

Feng Shui and Healing Architecture

A.T. Mann

It is one thing to understand the theory of Feng Shui, but if we follow the advice of some practitioners, our houses are likely to end up looking like a Chinese restaurant, festooned with bamboo flutes, gaudily painted mirrors, and who knows what else. The challenge is to integrate Feng Shui principles into a vision of architecture, design, and interior design that reflects our personal taste and spiritual path.

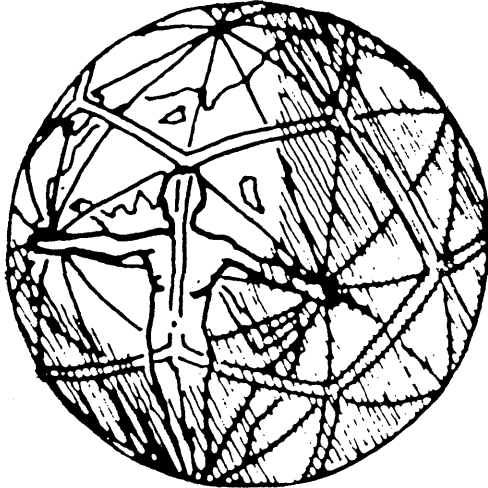
The Chinese based the art and science of orienting and siting buildings upon the workings of mysterious earth forces which were known as Feng Shui, literally *wind and water*. The earth is criss-crossed with energy lines that affect and are affected by virtually all geographical and topographical phenomena. This means that we are affected by our environment, and we in turn modify our environment by what we do within it.

We can better understand this concept of Feng Shui by viewing the parallel system of Chinese medicine and healing. It is based upon interplay and balance between the twelve energy channels, the acupuncture meridians which travel through the physical body. Meridians carry vital energy and information along specific routes and distribute them by various loci and internal organs connected to external outlets. Hundreds of acupuncture points lie along the meridians. Similarly in Feng Shui, there are forces in the earth and those carried by the wind which are connected and can be modified.

Every earthly and bodily energy channel contains both yin/passive and yang/active components. For health and good fortune, it is essential to have a balance of the two; yin/yang energies are never separated because everything contains both in some proportion. The idea of the Chinese life philosophy, as manifested in the I Ching, is the interplay between these two dancing energies, and both architecture and healing are popular and necessary grounds for their interaction.

134 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

The cosmic currents are collectively called Chi, the same term which describes life energy pulsing through the body.



The earth currents or energies can be seen as the acupuncture meridians of the Great Mother, who in turn created the polarities.¹

Feng Shui is a form of geomancy or geographical divination which utilizes principles such as astrology as well as psychic and physical phenomena to determine whether the location, form, and orientation of a building or monument is auspicious or inauspicious. Like Chinese medicine, it has both diagnostic and therapeutic forms. Buildings which utilize the natural elements of the land and tap into its energy are healthy, auspicious places to live, work, or bury the dead, while places that are antagonistic to these energies are unhealthy and inauspicious.

Water and Mountains

In Feng Shui there are two primary natural forms which must be respected and utilized, water and mountains. In the analogy of the Tao, water carries the yang or active principle and mountains carry the passive or yin principle: water nourishes and hills separate.

The interaction and intrinsic harmony of water and mountains are essential for the proper site selection of buildings.

¹

Please refer to "Energy Systems and Feng Shui," p. 275.

Water is the essence of life and is critical for its processes. The potency of the landscape is determined by the flow of the water. Its clarity shows the positive qualities of the Chi it carries through the land, like an abundance of pure blood circulating through a healthy body. If the water flow is too straight or excessive, the land is susceptible to flooding and should be subdued or avoided. The land could have a heart attack!

Flow, location, depth, purity, and strength of bodies of water are used in evaluating the correct location for a building. Water flows from above to below, and building orientation can go with or against this underground movement. Dowsers know that if houses or other buildings are sited above such watercourses, it is an indicator of ill health and disruptive energy for the location. The electromagnetic currents generated by running water can disrupt the human energy field. Because water originates in mountains or hills and flows down, buildings must respect their relationship with the mountains and hills within their view.



