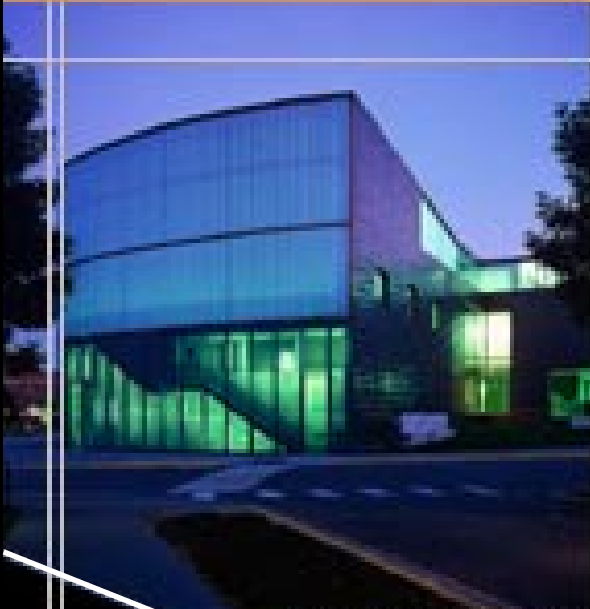


Symposium: Feng Shui and the Urban Fabric



**Ralph Rapson Hall
College of Architecture and
Landscape Architecture**

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
*Twin Cities***

Symposium: Feng Shui and the Urban Fabric

A seminar with Alex Stark

Monday, October 31, 2005

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Design Center

*Free and Open to Public

Originally developed in an agrarian context, feng shui has been transformed, as it has been adapted to the modern urban setting. New ways of looking at settlements, roads, and traffic patterns, and new approaches to analyze favorable and unfavorable features in the urban landscape have appeared in contemporary feng shui practice. In addition, the impact of technology, pollution, electromagnetic radiation, and the proliferation of environmentally related illnesses have created a new focus for this traditional discipline.

Contemporary feng shui focuses on the application of traditional feng shui principles to modern town planning and new urbanism. Principles of feng shui design are explored in depth to determine how they can contribute towards the creation of harmonious civic environments. Traditional wisdom on topography, road and traffic systems, favorable and unfavorable features within the urban landscape are combined with pressing concerns about sustainability and the health of the environment. Approaches to the ills of the modern city share equal standing with visions for the sustainable cities of the future.

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From the perspective of feng shui, topography--whether rural or urban--is a fundamental determinant of human destiny. Land form, earth chi, and the presence and movement of water, settlements, and roads have a predictable impact on quality of life. Determining ideal positions in the landscape, finding optimal orientation within these sites, and coordinating the program, massing, and layout of structures are important considerations in applying feng shui knowledge to site planning. The process of integrating feng shui into western professional methods will necessarily require a simultaneous redefinition of feng shui in the context of modern technology, ecology, and western world views. Based on his collaborations with architectural firms and planning authorities, Alex Stark describes the process of incorporating traditional feng shui into modern architectural practice.

Originally trained as an architect at Yale University, Alex Stark is a feng shui practitioner and an internationally recognized consultant on issues of transformation, creativity, and institutional growth. Alex Stark has worked with architects and town planners on projects that include feng shui as an integral component of design. He has been a consultant to the United Nations Development Program on issues of urban and regional planning. His feng shui collaborations have merited citations by the Boston Society of Architects and the AIA. His clients include: Hyatt Corporation, Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, NBC, Conde Nast Publishing, Whole Foods Markets, The Aspen Institute, Colombian Coffee Federation, Beth Israel Hospital Group, Bellevue Hospital, Prudential Douglas Elliman, Cushman & Wakefield, and many others.

