

TAIPEI

9 Must-Visit Independent Bookstores in Taipei City

The Wonders of Reading



Two-Time Olympic Gold Medal Winner, Hsu Shuching

The Champion With Physical Strength and Intellectual Discipline

Roiling Graffiti Art

Meandering a Street & Film Graffiti Landscape



Double-Decker Sightseeing Buses Brighten the Streets

Taipei Viewing – New Heights & Breezy Rides

TAIPEI

SPRING

2017

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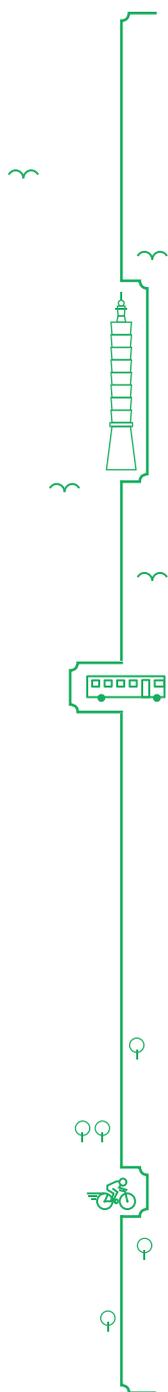
You can explore Taipei by MRT, bus or YouBike, and, as introduced in this issue of *TAIPEI*, by double-decker sightseeing bus. This provides a quick way for first-time visitors to see what Taipei is like, and gives multi-time visitors a different perspective on the city. While you are on the double-decker observing the shining edifice of Taipei 101, the magnificent National Palace, and the eye-feasting Shilin Night Market – don't forget to keep an eye peeled for bookstores everywhere!

This issue's cover story introduces the many types of bookstores, and highlights Taipei's rich culture and local attractions. You will discover the enjoyment to be had at several bookstores, each with its own unique features. You will also learn how some small-scale farmers are treating their land in a friendlier way; and witness how civic awareness is being sparked and organized. This is the most enchanting and enriching part of city travel – to experience local culture!

Another of Taipei's charms is the proliferation of typical Taiwan snacks everywhere. In this issue, you will savor the sweet soup of Huaxi Street as introduced in *Tastes of Taipei's Old City Areas* by the famous gourmet, Jiao Tong. Here, the warm-hearted soup purveyor will share his secret ways of serving to tingle your taste buds and enter your heart!

Why is Taipei worth visiting over and over again? The answer is in its renovations and improvements. With the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade approaching, the city's features are becoming evermore vivid and lively. At the Discovery Center's "Ready to Go! Bravo!" Special Exhibition, cutting-edge technology allows you to interact with Universiade ambassador, Bravo. The Major Athletes section displays awards and other memorabilia of medal-winning competitors, and tells their stories of hard work and perseverance. For instance, the little-known story and training process of Universiade spokesperson, Hsu Shuching are presented. We sincerely hope it will entice visitors to join us and cheer on Taiwanese athletes!

Taipei has many varied and rich aspects, and if you are willing to take time to experience them, you will discover all kinds of fun. The graffiti art scattered about street corners and parks softens the tough cement jungle of the urban center. If you care about the city's trees, ponds or sky, you may spot the perched or soaring birds of Avian Liu's book, *Encounters with Avians on City Street Corners*. This issue also introduces a Turkish film director who loves Taipei deeply, and uses his images to record and share Taipei's most appealing aspects.



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Two-Time Olympic Gold Medal Winner, Hsu Shuching



(Photo: Tien Mingwei)

The Champion With Physical Strength and Intellectual Discipline

Article | Cason Hsu

Photos | Tien Mingwei, Hsu Shuching

Hsu Shuching (許淑淨) from Lunbei, Yunlin (雲林崙背鄉), was the first girl born to the Hsu family in three generations. Her family is not rich, but she is still the apple of her parents' eyes. As a child, they dressed her in lace tutu and white stockings. Now, after years of lifting weights, her neck has grown thicker and her shoulders wider. Calluses have appeared on her hands because she didn't waste her teenage years in a typical young girl's dream world, but spent them repeating the same basic movements: lifting up dead weight and putting it down, day after day.



After winning two Olympics gold medals, Hsu's next goal is the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade. (Photo: Hsu Shuching)

With a Coach “Like Family” She Won Gold

Hsu won a silver medal for Taiwan at the London 2012 Olympics but three weeks before the Rio 2016 games, the International Weightlifting Federation announced that the London gold medalist had failed her drug test, so Hsu was officially promoted and awarded the gold! This should have been good news on the eve of her first match in Rio, but it ended up putting added pressure on her. She responded by practicing even harder, only to pull the hind muscles of her right thigh. After that, Hsu couldn't even handle 35 kilos, and almost gave up hope of reaching the podium. But her coach, Tsai Wenyee (蔡溫義) skillfully adjusted her strategy to take advantage of each opponent's key weaknesses and sure enough, Hsu ended up on top again! When it was over, Hsu Shuching had become Taiwan's first two-time Olympic champion!

Except for a couple of days' break during Chinese New Year, Hsu keeps her training regimen going all

year round. At the National Sports Training Center in Zuoying, Kaohsiung (高雄左營), she works with Coach Tsai almost every day. And since her life and training are intertwined, the coach has become just like a second dad to her. She trusts him completely and responds to his instructions perfectly. Whatever the situation – whether Hsu needs to add weight to a lift or take some away, Coach Tsai is the first to let her know.

And what's on her mind just before a big lift of 100 kilos or more? Hsu says, “When I'm up there, I am actually thinking of nothing; I just empty my head and certainly don't care about how much my opponents can lift. I only ask myself to repeat what I've done in training. I believe in my coach and in myself – that's all that matters.” Hsu is highly self-disciplined, but the road to championship doesn't come without obstacles, such as a weight that seems too heavy, or the frequent injuries that happen. Whenever she doesn't think she's good enough, the coach always gives her a pat on the back, and tells her not to push herself too hard. Because of his inspiration, Hsu has never



Once up there, Hsu empties her mind and focuses on repeating what she's done in training. (Photo: Hsu Shuching)

once thought of quitting, even when it seemed as if she had hit rock bottom.

With the Glory of Gold Inspiring Her, Hsu Wants to Contribute to Society

After her second gold medal, the first thing Hsu did was go back home to her family. In the beginning, her parents hadn't approved of her getting into weightlifting – but once they saw how much she loved it, and witnessed her success, they soon became her biggest fans and now support her 100 percent! They've shown up to cheer for her at almost every event held in Taiwan, and even got smartphones with the express purpose of using Line and Facebook to encourage her!

Hsu admits that people have finally started to recognize all the hard work she's put in over the years – that's what two gold medals will do! And there is no doubt that her success has lightened her financial burden. The added attention has gained her even more fans and sponsors, but has affected her daily life as well. She used to be able to walk around without anybody noticing her, but now that she's in "the public eye," people scrutinize her every move. "However, I'm still pretty happy. All the attention does have a positive side. Hopefully I can use my little influence to contribute to society and to sports. I'd like to promote the Olympic spirit in Taiwan, and get everyone more involved in physical activity!" Hsu says all this with eyes sparkling.

It might seem strange for a weightlifter, but Hsu has a sensitive and attentive personality. She cares what people think of her, and what kind of impression she makes on others. This kind of responsibility used

to cause her moods to swing wildly, but now she has learned to let it go. She realizes that no matter how much she achieves, there will always be those who are never satisfied. She welcomes support and encouragement gratefully, and accepts constructive criticism humbly. As for the rest – she just ignores it.

As a Spokesperson for the Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade, Hsu Calls for Everyone to Come Cheer on the Athletes

Although a two-time Olympic gold medal winner, Hsu can't take a break yet – she has to keep training because her next goal is the Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade.

For an Olympic champion, the Universiade challenge shouldn't be too hard, right? Hsu says that, in fact, it's harder to win a medal in many non-Olympic international competitions because Olympic participation is governed by a quota system. Take weightlifting as an example: one country/area can only select a total of four female athletes to compete, but each weight division will accept just two competitors at most. That means that each country must evaluate the situation and decide which division they should compete in – in order to have a better chance at winning. Let's say Hsu competes in the featherweight (53 kilo) category, and other countries assign their four athletes to other weight divisions. Hsu will have fewer opponents, and therefore her chances of winning will increase. Many other international competitions have no such quota system, and with so many qualified competitors in each division, the meet is going to be more competitive for sure.