Mountains are intersections of earth and heaven, and as such, they dispense energy to the surrounding land. Early geomancers likened the mountains, which meandered across the spectacular landscape of China, to dragons which carried power and influence, for good or evil, over the wealth and happiness of inhabitants of the land. If the landscape dragons remained happy, then the people living with and around them prospered. If the dragons were aroused by ignorance, insensitivity, or maltreatment, they brought the inhabitants illness and poverty, if not outright destruction. While this description might seem superstitious and mythic, I believe it is an absolutely correct view, which we should regard highly indeed.

**The powerful dragons guarding the land need
plenty of clear water to drink.**

136 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

All natural shapes in the landscape have meaning to the Chinese and correspond to the animal qualities which they reflect; a particular pinnacle might be a tiger's ear, while a benign mountain might be a protective watch dog. The determination of direction and the site either utilize these forces or antagonize them. They not only affect the luck of the inhabitants, but they determine the prosperity and health of everyone living within their realm of influence. It is common sense to be sensitive to and respect the earth energies, but this is rarely the case.

The veins and meridians of the landscape run down hillsides and across valley sides, criss-crossing to create energetic nodes of activity. Certain places tap into beneficial Chi, while others are devoid of it and lead their inhabitants to stagnation. Proper siting taps the Chi at the points where it is closest to the surface. Such places can be easily identified by lush foliage, strong trees, rich soil, and healthy, and prosperous inhabitants. Flat valleys, areas without nearby flowing water, or places where the topography is too violent, which could signify a dragon's mouth or lashing tail, are to be avoided. They bring bad luck and ill health for inhabitants.

For most of us these principles ring true, but they are extremely difficult to apply to *real* situations. And it is quite rare for an architect knowing these principles to have the opportunity to utilize them in an entire site and in buildings on that site. I have been lucky to have had this chance.

The Perfect Project

I started my architectural education expecting to be initiated into an ancient, magical tradition which utilized shape, volume, and movement through time to enhance the environment and humanity. It was quite surprising and disturbing to realize that such knowledge was not a part of modern architectural education. I discovered that architects tended to resist self-knowledge in favor of self assertion. The only magical quality they desired was to make money and achieve fame.

Thus I began a very long and frustrating journey in search of meaning, which has now lasted some thirty years. I have discovered that there are ancient traditions, which are still very much alive that carry the mystery, magic, and spirituality I sought. I have investigated the cathedral schools,

Feng Shui and Healing Architecture

Egyptian religion and architecture, Indian thought and its manifestations in sacred architecture, Buddhist temples and Islamic mosques, megalithic monuments, memory theatres, and others. In every case, I looked for the underlying logic and feeling inherent in certain buildings and monuments which we all know and love: Stonehenge, the great cathedrals, the Taj Mahal, the stupas of the Indian subcontinent, and many others.

I became an amateur dowser, following energy channels through the landscape and also through the human body. I learned radionics, a healing technique which works with patterns for diagnosis and healing the *subtle body*. For 25 years, my primary occupation has been professional astrologer, working with patterns in both space and time.

Then, ten years ago, I began studying and using Feng Shui. Of all the arcane arts of the East, Feng Shui is the most universal. It ties together, like Ariadne's thread, astrology, orientation, healing, earth energies, the ancestors, geometry, pattern, colour, time, and their spiritual interactions. Throughout all the years and spiritual pursuits, I never lost track of my original love, the sacred in architecture; Feng Shui was a way for me to bring the sacred back into architecture.

In 1993, I was fortunate to be chosen to design a house for a lovely, spiritual couple in Denmark. It was a wonderful project that beautifully illustrates the universal appeal and application of Feng Shui.

This couple was extremely active and committed to co-housing, recycling, and alternative forms of energy. They wanted to implement a type of land use called *permaculture*, where the land is formed to attract animals, winds, the sun for warmth, natural water for irrigation, and many other obvious and sensible concepts. I realized that my work would entail enabling them to integrate their spiritual and ecological consciousness within a place to live. It was an inspiring project.

