

# TAIWAN STEP 16



**Cultural Innovation Not In  
the Park, It's All Around You**

## **Quest for Taiwan's Cultural Innovation Camps**

Time magician gives new life to old space——

Songshan Cultural Park

Huashan 1914 Cultural Innovation Park

Taichung Winery

Pier-2 Dayi Warehouse workshop

## **Shuttle bus for easy traveling series (IV):**

Yilan railway The nature feast

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Welcome to check the "Taiwan Step" magazine on Facebook and Sina Weibo.

What in the world is "cultural innovation"?

This issue of "Taiwan Step" has invited creative masterminds to solve the doubt. The renowned designers Wu Donglong and Feng Yu give us a profound discussion on the required characteristics of "cultural innovation parks"; the design observer Designsurfing explains how the "aggregation effect" helps the development of cultural innovation; and cultural innovators from all over lead us to a short cultural innovation tour and pay visits to a few emerging cultural innovation camps. Readers are welcome to bring their "Taiwan Step" magazines and visit the actual aggregation sites of cultural innovation to personally feel the culture, innovation and design, and contemplate how one's own stereotyped life pattern can be changed a little bit.



# Cultural Innovation Not In the Park, It's All Around You

Text/ Show.D



*Wu Donglong and Feng Yu - one uses travel to explore design, and the other uses commercial projects to fulfill design. In the conversation between the two pals, we realize that "cultural innovation" is a genuine fulfillment of life. If we have no respect for and attach great importance to cultural root, where can we start to build an operational model for innovation? To the two pals, the Cultural Innovation Park is not confined to the definition of the name. It's all about clearly conveying concepts for the purpose of culture preservation collocated with market-competitive measures. If so, there should be many more fun and interesting "cultural innovation parks" than there are now!*

**Q:** First, would you please define the essential elements, or required conditions or functions, of a "cultural innovation park"?

**Wu Donglong (referred to as Wu):**

In fact, I don't think there are any required elements of a cultural innovation park. Instead, it is how to "position" the features of individual cultural innovation parks, which can be market-oriented, and fostering-oriented as well. The positioning affects our comment on whether it is successful. For a good cultural innovation park, the positioning also affects its long-term planning, by which people are given a 5-year, or even 10-year vision. Unfortunately, we at home do not look at it this way. Instead, most of the cultural innovation parks are judged by their productive values.

**Feng Yu (referred to as Feng):**

We should first know the purpose of establishing a cultural innovation park. When I go out with my family on holidays or weekends, I will want to have a place where we can see things and have fun with, and the children will not get bored and things are not too expensive to buy. In fact, I believe most people may have the same mentality as mine. Therefore, it may not be completely possible to promote and preserve culture as the same time, but feature highlights to attract people should be elaborately planned in the first place, so that a decent commercial pattern can be formed and passed on to drive the local economic interaction. This is the "business" perspective to be held on to.



**Q.** Many of the cultural innovation parks are criticized as too commercialized with too much commercial emphasize. Why do you suggest to use a "business" perspective to look at cultural innovation parks, Feng?

### Feng:

A commercial pattern is defined by whether people will go there and buy things, tangible or intangible, and are happy to pay for them. This is quite a fair exchange. The culture inside a cultural innovation park can be valuable indeed. However, if the value is not attractive enough for people to pay for it, or it is available in every corner of the streets, that will cause people to think it is too commercialized.

### Wu:

Perhaps it is the "operational model" that counts! To do a thing well and last it long, an operational model is a must, from which what to gain and what results to expect are anticipated. With the goals determined, contemplation on the operational model can set in, accompanied by commercial issues as a whole. Without an operational model, the business can easily start with too much focus on short-term benefits and cost consideration, and such a circumstance will lead to thinking of releasing more space for profits. Such a doing will blur the core value and deviate the position of a cultural innovation park. This is quite a common phenomenon from my observation.



**Q.** Could you please give me some examples of the cultural innovation parks that you have visited that are worth a reference by Taiwan?

### Feng:

Last year, I went to Asahiyama Zoo in Asahikawa, Hokkaido, Japan. It is really something noteworthy. The zoo is located in a unpopular place in Hokkaido, so remote that people don't pay a dedicated visit. At the brink of shutdown, the master of the zoo came across some new operational ideas for visitors to sightsee the animals, through which most of the animal displays were changed. For example, periodically the penguins are set free to walk outside the fence, so that visitors can have a close encounter with the penguins. The lower half of the water tank is also made transparent so that visitors can see hippos and polar bears like from under the water. The zoo has its own products and displays them with full charms. The products are also given educational meanings to attract visitors who come for its fame. Another merit is a joint venture with the railway company to offer dedicated trains to the zoo. The trains go through prairies and bushes among various themed landscapes, and are loved by kids. From the Asahiyama

Zoo illustration, I think "planning capacity" is the most lacked in Taiwan's cultural innovation parks.

### Wu:

"Space" is also a very important element. Many of Taiwan's cultural innovation parks are renovation and refurbishment from old factories and dormitories, making characteristics building pervasively confined, and it is very unlikely to apply one single model to every cultural innovation park. In the current stage of Taiwan's promotion of cultural innovation parks, the software contents and planning will make a great difference. In terms of the cultural innovation space renovated from old houses, there are plenty of examples in Tokyo, Japan. They have the 3331 Art Chiyoda and the iid Setagaya handicraft school, spaces renovated from abandoned school dormitories for young artists, and the 2k540, a space made from a railway viaduct. They don't make people think cultural innovation parks are set to foster the cultural innovation industry, and people walking in the parks don't feel that the parks are trying to make money out of the business or they are desperately in need of money.



**Q.** Now back to Taiwan. Are there any local cultural innovation parks or facilities that you two would recommend?

**Wu:**

Well, this is a bit difficult for me. We can easily take Tokyo as an indicator, which makes Taiwan somewhat insufficient. And this is what makes it difficult to give local recommendations. Yet, among the Taiwan cultural innovation parks, the Kaohsiung Pier-2 Art Center is one with relatively better balance in that the sense of living is heavier while the sense of commerce is less intense. I can see a gradual development and growth in the Pier-2 Art Center, which will also bring in the local development, beginning with some small shops to attract tourists. It can better link the friendly relationship between designers and the shops.



**Feng:**

I'd like to recommend the Checheng Station, located between the places of Jiji and Sun Moon Lake. It used to be a distribution center of logs from the mountain forestry. It was abandoned as the forestry industry faded. There is a large landscape pond, where kids can feed fish. The pond was actually used as a reservoir to prevent land cracks from droughts and repel bugs. Devised in the station is a "forest workers trail" where visitors can tour and experience the carpenter workshop. With the display of legacy forestry tools, it also has the local history to offer. Most interestingly, at Five O'clock every evening there will be a train passing by for visitors to take pictures with. This kind of public open space infused with the local history as the background provides a very good cultural teaching material. However, the tourist navigation is apparently not enough. As a result, visitors would take merely a casual tour and shopping without having a chance to know about the connotation of the history. What a pity!

**W**ith limited time, if a tourist can choose only 5 most desirable things to do in a Taiwan tour, this is a recommendation list regarding the food, clothing, accommodation and transport for first-time visitors to Taiwan as well as visitors who have been here and would like to take an in-depth tour. Wu Donglong focuses on personal tours, while Feng Yu on family tours.

### Wu Donglong for first-timers of Taiwan tours (coming to Taiwan alone for a tour for the first time)

1. Art museums, such as the Taipei Fine Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei, Asia Museum of Modern Art, which are large galleries not seen quite often in Hong Kong.
2. Magazine libraries or the Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch.
3. Sizhitang, an creative restaurant of Taiwanese cuisine near Wu Donglong's company, whose licensed wine taster coupled with chef recommended Taiwanese cuisine will deeply impress tourists.
4. The Xue Xue Institute, a place for cultural innovators, offers programs for getting to know this place. Registration is required.
5. On accommodation and food, I'd like to recommend Taichung Good Days Restaurant, Kaohsiung Dua restaurant and 3080s Apartment,



Tainan The Place b&b and Dear b&b (it's famous for beef soup and a chauffeur driving you in)

### Wu Donglong for in-depth Taiwan tours

1. Custom-made O'Ringo shoes.
2. Real Series + Stay Real b&b (very good breakfast, and very private because it is an apartment).
3. Sculptor Barber for men.
4. Fragrance Color, a restaurant with such a distinctive style that it requires courage to ring the bell and get in the restaurant.

# Taiwan Design Ecology Nurtured From Communities

Text/Design Surfing Picture/Interviewees



Feng Yu: For a family coming to Taiwan for the first time, I'd like to recommend a winter tour with focus in Taipei.

1. National Palace Museum is a must-see destination.
2. Hot spring bath in Beitou (go to Kagaya hotel, which offers the best Japanese-made hot spring facilities).
3. The Yongkang Street Yeh Tang (for tea drinking and shopping)
4. Shidahua beef noodles (it has to be mainland recipe for the genuine cuisine).
5. For tourists who like tranquility or pretend to be wenqing (cultural youth), Shiyang Mountain House is an ideal place to go.
6. For night hangout, the daddy midnight hideout A Line/Alchemy is recommended.

Feng Yu: For in-depth tours, the spring and autumn are the good seasons, but not in the hot summer!

