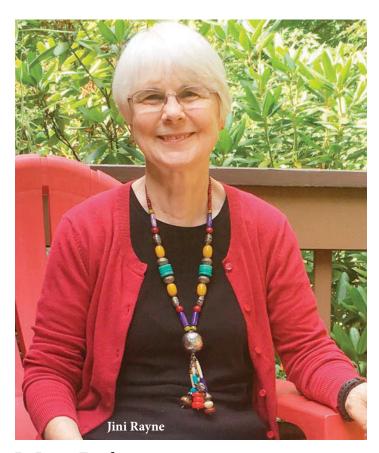
Feng Shui design by Jini Rayne



By Laura Esculcas

One of Western North Carolina's leading experts in Feng Shui, Jini Rayne has thirty years experience working with this ancient Chinese science of sacred landscape. Jini is a business and teaching professional, teacher of Feng Shui and Space Clearing Blessing, an Independent Reiki Master in the Usui, Japanese, Tibetan and Soul-Wind traditions, and a breathwork consultant.

She was a student and disciple of the late His Holiness, Grand Master Thomas Lin Yun, Rinpoche, a Chinese-born Feng Shui master. For many years, Jini studied extensively with the late Professor Lin, who expanded traditional Black Sect doctrine and philosophy to include knowledge and influences from Western medicine, psychology, social science, architecture, ecology, and natural science.

Jini consults with clients around the world, helping them to manifest positive change in their lives through her unique blend of practical knowledge and experience with feng shui, Native American space clearing, energy healing modalities, and ecological studies.

Fine Homes of Western North Carolina had the opportunity to sit down with Jini and talk about her understanding of how feng shui supports positive change and transformation in our lives.

FHWNC: How did you first become interested in Feng Shui?

JR: I first became interested when a friend gave me a book by Sarah Rossbach. First published in 1983, it was actually the first feng shui book in modern times. Being a practical person, I decided to try out a few things in the book to see if it worked.

At the time, my youngest child was in her freshman-sophomore summer. I had been divorced from her father for some time and had decided I wanted a partner in my life again. So I did a feng shui cure for marriage, and within six months my partner Calen and I were married. I did a cure in career because I was at a stand still at work, and within six months we had a breakthrough at work and moved to newer and better facilities.

Later, when I moved out of that house I didn't remove the marriage cure. One of my daughters, who was in her early twenties, moved into it and within six months she was married. So I realized this stuff must be powerful, and I began studying it in earnest.

FHWNC: What are the origins of Feng Shui?

JR: Originally in China feng shui was used to site the graves of ancestors, because it was believed that one's fortune comes from one's ancestors watching over them. This practice for the dead was called Yin Feng Shui. Yang Feng Shui is for the living and is what is practiced today.

Ernest Eitel's 1878 book Feng-shui: The rudiments of natural science in China reflects the original form of feng shui. Feng shui is fundamentally about the landscape and what is around you. In ancient China, it was noted that people living in homes that faced south and backed up to a hillside or mountain would have an easier life. From this developed the concept of the landscape around the home forming a basic protection chair that shields the back of the house from the north winds. In feng shui, the most auspicious position comes from what is around you. The compass school of feng shui came in later when people focused on building homes



by looking at absolute direction, rather than at home position relative to the existing landscape.

So really feng shui came from very practical observations and needs. It is an example of native people putting themselves in harmony with the land and the environment.

FHWNC: I understand you trained with Grand Master Thomas Lin Yun, Rinpoche. What was it like to study with such an esteemed Feng Shui Master?

JR: Professor Lin was friendly, kind, and humble. He liked to joke a lot, so it was fun to study with him. He taught in Chinese, which was then translated for us. He was affable and unpretentious, wearing Hawaiian shirts rather than robes. He would tell the story that when he was a child in China, he was playing with his group of friends one time near the monastery and when the monks approached them to see who might be interested in becoming a monk, he couldn't run away because he was so chubby!

Sarah Rossbach studied with him and he authorized her to write the first book that I had read. Professor Lin taught all over the world. In conversations with his senior students, Professor Lin presented oral transmissions, some of which are not yet published in books.

FHWNC: What is Black Hat Sect Feng Shui?

JR: It is short for Black Hat Sect Tantric Buddhist School of Feng Shui. Tantric Buddhism comes from Tibet, and began to influence elements of traditional Chinese feng shui. Professor Lin expanded the doctrine and philosophy of Black Sect to include the essence of Confucianism, Taoism, Yin-Yang philosophy, Eclecticism, Exoteric and Esoteric Buddhism, I-Ching, Theory of Chi, holistic healing, feng shui, and indigenous studies. The Tibetans recognized Professor

Lin as a lama and enthroned him in ceremony on both coasts of the United States, so that all his students could participate.

