

Embraced by Mountain and Water:
The Feng Shui Arrangement of Cuandixia Village
爨底下山水环抱的风水格局

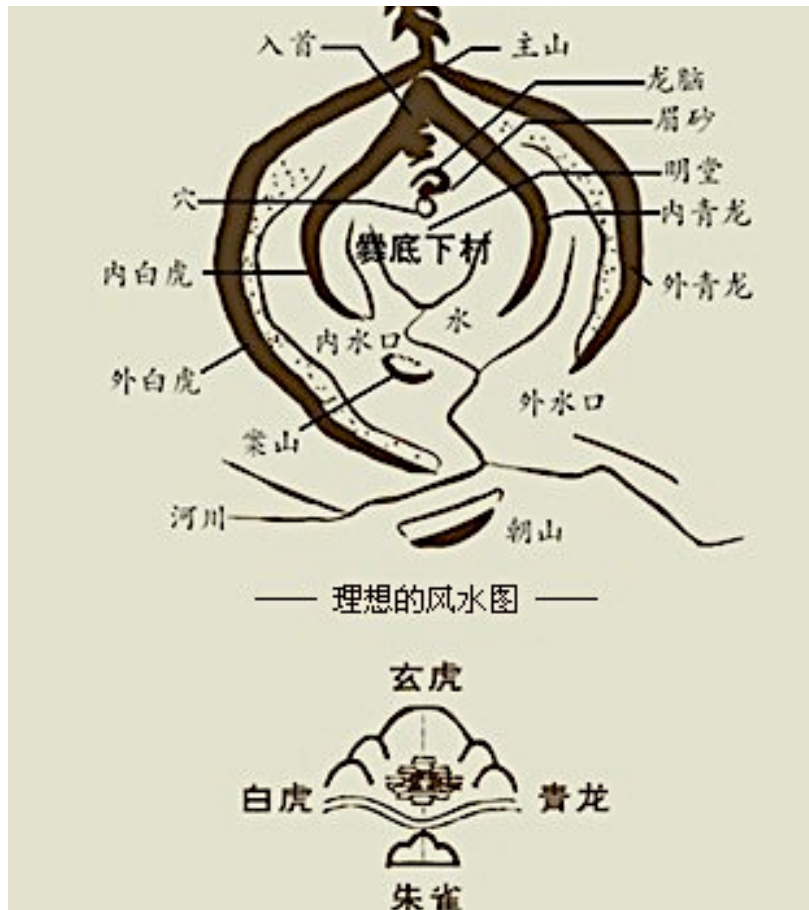




An Ideal Feng Shui Model of Cuandixia Village

Cuandixia Village has all the elements of an ideal Siling model.

(The Four Spirits Sands Arrangement “Sishen Sha” 四神砂局)





From the opposite side, one can see the Dragon's Head Mountain (Longtoushan) coming down onto the village feeding into the Mansion of the Village Head. The Four Mythical Animals (Siling) of Azure Dragon, White Tiger, Black Turtle and Red Bird embraced the village affectionately, with a "Jade Belt" water holding the Qi back (the river has since become a road).



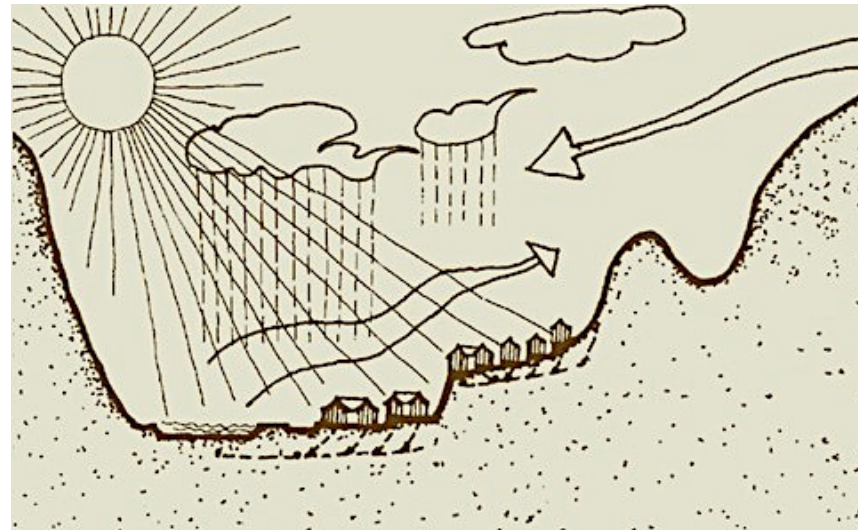
- 01 Tiger Mountain
- 02 Turtle Mountain
- 03 Bat Mountain
- 04 Dragon Head Mountain
- 05 Golden Toad Mountain
- 06 Gold Toad Looking at the Moon
- 07 Door Stop Ridge
- 08 East Water Well
- 09 West Water Well
- 10 Niang Niang Temple
- 11 Guan Gong Temple
- 12 Wu Dao Temple

