

# Vastu Shastra

Home is our abode of love where we expect to enjoy the fruits of our labor. We expect to enjoy our peace & happiness, progress & prosperity, health & wealth and faith & spiritual development from our home. If its surroundings and construction are poor and the atmosphere eerie, we can neither be happy nor healthy. Hence to ensure that the house is built properly, in modern times we take the help of the professionals who can build a good house with a solid foundation, strong walls, a proper structural balance with the right weight and pressure distribution, proper plumbing, electricity, air light etc. This branch of modern knowledge is called architecture, or civil engineering.

The ancient seers of India knew not only the above, but quite a few other things beyond. Hence their house building principles included: the North-South flow of magnetic forces: the East-West earth motion and Solar energy forces: and with Divine Spiritual Perception, they also knew the various Deities who rule the different sections of the house and based on the Nature of the Deities, what type of room/function is ideal in that part of the house (Details given in the section Vastu Purusha Mandala). This branch of ancient Indian knowledge is called Vastu Sastra, or Vastu Shilpa sastra, or Vastu Nirmana sastra. It was employed to build not just houses but to plan and build entire towns and cities and temples.

During the last 10 years, first Vastu was in fashion, then it became a fad, then came fanaticism and now the society is full of blind beliefs. People with all kinds of false notions are rejecting excellent houses just because they are facing the west. The truth is that there is nothing against a west facing house in Vastu!! Self styled Vastu “expert consultants” are taking people for a ride.

The Vastu principles included: on which side(s) of the plot the road(s) should be, the size & shape of the plot, how far minimum away it should be from the public places, what type of plot/house should be there next to the house, the height-length-breath of the boundary & the rooms and their placement/function, the door & window placement etc. It makes the optimised ideal use of the magnetic, solar & spiritual forces and the five basic elements – Earth, Fire, Water, Air & Space. The principles are based on very practical reasons. For example if the East side boundary wall is too high one will not get enough sunlight.

Like any other ancient sastra, Vastu must also be understood, interpreted and implemented based on the changed socio-economic conditions. Take for example the rule “Bathroom should not be next to kitchen – fire and water must be away”. This is because in those days the kitchen-fire was produced by burning either wood or coal and bathroom water source was a well. So this would dampen the fire wood/coal. In the modern kitchen, if you have a gas stove at one corner and a tap and sink at the other corner, its not going to take you to hell. Similarly the toilet in those days was an open space and for hygienic reasons used to be at the end of the house. But the modern toilets are ok to be attached to bed rooms.

In modern times, especially in cities, only a multi millionaire can follow all the Vastu rules. The rest 99%, especially the flat dwellers can only do the best adjustments. Vastu is like life where you want ideal parents, ideal brothers & sisters, ideal teachers & education, ideal job & money, ideal wife & children and ideal health. This is rarely possible and hence you have to live with and make the best of what you get.

The following pages will give you the authentic Vastu principles. Read them and you can understand Vastu. At least no one can take you for a ride.

One final word. At the time of entering a new house if you get a vastu shanti pooja done, which is part of the Griha Pravesh pooja, it takes care of the Vastu doshas. Vastu cannot adversely affect the house where God is regularly worshiped with pooja, stotra path or mantra japa. Keeping a Vastu Ganesha at the Pooja place is another antidote to all Vastu Doshas. For the past 3 years I have been living in a flat where every thing is totally wrong according to Vastu but this house has given me more peace, prosperity, fame and money than all the other “good Vastu” houses. And mind you, I am going through the peak of my sadesati and Rahu antardasa! God power is always stronger than Vastu power.

## The Legend of Vastu Sashtra

The ancient Indian text Mayamata, written thousands of years ago, describes Vastu Sastra – the science of ancient Indian architecture. Hindu mythology explains the history of how it all started.

In the beginning, Brahma, the creator of the Universe, experimented with the creation of a new creature. He created a large and monstrous creature that grew so rapidly that its shadow fell on the earth as a permanent eclipse. After that this ever growing monster began to devour everything in its path as nothing could satisfy its insatiable hunger. Shiva and Vishnu begged Brahma to do something before everything was destroyed by this Creature. Brahma realised his mistake and called the astha dikapalakas, the Gods of the eight cardinal directions. Together they overpowered the Great Monster and held it flat against the earth. Then Brahma jumped in the middle and held the monster down. He then asked another forty four Gods to join him and help pin it down. Their 45 positions can be seen on the classic mandala of the Vastu Grid. Then the Monster cried “You created me like this. So why am I being punished for what you made me?” Brahma offered him a compromise and made the Monster immortal with the boon that he would be worshipped by any mortal that builds a structure on earth. He was named Vastu Purusha

## Vastu Purusha & Vastu Mandala

The diagram bellow, known as Vastu Mandala, illustrates how the Vastu Purusha was pinned down by Brahma and the 44 Gods – face down, with his head to the North East and feet towards South West. It is divided in to  $9 \times 9 = 81$  parts. These Gods rule various aspects of life and have certain inherent qualities. Hence while constructing a building, the purpose/function of a room must be in tune with the nature of the deity placed and ruling that part. This is illustrated in the next picture. Not many houses are likely to have that many rooms. Hence adjustments can be made by combining several areas. One noteworthy point is that in the olden days the central portion ruled by Brahma was kept open.

