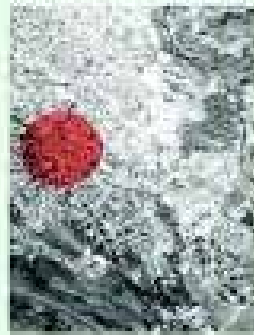


Linking Differences / Defining Actions

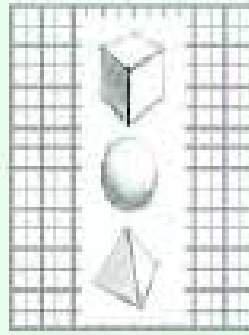
Asumiendo Diferencias / Definiendo Acciones



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+



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Community
Participation

+

Planning

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Design

=

Sustainable
Environments

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Feng Shui Analysis of Ralph Rapson Hall and Weisman Museum at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus

(Análisis de feng shui de ralph parson hall y el museo weisman en el campus de la universidad de las Ciudades Gemelas en Minnesota)

Ritu Bhatt (University of Minnesota)

Feng shui is the ancient Chinese practice which in recent years has been revived and popularized by a broad range of teachers and practitioners who follow different schools of Feng shui thought. The different schools -- the Black Sect Tantric Buddhist School of Feng shui, The Compass school, as well as many others re-contextualize ancient knowledge and techniques for contemporary uses. Practitioners present Feng shui as emerging alternative science that has parallels to environmental philosophy, psychology, magnetism and environmental behavior research. Despite its proliferation as a popular practice and the distortions that are inevitable given the manner in which it is currently being amalgamated as a modern science, there are some potential insights that can be derived from the techniques that Feng shui practitioners use to analyze buildings.

This poster session will present a dialogue that occurred between students of architecture from University of Minnesota and the New York based Feng shui practitioner Alex Stark. The dialogue will be presented in the form of diagrammatic analyses of Ralph Rapson Hall (the existing structure designed by Cerny and Associates as well as the extension that has been designed by architect Steven Hall) and the Weisman Museum designed by architect Frank Gehry. The dialogue and the detailed drawings bring to the surface a range of insights for architects and environment behavior researchers on specific ways by which different parts of the human body respond to spatial cues -- some of which are often missed out in the current models of design pedagogy. Detailed drawings will present as well as critically evaluate key concepts currently employed by Feng Shui practitioners, such as flow of energy at the mouth of chi, area of highest land energy, positive and negative street influences, use of crystals in Feng shui, implications of building upon



parking lots, use of bagua and compass directions to analyze existing building plans as well as the implications of creating a Flying Star Horoscope for building analysis. This poster presentation hopes to highlight both the overlaps and the disconnects of Feng shui understanding with environmental behavior research and also delve into how and why Feng shui practice continues to evolve and thrive as an alternative science drawing co-relations between space perception, mind-body cognition and human well-being.

Keywords: Space Perception, Feng shui, Building Analysis, Human well-being