1. Go visit the eastern mountains or other high mountain areas of Taiwan (Puli, Shei-Pa National Park, Lalashan Woods), because mountains are rare in Hong Kong.
2. Outlying islands (Penghu, Lyudao are nice places)
3. National forest parks (leave alone the urban landscapes, and natural sceneries are much better).
4. For holiday goers, slow-paced accommodations are recommended (be aware of regulations and restrictions on children).

Taiwan's design waves of recent years are surging. In addition to the cultural innovation parks run by enterprises, there are small design communities scattered in every corner of the societies, which fulfill design in everyday life. The communities are not large-scaled, but each has its own distinctive gestures, with a promising future to be expected.

## NATURAL FORMATION FROM HISTORICAL CULTURE

### Makuta'ay

Located in between the estuary of Hualien Xiuguluan River and Tidaan

Some tribal settlements came into shape with historical backgrounds. The Hualien Makuta'ay is bearing the historical memories of the Amis. Rahic Talif, a designer per se, when seeing part of his own aboriginal culture was cherished like a treasure outside his homeland, was inspired to go home and contemplate what he could do to contribute to his own mother culture.

After numerous researches and no-stop producing wooden furniture, he was enlightened and started his creative enthusiasm of driftwood art. He mentored the tribal youngsters such as Sapod Kacaw and Iyo Kacaw to revitalize the Makuta'ay tribe which has suffered from severe population decrease due to outward migration of youngsters, in an effort to cultivate more and more local artists.



Tipus, a local tribesman, who has long been engaged in the tribal cultural work is invited to bridge urban designers and local artists. Through the bridge, recently Sumi Dongi, Sapod's cousin, worked with cutting-edge designers and used the round umbrella weeds flourishing in every corner of the tribal villages to make exquisite home adornments. They now have their own brand - Kamaro'an, and have participated in the exhibition of Taiwan Designers' Week.

The designers live here, regarding themselves as members of the tribe. They discuss with tribesmen over designs in everyday life. It took them 3 years to set up a most suitable collaboration pattern. The tribal culture per se contains powerful vitality, whose most beautiful gestures are posed by way of the design techniques. The tribal ecology attaching to the historical context is now injected with more energy for development.

## EXPLORATION INTO LOCAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

### Black Settlement

No. 41, Alley 35, Lane 193, Zhongzheng N. Road, Sanchong District, New Taipei City

The Black Settlement in New Taipei City was initiated by the DHH Studio. Along the Zhongzheng N. Road are factories of casting, plating, and CNC processing, and it is a place where the Taipei industrial designers often visit to discuss with craftsmen about product designs.

The chief designer of DHH Studio, Gina, used to visit this place quite often for product development.



The smell of heated plastics and the sound of metal cutting are the indispensable landscape in her journey of mass-producing design products. Later on, she moved her studio to this place and organized many themed workshops, which combined design professionalism with the nearby factory production technique. Recently, she has invited some Japanese artists to station in her studio for close communication with these foreign innovators to nurture the production capacity of the community.

### Artqpie Library

No. 135, Zhongmei St., West District, Taichung City

The Artqpie team has an central idea of "Start from our own land", that leads to the quest for urban idled old houses for space renovation and refurbishment. The space redesign is free with a paid-off by allowing the workshop to "occupy" the space as a new office site for a period of time. The Artqpie Library is alive, migrating in the city of Taichung.

The current Artqpie, a redesign and planning combining the past experiences, located in the Zhongmei Street, is already the third generation. In this space, there are many bookshelves for independent publications. People can read and buy books in here. In addition, it has room for exhibition of art works. It even has its own publications. The man in charge, Argi, says that they recently published a book titled "Community Sidebook", which gives an integrated introduction of the Taichung and Tokyo community spaces, hoping that the Artqpie platform can share the stagnant resources to create opportunities for local community development and, through the publications, outwardly extend more possibilities.





## DIVERSIFIED DESIGN ART SPACES

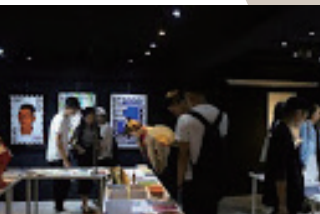
### graphic design lab

BIF, No. 4, Lane 60, Anju St., Daan District, Taipei City

The graphic design is the most commonly touched domain by the general public. Although many mobile phone APPs provide standardized editing software for public use, in our everyday life there are many commercial signboards and brochures that are not appropriately designed to right positions.

The "Everyone Design" united studio located in Liuzhangli combines different workshops of graphic design, web design and media. It has a Graphic Design Lab for monthly-based graphic design exhibitions, where different themes are given to attract people not quite familiar with this artistic domain and encourage them to get relaxed in enjoying the displays. The events are aimed to cultivate people's appreciation of the graphic design aesthetics and build their trust in the graphic design professionalism.

Meanwhile, projects to renovate the neighborhood are ongoing. Not awhile ago, the workshop mobilized all the staff to design the menu and business card for a neighboring Japanese owner's restaurant "Gourmet Teppanyaki". The project required application of graphic design, Japanese translation, photographing among other professionalism. The Everyone Design takes the Graphic Design Lab as the base to convey the graphic design messages. It not only exhibits interesting art works, but also pervasively fulfill graphic design in the Liuzhangli neighborhood. It brings local changes.



### Freedom Men Art Apartments

No. 594, Wuquan Rd., North District, Taichung City

Taiwan's art domain is divided into various factions due to different schools. The Freedom Men Art has escaped the old framework and created a comprehensive creation and exhibition space in between the commercial galleries and fine art museums. In particular, it takes the style of "apartments" to invite artists and designers to station and host events with diversified themes from time to time. Such a pattern of running diversified art settlements has created an independent artistic space that is the largest in Taichung.

The recent experimental unit, a joint venture with the Park Lane by CMP, has established a high density interaction with innovators in the nearby settlements. Like the Paris Cafe de Flore of the early 20th century, the Freedom Men Art is a place for local innovators to gather, where they inspire each other to create innovation momentum and boom the exuberant flowers in everyday life.



Rebirth of winery

# Cultural Innovation Can Be Intoxicating - Taichung Winery

Text & Picture/ Zheng Yuting



In the South District of Taichung, a railroad has blocked the urban development. Goofing around here, there is no busy traffic. Instead, it is a coziness that is felt.

## HISTORICAL WINERY BUILT INTO A MODERN RETROSPECTIVE LANDSCAPE

The park, whose predecessor is the "Taichung Cultural Innovation Park" of Taiwan Province Monopoly Bureau Fifth Winery, is not far away from the train station. With an area of nearly 6 hectares, the park has the best preserved architectures and equipment among the existing top five wineries. Even its conveying pipelines are still visible. The old independent houses

and high-ceilinged wine plants make such a vintage landscape.

There are 8 aged historical buildings in the park, each of which is now bearing different roles like Taiwanese architecture, design and art performance centers, and exhibition venues as well as the administration office of the Ministry of Culture Cultural Assets Bureau. If time allows, be sure to walk through the Art Avenue, bypass the rear building which is the Taichung City Cultural Assets Administration Office, and then go along a path to the rear end - it is a garden, a little secret in the park. Sit down and get relaxed. Enjoy yourself.

## THE PARK OFFERS YOU BREEZE STRIPPING IN DIVERSIFIED ART EVENTS

At leisure time, the park surrounded by greens is a popular place for locals to take a walk in the evening. On holidays, all kinds of exhibitions and art performances happen here. By the side of the central square is the Heng-Dao Hall exuding cypress fragrance. The Japanese architecture renovated and restored to its original hollow square shape is the outstanding one among several buildings. A few experiences from going to the exhibitions reveal that the Heng-Dao Hall presents more stylish exhibitions, while the Yatang Hall and Weishui Hall are often surprising with fashionable innovation. Visitors have all the choices to get satisfied.

Upon leaving the park, remember to look back at the big wine barrel beside the front gate. That was a tool then, and is



artists' freely innovated color installation art now. Stay here longer and you'll see the appearance of history and time, emerging in the new life of the winery.

## Taichung Cultural Innovation Park

No.362, Sec. 3, Fusing Rd., South Dist.,  
Taichung City

# Strolling in the Calligraphy Greenway, Tasting the Fantasy

Text & Picture/ Huang Boxuan



In the early days, the West District of Taichung City was a peripheral of the Taichung City development. Today, with exuberant holiday activities, it has the crowds gathering Civil Square lawns, with a green belt stretching through the National Science Museum and National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, of which the front section is called Calligraphy Greenway and the rear section called Ching-kuo Greenway. The Fantasy Culture & Innovation Settlement is located right in the center of this green belt.

## THE RENOVATED OLD HOUSES IN FANTASY EXPANDS THE CULTURE & INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT

The settlement consists of four blocks. The Lane 117 of Meitsuen Road is the origin of the settlement development. Along the alleys are flower shops, cafes, illustrators' postcard shops and youth agricultural commodities platform, exuding a sense of living styles. Interestingly, all of this was originated from a tiny conception of Fantasy's master, who wondered why the shops facing the streets were always big and stand-alone, and why not cut them into smaller units so that more entrepreneurs could anchor, live and work here? Driven by this inspiration, the Fantasy's micro cultural innovation designers started to



renovate five 40-year plus old houses, and introduce commercial activities, allowing the alleys to accommodate creative and innovative workers and their small shops, in harmony with the original residents.