Map of Cuandixia



Photo supplied by Michele Sayres

The White Tiger to the right can be seen clearly coming down with its head bowed to embrace the village, while the Azure Dragon to the left with its “magical” Turtle and Bat is dancing, They represent the Male and Female Qi of the land.



In this way the village is managed to “Zang Feng Ju Qi” 藏風聚氣 or “to hide from the wind and gather the Qi”.

Dragon Mountain



Turtle Mountain



Bat Mountain

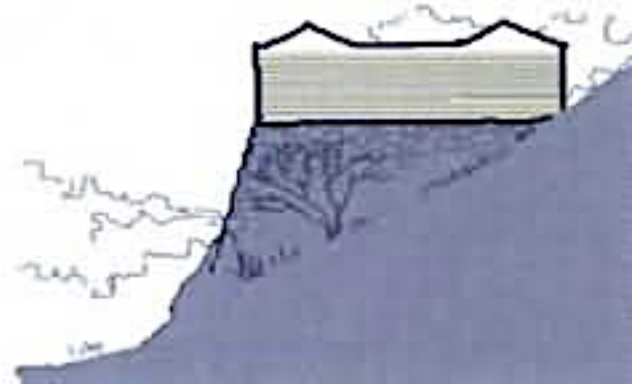
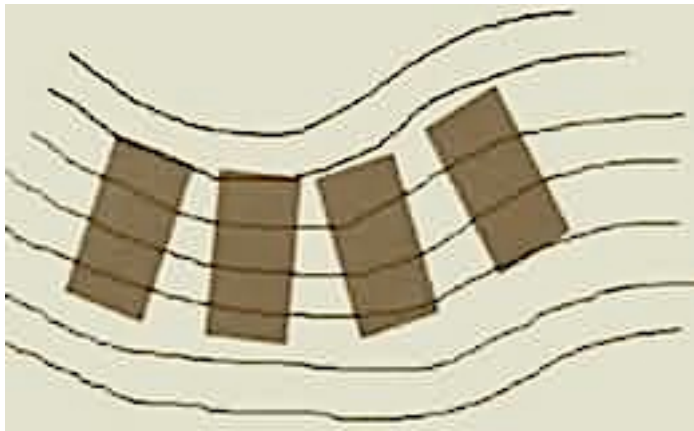
Golden Toad Mountain



Golden Toad Looking at the Moon

To express the affection of the people with the beautiful natural landscape, the land form features surrounding the village are given animated names like “Crouching Tiger”, Black Turtle”, “Auspicious Bat”, Golden Toad” and “Brush Stand” etc.

This is because the traditional Chinese has always viewed Nature as being “alive”, “magical” and “personified”.



Construction of the Courtyard Houses in Cuandixia Village

To respect Nature, all the houses in the village follow the contour of the land stepping down from the high to the low. Instead of excavating into the earth, the courtyard houses are all built on landfill and fan out towards the sun and open space with views.

The road and water course coming into the village is protected by the Nian Niang Temple to one side and Gauandi temple to the other at a higher side.

