

Pinnacle a Duxton

A Winning Architectural Design that marks a Historic Milestone

A couple of days ago, proud owners of Pinnacle@Duxton started to collect their keys to their prized possession.

I share their excitement and I can't help but to feel elated about this historic milestone in Singapore's housing development, the highest public apartments ever built by the Housing Development Board (HDB).

Pinnacle@Duxton has reinvented public housing in Singapore and given it a new and refreshing outlook.

I'm fortunate to be one of the first Feng Shui practitioners to perform an audit on one of the newly released units on 19 Dec 2009. This has motivated me to write a short article and give my readers an insight to the Feng Shui considerations of this towering estate in the southern part of Singapore.







The majestic facade that stands right before us today is a winning design by ARC Studio Architecture & Co. during the Duxton Plain Public Housing International Architecture Design Competition, which was launched in August 2001.

Given a set of challenging parameters to work with, credit must be awarded to the architects, who strategically and innovatively introduced more than 1800 units to this small plot of land (2.5 hectares). The result, the city has come alive with sky houses that are notably connected by sky gardens with communal open spaces.

The Pinnacle@Duxton is located on the fringe of the Singapore's Central Business District (CBD). It comprises of seven 50-storey towers, with the longest aspect of the site along Cantonment Road facing west.

According to the architects, these towers have been orientated so as to provide as much air and light penetration throughout the entire site as possible, provide as much unobstructed views as possible, provide as little block-to-block facing as possible, as little western-facing blocks as possible and be as open as possible.

The eventual outcome is the meandering positioning of the 7 blocks that, in my opinion, resembles the shape of an agriculture sickle (镰刀).

The façade is inspired by the sense of flowing DNA sequencing with small bits of data that are strung together. Personally, I feel that it somewhat resembles ancient Chinese bamboo book strips (竹筒 / 竹帛) held together by threads, which in this case, are the sky gardens.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

7 BLOCKS OF PINNACLE@DUXTON

RESEMBLES THE SHAPE OF AN AGRICULTURE SICKLE (镰刀)







STREET VIEW

THE TOWERS SOMEWHAT RESEMBLES ANCIENT CHINESE BAMBOO BOOK STRIPS HELD TOGETHER BY THREADS, WHICH IN PINNACLE'S CASE, ARE SKY GARDENS







The façade is inspired by flowing DNA sequencing

So what about the Feng Shui considerations of this hyped up HDB housing project?

Earlier I have mentioned that the meandering positioning of the 7 blocks resembles a farmer's sickle (from the top view).

A sickle is a tool used to harvest the

crops. Harvest is a sign of joy and abundance.





I hope the residents of Pinnacle@Duxton will be able to harvest the fruits of their labour in many years to come.

It would be better if the "sickle" is oriented to face and embrace the business district instead of Everton Park, as it would symbolise "harvesting" and "embracing" the prosperity of the financial hub.

From the front view, Pinnacle@Duxton also resembles ancient Chinese bamboo strips strung together to form book scrolls in the olden days. This symbolises continuing learning in our knowledge-based economy and should serve as a reminder to ourselves to upgrade our skills constantly or risk being irrelevant in our fast-paced society.



Standing in the center of the communal open space that is surrounded by Block A to E, I can appreciate the airiness and brightness at the estate. This is definitely a plus point as we do not want to live in an area where the air is stale and stagnant, and in an environment that is dark and damp. We want to live in an environment that is bright, airy and full of Yang energies (阳气).

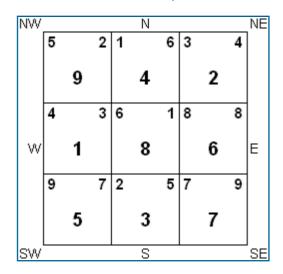
The central communal open space also serves as a "breathing space" for the residents who have to cope with the pulsating heartbeat of our vibrant and dynamic metropolis.

Understanding the Flying Star Birth Chart of Pinnacle@Duxton

All seven blocks face different directions, which mean they also experience different energy influences of the environment. As they are completed in Year 2009/2010, according to Xuan Kong Flying Star Feng Shui (玄空飞星风水学), they are categorised as Age 8 buildings.

I have taken measurements at the site. If we were to take the entire estate as a collective unit, Pinnacle@Duxton is found to sit in the East and face the West direction.

I have also drafted the Flying Star Birth Chart of the estate for your reference:

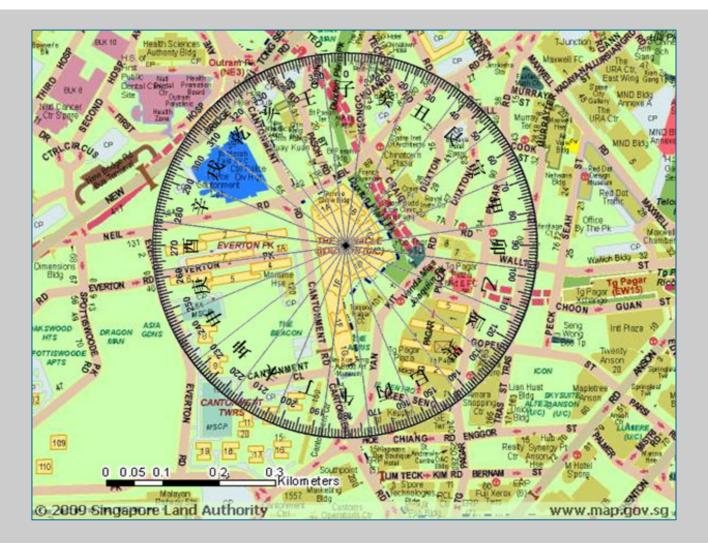


The auspicious Star 8 arrives from the East, although we would have preferred them to be located in the front instead of the back of the estate.

We observe commercial buildings like the Amara Hotel and the Fuji Xerox Towers situated in the Southeastern part of the estate.

Further away in the Southeastern direction, the PSA Tanjong Pagar Terminal, one of the busiest ports in the world, is located there. Busy port activities in the Southeast direction have positive wealth effects on the estate.

Located in the Southwestern direction are the Cantonment Towers. They symbolise "virtual mountains" that bring positive harmonious effects to the residents of the estate. With proper Feng Shui configurations, these positive energies can be harnessed and enhanced.



The drawbacks are in the South and Northwest where we see the commercial building, SouthPoint, and the Central Police Division HQ respectively.

The edges of these buildings will trigger the activation of the negative energies of Star 2 and 5 evident in the Southern and Northwestern directions as shown in the Flying Star Birth Chart. This configuration may result in causing undesirable health issues for the residents. However, by applying effective Feng Shui remedies and cures, these negative effects can be alleviated or even eliminated.

What I have presented is a general analysis of Pinnacle@Duxton. As each individual block faces a different direction and each individual unit has a

different orientation with varying staying occupants, a personalised and detailed Feng Shui audit by a professional practitioner is still required to see how we can harness the auspicious energies to our advantage and dissolve negative ones to avoid misfortune (趋吉避凶).

I hope this article allows my readers to gain an insight and acquire a basic appreciation of the Feng Shui considerations of the highest public housing apartments in Singapore, Pinnacle@Duxton.

I wish all my readers and residents of Pinnacle@Duxton good health, harmony, happiness and prosperity. May we Prosper with Feng Shui and may we strive and achieve the pinnacle in whatever we do.

FENG SHUI AUDIT FOR A CONTEMPORARY HOME BY MASTER LIM ENG CHEONG

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PROSPERTIMES SPECIAL REPORT: FENG SHUI OF PINNACLE@DUXTON Published on 1 January 2010
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