

Bridging Tradition and Sustainability: A Mixed-Method Comparative Study of Vāstu Shastra, Feng Shui, and Sacred Geometry

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The research problem addressed is how various traditional design philosophies, such as Vāstu Shastra in India, Feng Shui in China, along with varied regional applications of sacred geometry, shaped the relationship between architecture and culture. The study uses a comparative analysis, drawing on a literature review of traditional texts and on geometric analysis of spatial ratios and orientations. This study aims to integrate the qualitative approaches, such as oral and written traditions, cultural frameworks, along with quantitative evaluation of geometric patterns, orientation and spatial ratios. Converting the intangible principles into quantifiable variables points out similarities in cardinal orientation, balance, and differences in philosophical contexts shaped by distinct culture and climate. The findings indicate a repeating pattern of orientation and harmony across systems, while spatial philosophies were shaped by cultural and climatic contexts. These systems are observed as contributors to sustainability rather than cultural artefacts. Principles of Vāstu and Feng Shui can be used to align with modern objectives such as energy efficiency, passive design techniques and occupant well-being. Sacred spatial knowledge can function as a resilient design source, both culturally and environmentally responsive when modern metrics are linked with it. In conclusion, traditional and cultural spatial systems, when included in design processes, offer a grounded basis for sustainable architecture, yet their integration is limited today as their adaptation is constrained by culturally specific interpretations, varying user acceptance and the challenges of integrating tradition-based spatial logics into evidence-driven and rapidly evolving contemporary design contexts.

Keywords:

Vāstu Shastra, Feng Shui, Sacred Geometry, Architecture and Culture, Spatial Orientation, Sustainable Design

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