Hsu is hoping to bring Taiwan more glory in the Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade, but as an event spokesperson, she also wants to show athletes from other countries that Taipei is a sports-minded city of international repute.

Hsu has competed all over the world, but this time she's bringing it home! One thing that's always struck her about competitions overseas: the loud and enthusiastic support athletes always receive from their home countrymen. As a spokesperson for the Universiade, she urges everyone to come fill the seats and cheer on Taiwan's athletes, give them the home-field advantage. So that when they face their opponents, they will go all out for Taiwan!" 🏆

Hsu Shuching

2011

- Shenzhen Summer Universiade, Silver Medal (snatch, 92 kilos; clean and jerk, 115 kilos)
- Paris Weightlifting World Championships, Bronze Medal (snatch, 93 kilos)

2012

2014

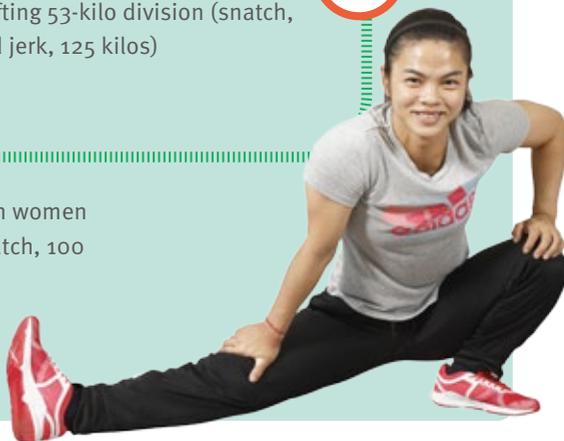
- Incheon Asian Games, Gold Medal in women weightlifting 53-kilo division (snatch, 101 kilos; clean and jerk, 132 kilos)
- London Olympics, Gold Medal in women's weightlifting 53-kilo division (snatch, 96 kilos; clean and jerk, 123 kilos) (The event gold medalist failed her drug test, and the International Weightlifting Federation officially announced in 2016 that Hsu had been awarded the gold medal.)

2015

- Weightlifting World Championships, Gold Medal in women weightlifting 53-kilo division (snatch, 96 kilos; clean and jerk, 125 kilos)

2016

- Rio 2016 Olympics, Gold Medal in women weightlifting 53-kilo division (snatch, 100 kilos; clean and jerk, 112 kilos)



Zhongzheng High School Track Puts On a New Look!

First International Certified Training Venue for the Universiade

Article | Chang Huanpeng Photos | Taipei City Government Public Works Department

In anticipation of the upcoming 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade, the software and hardware infrastructure of local athletic facilities has been upgraded. Whether for new construction or old facilities renovation, these improvements will reflect Taiwan's cutting-edge soft and hard power. For Taipei, the Summer Universiade is a major sports event, a social movement that may change this city, and it also carries the responsibility of bringing back glory to our capital.

This athletic meet will involve 79 facilities – all following the regulations and guidelines of the International University Sports Federation and the principles of environmental protection and energy conservation. Zhongzheng High School (中正高中) is a good example. After 5 months of construction, this old venue now boasts a 400-meter track with 8 lanes, a two-way long jump/triple jump runway and sand pit, 2 shot put fields and a hammer throw area.

(Photo: Taipei City Government Public Works Department)

Rigorous Engineering Process – No Detail Ignored

After renovation, the track at Zhongzheng High School officially opened last December, and people stared in amazement at the brand new look. “This is a Class 2 facility, with first class construction,” Cheng Peijia (程培嘉), Chief Engineer of the Sewerage Systems Office, Public Works Department, Taipei City Government (台北市政府工務局衛生下水道工程處) points out. The track and field have received the IAAF Class 2 Facility Certificate; and the whole project was done by the supreme engineering team in the country. Even the synthetic rubber track surface was made in Taiwan!

The construction process of this stadium was quite complicated, involving such operations as scraping off the original track, pressing the bottom layer to at least 95% compaction, redoing the asphalt and concrete surface, and adjusting the drainage slope. The final step was to lay down synthetic rubber that had been certified to international standards, and then force it down with compressed blocks to make it nice and even. Every stage of the process was crucial.

According to Cheng, “If ground humidity was over 8%, the construction had to be put on hold.” In order for the track to be granted international-standard certification, the engineering team took every detail very seriously. A 1-in-10000 margin of error within 400 meters was the maximum that could be allowed, and similar low tolerances were the rule in setting slope integrity and ground humidity, as well. The synthetic rubber surface had to be sent to the IAAF lab in Switzerland and

The renovated Track at Zhongzheng High School is ready for the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade. (Photo: Taipei City Government Public Works Department)





In order to help the Zhongzheng High School track reach international standards, a professional line-marking master devotes much time and effort to getting it right. (Photo: Taipei City Government Public Works Department)



The work team at Zhongzheng High School pays close attention to every engineering detail. (Photo: Taipei City Government Public Works Department)

inspected before the international certificate could be granted and the track laid.

British Line Marking Master Precisely Marks Track Lines

The perfect set of lines on the new blue track is the masterpiece of British line-marking master, Matthew Cohen. Cheng says, “He has plenty of experience, having marked 163 international-class tracks.” Cohen brought his professional marking cart all the way from Oman, and doesn’t allow anyone to make noise or fool around while he works. Only after he has done his careful, professional measuring and laid out each and every track, does he start slowly and deliberately marking the lines.

The whole team’s serious work ethic helped the Zhongzheng track reach the high quality

demand for international certification. Sports men and women from around the world now have a professional and safe practice facility. Cheng says that the second stage of engineering will begin this July with renovations to the showers, washrooms, temporary athletes’ lounges, first-aid stations, and security rooms.

Once the event is finished, the Public Works Department will start the third stage, which is restoring the facility so that Zhongzheng High School students, teachers and even Taipei citizens can enjoy sports and leisure activities there. This international-standard track and field can be used for physical education, athletic training, recreational sports, and as a practice facility. With such an athletic venue, Taipei will join the list of the world’s great sports cities! 🇹🇼

Visit Bravo's Home

“Ready to Go! Bravo!”

Special Exhibition

Article | Chang Huanpeng

Photos | 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade Executive Committee



Taipei, this beautiful city, contains many fascinating things to investigate and peruse. If you want to know more about historical development, achievements in construction, human culture or scientific achievements, you must visit the Discovery Center of Taipei (台北探索館). The Center first opened nearly 15 years ago, and is usually the first stop for domestic and foreign tourists who want to know Taipei better. It's also a stimulating exhibition hall where parents and children alike can visit and learn.

“Ready to Go! Bravo!” (站上起跑點) is being presented now at the Discovery Center of Taipei's Special Exhibition Hall. Through virtual reality technology such as augmented reality and interactive multimedia, people can learn about the different sports of the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade. In this exhibit, you will see more of the everyday life of the Universiade ambassador, Bravo. There is also competition memorabilia and medals won by elite Taiwanese athletes such as Hsu Shuching, Tai Tzuying (戴資穎) and Kuo Hsingchun (郭婞淳).

Interactive Multimedia and Augmented Reality

“Wow! This is Bravo's home.” Kids will surely scream this when they see the super-popular mascot. In the exhibit, in addition to the installation

The table tennis player, Chiang Hungchieh visits the “Ready to Go! Bravo!” Special Exhibition at the Discovery Center Of Taipei and has his picture taken with Bravo. (Photo: 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade Executive Committee)

depicting Bravo riding a YouBike, there are such items as Bravo's office desk, photos of him promoting Universiade, and a variety of sports equipment. Through interactive technology, visitors can exercise with Bravo and even take a selfie with the little fellow!

According to the Taipei City Government Department of Information and Tourism's City Tourism Division (台北市政府觀光傳播局), there are four interactive areas employing multimedia and augmented reality at the exhibit: Bravo's Home, Little Broadcast Director, Augmented Reality – AR Bravo, and the Athlete's Calorie Supply Station. For example, in the area called Little Broadcast Director, a participant experiences what it's like to direct a broadcast of the hurdles competition while sitting in the TV van outside the stadium. It's all virtual reality, of course, but the “director” will be able to select from different camera angles to let the audience see different aspects of the race!