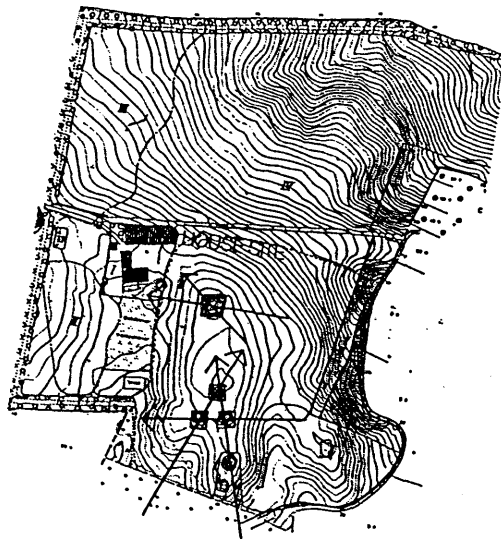
The land they had purchased in western Denmark had been called The World University since the 1960's; it was the place where Yoko and John Lennon learned meditation from the Marishi Mahesh Yogi. They wished to create an ecological co-housing project called Gaia Fjordvang (the earth goddess' place on the fjord), which would enable them "to live

138 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

more lightly on the earth and in harmony with nature.” In addition to a house for themselves, they wanted many co-housing units spread around the large piece of land, interspersed with permaculture farming projects, natural crafts, kitchen gardens, animal shelters, and so forth.

My friends had made a list, which they dowsed to see which of the designers or designs were ideally suited for the project. Unfortunately, the dowsing pendulum refused to select any of the projects or architects. In a sudden act of intuition, they included my name at the end of the list, and the pendulum automatically selected me. So even the selection process, about which I knew nothing, supported the ideas I had been working with for so many years.

Although brave and futuristic in concept, the property had seen its ups and downs; the previous Swedish owner had experienced many years of financial insecurity and bad health. Upon visiting the huge site (L-shaped, about 700 m x 400 m), I discovered it to be a natural for Feng Shui techniques for a number of important reasons.



The existing building was a large classic Danish farmhouse composed of two wings (L-shaped like the land) that faced down a hill, sloping towards the fjord.

Because an L-shaped building² is irregular and shows incompleteness of some kind, I knew that the new house, which had by law to be quite close to the existing building, would have to remedy some of the existing problems. I realized that the financial and health problems experienced by the previous owner were inherent in the L-shaped building and site.

² Please refer to “Outdoor Feng Shui,” p. 155.

Denmark contains more megalithic earthworks than any other country in Europe, and my friends were fortunate to have a series of seven megalithic burial mounds, approximately five thousand years old, stepping across the property. As the Chinese revere their ancestors and particularly their burial places, this would immediately cast great seriousness and importance on the way the site was to be used.

The site contained much water already: a stream, the fjord below, a disused well, a pipe for municipal water supply, and the clients intended to recycle site water and to create some ponds on the land.

The Feng Shui Analysis

In my early interactions with the clients, I spent some time investigating the site and not only dowsed on-site by walking around searching for earth energies, ley lines, and watercourses, but also rechecked my findings by map-dowsing the site. There was no doubt that the site was a powerful energy node and as such needed to be treated very carefully. To me, it was a bit like working with a large crystal, which contains powerful healing energies but is also a considerable force, which requires great understanding and skill on the part of its owners. My analysis of the site follows; some of the insights described here came through advice from my friend, astrologer, and Feng Shui practitioner Angel Thompson.³

The site has good Feng Shui, due to the land sloping towards the water to the southeast and because the buildings can face the south and its views. The site is shielded from the prevailing westerly winds by a line of trees. From the proposed house site the views are good and the existing building blocks the detrimental western setting sun.

