

# THE BAD FENG SHUI PROJECT: A to Z, or All I know about bad Feng Shui

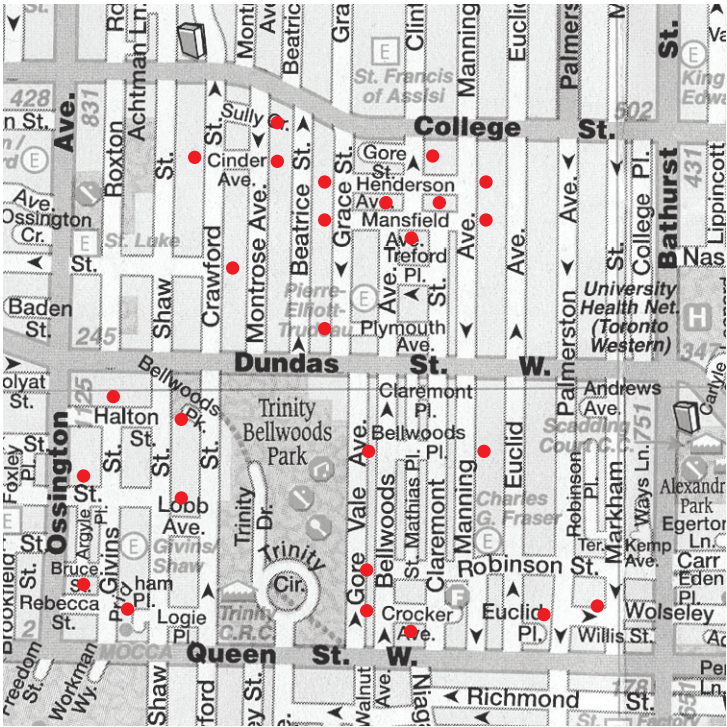
A curated walk by Deborah Wang

Growing up, my Taiwanese parents taught me one thing about feng shui. More specifically, they taught me only one thing about *bad* feng shui. It was a lesson I learned repeatedly as we left our house and ventured down our street which t-sectioned into another street. And there it was. A house. Not any house, but a house with bad feng shui. It was a house that faced the end of a street; its axial alignment with the roadway signifying the outpouring of all its good fortunes. Even walking around today I remember this lesson in bad feng shui. Every time I walk on a street that ends at another street, I look at that particular house and think to myself: “this house has bad feng shui.”

Generated by my own explorations of the city, *The Bad Feng Shui Project: A to Z* is an earnest attempt to generate new spatial experiences – or a new awareness of the spaces that exist within the ‘unseen’ city – through a curated walking tour. Through a series of map fragments, photos and a practical guide, *The Bad Feng Shui Project* takes the participant on a tour of all the houses with bad feng shui in the Trinity Bellwoods neighbourhood in Toronto. Feng shui, the ancient Chinese practice of siting a building in a harmonious relationship with its environment, is used as a lens to view the city and a device to produce another reading of it, thereby initiating a subtle recalibration of how we see and think about the spaces around us and our active participation in them. While the boundaries of Ossington Avenue, College Street, Bathurst Street and Queen Street West demarcate a specific area for this tour, the concept of bad feng shui can permeate the entire city, and any city. It operates as one of many thoughts and practices that constitute the invisible city.

You are invited to reconsider your current conception of the city: the way one street meets another street, the axial relationship of buildings and promenades, the parcelling of land during the history of the city’s development, the spiritual affects of urban planning, and your own relationship to ideas of good luck or fortune.

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