

Project: Good Shepherd Cemetery

Address: 1505 Buena Vista Drive
Vista, CA 92081

Dear Hofman Planning Associates,

My name is Laura Cerrano and I was contracted by the Catholic Diocese of San Diego as a Feng Shui Consultant in early October of 2020 to help address concerns raised by property owners located adjacent to the proposed Good Shepherd Cemetery project. I am a Certified Feng Shui Consultant based out of New York and California. My company, Feng Shui Manhattan, was established in 1997. Since that time, we have worked on numerous projects ranging from residential and commercial to brand new real estate developments.

My work for this project focused on providing practical Feng Shui recommendations to help incorporate a positive and harmonistic flow of energy surrounding the development of the cemetery while helping to mitigate negative associations to it. I have also included proactive measures that surrounding residents could make within their own homes and yards to address any concerns over negative energy believed to be associated with the project.

Observations and Recommendations for the Catholic Diocese of San Diego

1. Always maintain green grass as this relates to bringing in life force energy and vitality into the cemetery.
2. Encourage the overall look of the cemetery to resemble an open space park.
3. Avoid placing any burial sites near high-voltage wires.
4. When setting up the flat graves and tombstones, try to position them in a gentle curve along the land. This means the arrangement usually follows the contour of the surrounding land plot perimeter.
5. In general, it's beneficial to plant some trees throughout the burial sites as this is another way to encourage strong life force energy.
6. When planting trees throughout the overall cemetery, do your best not to plant any big trees too close to burial sites as the roots may destroy the coffin.
7. Common trees recommended according to Feng Shui include evergreens and cypresses.

8. Plant trees and flower beds in even numbers because the practice of Feng Shui promotes symmetrical design to encourage balance and harmony. The addition of trees, bushes and flowers will most likely attract natural wildlife. This is a wonderful indication of life force energy interacting with the land.

9. In general, make sure nothing is obstructing the front of a burial site.

10. Make sure any cemetery gates (including gates leading into the overall cemetery or gates that open to private burial sites) do not pass over any burial sites because this is considered disrespectful.

11. Avoid placing flowing water very close to a burial site as not to disturb the natural decomposition process.

12. Avoid placing plants directly on top of a burial site. For those who wish to include small plants, it's recommended to position them along both sides of the burial site. Typically, it's best to place fresh cut flowers by the burial site and refresh them from time to time.

13. In general, it's very important to keep all burial sites clean and in excellent condition. Any cracks or disrepair in certain parts of the site can affect the overall energy of the cemetery.

14. Create a screen (fence with tall trees or bushes) around the cemetery to block its view and/or soften its view. This is already being proposed by the Diocese.

15. Adjusting the cemetery name has been suggested to help detach a negative association to the cemetery name and convey a gentler tone.
 1. For example, "The Good Shepard Catholic Memorial Park," has been proposed. It's understood words carry frequency and can affect the mind, emotions and perspective of how something is portrayed and received.

16. For any greenery coming into the cemetery, please avoid using sharp-leaved plants. In Feng Shui, plants with prickly ends or sharp-looking leaves give off sha (draining energy). If you can't avoid this situation, keep those types of plants at a distance and away from pathways and burial sites.

17. The Diocese will include a flower garden within the cemetery, which helps to enhance the overall life force energy.

Practical Residential Feng Shui Recommendations

1. Maintain healthy landscaping around the property.
2. Welcoming wildlife onto the property is another wonderful way to bring in more yang energy (birds and squirrels). The presence of animals enhance strong life force energy.
3. Cover the view of the cemetery. The Diocese is addressing this recommendation by planting tall trees.
4. It's optional to utilize the yin bagua-shaped mirror and hang that above the doorway that faces the cemetery. This is believed to keep the cemetery energy away from the home.
5. Allow natural daylight to filter into the homes on a daily basis by simply pulling back the curtains and opening the blinds. This is another example of bringing strong yang energy to help balance out the yin energy from the cemetery.
6. Bring real plants into the home.
7. The more life (yang) energy embraced into the home and land, the better the overall energy will be for mitigating the yin energy of the cemetery.

It's important to note that cemeteries can be compatible with surrounding residential homes as long as proper measures are implemented to maximize the presentation and care of the land physically and energetically. The measures described are provided to help enhance positive energy to the surrounding areas with the inclusion of practical Feng Shui principles that were able to be implemented during the developmental stages. I hope you were able to find this information useful and that those who practice Feng Shui were able to find the measures provided herein useful for their individual homes. The overall intention is to mindfully collaborate in establishing a peaceful environment for all concerned.

Warmest Regards and Blessings,



Laura Cerrano
Founder and CEO
Feng Shui Manhattan, Inc.