The second lot is located at the intersection of Zhongxing Street and Xiangshang North Road, where the two architectures face each other, but with totally different business types. The "Dessert Forest", with a main business as its name suggests, offers deserts sweet by not greasy, and sticks to its traditional spirit of being small but exquisite. In this architecture are three dessert shops with totally different styles: the afternoon tea with British orthodox heritage is designed particularly for office workers to meet and chat, which presents a relish of grownups; the Japanese-style cake desserts are designed to cater to girl tastes; while the



Lychee desserts of the local Taichung Taiping plantation is visitors' favorite souvenirs, to show their support for the local flavors

## THE CORNER MEETS BOOKSTORE OLD HOUSES IN THE ALLEYS ARE SMALL SHOPS FULL OF SURPRISES

The "Bookstore for Beginners" at the skewed opposite side is well known for its elaborate collection of books. Every book in the store is fun to read. And the bookstore holds book sharing activities on a weekly basis. If one is lucky to meet the bookstore master, at a request the master would be happy to recite the book and lead the way to selecting books. The master would talk and talk, nonstop. Of course, his intention cannot be more



## From tobacco rolling to design To Create the Next Taiwan New Export Icon

Text/ Show.D

Picture/Taiwan Design Center, Method Inc.



Following the fashion of "Cultural Youth", the island of Taiwan is experiencing the surging wave of "cultural innovation", which has erected cultural innovation related parks, products and office compounds, one after another... Anything attached to the trendy term, even just a little bit, can be in the top ranking list of the Internet search engines. Regardless the cultural youth or cultural innovation, the Songshan Tobacco Culture & Innovation Park, also known as "SongYien" as we nickname it, has long been running ahead of the fever of the trendy cultural & innovation parks. It is de facto one of the most representative cultural monuments of Taipei City, and the single most preferred venue for large exhibitions of vendors from home and abroad. No matter how

many times having passed through this premises, one can always unwittingly discover historical traces and fresh atmosphere in there.

The Songshan Tobacco Factory, the predecessor of the Songshan Culture & Innovation Park, was founded in 1937 as Taiwan's first professional tobacco rolling factory. On its peak time, it had as many as 1,800 employees, with an annual output worth NT\$21 billion, making an indispensable financial income of the state. With an area of 18 hectares, the tobacco factory was also a pioneer of Taiwan's modern industrial factories. Its facilities included dormitories, dining halls, medical care, public bathing, and nursing rooms. The Baroque garden and lotus pond mindfully collocated with the

revealed - take a book with you, to enrich your spiritual life.

Entering the Chung Hsing First lane is the third block of the settlement, which consists of the Taiwan Water Corporation dormitories renovated under the "Green Light Project". In these adjacent old houses are several congregated shops and innovation workers. This block hosts a jewelry shop, a shoe store, a perfume store that modulates unique personalized scents, a travel bookstore, a barber shop, an American goods shop, a cafe, and a few family-style restaurants and salty food stores. Quite a variety. If you are not in a big rush, be sure to stay at the old dormitories and sit at the adjacent terraces to enjoy the spring sun and autumn breeze. The open and great stylishness of the settlement planning returns all the breathing space supposedly available to the urban dwellers back to the visitors here.

the Yingcai Road, across the main road, you'll see a whole tract of model housing communities, where you'll find the No. 12 Lane 40 Mofan Street old house, which is partitioned into three small stores: the cloth shop, grocery store and handmade furniture and postcard store. If you are bothered by the crowds around the Civil Square, it is highly recommended that you visit this secret spot yet to be uncovered. When you walk in through the Japanese sliding doors, the handsome and heroic owner will manually make a cup of coffee for you, and sit down with you in the yard to chat, talking about how he has built this dream store.

Come here! Taichung offers you the warm sunshine, the exotic gourmet street and gorgeous department stores. Please come with a simple and easy backpack, walking toward the Calligraphy Greenway and tasting the living aesthetics of Fantasy culture & innovation settlement.

### The Fantasy Culture & Innovation Settlement

<http://www.fantasystory.com.tw/>

### UNCOVERING THE UNDISCOVERED SECRET CAMP

Finally, it is the fourth settlement block that is rarely known to the public. If you move forward from the Xiangshang North Road all the way in the direction to

architectural space design reveals how SongYien attached great importance to its employees' welfare and living environment.

Yet, such a pattern of "Industry Village" that congregated daily living and work closely together inevitably raises rumors of midnight haunting noises of walking or baby crying, coupled with vivid haunting stories as such. This has become an excuse for the site signers to call it a day early. (Well, it's up to the readers to decide whether the rumors are real.)

SongYien's architectural style of Japanese Pre-Modernism presents a concise relish, with each space having its own features and details, attracting numerous design arts and animation artists to hold exhibitions here with a variety of themes. The use of the exhibition venue can be traced back to the 2011 IDA Congress Taipei, a world design



conference, where the pavilions spread out in the premises, covering 10 design categories such as industrial design, graphic design, interior design... And that was the commencement of its exhibition business. The "Taiwan Designers' Week", Taiwan's largest civil design activity, has since 2014 selected SongYien's warehouse to host its activities, two years in a row, filling the vintage space with the vitality of Taiwan's original innovation.

Doing Internet search for Songshan Culture & Innovation, one can find over 900,000 transactions of data in about 0.61 seconds. However, in addition to the highly populated scenic spots in the premises, there are two more nice places yet to be discovered, that are worth a visit. One place is the "Design Point Shop", newly renovated and reopened this summer, and the other is the "Not Just a Library".

The shop used to display the Golden Pin Design Award winning products, along with commercially demanded products, ranging from furniture, bicycles to stationery and handicraft materials, gathering as many as 1000 varieties of goods, making it hardly a design shop. This year, however, things are different.

The Japanese shop expert Yu Yamada, famous for its idea of "letting space be vividly utilized, and then tell one's own stories", was invited to reassess the SongYien venue. After thorough and elaborate studies, the expert discovered that the venue was the tobacco storage of the Songshan Tobacco Factory. So, a concept of "warehouse space" was brought in to reorganize the 1000 varieties of goods into a brand new consumer moving path. It was done by using simple industrial-style shelves to display the goods, and sizes and heights of the goods were elaborately rearranged to accentuate the variance in a unity style, with each having its own focused design shop atmosphere. And now, the shop is a real "Design Point".

The "Not Just a Library", located on the second floor of the north wing of the tobacco factory, used to be a typical, tradition-abiding design library. Yao Chen Chung, a Taiwanese architect, was invited to lead the space redesign. He preserved the original characteristics of SongYien, and used black metal frames and dark grey glass to bring out design traits. Since the 2014 revision, the visual identification has been mastered by Aaron Nieh, with every year setting forth

revised publicity such as one-day tickets, name cards, limited tickets, etc., along with irregular 3x3 small scale exhibitions and seminars, held from time to time. This is not just a place for reading design books. It is a place for people to find out how design makes living full of little pieces of fun, here and there.



No matter how many arguments are attached to this park premises, and disregard of comments good or bad, it has opened a new page for the Taiwan culture & innovation parks, and continues to accompany the city of Taipei to grow, to renovate. From tobacco rolling to design, it has recorded the history over 60 years long.

**Songshan Cultural and Creative Park**  
No.133, Guangfu South Road, Xinyi  
District, Taipei City 11072, Taiwan

# Making wine yesterday - Taipei Huashan 1914 Cultural Innovation Park

Text & Picture/ Kathy



## HISTORICAL WINERY REVITALIZED SPACE USAGE DIVERSIFIED

Stepping in the front gate of Huashan Park, you'll be greeted by a vast tract of green grass like a lake, followed by a three-story high tower made of bricks and cement, which was built in November 1920. It was used to brew wines in the very beginning. Today, its first floor is the service center, while other spaces are available for rent.

Neighboring the high tower area is the Sake Workshop built in 1914. Its facade has lots of windows and therefore the sunlight is abundant. It is definitely warm in winter and cool in summer. Its second floor is mainly used for office space. Part

"The Winemaking Stone", a poem of Taiwan's famous poet Luofu, has such words which read: Winter night/secretly planted a stone/you said when spring came/it would brew wine. This is a place whose predecessor was the Japanese "Fragrance Brewing Club" founded in 1914 (Osama Year 3). After constant revitalization and reuse of the historical space, the spring came and flowers blossomed, and finally today's Taipei Huashan 1914 Cultural Innovation Park (referred to as Huashan Park) was born. It not only preserves the wine fragrance, but is also mixed with the artistic fragrance of innovative cultures.



of the space is used for press conference and small exhibitions. The person in charge of the park is Emily, whose office is right on the second floor.

## BUILDING CITIZENS' LIVING AESTHETICS SPACE EMPHASIZING THREE TYPES OF "CROSSING"

The young Emily has a strong professional background. She graduated from New York University, and then went to the Pratt Institute for a master's degree of architecture and became a licensed architect.

About four years ago, she packed her stuff and left America for home. She then came to the Huashan Park as the big boss, with all her dedication to organizing cross-boundaries, cross-nations and cross-venues cultural art and designing activities and exhibitions. She is meant to build a living aesthetics

leisure space for the Taiwan public. She wants to bring in innovative groups of designers, artists and publishers with great potential to publish their brands and exchange their talent in collaboration across the domains. Ultimately, she wants to pervasively spread a wonderful living ambience to every corner.