Picture showing how the Vastu mandala can be utilized for home/office/factory

1.Guest Room 2.Sales Office B.Finished Stock	1.Family Room 2.Sample Room 3.Multipurpos e	1.Treasure Room 2.General Office 3.Septic Tank	1.Drawing Room 2.Office 3.General purpose	1.Pooja Room 2.Open Place 3.Underground Water Tank
1.Jr. Bed Room 2.Finished Goods 3.Machinery	Treasury is a place ruled by Kuber, the God of wealth			1.Drawing Room 2.Multi - purpose 3.Toilet
.Dining Place 2.Sr.Persons 8.Raw material or Machinery	The purpose of the room placed in any area of the house must be in tune with the nature of the Deity ruling that particular area. See the two examples given here  Kitchen is placed at the place ruled by Agni, the god of fire			1.Bathroom 2.General Sitting 3.Underground Septic Tank
1.Sr.Bed Room 2.Conference 3.Raw Material or Machinery				1.Store Room 2.Multi purpose 3.Workshop
1.Master Bedroom 2.Chairman's room 3.Raw Material or heavy - machinery	1.Toilet 2.M.D.Room 3.Heavy Machinery	1.Jr. Bed Room 2.Staff 3.Raw Material	1.Store Room 2.General Staff 3.Multipurpose	1.Kitchen 2.Computer Boiler Room 4.Electricity room

This picture is the adjustment example for a still smaller place using a  $3 \times 3 = 9$  combinations. Picture showing the vastu mandala utilisation for a smaller plot

Guest room	Cash & valuables	Pooja room
Dining Room	Open space	Bath room
Store/Heavy items	Bed room	Kitchen

## Vastu Sashtra – Land & plot

Situation of Plot: A land that was a burial ground, or a crematorium is not suitable for living. Ideally it should be flat level ground. A land on a hill is also not a suitable. If it is on a slope, then the land sloping down toward the north or east is ok but if it is sloping to the

west it is not good. A valley or a large pit around the land or a depression in the land is inauspicious. A plot situated between two larger plots is not good as it brings poverty. If the plot is next to a bridge it is not auspicious – particularly if the bridge is on the north or east side. You can compromise if it is on the south or west side.

Don't buy a plot with obstructions like hills, tall buildings or towers on the north, north east or east sides as the sun's rays will be blocked. However such things on the west or south sides are auspicious as they bring health, wealth and happiness as they block the harmful western rays.

Similarly water source located on the southwest side of a building will bring misery. If the plot has a well, swimming pool, lake, river or a stream flowing on the north east it is auspicious.

If there is an electrical power supply station or large electric pole on the north east side of the plot it is not good for the vibrations.

The plot should not be within twice the distance of the height of the house to any public place like temple, hospital, factory etc. If the distance is more than that then it is ok. The house should be at least 80 ft or more away from any temple. The gate should not face a temple and the shadow of a temple should not fall on the house.

Avoid plots near a meat shop, workshop, laundry, shoe shop, etc. The fence or the boundary wall should be higher on the west and south and lower on the north and east sides. Roads near the plot: A plot with a road running straight at any of its four main sides has its effects.

This is called Veedhi Shoola or Therukuthu. Please note this is different from roads running along the sides.

Road from	Results	Nature of effects
North of Northeast ( N / NE )	Very good	Good for women and also for business activities. Can ensure wealth and prosperity for residents.
East of Northeast ( E / NE )	Very good	Very good for men. Will ensure upward mobility in life. Preferred for newspaper offices/presses/photo studios/media industries and residences.
South of Southeast ( S / SE )	Good	Will give peace and happiness. Good for women. Can ensure reasonable financial status for the inmates.
East of Southeast ( E / SE )	Bad	Will increase expenses. Can make the inmates greedy. Accidents can occur. Litigation and government punishments/actions can be initiated.
North of Northwest ( N / NW )	Bad	Promotes indiscipline. Can promote nefarious or unlawful activities. General instability is noted.
West of Northwest ( W / NW )	Good	Good for men. Will promote owner's business / profession. Can improve attitude and behaviour.
South of Southwest ( S / SW )	Very bad	Affects wealth / finance. Indication of accidents, bad habits for inmates, especially women. Can mean trouble in all spheres for inmates.
West of Southwest ( W / SW )	Very bad	Will affect the happiness of all inmates, especially the men. Constant quarrels, problems and scarcity of money are observed in addition to litigation.

The plot with roads running along on all four sides is the best. It brings health, wealth and happiness. The plot with roads running along on three sides – on the north, west, and east

is not so good. Roads on the north, south, and west is also not so good. It is inauspicious if there are three roads only on the east, south, and west. If there are roads on only the east and north side, that is good. If there are roads on the west and north, it is average. The plot with a road running along and ending at the northeast corner is very good. But if the road ends on any other part of the plot it is usually not good. A road on the east or north side of the plot is good, but a road on the south or west side is not so good. The plot on a T or Y intersection is not auspicious.

**Direction of the plot:** The direction that the front of a property faces is important. Plot facing East is good for scholars, philosophers, priests, professors, teachers etc. Plot facing North is good for those in power, administration and those who work for government. Plot facing South is good for business class and for those who work in business organizations. Plot facing West is for those who provide supporting services to the society.

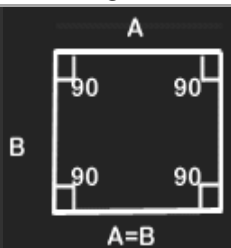
If the plot of land does not squarely face the four cardinal directions, and if the road does not run in one of the four cardinal directions, the house should be built facing the four directions

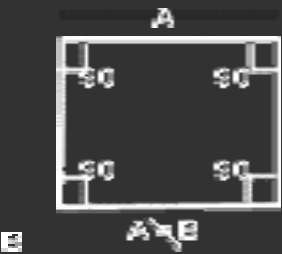


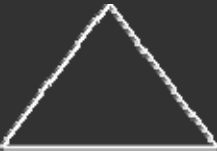


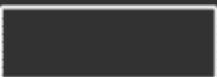


## Vastu for plot




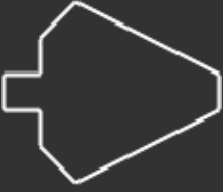



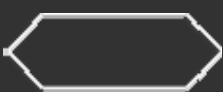


**Shape and size of the plot:** The best shapes for plots of land are square or rectangular, facing squarely on the four cardinal directions. It is good if the plot is narrower at the entrance and wider at its rear, but the opposite is not good. Round, oval, and triangular plots should be avoided. The house should not be built in the shape of a diamond, with the corner facing north. L-shaped plots are also inauspicious and should not be purchased. If the land is cut in the corner this is not good. If possible, the land to fill in the missing corner should be purchased. If the land is cut short on the northeast side it is very bad and is not auspicious; do not purchase it. It is like a headless body.



