



Feng Shui Master Helps Design New Terrace at a Kaneohe Memorial Park



Do the principles of feng shui play as much of a role in death as they do in life? According to those who practice the ancient art – they do.

Feng (wind) shui (water) is based on the Taoist vision and understanding of nature. In general, the belief focuses on the idea that the land is alive and filled with chi (energy). Developed more than 3,000 years ago in China, this ancient art and science is a complex body of knowledge that shows how to balance the energies of any given space to assure health and good fortune for people inhabiting it. In Chinese culture, the combined elements of wind and water are associated with good health. Therefore, good feng shui translates to good fortune, while bad feng shui means bad luck, or misfortune.

Construction is now complete at Ocean View Terrace, a first-of-its-kind cemetery development at [Valley of the Temples Memorial Park](#) in Kaneohe. The 10-acre site – which features beautiful gardens, a cascading waterfall meandering through the property and panoramic views of the Ko’olau Mountains and Pacific Ocean – provides the ideal location to incorporate the art of feng shui, according to feng shui master, Clarence Lau.

Valley of the Temples Memorial Park provides end-of-life services to families from diverse religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Established in 1963, Valley of the Temples Memorial Park is located on the Windward side of Oahu and is surrounded by mountains and lush, rolling green hills which overlook the Pacific Ocean.



Valley of the Temples commissioned Lau to integrate prosperity, harmony and well-being into the design of Ocean View Terrace. The development, which broke ground in summer 2013 and officially opens next month, is among the most ideal memorial parks in the world due to its mountaintop location and ocean views.

A 23-year veteran in the Chinese philosophy that governs spatial arrangement and orientation to promote health, prosperity and harmony, Lau believes Valley of the Temples' natural landscape encourages optimal feng shui. He advises the team responsible for ensuring the park's monuments take full advantage of the topography in order to maximize the space as it pertains to feng shui.

"Though feng shui plays a significant role in all stages of life, the final resting place of a person's spirit is actually more important than that of the home or office," said Lau. "The place where one spends eternity will not only have an impact on the well-being of immediate family members, but it will also affect the growth and prosperity of the next two generations." Although burial sites were among the first locations to utilize feng shui principles thousands of years ago, Valley of the Temples is the first memorial park for which Lau has provided consultation services.

Lau advised Valley of the Temples on carefully designing the Ocean View Terrace property to optimize the balance and flow of good energy, ensuring an atmosphere of peace for the resting of departed loved ones. Optimal feng shui was achieved by positioning the direction to which Ocean View Terrace faced, according to Lau.

"Given the significance feng shui plays in the lives of many people in Hawaii, we enlisted Clarence to ensure the new Ocean View Terrace is in harmony with the principles by which many in the islands live," said David Montgomery, vice president of cemetery development and memorialization. "Clarence's attention to detail is not only impeccable, but the work he does conforms to the beliefs of our customers. Furthermore, to our knowledge, Valley of the Temples is the only memorial park in the Hawaiian Islands to offer a complimentary feng shui consultation with the purchase of property here. This is a key differentiator that we're really proud of." The new Ocean View Terrace development at Valley of the Temples will celebrate its grand opening with a two-day storytelling festival on March 28 and 29 from 1 to 4 p.m. both days. Renowned storytellers and island favorites, Alton Chung, Jeff Gere and Kathy Collins will give special performances during this weekend event. Alton Chung will also lead a storytelling workshop.

All are welcome to attend. The admission into the park is free, but the Byodo-In Temple onsite is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children ages 3 – 12. Everything at the storytelling festival and grand opening will be free for all guests. Details at www.valley-of-the-temples.com or call (801) 239-8811.

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