



# APPLIED PRINCIPLES OF INDIAN VASTU IN CONTEMPORARY RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE FOR URBAN AREAS

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## ABSTRACT

*The meaning of traditional Indian Vastu has diminished over time due to misunderstanding and an imperfect knowledge of Vastu's guiding principles and their scientific foundation. For those who believe in Vastu, the purpose of this paper is to shed light on the classical Indian principles of Vastu and their application to contemporary residential architecture practise in urban regions. Consequently, the consequences of vastu principles with regard to characteristics such as Facing, Location, Weight Balance, and Appliances have been described via a variety of approaches for their use in constructing residential structures. In addition, it provides scientific basis for each Vastu principle and its significance in planning the layout, which would provide practical benefits to the occupants and the peer requirements of the spaces. This document might serve as a fast guide for architects to implement vastu principles in residential projects.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Vastu tips, Urban Vastu, Modern Vastu, Applied Principles of Vastu, Vastu in India, Relevance of Vastu in Contemporary Context*

## INTRODUCTION

In the past, it was believed that the traditional Indian Vastu had a significant meaning in the Indian setting, which was totally based on scientific principles and contained logical positivism, which is sometimes misunderstood by the general public. The meaning of following and applying Vastu principles is somewhat propagated as religious or spiritual repercussions and benefits, so that individuals may be unable to violate the regulations and be compelled to make genuine decisions regarding the design of their home. Historically, Formal Architecture services were not available to the general public; priests and astrologers were frequently the ones who preached the concepts of Vastu and helped individuals construct their Residence layout. However, in the present environment, where Formal Architecture services are easily available in urban areas with factual knowledge, people still desire that Vastu principles be included into contemporary architecture. This research is an attempt to adapt these ideas to a contemporary context, with real-world validation based on Climate, Orientation, etc.

## REASONS FOR THE FORMATION OF PRINCIPLES OF VASTU

The old Indian Vastu system was primarily intended to balance the energy of the residence's entire ecosystem with climate-responsive(Pandey, 2020) architecture in order to provide the greatest possible passive(Yadav, 2021) thermal comfort. In addition to balancing thermal comfort for inhabitants, Vastu principles also account for the behaviour of the Earth's Magnetic Field, polar directions, and the Sun's path(Hotwani et al., 2022)from morning to evening. In addition, Vastu is concerned with the practical aspects of Architectural Services and Urban Physical Infrastructure. Vastu also regulates the timing and quantity of daylight entering various spaces.

## NEED OF VASTU FOR CONTEMPORARY CONTEXT

Over a longer period of time, architectural styles have developed in response to shifting necessities, shifting lifestyles, shifting building materials, and, most significantly, rising land prices(Vastu Shastra in Indian Architecture - Home Loan Stories - Kotak Bank, n.d.) that are now out of reach for middle-class families. Not only have land prices but also construction costs increased dramatically. With major developments in construction technology(An Architectural Interpretation Of Vastu Shastra | Habitat Living, n.d.) and urban services, as well as a need for improved health and hygiene, the concept, designs, and objectives have



shifted substantially. In today's fast-paced world, time and money have become the most important factors in metropolises, megalopolises, and tyrannopolises. Consequently, the design of urban houses has also evolved.

Architects face a difficult challenge(Gupta, 2016) in applying the principles(Antara, 2017) of Vastu due to the limited scope and declining sizes of urban dwellings, but they can still accomplish the practical(Is Vastu Shastra Relevant to Architecture of the 21st Century? - RTF, n.d.) benefits by not confining it to the theories of Astronomy and behaviour of the cosmos. With the advancement of mechanical ventilation technologies(Vastu Shastra in the Modern Era - PropertyPistol Blog, n.d.), the meaning of Vastu is now restricted to the directions and placements of various places that include meaningful benefits(SCIENTIFIC VASTU SHASTRA | An Architect Explains, n.d.) in the micro context, but are performed for satisfaction in the macro(Importance Of Vastu Shastra In Modern Architecture - DB Architects, n.d.) context (Astrology).