For example, Emily had a try of building the composite reading space libLAB at the old location of the Sake Workshop, which combined reading, drinking, speech and saloon activities. With the belief in the stories and charms of old architectures, she uses the soul of "old body" in combination with "new age" stuff to trigger sparks. She thinks that is fascinating, and a kind of innovation, too.



## COUNTLESS EXHIBITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND GOOD CHOICES FOR HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

In addition, every year the Huashan Park rents its warehouse to different organizations for performances, exhibitions, musical concerts, seminars, etc. It is said that the "Chibi Maruko gakuensai - 25th Anniversary Exhibition" was held in this park for nearly three months long, and many Hong Kong residents took a tour to Taiwan just for this exhibition.

According to Emily, the proportion of space usage each year is like 30% by art events and 70% by mobile exhibitions hosted by individuals or groups, and the Chibi Maruko gakuensai is the latter. Of course, the Huashan Park has its own events. The Third Mandarin Reading Festival just finished in the end of September is a good example. The main purpose of the event was introducing the mandarin voices to the public and getting close to them through reciting and words. You can speak, you can also listen. Most importantly, we are willing to tell our own stories from the bottom of our hearts. We even dream, of the good things.

Finally, it is a must to introduce the Spot-Huashan, a movie theater. It used

to be the winery's remade wine packing room. In 1996, the Ministry of Culture transformed it into a movie center. By hosting film festivals of featured movies from home and abroad, from time to time, it has become a wonderland for many Taiwan and Hong Kong youngsters to explore the movie world.

### **Huashan 1914 Creative Park**

No.1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd., Zhongjheng Dist.,  
Taipei City



"Dip out things not seen by the society," says Sun Jieheng in his 20s. This is the "invisible independent image space" in the Kaohsiung Pier-2 Dayi warehouses.

He returned home after finishing his study in New York, and is now doing filmmaking and film playing with his pals in Kaohsiung. He says, "Kaohsiung does not have citizen space for playing independent movies, and therefore after returning home, I applied for an image workshop in the Pier-2. I've been playing movies independently produced in Taiwan and Mandarin areas at Friday and Saturday nights on a regular weekly basis ever since."

## KAOHSIUNG CULTURAL INNOVATION AREA EXHIBITION OF CULTURAL ART FACES

The Dayi warehouses are the latest emerging cultural innovation area, gathering all kinds of workshops, including handmade bicycles, guitars, wooden instrument as well as fashion salons, clothing stores, restaurants, movie theaters, Live House, bookstores, and contemporary art galleries. It is like a miniature of the Kaohsiung cultural scenes. It presents the contemporary art and different faces of the culture industry to manifest the city's unique scenery.



Built in 1912, the Pier-2 Art warehouses were abandoned storage of the Third Ship Canal, owned by the Japanese Sugar Corporation, which was taken over by Taiwan Sugar Corporation after the Kuomintang Government came to Taiwan. When the Japanese colonial period began, the Kaohsiung Harbor became Taiwan's most important port for exporting granulated sugar and banana. At that time, the warehouses were filled with sugar bags, making lots of money for Taiwan. The 1970s impact from international competition sharply reduce the sugar export, and the warehouses became storage rented by the Gongyuan Road metal shops to pile up their metal waste. It was not until 2002 when the Pier-2 Art Zone was established, the warehouses became a new space for artists and cultural innovation industries to build their bases. In recently years the area has also become a popular tourist attraction of Kaohsiung.

## INVISIBLE INDEPENDENT IMAGE SPACES VISIBLE TAIWAN STORIES

The Dayi warehouses (C6-C11) are the latest released space of Peir-2. The five magnificent rows of warehouses are mixed with art workers, workshops and consumer venues. The thick grey walls and red brick walking path are full of traditional yet modern cultural creativity atmosphere, attracting Kaohsiung youths to start their businesses here.

Sun Jieheng's "invisible independent image space" playing independent short films also organizes image exhibitions. In this space accommodating only 20 persons, they get together to watch movies, chat about movies, and discuss every detail of the movies. If it is your first time coming to Kaohsiung, you're very welcome to select one of the short films or documentaries about Taiwan, and then the shop owner will chat with you about the film. This will be the beginning of your genuinely seeing Taiwan.

## DIVERSIFIED WORKSHOPS MAKING MOSAIC SOUVENIRS WITH YOUR OWN HANDS

Pay a visit to the CIAO CIAO Mosaic Workshop. Pushing the heavy, thick door open, the huge mosaic painting Lebron James will immediately catch your eyes. It is a mix of uninhibited graffiti illustration and elaborate mosaic painting. Huang Jingzhong, the shop owner, was an illustrator before going to Italy to study the local mosaic painting. In his studio, there is a huge workbench, on which pliers, hammers and knives are neatly arranged in place. Beside the workbench are piles of stones and slates of different colors and materials. Huang will be happy to describe his creative work with great details. If time allows, stay a bit longer to join his workshop and make yourself a mosaic painting souvenir with your own hands.



## OPEN THE WAREHOUSE SEEK THE CULTURAL ART IMAGERY THAT BELONGS TO YOU

In the adjacent warehouse is Hornman's illustration studio, filled with the exhibition of his art work themed with huskies, roses and girls. His work has a strong style, with naive themes permeated with black death atmosphere while the deep dark image is tinted with witty and lovely details. Hornman says that he loves unicorns, because their pureness is like the journey of creation, exposing oneself straightforwardly. Going to the next warehouse from Hornman's studio, you'll come across "Mr. Sun", a brand clothing studio that allows you to make your own cloths. The bright tailor's workbench is fully occupied by the art work. Mr. Sun loves exquisite craftsmanship and perfect ratio of Chinese architecture, and therefore his neat cutting and tailoring often reveals surprising designs.

### the Pier-2 Art Center

No.1, Dayong Rd., Yancheng Dist.,  
Kaohsiung City

## Rebirth of an old winery Connection With Local Culture - Hualien Cultural Innovation Camp

Text/ Su Sumin  
Picture/



Hualien's cultural innovation is closer to the basics. This is a place with vast land of low density, and abundant resources in lack of delicacy. The creative workers are mostly instinct type without pursuing big goals in their characteristics. On good side, they are closer to themselves; on bad side, they are getting away from the market. Economic behaviors always thrive in highly populated places. Hualien's local population of 400,000 has never been the major force of the consumer market. Instead, it is the one million tourists

rushing in every year that drive the economy. Cultural innovation products related to everyday life can easily catch tourists' eyes and their attention.

### HUALIEN CULTURAL INNOVATION PARK "BREWING MARKET"

The Hualien Cultural Innovation Park, used to be the old Hualien winery before renovation, is located in the essence lot of Hualien city with a vast hinterland. The old win making plant is still there.

In the park, there are many high-class restaurants suitable for entertaining friends. The chef from Taipei is very devoted to bringing the local food ingredients to the dining table. There is also the iP Gallery that displays the works of Hualien local artists and encourages them to develop beyond Hualien. Out-of-town artists are also invited to exhibit their art works in order to promote Hualien's art appreciation.

Ambitiously, the cultural innovation park intends to bring in beautiful things from outside of Hualien, yet without losing Hualien connection. Therefore, every week from Wednesday to Sunday, 1:00pm thru 9:00pm, the semi open-air Brewing Market is open for Hualien handicraftsmen to set up their stalls and do businesses. Through the years, more and more handicraft darens (experts) are gathering here, attracting tourists and locals as well. When these handicraftsmen are given a common base to work together, they are acting like a big family, and such a sentimental gathering is another type of value created by the cultural innovation space.

### SMALL CULTURAL INNOVATION CAMPS WITH A VARIETY OF LOCAL FEATURES

Around the park, there are also many small shops with a variety of features. The "o'rip living traveler" in a two-story wooden house on the Jieyue Street has been doing the business of local publications, handicrafts and easy local tour for 8 years. It tells stories, promote local art works and get close to the community. Its staff use cozy manner to chat with local residents and show tourists fun places to go. It is like a small tourist service center. At the diagonally opposite side of o'rip is Uma's handmade leather carving. She works with the tribeswomen to infuse the





Taroko hand weaving cloth to her leather carving products such as key traps, cell phone bags, purses of various sizes... The devoted Uma has been using her leather carving to pass on the Taroko spirit, in pursuit of identity cognition and pride.

A few steps away is the Hualiendaily. It's in an old architecture but with a younger fashion. The first floor takes a general style, upholding everyday aesthetics and life without plastics. The second offers good food on weekends. The third up to fifth floors are b&b facilities. From time to time, this place also organizes exhibitions in the basement. The first floor shop offers showcases for the creative art students of Donghua University to display and sell their art products. This is a window for the students to try the market. The Hualiendaily emphasizes localization, and intends to bring in products from different countries. It is meant to build a outlook window for the people of Hualien. This year, the home-grown Twine Fair Trade Organization was introduced to Hualien to promotion the connotation of consumption. The "Alley Watch" on the second floor of the Twine Fair Trade shop is an art-playing space for implementing upcycling/Eco's creative refashion and friendly environment. The interior is

decorated with abandoned materials. It offers creative refashion products for sale.