FHWNC: In your work, you emphasize space-clearing ceremonies and teach a Space Clearing Blessing. Tell me your experience with space clearing and how it benefits clients.

JR: In feng shui, there are ceremonies designed to clear out energy before the decorating work can be done. For the "pretty stuff" and placement of objects that we normally associate with feng shui to be effective, the space must be cleared of residual energy. Clearing is the foundation for everything; otherwise the feng shui cures are not going to work very well.

I also studied with Denise Linn, who has studied many cultures around the world. Her approach to feng shui is to combine the feng shui practices from Professor Lin with approaches from other cultures. As a Native American woman, Denise put equal emphasis on the clearing of energy when she taught. She combined feng shui from Professor Lin with her multicultural approach to clear energies and raise the positive energy of the space.

With my clients we do an energetic spring cleaning to make everything sparkling and clear. We deal today with the ancestral energy of the property, as well as identifying more mundane problems. We had a client - a lawyer - who bought a19th century property. In our energy clearing, we found a very unhealthy residual energy in the master bedroom. Under further investigation, we discovered that the toilet in the master bathroom had never been connected to the drain, so sewage had flowed under bedroom for years.

Feng shui goes much deeper than the decorating and cures. The foundation of energetic cleaning must be there for an effective solution. In order to start at the foundation, we ask our clients to complete an extensive questionnaire to get to

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FHWNC: What is one of the more extensive cures you've been involved with?

JR: I consulted with a lawyer who had a large office suite on two floors. His office was on the second floor and had a large window overlooking a busy street that headed directly toward his window before it jogged around the building. There was a small side street that crossed this main street

directly in front of the building. He called me because, although he was quite successful, it seemed that he kept getting pounded with problem after problem. Feng shui says that a building in direct line with oncoming traffic is always getting bombarded with unwanted energy.

The ideal solution would have been to have a large, round fountain in front of his building to mitigate and circulate the energy, but there was no room because of the smaller cross street. I gave him some alternate ideas after mentioning the ideal, and I did not hear from him for months. The next time I visited his city, I drove by his office location and the cross street had been closed off and replaced with a beautiful plaza featuring a large fountain in just the right place. I am still not sure exactly how he pulled that off, but it did solve the issue.

FHWNC: Could you share a unique situation you encountered while consulting in a foreign country?

JR: In Guatemala it is common to have walls and guards around the homes of wealthy people; the more layers of security, the more expensive the house. At one house under construction, there were four checkpoints with increasingly powerful armaments at each one, leading up to the fifth wall where the guards had machine guns. As I toured the house, I realized that the helicopter garage and pad (ready for a quick escape if necessary) were in the part of the energy map (bagua) commonly known as marriage. So the clients not only had a relationship with danger, but also symbolically had a quick escape from their marriage. It was an interesting situation to try to remedy!

I use a gauss meter to check for strong electromagnetic fields in homes. Usually they are found around stoves and microwaves and other electronic equipment when in use.

Sometimes people have a clock or clock radio near their bedside that puts a strong field on their pillow that disturbs their sleep. At one estate in Guatemala there was a low level field everywhere we went. That puzzled us until we figured out that it was higher on one side of the property than on the opposite side. It turned out that the higher readings were on the side closer to the volcanoes. I had not realized that volcanoes have an electromagnetic field with such an

extensive reach.

FHWNC: As you have stated, Feng Shui is about putting oneself in harmony with the surrounding landscape. Please share some of your observations about the landscape of Western North Carolina as it related to Feng Shui.

JR: It is ideal for the house to have protection or support behind it, some smaller support to the sides, and a wide vista to the front. Here in the mountains that is a fairly common circumstance. But many homes are built with the view to the back of the house so that the driveway goes down from the road and there is no support for the back of the house. In feng shui terms, the energy from the three back areas of the bagua: wealth, fame, and marriage is draining away down the slope so that there are likely issues in these areas.

I have recently begun working with a number of clients who own ocean front properties in New England. This is also an issue for them. The energy falls off,

and there is water behind in an area that is supposed to have fire energy in the five-element system. An effective cure helps to mitigate energy loss.

FHWNC: Thank you for your thoughts on the fascinating subject. Is there anything else you would like to add?

JR: I always say that you want your home to rise up and meet you. Feng shui is about deepening the relationship with your home and the land. It is about putting everything in harmony so that you all support each other to get – and to give - the most out of life.

For more about Jini, or to inquire about a space clearing or feng shui consultation, visit fengshuiasheville.com

Feng shui is not just a philosophy – for it to work, we have to actually take action.