evaluate the potentiality of achieving Feng Shui applications by using modern landscape design techniques. No suggestions were made to the respondents with respect of Feng Shui applications in any drawing of the questionnaire. The respondents were specifically asked to objectively rank the drawings using their professional judgments. The result is that a large percentage of the respondents ranked the solutions with the most Feng Shui applications higher in preferences.

Therefore, Feng Shui applications have been proved to potentially be used in collaboration with modern landscape design techniques. The ultimate goal of Feng Shui in a garden landscape is the manifestation of *Qi*. In this research, by using the techniques, which are *Emphasis*, *Sequence*, *Simplicity*, *Interest*, *Balance*, *Proportion*, *Unity* and *Harmony*, a manifestation of *Qi* can be represented. These expected results of this research have been confirmed.

The results also imply the potential to enhance both values of modern landscape design and Feng Shui application. For example, to conduct the *Emphasis* technique, there are several elements that can be used as the focus of the gardens. According to Feng Shui applications, the focus should be emphasized by a *Water* feature. This *Water* feature must also comply with other Feng Shui principles to maintain water flow and ensure high quality clean water, resulting in a healthy and pleasant environment. The interaction of modern landscape techniques and Feng Shui applications in this instance means that both disciplines could possibly be used together to achieve a better landscape design than if only one technique is used.