

# ASIAN LANDMARK BUILDINGS

How Feng Shui Explains  
Their Success or  
Otherwise

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In my quest to understand more about Feng Shui I make it my mission, whatever city I visit, to spend time checking out the local architecture.

Whilst in Japan in January 2006 I went to the top of the tallest building in Tokyo to take various photos of the city.

One view that struck me was a building on the outside of the curve of a freeway. In Feng Shui we call this 'Outside the Bow'. That is, outside the curve of the road. A building in this location is subjected to *Sha Qi* (negative energy) and will suffer insecurity and loss of income.

Similarly, any kind of building, road, shape or object, pointing towards another building is a definite source of *Sha Qi* and an unwelcome environmental feature.

During the Cultural Revolution in China Feng Shui was discouraged for many years. Many Feng Shui masters emigrated to other parts of Asia to continue to practice their art. Hong Kong is the most famous of all Asian cities for its continuous use of Feng Shui.



**Amongst the many buildings which are most talked about in the Feng Shui community are:**

Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank (HKSB),  
Bank of China (BOC), Two IFC,  
Cheung Kong Centre (CKC).



The International Finance Centre in Hong Kong is a large, modern complex hosting the site of the tallest building in Hong Kong (fourth in the world when it opened in late 2003). Known as Two IFC, the building is of course, 88 storeys high – '8' being the luckiest number to Hong Kong citizens. The number of storeys, I presume, is omitting floors 13 – unlucky in the West – and 14 – '4' being an unlucky' number.

Designed by world famous Architect, Cesar Pelli, little is known about the details of the Feng Shui requirements. However, Pelli's other great achievement on Hong Kong Island, the Cheung Kong Centre has great mention on his website, "Responding to the local planning parameters and Feng Shui principles, Cheung Kong Center takes the form of a tall and well proportioned square prism and establishes its presence through its simplicity and elegance."

According to the CK Centre's website, "Perfectly square in shape, Cheung Kong Center stands for stability, endurance and long-lasting prosperity. The perfect ground for any business."

We can see, not only in Hong Kong, that Feng Shui is well considered by large companies for any measure of achievement and business success.

In my experience on new building projects, Western architects are often disgruntled having to work with Feng Shui professionals. Maybe they consider their 'art' is being interfered with and in a way, it is; because as we've seen so far, Feng Shui has specific paradigms which must be adhered to.

For instance, the Cheung Kong Centre was built on a specific angle, differing to the orientations of both the HSBC and the BOC on either side of it. This is because, every twenty years Feng Shui changes, and as of February 4th 2004 we moved into a new era, known as Period 8.

All three buildings were built in Period 7 and designed to receive the maximum Feng Shui benefits for wealth in that period. Now that we've moved into Period 8, they all have specific configurations that continue to meet the requirements for good Feng Shui.

My Shifu (teacher), Master Joseph Yu, from Toronto, Canada, suggests that the CK Centre must have had a very good Feng Shui master working on the project as even the entry and exit points of roads leading into and around the building are at specific, designated locations which improve the occupants' prosperity.

The Hong Kong Shanghai Bank building is the most famous of Hong Kong's Feng Shui in terms of its design. The façade of the building, originally designed with downward-pointing arrows, was, after consultation with a Feng Shui master, redesigned so the arrows pointed upwards – a more positive indication of financial profits!

Later, the Bank of China was built and is well-known to emanate piercing 'poison arrows', particularly in the direction of the Governor's Mansion.

You can see from the photo how the edge of the BOC is pointing towards the Governor's Mansion. Local Feng Shui masters are of the opinion that this was a deliberate design to apply pressure on the Governor in order that China would swiftly and smoothly take over, once the territory was returned to the Chinese Government.



Now, ten years after the handover, this of course has never been confirmed. At the time, rumour had it that the Governor employed the services of a Feng Shui master in an effort to counteract the effects of the pointed building. The master suggested planting two trees (Willows, I think) to block the view of the BOC building.

Other buildings in close proximity which were built after the BOC were sited in such a way as to avoid the sharp corners of the bank, or in some way designed to counteract its effects. Even the front corner of the BOC building avoids any other buildings and points directly into Hong Kong harbour without obstruction.

The design of the building from this angle may well have been deliberate so that no one would dare to construct any building between the BOC and the waterfront, thereby ensuring uninterrupted harbour views.



The ill-fated Lippo Centre is a close neighbour of the BOC. Looking closely at the picture you can see the BOC reflected in its façade. Built by our infamous Alan Bond in 1987, it is said the architect was briefed by Bond to create a design resembling Koalas climbing a (Eucalyptus) tree. However, be that truth or fiction, this type of block-shaped design is Architect Paul Rudolph's signature style, known as 'Brutalist'.

Bond occupied the building a mere three years before his empire was in ruins, we may well blame the bad Feng Shui for the failure (as well as a few bad business deals – particularly with the late Mr Packer!). Well, if we think about the nature of Koalas, most of the world sees them as gentle, peaceful creatures, but we Aussies know that Koalas can be rather smelly, often aggressive; especially noisy and territorial during mating season!

This rather expensive store in Tokyo's Akihabara electronics district was of interest to me as, although other buildings in the area were packed with people, this one was virtually empty on all five floors. I took a compass reading of the building, and, noting its orientation, calculated that the stairwell was located in the 'financial loss or bankruptcy' corner of the building. Worse still, the stairwell was painted a strong shade of red, enhancing this type of *qi* (life force-energy) making the situation worse.

This Singapore building, well known to have been built using Feng Shui, was most careful that their building would not have any bad Feng Shui on the facing side, by actually siting the building in such a way that the front faced a plot of land across the road in between two buildings.



### The bottom line is:

When going into business it's best to have the building checked before signing any lease agreement. The Feng Shui of a building can make or break a business and its entrance will determine the type of *qi* that enters and how successful the business can be.

Over the many years I've been surveying businesses, I've learnt through my experiences that the Feng Shui of a building is crucial to business success. At first, just like anyone, I was skeptical, wanting to verify what I was being taught; but having seen it myself, I unequivocally believe that Feng Shui can have a strong impact on a business.

© 2007 Master Jodi Brunner is 'Australia's Foremost Feng Shui Expert' whose book series, 'Feng Shui Tips,' covers the principles of Feng Shui in a no-nonsense way. Jodi conducts consultations, training courses, business and special interest seminars, traditional Feng Shui workshops and Feng Shui Tours. Call 03 9662 1011 or visit [www.fengshuimaster.com.au](http://www.fengshuimaster.com.au) for an interesting video on the Feng Shui of Shanghai.