



Coming Full Circle

Mary Buckley

The beauty of the world, which is so soon to perish, has two edges, one of laughter, one of anguish, cutting the heart asunder.

Virginia Woolf

My father was my first Feng Shui teacher. He would say things like, “Don’t forget to plant a few white flowers in your garden; you’ll see why when you do it,” or “Have you ever noticed that the most colorful things in nature, like sunsets, and butterflies, or soap bubbles, have the shortest life? And things that last a long time, like rocks or wood grain, have a much less flashy kind of beauty?”

He was the first person to teach me, long before I had ever heard about Feng Shui, to pay attention to tiny details in the garden and woods, to notice subtle nuances in music or books, and to learn from things by noticing how they made me feel. It was a sort of meditative habit I learned from him. And it serves me well now. Feng Shui calls on us to notice how the subtlest elements of people’s surroundings affect them: the sound quality in the room, the arrangement of colors, the air and light, the shapes and textures. As a sensitive gardener, nature lover, and philosophy professor, I suspect my father knew of this too.



He died about a year ago. I was fortunate to spend time sitting with him in his hospital room, doing anything that seemed helpful to make his transition easier.

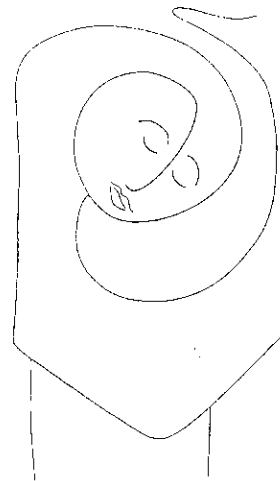
414 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

I arrived with a lot of ideas and a few tools: a copy of The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying and our old Pentecostal hymn book filled with songs we had sung together. I brought photos of my daughters and stories of their latest adventures. I had quite a collection of questions I had always meant to ask him about his life, our family background, and so many of his feelings, actions, and choices that I had never understood

I came with my knowledge of Chinese medicine, Feng Shui, acupuncture, massage, and subtle energy work. I brought a few sacred objects and Feng Shui baubles to brighten the room, adjust the energy, and make his experience more comfortable.

As it turned out, he did not want acupuncture massage. He tolerated an occasional foot rub, but he was not really interested in being touched. He did not want to sing or be sung to. He did not even want to be read to. He ignored my attempts to brighten the room, and our family history was the last subject he wanted to discuss.

It was then I realized that my study and work with Feng Shui had been geared to creating an atmosphere to make people feel *more alive*. I had never been taught how to help someone become *less alive*. My father became my teacher once again. I gradually abandoned my crusade to brighten his existence, as I realized what he needed most was a silent witness to his death.



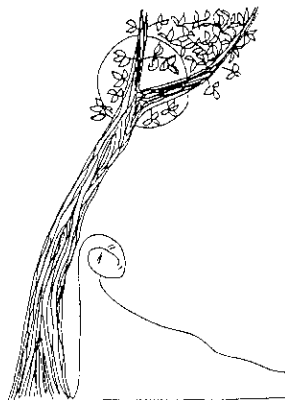
There were helpful things to be done: feeding him, shaving him, rolling him over, and holding his hand. But more than anything else, he just wanted me or one of my sisters to stay in the room with him, keeping him company as he slept or spoke about dying. He wanted someone to listen quietly when he said, "I'm dying, you know," instead of cheerfully dismissing it as a joke, or an old man's morbidity.

He seemed to know exactly what he needed, and it was much simpler and much more difficult than I could have imagined. I had to let go of all my urges to help him, to draw him out, or to create an enlivening atmosphere that

all my training had taught me. I found myself inventing a kind of *negative* Feng Shui, a way of aiding my father by not interfering, as he progressively shut out the world and pulled his focus inward.

He gradually divorced his senses from this world; I realized that he was gathering energy for the impending burst needed for his transition. A sense of overwhelming awe overtook me as I watched him choosing death. He slowly opened himself to death as a desirable aim for his life, as something to be embraced as a natural extension of life.

My father fixed me with an extraordinary gaze at times, supernaturally steady and brimming with so much love and feeling that I could hardly bear to hold it for any length of time. My oldest sister said, "That alone was worth making the trip." I agreed. At the end of a week, I had to return to my home, my work, and my children. I said good-bye to him and told him I would be leaving the next day. He said a simple good-bye and told me he loved me. A few hours later he died, quietly.



For weeks afterward I traveled through my life with an exquisite sense of what it feels like to be alive.¹

¹ *With Mary's permission, I changed the title from "Death Bed Feng Shui" to "Coming Full Circle." Celebrating the joy of living is what life is all about, and Feng Shui is a proven path to manifest life's fruit. As our own cycle comes to a close, I myself want no regrets, no hesitation. I want to say that I experienced everything I could in the best and nicest way I knew how. And, most importantly, that I did it with my heart and with my eyes wide open. I want to be sure that I had a great time!*

Can we "start over" right now.....

416 Contemporary Earth Design: A Feng Shui Anthology

I tasted food and felt textures with an incredible depth and sensitivity. Light looked different. I felt I had received the gift of appreciating the simple fact of being alive from someone who had chosen to forgo it. The sadness caught up with me only later.

I no longer tell my Feng Shui students that brightening up a room will improve it or that engaging more of the senses and representing all the five elements will make a place more habitable.

I tell them to pay attention to the unique realities of a person's life situation, to respect whatever presents itself, to stay flexible and receptive, to notice and honor their intuitive sense of what is appropriate, regardless of the rules.



I tell them that Feng Shui is something they will always be learning, and they will be making it up as they go along. Teachers and books will never really have the last word.

Graphics: Courtesy of J. Ruth Gendler, PO Box 10153, Berkeley, CA 94709 ph: 510-525-7853.

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

Learn more about Feng Shui and Aromatherapy TODAY!

SPECIAL



Only \$43.00

Call NOW: 1-800-EarthDesign
or email: site@JamiLin.com

Feng Shui & Aromatherapy

- 7) Signature Chakra/Bagua Essential Oil Sprays
- The Essence of Feng Shui: Balancing your Body, Home & Life with Fragrance
combines FS, Chakras & Aromatherapy

\$53.00 Value: Limited Time Only!

[more on Feng Shui & Aromatherapy](#)

**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!
- Learn from [Home Study Mastery Program](#)
(With its [★★★★ “Hidden Treasure” review!](#))
- Receive Essential Feng Shui Advise Customized to You and
Your Home with [Personal Success Map!](#)
- 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.](#)