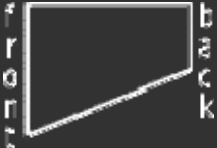

A land tilt of 20 degrees, off square by 20 degrees, is acceptable. If the plot is rectangular, it is better that the longer sides run north to south rather than west to east. The best properties are either square or rectangular. If the plot is not a perfect rectangle, it is best if at least the southwest and southeast sides of the land are at 90° angles from one another. The southwest side of the quadrilateral should definitely not be extended past the southeast side, even if that means giving away a portion of the plot. Land that extends past the northeast side of the quadrilateral, however, brings wealth, happiness, and good name. Land extending on the northeast side is very good. Extensions on any other side are inauspicious. Extensions of the northwest side will cause you to lose money and peace.

The following chart shows the different shapes of plots and their suitability and effects.

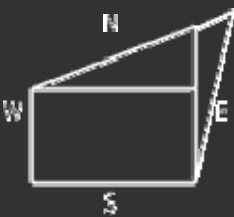
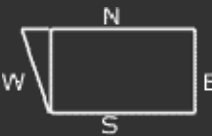
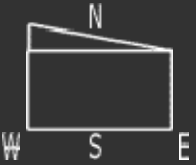

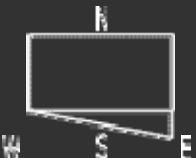
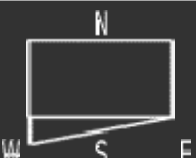
Shape of the plot	Figure	Effects
Square (all corners straight and at 90°) shaped	 <p>The diagram shows a square plot with a thick black border. Inside, a white square is labeled 'A' at the top and 'B' on the left side. The bottom side is labeled 'A=B'. Each of the four corners of the white square is marked with a small square and the number '90', indicating 90-degree angles.</p>	Very auspicious, brings health, wealth and happiness.

Rectangular Shaped		Good and auspicious. Brings all round prosperity.
Circular Shaped		Good for constructing circular Shaped buildings only.
Wheel Shaped		Owner loses financial status and faces poverty.
Odd Shaped (irregular shaped)		Causes all types of problems and poverty.
Triangular Shaped		Affects progress and causes problems from government.
Bhadarshan Shaped		Not good for residence. Can be used for special type of buildings like government buildings only.
Cart Shaped		Causes wants and poverty, even imprisonment. The owner has to run here and there like a Cart.
Long bar Shaped		Not good if used for cattle shed, the cattle reared here perish.
Damru shaped (a tiny size musical damru with deep bend in the middle)		Will have very bad effect on the eye sight of inmates. Also everyone in the house will lose discretion and judgment.
Visham Bahu (disproportionate shouldered)		Affects health, involves in matters in court litigations, drives them to poverty.

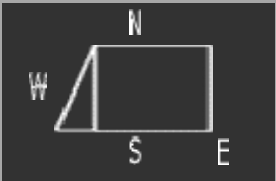
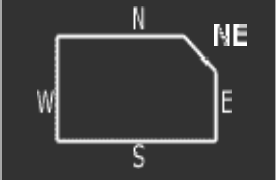
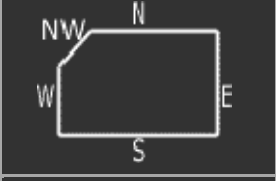
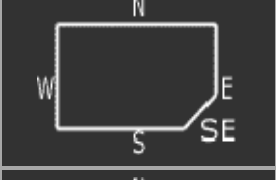
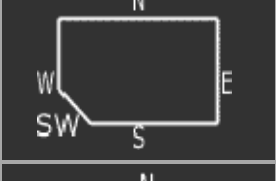


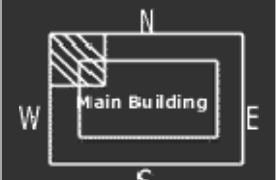

Drum or Dholak or Mirdung Shaped		Will cause loss of wife and other female members of the family
Hand-Pan Shaped		Creates loss of wealth, cattle etc. This can be corrected and used if other aspects conform to Vastu principles.
Varahan Mukhi Akaar (pig faced Shaped)		Causes death of brothers and relatives.
Turtle shaped plot		Causes to the owner and his family members imprisonment, untimely death and murders.
Window shaped plot (used for hand winnowing to separate grains from chaff)		The inmates of this plot lose mental peace and face poverty.
Bow shaped plot		Inmates of this plot face fear of theft, loot, attack by enemies etc.
Muslakar plot (long oval like plot with cut in one side)		It brings enmity and loss of friendship
Hexagon shaped plot		This is considered good if all other Vastu principles are followed. Is said to be helpful in progress of family members.
Elliptical plot (a regular oval shaped)		Loss in many ways like money, women and respect.
Polygonal plot (Panch Mukh)		Such plot should not be inhabited before making it a rectangular plot otherwise it will bring legal litigations and false allegations.

Octagonal (Astha Kon) plot		Is auspicious and will bring all round prosperity.
Pot type plot		People who live on this plot face problems and obstacles for progress.
Simha Mukh (lion faced) like a lion's face wider in front		Not good for residential purposes. Is very auspicious for business organisation.
Gaumukh (cow faced) like a cow's face narrow in front		Auspicious provided the roads are in Southern and Western sides of plot.

Projections, retractions & closed/cut corners: Not all plots are square or rectangular. There are some plots with projections or extensions, missing corners. Their effects are as follows:

Projection/Retraction	Shape	Effects
North East projected towards as well as North		Wealth and prosperity, peace of mind and plenty.
North-West projected at West		Good for women organisations and politicians.
North West projected North		Suffering of women, mental problems, heavy expenditure and losses in business.
South East extended at East		Losses and harassment by government.
South East extended at South		Health problems, litigations decline in income.
South West extended at South		Misery to women folk and sickness.

