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### COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

# Bad vibrations

## WTC site has always had bad energy and needs urgent Feng Shui cleansing, say experts

By LOIS WEISS

**D**OES the World Trade Center site need a ghost whisperer? A Feng Shui practitioner thinks too many troubled spirits are still roaming ground zero and it should be cleansed to speed the resolution of the political disagreements and to ensure ongoing safe construction.

She also believes the twin towers were doomed to failure because of their original placement.

Judith Wendell of Sacred Currents says she and other practitioners of the 3,000 year old art of Feng Shui, which balances energies, believe the site still has plenty of bad vibes.

She and those she knows have tried to enact some cleansing rituals and ceremonies to heal the area but have not been permitted down onto the sacred ground.

Even the flowers and letters placed by relatives during the official ceremonies have some healing powers but simply haven't been enough, she says.

"Having a nice groundbreaking when you haven't healed the land first is not that effective," noted Wendell.

Now the site needs clearing of what Feng Shui experts call the "Yin Chi" — the inanimate, sad and dark side.

"There's now an imbalance of the Yin Chi associated with the sadness, and it needs the Yun Chi, which is the renewal, active and



Feng Shui practitioner Judith Wendell administers a purification ceremony at the World Trade Center site, using prayers, sage, flowers, rice and incense. Jeremy M. Lange

growing energy — the rebirth," Wendell insisted.

There are three reasons Wendell says the site still needs cleansing.

Firstly, there's the "stuckness" of the entire redevelopment, including the negotiations.

Secondly, there's what happened there on September 11, with the huge loss of life and the violence.

Lastly, there's what happened

on the land long prior to the original construction — whether it was dockside killings or perhaps even old burial grounds.

Wendell is not alone, nor is she the first to believe that healing and a rebalance of energies is needed.

A website dedicated to the Feng Shui of the trade center site notes: "According to Feng Shui, the Yin should never overwhelm the Yang energy.

"Therefore despite the overwhelming pain of families who lost loved ones at the site, dedicating an overwhelming part of the area for a memorial would not be beneficial for the community in the long term.

"Therefore the proportion of the planned memorial should not overwhelm the proportions of new buildings on the site."

The website, copyrighted by Feng Shui New York in 2002, goes on to note that: "The proposal of a memorial in the form of two pool [sic] of water would represent a good Feng Shui approach."

Additionally, to protect the site, it states the area needs a "Dragon Mountain" in the form of a tall building on the northern end of the site of approximately 75 stories.

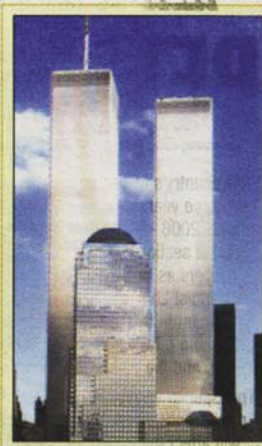
Some Feng Shui experts feel the Freedom Tower at around 1,776 feet may be too tall, while others believe such a tall building would

help balance the site.

Examining the current master plan, Wendell noted: "The 'sha' or cutting nature of the buildings is a bit jarring and the area would be better served in my opinion, with some softer shapes."

Such Sha Chi or bad energy was also present in the original towers.

Wendell and others say the twin towers were badly placed because they were angled so that



### INCENSED

**T**HERE is a Chinese custom of planting two sticks of ceremonial incense to represent death. Some felt the twin towers were a representation of this, creating a bad aura.

the edge of one was intersecting the wall of the other — somewhat like a knife blade cutting or what the traditionalists call "poison arrows."

"The two buildings were wearing each other down," Wendell said.

"It could take a hundred years but it weakens them."

Wendell says to think of Sha Chi like water dripping on a rock.

While it doesn't look like the water is hurting the rock, over long periods of time, the water actually makes a groove in the rock.

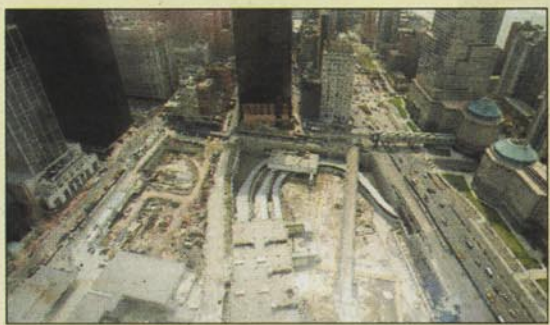
While the site's Japanese-American architect, Minoru Yamasaki, included some Feng Shui elements, the overall plan, they say, was not good for the flow of chi.

Leading real estate broker Mary Ann Tighe, CEO of the Tri-State Region of CB Richard Ellis said, "I believe that the only spirits that have to change are the spirits of our political leaders."

"They must say to themselves, 'What positive energy can we bring to this task? How to we bring this from divisive to collaborative?'"

Spokesmen for Silverstein Properties, the Port Authority and the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. declined comment.

### CHASING THE DRAGON



Kevin P. Coughlin/Photostation Images

**T**HE Towers sat on an energy line or lei line, and at the tip or end of a dragon vein. A dragon vein is a long mountain range. The WTC cut into the mountain bed rock, or the 'toes' of the Dragon, and thus into this energy line.

### FLOWER POWER



AFP/Getty Images

**F**LOWERS are a positive force, as is the use of water, and many Feng Shui experts believe the use of decorative pools in a memorial site will help balance the energy and bring healing.