

Travel Updates

Recently, my work has taken me afar. Mid June I went to Thailand again for a client. Much of the work was done out of Bangkok and centred around large industrial estates. The work is fascinating but complex and keeps me stimulated. A side trip to Bangkok's famous Chinatown provided much entertainment and there were signs of feng shui being practiced at street level, almost everywhere throughout the district. Other's who run hotels had asked for help and that too provided further absorbing insights into of Bangkok's innate feng shui.



Note the Ba Gua beside the door on the left and meant to deflect the sha qi from a nearby street light.

A second, albeit all too short a trip, to New Caledonia allowed me to catch-up with other clients there, and to explore yet more of the staggeringly beautiful West Coast. We went as far north as Bourail. My friends Andre and Marie-Anne were kind enough to arrange for us to stop and have a very tasty lunch at a delightful restaurant up in the hills behind Bourail, and a night at the Sheraton Resort at Deva. A real treat. I was very spoilt. Thanks guys! We had time for a side trip to the New Zealand WWII cemetery in Bourail as well. The cemetery is somewhere I had long wished to visit and though it is small, it is immaculately maintained and in a truly magnificent setting.

We just had time to call into Fort Teremba too but that must wait for a longer trip for a more detailed visit. Yet another reason to return to this tropical paradise! Far too few Kiwis seem to understand what a delightful holiday destination this very French little

Pacific Island is, and so close. Only two and a half hours flying from Auckland! Aircalin do from time to time to have truly excellent specials, which mean that New Caledonia does not have to be as expensive as it so often is depicted, and the food is just Fab!



The atmospheric Fort Teremba, Moindu, West Coast, New Caledonia. One half expects a corp of the French Foreign Legion to come marching out!



NZ WWII Cemetery - Bourail, New Caledonia.

Quote:

'If you want something you have never had, then you must do something you have never done.' Unknown

Better Home and Gardens run feng shui survey: Fortune.com, recently reported on a survey run by Better Homes and Gardens, looking at the influence feng shui is having on real estate markets in the USA. The results are fascinating. 'Of those surveyed, 79% of Chinese-American home buyers said they would pay more for a house that followed feng shui standards; while three-quarters of Chinese Americans said they could see feng shui deal-breakers, such as a

house's location at the end of a dead-end street. Other feng shui buyer turnoffs included homes that have the front door and rear doors aligned. A bed placed in the "death position" — that is, with the foot of the bed directly aimed at the door, perceived to be one of the biggest taboos. Of those surveyed, 41% indicated this would detract them from buying the home right away. Respondents said they would pay an average of 16% more for a home that followed feng shui principles.' The same article reported that, 'Some home sellers can benefit from adopting some of the principles when staging their house, and that information has been offered from the likes of HGTV, and a cottage industry of feng shui experts has sprung up, offering their services.'

'However, luxury housing developers have also taken the cue and are including feng shui elements in their amenities and floor plans. The Grand at View Sky Parc, a condominium development in Queens, New York features a rooftop park, integrating the feng shui elements of water, wood, fire, earth, and metal. The entrances were situated to counter negative energies, and stones, plants, water and wood were placed strategically as well, with geometric forms creating layers of space. And feng shui has even moved on up to the highest end of real estate. Developers of the waterfront Ritz-Carlton Residences in Miami Beach, which will be priced from \$2 million to \$40 million, flew in a Hong Kong feng shui expert to work with the architect on incorporating feng shui principles.'

From this one might be forgiven for asking whether feng shui, in all its many disguises in the good old US of A, is finally going mainstream???

Quote:

'When we are tired, we are attacked by ideas we once conquered long ago.' Unknown

Elephants as Feng Shui Guardians:



Feng Shui Elephant stands guard at the gate of a Bangkok industrial estate.

In driving around a series of large industrial estates towards the Ports of Thailand, I came across a number of very carefully sited ornamental elephants. These are placed as guardians to ward off any evil that might be lurking in the area. Perhaps even more interesting, is some of the detail in these large figures. The trunks are upturned as if in challenge. The body is white, representing the element of metal. The tusks and toe nails are painted yellow, the colour of the earth element. There is a red and green blanket over his back. These represent the elements of wood and fire. You will then notice that there is an honorific blue scarf placed around the neck of each elephant. Since blue is water, we find that all five elements are represented in the colours of the elephant and its accoutrements.



Multiple elephants stand guard at the gates of a large industrial estate, but many can be found guarding hotels too in central Bangkok

Quote:

'Man may be at the top of the food chain but he is only so, because he is the meanest.'
Vietnam Veteran

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