

台風 the taiphooon 雜誌

"Encouraging action in environmentalism, art, and peace in Taiwan."

倡導環保、藝術與和平行動

#3

六月 June, 2003

免費 FREE

Rooftop Revolution



屋頂革命

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我們需要您的參與! **contribute!**

The Taiphooon is a self-published bilingual magazine using art & journalism to take an independent look at ecological and societal issues around Taiwan that we hope will inspire you to **ACT**. We want to be *your* magazine!

台風雜誌是一本獨立發行的中英文雙語雜誌，藉由藝術與報導來探討台灣的生態環保與社會議題，這是一本屬於每一個讀者的雜誌，也是屬於每一個讀者的舞台，我們期待您的參與！

Contributors:



五...YOU?

台風雜誌編輯小組希望藉由這本小書的出版，倡導和平、具有正面意義的生活方式與價值，我們歡迎您提供文章、照片、新詩或短文等創作，投稿請寄至：

We want to hear from you! The Taiphooon encourages peaceful, positive contributions (and lifestyles). If you would like to submit original artwork, photographs, poetry, articles, short fiction, **letters**, or other material you think suitable for publication, please send them to:

thetaiphooon@yahoo.com



台風雜誌恕不接受具有種族、性別與同性戀歧視以及暴力等語言的投稿

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Upcoming themes:

Art/Writing from us/you (July), Water (August), Energy (Sept), Globalization (Oct), Consumerism (Nov)

Other Ideas:

Smoking, Gardening , Noise "Cute" , Vegetarianism+Bioethics Time

主題預告：

藝術/ (七月)、 水 (八月)、 能源 (九月)、 全球化 (十月)、 消費主義 (十一月)

Every third issue will be a creative issue of writing & art (JULY!)

七月號台風雜誌將以寫作與藝術創作為主題，歡迎您大顯身手！

pick up the taiphooon at cool cafes in Taipei: Orange, Grandma Nitti's, Norwegian Wood, Witch's House...

Rooftop Revolution

*"it has to start somewhere, it has to start sometime,
what better place than here, what better time than now"*
– Rage Against the Machine



Revolutions gotta start somewhere. Might as well start on the Roof and work your way down. Roof's closest to Heaven anyway...

What is the (or 'a') Rooftop Revolution? In abstract terms, the Rooftop Revolution is a renewed perspective on the way we construct and use our cities. It is an influx of healthy practices and attitudes that will improve the health, beauty, & efficiency of our cities as well as the physical and mental health of their inhabitants (i.e.: **you** and the people you live around). It is a simple concept with impact on sewage treatment, cancer rates, food production, unemployment, air pollution, and the happiness of Taipei's citizens.

In practice, Revolutionizing a Rooftop means converting the unused space on top of buildings into gardens – not just a row of potted houseplants, but a mini *farm* complete with a layer of soil, trees, compost heaps, and cultivated crops.

Let's face it: the cities we live in are largely inhumane; their sights, sounds, smells, and pollutants are non-conducive – if not out-and-out toxic – to healthy human life. Only our precious few Green spaces (parks, modest gardens, "waste" land) invoke the healthy habitat our organism evolved in. Mostly, you get houses and office buildings that look pretty much the same, carved out on land that is too small for meaningful cultivation, except in a small flower-garden kind of way. Humans (especially the city-dwelling homo urbanus) no longer choose the land they settle on, nor do they feel any stewardship for the Earth they occupy. When the human-Earth bond is broken, there is a general lack of concern for the health of the Earth, which has a direct bearing on the health of us humans. People litter, businesses pollute, we and our friends get cancer, nobody seems to care.

But imagine this:

Buildings are refurbished with a Rooftop garden run by a head gardener (who lives in the building, perhaps on the Roof, and may be a homeless/unemployed person who is thankful for meaningful work). The entire Roof is devoted to gardening and composting. (<http://peck.ca/grhcc/>: "The Fairmount Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver grows vegetables on its Roof, saving an estimated \$30,000 a year in food costs.") Each apartment may also have its own modest gardening area, but residents are encouraged to interact with their own communal Roof Farm. Contact with Nature will slowly heal those who find little Meaning in our monotonized, globalized, nanosecond/plastic culture. (If contact with Nature doesn't heal the human spirit, then why do we bother visiting parks, hiking up mountains, staring at sunsets, or keeping houseplants as pets?) The plants will slowly scrub our air clean, and since our Roofs are insulating our buildings better, our Air Conditioner Gods are creating less pollution.

Part of the gardener's responsibility is to grow fresh produce appropriate to the local ecosystem (i.e.: guavas but not pears in Taiwan), as well as usable plants like bamboo and hemp, and to compost leaves, food scraps and even the tenants' poop. The garden should be available to all tenants for working & frolicking. (cont.→)



No market for the roofolution? Look at this:

"Research conducted by Green Roofs for Healthy Cities reveals that in Germany, 10% of all flat roofs have green roofs. This represents over 55 million square metres of green roof infrastructure in place since 1989. Almost 50% of German cities (77 cities) have programs in place that support the development and growth of a market for green roof infrastructure." www.greenroofs.ca

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☂ Rainwater – not a scarcity in Taiwan – would be collected on every apartment Rooftop in large containers and used as greywater (for washing) or filtered for drinking. Collection of rainwater would alleviate drought conditions and reduce the effects of flooding in severe rainstorms. Imagine a city (or entire country) that had no need to flood tillable/habitable/wild land in order to impose an ecosystem-busting artificial lake called a *reservoir*!