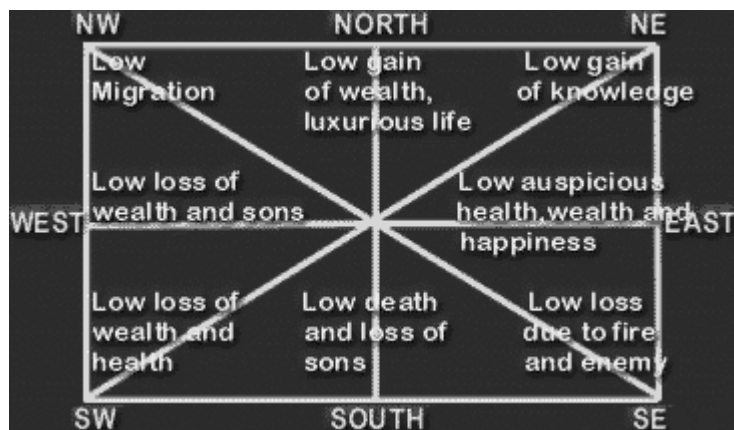


South West extended at West		Bad names to makes, mental problems to women, loss of wealth.
North East		Mars progress and prospects. Loss of children and wealth. Mental unrest and sickness leading to all round unhappiness .
North West		Disease, loss of wealth, fear of life and theft.
South East		Poverty and diseases
South West		Sickness of wife, mental worry and unhappiness.
North East		Disastrous
South East		Wealth will be destroyed and children's progress in affected.
North West		Progress of the family will be effected leading to bankruptcy and mental problems.
South West		Permitted without blocking the pathway.

## Vastu Size and slope of plot

**Sloping of the Plot:** The north east half of the plot is called the Solar half and the South west half is called the Lunar half. Ideally the Solar half should be lower and the Lunar half should be higher. This ensures the ideal flow of light, solar energy & polar energy from east and north and water flows from West to East and from South to North. This type of plot brings joy and happiness, good children and all the success in life to the occupants of the building erected on it. Avoid plots humped at the center and sloping on all sides. Same with the plots that are depressed at the center.

The north east side of the land should be the lowest side. If the northeast side is at a higher elevation than other sides of the property, you can dig soil from that one side and use it to build up the other parts. The land should either slope down toward the north or east, but not toward the west or south. Land sloping north brings riches, sloping east brings good fortune, sloping south brings ruin, and sloping west brings financial loss. The following chart illustrates the details.



**Soil & land:** While purchasing land, it is ideal to buy land that can be cultivated, i.e., where the vegetation can grow. Land with too many rocks, worms, bones and thorny trees is not considered good. If it is high at the center and sloping towards the sides it is not good. During the ancient days, the color of the soil was selected as per the Varna, or Cast. White soil is good for the Brahmans, red for the Kshatriyas, yellow for the Vaisyas and black for sudras. It was advised to dig 12 ft down. If the soil is black up to 3 ft down and white or red below that, the land is suitable. Black and clayey soil is not good for building. If the soil is crumbly rock, money comes without effort. Yellow soil is ideal for the business community.

The materials that come up during the excavation for construction are indicators of the following results:

Materials	Results
1. Stone	Increase of wealth
2. Bricks	All types of wealth and prosperity in future
3. Copper or Metals	Prosperous life
4. Coal	Sickness and loss of wealth
5. Bones of animals	Obstacles to progress
6. Snake or Scorpion	Fear of these animals and obstruction to building's progress
7. Anthill, Termites	Destruction of wealth, reduction in longevity of life
8. Straw, eggs	Death, Unnecessary expenses
9. Cotton	Sorrow
10. Pieces of wood	Has to abandon the house and run away
11. Skull	Unwanted quarrels, litigation
12. Horns of cow	wealth and prosperity
13. Gold, Silver, Coins	All type of comforts
14. Zinc, Brass pieces	Fortune and comforts
15. Rags (torn clothes)	Quarrels and fights
16. Iron or steel pieces	Death

**Soil test:** According to King Bhoj, the ancient Indian Vastu Specialist, dig a 2'x2'x2' hole and then fill it up again. If some soil left over after filling, the land is good. If there is no soil left after filling up, it is average. If the hole is not fully filled, it is not good. This is the test to determine the soil's natural moisture, density and aeration. Dig a 2'x2'x2' hole and fill it with water. If the time taken to absorb the water is more than an hour, it is good. After the water is absorbed, if there are many cracks in the hole the foundation of the house must be extra strong and will cost more.

From whom to purchase: According to Vastu sastra you should not purchase land from the following types of people:

- 1) From those who have become insolvent.
- 2) From person suffering from leprosy.
- 3) From lunatics.
- 4) From people who have left the country.

What not to purchase: Land donated to a temple, allotted to the watchman of the village or colony, land in possession of charitable trusts, land without any title deed should not be purchased.

## Vastu construction – boundary and well or pump

Construction: After choosing and purchasing land, plants should be grown on the land. Also, if possible, keep a cow and her calf on the land for a while to make it more auspicious.

Before starting the construction a Bhoomi Pooja ritual should be performed. The land should be installed at an auspicious time, during an auspicious constellation. Mondays and Thursdays are auspicious days for such rituals. Ideally, a qualified astrologer should set the time of installation.

Worship should be done in the northeast corner of the land.

Before installing the land, it should be cleared. Dirt, stones, holes in the ground, and trash should be removed. Thorny bushes should also be uprooted and removed. The installation should not be done if a woman in the household is more than seven months pregnant. The groundbreaking ceremony for the house should only be done during the Uttarayan period, when the sun is in the northern hemisphere, and when the days are longer than the nights, from June 21 through December 20. Construction should not stop once it begins. Workers should not be unnecessarily pushed to speed up their work; work for the day should stop at sunset. No construction should be done at night. A qualified engineer should always oversee the construction. Building materials should be stored in the southwest corner of the property during construction. The storage area or structure can also be built in the southeast corner, at least 1m (3 ft) from the property boundary. The guard should stay in a house in the southeast corner. Thieves will be a danger if the guard stays in the northwest corner, and the guard should not stay in the southwest corner.

Order of construction: the well, the storage house, and then the boundary wall.

