Recovering the Sense and Essence of Place: The Eastern Practice of Feng Shui and its Role in Western Architecture

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Abstract
The aim of this thesis is to understand, identify and test the fundamental qualities of feng shui so as to examine its applicability and relevance in western architectural design practice. While the word "feng shui" has gained popularity and even acceptance in North America during the last number of decades, its principles are not well understood or integrated in contemporary western architectural practice. This stands in strong contrast to eastern cities such as Hong Kong where very few structures are built without consulting a feng shui expert. Indeed, feng shui has a long history of contributing to the shaping of Chinese culture, where it is a practice that has influenced the form and planning of Chinese cities, palaces, villages and cemeteries alike. Critical to the practice of feng shui is the understanding of its roots, which reach deep into traditional Chinese observations about nature that are at once profoundly spiritual and practical.

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Studying Feng Shui, and Taoism, the Chinese health system or the basic secrets of wealth among Chinese business people filled me and continues to fill me with trust. I don’t really know why, but it is a fact. I trust it because deep down in myself I know it’s true. Both rediscovering and recovering is facilitated through the. 22 what is feng shui? study and the practice of Feng Shui, one of the most powerful sciences about nature’s energy system and our harmonious living in accordance with cosmic energies. Feng Shui is not mental or intellectual. It is from a source that is beyond thinking. During its existence several Feng Shui schools have been established that practice quite different approaches using different techniques. Feng-shui practitioners figured out early on that going on a pilgrimage or searching out places of energy was not the only way to go. They discovered that sacred places were powerful not in some. Our own homes, the places where we work and live, can also be tuned or adjusted in terms of their flow and pooling of Qi. Kan-Yu The earliest form of feng-shui in its more modern form was called Kan-Yu, and dates from the Han dynasty, which existed from 250 BC to 25 BC, and made use of some kind of geomantic-astrological instrument, perhaps an early form of what is now called the “lo pan,” the circular wheel used today by most feng-shui practitioners.