

Fish *Vaastu Shastra*: Way to Peace, Prosperity and Happiness through Aquarium fish keeping

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Abstract

Aquarium fish have been considered symbols of prosperity, abundance, and good fortune across cultures. **Fish *Vaastu Shastra***, an extension of the ancient Indian architectural system *Vaastu Shastra*, emphasizes how aquariums and ornamental fish influence the flow of positive energy (*prana*), emotional well-being, and prosperity. By incorporating the five elements—Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Space—into aquarium design, *Vaastu* principles guide placement, shape, fish types, color, and numerology to enhance harmony and abundance. Ideal locations such as North, North-East, and East maximize auspicious energy, while certain directions like South-West and South-East may cause imbalance. Fish movement, vitality, and carefully chosen color combinations promote emotional balance, wealth, and protective energy. Aligning traditional cosmology with practical aquarium setups, Fish *Vaastu Shastra* provides a framework for creating spaces that foster prosperity, serenity, and positive energy in homes and workplaces.

Keywords: Ornamental fish, Aquarium, Vaastu Shastra, Fish keeping, Aquarium placement

Introduction

In numerous cultural traditions across the globe, fish symbolize prosperity, abundance, and good luck, making them a highly auspicious presence in the home (Qu, 2023). Whether kept in a pot, bowl, or aquarium, fish enliven the atmosphere, enhance visual appeal, and dispel dull, stagnant energy. The term *Vaastu* was originally derived from the root word *vas*, meaning to dwell or a dwelling place. *Vaastu Shastra* thus literally translates to “wisdom of dwelling place”. Fish *Vaastu Shastra* is a traditional belief system that connects the presence of fish—especially in aquariums or ponds—with the flow of positive energy, prosperity, and harmony within a home or workplace (Dagens, 1994). It adapts principles from *Vaastu Shastra*, the ancient Indian architectural science, and applies them to aquatic elements.

Fish *Vaastu Shastra* focuses on how keeping fish—especially in decorative aquariums—

can influence the energy balance (*prana*) of a living space (Evans and McCoy, 1998). Fish movement is believed to activate positive vibrations, improving wealth luck and emotional harmony. By understanding and applying these principles, you can invite the best influences into your home and create a positive environment for yourself and your family. *Vaastu* emphasizes that keeping an aquarium with the right types of fish not only enhances happiness but also attracts prosperity and harmony. Whether you choose live fish or beautifully crafted fish-themed artwork, you can harness the timeless prosperity symbolized by fish to enrich your environment and elevate your daily life. Beyond live fish, strategically placing fish-themed artwork, photographs, sculptures, or decorative artefacts can also activate similar beneficial energies.

Ornamental fishes are colorful living jewels and are considered auspicious because of following reasons

1. Continuous movement = Positive energy flow

The gentle swimming of fish symbolizes uninterrupted growth, circulation of abundance, and removal of stagnation.

2. Absorbing negative energy

Whole traditions believe that fish can absorb negativity or ill vibrations, protecting the residents.

3. Symbol of prosperity in many cultures

In Indian, Chinese (Feng shui), and Buddhist traditions, fish represent wealth, fertility, peace, and good fortune.

Fish *Vaastu Shastra* aligns with the Feng Shui (often pronounced “Fen Shui”) — the ancient Chinese system of harmonizing people with their environment. Feng Shui literally means “Wind and Water.” It is a traditional Chinese practice that teaches how the arrangement of objects and flow of energy (qi/chi) in a space affects prosperity, health, relationships and overall harmony (Mathews, 2019).

Vaastu Shastra and Feng Shui both emphasize harmony through elemental balance. While *Vaastu* aligns Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Space, Feng Shui works with Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water to create a positive and prosperous environment. *Vaastu Shastra* focuses on balancing the **Five Elements**— Earth (Prithvi), Water (Jal), Fire (Agni), Air (Vayu), and Space (Akasha) —to create a positive life environment (Shukla, 1960, Choudhary, 2024). These principles are derived from the distinctive characteristics and influences of natural forces, including the Earth’s magnetic field, gravitational effects, solar radiation (such as ultraviolet and infrared rays), and broader cosmic energies. (Hitoshma Singh, 2011).

The ideal Fish *Vaastu* aquarium will incorporate all 5 elements of *Vaastu Shastra* (Shukla, 1960, Nagar, 2005).