Wata is another shop worth a special note. The owner of the shop, Nakaw, is a native of the harbor tribe, who loves art and is dedicated to promoting the visibility of aboriginal people's creative art works. The products in the shop are exquisite and full of originality. It is a gallery-class shop. The shop not only organizes regular exhibitions, but also links the events to outside and even to the tribes. As an aboriginal, Nakaw is the very best person for conveying the native living, spirit and ideology, and that greatly helps the multi-cultural art work creation of Hualien.

The most visible changes of Hualien's cultural innovation in recent two years is the young atmosphere. More and more young people choose Hualien for living, and many of them are the locals who have finished their studies outside and returned home. This says that Hualien offers reasons for young people to stay. Another obvious trend is that many shops are rooted in Gozaiwei, a place in the old town which used to be the most prosperous in Hualien. The young self-confidence wants to reclaim the lost spirit of this old town. At the intersection of Zhongshiao Street and Shanghai Street

alone, there are four featured coffee shops: Caffè Fior with dried wreaths, choco choco with handmade chocolate, Wood Bath with driftwood creation, and Maytree with homemade roasted coffee beans. The four shops have their

innovation pioneer "A Zhi Bao", the store selling local food materials "Smaller Boutique" and many others are worth a visit.

Although the populated downtown area is busy, there are more splendid



own unique features presented with the distinctive personalities of the owners. The new and the old are fused to make this place with one-of-a-kind charm.

In downtown, there are other stylish shops. The "Time in 1939 Cafe" situated in a small alley was a renovation from the Time second-hand bookstore by Xiuning who loves old houses. It offers healthy vegetarian breakfast and lunch as well as afternoon tea. The Hualien cultural

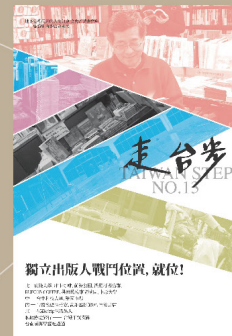
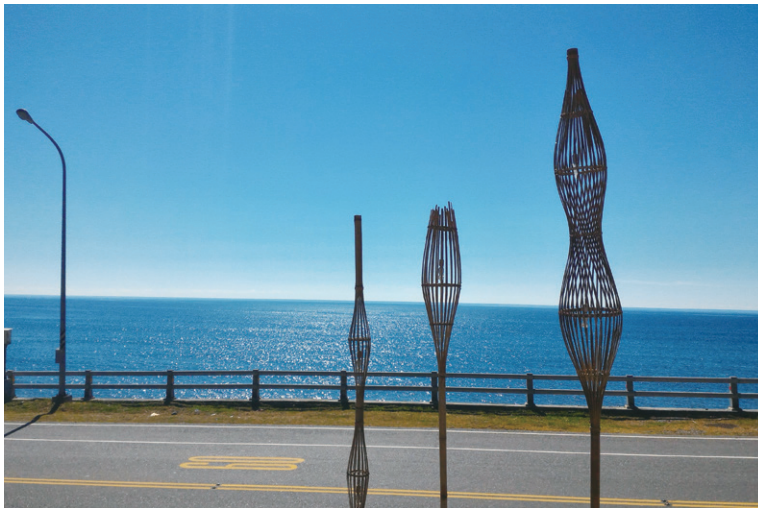
workshops and studios spread out like pearls scattering in the East Rift Valley and along the coastline, waiting to be picked up. The newly built "Light Weaving House" located at the Provincial Highway 11 is one mature example. The Light Weaving House is not just a completion of space. In the past few years, the creative art workers Yienzhi and her companion Duwake brought their Eastern Hualien life experiences and creative art works based on the local materials to places

outside Eastern Hualien and even to other countries. Now, they have returned to where they started, and set up their studio open to the public. They also host workshops with natural materials. Yienzhi says, "The workshop allows people to get close to the nature of daily living and life, and through activities they experience and enjoy the slow pace in getting along with oneself and the land."

Hualien has transformed from a somewhat closed personal creativity space 20 years ago to today's open creative space with the integrated concept of sky, earth and people. One has to admit that

the cultural innovation policies have swayed its momentum as the driving force for moving forward. Yet, creativity has never been too far away from living. What cultural innovation can bring are not just industrialized products, it further creates the possibility of different life experiences, providing realistic sense of existence.

**A-Zone Hualien cultural Innovation Park**  
No.144, Zhonghua Rd., Hualien City,  
Hualien County



# 來香港走 台步 | 香港兩地文化 想像

時間：10/31（六） 19:30~21:00

地點：誠品銅鑼灣店（銅鑼灣軒尼詩道500號，希慎廣場8-10樓）

講者：陳夏民（逗點文創結社總編輯）、劉子華（南方家園總編輯）、  
劉霽（一人出版社總編輯）、袁兆昌（香港獨立出版人）







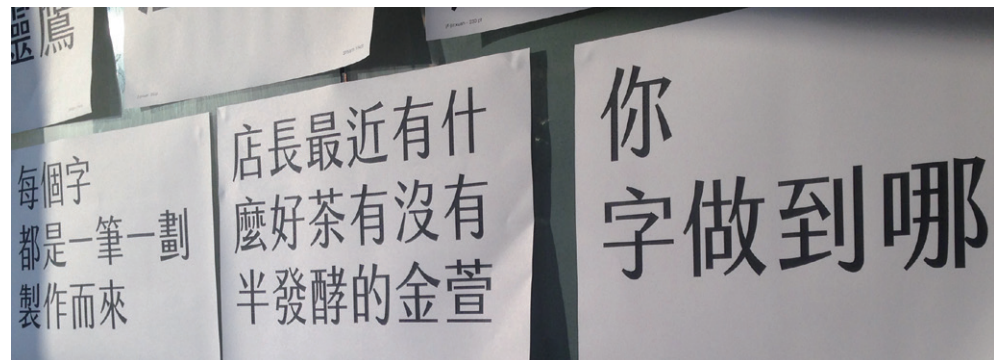
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## Introducing the faces of Taiwan with designs Designers' Cultural Innovation Small Products

Text/ Show.D Picture/Interviewees

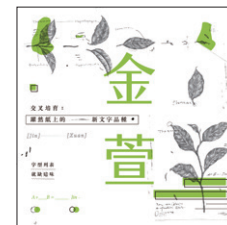


### I. JUSTFONT

<http://www.justfont.com>

Recently, in Taiwan's design circle the hottest topic is "justfont". Justfont, the team behind the scene, is not one popping up to grab or hype the topic. At the onset of the Chinese font service in 2012, the team has been studying the signboard publicity on Taiwan's street landscape. Last year, after having collected the Chinese fonts, they published the book "Font Strolling" and gave seminars to introduce the collected fonts to the public. This success is no accident.

Justfont fuses two major basic fonts: MingLiU and Blackface. It offers the simplicity of Blackface and readability of MingLiU. The font families are named like low-sugar, half-sugar, and 70%-sugar. They are very Taiwan, aren't they?



## 2. A.M IDEAS

<http://amideas.com>



A.M IDEAS is a composition of two females, who are very rare designers of odd yet magnificent type. Before the venture, they worked for a Taiwan technology branding company. They didn't start their own business with a fanfare for their own brand; instead, they worked with the Norwegian organization Design without Borders, and went to Uganda, an African country, to work as project consultants.

Admiring nature and looking to cultures, they set out their first commercial product series - triangle rush weaving, a traditional Taiwan craftsmanship. The product series cover a wide range from bow ties, tablet PC protective cases, to light fixtures, collocated with the grandma level exquisite handicraft to produce limited quantity of monthly production. Taking a rain check will make your desire for having one product even stronger.

Nearly 80% of the products are made in Taiwan, and the enamel cup is one of them. The elaboration from maintaining the stability of enamel quality to matching the exuberant and saturated colors of the bunnies one by one, and the decal is pasted with hand one after another, all show the local workers' tenacious insistence on competing with the Japanese and French enamels.

## 4. TWO AUGUSTS AN AUSPICIOUS DAY

<https://www.facebook.com/haolife>

Zhuang Ruihao and Lu Zhenyun, both born in August, founded the "Two Augusts" studio in 2005, which was one symbolizing the rise of the Taiwan design art. With a full heart in care of social environment, they use different materials to do cross-domain design and art work, and persistently set forth new products.



The brand upholding of "auspicious day, good things to come" originated from Taiwanese "good omen" culture accommodates natural landscape, architecture, and culture. Such a manifestation leads foreign tourists to knowing that in addition to the old stuff like paper-cutting for window decor and flora cloth, Taiwan has more versatile products to offer.

## 3. FOUFOU

<http://www.foufou.com.tw>



Foufou in French means crazy and insane. The master is a bunny rabbit with sharp teeth. From hand-making to mass production, the younger sister Little Monkey is responsible for drawing, while the older sister is in charge of management and operations. This year is the 10th anniversary, and the two sisters are still persistent in their own belief, without pursuing the trendy fashion.

## 5. UTP

<http://www.utp.tw>



UTP is the abbreviation of Un-Titled-Project. The UTP guys believe that things more easily neglected in everyday life are usually the ones more representative of living habits and culture of a region or even a country. These invisible objects permeating in the streets are usually designed and formed by locals to meet their requirements. The creators are mostly unknown, so we aggregately call them the "Un-Titled-Project".