“AR Bravo” uses cutting-edge augmented-reality to let visitors make Bravo jump out of the screen, lift weights, and even cheerlead – just by holding a sensor tablet in front of the screen. At the “Athlete’s Calorie Supply Station,” you will see Bravo on the screen in chef’s garb, introducing swimming, fencing, rhythmic gymnastics and other sports – while providing useful information about sports and calories.

Major Athletes of the Universiade

This static exhibit is well worth seeing. The display includes the first Olympic Silver Medal won by Taiwanese weightlifter Hsu Shuching (It was later promoted to Gold by the International Olympic Committee). There is also the Silver Medal won by track and field athlete, Wang Hueichen (王惠珍) at the British Universiade, the recurve bow used by Tan Yating (譚雅婷) for the Gold Medal women’s archery team of the Gwangju Universiade, Su Liwen’s (蘇麗文) name-embroidered black belt and doll she received for winning gold at the Bangkok

Universiade, and the badminton racket and sports shoes of world women’s badminton champion, Tai Tzuying. All these treasured keepsakes all come with their own stories.

“Taiwanese athletes are amazing,” says sports fan, Miss Chen. Seeing her idols’ medals and gear up close thrills and moves her no end. She now sees just how much hardship came before every moment of athletic glory.

The “Ready to Go! Bravo!” Special Exhibition invites everyone to the 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade. By presenting Bravo’s life, the organizers hope to attract tourists, parents and children to learn more about sports. The interactive multimedia devices also add more fun to the experience. By making known the stories and training processes of the athletes, the organizers hope to encourage people to join the Universiade at the starting gate, and cheer on Taiwan’s heroes! 📌

“Ready to Go! Bravo!” Special Exhibition

🕒 09:00~17:00, Tue~Sun, free admission (Closed on Mondays and National Holidays)

📍 Discovery Center of Taipei’s Special Exhibition Hall; 2F, 1, City Hall Rd. (台北探索館特展廳; 市府路 1 號 2 樓)

☎ 1999 (02-27208889 outside Taipei City); ext. 8630



The weightlifter, Kuo Hsingchun meets adorable Bravo at Bravo’s home. (Photo: 2017 Taipei Summer Universiade Executive Committee)

Spending time with books in an old house brings moments of serenity. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



9 Must-Visit Independent Bookstores in Taipei City

The Wonders of Reading



Yue Yue Bookstore launches gentle cultural revolution to promote reading. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



Spatial design can transform reading into a lifestyle experience. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

Article | You Ziying

Photos | Shi Chuntai

For some, reading is a way to acquire knowledge, and to nurture the soul. For others, reading is part of a refined lifestyle. Taipei City is home to many independent bookstores, each providing a unique space for reading. Among these, some are hubs for social change and public discourse, some offer specialty books and a space for book-lovers with distinguished tastes to go, and some are in renovated old buildings given new life, allowing both building and books to tell stories and inspiring dialogue on design. In these spaces we not only engage in conversations with books, but also mine creativity, and connect with society and the world.

When Bookstores Are Not Only Bookstores

These bookstores break through the stereotype of what a bookseller is, aspiring to be spaces presenting us with the realm of possibilities. For instance, what is a secondhand bookstore by day can be transformed into a space for discussion of public issues by night, welcoming young people with different ideas to communicate, debate, and inspire one another. Alternatively, a bookstore can combine coffee, exhibits, and books, turning historical buildings into salons where writers, artists, and musicians spark wave upon wave of cultural revolutions. Bookstores can also serve as a platform for local agricultural products, devoted to food education, introducing people to local goods, and supporting local Taiwan agriculture.

In this day and age, running a bookstore can be tough. However, some have chosen to go against the tide and open a specialty bookstore, providing books of distinguished taste. A group of travel-loving friends pour their passion for travel into a little shop, sharing travel stories with fellow travelers of the world; a couple who dreamed of teaching their children English in a more interesting way decided to open a bookstore specializing in illustrated books, to



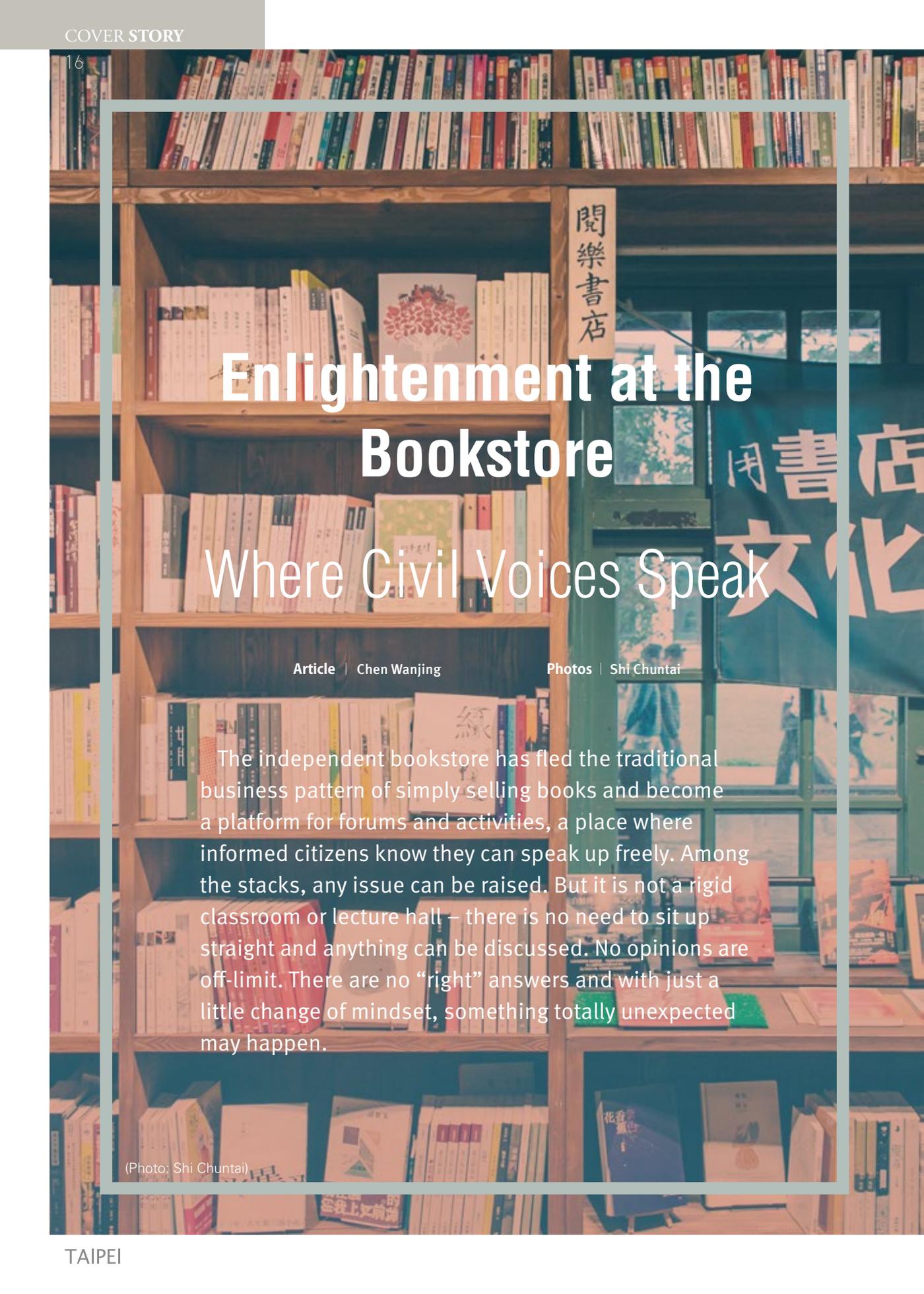
Lovers of detective stories and noir novels must visit Murder Ink. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

bring happiness to the younger generation. A diehard mystery fan realized his dream of building a gathering spot filled with old secondhand items and detective titles that welcomes readers to test their wits solving cases.