Ponds near a house (which is a condition of the clients) are good in general, provided they are not too close. When ponds are close, there must be circuitous paths to them to disperse the Chi. The fjord below the property is in a wonderful position, being to the south and east, within

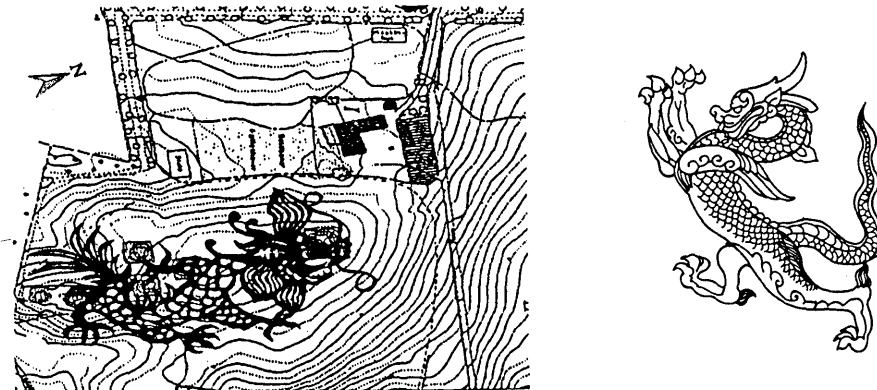
³ Please see Angel Thompson's article "The Power of Chi," p. 49.

140 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

view of the house, but not too close. The well is a serious problem. Blocked, disused, or poorly maintained wells may become *reservoirs of sorrow and bitterness* or sources of health problems or financial decline. This may explain why the previous owner experienced such financial and health problems. The well should be neutralized, either by making it operable again or by planting above and around it.

The neolithic burial mounds are aspects of a Venus Dragon and must be treated with extreme care and caution. Disturbing them would disperse negative energies to all those living on or near the site.

According to the School of Forms, the mounds represent the humps of the dragon living under the ground, with the head of the dragon, the largest mound, closest to the house site, and the tail leading away to the south.



The best approach may be to echo the form of the mounds in the house in some way, such as a curved or semi-circular end towards the east, a dome or curved roof in that direction, or some other such solution to befriend the powerful forces of the dead on the site.

According to the School of the Compass, there are two possible orientations for the front entrance, which will determine the overall character of the house. If the north entrance, through the line of trees is used, it would correspond to the water element *kan*,⁴ the moon, and Winter.⁵ If the entrance from the proposed private garden to the northwest is used, it will correspond to *tui*, the elements water and fire, the lake, and

⁴ These directions and trigrams refer to the Bagua locations.

⁵ Please refer to "The Bagua," p. 35.

Autumn. A main entrance through a line of trees is not good Feng Shui, and kan is more difficult and less benign than tui (wisdom and social interaction), which are qualities most valuable to the clients. The best solution is a formal entrance from the northwest garden, with a secondary or back entrance from the north through the row of trees.

The access road, which extends along the north side of the trees to the house, should have a curved, circular ending or a turnaround, as straight roads which end abruptly create difficult Chi.

The Design

The preliminary design I submitted to the clients reflected their architectural needs and also satisfied as many of the Feng Shui conditions as I could within the limited scope of the house project itself.

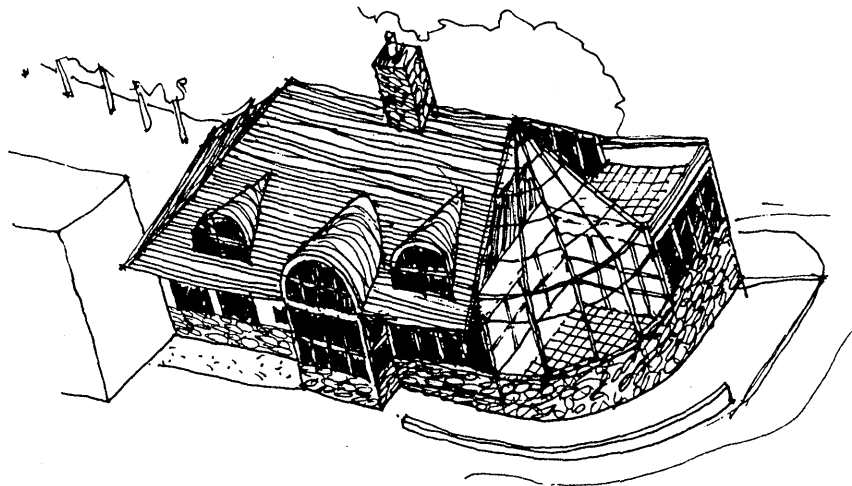
The house was to blend into the environment by having structural walls made of stone found on the site. The site sloped some three meters from back to front so that there would be substantial walls facing the fjord. I felt the part of the house facing the *mouth of the dragon* should both echo the form of the mounds and also reflect and disperse their substantial energies from entering the house.