This year they marched to the old Taipei wood material street Ningxia Road, where the shops mostly decorated with wood sell plywood and angles. By way of minimal design, UTP reinterprets the basic wooden materials and bestows a new look to the commonly seen construction materials.

## 6. CHIC STYLE\_ MOXOR

<http://www.chicxstyle.com/>



Yang Yiqin, wife of designer Wu Xieheng, finally comes to the front scene! Yang, responsible for marketing and sales, is rigorous on cost control and sales performance. This time, it's her turn to launch products. She exclaims, "If I had known this, I wouldn't be doing this recycling series. This is much tougher than whole new materials, and the cost is stunning!"

MOXOR series set out from the vast population of Taiwan motorcyclists. It's the recycled leather covers of the motorcycle seats made into part of the leather wallets and purses. Since the products are partially made with the recycled leather, none of them is identical to one another. What a symbol of Taiwan's motorcyclist racing spirit!

## 7. HESXHERS GROUP - PEELS

<https://www.facebook.com/hnhliving>

The Taiwan Hsinchu design composition Hexshers Group takes a cool black hue and natural materials for creative art work. This June, with her 6-month old baby daughter, designer Vii went to Paris for the Masin&Object event. On the PEELS cup, she says, "This is the most perfect work that I made this year!"

The PEELS cup is an inspiration from the daily using of fruit peels as containers. The original fruit colors are removed and the lines touch is underlined to accentuate the sense of feel. Vii says, "Many people thought the sugar-apple cup was a bitter-gourd cup!" It is because every person's memory of sense of feeling is different, and the imagination can be as much and as unpredictable as possible.



## 8. INBLOOM

<http://www.inbloom.com>

The shop, originating from the Taipei Dihua Street Tataocheng, is near the old Yunle cloth market. In such an environment centered on "creativity around living", the daily things around us are transformed into creation elements, coupled with pattern design and flora printing weaving, to create the unique features and styles only the Inbloom has to offer.

Serving on the table mat are Taiwan delicacies of food, fruits, drinks and vintage snacks. Just looking at the feast is like swallowing all the table mat! The table mat comes with a Nantou Chushan tableware, which can be folded in the mat to bring along for dining out.





# The Hong Kong Woman Hong Kong Cat Slow Living Pace in Mingshan Community

Text/Kathy Picture/Amy



## Hong Kong people in Taiwan

Saying of herself as a vagrant Hong Kong woman, Amy married Zhang Tiezhi, a famous cultural and political critic of Taiwan. This March they moved from Hong Kong to Taipei, and settled down in the Mingshan community by renting an old house accompanied by rows of Phoenix trees. When one decides to stay in a place and stop drifting, the best thing to do is get married with a local.

### HOPE FOR SENSE OF LIVING ONCE MORE FLUSHED THE MIND OF IMMIGRATION

There are lots of stories about foreigners get married and became Taiwanese wives like the saying: "Go everywhere with the husband." One in a million, Amy, with an independent personality, got rid of this shackle of stereotyped impression and traditional customs. Moving from Hong Kong to Taiwan is a mutual decision between the couple thorough her proactive communication with her husband.

There is a story behind their moving to Taipei. Amy had a severe sickness in Hong

Kong and was hospitalized for nearly half a year. during that period of time, she started to contemplate her health and living patterns. After recovery, she got back to her daily routines. unwittingly, her body just recovered from the sickness became extremely sensitive to the surrounding environment.

"Living in the Hong Kong Island area, I had to take the subway train and I found myself always stuck in long waiting lines. When I went shopping, the stores were either selling gold jewelry or medical drugs. When I dined out with friends, I realized how expensive it was to live there. Gradually, I was like losing my

sense of living. Then, the idea of moving to Taipei came to me."

### THE COUPLE WITH BELOVED CAT FUSED IN A CREATIVE COMMUNITY

That's it. Amy and her husband decided to move to Taipei for living. In July, they brought the 3-year old beloved cat baby from Hong Kong to Taiwan. Since then, it is the threesome that make the family and dwell in the Mingshan community. In such a transition of life, to Amy, who went to UK to study since childhood and then became a frequent flyer in and

out of airports, there is no such thing as adaption period.

Besides, Amy had a half-year short business stay in Taiwan 5 years ago, which already brought her an inexplicable affection of Taiwan. "I love the community that I'm living in. There are many parks, trees and shades in the neighborhood. On the Fujin Street are many unique and innovative shops, cafes, and grocery stores for me to take a window shopping. When the weather is good, I'd also ride a bike with my cat baby for a tour of the urban traffic."

Is the cat baby satisfied with the new home in Taiwan? Amy smiled and said, "We live in the second floor, outside the living room window is a small park with many tall trees. I place the desk by the window, and the cat baby loves to sit on it and watch with her round eyes out to the flowing scenery of people playing in the park. My care for her is paid off."

## LIVING PACE SLOW ENOUGH TO SHOW LAYER THICKNESS

Sometimes I wonder what a realistic city Hong Kong is. It seems that the time and space do not allow people to seek a basic living manner. On the contrary,

perhaps with some defects, Taiwan always offers an amiable sense of being able to take a good rest in daily living.

Take Amy's half-a-year living in Taiwan as an example, in comparison with living in Hong Kong, it seems that taking her time in a leisure space in Taiwan is no longer extravagant. She even sets for herself a goal of free and casual living patterns, such as doing Yoda everyday whenever possible to take care of her health. To pass time, she would go to a underground music concert with her husband, or invite friends for a cup of good coffee and have some chat about trivia, slowing down the pace to show the layered thickness of living.

Amy's younger days of studying and grownup jobs have allowed her to take trips to many countries, and she once thought herself a vagrant. However, love has led her to the most important stop of her life - Taipei, the hometown of the person whom she deeply loves.

Suddenly, a commercial of a Hong Kong wedding cake came to my mind. The acting girl says, "Giving the girl a home, that is marriage."



Hong Kong  
people in  
Taiwan

Hong Kong people  
in Taiwan

## The Hong Kong Wwo Sisters Having Fun All Over Taiwan Markets With Pressed Flower Craft

Text/Kathy Picture/Emmpty Forest

Taiwan has countless handicraft markets. The larger ones are exuberant and diversified, while the smaller ones have exquisite features. They attract quite a few young people fond of handicraft to join the rank and start their business of selling art at their own stalls. There is a pleasant surprise. Among the markets scattered all over Taiwan, there are two short-haired girls from Hong Kong, who sell their handmade products

of press flower craft and solicit for customers' support and appreciation.

## HONG KONG'S HANDICRAFT MARKETS NOT AS MATURE AS TAIWAN'S

The two girls, named Nikki and Lolo, knew each other when they were middle



school students. Being very good friends with minds perfectly in sync, they founded the handmade press flower brand "Emmpty Forest", which means let-go and forest. Early this year, they gave up stable jobs in Hong Kong and came to Taiwan to join the markets with their flower pressing skill.

Why choosing Taiwan? Lolo says that their previous heavy-burden jobs in Hong Kong made their life inflexible and exhausted them. Therefore, they started to learn flower pressing. In the course of the learning, they had contact with all kinds of plants, and their souls got rest and tranquility.

Before coming to Taiwan, Nikki and Lolo would join Hong Kong's handicraft markets in spare time. However, the markets over there are not mature. So, they paid more attention to the development of Taiwan's cultural innovation industry. Gradually, they found that the diversity and activities of Taiwan's handicraft markets are growing faster and more

mature than Hong Kong's. Finally, they made up their minds to giving up their Hong Kong jobs and bravely came to Taiwan to chase their dreams.

## THE FLOWER PRESSING BRAND EMPHASIZING SPARKS OF DIFFERENT ELEMENTS

In recent years, the fever of flower pressing handicraft is emerging in Taiwan. According to Nikki and Lolo, the catch of flower pressing is that it is easy to learn but difficult to

master. Since it is not difficult to learn, teaching materials are easily available and therefore everyone can have a hands-on experience. However, to long preserve the color of the pressed flowers, it requires lots of practice and persistent trial.

Admits Kikki, "Flower pressing is a romantic thing. It allows using another form to preserve things that were mesmerizing and will ultimately fade away soon. This perspective alone fascinates us dearly." Therefore, their flower pressing products have a wide variety, including necklaces, cell phone cases, little adornments, dried flowers, etc. Customers' favorites are the ink splash series, umbrella series and recently launched dreamy marble series.

On the flower pressing ideas, they insist that flowers shouldn't be confined to certain fixed patterns or styles. Therefore, they may cut the flowers into pieces, and use the abundant colors to produce art work. They also couple the flowers with metal to outline their neutrality. Different flowers and plants are coupled with different elements to generate ingenious sparks.

## JOINING TAIWAN MARKETS IS LIKE IN A PARTY

It's been a while since the two join the Taiwan markets. Any interesting things happen to these two Hong Kong people who set up their own stalls here in Taiwan for business? They couldn't help saying, "80% of the Hong Kong markets are indoor with air-conditioning, while most of Taiwan markets are outdoor. Doing the stall business here is like standing in the rain and baking in the sun. It took quite a while for us to get used to it!"