**PARAMETERS OF VASTU FOR CONTEMPORARY URBAN RESIDENCES**

- With respect to Facing(Chandrakar & Parvez, 2022)
- With respect to Location(Kumar Gupta & Maheshwari, 2020)
- Weight balancing Vastu(Dash & Joshi, 2022)
- With respect to Appliances(Patra, 2017)

**METHODS TO APPLY VASTU IN CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS**

The various methods to apply Vastu in different spaces, which are based on multiple parameters, are shown below:-

**With respect to facing**

<b>Kitchen</b>	<b>Toilet</b>	<b>Bedroom</b>
Hob towards East / North / Northeast side	WC fixture on North or East Side so that Human Facing would be towards South or West	Heads of sleeping people must be towards the east, south, or southwest
<b>Reason</b> – Ample amount of daylight on Hob from East during day Cooking	<b>Reason</b> – Astrological (Better Health)	<b>Reason</b> – North significantly pulls the blood flow towards it because of the presence of Iron in blood in the sleeping position. The high blood flow in the head won't allow deep sleep, causing health issues. Therefore, North must be avoided for the part of the head

<b>Wardrobe</b>	<b>Dining</b>	<b>Worship – Hinduism, Jainism</b>
The door of Wardrobes must open toward North, East, or Northeast	While eating, the face should be towards North or East or Northeast	While worshipping, the Facing must be towards Northeast, North, or East
<b>Reason</b> – Astrological (Fewer expenses on Health issues, more monetary savings)	<b>Reason</b> – Better Daylight on the plate during breakfast and lunch + Astrological (Better digestion and conversion into energy )	<b>Reason</b> – Early Morning first light strikes directly to the deity from behind, making well illumination and sacred—a must requirement for early morning prayer.



**With respect to Location**

<b>Kitchen/Toilet – Composite, Hot &amp; Dry, Warm &amp; Humid Climate</b>	<b>Kitchen/Toilet – Cold and Dry, Cold &amp; Wet Climate</b>	<b>Bedroom – Composite, Hot &amp; Dry, Warm &amp; Humid Climate</b>
locating the Kitchen/Toilet in the Southwest and Southeast zones of the Residence.	locating the Kitchen/Toilet in the Northwest and Northeast Residence zones.	Locating a Bedroom in the Northwest or Northeast zones of the Residence.
<b>Reason</b> – South East and South West are hotter regions of the house, leaving Northeast and Northwest for living spaces like bedrooms, etc.	<b>Reason</b> – Northeast and Northwest are colder regions thus suitable for Kitchen and leaving Southeast and Southwest for maximum penetration of daylight, benefiting in colder regions	<b>Reason</b> – South East and South West are hotter regions of the house, leaving Northeast and Northwest for living spaces like bedrooms, etc.

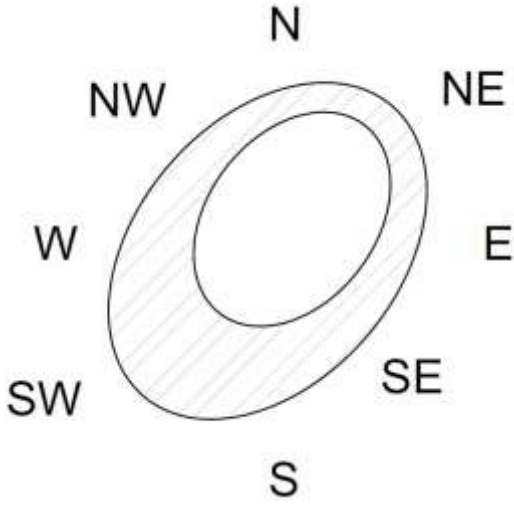
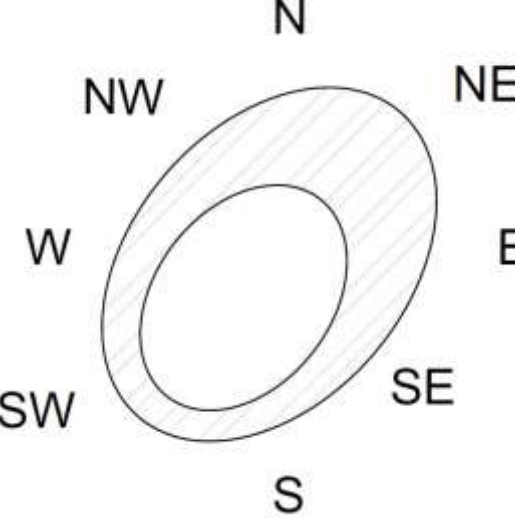
<b>Bedroom – Cold and Dry, Cold &amp; Wet Climate</b>	<b>Store/Staircase - Composite, Hot &amp; Dry, Warm &amp; Humid Climate</b>	<b>Store/Staircase - Cold and Dry, Cold &amp; Wet Climate</b>
Locating Bedroom in Southwest and Southeast zones of Residence.	Locating Store/Staircase everywhere except in the Northeast zone of Residence.	Locating Store/Staircase everywhere except in the Southwest zone of Residence.
<b>Reason</b> – Northeast and Northwest are colder regions thus suitable for Kitchen and leaving Southeast and Southwest for maximum penetration of daylight, benefiting in colder regions	<b>Reason</b> – The northeast zone being a colder region as compared to others, must be utilized for Living spaces and not for storage purposes in a composite climate	<b>Reason</b> – Southwest zone being a Hotter region as compared to others, must be utilized for Living spaces and not for storage purposes in cold climatic conditions