- **Water (Jal)** Water is the core element of any aquarium. Flowing, clean, and clear water promotes: prosperity, serenity, clarity of mind, emotional balance (Fazeli, 2012; Babu, 2001; Sthapati, 1992, 1999)

Moving water keeps the energy (prana) fresh and dynamic, preventing stagnation and inviting abundance into the home or office.

- **Earth (Prithvi):** In an aquarium setup, the earth element is represented by the base, stones, pebbles, gravel, and decorative structures. These elements provide stability, grounding energy, and support.

A well-anchored aquarium creates a sense of balance and steadiness in the space, helping the environment feel secure and harmonious.

- **Fire (Agni):** In aquariums, the fire element is represented through lighting systems, warm-colored fish (reds, yellows, gold's and oranges), the energy created by the pump and aeration. The fire element brings vibrancy, activation, and vitality. Proper aquarium lighting also enhances visual appeal and uplifts the surrounding space.
- **Air (Vayu):** Air plays a vital role through aeration pumps, bubbles, circulation of water, oxygen exchange at the surface. A well-aerated aquarium supports healthy fish, good circulation, and lively movement—keeping the energy of the room fresh and active.
- **Space (Akasha):** The space element refers to the open area around the aquarium, the space inside the tank for fish to swim freely, unobstructed placement in the room. Proper spacing ensures smooth circulation of energy, allowing the aquarium to radiate positivity without causing clutter or energetic blockage.

When an aquarium aligns the five elements—Earth (base), Water (tank water), Fire (light), Air (oxygenation), and Space (open surroundings)—it becomes a powerful *Vaastu* enhancer that brings prosperity, harmony, and vibrant energy into your environment.

Aquarium Placement

As per *Vaastu Shastra* guidelines, both the shape and placement of your aquarium play a key role in maintaining positive energy. If placed in an unsuitable direction, the tank may invite negative chi and weaken the harmony of the space (Choudhary, 2024).

According to *Vaastu* principles:

- North-East (*Ishan*) is the most auspicious — enhances positive energy, abundance, and clarity (Dagens, 1994; Babu, 2001). It is the meeting point of two highly auspicious directions: **North** – governed by Lord Kubera (wealth) and the

East – governed by Lord Indra (power & growth). Together, they form **Ishan**, associated with **Lord Shiva** and spiritual energy.

- North (*Uttar*) supports career growth and financial flow as direction is considered one of the most auspicious and powerful zones. It is governed by Lord Kubera, the deity of wealth, and associated with the planet Mercury (Budh)—symbolizing intelligence, communication, business, and financial clarity (Babu, 2001).
- East (*Purva*) improves health, harmony, and social relationships. It is governed by Lord Indra, the deity of power, abundance, and blessings, and is influenced by the rising sun, which symbolizes fresh energy, positivity, and renewal (Dagens, 1994; Acharya, 1933–1946). (table 1).

