

FENG SHUI

# Healthier, wealthier and karma

by Liane Evans

For employees to thrive, the design of their offices is everything. According to the ancient oriental art of Feng Shui, which traces invisible energy lines, company money may be flushed away if the toilet is in the wrong place.

Before you embark on your next major deal, you might spare a little thought for the positioning of your desk, the colour of the walls in your office, and the location of the staff lavatories. Because, according to the ancient oriental art of Feng Shui, the design and layout of a building are integral to the health, wealth, happiness and success of its occupants, whether at home or at work.

Feng Shui is, say its practitioners, the integration of the outside world with the internal environment based on the study of energy lines. And applied properly, claim the experts, it can deliver unlooked-for benefits.

Literally translated, Feng Shui means "wind water". Little known in the UK, the 4,000-year-old technique is widely employed in the Far East, where no office is constructed without first consulting a Feng Shui consultant. And it is the consultant rather than the designer who plans interior layouts – where to place desks, the size and position of windows and doors, the location of the loos and the species of plants.

Feng Shui operates in a similar way to the more widely accepted study of acupuncture. Based on electromagnetic energy, it is supposedly inherent in all things. William Spear, a US Feng Shui consultant who lectures on the subject in the UK, compares it to the invisible energy in technologies such as microwaves. "Feng Shui is everywhere in the UK but it is hidden," he claims. However, the dearth of examples of the art being practised in the West reflects our innate scepticism about things intangible and invisible.

Spear reckons that every room and every

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