

David W Fletcher, April 1999

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## FENG SHUI: OVERVIEW AND RESOURCES

*Feng Shui* is the “practice of living harmoniously with the energy of the surrounding environment which naturally leads to the art of placement, not only of buildings, but of everything within them, e.g., the arrangement of the home, the use of various rooms and so on” (FSS). It is a traditional East Asian (Chinese) form of environmental perception by which particular configurations of terrain, compass directions, soil textures, and watercourse patterns become more auspicious or advantageous than others, influencing the siting of houses, villages, cities, temples, and graves. According to the “Feng Shui Directory and Magazine,” it is “traditionally taught and practiced in the Far East [where] it was used originally as a way of divining where to site graves. It was also drawn upon to decide when and where to build a home, a community, or an entire city. These same principles were then applied to the arrangement of the home, the use of various rooms and so on. This wisdom was not only understood and practiced in the Far East, since all parts of the world have drawn on traditional ideas for the design and position of homes and places of worship. In Europe, these are prehistoric, medieval, and more modern structures that have been built in a certain fashion and on certain sites for a specific purpose. This collective practice of the art of placement can include: traditional feng shui, modern interpretation of feng shui, geomancy, dowsing, space clearing, and astrology” (FSS).

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