

Greenwich feng shui artist works to keep things aligned

By Laura Kenyon

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Maybe Sir Paul McCartney kept a keyboard in his and Heather's bedroom. Perhaps Katharine McPhee chose the wrong color dress for her final performance on "American Idol." Does anyone know if Jack Abramoff redecorated his office in the last few years and selected an unfortunately shaped sofa?

If so, according to the laws of feng shui (pronounced fung-schway), these public figures may be able to blame karma for their recent bad luck.

Chinese for "wind water," feng shui is the ancient practice of arranging spaces in ways that achieve harmony with the environment. With Taoist roots, it has to do with the flow of negative and positive energies; think yin and yang.

Stefania Masoni, a New Canaan resident and feng shui consultant in Greenwich, describes it on her Web site, www.goodfengshui.net, as "the study of the relationship between heaven, earth and man in order to determine and maintain the most favorable living environment."

"It's clearing space in order to promote positive things in life," she said, such as good health, positive cash flow and happy employees.

The daughter of a diplomat, Ms. Masoni spent her childhood traveling the world and immersing herself in various cultures, including European, South American and Chinese.

In China, she said, feng shui is common among businesses and the upper class.

"Nobody lifts a finger in Hong Kong without a feng shui master," she said. "It was an art used only by the emperors and it was kept secret from the common people so that the emperors could



Stefania Masoni, a New Canaan resident and feng shui consultant in Greenwich, helps her clients improve their relationships with their homes.

use it to govern."

A self-proclaimed enthusiast for Chinese culture, she lived in New York City's Chinatown for a decade, earning her black belt in kung fu and studying feng shui with several teachers including her mentor, Master Alan Lee.

After almost 15 years of applying the laws of feng shui to residences and businesses on both U.S. coasts, in Europe and Japan, Ms. Masoni decided it was time for the student to become the teacher. She opened her own consultation firm, Stefania Masoni

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Inc., in Greenwich in 1999.

Her clientele, according to a press release, includes private residences, prominent doctors, lawyers, actors, schools and corporations such as the Corcoran Group in New York and Cook Pine Capital in Greenwich and Japan.

Although she cannot divulge the names of the celebrities whose cribs she has cleansed of evil ("I'm good at what I do because I keep my mouth shut," she said), famous followers of the art include Donald Trump, actor Rob Lowe, former Texas Gov. Ann Richards, and the pre-eminent Hollywood trendsetter, Madonna.

Ms. Masoni said that although it is rare for her to use her art where a horrific tragedy has struck and energies (some may say spirits — the premise of so many horror movies) could still be lingering, she was called in to repair some of the damage caused on 9/11 near Ground Zero.

A snapshot of her experience is illustrated in Peter Josyph's book, *Liberty Street: Encounters at Ground Zero*. A documentary by the same name, which was shown in Manhattan in January, is currently running in Japan and France.

"With a trancelike purpose she moved her scents around swiftly, but witnessing was good, she said, so I followed her room to room, playing the part of three cameras,

inhaling more smoke than any cupboard or any transient dwellers there," Mr. Josyph writes. "It was interesting to watch her in this peaceful act of cleansing while there were hundreds of men across the street cleansing another way."

On a day-to-day basis, however, Ms. Masoni is called in to bless homes before they go on the market; to investigate and rearrange a disobedient child's environment; to work with real estate agents so that houses sell quickly, and to look at architectural plans before a house is even built to ensure energy flow, bedroom layout and landscaping designs are as they should be.

"You want to ensure everything is in balance," she said. "It's kind of like having a sore tooth. One tooth can throw everything, the whole mouth, off balance, so it's just a matter of understanding where the imbalances are and correcting them."

The most common mistakes, she said, involve the placement of the bed at home or the desk at work.

"People a lot of times don't sleep well because of how their bed is placed," she said. "People in offices sometimes don't work well because of how their desk is faced, especially people who are in managerial situations, company CEOs and supervisors that don't have a lot of pull over their employees. It's usually a simple

solution."

Even the shapes of furniture and the color of the walls can summon negative energies. According to Ms. Masoni, children under 13 years old should dwell among pastel or neutral colors because they are in the process of growing. Teenagers, on the other hand, need entirely different color schemes because they are at a different moment of growth in their lives.

"It's usually about love or money," she said. "What that boils down to is that properties are affected by divorces, bankruptcy. Those are inherited energies so if you move into a house or office that has had these things going on you tend to inherit it. In a house where there has been a divorce it is very common that I get calls to that property where the people are experiencing that same situation."

The same goes for businesses and financial scandals or bankruptcies, she said.

If only Kenneth Lay had given her a shout when he became CEO of Enron...

"We're walking magnets and as we go through our daily lives we pick up energy," she said. "We get sick, even with the flu, and we interact with different places, so we bring things home. It's a lot like spring cleaning."

Spring cleaning that should be done every six months, she stressed.

In addition to consultations, Ms. Masoni does speaking events and invitational workshops, and sometimes visits schools to educate children and parents on stimulating good study habits via feng shui.

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