Building Material : Only new bricks, wood, and materials should be used when building a new house. Materials from an old building should not usually be used to build a new one in case those old materials repeat negative incidents that occurred in the old house. There is unhappiness in using old things. If there are old materials available, better to sell them and use the money to buy new materials. Wood from thorny trees should not be used, as it will have a negative effect. Materials that have been stored for a long time should also not be used. Iron grills should only be used when needed.

Well or Water Source: It is advised that the first construction project for the new house is to dig the well. If water is used from this well for the construction, it is auspicious for the family who will live in the house. It is best that the well or water source is on the north or northeast side of the land, or if water comes from the municipality, it should enter from the northeast

side. If you draw a line from the southeast corner to the northeast corner, the well should be to the right or left of the line, not on it. The well can also be in the north or east sides of the property. The well should not be in the northwest or southeast corners, as this is inauspicious. It is especially inauspicious if the well is dug in the southwest corner. It is also inauspicious to have a well in the middle of a house. Wells should be round. Ideally, the well water should be exposed to sunlight for five hours a day. It is not recommended to share wells between two properties. The well should be dug after puja (worship) has been performed on the land at an astrologically auspicious time. This will ensure that the water will be pure. The well should be dug under an auspicious star, such as Rohini, Hasta, Uttara Bhadrpada, Uttara, etc. It should be dug on an auspicious day—a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. The well should be dug during a downward-facing constellation or star, such as, Krittika, Purva Phalguni, Mula, Bharani, Ashlesha, Purva Bhadrpada, or Purvashadha. Water departing from the kitchen and bathroom should flow to the northeast and leave the house from this side.

**Storage Room:** The storage areas should be located in the northwest part of the building, but not in the north or east. The storage room door should not be on the southwest side of the room. Storage cabinets should be located on the west or north sides of the room. Butter, ghee, oil, and cooking gas should be kept in the southeast corner.

**Compound Wall:** The compound wall should be built before the house is constructed. Construction should begin during an auspicious constellation, and on a favorable day—a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. It should also be begun during an auspicious day of the lunar month—Pratipada, Panchami, Shashthi, Dashami, Ekadashi, or Purnima. The compound wall should not be higher than the house, and construction of it should begin on the southwest side. The southwest part of the wall should be higher than the rest of the wall. The walls on the north and east sides should be 53cm (21 inches) shorter than on the west and south sides. If this is not possible, then the north and east sides should be a minimum of 8cm (3 inches) shorter.

**Gate:** Do not set the gate on the south side. It is best that there are two gates to the compound, so evil things entering one gate will exit from the other. Obstructions in front of the main gate: Several types of obstructions before the main gate must be avoided as they give rise to the following problems according to Brahusanhita & Vasturaja Vallabha.

1. Big Tree – obstruction to the progress of children, Gutter, or Ditch – grief,
2. Open well – mental problem,
3. Corner of another building – mental unrest,
4. Water drain – draining of income by unwanted expenses, Straight Street – affecting longevity of inmates,
5. Dilapidated house or walls – affecting prosperity, Staircase railings – sadness,
6. Pillars; Electric and telephone post – affecting females.

These are called Vedha Doshas. But in between the plot and obstacles if there is a public road, these deficiencies are nullified.

Similarly, if the distance between the obstacles and the house is two times the height of the house, these deficiencies will have no effect. For example, if the height of the house is 11 feet and if the obstructions are more than 22 feet away, Vedh Dosha does not occur.

## Vastu for entrance and main door

**Main Door:** The main door of the house should be larger than the other doors entering the house. The main door should have two shutters and open to the inside of the building. Teak is a good material for the entrance door. There should be a door that opens to the next room. A shadow should not fall on the main door. The main door of the house should not be below ground. Neither should the main door be in the center of the house, nor in the extreme corners. If the door is set in the north wall, move it east of center; if it's in the east wall, move it north of center. If it is set in the south wall, it should be moved east of center; if it is in the west wall, move it south of center. Some Vastu authorities say that to figure out where to place a main door, divide the house into nine parts. The door should be in the fourth section of the house from the left-hand side. From the right side of the house, the entrance is in the sixth division from the right.

**Entrance:** It is best that a house has two entrances. The exit door should be smaller than the entrance, and it should have only one shutter. If there are two external doors for the house, they should not be set in a straight line. When one enters the house, there should not be a wall in front of the entrance. Some authorities say that if the house's entrance is in the west wall, it should be centered from the main door of another house. The entrance doors of two houses should not be exactly opposing one another. Neither should two houses share a common entrance. If the entrance of the house is to the south, there should not be a balcony or verandah in front of the door. It is good to set gates to both the property and the entrance to the house on the north or east sides. It is also all right to have the main door on the west wall. It is not advised to have the main entrance on the south side. It is considered auspicious if the entrance to the property and the main door of the house are on the same side. It is not considered good if the main door to the house is on the opposite side to the entrance of the property. There should not be an underground tank, septic tank, or canal under the main entrance. There should not be any abandoned, wrecked buildings in front of the main entrance.

It is good to decorate a house's entrance with pictures or statues of Lakshmi, Ganesh or Kuvera and auspicious signs such as OM or the Swastika. Inauspicious pictures should not be on the door. Doors should have thresholds. Shoes should not be kept in front of the door, but to the side. The door should not be slanted, sliding, or circular.

## Vastu for garden, trees and plants

**Trees & plants:** Plants should be planted during auspicious constellations. It is ideal to plant during the bright half, i.e., close to full moon. Saplings should first be planted in clay pots and only later placed in the ground. This enables them to grow better.

It is always good to grow a Tulasi plant on one's property. Tulasi should be located on the north, northeast, or east sides of the house, or in front of the house. Trees should not be planted directly in front of the house's main entrance. There should be an even number of trees on one's property, not an odd number. Trees should be planted on the south or west sides of the house. Ideally, they should be planted on both these sides rather than on only one side. It is not good to plant a tall tree on the north, northeast, or east sides of a building.

