

Geomancy and Jack Layton's Legacy

An article written for QUESTERS MAGAZINE ~ September 2011

Many people ask me 'what is Geomancy'? As a Feng Shui interior designer who has come to work with geomancy and the unseen world of 'energy' I have different ways of responding. Usually I tell inquisitive minds that geomancy is the study or understanding of all the energies that exist underground. It is also the recognition and detection of all man made energies on or near the surface of the earth which become anchored in various locations. These man made 'imprints' can fade or change over time depending on their overall impact.

Many of us recognize that there are 'power spots' all over the planet. These areas can result from underground mineral or crystal deposits. More visual or obvious areas occur where natural underground faulting combined with water releases energy resultant in the type of geysers found in Yellowstone Park. Other power spots are viewed as sacred sites; recognized as such by ancient cultures, they become prayer and ritual sites. Over time many of these sites of became the location of churches, cathedrals, & mosques. It is evidence that man recognizes the power of the geophysical environment and adds to them his own energy and interpretation.

The death of Jack Layton in August of 2011 marked a pivotal point in Canadian politics that affected many deeply. Although he had a long bout with cancer, he had been in the Canadian political eye for decades. Jack was both the leader of the NDP party and now head of the official opposition party. The NDP was historically an underdog party due to its socialist stance and Jack was poised to be the first NDP Prime Minister. It seemed both sad and ironic that when he and his party made it to this point of success, Jack's life would end. It seemed fitting that his prominence and deep love for Canada and its direction was highlighted by his death in this visual outpouring of love and support.

This photo captures the thousands of sentiments written in chalk over every inch of concrete in front of Toronto's city Hall. Geomancers would recognize this as 'human memory imprint'. The intent and level of heart felt sentiment and love in tribute of a great Canadian will make its mark on this geographic location long after the rain washes it away. Thus, it is a vital part of man made 'geomantic' energy and an impactful current example. To read more about geophysical energy go to www.adarsashuideva.com

To view more photos taken of this event go to

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/lewolf011/6081988177/in/photostream/>

Not all human imprints however are so loving or positive in their nature. Many places on the planet hold 'trauma' such as battle fields, massacre sites and places where nature has been destroyed such as toxic waste sites or first growth deforestation.

What I have learned in my short time as a geomantic dowser is that these areas can be healed and cleared. The work I have been taught gives me simple tools to assist with holding space so disturbed energies can exit. The love being poured into Nathan Philip square sets up a 'positive energy vibration' but a location like Tiananmen Square in China may hold disturbed energy from the death and trauma that has occurred there.

When we understand the impact left behind by man's actions whether perceived as positive or negative, we can begin to understand that geomancy is not just what is present underground, but also what man leaves behind as residue.

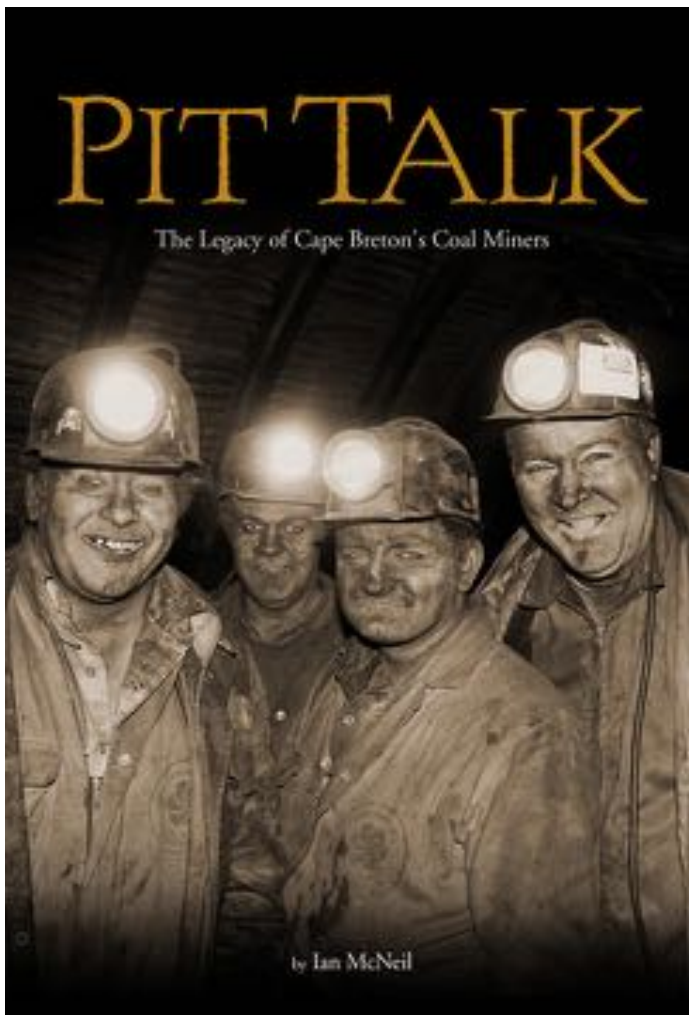
Geomancers 'dowse' for many things; the most common and well known is 'dowsing or witching' for water. When one dowses for water one must tune into the 'energy of natural occurring underground water'. Humans are made of a high % of water, and so it is the easiest thing that we can learn to dowse for. There are many methods of dowsing but the most common is with the use of dowsing tools such as 'dowsing rods or pendulums'. The tool acts as the extension of our 'inner guidance'. Observing the instrument assists us in trusting that inner guidance. To become a good dowser is to have 'trust' in our intuitive process yet not 'project our energy' onto the outcome. Like most skills this takes time, practice and experience.