The retaining walls around Rooftops as well as tin Roofs that cannot support the weight of a farm would be equipped with solar panels to take advantage of the mighty Sun’s resources (quite abundant on Taiwan), and windmills to take advantage of the power of Typhoons.

Advantages of a Revolutionary Rooftop:

1. Beautifies individual buildings and the city as a whole
2. Cleans the air of pollutants (through trees & other plants)
3. Provides local food via gardens/fruit trees
4. Provides other plant products (bamboo, hemp, mulch)
5. Provides a beautiful place to relax in
6. Allows organic material to be composted (reduces garbage/sewage output)
7. Provides employment (gardeners and Roofers)
8. Ensures that leaky or unsafe Roofs get fixed
9. Prolongs life of Roof
10. Insulates Roof against sound
11. Produces healthy soil that could be sold to other gardeners
12. Provides a habitat for plants, insects, birds, other small animals
13. Cools the building and the city (thus reduces bills and pollution)
14. Creates a reason to visit Taipei!

The Revolution may sound improbable, but shouldn’t sound unfeasible. In fact, a Rooftop Revolution is quite easy to achieve, and unlike other revolutions, this is a peaceful, healthy change. (But our ugly cement buildings and cities may never be the same again!)

The ideas behind the Rooftop Revolution are not new. They have been – are being – practiced by both forward-thinking and “primitive” people the world over. They have been espoused and promoted by environmental thinkers. The Viennese artist Hundertwasser endorsed environmental architecture and civil engineering almost identical to this. The Chicago Department of the Environment is testing Rooftop gardens for their cooling effects (www.ci.chi.il.us/Environment/Rooftopgarden/). Green Roofs for Healthy Cities is constructing Revolutionary Roofs in the US (www.greenRoofs.ca/grhcc/main.htm). Lots of other examples exist. (Even the Taipei City Government had a 空中花園 “Sky Garden” program at one time.)

More than likely, most people in Taiwan will never adopt any of the ideas proposed in this article. However, we and you can adopt them, and thereby shift the spectrum toward greener living. We could live in a beautiful, green Taipei in the not-too-distant future. What is required is vision (in other words, “giving a shit”) on behalf of the citizenry and a Will to Green on behalf of government. Dentists have a saying, “Ignore your teeth and they’ll go away.” Unfortunately, the same seems true with a healthy ecosystem:

Ignore Nature and it will go away.





Know Your Rights

Exploring spaces and places not too far from home

- After June 1995 apartment rooftops became “public spaces” thereby making them public property to be used by anyone who resides in the building (including renters).
- Buildings constructed prior to 1995 are also subject to the same law as above and are required to keep access to the rooftop available to all tenants living in the building.
- Access to the rooftop can not be limited, even those living in a rooftop apartment can not lock the door leading to the roof, nor can they restrict use of the rooftop.
- No **one** apartment has more ownership of the rooftop and therefore no one can ask another tenant to leave. However you need to respect other tenants in the building.
- Rooftops can be used to store things like plants, gardens, tables and chairs. They can also be used for drying clothes, sunbathing and barbecues.
- Anyone having problems accessing their rooftops can contact their landlord or the Building Administration Office (BAO) in Taipei.
- Major disagreements between tenants and their landlords can be taken to the local District Office. The office provides free legal services and counseling for persons wishing to file a complaint with their landlord.
- For further information contact the Apartment Management Section of the BAO at (02) 2725-8388, or visit their Web-site www.dba.tcg.gov.tw

*All information provided by Lin Juen-Jeh, Chief Engineer at the Apartment Management Section of the Building Administration Office, a department of the Taiwan government.

Do you have access to the rooftop at home? The rooftop at work? The rooftop of the highest building you pass by everyday? When you've got 10 minutes to spare, try your luck at a promising stairwell and check out the sky! It's quite peaceful up above the city and you might just get a better idea of where you're headed (physically/mentally). If you can't access the sky, perhaps you can convince the friendly building security guard to let you up for a breath of fresh air. And before you climb up there, don't forget to bring some plant seeds to help **green the roofs** (see page 13 for an effective peaceful rooftop warrior).

Excellent source of links to rooftop gardening and urban sanity:
<http://www.cityfarmer.org/roofs>

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Taipei: Can you spot the only green rooftop?

The “Urban Heat Island” is a phenomenon characterized by city centers commonly having temperatures over 3°C higher than the surrounding environment. This extra heat is largely due to the natural landscape having been paved over with dark materials that absorb sunlight and radiate off energy in the form of heat. During the summer, a flat rooftop can soar to 55°C - hot enough to fry an egg. This heat creates powerful updrafts, circulating tiny particles (aka: smog) that clog lungs. The additional heat increases the need for electricity production, which further adds to air pollution. By contrast, a grass rooftop can't get any hotter than about 24°C.

With enough green roofs, the temperature of an entire city can decrease. A 2°C to 4°C temperature drop translates to a 10% reduction in air conditioning requirements. A one-story structure with a green rooftop can cut cooling costs by 20% to 30%. A recent study on the city of Chicago estimates that the greening of all of the city's rooftops would save US\$100 million in energy annually. Peak demand would be cut by 720 megawatts - the equivalent energy consumption of several coal-fired generators or one small nuclear power plant.

Green rooftops also capture and filter air pollutants and retain as much as 50% to 70% of the storm water that they capture. This reduces storm water contamination and the risk of flooding. **Source: Environmental News Network**

Other cities are doing this...

