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

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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Feng Shui has found its way into interior design trends recently, but people often forget its original meaning, the ancient philosophy that gave birth to its principles. That is why we want to briefly sum up what Feng Shui really means, before finding out how to apply it to our home décor. Placing the bed in a corner, or having its headboard against a wall, would not allow the regeneration of this energy, breaking the healthy circle around us while we sleep. According to Feng Shui, the bed should be placed in the middle of the room, so that it will also allow us to freely walk around the area during the day. Do you like this upholstered bed? Take a look at more contemporary furniture design by Valdichienti, click here.