Unique Spaces Complement the Reading Experience

There are many old buildings brimming with stories in Taipei. When such spaces are used to display books, they provide an excellent reading experience. For instance, an old Japanese-style dormitory has been renovated to serve as a library. Serenity flows through every corner, sheltering those who wish to sit quietly in dialogue with the books. A century after being built, the first Western-style pharmacy has now been converted into a nostalgia-rich bookstore showcasing the glamor and charm of the 1920s. An old hospital has been dressed in new clothes, turned into a modern space integrating collaborative-use studio and reading. The carefully selected books in the fields of art and design provide a source of inspiration for designers.

Bookstores can do so much more than sell books, becoming spaces for lifestyle experiences and creativity. The Taipei reading experience is one continually filled with surprises. 



Enlightenment at the Bookstore

Where Civil Voices Speak

Article | Chen Wanjing

Photos | Shi Chuntai

The independent bookstore has fled the traditional business pattern of simply selling books and become a platform for forums and activities, a place where informed citizens know they can speak up freely. Among the stacks, any issue can be raised. But it is not a rigid classroom or lecture hall – there is no need to sit up straight and anything can be discussed. No opinions are off-limit. There are no “right” answers and with just a little change of mindset, something totally unexpected may happen.

(Photo: Shi Chuntai)



Having taken residence in a renovated historical site, Yue Yue Bookstore holds speeches, exhibits and concerts – a cultural salon in the city! (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



Yue Yue Bookstore – A Maverick Cultural Salon

Situated alongside Songshan Cultural and Creative Park's (松山文創園區) Ecological Pond, this verdant cabin seems to cast a spell that draws people in. Built in 1954 as the former Songshan Tobacco Factory (松山菸廠) nursing room, it is a tranquil space imbued with a kind of retro-Japanese atmosphere. In 2001, it was registered as a municipal historical site. After the TV series *Lovestore At The Corner* (巷弄裡的那家書店) was shot there, Yue Yue Bookstore (閱樂書店) took residence. Last year, the bookstore invited cultural worker, Chang Tieh-Chih (張鐵志) to be its chief advisor and then reopened.

According to Yue Yue's curator, Lin Zhe'an (林哲安), although serving the reading public is the

core purpose, the bookstore is developing a diverse range of business activities to augment it. The hope is that it will become a platform for civil discussion and a gateway performance venue for minority artists. Speeches are presented on a monthly basis, and people of all stripes are regularly invited to brainstorm and participate in the public discourse.

Instead of catering to the best seller list, Yue Yue targets different market segments with its own unique title selection. "Yue Yue is considered an extension of Chang's study," says Lin. "Literature and books on social issues predominate." Since taking the job, Lin has added a Hong Kong section – a tribute to the fact that Chang once lived there. This new area includes mainly titles from small independent publishers and magazines. Lately, more and more visitors from Hong Kong have bought books there.



In addition to selling books, bookstores can also be forums where diverse cultural and intellectual ideas may be exchanged. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

Songshan Cultural and Creative Park is a popular site for domestic and international visitors. From time to time, you'll see people taking pictures and checking in on Facebook. Yue Yue Bookstore has been roundly described as "beautiful inside and out." The twin aromas of coffee and books mingle here, as do the emotions of the written word.

The Libratory – A Literary Think Tank

Yang Mienyin (楊緬因) is only twenty-something and while in the anthropology department of National Taiwan University (NTU ; 國立台灣大學), he started selling second-hand books from a little stand. Before long, his collection had piled up to the point that, although still at school, he had to open a real shop in a basement on Taishun Street (泰順街) near National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU ; 國立台灣師範大學). He gave his new bookstore a witty name: The Libratory (公共冊所), expecting it to be a place where people could come and "let it all hang out."

The store stocks mainly social science books, but also carries some academic theses and government publications that are rarely seen at other similar locations. Students from nearby NTU and NTNU come here hunting for treasures! But, there's a wall

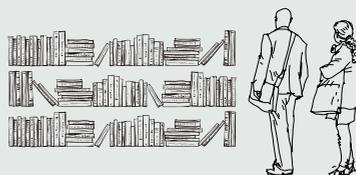


dedicated exclusively to new books, too, showcasing titles published by The Libratory independently. Yang says that he didn't start out with the intention of building any particular style; his limited resources dictated that the bookstore shape its own character organically. The sales counter was purchased from a comic book store that was going out of business, and the comfy sofa was found right on the street! The rainbow flag was a gift from friends. All of these accoutrements seem to fit right in with The Libratory's casual ambience. A Czech student named Peter says, "There's a Bohemian style to it."

The Libratory is also a meeting and event space. Speeches are given here from time to time, on such topics as transitional justice, marriage equality, wine culture, and so on. Book launches also happen frequently. Yang keeps an open mind and never rejects any subject as a topic for discussion. "Working, reading and making friends are what make me feel human. A bookstore is not only a business, but also a lifestyle." Since it is not easy to survive in the book trade, he and his partners all have other day-time jobs,



Young business owner Yang Mienyin started selling second-hand books from a little stand while studying at school, and ended up with his own unique bookstore. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



Staying in Bed on Sundays (周日牀上), the autobiographical novel by the late writer and founder of *City Magazine* (號外雜誌), Yau Si Man (丘世文), describes the daily lives and tangled emotions of 1980s white collar workers in Hong Kong. It is considered one of the classic books of all time. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of Yau's passing, a restored edition has been published and is being sold exclusively at Yue Yue in Taiwan. (Recommended by Lin Zhe'an.)



Yue Yue Bookstore 閱樂書店

📍 133, Guangfu S. Rd
(光復南路 133 號)

☎ (02)2749-1527



which means that The Libratory doesn't open until four in the afternoon each day; so don't knock on the door too early!

Buffalo Bookstore – A Portal Between Land and Word

Buffalo is a bookstore but also a produce shop! A lot of people learned about it through Lo Wenjia (羅文嘉). In fact, Buffalo Book Co. (水牛出版社) started 50 years ago but Lo only took it over in 2012, invited by the former owner. After quitting politics, Lo had gone back to farming in his hometown, Xinwu, Taoyuan (桃園新屋). He then decided to open a bookstore at his house and then a Taipei branch in 2013.

According to the manager of the Taipei branch, Liu Zhaohui (劉昭卉), Buffalo Bookstore (水牛書店) has grown slowly to what it is now. Since the organic, toxin-free fruits and vegetables from small Xinwu farms frequently had a less than appealing look, they decided to open a farmer's market next door and gradually introduced more products. Later on, Buffalo decided to open a restaurant and share their belief in healthy ingredients. Many customers would shop at the bookstore after enjoying their meals, or buy fruits, veggies and literature in one trip. Always a man who believes in giving back to society, Lo has donated all profits from selling rice to support rural education. Thus, a nurturing cycle is created whereby the natural and intellectual worlds reinforce each other.

New Year's Reader



Due to Yang Mienyin's fondness for observing life's up and downs, the Libratory commissioned Lee Winshine (李玟萱) to write a book, entitled *Life Stories of the Homeless in Taiwan* (無家者：從未想過我有這麼一天), under the name of Guerrilla Publishing. Lee tells the story of 10 homeless people and 5 social workers, using a straightforward style that describes their real-life difficulties in basic human terms.



The Libratory 公共冊所

📍 Basement, 24, Taishun St
(泰順街 24 號地下室)

☎ 0952-631-240





Readers keep coming back for more of the Japanese manga, *Midnight Diner* (深夜食堂), in which a restaurateur's home-style cooking warms the heart as it tempts the palate. The designer of this "gourmet" publication, Nami Iijima also presents some classic dishes in her own book, *Shinya Shokudo no Ryoricho* (深夜食堂料理帖). The delicacies presented are not hard to make and Liu Zhaohui recommends readers give them a try. Bring good food and good conversation back to your dining table!



Buffalo Bookstore

水牛書店

📍 2, Ln. 222, Rui'an St
(瑞安街 222 巷 2 號)

☎ (02)2707-7003



The store mainly stocks books on literature, history, philosophy, Taiwanese culture and agriculture. There's a whole section devoted to Buffalo's own publications, and people in their 50s and 60s often come hunting for treasures. Sometimes they are surprised to find the same text books they once used at school! Books related to diet and nutrition are especially popular since speeches and courses on this subject are held at the bookstore on a monthly basis.

