

# Feng Shui comes to town

A recent visitor to an open house commented that there was incredible feng shui in the kitchen. Having attended one too many Led Zeppelin concerts at the venerable Municipal Auditorium, my hearing is not what it used to be and the term feng shui did not register. I wondered what it could be.

After checking my shoes to insure that I had not stepped in the shui, I wandered into the kitchen to see if the homeowner was perhaps a gourmet who had galloped into China culinary school.

When a third person mentioned feng shui, I consulted with Andy Lee, the owner of Chinatown Restaurant, and knower of all things Chinese. He quickly pointed to the two bird statues which adorn his front window. Chinese décor? No. Tis feng shui (pronounced "fung schway").

It seems in the parking lot in front of Chinatown there are three telephone poles. Andy feels the poles symbolize knives that can stab him in the heart, robbing him of happiness and wealth. Andy has the birds in the window to combat these knives. One cannot argue with his rationale, for many businesses in the same area have folded their unfeng tents while he has prospered there for years.

Feng shui translates into "wind and water" and is an ancient Chinese art of placement or energy flow. The energy that feng shui harnesses is known as chi, as in Chi Chi Rodriguez. Mary Shurtleff, a feng shui guru from Draper, Utah, feels that "chi must flow unobstructed within a home to produce a happy, healthy environment."

Most Realtors despise clutter.

## COMMENTARY



**Richard Courtney**

Clutter can shrink a room more quickly than a king size waterbed. Little did you know, Realtors are shuists, of the feng variety.

Clutter, according to the wise, creates negative chi and impedes the flow of the positive energy.

The only things worse than clutter are sharp angles. These are referred to as "poison arrows," which will poison the energy, unless of course, they are neutralized.

If the décor is sharp and pointy, buy some round leaved plants — maybe even a Buddha — and place them in front of the angles. That should do the trick.

All houses have a floor plan. In order to incorporate feng shui into the home, a Ba Gua must be implemented. The Ba Gua incorporates the Eight Aspirations, which are career, self-knowledge, family, abundance, fame, integrity, creativity and benefactor. At the center are health and good fortune. If the Ba Gua improperly or disproportionately planned, the lives of the inhabitants will be out of kilter.

According to Shurtleff, Feng Shui is similar to acupuncture inasmuch as if an organ is being overworked; the pins are inserted to slow the rate. If, however, an organ is dormant, the pins provide stimulus.

The same goes for feng shui,

but to the layperson, shui seems less painful.

The yin and yang principles are included in feng shui. A person would want the bedroom to be on the yin side, that is, no mirrors, soft colors, perhaps some running water to slow the energy. The yang requires more energy for the family room and kitchen so that the inhabitants are not morphed into couch potatoes.

Andy Lee, who by the way makes a great moo goo gai pan when he is not espousing his views on feng shui, notes that a person should not purchase a home at the end of a cul-de-sac. The wealth will follow the road around the cul-de-sac and into the home of a neighbor.

This art form is not only helpful in selling real estate. Shurtleff met with a woman who had never been able to maintain an intimate relationship.

This woman had a painting full of thorny plants — poison arrows, if you will. Shurtleff had the woman remove the painting and a relationship quickly followed. Never mind that the woman had a face lift, body enhancement and won the lottery. Just kidding.

If you yearn for more yin or yang or feng or shui, feel free to e-mail Ms. Shurtleff: [Mary@designwisdom-fengshui.com](mailto:Mary@designwisdom-fengshui.com). If you would like a great Chinese meal and a personal lecture, Andy Lee stands ready and able at Chinatown Restaurant in Green Hills. **CP**

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