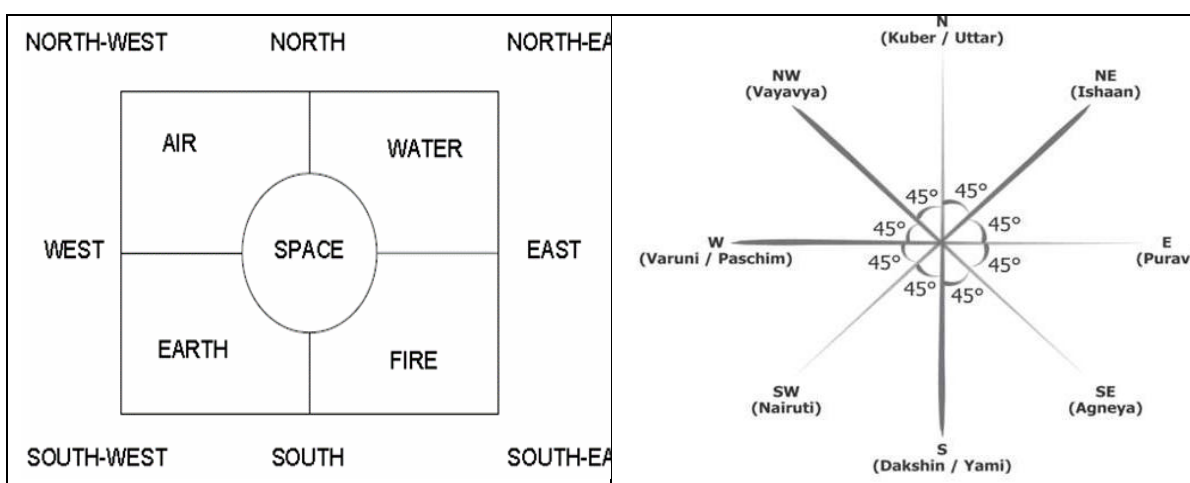


Fig. 1. The arrangement of five elements (*Panch mahabhoot*) of *Vaastu shastra* and the eight cardinal directions governing Lord (Source; www.vedicvaastu.com adapted from Choudhary, 2024)

Avoid the below mentioned directions:

- **South-East (*Agneya*)**: fire element conflicts with water
- **South-West (*Nairitya*)** : may cause instability and stress
- **Bedroom**: disturbs sleep, considered inauspicious
- **Kitchen**: Water in the kitchen clashes with the dominant fire element.
- **Under a Staircase**: Leads to suppressed or stagnant energy.
- **Directly opposite main door**: Energy disperses too quickly instead of circulating inside the home.

Table 1. *Vaastu* table for Aquarium Placement

Direction	<i>Vaastu</i> Name	Meaning & Energy	Aquarium Placement Guidance
North	<i>Uttar</i>	Governs career, income, and opportunities	Highly auspicious. Enhances financial flow and professional growth.

Direction	Vaastu Name	Meaning & Energy	Aquarium Placement Guidance
North-East	<i>Ishan</i>	Spirituality, clarity, wisdom	Good if minimalistic. Avoid overly large tanks; keep energy light and pure.
East	<i>Purva</i>	Health, vitality, social connections	Favorable. Supports harmony, positivity, and wellbeing.
South-East	<i>Agneya</i>	Fire zone, wealth activation	Acceptable with caution. Too much water may weaken Fire; keep a small tank only.
South	<i>Dakshin</i>	Fame, recognition	Not recommended. Water here may disrupt Fire energy.
South-West	<i>Nairutya</i>	Stability, relationships	Avoid placing an aquarium here. May cause financial or emotional instability.
West	<i>Paschim</i>	Gains, fulfillment	Moderately suitable. Enhances steady progress if kept small and well-maintained.

Aquarium shape

The most auspicious and highly recommended shape for an aquarium according to *Vaastu Shastra* is rectangular. This shape signifies stability, growth, and continuity, making it ideal for maintaining a harmonious flow of energy (*Prana*) within the space. A rectangular aquarium also helps keep the water element balanced, which is essential for attracting prosperity and positive vibrations.

A square-shaped aquarium is also considered good, though slightly less preferred than the rectangular form. The square shape symbolizes balance and groundedness, supporting a steady and calm environment.

On the other hand, round, circular, triangular, hexagonal, or irregularly shaped aquariums should be avoided. Such shapes can disrupt energy flow and may lead to imbalance. Tanks with sharp edges or too many angles are believed to stimulate stress-inducing energy (*tejas*), which is not conducive to harmony or well-being.

Ideal fish types recommended in Vaastu

Any type of fish for your *Vaastu* aquarium as long as they are kept healthy, active, and well-cared for, as their vitality directly influences the positive energy they generate. Traditionally, in Chinese Feng Shui, the Arowana is regarded as the most powerful and auspicious fish for attracting wealth, prosperity, and good fortune. However, in regions such as Australia, Arowana fish are not available due to regulations. Even so, aquariums can still attract abundant positive energy by housing the second most popular and widely accepted good luck fish — the Goldfish (Sharma M, 2024). When kept in clean water and in the correct setup, Goldfish are believed to promote wealth, harmony, and prosperity.