Lolo laughed and said, "Now, we are really tanned! But we do love the Taiwanese stall culture. Every time when we are doing the stall business, we chat with Taiwanese friends in the same business. We help each other and share our food. We feel like having a party every time when we are doing the stall business."

Taiwan's handicraft markets have different features. Every month Nikki and Lolo show up in the "Hand-Hand Market" and "Marginal Man Market". According to their explanation, the two markets are most featured by having no fixed location. Every time their joining the markets is like playing as a market guerrilla, fun and full of surprises.



## Yilan Railway: The Nature Feast

Text/ Leave Wang Picture/ Leave Wang, Joseph Wang



When the train arrives at Fulong, the sea unfolds its luxuriant gestures before the eyes.

It's not only the sea. There are many tunnels along the way to Yilan, which inspired the most famous Yilan folk song Diu-diu-tong-ah.

Do not rush when taking a trip to Yilan. Small stops may look all the same, but it is worthy of taking your time to visit everyone of them for details. If the

trip is for only half a day, do not go too far away. It is suggested to stay overnight in Yilan, which allows you to taste the charms in every detail from stop to stop.

### NORTH LANYAN RIVER: MOUNTAINS AND SEA FEAST

Toucheng is located at the northern tip of Yilan, neighboring mountains and seas. Getting off at any train stop, you'll

find yourself situated at the seaside and a short walk to the mountains. This is a place suitable for people who love mountains or seas.

Shicheng is Taiwan's easternmost train stop. It's said the place was so named because ancient local people built stone walls to prevent alien invasion. Today, the stone walls can still be seen along the coast. Deeper in the mountains is the Caoling Historical Trail. In ancient time, before the coastal road was built, this trail was the route connecting Taipei and Yilan. Walking along the trail, you can reach Gongliao and Fulong, and the Petroglyph

of Hu on the way is quite famous. If you don't have enough time, get off the train at the next stop "Dali", where there is the magnificent Dali Temple. Walking up the stairway of the temple for a short while, you'll find yourself at a hillside altitude.

The Dasi train station offers a moment of another sensational satisfaction. The seafood is what counts here. The hinterland of the Dasi fishing port is not big, but the port is the source of daily seafood of restaurants in Yilan and Taipei. Tourists may not be able to buy and bring home fresh fish, but they can enjoy the fish feast in the surrounding



restaurants. If time allows, go deeper into the mountains, where you'll see the attractions like Taoyuan Valley and Shipanliao Waterfall.

The Guishan station looks like having nothing but the coasts. Be patient and walk toward north for a while, and you'll find the wonders of giant mountain stones in front of your eyes. This is Beiguan Tidal Park. In Qing Dynasty, this natural barrier was used as fortification. The tides beating the rugged reefs was one of the "Lanyang Eight Wonders" in ancient time. The park trail leads to the high ground. Seeking serenity in the natural caves is also a good idea. The last stop before the train goes to the unfolded plane is Wai'ao station. In recent years, this place has become a surfers paradise. There are many b&b along the coasts. Stay in the accommodation and let the sound of waves accompany you in sleep.

Going further down, it is Toucheng. Toucheng used to be called "Touwei". Legend has it that the Yilan pioneers used ropes to divide the administrative districts, and Toucheng was the "First Lanyang Town". The downtown old streets and houses have been frequently seen in TV show shooting. What worth a visit is the Toucheng History Hall, which

is also a memorial hall for Li Rongchun who spent all his life writing in Toucheng. Lien Mingwei, a young novelist who has been winning awards in recent years, also lives here. But his house may not be open to the public.

There are other places in Toucheng worth a visit. They are the Wushi Port and Lanyang Museum. It takes about 20 minutes of walk from downtown. Taking a taxi or riding a bike to get there is recommended. The bike rental is located at the Shacheng Road, about 5 minutes of walk from the train station.

The train leaves Toucheng, heading for the Puding station. The seas are gone now. Leaving the station and walking toward the provincial road, you'll run into the Grandma Green Onion Pancakes with a very long waiting line. The one around Toucheng is the Grandpa Green Onion Pancakes with very similar tastes, though the two are not a couple. If you walk in the opposite direction for 10 minutes, and then take a right turn at the temple, you'll see another beautiful scenery. This is a distribution center of breeding pond fish. On the paths among the ponds are trees reflected from the pond water, relieving all your worries and anxieties.

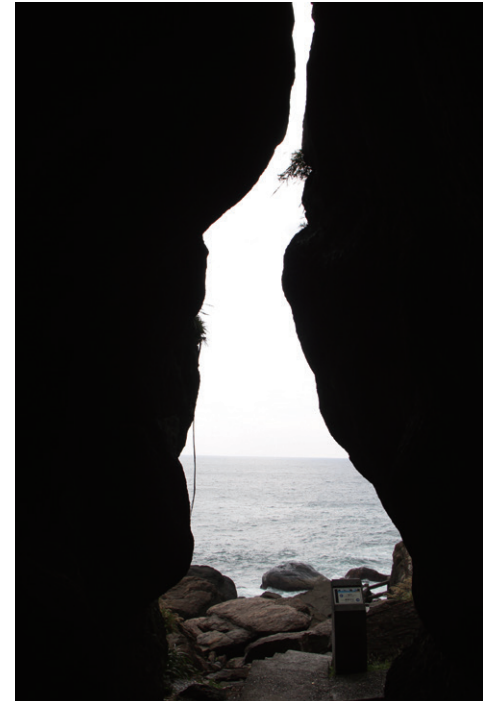
Going further down, you'll reach Chiaohsi, a very famous place for its carbonated hot spring, colorless and odorless. What amazes you is that you don't even need a walk to find hot spring hotels. They are right beside the train station. Of course, locals know that the best choice is taking a few minutes of walk to reach the open-air hot spring facility Forest Baths in the hot spring park. If you don't mind being naked with strangers in the hot spring, it will give you an unforgettable experience of hot spring bath and stars watching, like wandering in the landscape that is beyond description.

## SOUTH LANYANG RIVER: A TASTE OF THE LANYANG PLANE

In the following trip, let's forget about Yilan and Loudong, towns crowded with tourists. Going further south is the Erjie station, and the nearby "Rice Barn" of Yilan County is decommissioned in 1982. Today, it is the "Rice Farmers Cultural Hall", a historical site of the county. Displayed in the hall are barn architectures, rice making utensils and rice processing. Local agricultural

products are also available here. Further south is the Zhongli station, where there was a distribution center of paper-making industry. Today, it is abandoned, but tourists can still feel the good old days of the warehouses. Alight here and take a walk to the Luodong Forestry, to enjoy the forest mood rarely available in cities.

In the end, let's pause our journey at the Dongshan station. The station is





near the Dongshan River, and its luffa-scaffolding architecture is known as the most beautiful train station of Taiwan. Rental bikes are available in front of the station. Riders can go by the bike route along the river banks all the way to the Dongshan Water Park. Accompanying riders are the breeze, reflection of water ripples, and water birds. The park with a vast tract of land is an ideal place for having a whole day fun, if only the summer crowds are avoided.

Simply walking along the small station

to sightsee Yilan can be more than a "light trip". Who says one has to finish the hiking in once. It is advised to plan several trips to include Caoling Historical Trail (Gongliao to Shicheng), northern coastline (Dali, Dasi, Guashan, Wai'ao to Toucheng). Or stay overnight at Chiaohsi, and then take a good sightseeing of the Yilan Plane (Erjie, Zhongli to Dongshan). This land presents mountains and waters, paddy fields and creeks. It is definitely worth a few trips.



I moved to Chishang, Taitung last year. Now, I wake up at nine O'clock and go out for breakfast, but almost all breakfast shops are still closed. After eight O'clock at night, the streets are immersed in total darkness. Moving from a city to a countryside requires a "jetlag" adjustment. What a surprise! I started to follow the farmers' living rhythm, setting out for work when the sun comes out and going home for rest when the sun goes down. In the early morning, the tenderly warm sunshine lifts the misty fogs permeating through the stretching valley, re-polishing the entire small town and reflecting to the low cottages, fresh

green paddy leaves, meandering paddy field ridges..., the morning dews are everywhere, crafting the whole vast tract of landscape. The countrywomen wearing farmer's hats are sitting at the roadside of the market, setting up small stalls on the ground to sell the freshly picked pods, eggplants, sweet potato leaves in this place where crowded shoppers are carrying their baskets to buy in exchange for the gifts from the lands.

I bought 5 sweet potatoes. I paid NT\$20 and got some change back. The grandma selling me the potatoes said to me, "Come back again, if it tastes good!"



I then walked through the hustling and bustling market and saw a small blue pickup modified dining car at the corner, with a big yellow banner hanging with words "Big Buddha Shui Jian Bao". The dark-skinned owner was flipping the golden brown Shui Jian Bao in the hot steaming pot. A grandpa riding a motorbike stopped by and yelled, "Two pieces of Shui Jian Bao!" The owner carefully packed the Shui Jian Bao and asked the grandpa, "Would you like some chili pepper sauce?" The grandpa thought about it and said, "I'm fine." The owner then said, "This is my signature seasoning.

Try it and you won't regret!" Without finding any menu, I simply follow the grandpa's lead and bought two pieces of the Shui Jian Bao and took a small pack of the chili pepper sauce with me.

