

## An Investigation on Public Opinion on the Use of an Interior Design System that Incorporates Elements of Feng Shui

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper presents the outcomes of a survey pertaining to interest among Malaysians to use a computer-aided interior design system that incorporates elements of feng shui and their views on the functions that the system should provide. Data were collected via a questionnaire survey from 110 respondents from the three major ethnic groups in Malaysia (Malay, Chinese and Indian) with ages ranging from 8 years to 51 years and above. Results show that the majority of Malaysians are aware of the importance of feng shui in their daily life; feng shui in interior design is relatively new to the respondents; ethnic background affects the users' requirements; and there is a demand for a computer-aided interior design system that incorporates elements of feng shui.*

**Key words:** Opinion, Feng Shui, Interior design, Computer-aided system, Malaysians

### INTRODUCTION

Feng shui is applicable to everyone, regardless of race and religion, as an approach to create an ideal living environment. One of the areas in which feng shui is widely applied is in home decoration (interior design) (What is Feng Shui? 2002). Although the philosophy of feng shui is simple, its practice requires an understanding of its fundamentals, access to its various formulae, and sufficient experiences that allow for meaningful and correct interpretations of its guidelines and practices (Too, 1997). These had created a barrier to enthusiasts in the practice of feng shui. For example, to prevent the energy in the home from getting stale, it might be necessary to rearrange the furniture or to renovate the house every year (Too, 2000). Renovating a house is not an easy job because there is no room for trial-and-error, besides needing much time, money as well as energy. The use of a computer-aided system would allow feng shui practitioners to pre-design their home 'virtually' – in a 3D design environment incorporating their design according to feng shui recommendations.

### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

To assess the demand for a computer-aided interior design system that incorporates feng shui practices (in short CA-IDFSP) in Malaysia, it would be necessary to investigate the opinions of Malaysians regarding the functionalities in the system which are most pertinent. Hence, a survey was conducted to collect data from the general public. The survey was conducted from 10-24 August 2004 (two weeks) on Malaysians with ages ranging from