

AT HOME

WITH

Uri Geller

TV's greatest Mystifier talks Feng Shui,
the search for his successor and life by
the Thames

At what age did you first discover your skills as a Mystifier?

I was five years old when a spoon first bent and broke in my hand. I realized that other children couldn't do what I was doing so I knew that I had something unique. Because we were very poor, I wanted to push myself and be successful. The first TV programme that catapulted me into being world-known was the David Dimbleby show in 1973. He had heard that I was being tested by the CIA in America and he wanted me to be interviewed on his TV programme. In fact, the BBC also recently did a documentary on me called 'The Secret Life of Uri Geller' which focused on my life as a secret agent working for intelligence agencies across the world.

What projects are you currently working on?

I currently have a very successful TV series called The Next Uri Geller which has been broadcast in 16 countries. It is live and I am taking it to China now. It is 11 weeks where 11 performers have to prove they are as good as me. I hope to get it to the UK next year.

Where are you currently living?

We are very happy living in Sonning on Thames. I have been living in the same house for 34 years. We have a very unusual house because when I bought it 34 years ago I didn't realise how amazingly it has been built on a bend of the River Thames. We actually sit down river and I Feng Shui'd the house so that all the positive energies can flow through it. I have lots of crystals in the garden and have collected hundreds of different species of plants from around the world from the Amazon jungle to Peru, from Argentina, from Chili and The United States. They've all adapted to the ground and some of them have matured because I planted them 34 years ago. I've also got quite a few Japanese trees so my garden is very eclectic. It is very beautiful. It has three very interesting ponds and a seven foot natural waterfall. You can hear the water falling in all the nine bedrooms of the house.

The house is very unusual because it is nothing like an English house. It's an American Colonial loosely built on the American White House, so it resembles it but in smaller scale.

What beliefs have inspired your home?

I believe in ancient Chinese culture that talks about energies. Albert Einstein proved that everything in the universe is made from energy, and energy vibrates, energy flows... you cannot destroy energy. Therefore I believe that energies can flow through a house and if you are lining them up with the objects that are in the house, with the trees, and if you line up the ley lines of your house, then you have a more powerful positive energy in your home. I was also surprised when I bought the house that an old lady came up to me and said 'Mr Geller, do you realise that Sonning on Thames was a healing centre a thousand years ago?' I asked her how she knew that, and she said it was in the Doomsday book.

What in your opinion makes a house a home?

Since I'm a painter, my idea was always to design my own things, including my own jewellery. Hanna and I have always done our own interior decorations. We don't listen to others because we are the ones who end up living in the house so we want the house to be tailored to our pattern of thoughts, tastes, energy and ambiance. We have designed it in such a manner that it is very minimalistic. I have one painting on the wall, and the only reason it is there is because I painted it after I worked with Salvador Dali in 1973. I have very few pieces of furniture but they all have meanings. For example, I have a Charles Eames chair that belonged to Yves St Laurent. I collected a few different objects that have stories, so that's how we designed our house.

What is your favourite room in the house?

Everyone will tell you, it has to be the kitchen. Besides having a television screen, I also have



a screen for my internet use so when I come down to have breakfast I can read my emails. Attached to the kitchen there is also a glass conservatory and I can see right down the river, and the plants and the garden. It's beautiful, and we hardly use the other rooms.

If you were to ever move, where would you go?

We are planning on moving back to my homeland, Israel. I'm not sure what I would do with the house. Most probably keep it because it is in such a unique position, I doubt we would ever find a similar place in England again. We already have a place in Israel right near Tel Aviv. It is in a 5000 year old garden that has archaeological finds that overlooks the Mediterranean. It's a very small apartment ... probably the size of our living room at Sonning. The only similarity is the water: I can see the Mediterranean out of the window.

What do you like to do when you're not working?

I work all of the time! We don't take holidays or go on vacation. I use my free time to meet friends, go walking and visit different places, so I combine my work with pleasure. I cannot remember in the last 40 years ever going on a holiday. I look at life as one great adventure and I use my time when I am in exotic countries to do my exploration.

'The Secret Life of Uri Geller' is available now from bookshops and amazon.

www.uri-geller.com