

The Feng Shui Pittsburgh Newsletter

**Spring Issue
2008**

What is... "Feng Shui" - Really?

Volume 1 Issue 6

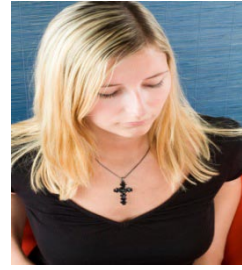
...brought to you by ***Feng Shui Consulting & Design of Greater Pittsburgh***
and ***The Feng School of Pittsburgh***

***Feng Shui is an Art and a Science, that has been practiced
for.... thousands of years in the Far East.***

The practice of Feng Shui began as an understanding that our environment impacts our entire life.

The goal of Feng Shui was to balance everything that impacts our senses both consciously, subconsciously and instinctually. This is the pure essence of Feng Shui.

Feng Shui is not a type of magic, superstition or a religion, it is really very good common sense. It is an integral part of many accepted arts and sciences. What has happened though over the years since its migration to the Western world, it has been morphed, misunderstood and misinterpreted. I believe some of this has happened because symbols are used in every realm of life - including superstitions and religions.



"THE LUCKY RABBITS FOOT" "A FOUR LEAF CLOVER" " RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS"

To practice Feng Shui, the basic principles need to be known, otherwise it is worthless.

When we read a book on Feng Shui or consult with a practitioner, we need to understand the WHY of Feng Shui. Unfortunately many books do not explain the WHY and practitioners do not tell us either.

It is not possible for the majority of us to embrace and accept something we do not understand. Remember for the Chinese the use of Feng Shui is something that has been around for thousands of years - Generation after generation! Yet, for our Western world the practice of Feng Shui is new and has been twisted and morphed by its various presentations into our society. So it is no wonder why Feng Shui is either viewed as a new wonder drug or snake oil!

I tell my clients that their space does not have to look like a Chinese Restaurant in order to practice Feng Shui – unless that is the style they like. But, this is true. The placement of a gold Buddha in your home will only make a difference in your life if you are invested in the symbolism and you like the looks of a gold Buddha!



"Please take them away!"

As a practitioner, I feel badly for clients, who have through reading certain books or have worked with a practitioner of Feng Shui, and are not getting the results they were promised or expected. Much of this can be attributed to the understanding the client has of what the INTENTION/SYMBOL is about and how ultimately it relates to THEM.

The Chinese have symbols that have for a very long time, had specific meanings. The fish is a good example. The fish for the Chinese means abundance, it has been ingrained in the society and is accepted as such. The people of the Western world view a fish as either a pet or a dinner selection. Also, remember the Chinese is a fairly specific society build on thousands of years of tradition. We westerners are newbie's – we are the society that blends many different cultures. We are “The Melting Pot”. Our generational beliefs can be quite varied. So, for some of us a token symbol of abundance can be evoked by a lush flower arrangement, a painting or the like. Now that does not exclude that many of us can learn to fully accept that fish mean abundance, but it must be accepted not only consciously, but also subconsciously.

REMINDS YOU OF.....



DINNER?

OR



ABUNDANCE?

A Western version of practicing Feng Shui can be related to accepted phrases in our society like “Attitude is Everything”, “Seeing is Believing”, “First We Shape Our World, Then Our World Shapes Us”, “To Succeed We Must First Believe We Can” are a few examples.

Did you know that our subconscious makes up 95% of our mind sets? Our five senses provoke both the conscious and subconscious mind. This is where as human beings symbols are universal tools to access our mindsets. A rose to most of us is a symbols or love, it evokes memories of pleasing smells, yet the placement of roses in your home, whether real or artificial, yet for some individuals the first thought that is provoked by seeing a rose is their allergies!

REMINDS YOU OF...



LOVE?

OR



A SNEEZING FIT!

Because symbolism is a universal tool to help acquire true balance in our lives – we need to be aware – especially as free thinking Westerners the impact a certain symbol evokes for us or a members of our family that shares the same space with us.

This is where the planting of intention is talked about by true Feng Shui books and Practitioners.

In my Newsletter from January I spoke about the planting of intention. This not silly mambo jumbo – it is the same thing you do when you pray, when you daydream or dream about how you want something to happen – it is all the same psychology.

We use Feng Shui practitioners (and Feng Shui books), to help guide us to accomplish what we believe (or may yet not be aware of) is unbalanced in our lives.

***Since, Feng Shui is new to our Western society and
“Buyer Beware” is a natural response!***

If you follow this link - <http://www.fengshuiconsultingsite.com/QUESTIONSTOASK.html>

This article can help you on how to choose a Feng Shui practitioner or a Feng Shui book

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Q: I want to have a Feng Shui practitioner to our house, but my husband thinks it is a waste of money. I have read several books on Feng Shui and want to learn more. I thought about just having a practitioner come in when my husband was not home, but I really think this is something that would benefit both of us. I am not sure what to do.

Ann P.



A: What you are expressing is something I often observe. Many times women are more inclined to learn more about Feng Shui and the benefits. Women usually have a tendency to work not only from information, but from instinct. Men usually tend to be more logical and pragmatic. It is the “Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus” thing many times. Also, I have saved your question for this edition of the newsletter, because I knew it would help to have some material that both male and females could hopefully relate to. I suggest you ask your husband to read this newsletter and also explain to him why it is important to you. When a practitioner does a consultation is always best that the adults of the family be present. Since this is not always possible, this is why a practitioner (should) give you a written report. The report is not only for your reference, but also information you can pass to a members of the household, that were not present for the consultation. Another factor I have seen is that the wife has a consultation and the husband comes to understand - as he becomes aware of changes that are happening. Of course, the full impact of the changes are the most profound when an individual is completely open to embracing and investing themselves in something new and understand what can be gained from it.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Even if you do not have an abundance of landscaping, take advantage of this time of year to by bringing the Chi from your own yard into your home.



You will be amazed at the beauty and serenity even a container filled with tree branches can give you!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRACTICE OF FENG SHUI IN RELATIONSHIP TO YOUR WORLD NOW!

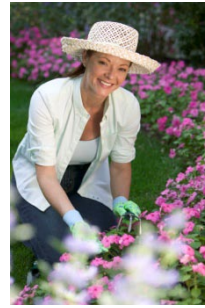
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OUR 2008 NEWSLETTERS



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Namaste,
Susan Merkner
Certified Master Feng Shui Practitioner

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