- Tokyo city passed a law requiring buildings with a roof area over 1000 m² to green at least 20% of the roof and also offers tax breaks to encourage roof gardens.
- Throughout Europe, green roof legislation has led to the greening of millions of square metres of roofs
- Stuttgart, Germany, will pay 50% of cost required to put in a green roof.
- Linz, Austria, requires any green space lost due to development to be compensated for by greening the roof.

Canadian sources have calculated that, on average, 3.3m² of grass can remove one-half pound of air particles each year

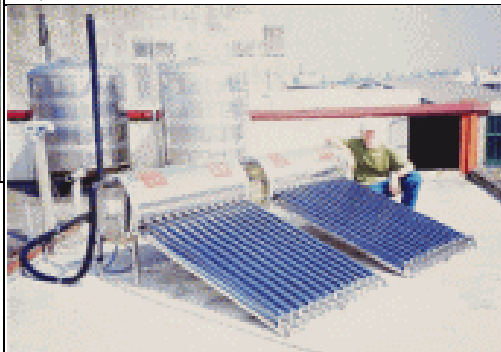
<http://faculty1.coloradocollege.edu/~shall/EV421/JoekKurland.html>

↪ The Taipei City government used to promote a 空中花園 “sky garden” program in which free materials were given to those who wished to green their rooftops. Despite this great initiative, it appears that the program fizzled out after many enthusiasts began building rooftop gardens and ponds without adequate sealants to prevent moisture from leaking through the concrete. If you are worried about leaks at your house, **you can plant in containers instead of building a stationary garden bed**. Old bathtubs and polystyrene containers (available at fish markets) are deep enough for carrots and help insulate plants from heat. However, there are now some **excellent waterproofing / root deterrent products on the market for sealing rooftop garden beds** so moisture doesn't get through. A report by Peck (website on p.1) shows that a London department store roof membrane was still in excellent condition after 50 years of green roof planting. The green layer actually protects the roof membrane from temperature fluctuations, puncture, and UV damage. Use the following website (Chinese) to convince your landlord that there are good waterproofing products in Taiwan: www.kingal.com.tw/products.htm.

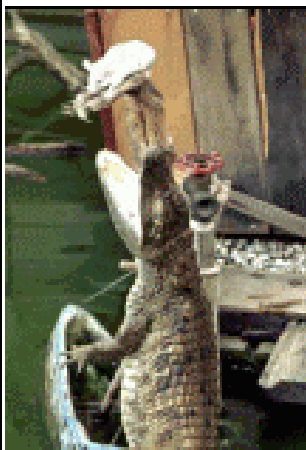
Here's what some people do with their roofs in Taiwan:



◀ Liz Mitchell watches as Dan Nystedt leans over his rooftop pond to feed Ally, their pet alligator. Mitchell and Nystedt are two of five tenants who share the two-story apartment in Yuanshan, Taipei. This roof has been home to Ally for more than three years. It is legal to keep alligators as pets in Taiwan and pet shops sell them for as little as NT\$1500.



↑ Clint Munkholm shows off his solar water heaters in Tainan. Clint is “way happier with this system than with gas” because lots of hot water is always available, sufficient to supply their household of 3-4 people. The system combines 2 panels of glass tubes that allow UV rays through. Although Clint recommends this particular system, in hindsight he would have only bought one panel. No extra heating is required 95% of the year, and Clint says that the water is often scalding and needs to be diluted with 3 parts cold water to be bearable. The Munkholm’s paid around NT\$45,000 for this system 3 years ago and got NT\$5,000 back from the government. Clint says the system will pay for itself in over 10 years – but he figures that gas prices will rise, making it even more cost-effective in the future.



◀ Ally is a Kayman alligator and will grow based on the size of his environment as well as the amount he eats. He is fed one large meal of about eight mice a week as well as a surplus of small fish in the pool with him. Ally has a spacious home and plenty of attention from his family.



↑ Rooftop garden / social area at 大葉大學 Da-yeh University, Jhanghua



↑ Jeff Martin and Minhua’s rooftop farm includes veggies, trees, a pond with fish and a bullfrog, and once had two roosters until they got too loud. Jeff adopted this American bullfrog from Yangmingshan, just after it was set free by a Buddhist group.

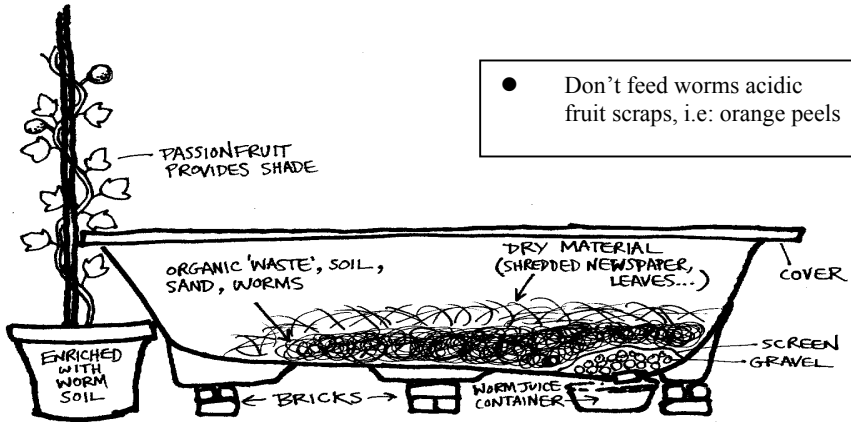
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One way to compost kitchen scraps or any organic material on your rooftop or balcony

Bathtub Worm Farm

You will need:

1. Old discarded bathtub, or any other durable and insulated container with a drainage hole.
2. Small bag of gravel, some screen, and bricks (see nearby construction site)
3. Dozens of worms. Skinny redworms are best (found in ox shit on Yangmingshan) but I've had success with earthworms in Taipei. Throw in *a handful* of soil/sand to help worms' digestion.
4. Dry & light organic material: shredded paper, crushed dry leaves, rice hulls (not sawdust)
5. A cover to keep rain and sun off of bathtub (roofing material, old plastic sign...)
6. Container to catch the nutrient-rich black 'worm juice' that comes out of the drain hole. Feed to plants.



