

low natural aesthetic principles, which are no doubt correct (but which could also be arrived at by employing basic human logic.)

With such suggestions on interior design however, an ideology is also disseminated, which could cause problems. All problems and difficulties occurring in everyday life are quickly perceived as the result of negative energy flows. And the suggested solution is then only an alternative arrangement of furniture, or to additionally affix some energy conductors (crystals, mirrors...), instead of confronting the real background of the problems and to work at finding a solution.

„Feng Shui is no science. It only fills the purse of some Quacks“ Prof. Chen Zhihua

### Christian Criticism

- Within this Feng Shui practice, elements from the Taoistic religion and philosophy are taken out of context and are imported into our culture under a disguised form.
- Feng Shui is based on reductionistic ideas of man, inherent in esoteric thinking, where all problems and difficulties are solely due to distorted “flows of energy”. Even man himself thus is reduced to an “energetic quantity”.

**Outside of China, critics describe Feng Shui as a “strange potpourri consisting of Chinese superstition, European populist occultism and outdated esoteric ideas, which are accepted without any criticism”.**

- It is conspicuous that in the many Feng Shui guidebooks on sale, a mostly negative impact is attributed to

**The concept of „Ki“ is inseparable connected with the religious world of taoism.**

Christian symbols as such. Behind such an attitude, the New Age ideology is easily detectable.

- Feng Shui supports the basic world view, disseminated throughout the esoteric world.
- Critical Christians should thus consider other criteria in regard to their interior design approach.

### Sources (selection)

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### On the subject of New Age, there is an informative document issued by the Church:

“Jesus Christ, the bearer of the waters of life”. Considerations on New Age from a Christian viewpoint. Rome 2003. This document can be downloaded via the following internet address: [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/interelg/documents/rc\\_pc\\_interelg\\_doc\\_20030203\\_new-age\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/interelg/documents/rc_pc_interelg_doc_20030203_new-age_en.html)

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### Catchword

Feng Shui



Over the last years it has become fashionable to design both private accommodation, as well as public places with the teachings of “Feng Shui” in mind. In context with the esoteric boom, this practice too was imported from the Far East and is meanwhile also well established in our country. What is Feng Shui, what thought processes are behind it and how should a Christian react towards this fashion?



Within the esoteric scene, the harmonious flow of “energies” is deemed to be the essential basis for general wellbeing.

## What is Feng Shui?

### Originating in China

- Feng Shui is Chinese and means: “wind, water”.
- The Feng Shui practice originally was linked to Chinese ancestor worship, as part of the Taoistic teaching. The aim there was to find - in a geomantic way - the most appropriate burial sites for deceased relatives, so that their spirits were then able to provide good air (wind) and good water.
- In connection with the ideas of Taoism the emphasis is switched to the search for the correct flow of the cosmic energy Ki (also known as “Qi” or “Chi”).
- In Taoism, Ki is understood as being the universal life force, out of which everything originates, the force, that carries all. Within Taoism, which does not know a personal Creator God, this

**At the roots of Feng Shui lies the belief in “KI”.**

**In Taoism, “KI” is defined as the “breath of the dragon”. It is claimed to be a physically incomprehensible form of energy.**



Even garden design is supposed to be carried out according to Feng Shui criteria

power is the more or less divine elemental force of the universe.

### Western forms of Feng Shui

- In connection with the esoteric boom, even in western countries elements of a far eastern world view and their ideas of man have become widely spread. That is why many people have accepted the belief, that the harmonious flow of the divine energy, Ki, is essential for health and well being. Since – according to such eastern ideas - man cannot be understood in any other way, than as an effluence emanating from the divine energy, the correct flow of energy is thus responsible for everything.
- While a great many of the Ki movement practices, like Qi-Gong, Tai Chi, Shiatsu,... emphasise therapeutic treatments, in order to keep man in the correct “energetic balance”, Feng Shui on the other hand concentrates on man’s environment, on house, flat and garden.
- Feng Shui offers architectural rules, as well as hints, how to design a house, while following the well balanced, well adjusted flow of the Ki power. If such rules are not taken to heart, a detrimental Ki power could also be created,

**Feng Shui belongs to the group of so-called Ki movements, which in connection with the esoteric boom were filtered, adapted and disseminated throughout the Western World.**



which might then cause problems in health or within the social environment.

- Next to such rules for interior or exterior design, helpful appliances are also on offer, which can positively influence the flow of energy within the home. Mirrors, small bells, crystals, etc., are meant to assist and guide the energy within the correct channels and to keep it in a harmonious flow.



### When is Feng Shui practised?

Some content themselves with getting their information from books and to thus obtain their inspi-



Feng Shui courses or Feng Shui consultants often teach only trivialities.

ration. But there also exist specially trained Feng Shui consultants, who, for a goodly sum, determine - often by means of radiesthetic methods (by pendelling and dowsing rod) – the interior design. Diverse Feng Shui schools emphasise different aspects.

### Criticism

Concrete hints and suggestions for interior design are not negative as such, sometimes they just fol-