

New On-Line Blog Articles:

Extract from my new Articles

I got taken to lunch the other day by a friend, and as he was paying and had suggested we eat downtown in the new Britomart Precinct, I was more than happy to go along with his recommendation and use the visit to also have a look at the changes in this part of the CBD. There's no doubt about it, it's a busy and attractive area now, and the rather small but chic café my friend had picked for lunch, was as busy as any in the precinct. Since we meet on an irregular basis, it's always good to catch-up, and it wasn't long before the talk turned to feng shui and what my overall opinion might be of the redevelopment. As I hadn't had the time before lunch, I decided to go for a walk afterwards and investigate the area in closer detail. Here is what I found.

In essence the area is a rectangle; formed by Queen Street to the west, Britomart Place to the east, Tyler Street to the north and Galway Street to the south. The buildings, especially to the north, west and south of these outer streets, work to enwall the Precinct. On the inside, a further collection of both old and new buildings; the old, stylishly revamped, the new, predictably fashionable, act as an inner wall around the circumference of the main open spaces. Most have on their ground levels, restaurants, bars and other small intimate retail spaces. Most of these face onto the pleasant and sheltered central plaza of Te Ara Tahuu Walking Street which dissects the precinct from east to west. At the eastern end is Takutai Square cutting a north/south axis across Te Ara Tahuu Walking Street. In this respect, the area, modernised though it might be, evokes the traditional medieval European town square.



This public square in the beautiful Dutch city of Delft is a good example of the principle of a Ming Tang or Bright Hall at work.

In many of these ancient plazas, one finds a church at one end; perhaps in bigger centres, even a cathedral, and at the other, the town hall. Along the sides of the square, there are usually shops, cafes and businesses of all descriptions. Such squares remain at the very heart of their communities. Traditionally they have played important roles in the daily lives of the inhabitants. Farmer's markets were, and still are, held regularly, as indeed is one every Saturday at Britomart. These urban squares traditionally, were, places where important proclamations could be made, festivals celebrated and even such torrid events as public executions carried out. Indeed, many had a set of stocks placed permanently somewhere in the square for similarly medieval, punishment.

From a classical feng shui perspective, such clearly defined open space at the heart of a town, especially when in front of its most important civic buildings; can be said to act as a *Bright Hall* or *Ming Tang*. A *Bright Hall* is a much desired aspect of any good feng shui site. The basic idea behind a *Bright Hall* is a defined, open space, which allows incoming qi to slow and collect before entering the surrounding buildings. The front lawns of both Auckland's old and new Government Houses provide good examples of this.

In the case of Britomart, the precinct faces west, and thus, has the revamped former GPO building; now serving as Auckland's rail hub, at its feet. Indeed the whole open plaza of Takutai Square, lies atop the railway running beneath. The old GPO building to the west, therefore, plays the role of a *footstool* or *Red Bird* in the facing direction of the area. In simple terms, this mysterious animal symbol references one of five requisite elements needed for the formation of positive landscape feng shui. (The others are Green Dragon to right, White Tiger to left, Black Tortoise to rear, and Yellow Serpent or Snake at centre.)

For more go to: www.fengshui88.co.nz/blog

Joke:

***Be careful what you wish for
An oldie but a Goodie:***

A couple were dining out together celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. After the meal, the husband presented his wife romantically with a beautiful very old gold antique locket on a chain. Amazingly when his wife opened the locket, a tiny fairy appeared. Addressing the astonished couple, the fairy said, "Your forty years of

devotion to each other has released me from this locket, and in return I can now grant you both one wish each - anything you want." Without hesitating, the wife asked, "Please, can I travel to the four corners of the world with my husband, as happy and in love as we've always been?" The fairy waved her wand with a flourish, and magically there on the table were two first-class tickets for a round-the-world holiday. Staggered, the couple looked at each other, unable to believe their luck. "Your turn," said the fairy and the wife to the husband. The husband thought for a few seconds, and then said, with a little guilt in his voice, "Forgive me, but to really enjoy that holiday of a lifetime - I yearn for a younger woman - so I wish that my wife could be thirty years younger than me." Shocked, the fairy glanced at the wife, and with a knowing look in her eye, waved her wand..... And the husband became ninety-three.

Book Review

'Churchill' by Ashley Jackson

Yes, yes, I know, many of you will be moaning and thinking if not saying out loud, "Not another Churchill biography!" But this one is at least more balanced than many I have read. It charts the usual course from his birth and early life with his exploits in India and South Africa especially during the Boar War and then his entering parliament and the beginning of his long and illustrious political career. Not exactly a warts and all portrait, it does not however, shy away from examining the great man's more human side. While it allows the great role he played in world affairs, especially during WWII, it also examines his foibles and egocentrism. But more than that, it works to reveal the inner man and what drove him to such heady heights. A quote from Lord Moran, quoted in the book says, 'As one reads of these now distant days, they seemed to be smoothed out, and as it were edited; the terrifically alive, pugnacious, impatient and impulsive Winston Churchill has been dressed up as a sagacious, tolerant elder statesmen, pondering good-humouredly on the frailty of men and the part chance plays in the fluctuating fortunes. He himself once said that he was not designed by nature for that particular role.' The portrait drawn in this biography is one full of insight and historic detail; an easy and worthwhile read for anyone interested in Churchill beyond just his WWII role.

'Churchill' by Ashley Jackson

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QUOTE:

"I'm not going to censor myself to suit your ignorance."

John Stewart

What's with all the Secrecy - Angela and Yasser?

Covert actions and the role of Governments in years of Yin Heavenly Stems – 2013 The Year of the Yin Water Snake:

Those of you who were at my Annual Talk in February may recall I made the point that in years with Yin Heavenly Stems, such as the current year (Yin Water sitting on the Snake), we can expect stories of conspiracies, spying and underhanded activities, not least of all by the state. I find the on-going Kim DotCom / John Key / John Banks / Len Brown / John Palino sagas of who knew what and when etc., fascinating local examples; but surely these pale into insignificance compared to the revelations of the USA's NSA spying on Angela Merkel and many other world leaders. Now Aljazeera have exposed what many had earlier only suspected about the mysterious and sudden death of Yasser Arafat. He was poisoned with XXXX. Israel seems to be first in line of suspicion but in the uber-heated arena of middle-eastern politics, the murky underworld of nuclear material sales and just plain old international espionage; it's unlikely we the 'people' are ever going to know the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Whatever the facts, I have to say that once again Aljazeera provides a breath of fresh air when it comes to presenting the news, certainly compared to the staleness of New Zealand's current journalistic standards. On a similar note, the appalling callousness revealed by the so-called Roast Busters scandal and what the NZ Police did or did not know, is another example of such conspiracy theories concerning covert activities by the authorities. One thing is sure however, until the NZ Police are a great deal more transparent and humble in their service to the public, it will be difficult for them to regain the general trust of the wider community in light of their unwillingness to be more open about errors committed in such historic cases as the Arthur Allen Thomas case, the Bain murders, the Louise Nicholas Case and of course the 2007, so-called terrorist raids on Tuhoi.

QUOTE:

The Further a society drifts from truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.

George Orwell

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