- Gravel and screen go on top of drain hole to keep everything from washing away
- Apply a layer of dry material (see #4) on top of each dumping of fresh organic "waste" so that it stays covered and moist (worms don't like light, heat and dryness). Cover to prevent flies.
- Sprinkle water in the tub if it gets too dry. You can allow some rain to get in, but don't flood it.
- Use the processed worm-soil to grow climbing plants over the whole structure to keep it shaded.

This method adopts the **permaculture** principle that "you can never do just one thing" as it works to: process your organic scraps, feed hungry worms, prevent air pollution (incineration), prevent clogging up incinerators, attract wildlife and add diversity to your rooftop ecosystem, create a cycle in your life rather than a one-way flow of "waste", feed hungry plants, cool down your rooftop, and turn your attention toward positive action.

Note: Other creatures will be attracted to this system – make sure that you encourage spiders, geckos, dragonflies, birds and other predators to keep system in balance and link to the larger ecosystem beyond your rooftop (i.e., provide water to attract dragonflies, birds, frogs, 🐸, 🐌, 🐛, etc.)

Dealing w/ fruit flies: 1) freeze kitchen scraps to kill fly larvae, 2) cover bin material with old carpet or cardboard, 3) bury newly added material deeper, 4) beer trap: cut out corner of plastic bag and poke a small hole in the corner; fasten over jar with a little beer to attract and trap flies

More info: "Worms Eat My Garbage" by Mary Applehof, www.wormdigest.org, www.cityfarmer.org

Roofology 1⊙1: Using the sun wisely

1. Grow plants! They need sun – let them have it! In return, they'll provide shade, cooling, and organic materials. Plant vines on overhead trellis for shade and food (i.e.: passion fruit 百香果、choko 佛手瓜、grapes、山藥、川七).

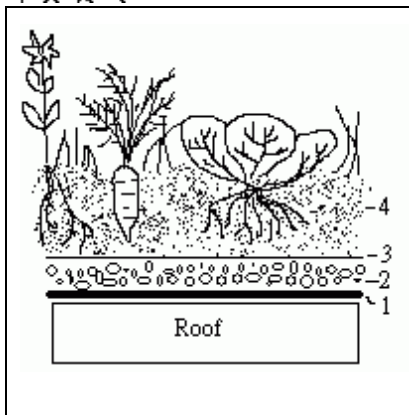
2. Heat water for showers/dishwashing with a black container in the sun.

Cuts gas bills, and cools the roof by absorbing heat. Black shower bags for camping are ideal and sell for NT\$200 at camping stores.

3. Make a solar cooker. Set rice/beans in cooker in morning and aim at sun – come back in evening to a hot meal. Cuts gas/electricity costs.

Search “solar cooker” on the Internet for ten thousand DIY design ideas.

4. Buy solar panels for electricity and shade, a solar water heater, or a wind power generator.



A good rooftop garden bed design should include a series of carefully engineered layers:

1. A water- and root-repellent membrane (i.e.: heavy duty sealant, sheet of thick reinforced plastic).
2. A drainage layer (gravel or lighter material) to separate growing material from the waterproof membrane.
3. A durable filter cloth to keep drainage layer from getting plugged up by soil.
4. Growing medium as top layer. This medium should be designed to be as light as possible and still support plant growth. Taiwan's Construction & Planning Administration recommends using **peat** and **vermiculite** and feeding plants nutrients through liquid fertilizers so as to keep your roof garden as lightweight as possible.

Don't want to DIY? Companies in Taipei that can help install rooftop gardens:

Beitou: 千豐園藝 2895-1717	Muzha: 怡園工程 2236-0871	Hsinyi Rd: 唐仕山水 2703-4870
Neihu: 老樵夫 2658-4822	Sanchong: 美之園 2280-2933	Heping E Rd: 城市農夫 2735-4463
Shilin: 巨匠造園 2831-8518	Yonghe: 松綠造景社 2927-3669	Minquan E Rd: 蔘春林園 2749-3799

💡 “What's up with that poster on the next page?” ☺

Revolution (and gardening) is always funner with a friend. If you'd like to start a rooftop garden and would love to have a helping hand, **TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS!** See if you can get them to Revolutionize your Rooftop with you. We have provided a poster on the next page that you can put up in your stairwell or other location to invite your fellow tenants to discuss a rooftop garden. We figger you could use this poster to attract their attention and get them to attend a preliminary discussion meeting, then you can take it from there. All you need to do is add the meeting time and your contact info if you want.