When I see the photo of Nathan Philip Square I know that in 2 weeks or in 10 years, an experienced dowser will pick up on the 'memory imprint' of the intention created in this unique memorial to Mr Layton. Even if that dowser has no knowledge of the event, he or she will be able to 'detect' the presence of loving intent that was anchored here during the hours and days that it was created.

This form of man made or man created 'imprint' is what can affect us in any given place and any given time. What lead me to working with geomancy may well have started on Cape Breton Island, where as a child as I lived over active coal seams and underground mining. Although I did not understand geomancy till much later in my life, I now know it had a huge impact on my career choices.

My intuition for 'space' and how it feels lead me on a journey into the design world, travel and a continuing quest for knowing what affects human movement & aesthetics.

The evolution we are experiencing on the planet at this time begs us to know more about what surrounds us, be it underground or above. What keeps us well and healthy physically, mentally and emotionally is my current quest and why I teach and work in these combined fields. I am blessed that geomancy continues to teach & guide me in finding the 'genis loci' or 'power of place'.



The Men of the Deep

From Pit Talk, by Ian Mac Neil; an excerpt written by M. Charlyne Chiasson

PERSONAL STORY

"My story starts on Kootenay Lake, British Columbia. After my first child was born, I was dealing with anger issues sparked by motherhood, I am guessing. I also had issues with claustrophobia which I managed by staying out of tight confined spaces. I had not lived in Cape Breton for many years. "This story is very personal; it borders on being a ghost story, but also ties directly to the work I do today."

I clear energy from spaces and am a geomantic dowser, which includes dowsing for water among other things subterranean. When this happened I had not yet discovered this work.

"I met a group of great women who did retreats at a pristine place called 'Tipi Camp' on Kootenay Lake. A Lakota woman introduced us to the ways of the medicine wheel, and other first nations practices. I have since found out that I have Mi'kmaq in my lineage.

This was my introduction to a form of healing the body, mind and spirit. I went on to study with Susan Powell every summer for several years and have since studied with other first nation teachers. The practice of going into sweat lodges really tested me. I hated confined spaces and would go a little crazy. I had to pray really hard to endure the sweat lodge.”

“One year, a group of us gathered at Tipi Camp for our first ‘vision quest’ with a man from the B.C. coast, a sun-dancer who led many powerful healing sweats and vision quests. Going on the mountain meant being without food or water for days at a time. You must first be purified by doing a sweat lodge ceremony with the group at dusk the first evening of your quest. It was doing that swear something happened that changed my perceptions of where I come from and what I am here to do with my life.

“I was stressed as was usually for me about the sweat. Roy, the sweat lodge leader, a Sundance veteran, was like a big bear. My husband with me so I felt stronger than usual. Sweat lodges represent the womb of the mother from which we all come, a magical place where prayers are said aloud and many things are confessed; a healing place. The first round of grandfather stones came in and Roy did the first round of blessing prayers. By the third round I was really starting to get hot and claustrophobic, so I prayed like I never prayed before.

“Suddenly I was transported into another time and space. I was raging mad and screaming, stuck underground and I could not get out. I was dying slowly of asphyxiation; yet I was not hurt or disabled. I was a miner after a mine collapse, in the prime of my youth, but trapped and desperate and really upset, angry and desperate. I tried everything to free myself and my fellow miners but could do nothing but slowly die from lack of air.”