- **Arowana (Dragon Fish)** – Considered the most powerful good luck fish for attracting wealth, abundance, and high status. Symbolizes strength, opportunity, and financial breakthroughs. Traditionally kept by leaders, business owners, and entrepreneurs.
- **Goldfish** – The second most auspicious fish after Arowana. Represents wealth, positivity, harmony, and smooth life flow. Easy to maintain, making it suitable for homes and offices
- **Black Moor goldfish** – Absorbs negative energy and offers emotional protection. Often kept alongside colourful fish for energetic balance.
- **Koi carp** – Symbolizes determination, long life, courage, and victory over obstacles. Encourages personal and professional growth.
- **Guppies** — Their active movement promotes **liveliness, creativity, and new beginnings**. Symbolize **growth, fertility, joy and expansion**.
- **Angelfish** — Represents **elegance, calmness, beauty and harmony**. Good for promoting serenity at home.
- **Tetras (Neon/Cardinal)** — Symbolize **unity, companionship, and smooth communication**. Recommended for family rooms and relationship zones.

Fish colours and their significance in *Vaastu* aquariums

The **colour of the fish** selected plays an important role in enhancing the positive energy of a *Vaastu*-compliant aquarium. **Bright colours** such as **red, yellow, and blue** help promote strong, vibrant **energy (*prana*)** and contribute to prosperity, happiness, and overall harmony within the space (table 2).

Darker-coloured fish, particularly **black**, can also be beneficial when used in the correct proportion. Black fish are considered protective and help absorb negative energy, but they should **always be accompanied by a greater number of gold-coloured fish**. Balanced combinations such as **2 gold + 1 black or 8 gold + 1 black** are traditionally preferred. Many variations are possible, as long as the **majority of fish are bright, auspicious colours**.

Care should be taken to **follow the recommended numerical guidelines**, as both colour and quantity together influence the flow of energy and the overall effectiveness of the aquarium in *Vaastu Shastra* .

Table 2. Colour-based symbolism

Colour	Symbolism
Gold/Yellow	Wealth, abundance, success
Red/Orange	Good luck, vitality, fame

Colour	Symbolism
Black	Protection, stability, grounding
White	Purity, clarity of mind
Blue	Peace, healing, emotional balance
Multi-coloured	Diversity, opportunities, joyful energy

Numerology and Number of Fish

In *Vaastu Shastra*, the **number of fish** in an aquarium plays a significant role in influencing the flow of positive energy (Prana) and prosperity. While Feng Shui has its own numeric rules, *Vaastu* focuses more on **balance, harmony**, and the **energetic effect** of specific numbers (table 3).

Table 3. Numerology & Number of Fish (*Vaastu* Table)

Number of Fish	<i>Vaastu</i> Meaning / Symbolism	Recommendation
1	Focus, purity, independent energy flow	Good for small bowls
2	Balance, harmony, stability in relationships	Good
3	Growth, expansion, upward movement	Very good for small tanks
7	Spiritual upliftment, calmness, emotional peace	Good for calm spaces
8	Progress, prosperity, success	Very auspicious, especially with 1 black fish
9	Completeness, long-lasting prosperity, continuous positive flow	Most auspicious (8 gold + 1 black)
18 (2×9)	Expansion of prosperity, doubled positive cycle	Excellent for large tanks
27 (3×9)	Strongest prosperity cycle, high-energy abundance	Best for very large tanks
4	Associated with stagnation, imbalance	Avoid
5, 11, 13 (random odd numbers)	Unstable, chaotic combinations	Avoid unless part of 9-based cycle

Water Quality & *Vaastu*

Clean, flowing, aerated water symbolizes clarity of mind, financial stability, emotional balance and smooth life progress. Dirty or stagnant water is considered inauspicious, as it symbolizes blocked progress and health issues. Keep the water crystal clear to generate good luck and abundance. If you have less than perfect water the bad

water “energy” (chi) will be sent out into the room and attach itself to those around it, bringing bad luck.

Summary

Aquatic *Vaastu Shastra* blends traditional symbolism with environmental well-being. The five elements—Earth (tank base), Water (aquarium water), Fire (lighting), Air (aeration/oxygenation) and Space (open surroundings)—act as powerful *Vaastu* enhancers. It emphasizes proper placement, clean water, and auspicious fish species to attract wealth, positive energy, and harmony. The ideal location of the aquarium, along with the right number and color of fish and the maintenance of good water quality, should be thoughtfully planned to ensure good luck, steady energy flow, prosperity, and balanced harmony within the home.

#No classical *Vaastu* scripture gives rules *specifically* for aquariums, but the concept is derived from broader principles on *water elements*. **Aquarium-related beliefs evolved by applying these water-element rules to modern homes.**

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