



Spirit: The Life Force

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William Spear has spent recent years flying around the planet giving Feng Shui consultations to big celebrities and the hugest corporations, from IBM and Microsoft to Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. But now, just as his profession is exploding with popularity, he's quitting. William Spear talks to our own Barefoot Doctor about his decision to jump off the bandwagon and focus on the "internal spirit of the architecture of our consciousness".

Feng Shui (pronounced *fung schway*), the ancient Taoist art of geomancy or 'earth medicine' is enjoying a quantum flowering of popularity in the west, from corporate business to use in the home. Fundamentally, the way your space is designed affects your health, outlook, fortune, love-life, relationships, state of mind and happiness. Feng Shui teaches how to achieve an optimum balance of energy in the workplace, just like acupuncture deals with the internal environment of your psycho-physical organism. The man largely responsible for this mega-surge of interest, the undisputed don of Feng Shui, is William Spear.

BFD: Why, with Feng Shui becoming a massive interior design bestseller around the world, are you quitting?

WS: It was never my intention to pursue it beyond the time I intended to be involved. I said from the beginning that when I had achieved a particular purpose I would quit. The money and recognition were never my interests. My purpose or goal in this small way was to network, to bring together the eastern and western view of space.

Structure is one of the two things we have to live inside of while we're on this planet, the other one is time. Native people everywhere have their own structure of space and their own structure of time, developing different types of astrologies, whether it be Kaballah or the Mayan, Ayurvedic, Chinese or Islamic calendars, everybody has a certain sense of time and structure because of the orientation of the celestial bodies. And by their location, whether in the mountains or the desert, near a lake or by the sea, all affect the way you see the world and man and woman's place in the world. All cultures have different types of astrologies which are true systems for those particular times and places. Feng Shui is the Chinese way of looking at space and it understands that this sense of space originates from a deep place inside but relates to the external world like the tao of space. There's a weave in and out everywhere and a part of your house is a representation of a particular organ in your body. Or some part of your life is a representation of a season or time. Feng Shui is a way of harmonising with other people who are living in the outside world too. But another type of Feng Shui has developed – Feng Shui for power, Feng Shui for advantage, Feng Shui for position, Feng Shui in competition. You aim some cutting chi at your enemy, you go upwind, you take away their water rights, you put your neighbour in the shadow. It's all about competition – winning and losing which is complete nonsense. It's total ignorance of what's really going on, which is that there's only one of us here, so if you hurt somebody else, you naturally hurt yourself.

If we only use Feng Shui externally, we forget its original nature, which was the internal spirit of the architecture of our consciousness. And when we forget that, we're living completely in illusion, which is samsara. So my intention was to bring back to focus, mind turned inward, the original tao of Feng Shui. Looking at the way in which your consciousness is organised and where you are in relation to space. Feng Shui has nothing to do with the external world – it's secondary to the way you see the world. Therefore, if you don't understand your own consciousness, your own interior design on the truest level, you can turn the dials and twist the knobs and shift furniture and move buildings and so on, but it doesn't last. It doesn't endure. You have to change from the inside out, right?

Other cultures have this language as well. In Turkey, there's a language for Feng Shui or for space, it's a language of placement. In India, Vasushastra is the same language. Aboriginal people, Lakota people, Celtic people, every traditional culture had a particular way. Feng Shui, as I said before, was more defined, more trendy-sexy, but I wanted to network east and west, old and new, traditional and modern, and I saw a link, not just between China and modern times, but between India and Vasushastra. All the methods were forcing people to look inside themselves.

Feng Shui is culturally specific to the Chinese. If you use compass Feng Shui, for example, you see that they should close off the north and north-east, because from the north came very cold winds, and they didn't want cold winds. But the Vashushastra, the Hindu method of Feng Shui which is a discipline just as deep and holy, closes the south because that's where the heat comes from. So if you take these dogmas