“I sensed the roof of the lodge suddenly open. I could see the stars and felt a huge sense of relief. I was back in the lodge, sweating and praying out loud. I have no idea how long I was in that trance but all my discomfort and claustrophobia was forgotten as I had witnessed something very strange and unusual. I also saw that my rattle (used in lodges) was now sparking, lighting up inside; I’d never seen this before. It oddly felt like some validation for the experience I just had. I have not witnessed this since.”

“My Life Changed”

“It took a while to understand exactly what happened that night. I realized that the depression in the earth by my childhood bedroom window had been the entrance to small tunnel that energetically connected me to those miners. It was left over from when local people built over coal seams in order to heat their homes in the 30’s to the 50’s. Although my dad had long build a proper concrete foundation, there was an area beside the house which was always sinking in and depressed. I was warned never to play there.

That night in the sweat lodge, it felt like a collective group moved through me; young men who died a slow death in the mines. In my empathetic way, I had a closer connection to these men than I had thought. It went beyond the miners’ holiday in the summer, when as kids we would go see the pit ponies, that were let out once a year or the coal bank we used as a killer toboggan run in the icy winters. For the first time in my life I could relate to perhaps why I was so claustrophobic!”

“After that fateful night, many things slowly came into place for me. I worked harder to resolve my anger by becoming an observer, thinking of those miners who had reason to be angry. My life changed and I went on to meet teachers who helped me to develop my gift of clearing energy by becoming a channel through which energy clears. I have since studied techniques and have released many trapped souls in North and Central America. I know I was predestined to do this work, although I do not talk about it much outside the clients who find me to do clearing. The miners of Cape Breton and my birthplace, allowed this to come to realization”.

“I have a special place in my heart for the men I felt that night, and will always be grateful for their release and their lives. It keeps be connected to my past, grateful for their gift to me & humbled by their sacrifices.”

M. Charlyne Chiasson grew up in Reserve Mines, a small mining community on Cape Breton Island.

Feng Shui and your Outdoor Spaces

Written for an East/West Kootenay Business magazine in 2009

As a Feng Shui partitioner and teacher it is paramount that understand the importance of physical placement in our exterior landscapes and environments. Through study, training and observation I have witnessed magic in the landscape. For those who are masters at gardening and for those who are not, I hope to inspire a deeper look into what is around us.

In spring our energies move outwards to external spaces as we feel the power for the season and the promise of summer. We are naturally inspired by the bird song that evokes the sap to flow and the aromas. The trees and flowers budding awaken the power of the wood element. Wanting to engage with and interact in some part of the process is natural and magically compelling, but for it is a mystery.

For those with green thumbs it is an interactive process of co creating with nature, by harmonizing and beautifying spaces. Working with the earth can be leads to a focused experience within the the vastness of nature itself.



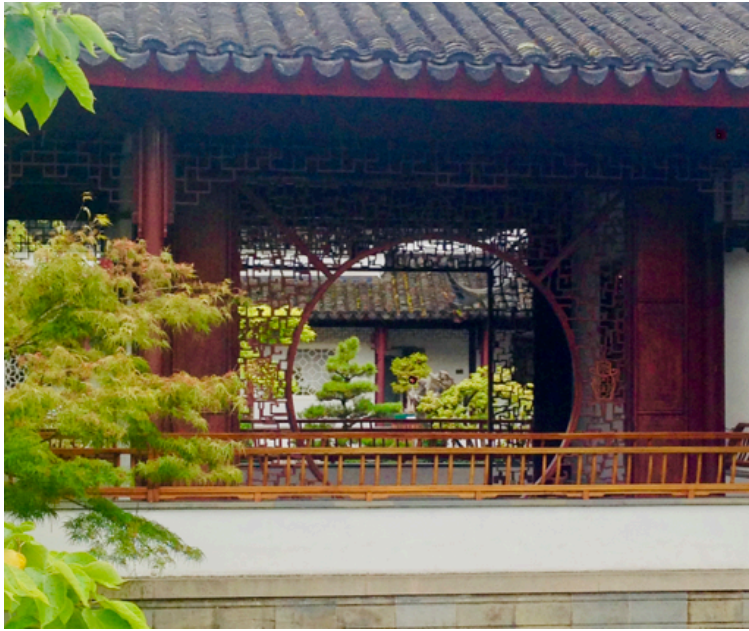
The key to the magnificence of the Indo-Asian gardens is their understanding of the microcosm within the macrocosm. The larger aspects of geography is the palate from which to create smaller intimate spaces and gardens that relate to the whole. The success and appeal of the Oriental Zen gardens were the techniques picked up in the Persian gardens that migrated along the silk routes into the Orient. The understanding of observing the big picture and the the natural flow of land allows the creating of gardens that are energized and vital. When a gardener practices form these

Attempting to create something in a back yard, goes beyond the back yard into the greater environment. Ask what are the predominant features of the landscape and how can we create spaces close to our homes that mirror these features. Living in the mountains is vastly different from the prairies or the ocean. We may want to bring in features from other locations yet making sense of these inclusions is how they balance with what is around us.