💡 “下頁海報有什麼用意呢?” ☺

革命事業絕對少不了好伙伴的協助！這張海報是方便您招兵買馬，尋覓更多鄰居一齊來從事「屋頂革命」，共同為您的生活環境創造一個獨一無二的「空中花園」。只要填上時間、地點，再將海報發給鄰居，一個空中花園的創意行動就可以從大家的七嘴八舌中發想出來。心動不如馬上行動喔！

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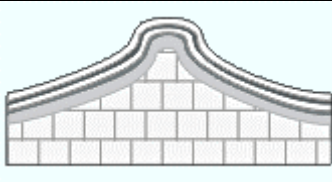



Back in the days of one-story housing, slanted roofs were the norm. They are useful in channeling heat up and out of upper windows or openings, and in directing rainfall away from your bed, perhaps to some containers for drinking water. Such roofs – pointing toward heaven – also serve cosmological purposes:

Roof Cosmology in Taiwan: The Mabei 馬背

By Chen Shih Hong 陳仕泓

On a walk down some of Taiwan's more scenic country roads, you're bound to see traditional housing in the style of ancient Chinese architecture. Classical yet simple houses sit peacefully beside mountains, fields, streams and woods, harmoniously blending in with the surroundings. Such scenes are filled with a tranquil sense of balance and agreement. Although they are not as showy as Taiwan's exquisitely sculpted traditional temples, take a few minutes to appreciate such simple architecture and you'll find how easy it is to become fascinated by the implied meanings embodied in different architectural styles.


The roofs of traditional country housing in Taiwan are shaped like a triangle over the walls of the house. At the pinnacle of these "mountain-walls" is a unique traditional structure called the mabei 馬背, meaning "horseback", which can be fashioned in a number of different styles. Chinese architecture primarily uses wood for the framework, and therefore a main beam is required at the exact center, connecting the peaks of the two side mountain-walls. The mabei refers to the two ends of this main beam. The many different shapes of the mabei epitomize the deference that ancient Chinese people held for Feng Shui 風水 and the I Ching 易經. The five different styles of mabeis correspond with the five elements: wood, fire, earth, metal, and water. Dwellers carefully choose the shape of their mabei according to the concepts of the Five Elements 五行.

	<p>木型馬背呈現的是如樹木高直的外表</p> <p>Wood mabei stands tall and straight like a tree</p>		<p>金型的馬背呈現線條滑順的形狀</p> <p>Metal mabei smoothly bends over the peak</p>
	<p>火型馬背以多個反曲線所行成如火焰的形狀</p> <p>Fire mabei erupts with flame-like inward curves</p>		<p>水型馬背以多個曲線型誠如水波班的形狀</p> <p>Water mabei rolls with wave-like outward curves</p>
	<p>土型馬背呈現的是如平坦的大地</p> <p>Earth mabei lies flat and level like the land</p>		

Picture source:
http://temple.tnc.edu.tw/build/html/roof_04.htm

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Ancient Chinese cosmologists became aware of the notion of the Five Elements when they took into account the directions of the Earth, their understanding of the seasons, and observations of the natural world. Our ancestors believed that the universe is made of five basic materials – metal, wood, water, fire and earth – and with careful observation, these five elements could be used to record time, predict seasonal changes and represent different directions. The “creation/control interaction” 相生相剋 between the Five Elements is akin to the interconnected web of relationships between different animals in an ecosystem and is a vital mechanism in the functioning of the “ten thousand things” 萬物.

Creation Cycle	五行相生		五行相剋	Control Cycle
→			→	
WOOD	木		木	WOOD
creates	生		剋	controls
FIRE	火		土	EARTH
creates	生		剋	controls
EARTH	土		水	WATER
creates	生		剋	controls
METAL	金		火	FIRE
creates	生		剋	controls
WATER	水		金	METAL
creates	生		剋	controls
WOOD	木		木	WOOD

The Five Elements theory is an integral part of ancient Chinese philosophy and culture and is put into practice in many facets of daily life, for example, in names, architecture styles, life philosophy, religious beliefs as well as traditional medicine and pathology. The main purpose behind a house’s structure is to ensure peace and well-being for its inhabitants, and extra care is taken to apply the concept of the Five Elements when constructing the roof - one of the most important parts of the house. When choosing a mabei design to provide the best protection and fortune for those sleeping below, many variables must be taken into account such as the inhabitants’ birth dates, the location, as well as geographical directions. The corresponding mabei is then chosen depending on which element the house is lacking. Due to the “creation/control interaction,” an equal representation of all five elements is essential and the relationship between these elements is based on certain rules and processes just as in other natural phenomena. It is much like a bubble, with no end or beginning and with its forces in perfect balance. If one part is deficient however, the whole bubble bursts and cannot continue functioning.

Next time you see traditional Chinese architecture, take a closer look at the elegance and simplicity in design, and check out the shape of the mabei. Can you guess what element it has been designed to bestow upon the building’s inhabitants? Is there a particular role that the mabei has been assigned to perform in that environment? In essence, just this small component of a house reveals the wisdom embodied in the ancient theory of the Five Elements. The Five Elements still continue to play an important conceptual role in Chinese society and culture today, and perhaps will continue to do so for another 5,000 years.

都市熱島



當市中心溫度比其他附近地區的溫度高出約三度左右的時候，我們稱它為「都市熱島現象」。此現象的產生，乃因為陽光被都市中許多黑色或暗色的物質表面（例如：柏油）吸收後，以熱能的方式輻射出來所造成的。

在夏季，通常屋頂的溫度可以達到 55°C，幾乎可煎蛋。這樣的熱會造成強大的上升氣流，促使許多會阻塞肺部的細小微粒在空氣中循環。同時，高溫高熱也迫使人們消耗更多電（從不可再生能源、石化燃料而來）來解熱消暑，造成更多空氣污染。相反的，一個種有草皮的屋頂通常不會超過 24°C。只要城市中愈來愈多空中花園，便可減少都市熱島現象的產生。根據研究，一旦溫度降低 2-4°C，就可以省下 10% 的冷氣需求。一棟一層樓的建築，若有一個屋頂花園，將可省下 20% - 30% 的冷氣費用。如果所有芝加哥的建築物都有屋頂花園，每年將可省下一億美金的電費。而尖峰需求量將減少 720 百萬瓦的電量—相當於一個小型核能電廠的發電量。

綠色的屋頂也可以吸收與過濾空中的污染物，同時保存 50% -- 70% 的雨水，減少都市中洪水成災的機會。

其它城市如何響應屋頂革命行動...

