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FENG SHUI AND IT'S APPLICATION IN TOWN PLANNING

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ABSTRACT

What is Feng Shui? There have been many definitions offered by writers who studied the subject of Feng Shui. Ernst Borsehmann wrote in his book Picturesque China that ".....Feng Shui means wind-water, but in its wider sense, stands for the relation to the surrounding nature, influence of the landscape on the beauty buildings and the happiness of the inhabitants". In practice, Feng Shui is something between a science and an art which Westerners often call Chinese Geomancy. Feng Shui is influenced by I-Ching or Book Of Changes, which is the mother of Chinese thoughts and practices. It stresses the connection between man's destiny and nature. I-Ching symbols conjure cosmic power and energy that are used as good luck charms and hexes. Printed on the cosmic compass, its trigrams provided eight bearings which guide Feng Shui men on proper alignment of door, house and building. Feng Shui covers two Taoist concept - 'Yin Yang' and 'Chi'. 'Yin and Yang' are described as the two complementary primordial forces that govern the universe symbolizing harmony. In Feng Shui the 'Yin and Yang' of a certain place must be balanced, bringing the residents into harmony with their environment. 'Chi' is the most important component in Feng Shui. The character 'Chi' has two meanings; one cosmic which include air, steam, gas, weather and force. The other is human which encompasses breath, aura, manner and energy. The 'Chi' must be balanced to ensure positive effects. Whether rural or urban, offices or homes, hotels or shophouses, the method of assessing Feng Shui remains the same. There are basically two methods; the intuitive and the compass method. The intuitive method is based on the physical features or topography of the land whilst the latter is based on the 'Luo Pan' or Feng Shui compass. The geomancer will determine the particular orientation of a building, position of the door and house. Although mountains, trees, lakes, rivers and flat plain are the key factors that determine balanced 'Chi', the urban area has its own influence in the form of shapes, sizes, colours of skyscrapers, the direction and turns of roads and overpasses and the angle of the building's corner. With an open approach that is both questionable and sensitive, Feng Shui is a phenomenon that involves the mundane and the supramundane; the immanent and the transcendent, the rational and the irrational, the logical and the illogical. It is something within our scope of experience and knowledge as well as something beyond our own world.

DEPARTMENT APPROVAL	1
TITLE	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
ABSTRACT	v
TABLE OF CONTENT	vii
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
LIST OF PHOTOS	xvii

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Aim and Objectives	4
1.2.1 Aim	5
1.2.2 Objectives	5
1.3 Scope of Study	6
1.4 Method of Study	7

CHAPTER 2 : THE THEORY AND BASIC PRINCIPLES OF FENG SHUI

2.1 Introduction	11
2.2 What Is Feng Shui?	12
2.3 The Principles of Feng Shui Influence To The Town Element	14
2.3.1 'Chi'	14
2.3.2 'Yin and Yang'	18
2.3.3 Five elements, Ten Stems and Twelves Branches	20
2.4 Natural Elements That Influence The Principles Of Feng Shui	27
2.4.1 Mountain and Hill	27
2.4.2 Water	31
2.4.3 Wind	
2.4.4 Orientation and Direction	33
2.4.5 Land	38