

TRIP TO RAROTONGA

I have just returned from a trip to Rarotonga, my first. It was a great visit and spurred a lot of thought on my part as to the longer term impact of changing the feng shui of whole communities of people.

Such was the case in the late 1800's in Rarotonga when, with the arrival of Christian missionaries, the populace were forced, literally at the point of a gun to relocate from their villages. The Rarotongan Maori who had long before, determined they were safer and better off living in the interior of the island and thus avoiding the disastrous effects of cyclonic storms and high tides that rip into the island from time to time. Nature had taught them what feng shui masters in China also knew, that sheltered valleys are safer places to live than coastal shelves, exposed as they are to the vagaries of the oceans.

Then along came the missionaries. Craving to ensure the *natives* went to church regularly, abided by the newly imposed Christian codes of dress and conduct and otherwise generally fell into line, it was deemed that they must be brought down to the coastal rim where these strictures could be enforced.

Of course what was never taken into consideration by the well intentioned, were the longer terms effects of changing the physical environment in which the people were living. So strong are the feng shui factors at work along the narrow coastal shelf that one is seldom out of the sound of the surf pounding on the reef. In deed so powerful are the tides slamming into the reef that one can often actually observe the buildings actually vibrate with their violence. Such disturbance is never good for the Mountain factors at work in Flying Stars feng shui and it is difficult to counter this kind of effect.

Furthermore, the reef has been blasted open to allow slightly bigger ships into the port at Avarua. Unfortunately, this has meant there is no sea wall and limits the use of the port and damages the feng shui overall.

I was asked many times to comment on the so called 'Chinese' courthouse at the centre of Avarua. Its been termed the 'Chinese' courthouse because China has been offering what they term *soft* or very low interest rate loans to many small countries in the Pacific. However, sadly, there have been issues with the suitability of the materials and style of architecture used in the building. Some have made an association between the courthouse having been funded by a

Chinese soft loan and it's having been constructed with feng shui principles in its design.

Although I had no chance to make a real assessment of this building, it would at least on a cursory inspection, appear to have been built with an *attempt* to maximise the surrounding feng shui. There are several clues that tend to indicate this. The U shape of its footprint – what the landscape does not provide for well, can in cases like this be strengthened by architecture. The three wings of a U shaped building put back into the environment, the three land forms of protective Turtle to rear, masculine Dragon to left and feminine Tiger to right that might otherwise be missing.

Another is its close proximity to one of the streams that run down to the coast. Of the two streams in Avarua, this is the only one which actually appears to hug the township, the courthouse in particular. The course of the stream turns slightly away and then back towards the edifice as it flows along the building's east side. This embracing is mirrored on the west by a street which also turns and comes to the front of the building. At this juncture both river and road encompass the courthouse, enveloping it in other words like two arms of a joining river. We then find the Avarua War Memorial acting precisely like a plug slightly to the left. This is usually called a *footstool*.

Unfortunately, however, as the view below shows, the same river then runs directly out to sea with a break in the reef straight out from the door of the courthouse with a ramp leading right down to the water. This is likely to cause a significant dissipation of chi and with it a loss of funds from the building. One would not necessarily expect a courthouse to be a major source of revenue for the community but it ought not to be a significant cause for outlay on a permanent basis. As for the matter of the quality and suitability or otherwise of the materials used in its construction; as I have already commented to the Cook Islands News, this is not a feng shui matter but one of due diligence in any building by those responsible for its commissioning and oversight.

I have just had my website: www.fengshui88.co.nz revamped and you will find a full article on my thoughts on Rarotonga's feng shui there for any of you who may be interested in checking it out. Go to the **Articles** Section.



Avarua Courthouse:

U shaped building with wrap around stream and side-street with War Memorial as Plug. But everything leads to the break in the reef and open water directly in front of the building's mouth.

A PLACE TO REPENT

The tired or lustful business man will find here everything to gratify his desires. You can buy an electric razor, or a French dinner, or a well-cut suit. You can dance at the Tower Restaurant on the roof of the Cathay Hotel, and gossip with Freddy Kaufmann, its charming manager, about the European aristocracy, or pre-Hitler Berlin. You can attend race-meetings baseball games football matches. You can see the latest American films. If you want girls or boys, you can have them, at all prices, in the bath-houses and the brothels. If you want opium you can smoke it in the best company, served on a tray, like afternoon tea. Good wine is difficult in this climate, but there is whisky and gin to float a fleet of battleships. The jeweller and the antique dealer await your orders, and their charges will make you imagine yourself back on Fifth Avenue or in Bond Street. Finally, if you ever repent, there are churches and chapels of all denominations.

Christopher Isherwood in "Journey to a War", 1939 with W.H. Auden writing on Shanghai

A RETURN OF THE 'TROUBLES' :

All too tragically, there appears to have been a return of the *troubles* to Northern Ireland, where it had seemed until earlier this year at least, the peace process was working. The prosperity of recent years had been a cause for celebration and it seemed the trauma of the past could finally be laid to rest.

The long and bitter tragedy of the English occupation of the Emerald Isle's north eastern corner is beyond the confines of this article but a number of people have been asking me about the 'Troubles' and why they have returned now. To answer the question, we need

first to have an understanding of one of the most basic concepts in classical feng shui and one that is still often considered to be the most secret! This concept is that of the Mountain Spirit or the Mountain Dragon. (There are differing ways of expressing the concept but they all refer to the same thing.) Mountains in feng shui are a reference to the Yin principle of stillness, quiet and to Human Harmony – those things which support our daily lives: relationships, health and our overall well-being. Therefore it is important whenever we consider the feng shui of any location, be it a building or a place that we should take into consideration the effect of the mountains that may or may not be in the vicinity. When considering the longer term prospects of any given twenty year Period (the current Period as you all know is called the Period of **8**, due to the number **8** currently being at the centre of the Time/Space grid we use in classical feng shui), we need to consider the direction in which the number **5** falls in the nine square chart.

Wherever the **5** falls, there should be water to that direction. To its opposite direction there needs to be mountains and a large expanse of land mass. When this is not the case, it is said the Mountain Spirit has fallen into water. The Mountain Spirit's falling into water indicates trouble for the people living in that specific region. (*This can be an entire country or city.*) Generally speaking there is likely to be a rise in epidemics of debilitating illnesses, a decrease in the population density and just 'trouble' for the people living there.

An examination of a map of Northern Ireland shows us that the city of Belfast is in the Northeast of the Emerald Isle and has directly to the Northeast. This puts the Mountain Spirit into water for the period of **8**. Thus we can expect to see an increase in trouble for the population living in such a location, a falling demographic, social unrest. Conversely, the Southwest, the direction of the **5** which requires there to be water, has only the land border with the Republic of Ireland. This indicates the economy of Northern Ireland will also suffer during this period.

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