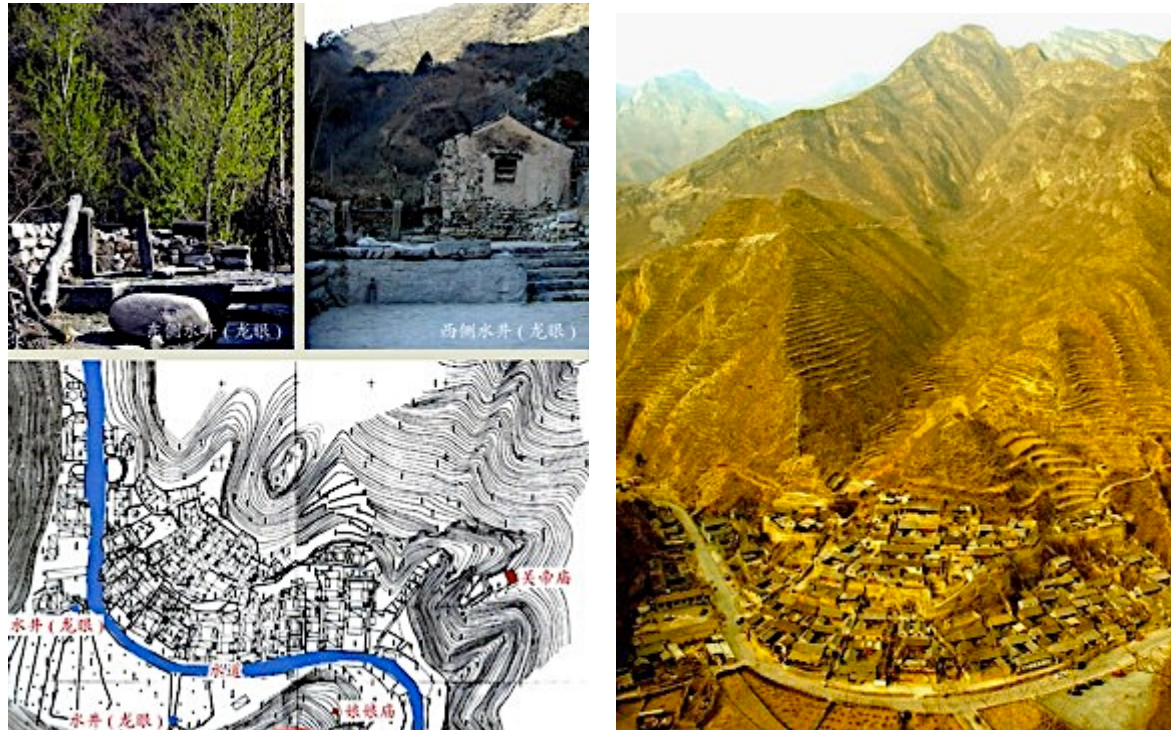
The road winds around Door Stop Ridge



The Location of Religious Buildings in the Cuandixia Village

In keeping with Feng Shui principles, they are located at the “Shui Kou” or “Water Mouth” positions. The “Water” refers to the physical water and also later on the pedestrian movements connecting the village from the outside and also one part of the village to another and the “Mouth” refers to an entry point of this connection from one area to another. In this way the temples and joss house protected the harmful Sha Qi from coming into the village and gathered the Sheng Qi at the same time.

“Dragon Eyes” (wells) to the East and West



“Wrapped by Auspicious Water”

The water coming into the lower side is like a “Jade Belt” wrapping around the village, in Feng Shui terms it is called a “Golden City Embracing” with “gold” referring to the Metal element and “city” referring to gathering of water. Since the wells are located toward the SE of the village, it is considered auspicious in the Xun direction and the Niang Nian Temple on one side and the Guandi Temple on the other side further ‘lock-in’ the auspicious water for the village.



—— 中国宇宙图式 ——

The Chinese Universe



—— 理想的风水格局 ——

An Ideal Feng Shui Model



—— 《葬书》中阴阳两气变化示意图 ——

The transformation of Yin Yang Qi of Heaven (Zang Shu)

The Feng Shui of Cuandixia Village is considered auspicious because the “xing shi” (form and configuration) fits in with the picture of an ideal Feng Shui arrangement with its “Siling” or the Four Mythical Animals. The location of the village is able to take advantage of the transformation of the two Yin Yang Qi of Heaven, namely sunlight and clouds with wind and rain to produce Sheng Qi for the land, there is sunlight, water and protection from cold wind. In recent times, the villagers have prospered from the tourist boom even though it did not survived in farming.