The Role of Fengshui in Chinese Homes on Long Island

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References

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Interested in This Project?

Definition of Fengshui
Fengshui is a Chinese philosophical system of harmonizing everyone with the surrounding environment.
Fengshui can be literally translated as “wind-water” in English. Wind and water are the two elements that represent Qi the most because of their natural fluidity.
Qi refers to energy, as an invisible force, existing everywhere.

History of Fengshui
The first American record on Fengshui was in 1873, in the newspaper, Wood County Reporter. The title of the article was “Chinese Burials”, in which the author introduced Fengshui as a way of consulting about the harmony of a specific place.

During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, a sociopolitical movement that took place from 1966 to 1976 which was led by Mao Zedong, all such superstitions were forbidden by Mao. Mao claimed that superstitions are nonexistent and would break the discipline of the whole society. Such restrictions were relaxed after the Chinese Cultural Revolution ended.

Website Proposal
The website I would like to develop will include not only some basic information about Fengshui, but also, more examples explaining how Chinese Families in the United States regard Fengshui in their residences. Thus, the website will help people who don’t know of Fengshui before learn about it, while people who already know it will value it more.

There will be some indoor photos of Chinese families’ homes living on Long Island, as well as the related diagrams. By clicking on the indoor graphs, the viewers can also see the interview with the owners and to observe how Chinese families deal with Fengshui.

On the website, there will also be a “hands-on” section for viewers to build their own houses based on Fengshui, which is different from the few existing websites that simply talk about the Fengshui without any interaction with visitors. After the “house” is completed, the Fengshui consultants who have partnerships with our website will give them an evaluation. The website can be easily found by Googling “Fengshui”, “Chinese culture”, or “folks”, etc.

Fengshui in Chinese Homes Now
I surprisingly found that there are few associations on Long Island working with Fengshui. However, the results of the survey on WeChat of 60 participants working in real estate from Chinese families living on Long Island shows that 65% of the participants still regard Fengshui in their homes. It could be due to the fact they are seeking a sense of their belonging.

The connection between individuals and homeland is important to the Chinese, especially the Chinese families living in a foreign country. A lot of Chinese people in the United States are wearing jade due to the same reason. Living in a house that is designed with the Fengshui system may also allow them feel more of a connection to their homeland.

“Chinese” Traditional Fengshui
The multiple use of mirrors in Amy’s house shows her attention to Fengshui. She placed mirrors in many good location in her house because a mirror can be used to expand the Qi of one room.

She also has a copper gourd and several vases at home. The explanation of these objects can be visited by scanning the QR code on the right.

“American-Adopted” Fengshui
Since there is no cognition on things like Chinese Fengshui in American culture, American houses are always in a delicate structure that hard for Chinese to arrange. The window in the Master Bedroom is an example.

Besides, there are no concerns about the shape of a house in American culture. Amy’s house is fan-shaped, which is thought to be spreading one’s wealth in Chinese families. Amy planted some trees at the border of her yard which gave the feeling of separation by using the trees.