It was natural that the clients wanted to be able to see the beautiful mounds from the house. I therefore designed the bulk of the house with a pitched, thatched roof, which softened the roof line as seen from the rest of the site. In the corner of the house, towards the mouth of the dragon, I made a full height glass conservatory which functioned as a heat collection and retention space for the passive solar heating the building possessed. The corner towards the mouth was curved in a semicircle of glass. Above the curved windows, the glass met at an apex, creating a crystal form exactly facing the dragon's head. This would both reflect the dragon's form and also reflect the low light coming from the detrimental western setting sun, while allowing the clients to see both the mounds and the sunset. From a distance, this side of the house would look like a brilliant crystal embedded within the stonewalled, thatched-roofed farmhouse typical of the area.

142 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

Epilogue

My clients were thrilled with the preliminary design I presented, yet there were complications. The site was in a rural conservation area of Denmark, and it was extremely difficult to get planning permission to build co-housing units on the property. My clients also had a teenage son who missed his friends and school from Copenhagen. The resistance of the planning authorities and their son's unsettled state convinced my clients to postpone building the house and move back to Copenhagen. As they intended to keep the property, I insisted that they open the well. I explained that as owners of the site, they were taking on the energies of the Venus dragons, which astrologically govern finances and health.



My clients owned an extremely successful international investment/currency trading firm whose fortunes had been decreasing during the time the project was being developed. After they moved back to Copenhagen, they had the well redug and reopened. Almost instantly, they received the planning permission, which had been a formidable barrier to further development, and the money markets took a signal upturn which has continued to this day. In addition, the relief of having the flow of their lives return by the combination of these decisions provided them with a new and fresh outlook, which they had been lacking for many months.

While one could say that these reversals would have happened anyway, they gave me a great and secure understanding of the mysterious ways in which Feng Shui works to balance our world.

Excerpted from
The Feng Shui Anthology

Jami Lin's
Feng-Shui-Interior Design

Visit JamiLin.com

Internationally renowned Feng Shui Master and
best-selling author shares
the most effective teachings from all traditions!

The most effective & powerful, do-it-yourself Feng Shui advise in the world.

1• 800 • EarthDesign

In *The Feng Shui Anthology*, when the **Bagua** is discussed, **only the Life-Aspiration Energies are mentioned** (except in Derek Walter's article.). **To work with the Bagua and to maximize your Feng Shui with the information of all the masters, you must include your 8) Best Directions and 9) Flying Star Energies.**

My step-by-step [Home Study Mastery Program](#)
(With its ★★★★★ "[Hidden Treasure Just Found](#)" review!)
will REVEAL ALL SECRETS!

Followig the process will teach you all
the must-know energies and to
apply them to your maximum benefit!

Check out [Home Study Mastery Program](#) and [Listen About It!](#)

**Because YOU are now on your Feng Shui journey,
I made it really easy for you to personally benefit with my experience.**

- Schedule your private, **“by-the-Minute Consultation:”**
the BEST way learn and be 100% sure You are on the right track!
- Join our monthly **LIVE Q&A chat**, included FREE with
Mastery Membership and take advantage of all the mastery offerings!
- Read Jami Lin’s **Internationally-Acclaimed books**.