With its cheerful space, friendly sales people and flavorsome drinks, Soho worker Xie considers Buffalo his office, praising it as a place that inspires both the deepest reading and the most imaginative writing. Liu is confident that there is something for everyone at Buffalo, and she welcomes you all to drop by sometime! 📍



Buffalo is a bookstore and a market for small-scale farmers. Part of its profits is dedicated to rural education. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

Special Interest Bookstores

Where Fans Find Just What They're Looking For

Article | Chen Wanjing

Photos | Shi Chuntai

Running your own bookstore and making a living at it is hard. Make that twice as hard if you sell only one type of book! But there happen to be a few of these brave independents in Taipei. They have a unique perspective they want to share and a deep desire to fulfill a specific gap in the needs of readers. They don't aim to make a fortune; they simply want to share the books they love. People come here not just to read, but also to get a chance to chat with an expert – the store owner. This kind of close interaction is the magic of small bookstores.

(Photo: Shi Chuntai)

DeaR DeeR Travel Book Shop – Building a Bridge to the World

Avid backpacker Eva has accumulated tons of travel books, and over the years has lent many of them to friends planning a trip. A while back she got the idea of opening her very own travel bookstore and named it DeaR DeeR (鹿途中旅遊書店). Since deer in Chinese sounds like the word for road: “lu,” this generated the Chinese name: “Lu Tu Zhong” (鹿途中), which means “on the way,” with her high school friend, Lu Lu (鹿鹿) as the store manager.

Tucked in a quiet alley in Taipei’s Xinyi District, this charming little bookstore wants people to think of its collection as “The Book of the World.” In addition to selling travel volumes, it also provides book rental and exchange services. Japan tour guides are the most popular of these. In every corner of the store one can see pictures taken by Eva, and Lu Lu’s personally-designed postcards – memories of cherished travel for all to see. There is also a fine collection



Mugs from cities all over the world contain the proprietor’s travel memories. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



In addition to selling books, DeaR DeeR provides free Taipei travel information for tourists. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



To the Edge of the World (走過世界的盡頭) is the choice of both Eva and Lu Lu. It’s self-published by its author, Shen Yuchuan (沈佑銓), who is also a doctor. The book describes what he saw and experienced during his trip to South America (Peru, Argentina and Chile) and the 36-hour flight to get there. The book is a fascinating exploration of the twists and turns in his mind during this trip. DeaR DeeR even asked Shen to give a speech, which made him the first invited speaker at the store.

NEW Year's Reader



DeaR DeeR Travel Book Shop 鹿途中旅遊書店

📍 28, Jiaying St. (嘉興街 28 號)

☎ (02)2720-7532



of Starbucks mugs and magnets from a variety of countries – and each piece of memorabilia comes with its own story!

Eva and Lu Lu enjoy sharing travel information with others. There are speeches from time to time, where travel writers and bloggers share their “favorite secret spots.” DeaR DeeR is an intimate and lively space; neighborhood office workers often come seeking travel info, and neighbors drop by frequently. A regular customer, Miss Liu, couldn’t decide on a destination when planning her first backpacking trip, and it was only after exploring the books here that she finally settled on Iceland. Eva and Lu Lu also benefit in the friends they make and the fellow travel enthusiasts they meet. What’s more, these two enterprising ladies and their customers even spent last New Year’s Eve together in Japan!

Haven’t decided on your next destination yet? Come check out DeaR DeeR!

New Year's Reader



Despite growing up in New York, Taiwanese-American children’s author, Grace Lin (林珮思) fills her books with the authentic flavors of Chinese culture. *Dim Sum for Everyone!* (給大家的點心) uses a straightforward style to describe a family going to a restaurant in Chinatown. Febie says children can learn the English names of common dim sum dishes from this book, which might be useful when ordering at Chinese eateries in the West!

JFK Picture Books – English Story Time!

Having suffered through a major illness, Jerry, the owner of JFK Picture Books (JFK 繪本屋) sees life from a different perspective now. In 2014, he quit his job and opened the bookstore as a gift to his wife, Febie. JFK is an acronym for Jerry, Febie and Kaya, their daughter. It is their sincerest wish that this place become a favorite stop on many a child’s journey to adulthood.

Former kindergarten English teacher, Febie, tells the story of how JFK began. While visiting Sendai, Japan, she and her husband happened to visit a shop selling mostly illustrated books. The store owner himself was conducting a “Story Time” right in the store and it put the seed of an idea into them. That seed grew into a dream, which has finally come true. With Jerry’s expertise as a designer, they decided on yellow as a decorative keynote, installed a skylight in the back to bring in natural light, and added a little



JFK Picture Books

JFK 繪本屋

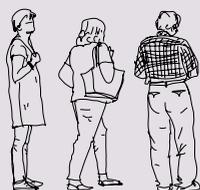
📍 3, Ln. 187, Sec. 2,
Chengde Rd.
(承德路 2 段 187 巷 3 號)

☎ (02)2557-3309





The Parents and Kids Story Time is held on a regular basis, helping children to develop their English ability. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



bridge in the activity room for energetic kids to climb on. The whole place radiates with a bright and lively atmosphere.

JFK stocks mainly English picture books, but carries some Chinese and Japanese titles too. It holds Parents and Kids Story Time on a regular basis for youngsters aged 3 to 6. Real estate agent, Mr. Lee, often takes his twin daughters there on weekends. He says that he grew up abroad and would like his children to start learning English early. JFK employs lots of creative teaching activities, aids and others ways of making classes fun! Lee's daughters have happily taken part for the past six months.

After getting established at ArtYard 2022 (眾藝埕) in Dadaocheng (大稻埕), JFK Picture Books moved to the old community in Shuanglian (雙連) where Jerry grew up. Febie is in charge of book selection and the teaching of classes, and the two of them share a sacred mission: simply to inspire children to open the first book of their lives.

Murder Ink – A Mystery & Suspense Bookstore

“Agatha barks at anyone wearing a hat!” After working as a reporter in Mainland China, Tommy Tan (譚端) opened the first detective fiction bookstore in Taiwan, Murder Ink (偵探書屋), about three years ago. It's situated in the old Jiancheng Circle (建成圓環) neighborhood of Taipei and he's such a fan of the genre that he even named his pooch after

the Queen of Crime, Agatha Christie. (No one knows why the dog hates hats so much but it's as it should be – a mystery!)

Tan started out with the romantic idea that: “This world could do with less utilitarians,” and decided that promoting genre novels was his purpose in life. “Things that seem useless can actually contribute to society,” he says. “There’s a deep exploration of character in crime fiction that allows readers to develop empathy; and reading books in all genres helps enrich people’s minds.”

The store is decked out with second-hand furniture and crime-related items, attracting crime fans to come and explore. People who enjoy a “retro” atmosphere also visit regularly. Ms. Wang, a Hong Kong resident who frequently comes to Taiwan, shops at Murder Ink because there are no crime bookstores in her city, and because it’s recommended by many Taiwanese book fans. So far she has not been disappointed.



The proprietor’s collection of second-hand objects helps create a mysterious atmosphere. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

Murder Ink is not just a bookstore for Tan, it is also his base for working on broadcasting and film documentary projects. It’s not unusual to see his colleagues with their heads buried in research. You’ll need a membership to rent books from Murder Ink, but there are over 4,000 titles available, mostly European and American. The most popular are the novels of Japanese writer, Keigo Higashino. There is also a retail section, where pocket-sized editions seem to sell well. 📍

New Year's Reader



In 1962, Taiwanese-Japanese writer, Chen Shunchen (陳舜臣) published his crime classic, *Angry Bodhisattva* (憤怒的菩薩). With postwar Taiwan as a background and a tense and exciting plot, this story reveals the social climate of the time. It was initially released only in Japan, but now finally comes to Taiwan! Tan and his partners are working on adapting it for movie and TV.



