

Feng Shui Modern: A Digital Experience

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I chose to digitize Cliff Tan's *Feng Shui Modern*, which is a practical guide to applying Feng Shui in contemporary spaces. The book balances instructional text with visual diagrams that demonstrate the flow of spatial energy, along with descriptions of the five elements and how they interact within various spaces. Designed to be an informative reference that readers can browse in a non-linear fashion, the text invites readers to explore different sections of the home that correspond with natural elements. My goal in translating this book into a digital format was to maintain this sense of spatial harmony and balance on the webpage—ensuring that the site itself mirrored some of the Feng Shui principles outlined by Tan in its UX design. I did come across a several limitations that made it difficult to preserve the book's fluid nature in an indexed web environment.

Initially, I wanted the placement of images, text, and interactive elements to reflect Feng Shui's core ideas about flow, symmetry, and proportion. In theory, the webpage would be structured in a way that subtly mirrored the logic of the book's instructions. I wanted different “elements” to animate, or subtly appear in relation to their corresponding “spaces” in a visually harmonious way, reinforcing the principles described in the text. The site itself still feels inherently rigid—there is a very clear hierarchy to the page, with elements taking precedent. *Feng Shui Modern* is designed for nonlinear exploration. The material in the book allows for an intuitive reading experience—flipping between sections, cross-referencing, and comparing diagrams side by side. The webpage wound up having the user navigate by clicking through and closing out each element and space separately through a series of interactions, which ultimately feels much more segmented.

The five elements—water, wood, fire, earth, and metal—are woven into different aspects of home design, influencing everything from furniture placement, to scale, to wall color. I wound up structuring the elements as interactive buttons in order to make the site readable, simple, and functional, allowing users to focus on reading through one element's purpose at a time. Nesting the explanations into buttons meant that instead of allowing users to visually compare elements and room types side by side, they have to manually toggle between them.

In the book, Tan explains how elements interact holistically across a space—each room contains multiple elements in different proportions. In the digital version, however, I had to make a decision: how could each element be linked to a specific room (or rooms)—how would users be able to explore these

combination? In a future iteration, I would love to make this correlation feel more dynamic somehow: either using opacity, scrolling, or other animated behaviors—perhaps even a filtering system where each element would bring up a nested series of relevant room layouts. I understand this will require a bit more complex interactivity, and without JavaScript, I had a hard time executing this kind of interaction smoothly. I am still happy with some of the more animated behavior I could get across within the buttons, as well as the elegance of the font colors and header type. Overall, the digital translation still feels quite rigid and structured. This project revealed the some of the (many) challenges and contradictions of translating a long form instructional text into a digital interface.