

Meeting Notes
Feng Shui Working Group
Sunday July 26, 2009

Attending:

Roshi, Andy, Faith Mind, Gemmon, Nelida, True Joy,

Check-in round

Roshi's general report on work in progress

- Much cleaning and clearing going on at the center which will and should continue.
- Clearing space is not a metaphor for practice, but is practice.
- In cleaning and clearing, we do not truly get rid of anything, but rather, transform it. Composting is a helpful metaphor for this process.
- Important for group to continue to read the report and look at the grounds from different perspectives, entrances, points of view.
- Projects will realized with security and maintenance projects given first priority. Funding must be secured before projects can begin.

Zendo

- Entrance area needs a lot of thought. Currently it is a confused space with too many functions. Opportunity exists to create a larger main entrance that includes the han and jikido and includes a space for late arrivals to sit.
- Moving the altar feels like a shift in energy. Roshi is considering an alternate altar.
- Closing the front gaitan door has also had a positive energy shift.
- Guideline for lighting in the Zendo is practical-the amount of light needed for safe movement.

Gates

- Arbor gates between apartments and lawn can become motif for other entries and gates on campus. The main entrance on Normandie would need to be the largest. These elements can also be used to mark the entrance to the Nilotpala and Irolo Street entrances. There is already a beam included in the front porch design of the Buddha Hall.
- Design echoes Tori gate system in Japan.
- Explored banners/color in conjunction with gate system.

Buddha Hall

- Access to founder's room has been limited. Seems to be working well.
- Suggestion that the Dharma words said by the officiants be communicated, perhaps finding a home on the public side of the website and a link included in the weekly program flash. Roshi will check with officiants since they would have to record and distribute their words.
- Storage and prep room needs thought. Gemmon and Faith Mind to explore current functions, needs and possibilities. No need to retain the sofa or idea of the room as a lounge. Discussion of many goals for room: fireproof workspace for lighting charcoal, storage of (stacking) chairs, zafus, chiden work area, perhaps some items can be displayed but most will need more protection. Keeping the window open is generally desirable but should be flexible depending on the other needs.

Irolo Entrance

- Add sign that entrance is on Normandie
- Steps to shrine between buildings should be made safer.
- Clearing of plants to continue. Pines and paths are starting to emerge.

Buddha/Dharma Courtyard

- Unify surface.
- Consider circulation including the officiant's path during service.
- Edge along brick building needs to be solidified.

Nilotpala

- Discussed wooden rail with trailing planting instead of bamboo on path.
- Shrine on garage wall between junipers
- Entry gate can go between the garage and building.
- Immediate entrance to be cleared up. Need a backdrop for statue-wood or planting, that allows access to meters etc. Bamboo can be cleared out. Statue area is an important part of the entry.
- Back fence to be replaced with chain-link and concrete broken up to allow planting of fast growing hedge-podocarpus, melaleuca were discussed.
- Residents doing a great job of clearing and shaping the pool garden.

Walking Tour