Smaller trees may be planted on the east or north sides, but no trees should be planted in the northeast corner. Tall trees should not be too close to a building as they block the sunlight. A tree's shadow should not fall on the house. Large trees should not be located too near the house as their roots can damage the foundation and compound wall. Also, the roots of large trees absorb sunlight quickly, meaning these positive rays will not be

received by the building. Do not allow tree branches to touch the house. Stone sculptures and rock gardens should be located on the southwest side of the house because they are heavy. Thorny plants should not be planted near the house. Cactus should not be planted at all. Thorny plants other than roses have a negative energy. Ideally all thorny plants should be pulled up and destroyed.

A list of good trees to plant: coconut, neem, betel, sandalwood, lemon, pineapple, bilva, almond, jackfruit, pomegranate, mango, amla, and katha. Banyan and Pipal (Aswatha) are sacred trees; they should usually only be planted near a temple or at a sacred place.

Creepers or other plants should not be grown by using the building or compound wall as support. Creepers should only be grown in a garden, and they should have their own independent supports. If a tree must be removed because it is inauspicious or for other reasons, it should be removed in the months of Magh or Bhadrapada. The day before cutting the tree, worship it and express regret that it must be removed from its rooting. Promise to plant a new tree in its place. Do so within three months. When cutting the tree, it should fall east or north, not south, or west.

## Vastu – Garage and servant quarters

**Outside of Main Building:** It is best if the house is built on the southwest section of the land. Any open space should be to the north and east. Open space on the west side of the land is not good for the family's male members.

It is also good to keep a tulasi plant in the northeast corner. The electric generators should be situated on the southeast section of the plot, not the northeast, which is inauspicious. Loud machinery should not be placed near the house.

If there is to be a swimming pool, waterfalls, or fountains, they should be set to the north, east, or northeast. Gardens, plants, or the lawns should also be set to the north, east, or northeast. Plants should be less than 1m (3 ft) in height. Swings should be to the north or east, and should swing from east to west. Outdoor seats should be placed in the south or west of the open area, and people should face north or east while sitting.

It is considered inauspicious to block the entrance to a house, such as with a tree or telephone pole. If one of these things is more than twice the distance of the house's height away, it will not have any effect. Trash or dirty water should not be kept near a house's entrance (or the entrance to a place of business), and neither should it be kept near the property's entrance. An unclean stream or pool of unclean water should not be located in front of the house. Annexes or outhouses should not be on the north or east sides of the house, and they definitely should not touch the eastern or northern boundary walls.

A garage, building, or servants' quarters built separately from the house should be located to the southeast or northwest of the main house but should not touch any of the boundary walls. Ideally such quarters should not touch the southeast corner, but should be slightly west (without touching the east wall). They should also not touch the northwest corner but

should be slightly south (without touching the north wall). They should be established about 1m (3 ft) from the wall.

**Parking:** Cars should be parked facing east or north. A car should never be parked facing south. If a car is parked facing west or northwest, the owner will spend a long time traveling. The parking lot should be in the northwest corner of the property. It should not be located to the southwest or northeast. Parking can also be located in the basement, on the north or east side. A parking garage should not be connected to the compound wall or the main building. The parking garage should be painted a light color, not a dark color.

## Vastu for bedroom

**Main Bedroom:** The main bedroom should be on the southwest or northwest side of the house. If there is an upper story in the house, the master bedroom should be on this floor, in the southwest corner. Adult married children can also use this room. Younger children, however, should not use it because that will cause trouble in the household. Bedrooms on the northeast side of the house will also cause trouble. The southwest corner of the room should not be vacant. An attached bathroom could be built on the west or north sides of the room. It is best not to keep the safe in a bedroom, but if this is the only place for the safe, it should be located on the south wall, opening north. Avoid keeping the photo, calendar, or idols of any Deities in the bedroom. At night it is advisable to keep a light burning. A night bulb will do. Never keep the bedroom pitch dark

**Children's Bedroom:** The children's bedrooms should be in the northwest or west. The younger children's bedroom can also be on the east side of the house. Newly married couples should not use a bedroom on the east side. Guest bedrooms are best located in the northwest corner, but can also be located in the northeast corner.

**Wall Paints:** Bedroom walls should be painted a light rose, dark blue, dark green, gray, etc. Some authorities say that the walls should not be painted white or a light yellow. The door should be set in the east, west or north, and should ideally be one shutter.

**Sleeping Position:** One should sleep in his own house with his head facing east or south. If one is staying in someone else's house, or while traveling, he should sleep with his head facing west. One should never sleep with his head facing north. Upon rising from bed, the right foot should be placed on the floor first. If one is to study in the bedroom, the east side should be used. The wardrobe should be located on the northwest or southwest side of the bedroom. TV, heaters, and air conditioners should be located in the southeast corner.

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## Vastu for money, safe and valuables

Money, valuables, or a safe should be stored in a room on the north side of the house. This is the side of Kubera, the god of wealth. The door to this room should be facing north or east. The walls should be painted yellow or mustard, because these lead to an increase of wealth. If the safe is large, it can be placed in the south, southwest, or west sides of the house, but it should always be set a few inches from the wall. It should not be in the southwest or southeast corner, and should definitely not be in a northeast corner. The safe should face north and open toward the north or east. It is inauspicious to have a safe opening to the south—this will cause a loss of money. The safe should not be located under any beams. Safes should be installed on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, when the Sun is in the constellations of Dhanishtha, Rohini, Uttara, Swati, Shravan or Punarvasu.

## Vastu dining room

The dining room should be located on the west side of the house, or on the east or north side of the building. If the kitchen is on the ground floor, the dining room should not be on an upper floor but should also be located on the ground floor. The door leading into the dining room should be on the east, north, or west side of the room. It should not have arches. The house's main entrance door should not face the dining room's door. It is best to face east or west while eating. The head of the family should face east during meals. Other members of the family can face east, north, or west, but it is not advisable to face south. The dining table should not be round or oval but either square or rectangular. It should not fold from the wall or be attached to the wall. A sink can be located in the northeast corner of the dining room, or on the north or east sides of the room. No toilets should be attached to the dining room.

