



# Address Codes

Sometimes where we don't want to live says a lot about us.

BY JANE MUNDY

Hotel with room 1313 on the 13th floor: **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver.**



word for "four" sounds very like the word for "death"; 44 is "double death."

Disguises given to the 13th floor (which may be as effective as wearing a bad toupee): 12a, pool floor, 14.

Address where the 13th floor houses AC machinery and there is no visible office space: One Canada Square, London, England.

In the cult British TV series *Red Dwarf*, the 13th floor was a secret brig several decks high.

Having a *two* and a *four* in an address sounds like "easy death" in both Cantonese and Mandarin.

Vancouver feng shui expert Marlyna Los says that stove, door and bed placement are crucial in lessening the negative effects of living on the fourth floor. Inhabiting the 44th floor would require double diligence to combat bad energy.

"Get around negative feng shui by writing the word *four*, instead of the numeral 4, in your address," says Los.

According to city hall, the cost of removing the pesky four from your Vancouver address: in 1976, \$30; in 2006, \$566.

## UNLUCKY 13

Term for irrational fear of the number 13: **Triskaidekaphobia.**

"Very superstitious, the devil's on his way/ Thirteen-month-old baby, broke the lookin' glass"—**Stevie Wonder, "Superstition"**



The 1990 TV film *Nightmare on the 13th Floor* deals with a murder on, you guessed it, a non-existent 13th floor.

### Why We Fear 13

The Egyptians were first to develop a superstition for number 13, but they considered it lucky, believing there were 12 steps on the ladder to eternal life and taking the 13th step meant going through death into everlasting life.

In both Norse mythology and Christianity, having 13 dinner guests is a no-no as it is



believed that one of these guests will die before the year ends. (Twelve

deities sat down for a meal at a gods' feast when Loki, the god of mischief and disorder, came along and crashed the party. Judas Iscariot became the 13th dinner guest and later betrayed Jesus.)

The Romans associated 13 with *ill omens.*

Witches adopted the figure for their covens, which always number 13.

Percentage of world highrises lacking a 13th floor: **80**

## UNLUCKY 4



Why do some new buildings omit the fourth and 44th floors?

The fourth floor is the floor of death because in Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese the

BUILDING	BUILT	# FLOORS	4TH FL.	13TH FL.	44TH FL.	USE
Shangri-La	2008	58	N	N	Y	mixed
One Wall Centre	2001	48	Y	N	N	mixed
Fairmont Pacific Rim	2009	44	N	N	Y	mixed
Shaw Tower	2004	42	N	N	n/a	mixed
Woodward's	2009	43	N	N	n/a	residential
		32	Y	N	n/a	mixed
200 Granville Sq.	1973	30	Y	Y	n/a	office
Royal Centre	1973	37	Y	N	n/a	office
Bentall Centre	1973	35	Y	N	n/a	office
Harbour Centre	1977	28	Y	N	n/a	office
TD Tower	1972	30	Y	N	n/a	office
Scotia Tower	1977	36	Y	Y	n/a	office