- ✓ 東京通過一條法令：凡是面積超過 1000 平方公尺的建築物屋頂都必須挪出至少 20% 的面積進行綠化，而政府也會以減稅方式鼓勵民眾或企業創造空中花園。
- ✓ 歐洲各地已經有超過百萬平方公尺的綠化屋頂
- ✓ 德國 Stuttgart 市補助民眾 50% 建造空中花園的費用
- ✓ 奧地利的 Linz 市規定凡是因為開發而喪失的綠地，要以同等面積的屋頂花園

V O C A B U L A R Y

rooftop	屋頂	wu1ding3
revolution	革命	ge2ming4
“in the air”	空中	kong1zhong1 (rooftop garden=空中花園)
flower garden	花園	hua1yuan2
vegetable garden	菜園	cai4yuan2
popular cooling herbal drink	青草茶	qing1cao3cha2
(non-) renewable energy	(不可) 再生能源	(bu4ke3) zai4sheng1neng2yuan2
graffiti	塗鴉	tu2ya1
nuclear power plant	核能電廠	he2neng2dian4chang3
leak water	漏水	lou4shui3
waterproof (membrane)	防水(層)	fang2shui3(ceng2)
solar water heater	太陽能 熱水器	tai4yang2neng2 re4shui3qi4
traditional architecture	傳統 建築物	chuan2tong3 jian4zhu2wu4

weeds to live by:

It's easy to add greenery to the urban skyline even if you don't have gardening skills, don't own a rooftop, or the government doesn't support a green rooftop project. First, look in a parking lot or untended area for weeds, collect their seeds and spread them on the next rooftop you find. The weeds' roots will begin digging into the rooftop substrate, turning it into soil; their fallen leaves will continually add organic matter. Plant life will attract insects and then birds, who will then deposit a wide diversity of plant seeds. In a matter of years, those few seeds you dropped could turn a rooftop into a jungle!

Of course, if for some strange reason you want to keep the building intact, there are ways to perform the same thing without wearing down the building. See <http://www.cityfarmer.org/roofs>

Wonderful Worldly Weed # 2

Bidens pilosa

(咸豐草, 鬼針草, Farmer's Friend, Beggar's ticks)

Description: Annual herb under a meter high, spreading branches. Leaves in opposite pairs, soft and toothed. Flowers white with orange central florets, which rapidly mature to star-heads of dry seeds. Kids in Taiwan love to launch these barbed star-head missiles at each other's clothes.

This poor creature is the target of many herbicides. Although often cursed for its tricky method of attaching its seeds to passersby, this plant is loved by some for its culinary, medicinal, and ecological benefits. "Farmer's friend," as it is known in Australia, is often the first plant to begin healing exposed soil, and its roots work well at holding soil in place and breaking up dense soil clods, rocks and pavement. Other plants grow well in places where farmer's friends have been protecting and conditioning the soil.



Habitat

Disturbed ground; rooftops, cracks in pavement and walls. Throughout warmer climates around the world. Forms a dense ground cover, which temporarily prevents regeneration of other species.

As habitat of many native flowering plants has been damaged, *B. pilosa* is a welcome focal source for bees and butterflies in Taiwan. After herbicides are sprayed, *B. pilosa* is usually the first weed to come up (common herbicide in Taiwan is paraquat 巴拉刈, which is banned in many countries for its high toxicity; *B. pilosa* has built up tolerance to paraquat).

Food

Popular in Africa (its native land) where it is in daily use as a vegetable. The leaves can be eaten fresh or cooked, and are also dried and stored for use as a potherb. Can be steeped as a tea rich in minerals, especially calcium, which is good for stomach ulcers & bones.



Medicine

Antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. Has long been used in traditional medicine throughout the world for various ailments (fever, malaria, dysentery, ulcers, coughs, rheumatism, respiratory infections). Reduces excess acidity, a condition that could lead to other illnesses. Has 'cooling' properties, and the leaves are blended into drinks such as 青草茶. The plant once helped reduce a prolonged fever after a Taiwanese herbalist instructed me to drink a 'sake' made of a huge handful of *B. pilosa* leaves and another herb.



Remember: It is important to correctly identify plants before using them and to be aware of the possibility that plants may have been sprayed with biocides.



The Taiphoon

Although you are more likely to die from the flu than you are from SARS, fear of contracting the latter continues to freak the public out. Without undermining the seriousness of SARS, perhaps it is time to put the latest "deadly" disease into perspective with other (often more) deadly diseases.

HIV/AIDS

- More than 42 million people worldwide are currently living with HIV/AIDS.
- 5 million new HIV infections occurred in 2002.
- More than 3 million people died of HIV/AIDS related causes in 2002.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

- More than 8 million people become sick with TB each year (over 1/3 are in SE Asia)
- TB kills approximately 2 million people each year.
- The epidemic has grown rapidly during the past three years and it is estimated that by 2020 approximately 1 billion (1,000,000,000) people will be newly infected, more than 150 million people will become ill with TB, and 36 million (36,000,000) will die.