Frankly, I'm not a hot pepper lover at all. I just curiously wanted to try what the owner strongly recommended. When I got home, I used my hands to break the buns open, and the fragrance of cabbage stuffing rushed into my nose. I took a bite on the thin and crispy skin of the buns. The stuffing made of cabbage, glass noodles and bean wheel instantly exuded

fresh sweetness from my mouth. What a gourmet cooker! A bite says it all. After I had that original flavor of the Shui Jian Bao recorded in my mind, I put a few drops of the hot pepper sauce to the buns. Well, just a few drops. Or it would be way beyond my taste buds. Another bite! What a shocking taste! More drops were added. I've never tasted such a fragrant hot, fresh chili pepper sauce. The mix of the crispy skin and exuberant stuffing brings out layers of exquisite chili tastes. In my great pleasant surprise, I finished the pieces of Shui Jian Bao. Of course, I also finished that small pack of chili pepper sauce.

I didn't see that owner again for a few days. And then I saw him working on the hot steaming pot, with a spatula carefully shoveling up the buns and putting them on a shelf. I asked the owner why I didn't see him in the past few days. He said to me, "The typhoon has raised the vegetable prices. And a piece of Shui Jian Bao for 15 dollars can hardly cover the cost. So, I just took a break for a few days, and waited for the prices to go down." The owner would rather not make money than raise his selling prices. There is no comprise, just like his Shui Jian Bao. This full-hearted sincerity cannot tolerate a tiny impairment. He said the name of Big



Buddha was originated from his sister's Shui Jian Bao stall at the Guanshan Tinhau Temple. A year ago, he didn't even know how to use a weight scale. He learned all this business from his sister. "I secretly made the taste a bit lighter without her knowing the change, to also attract healthy food goers who would be happy to take my vegetarian breakfast."

He woke up at three O'clock in the early morning everyday to grind soybean milk, and then set out for Chishang in his dining car at four before the dawn. He would then cook the soybean milk and prepare the dough for the buns at the same time. He laughingly said, "If one works a day and rest the other, nothing would be done at all. It is all about determination! Even such a petty business that I'm doing requires lots of effort to get it done well!" He was like the fisherman depicted in Hemingway's "The Old Man and The Sea", self-content and tough. His devotion to self-discipline and



belief manifested a moving sincerity and vitality. He said, "With fresh materials and a recipe of right ingredient proportional mixes, the food shall be good and tasty. Since I can't grow cabbage myself to deal with all the demand on my Shui Jian Bao, I look to the trustworthy farmers who care for pesticide safety, and buy vegetables from them. My chili pepper sauce is made of the chili peppers that I grow with fermentation powder. During their growth period, I add liquid fertilizer made of enzyme and Yakult Shirota bacteria, along with the soybean residues out of ground soybean milk." With such a relentless effort for natural breeding, it is no wonder that his chili pepper sauce is such an exquisite delicacy.

Later on, I had a few revisits to the "Big Buddha". I either got home with empty hands because all were sold out or didn't see the owner with his dining car.

Without having the Shui Jian Bao for a few days in a row, I became like a lifeless person in the morning. Truthfully, I find myself just wanting to have that food that is stuffed with exuberant sentiment, and it's like a team relay race with the guy running toward me from behind, fully concentrated to deliver me the baton, so that I can take over the determination and anticipation from that person in the instant moment, and I'll then continue the sprint without turning my head back. Every morning, I wait for the owner of "Big Buddha" to deliver me warm hot Shui Jian Bao, allowing me to take over his wisdom of prudence in treating foods, and then I'll be able to firmly face the tediousness and vastness of everyday life.



## Having Teppanyaki with Mr. Monster

Text & Picture/ Huang Boxuan

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Stepping in the Sukiyaki store, Mr. Monster's eyes were brightened, and the fin on his back rattled.

To thank him for helping move a hundred books to King Blue Shadow, on behalf of the publishing company, I invited him to enjoy his favorite food, Teppanyaki, with all he could eat.

After all, I was just an ordinary person. How could you expect me to use the just learned instant moving magic to move all the books? It was the King Blue Shadow. Come on! You must be kidding.





"A hundred books. What the heck..." said Mr. Monster with a long sigh as soon as he sat down.

"Come on! Don't ask me how your books are selling," I murmured in my mind.

Mr. Monster's book "Land Monster Alert" happens to be published by our company. Readers are likely to get bitten by the book, fall into an exotic world, suddenly have many weird relatives, as well as experience the weird things like the cell phone shows self-awareness,

decides not to connect to WiFi, constantly asks you to update the password... all the supernatural rumors, however, have never been spread out. As a result, despite a few odd fans persistently taking pictures and checking in after second and third printing of the book, mom asked me why I read the book on my knees but the sales were still flat all the time.

"Well, it's simply a bite on the readers, isn't it? How difficult it can be?" said Mr. Monster with resentment. What he doesn't know is that his last book "Little Demon City" lured many fascinated low-

resistant boys and girls to get away from home, and the customer service was dragged in hot water (I'm responsible). In the design for this "knowing something will happen by just reading the draft" book, the chairman of the publisher required the barrier be more accentuated. So, the two monsters on the cover page were placed onto dual cover pages, and the blessed blocking line was stretched from the first page of every story all the way to the copyright page, which effectively overcame the disaster... But no breaking news to report! That was a bit bothering.

Text skipped Qiang Qiang (sound)...Here comes the Teppanyaki chef on stage. He's a bigfoot about 3-meter high. Scars crawls on his long hairy arms. He throws a handful of struggling queen shrimps on the Teppan, and smiles a bit at us.

This Teppanyaki store seems very famous in the monster world. The nearby eaters are either with horns or moving their wings away from the shuffling waiters. After the order is made, the bigfoot chef's dual spatulas transforms into two silver shades, and then the queen shrimps, fresh fugu skin, snake meat balls are served, still smoking. A

bite of the giant moth cheese eggroll exudes a thick, tasty fragrance of the bug eggs, and the whole day toil of moving the books is swept away. I suddenly realized that the evening dish was made of the monsters that already appeared in the "Land Monster Alert". Excitedly, when I mentioned to him my finding, he suddenly changed from happy eating to silent dissatisfaction.

"Is it because my story is too realistic! Well, my writing is just truthful to what I've heard and experienced. Today's readers are more interested in fantasy, aren't they?" He murmured while eating the water monster steak.

"Come on! It's not that bad. The story of Chiang Kai-shek statue transforming into a zombie to eat people is not realistic at all. How could things like that ever happen! Your story is super-fantastic and super-cool!" While I was trying to pacify Mr. Monster, there came from the neighboring table a bald-headed man in Chinese tunic suit with rusty metal color all over his body. He grinned at us, and exposed his sharp teeth.

"Stop staring at us. Eat your meal, bald head!" I shouted to that man, silently in my mind, with aspirated murmuring.







## RECOMMENDED TEPPANYAKI NOT FROM THE MONSTER WORLD

### Benihana Teppanyaki

Address: 5F, No 45, Shifu Road, Xinyi District, Taipei City  
Telephone: 02-8101-8102

### Shonlien Teppanyaki

Address: No. 16, Ningxia Road, Datong District, Taipei City  
Telephone: 02-2555-8876

### Shinbin Teppanyaki

Address: B1F, No. 33, Lane 11, Guanfu Road, Songshan District, Taipei City  
Telephone: 02-2761-5616

### Ben Teppanyaki

Address: No. 2, Lane 102, Section 1, Anhe Road, Daan District, Taipei City  
Telephone: 02-2703-2296

### 3A Teppanyaki

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Telephone: 04-2259-9090

### Lihlin Teppanyaki

No. 102, Qingnian 1st Rd., Qianzhen Dist., Kaohsiung City  
Telephone: 07-222-3102



Extended reading: "Land Monster Alert" By Tang Chengwei - Mr. Monser,  
published by commaBOOKS Publishing House

台灣月10  
思。台灣

Thinker, Player, Dreamer

# 我想,我做, 我同世界一齊玩

青世代出場 Emerging Creativity 商店 市集 表演 Pop-up stores, handmade market and performances

- Campobag 青創世代 思想創業—《臺灣給香港的五個禮物》 德國紅點設計獎 倫敦設計獎 臺灣文創精品獎 展出70位以上青年創設設計師 09.10—07.11 PMQ 元創方
- 不二堂 Tea Party II 《混得好 in the mix》一場文化混音的茶酒派對 08-11.10 銅鑼灣 Midtown

熟世代大師 Sparkling Virtuosity 音樂 劇場 時尚 Music, theatre and fashion

- 呂紹嘉×臺灣愛樂《浪漫 奔騰》Taiwan Philharmonic 01.11 香港文化中心音樂廳 ● 焦元溥×臺灣愛樂《樂讀村上春樹》 31.10 香港大學百周年校園李兆基會議中心大會堂 ● 梁志民×曹啟泰×果陀劇場《淡水小鎮》 23-24.10 香港文化中心大劇院 ● 胡德夫《芬芳的山谷》×鍾氏兄弟(香港) 03.11 青年廣場 ● Sophie HONG×台原《Sophie HONG 的綠生活—不被時空限制的設計》 跨界時裝派對 16.10 銅鑼灣 Midtown

8.10  
7.11



TAIWAN STEP  
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