



ON THE HOME FRONT

By Linda Skolnick

Think Feng Shui

Have you heard others refer to Feng Shui, but could hardly pronounce it, let alone understand it? Me too!

That's was, until Westporter Tracy Boyce, Feng Shui practitioner, opened my eyes. Boyce, who has studied with world renowned Feng Shui teachers William Spear and Jeannie Marie Tower and throughout India, Nepal and Bolivia in search of knowledge of the ancient practice, is absolutely brimming with information.

"Feng Shui," explains Boyce, "translates to mean wind and water. In other words, the earth has been transformed by wind and water patterns. The forming of the continents, the Grand Canyon, destruction caused by hurricanes, tornadoes and storms are all examples of this transformation.

"The flow of these elements, literally and figuratively, is what the study of Feng Shui is all about."

But what does all this have to do with real estate, and buying and selling a home? Lots!

After talking to Tracy, I realized I must move...immediately!

First off, Boyce explained all about transitions, and how important they are in Feng Shui. She described how she designed her driveway to pleasingly wind towards her house. By the time she reaches the end of her driveway, and walks down the carefully laid flagstone path to the front door, she has "transitioned" into a peaceful separation from the outside.

My driveway, so very un-Feng Shui, Tracy tells me, goes straight up, and leads to a walkway, where I can enter the front door from behind my house. She won't even discuss my house with me anymore ... luckily I know a good real estate agent!

But...let's get back to everyone else. Feng Shui is about a balance between heaven and Earth. Heaven is predetermined and destiny and Earth refers to the physical attributes of land, like being near water leads to prosperity and hills provide protection from enemies and nature.

She explained how beams over a kitchen sink can "weigh you down," thus making you feel more tired in the kitchen.

She explained pathways from an entrance hall of a home to the rest of the home. She even admitted that her own homes' entrance was not pleasingly Feng Shui. She described that opening her front door and seeing the kitchen sink pulls the energies down the drain.

But she has altered the path, interrupting the direct route through furniture placement and plants above the sink. Boyce recalls that "The Chinese found through observation that some surroundings are better, luckier or more blessed than others.

"How and where a house is situated was affected by sun, winds and water accessibility and had a direct effect on the inhabitants. When significant, auspicious and ideal space was unattainable, the search for antidotes led to the study of Feng Shui."

There is meaning in everything from sloping lots, to location and placement of surrounding houses and even landscaping. When it is positive Feng Shui ... harmony and prosperity are maximized.

Tracy called in a Feng Shui specialist when she was trying to purchase her own house. She didn't buy the one she was due to go to contract on based on what she learned. Her next choice ended up being a better one.

Since then, she has interpreted the attributes of Feng Shui for other home buyers. It may seem like hocus pocus, but a lot of it, when carefully explained, really makes sense. She also teaches seminars around the state to learn for yourself how to bring more harmony into your environment.

If you are interested in learning more about Feng Shui and Boyce's seminars, she can be contacted at 454-2857. If you are still a little confused ... join the crowd ... we could all use a few hours soaking up Boyce's learnings.

By the way, I forgot to ask her if there is any Feng Shui information about children's bedrooms, and keeping their energies in bed until the sun rises in the morning.

Market Rap

Mortgage rates continue to remain relatively stable since the last rate hike by the Federal Reserve. It has raised interest rates five times since last June in an attempt to cool the U.S. economy. Many economists on Wall Street expect the Federal Reserve central bank to push rates higher again in May at its next policy-setting meet in an effort to keep a lid on inflationary pressures. Currently, fixed rates are available at 7.5 percent.

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