INFLUENZA (the flu)

- 3 to 5 million people suffer from severe cases of influenza world-wide every year.
- Estimations conclude that 250,000 to 500,000 die from influenza each year
- Most deaths linked with influenza in industrialized countries occur among people over 65 years old.

SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS)

- As of June 4, 2003 there were 8,402 cumulative cases and 772 SARS related deaths since the first reported cases in November 2002. Already 5,746 people have recovered from SARS.
- A "suspect" case of SARS is a person who fits into one of the following two categories:
 - develops fever and one or more respiratory symptoms, including cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, within 10 days of returning from travel to areas in Asia where SARS cases are being reported; or
 - develops fever and one or more respiratory symptoms, including cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, within 10 days of close contact with a "probable" SARS case.
- "Probable" cases are similar to suspect cases, but often have a more severe illness, with progressive shortness of breath and difficulty breathing; in some cases, x-rays show signs of atypical pneumonia.

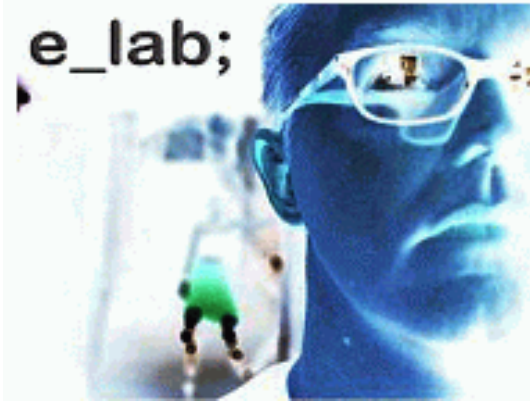
*All data provided by the WHO and The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Influenza and Tuberculosis are both contagious diseases and like SARS spread via droplets and small particles excreted when infected individuals cough or sneeze.
- Presently the best indication of a SARS infection is a fever (38°C or above).
- Only people infected with SARS are contagious and can pass the virus on to others.
- Neither the WHO nor the CDC suggests wearing masks in public places.
- When someone's immune system is weakened, the chances of getting sick are greater. Therefore the WHO, CDC, Taiwan Health Ministry and every doctor on the planet recommends a healthy diet, exercise, cleanliness and rest as the best defenses from the common cold, the flu, TB and SARS.

So wash your hands, take off your mask, go outside and take back the streets.

But **watch out** in U.S. streets: In 1999, there were 28,874 gun related deaths in the US, more than 80 deaths every day. Unfortunately, washing your hands won't get rid of this deadly dis-ease.

(mp3.com hosts 100% free music. You want it? Download it!)



Sexy techno that wants to throb between your thighs. That's what e-Lab creates. Think of your favorite prostitute (female) that is cooing poetry about "honey" and "tongues" and being licked and swallowed over a beat by Bjork while Tricky scratches and tweaks the words coming out of her mouth.

e-Lab's music is not exactly melancholic, not exactly lovelorn, not exactly angry - but not exactly bubbly, either. Instead, it mostly *aches* with the gut feeling that something (or someone?) beloved is missing...

...But not all of it. On some tracks, in fact, e-Lab really rock out.

Ah, but you have to send for the CD (*Sexy Robots*) to know that.



The human eye evolved with ample doses of sky and greenery. In a blink of the Earth's eye, such vistas have been replaced with dull concrete and ads of anorexic women, politicians, and products that guarantee joy and social status. *Ink the Walls* welcomes pictures of *meaningful graffiti* or other signs of life out there to help us break out of enclosure and liberate space once again.

Send pics of **graffiti / ad fixing** in Taiwan to thetaiphooon@yahoo.com



translation: "study peace not war"
location: jet fighter at National Taiwan University

The Taiphooon

rooftop revelation

by Evan Gel

i've been
to the mountaintop
brother and the wind
was chilling brisk
my body was not there
the mind created
sensorial reality

axis stuck in permafrost rock
bare-ass cupped
in a suction-lipped receptacle
connected to supernatural frequencies
transmitted from the cosmic creator
—Monera—

an organism with the simplest cell unit on earth
its humble yet austere
nature is God
all life stems from this organism's
chaste asexual loins

please address issues of the world
and beyond—Monera—

"Well, I sent down
my seed,
you see how
it has been
and continues
to be sown,
none including
myself knows
for certain
what is to come,
the rest is folly."

thank you
your cosmic brilliance
i am enlightened
now
an unassuming prophet
traveling throughout all lands
atop my suction-lipped
felt tipped pogo stick



Stones

by S2

There are those who insist
we have no life:
we lack the structures
that sustain even simple biology -
no heartbeat rocks us,
no blood courses through our veins
(we have no veins),
we possess no lungs, no nerves,
no digestive tract.
They look at us:
we do not move,
we do not change,
we do not appear to think,
or care,
or even love.

We are indifferent
as to where we lie
(by railroad track,
in deepest wood,
hurled into the middle of a lake).
A stone set in the crown
worn by the loftiest queen
is not happier
than a rock ripped
apart
for gravel.
And so they say we are devoid of life,
yet this is not so.
Pick us up:
we are heavy *with it*.

✂️ **Taipei Peace People is a community** of musicians-cum-peace activists whose mission is to bring together peaceful-minded folk of all stripes. In their own words, “we started up because we believe that we are citizens of the planet before we are citizens of any one country, and that what binds us as humans is more important than what divides us as nationals. We have organized and continue to organize events of our own, while linking up with like-minded Taiwanese.”