## Vastu Toilet and bath room

Bathrooms can be on the west or north west sides of the building, but not on the eastern or north eastern sides. The toilet room should also not be located on the south east, the south west, or in the center of the building. The morning sun falling on the body after bathing is good, so windows should be set in the north or east sides of the room. Ideally, toilets should face south, not east or west (in the direction of the sun). The toilet should be located on the west or northwest side of the room and should be built 30–60cm (1 or 2 feet) above the ground. An attached bathroom should be on the west or northwest side of a room, never on the northeast side. Sinks should be placed on the northeast, north, or east sides of the room. Bathtubs should be located on the northeast, west, or east sides. Bathroom walls should be painted white, sky blue, or another light shade. Do not use black or dark red. Water should leave the bathroom from the east or northeast side. Water should not leave from the southwest or southeast directions. The overhead septic tank should be on the northwest side of the house.

## Vastu Study room or reading room

The library or study should be located on the west side of the building, but should not be located in the corners of the house. When using a library or study, it is best to sit facing east or north. The bookshelves should not be in the northwest or southwest corner. Books should be in the east, north, or west sides of the room. The door should be two-shuttered and should be located in the northeast, north, or west. Windows can be set on the east, north, or west walls. The walls should be painted white, sky blue, cream, or light green. If one will not sleep in the room, a pyramidal shape (walls sloping inward as they go upward towards the ceiling) will help study and meditation.



## Vastu for living or sitting room

The living room should be on the north side of the house. Furniture should be square or rectangular, not round or oval. It is good if the ceiling slopes down toward the northeast direction. The air-conditioner should be in the west, not the southeast. Furniture should mainly be in the west and south section of the room. The walls should be painted white, yellow, green, or blue, never red or black. Depressing paintings should not be placed on the walls.

## Vastu for Pooja room / temple / worship place

Worship should be done in the north east, north, or east sides of the house. It is best that the temple room is in the northeast corner of the house. The worship room should not be to the south. The place of worship should be on the ground floor and not upstairs. The altar should be located on the northeast side of the temple room. The deities or pictures of the deities should either face east or west, and should not face north or south. It is best that the Deities face west and the worshipers face east. The altar should not be set into the wall but should be at least 2.5 cm (an inch) from it. The door to the temple room should have two shutters. Toilets should never be above or below the place of worship.

White, light yellow, or light blue are good colors for a temple room. It is good if the worship room is shaped like a pyramid, sloping inward as it goes upward toward the roof in the four directions.

## Vastu for stairs or staircase stairway

Best to build stairways on the southwest, or if necessary, on the south or west sides of the house. Do not build stairways on the northeast side, as it will cause loss of wealth. The staircase should go up from east to west or north to south. The same stairway that goes to the upper floor should not also go down to the basement.

Stairways should be built with an odd number of stairs—9, 11, or 15 steps, for example. The number of stairs should not end with a zero if you must build an even number—there should not be 10 or 20 steps—because it is best to begin climbing steps with the right foot and also to end the climb on the right foot. This is not possible when there is an even number of stairs. The right foot is equated with gain, the left with loss. Circular stairways are not good. The doorway at the top of the stairway should be at least 20cm (8 inches) lower than the doorway at the bottom of the stairs. Broken stairs should be repaired immediately to avoid accidents. The stairway should be painted a light color. The worship room, safe, or toilet should not be located under a staircase.

## Vastu for basement

Basements should ideally not be built under the entire house. If that is impossible, use only the northeast section. Heavy equipment can be kept on the south and west sides.

It is best that the basement should only be in the northeast side of a house. It can also be located on the east side of the house. It should not, however, be located only on the south, southeast, or west side. The floor of the basement should slope downward towards the northeast. The walls should be at least 3m (9 ft) high. The basement should be painted white but should not be blue. The heater, water heater, or electrical panels should be in the southeast corner of the basement. Since sunrays do not enter basements, this highly reduces the basement's positive effect on the persons living in them. Therefore, a basement should not be used for living as far as possible. Basements are also not good places to conduct business. The basement's effects will be improved if one-fourth of the basement is above ground.

## Vastu for water tank

### Overhead Water Tank

The overhead water tank should be in the southwest (best) or west corners of the building. An overhead water tank should not be located in the northeast or southeast corners, or in the middle of the roof. It is also best that it is not located in the northwest unless the tank is small and is located approximately 1m (2 or 3 ft) from the building's corner. The tank should be elevated at least 1m (2 or 3 ft) above the roof, on a platform.

If possible, the tank should not be made of plastic. If it must be plastic, however, it should either be black or dark blue plastic, because such colors aid the absorption of sunlight. A dark water tank while absorbing sun for heat doesn't encourage microbial growth as quickly as a light-colored tank would do. If possible, there should be different tanks for the kitchen and bathrooms.

## Vastu for first floor and upper floors

It is best that there are more doors and windows on the north and east sides of the building. There should be fewer windows and doors on the upper floors than on the lower ones. It is also said that the number of doors and windows on the upper floor should not equal the number of doors and windows on the ground floor. The ceiling height of the rooms on the upper floor should be less than the ceiling height of the rooms on the ground floor. If only part of the upper floor is used, this part should be built in the southwest area. The balcony should be on the north, east, or northeast side. The balcony should not be in the southwest corner. Bedrooms and studies should be located on the upper floor. A storage area for heavy items should be located on the lower floor, and not the upper.

## Vastu and Griha Pravesh Pooja

Before entering a new house, a pooja ceremony known as Griha Pravesh ceremony should be performed. A good time to enter a new house is in the period of Uttarayan, from June 21 through December 20, in the months of Vaishaka, Shravan, and Margashirsh, in the constellation of Uttara, Magha, Ashwini, Swati, Pushya, and Revati, on an auspicious day. It is good to confirm this time with a qualified astrologer/priest.

Ganesh-puja, Navagraha-puja (worship of the nine planets), and worship of the Vastu purusha should be performed. It is the best to perform Vastu Jag. The residents of the building should then circumambulate the building. Then puja should be done to the threshold.