Murder Ink 偵探書屋

📍 11, Ln. 262, Nanjing W. Rd.
(南京西路262巷11號)

☎ (02)2559-7776



A Utopia for Bibliophiles

Reading in Old Houses

Article | Mu Hua

Photos | Shi Chuntai

Houses grow old, books wear out, and only readers' souls stay young and fresh. When interesting books meet storied old houses, the result is often a duet of essence and experience. Then, the physical world and the world of books are worth in-depth exploration.

(Photo: Shi Chuntai)

VVG Chapter – A Secret Space in the Big City

VVG Chapter (好樣文房) is a secret alcove in the crowded city. With doors closed, fences and trees blocking prying eyes, this reading room in a renovated Japanese-style dorm is hidden away from the busy neighborhood around MRT Zhongxiao Xinsheng Station (捷運忠孝新生站).

The verdant VVG Chapter is actually a library, and anyone over 15 years old can make a reservation to get in. From the 1920s to the 1940s, this building was a residence for government officials during the Japanese era. It is an elegant and classic wooden structure with an interior that mixes both Japanese and western styles. Decorated with assorted memorabilia from Japan, France and Taiwan, it's the perfect blend of styles.

According to the manager, Yang Shuyu (楊淑瑜), VVG Chapter stocks over 4,000 titles, mainly design, art, architecture, and cook books. There's also a space for thematic displays fostering a "Conversation Between Taiwanese and Japanese Artists." New exhibits are presented on a bimonthly basis, and each time one opens, one Taiwanese and one Japanese artist will be invited to have a stimulating conversation.

With the aroma of cypress in the air, VVG Chapter is warm, bright and tranquil. You can read books, look at exhibits, have tea and snacks, or just sit quietly and watch the changing light and shadows. Enjoy one of life's sweet moments at VVG Chapter!

NEW Year's Reader



How can a bookstore and the books it sells blend harmoniously to form a perfect visual union? *Visiting the 20 Most Beautiful Bookstores in the World* (旅讀書店：尋訪全球最美的20間書店) introduces some of the world's most attractive literary spaces. This may indeed change your idea of what a bookshop could be. VVG Chapter stocks both Chinese and Japanese versions and recommends it to people who enjoy savoring a bookstore as much as a book.



VVG Chapter 好樣文房

📍 1, Ln. 27, Linyi St.
(臨沂街 27 巷 1 號)

☎ (02)2341-9662





This private library requires a reservation – come enjoy reading in a peaceful and captivating space. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



Bookstore 1920s believes their book selection breaks the boundary between time and space and allows readers to enter the glorious times of the 1920s. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

New Year's Reader



Written by artist, Shai Lifa (謝里法), *La Grande Chaumiere Violette* (紫色大稻埕) tells of Taiwan's art history during the Japanese era. This story of the intertwined relationship of major Taiwanese artists, such as Kuo Hsueh-Hu (郭雪湖) and Chen Chengpo (陳澄波), and the famous businessmen and gentry of Dadaocheng, is half fact, half fiction, and all those who are curious to learn about Dadaocheng in its heyday will mark this down as a must-read!

Bookstore 1920s – Return to the Good Old Days

At the most crowded corner on Dihua Street (迪化街), the delightful little Bookstore 1920s (1920s 書店) sits quietly awaiting browsers. This iconic building in the Dadaocheng neighborhood was once the very first western pharmacy in Taiwan: Watson's. That building was destroyed by fire in 1998, but the original owner's descendants have rebuilt it and shown the world its beauty again. In the store, you can still see two dark old medicine cabinets – now displaying books yet somehow still whispering of the legacy and history of days past.

Bookstore 1920s considers itself as the “originator of time-space conversion,” stocking books of and about the 1920s exclusively. The store's collection preserves the most cherished essence of the Twenties: the many cultures and intellectual movements that coexisted and sparked each other. Bookstore 1920s



Bookstore 1920s 1920s 書店

📍 34, Sec 1, Dihua St.
(迪化街 1 段 34 號)

☎ (02)2556-2520



hopes that their selection of books will help readers break the boundaries of time and space, shine some light on those glorious days, and bring some of that spirit back to today's world.

Bookstore 1920s attracts different kinds of customers. Japanese tourists search for maps and photography books. We talked with a Japanese woman, married to a Taiwanese, who came looking for reference material for her thesis. Others, like visitors from Hong Kong and Mainland China are more interested in history books with a different perspective; while Taiwanese customers tend to prefer titles dealing with local culture and history. Sometimes, you might bump into a neighborhood elder talking about the “good old days” – don't pass up a chance to chat as they represent genuine living history! The customers of the bookstore reflect Dadaocheng's past and present.

New Year's Reader



Written by Liao Yu Hui (廖玉蕙) in a warm and sensitive tone, *After That* (後來) tells of moments and stories that Liao and her mother experienced together. When she was a girl, Liao often asked her mom, “What happened after that?” It wasn't until after she'd had a child herself, and her own mother had died, that she realized that many things go unnoticed while they are happening, and often, in the narrative of life – there is no “after that.” This is a book for readers who live in the present.

Walkingbook – A Hundred Ways of Reading

If Bookstore 1920s is like an open door then Walkingbook(行冊), tucked quietly 200 meters away on Yanping North Road (延平北路) is a sanctuary where people can linger and browse.

Many people think of Walkingbook as just a restaurant, but what they don't realize is that the bookstore on the third floor is the real spiritual heart of the place. The name, Walkingbook, comes from a Chinese idiom: “The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.” This building used to be part of Daan Hospital, founded by Chiang Wei-Shui (蔣渭水), the father of the Taiwan New Culture Movement. It also served as the main office of *Taiwan MinPao* (台灣民報), the only organ of free speech in the Japanese era, and thus it witnessed much of the important political and cultural progress of modern Taiwanese history.



Walkingbook 行冊

📍 33, Sec. 2, Yanping N. Rd.
(延平北路 2 段 33 號)

☎ (02)2558-0915





Up on the third floor, Walkingbook offers a space for readers to hide away and enjoy the beauty of reading. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

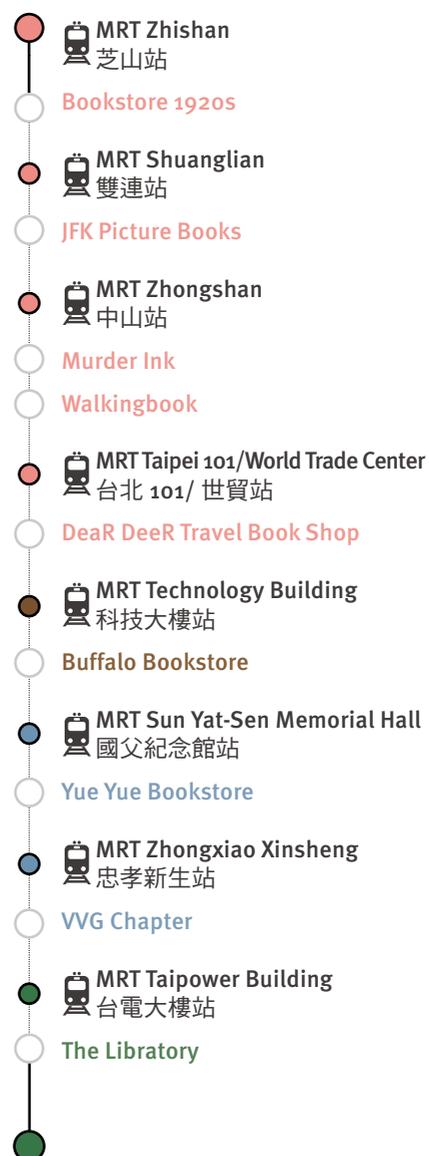
Visitors need to pay to enter Walkingbook – NT\$300 for eight hours or NT\$200 for four hours. The stock here is comprised of three main categories: books on Taiwan independence, graphic design magazines, and literary and art books. The volumes on Taiwanese independence top all the others, showing how much Walkingbook cares about the values of self-determination and freedom.

The interior design at Walkingbook is as marvelous as the selection of books. Open the door and you enter a world of amazing designs in honor of Chiang Wei-Shui on the first and second floors. Going up to the third floor, you will discover a serene and refined space, which practically compels you to find your most comfortable position (standing, sitting, leaning or lying down) to explore the “100 ways of reading.” Let your mind and body center and clear – then you will enter the magic kingdom of the book you are about to read. This is an experience you won’t find elsewhere! 📖



CITY TOUR MAP

Update and synch
your Google Map!



