

Vasati - the Origin of Feng Shui

(by Marcus Schmieke)



India and China are separated by the huge Himalayan mountain range, but in spite of that, these two ancient cultures always have had a cultural interchange. For example, Martial Arts and also Buddhism originated in India and were later transferred to China. Even in Kung Fu, the original Sanskrit designations for the various fighting positions are still known to some masters.

Through many similarities, we can see that Vasati and Feng Shui must have been influencing each other over a long period. While Feng Shui is considered to be at least 4,000 years old, Vasati has already been systematically described in early parts of the Vedic Scriptures like the Rig Veda, and those Scriptures are more than 5,000 years of age.

Even more impressive witnesses of the historic age of Vasati are the ancient cities of the 5,500-years-old Indus-Sarasvati Culture, which were discovered in the year 1921.

The first city was found close to the village Harappa, and because of that this culture became known as the Harappa civilisation. One of the most well-known cities from this era is Mohenjo-Daro, which has been planned in a grid system with streets going perpendicularly from north to south and from west to east, dividing the city into rectangular blocks. The houses of Mohenjo-Daro were built pointing to the main directions, and each of them possessed a central courtyard.

These features are found in every city of the Harappa civilisation. All of them were planned like chessboards and were divided into squares of like dimensions, forming various city areas with different functions. The temple was placed in the city centre. All of this is strictly following the Vasati guidelines – this suggests that the science of Vasati existed even before the cities of the Harappa civilisation had been constructed. The cities did not grow organically but were planned systematically following a clear geometrical concept.

From this, we can conclude that Vasati is even older than Feng Shui is, and it is highly probable that it has influenced the development of a similar science in China. The different cultural and climatic conditions in China may be responsible for the differences between Vasati and Feng Shui.

In China the cold winds from the North and the constant military threat from the Mongols in the North were the cause for the North generally being considered as a direction of lesser quality whereas in the Vasati system the North is considered a direction from which the most important organic energies flow into the house and the plot.

This corresponds to the energetic principles known to European geomancy and its modern scientific traditions (Viktor Schauberger, Wilhelm Reich, K. F. von Reichenbach) since hundreds of years. Therefore Vasati is more relevant to the building and living practice in the Western countries.

Vasati seems to be the original natural art of invoking positive energies to one's house, and it has already been applied in the Western hemisphere since the time of the famous Roman architect Marcus Vitruvius – without us being aware of it.