# Vastu fot balcony, veranda and roof

Balconies, verandahs, and terraces should ideally be built on the north, northeast, or east sides of the house, not on the south or west sides. If a balcony is on the southwest side of a house, it should be covered and closed. The floor or roof over a balcony or terrace should be lower than the floor or roof of the main building. It is best if the verandah's roof is slanted toward the northeast. Tin is a good roofing material for such structures. The verandah's corners should not be rounded, and balconies should not have arches. Flowerpots on the verandah should be small. No creepers should be planted on a verandah. The seats on the verandah should be set on the south or west sides. Shoes can be removed and placed on the verandah. They should not be placed to the northeast.

Roof: The roof of the house should slope towards the northeast and rainwater should flow to the north, east, or northeast direction.

## Vastu and room size

### The size of the rooms

According to the Tamil Manaiyadi shastram (Vastu Sastra), the room size has an impact on the people residing in the house. It is applicable to each and every room in the house. Therefore care should be taken while fixing the length and breadth of every single room because this might adversely affect the person who is living in that room. The good and bad effects of fixing a particular dimension for rooms in the house are given below in a table.

### The room size is in feet

Size	EFFECTS/CONSEQUENCES
6	The resident will lead a peaceful life.
7	The resident will lose all his wealth.
8	The resident will be blessed with great wealth and will enjoy all pleasures.
9	The resident will not only lose all his wealth but will also face insurmountable difficulties.
10	The resident can be assured of at least a square meal a day.

11	The resident will enjoy overall health and wealth.
12	The resident will lose his child.
13	The resident will suffer from incurable diseases.
14	Peace of mind will be lost.
15	A death will occur in the resident's family.
16	The resident will attain great wealth.
17	The resident will defeat his enemies.
18	The house will get destroyed soon.
19	The resident will experience poverty.
20	The resident will lead a happy life.
21	The resident will live with honour and dignity.
22	The resident will defeat his enemies.
23	All evil events will occur in the house.
24	Only moderate benefits can be expected.
25	The resident will lose his wife.
26	Prosperity will rule the house .
27	The resident will become rich.
28	God will bless the resident and his family.
29	The resident will be blessed with all kinds of wealth and material possessions.

30	The resident will be blessed by Goddess Lakshmi, the God of wealth.
31	The resident will experience moderate benefits
32	Lost wealth will be regained.
33	The resident will be blessed with overall prosperity
34	The resident will be forced to vacate the house and live elsewhere.
35	The resident will make a fortune.
36	The resident will be courageous.
37	The resident will be blessed with good children and wealth.
38	The resident will be haunted by a demon at all times.
39	The resident will be blessed with overall prosperity.
40	The resident will lose his possessions because of his enemies.
41	The resident will experience some happy events in his family.
42	The resident will be blessed with all kinds of wealth.
43	The resident will experience difficulties.
44	The resident will become blind.
45	The resident will be blessed with good children.
46	The resident will lose his prosperity.
47	The resident will lose his prosperity and will reside in an evil place.
48	The resident will face danger from fire.
49	The resident will face poverty.
50	The resident will face neither good nor bad times.
51	The resident will have to face unnecessary disputes.
52	The resident will be blessed with good food all his life.
53	The resident will face problems because of women.
54	The resident will incur the wrath of the government.
55	Help from relatives can be expected.
56	The resident will be blessed with children.
57	The resident will not have children.
58	The resident will face a threat to his life.
59	The resident will face financial troubles.
60	The resident will advance in his chosen career.
61	The resident will face unwanted disputes.
62	The resident will face poverty and suffer from diseases.
63	The resident will win in disputes.
64	The resident will prosper and will enjoy all luxuries.
65	The resident will lose his wife.
66	The resident will be blessed with overall prosperity.
67	A devil will enter the house.
68	The resident will unearth a treasure.
69	The resident will face danger from thieves.
70	The resident will become famous.
71	The resident will ascend to higher positions in the government.

72	The resident will prosper and gain knowledge.
73	The resident will have no children.
74	The resident will receive support from the government.
75	The resident will lose his wealth and may die.
76	The resident will face trouble from his relatives.
77	The resident will buy a new vehicle.
78	The resident's daughter will face problems.
79	The resident will be blessed with wealth.
80	The lord of wealth will reside in that house.
81	There is a threat to the owner of the house.
82	Threat from natural calamities.
83	The resident will lose his peace of mind.
84	The resident will live happily.
85	The resident will enjoy all luxuries.
86	The resident will face financial difficulties.
87	The resident will acquire vehicles.
88	The resident will experience overall welfare.
89	The resident will build and acquire more houses.
90	The resident will prosper in all aspects of life.
91	The resident will be very knowledgeable.
92	The resident will become famous ,might win awards and privileges.

93	The resident will be forced to shift his residence.
94	Poverty will rule the house.
95	The resident will become a celebrity.
96	There will be a drastic increase in all expenditures.
97	The resident will prosper in international business.
98	The resident will go abroad and become famous.
99	The resident will be blessed with great fortune.
100	The god of arts and education will reside in that house.
101	The resident will accumulate huge wealth.
102	The resident will get help from friends.
103	The resident will be convicted.
104	The resident will not make profits from his business.
105	The resident's daughter will suffer from disease.
106	The resident will make a fortune.
107	The resident will accumulate huge wealth.
108	God will bless that house and the house and its residents.
109	The resident will be blessed with overall prosperity.
110	The God of wealth will bless the house and its residence.
111	Happy events will occur in the family.
112	The resident will regain lost property.
113	The resident will accumulate wealth.
114	There will be a change of place in the near future.
115	The God of wealth will bless the house.
116	The resident will be well respected in the society.
117	The resident will become wealthier in general.
118	Poverty will rule that house.
119	The resident will accumulate huge wealth
120	The resident will lose his entire wealth.

**Vastu & astrology:** There is a relation between Vastu and the astrological planets. The following chart illustrates this.

Directions	Ruling Planet	Room
North	Mercury	Living (Sitting) room safe
Northeast	Jupiter	Worship room living room
East	Sun	Living room bathing room (no toilet)
Southeast	Venus	Kitchen
South	Mars	Kitchen storeroom
Southwest	Rahu	Master bedroom heavy storage
West	Saturn	Children's bedroom store room study
Northwest	Moon	Guest room bathroom grain storage room