One of their recent (April 19) events was a peace gathering full of music, drumming, fire dancing, and frolicking in the lush Kunlun Herb Garden. If you are aching for another peace festival, or missed out on the first, a second gathering is in the works for June 14-15 near Hsinchu. It will be a Rainbow Gathering-style event, says TPP member Lynn Miles, intimating that attendees should bring their own food and fun.

To find out about upcoming events, check: www.taipeipeacepeople.com/events.html

To get involved with the group, check: www.taipeipeacepeople.com/about.html



Goings-on



June 14 * Taipei Peace People gathering in Hsinchu

Contact: www.taipeipeacepeople.com

June 14 * Discussion 1: War from Perspective of Health and Medicine. Speaker: 黃嵩立 (陽明大學環境衛生研究所教授). Discussion 2: War and Gender – Peace cannot exist without justice: *Three Guineas* by V. Woolf. Speaker: 陳瑤華 (東吳大學哲學系 副教授). (In Mandarin) FREE!

When: 1:30~4:30pm

Where: 228 Memorial Park Museum

Contact: 23897228

Butterfly watching trip every Sunday this June. FREE! Meet at front entrance of 228 Memorial Park at 7:30am (in front of National Taiwan Museum 國立台灣博物館).

6/15 烏來桶后溪 Wulai, Tonghou River

6/22 富陽公園 Fuyang Park

6/29 銀河洞 Silver River Cave

台灣蝴蝶保育學會

Butterfly Conservation Society of Taiwan

Contact: 28814006

Before July 6 * Send in artwork and creative writing for the July issue of the taiphooon

July 9 * Discussion (in Mandarin): Salt villages in Taiwan and strategies for reviving local salt industry/culture. Case study: Sztsao Ecological-Cultural Village. Lecturer: 盧建銘

July 23 * Discussion (in Mandarin): Mining culture as base for community preservation. Case study: Mining communities in 九份 (Jiufen), 金瓜石 (Jinguashi), 平溪 (Pinghsi), 瑞芳 (Rueifang). Lecturer: 林鑾

Both talks start at 7:00pm at 建國啤酒廠圖書室. Fee: \$120, discount for students

Contact: 2772-8272 陳小姐

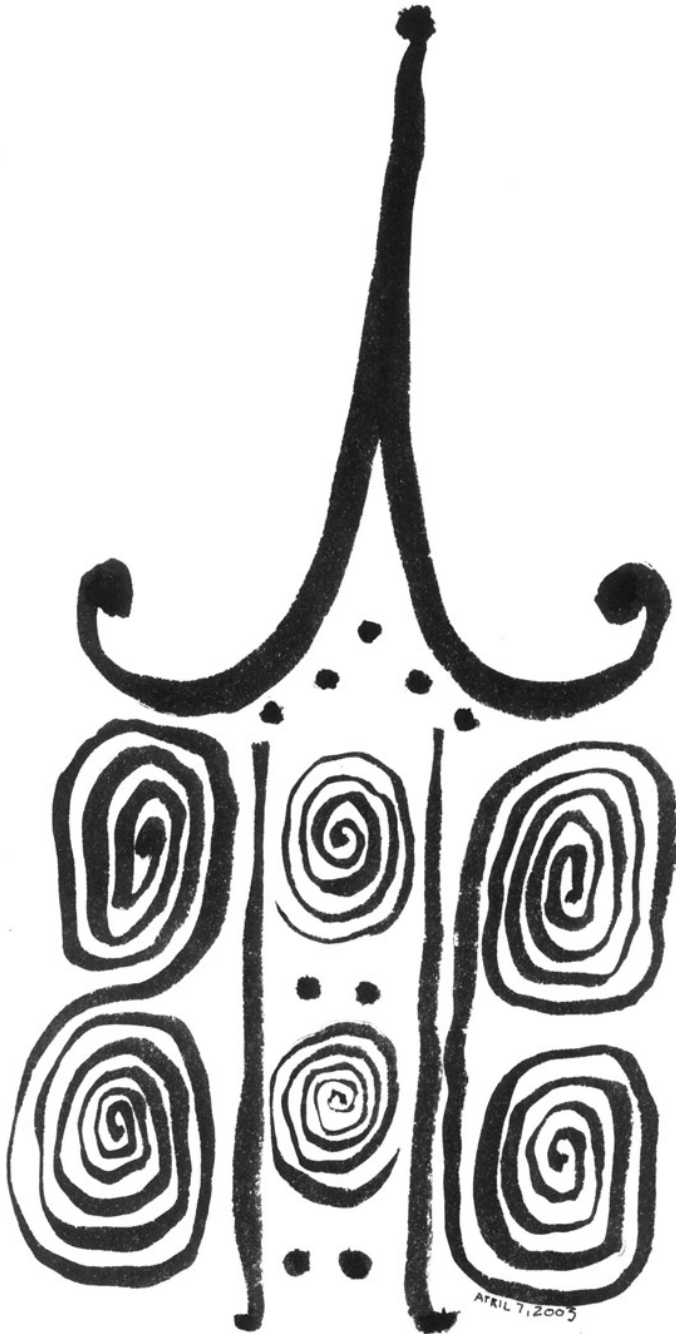
a7728272@ms16.hinet.net

Your Announcement Here!

Send to:

thetaiphooon@yahoo.com

The Taiphoon



APRIL 7, 2003