<b>Worshipping – Hinduism, Jainism</b>	<b>Living/Dining Room - Composite, Hot &amp; Dry, Warm &amp; Humid Climate</b>	<b>Living/Dining Room - Cold and Dry, Cold &amp; Wet Climate</b>
Locating place of worshipping at the Northeast corner of the Residence – Ishaan Kon	Locating Living/Dining Room everywhere except in the Southwest zone of Residence.	Locating Living/Dining Room everywhere except in the Northeast zone of Residence.
<b>Reason</b> – Early Morning first light strikes directly to the deity from behind, making well illumination and sacred—a must requirement for early morning prayer.	<b>Reason</b> – Southwest is the harshest in hot & dry and composite, so spaces like living/dining room can be avoided.	<b>Reason</b> – Northeast is the cold zone in cold climatic conditions. Therefore living/dining rooms can be avoided.

<b>Car Porch - Composite, Hot &amp; Dry, Warm &amp; Humid Climate</b>	<b>Car Porch - Cold and Dry, Cold &amp; Wet Climate</b>	<b>Borewell</b>
Southwest and Southeast could be the ideal place for a Car Porch	Northwest and Northeast could be the perfect place for a Car Porch	Locating Borewell pit at North portion of Residence
<b>Reason</b> – Harsh climatic zones for composite and Hot & dry climates could be utilized for Non-living spaces like Car Porch	<b>Reason</b> – Harsh climatic zones for Northwest & Northeast could be utilized for Non-living spaces like Car Porch	<b>Reason</b> – Astrology



**Built Mass balancing Vastu**

Composite, Hot & Dry, Warm & Humid Climate	Cold and Dry, Cold & Wet Climate
	
<p>The heavier side being from east to south to west, the thick mass would benefit as a passive strategy from Harsh Climate as must requirement for Hot Regions</p>	<p>The heavier side being from east to North to west, the thick mass would benefit as a passive strategy from Harsh Climate as must requirement for Cold Regions</p>

**CONCERNING APPLIANCES**

1. Refrigerator – To be placed outside of the Kitchen, because being a 'Cold' product, the balancing of energy of waves in the Kitchen (due to Hob and Gas) is challenging to maintain in Astronomical Context.
2. Television – Not to be placed in the bedroom, creates disharmony between a couple who stays in that bedroom, negative energy to the relationship.

**CONCLUSION**

When it comes to putting the principles of Vastu into practise in urban homes that feature compact and practical floor layouts, there is most definitely space for improvement. The ancient Indian practise of Vastu was developed as a strategy for developing climate-responsive spaces, as well as the practicability for urban services and ventilation, and for achieving a balance of the energy of waves in terms of astronomy. Vastu has been practised in India for thousands of years. However, given the current state of affairs, passive ventilation is neither a problem nor a necessity in certain situations; the strategies (described above) to apply principles in a variety of climates are the product of the collaborative efforts of the colleagues who were involved in this research. Designers in the modern world acquire instruction in such a way that enables them to develop structures that are habitable, functional, and aesthetically pleasing. Additionally, the feelings and good fortune associated with "Vastu" in its original Indian context would continue to exist, at least to some degree.

**Disclaimer by Authors:** These applied principles of Indian Vastu aren't meant to render professional advice or services to any third party. This is to understand traditional Indian Vastu and styles to use in Contemporary Architecture up to the sphere of residential blueprints. We don't accept any responsibility or liability for any losses occasioned to any party because we relied on similar information. We make no representation or bond regarding the delicacy or absoluteness of the data used within this assessment. We shall have no liability for any terms ( expressed or inferred) contained in or for any elision from this exploration.

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