Roiling Graffiti Art

Meandering a Street & Film Graffiti Landscape

Article | Ye Ya-wei

Photos | Good Image Co., MOCA Taipei



Walking Ximending, you spot myriad works of street graffiti in what is a showcase of youth culture. (Photo: Still from film *The Mad King of Taipei*; courtesy of Good Image Co.)

The traditional image people have of street graffiti is of exaggerated, fierce visuals. In fact, the street graffiti of the 21st century has long been the driving factor of youth-oriented boutique fashion, and has even been sold at auction! Graffiti brings a roiling youthful dynamism to dull walls and to the city style.

The Ximending (西門町) area is Taipei's most vigorous and electric youth-culture district. Lane 96, Kunming Street (昆明街96巷), which brims with trendy youth-clothing shops, is popularly known as "American Street" (美國街). Taiwan's innovative home-grown street graffiti creativity is in full bloom here – on the walls along the lanes, on the shops' roll-down metal doors, and on the small lane-side electric boxes. At the bottom of the alley is Taipei Cinema Park (台北市電影主題公園), encompassing just over 6,600 square meters, dedicated to the development of the cultural arts and to youth. The park serves as a legal, safe stage for graffiti artists to showcase their creations. This is a place where youth can gather to the sound of low, clamorous voices and, wielding spray cans with free rein, loudly proclaim "I exist!" to the world.

Ximending's Cinema Park – Wide-Open Graffiti Creation

The driving force behind this fine project is the Taipei Youth Art Center. Here's how many of the works on American Street came to be: The center took proposals for the graffiti artists' work to local landlords, and told them that if they would provide the wall space, the artworks would be painted for free. Later, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Taipei City Government (台北市政府文化局) and the Center began collaborating on the hosting of special activities such as competitions for international graffiti artists and for rappers and street dancers. These events drew great streams of people to Ximending, and today, with cinema and other themes integrated with the graffiti, and with the constant renewal of artistic presentations, this area has become a "Photo Op" and sightseeing "must-see."

In addition, delve into the culturally kinetic Cinema Street (電影街) and you'll discover many stimulating expressions of graffiti art. Citymarx (城市記號創意行銷工作室), a creative-marketing studio, was formed by a group of partners with a passion for street culture. The studio not only stages graffiti-art events and competitions, but in recent years has also actively pursued access to large-scale wall spaces for artwork. One example is an 8-storey work on a wall at Ximending's in89 Cinemax (in89 豪華數位影城), the largest in Taiwan's history – co-created by a group of seven graffiti artists that includes Candy Bird and DEBE. A student surnamed Chen, meeting here with friends to see a movie, says that he and his fellow students feel these innovative and interesting graffiti walls are very trendy, and perfectly embody the culture of today's young generation.



One of the works in the Street Fun, Fun Street – MOCA X Community Art Festival, entitled "City Camouflage," symbolizes the unique charms of each stage in the city's relentless change. (Photo: MOCA Taipei)

Riverside Park Dike Walls – Graffiti Creativity Showcase Area

Happiness is enjoying great graffiti art while feeling the breeze! In September 2015, the city's Hydraulic Engineering Office (水利處) established dedicated "Graffiti Areas" at dike-wall locations in five riverside parks. The art in each area is completely redone every four months. The open-theme graffiti works can be viewed at Yingfeng Riverside Park (迎風河濱公園) in Songshan District, Meiti Riverside Park (美堤河濱公園) in Zhongshan District, Bailing Riverside Park North (百齡右岸河濱公園) in Shilin District, and in both Fuhe Riverside Park (福和河濱公園) and Jingmei Riverside Park (景美河濱公園) in Wenshan District. Yingfeng is the largest, at just over 1,300 square meters; the others range from 198 to 780.

Chifeng Street – From Rough Blacksmiths to Art

Chifeng Street (赤峰街), once renowned as "Blacksmith Street" has morphed into a place with a vivid hipster ambience. The "Street Fun, Fun Street – MOCA X Community Art Festival" (街大歡囍台北當代藝術館×赤峰街區藝術展), staged in the past two years, has added great warmth to the local community. Numerous Taiwan illustrators and contemporary-art creators have transformed their observations of Chifeng's neighborhood life into wall paintings, interactive installations, relay-photography works, public art, and even live on-the-spot theatre. Walking Chifeng Street, local citizens and travelers are given a baptism of art!



A number of locations showcasing graffiti-art and the city's culture were used in the recent film *The Mad King of Taipei* (西城童話). Director Yeh Tien-Lun (葉天倫) says graffiti culture is not just an art form, it's a declaration of ideas, and shows off a city's wide-ranging cultural charms. Graffiti is like the low roar of clamoring youthful voices, and inspires the traditional roiling spirit of Taipei's old city area, giving voice to artistic creators and adding more stories to the city's narrative. 📍



The graffiti art at Jan Cheng Junior High School bus shelters depicts life on school campuses, as well as visions and hopes for the future. (Photo: MOCA Taipei)



Taipei City Azalea Festival -

(Photo: Gao Zansian)

A Floral Feast of Spring



Article | Wen Ku

Photos | Gao Zansian, Wang Nengyou, National Taiwan University, Department of Civil Affairs, Parks and Street Lights Office, Department of Public Works, Taipei City Government

Tokyo has cherry blossoms and Amsterdam has tulips.

Taipei, this city where we live, possesses beautiful azaleas, which are Taipei City's flower.

Imagine the blessed season of springtime warmth and the exuberant blossoming of flowers.

In this city, we can all breathe in this atmosphere of love.

Azalea season begins in the southern part of Taipei City.

How fortunate we are to have this resplendent flower season.

Blooming azaleas are accompanied by the music we grew up with and a novel cultural landscape of stores and shops.

All are welcome. Let's embrace the happiness of spring and embrace love.



There's spring plowing and rice seedling transplantation at NTU's Azalea Festival. (Photo: National Taiwan University)



At NTU's Azalea Festival, you can enjoy the many flowers and departmental exhibits, as well as art performances and ecological experiences. (Photo: National Taiwan University)

Taipei's appearance has been especially pretty lately, with red, pink and white azalea blossoms announcing the arrival of spring everywhere. Mention azaleas to many people and they will immediately think of the NTU Azalea Festival (台大杜鵑花節). This year happens to be its 20th

anniversary, so the Taipei City Government has been working with National Taiwan University to design an exclusive celebration of Taipei's official flower: the azalea. The result is the 2017 Taipei City Azalea Festival (2017 台北杜鵑花季)!

NTU's Festival Transformed Into a Party for Everyone

In anticipation of the annual azalea explosion each March, the Parks and Street Lights Office, Public Works Department, Taipei City Government (公園路燈工程管理處) has planted 60,000 more of them along Roosevelt Road (羅斯福路), Shinsheng South Road (新生南路) and Ren'ai Road (仁愛路), which will create a sea of flowers in the city. The government has also been working with commercial, historical and school groups, as well as with individuals from the NTU neighborhood, to create all kinds of fun activities, ensuring a flower festival that is sure to have beauty, knowledge and depth.

The NTU Azalea Festival's 20th anniversary is special for both teachers and students of NTU. The variety of azaleas on campus can be credited to the late Horticulture and Landscape Architecture professor, Du Gengshen (杜賡牲). In 1948, Du found wild *R. simsii* in the mountains of Liuzhangli (六張犁), Taipei, and replanted some on campus, which started NTU's azalea population growing. After that, NTU collected over 250 azalea seedlings from Liuzhangli farmers and got a lot from the Yangmingshan (陽明山) Shanzaihou Workstation of Shilin Garden Research Institute, resulting in a very floral campus today. The lovely azalea has become the spiritual symbol of NTU, symbolizing openness, freedom, dedication and tolerance.



Taipei City Government works with National Taiwan University to create a City of Azaleas in springtime Taipei. (Photo: Wang Nengyou)



In the spring of 1997, NTU held its first Azalea Festival accompanied by a recruitment fair for school departments and clubs. Over the years, it has gradually become an adjunct activity alongside departmental exhibits, art performances and ecological experiences, attracting citizen participation. The Azalea Festival is now something all Taipei citizens look forward to.