When we travel we are often impresses by different landscapes, plant life, and even animal life. When it comes to tuning into what is in our own backyards we tend to lose the plot.

Our spaces, both inside and out are not just about aesthetics, however the more remote and within nature we find our homes the more tuned in to the power of place we become. Those of us who live close to nature know the energy behind medicine plants, beyond what we grow to eat. The earth gives us so much to wildcraft which can be the best medicine we can find.

My Feng Shui Master once told me that no matter what malady or disease we may have, we can find its cure within a 100 meter radius around our home environments. This is a powerful statement.



Dr Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Gardens in Vancouver feature Moon Gates which are an invitation to pass from the outer world to an inner world of beauty and discovery

Perhaps this is why Zen gardens mimic surroundings in the landscape making miniature replicas of mountains, streams and landscapes within limited garden spaces. Zen Tao gardens use symbolism and are compellingly impressive when one really looks at all that is incorporated within.

Wellness and environment are intimately connected. My Feng Shui Master taught me to look at my neighbourhood closely and see what is positive and what takes away from my wellness. Living near power lines, gravel pits and other non-natural, man made features can create 'dis' ease that we may not even be aware of.

Understanding these influences assist us in creating landscapes that are vibrant and vital. Energizing the space around our homes can keep unwanted influences at bay.

Energizing the space around our homes can keep unwanted influences at bay. Simple things like planting bamboo fences that eliminate ugly site lines, planting natural species that attract the birds and butterflies in the area a but a few.

When we develop a discerning eye and understanding of where we chose to 'place ourselves' in an environment, with an eye to the bigger picture around us, we are tuning into the wisdom of the ancients to co create with nature.

Our challenges are different from our grandfathers and mothers who often lived in the same environment for their entire life. We are more of a nomadic culture. Consider a person born near the ocean who finds themselves in a mountain or prairie environment. For them 'attunement' to the nature within while harmonizing with the nature surrounding them is the challenge.

They can then create 'virtual ocean scapes' by borrowing from features in Asian gardens. Dry water features such as river beds, or open sculpted sand mini oceans can create the illusion yet be fun and satisfying.

Also using real water features can also bring the missing water element, which can be small or grand in scale. Likewise a person from born in the mountains can create a mini mountain in their landscape to be attuned to their birth place

The Persians were the first known culture to cultivate gardens. They aspired to create all natural features within their many types of gardens. When Studying Feng Shui garden activation my taught us that there are over 150 specialty gardens. Some of my favourites are healing gardens, power gardens, and children's gardens. Each one focuses on a specific aspect needed on ones life, this allowing the creator to sculpt reality through the process of being in tune with the land and the elementals.

Personal health and well being can be specifically addressed whether it be through the plants used or the intentions we create in the spaces around us. Working with awareness brings a certain magic to the environment by which we are surrounded. Observation of earth energy, (Geomancy) is an acquired skill, whether these be features above ground or what we feel intuitively.

Yet if we observe the same location over time we will notice things and feel what a space may be asking for. Have you ever noticed a spot in your garden where no matter what you attempt to grow, it never does. This is a sign to let it be. A negative polarity spot is just that and should just be left alone.

Our gardens have their own secrets and it is by observing simply 'what is' (the Tao) allows us to be a co creative part of their evolvement. Know that it is also good when doing gardens to allow for a 'wild natural spot', a place that is not ever groomed or cut or manipulated in any way. This supports the energy of the wilderness and bring that into your garden in a powerful way.



Curves lines invite energy into a home in a more inviting manner than direct straight lines. Known as the 'path of the dragon' it slows down the flow of energy so has to soften and relax those entering personal home spaces.

Creating a natural flow through spaces revealing special features and is a delight to experience. Knowing how to do this is more instinctive than we know, but it does take time and dedication. Then we are magicians that allow a co creative play with nature, delighting our own senses as we learn and experiment.

When we realize balance as a personal goal, we can extend our inner knowing to our outside spaces and interact with nature with new eyes. Even if all you have is a few flower pots on a deck, this microcosm can teach you much. This is not to say you should not rely on other experience or a good garden book, but when you tune in to the space around you, you will find there is more going on that what meets the eye. Create your own magic and feel the difference.