The Fun Simply Radiates From the College Vibe

A festival visitor shouldn't miss wandering NTU's campus taking in the azaleas. According to Chang Yusen (張育森), Chair of NTU's Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Hirado, Kyushu, Japan was an open port during the Tang Dynasty, and the azaleas subsequently planted in China, Ryukyu and Kyushu were all germinated there. "That type of azalea has relatively larger leaves and bigger blossoms, and better adapts to the soil

and climate here," he says. Azaleas are not fragile plants, but NTU still puts a lot of effort into taking care of them, helping them grow prettier and more abundantly. Chang adds, "Through soil enrichment, using fertilizers and nutrition supplements, by taking good care of leaves during spring and summer, and utilizing natural solutions to disease and pests, the quality of germination and flowering will get better and better."

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Azalea Festival, NTU is also holding a series of fun activities to introduce visitors to the cultural and ecological aspects of the top academic palace of Taiwan! High school students can register to take a group tour, and the general public can join guided tours at set hours. Guests can also ride a YouBike to the various museums hidden in different corners of the campus, and participate in a treasure hunt and collect stamps at different stations and buildings around NTU. The NTU Agricultural



50 types of azaleas were selected to decorate Daan Park, giving the public some spectacular views. (Photo: Parks and Street Lights Office, Public Works Department, Taipei City Government)

Product Exhibition Center (農產品展示中心) will be awarding free lollipops to those taking part!

Also, along the way, there will be speeches about art exhibit, “spring plowing and rice seedling transplantation by “little city farmers,” and some activities requiring a small fee, such as Yogurt DIY and potted succulent plant design. It is guaranteed that all participants will enjoy themselves on such a rewarding journey!

Commercial Districts Go Into Action – Shows Performed in Front of Grace Baptist Church

Besides the NTU campus, pink and purple Hirado azaleas appear along Shinsheng South Road outside the university. From Heping East Road (和平東路) to Sinhai Road (辛亥路), and from Roosevelt Road to Sinhai Road, there is an unbroken

blaze of azaleas, vividly proclaiming spring in the air! There are also stunning displays of potted azaleas in front of NTU's gate and Sports Center.

In addition to NTU, the Wen-Ro-Ting commercial district (溫羅汀商圈), which comprises Wenzhou Street (溫州街), Roosevelt Road and Tingzhou Road (汀洲路), will go into action promoting the festival. Also, Da Xui Borough (大學里) will hold the “Aroma of Coffee and Books Amid Azaleas” event in the afternoon of March 25th. A performance stage will be set up in front of Grace Baptist Church (懷恩堂), and Chinese and symphony orchestras formed by Da Xui Borough locals will play the sweet sounds of spring. Bands from Long An Elementary (龍安國小) and Gu Ting Elementary (古亭國小) are going to perform there, too; and the passionate flamenco is certain to “bring the heat!”



A spring fashion show of vintage wedding gowns turns the Azalea Festival into a party. (Photo: Taipei City Government Department of Civil Affairs)

Thanks to its proximity to NTU, Da Xui Borough has become quite the academic community. With many independent book sellers joining in, and cafes everywhere, borough head, Wu Peixuan (吳沛璇) welcomes everyone to come and have coffee, check out bookstores, behold the pretty azaleas, and spend a relaxing and rewarding March afternoon.

A Spring Party at Taipei Water Park

Located across from NTU, the 18-hectare Taipei Water Park (台北自來水園區) is part of this festival as well. On March 4th, a fashion show and concert will be held, featuring Golden Melody Awards' Best Instrumental Album winner: Timeless Fusion Party (無限融合樂團) will perform tunes in their free and untrammled style, and with a fashion show of vintage wedding gowns on the same day, it's sure to be a spring party! The water park along with Zhongzheng District Office (中正區公所) will arrange guided tours on March 11th and 18th, and everyone is welcome to visit the park with free admission.

Aroma of Coffee and Books Amid Azaleas

杜鵑花裡的咖啡書香

🕒 3/25 14:00~17:00

📍 Grace Baptist Church Square;
90, Sec.2, Shinseng South
Road (懷恩堂前廣場; 新生南
路3段90號)



Taipei Water Department (台北自來水事業處) Sub-section Chief, Chang Shyuhchou (張序周), points out that there's an existing 100-meter path between Gongguan Purification Plant (公館淨水廠) and the Museum of Drinking Water (自來水博物館) where pink and purplish red azaleas bloom lushly every springtime. This year, an additional 2,000 Hirado azaleas and *Rhododendron noriakianum* will be planted for the Festival. All of this floral magnificence, plus different colored grass flowers and even the gigantic water pipes, usually buried underground, will form the horticultural landscape of the square in front of the water park. For visitors, it will truly be a sight to behold!

Picnic Concert in Daan Park – Come Get High!

Daan Park (大安森林公園), “the lungs of Taipei,” hasn't been forgotten in festival planning, the Parks and Street Lights Office has arranged a special feast of azaleas outside Exit 1 of MRT Daan Park Station (捷運大安森林公園站). There will also



While the azaleas are blooming, take the kids out to picnic happily in the warm sunshine.

be potted azaleas and grass-flower arrangements at 11 different gateways to the park. There will be colorful flower balls hanging along the main paths, leading visitors to the display area. You will see up to 50 types of azaleas here – a rare experience indeed!

On March 18th, the City is going to stage a “Daan Park Picnic Concert” (大安森林公園野餐音樂會) in the park. There will be some amazing performances by independent bands and singers; and for children, there will be balloon art and clown street dancing. Chubby food vans will serve snacks and body artists will paint lovely toxin-free designs on your arms. With all this, plus old-time amusements like glass bottle fishing and the marble machine, adults and kids alike are guaranteed a fun-filled day!

Feel ready for some gorgeous azaleas and a relaxing and refreshing springtime experience? Make a date with your family and friends, take an amazing micro-

trip and get lost in a wonder world of flowers, bookstores, coffee, and great performances. Don't tarry! Let's go! 📍



Daan Park Picnic Concert

大安森林公園野餐音樂會

🕒 3/18 10:30~16:00

📍 Outdoor Amphitheater of Daan Park



Taipei Avian Touring On City Corners

– The Beauty of Birdsong

Article | Avian Liu

Photos | Guo Gengguang

Bird Sound Recording | Jiang Boren



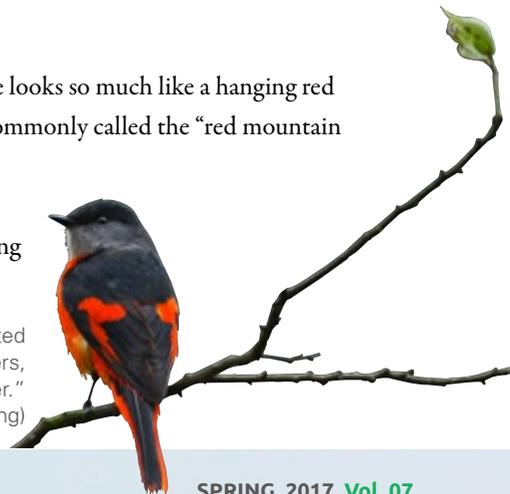
When a city attaches importance to leisure and entertainment, seeing them as an essential part of life, a green environment of richness and diversity will often be mapped out step-by-step. Over recent decades, many ponds, lakes, and parks have been incorporated into the Taipei landscape, and the city's great variety of marshes, wetlands, and suburban forests have been targeted with protective and remedial measures. These revived habitats then can attract animals of all kinds, making this city a place with a rich ecology.

Forest Birds Thick as Falling Leaves – The Yellow-Throated Minivet

The non-migratory yellow-throated minivet is a common sight in mid- and low-elevation mountain areas. It has a slender body with great variation of color between males and females. Many people head into the hills to view this bird, initially attracted by its bright plumage. In nature, the general rule is that the male is brighter and more colorful, but this is not the case with the yellow-throated minivet, and both sexes sport eye-catching bright hues: the male red, the female yellow.

When it perches on a treetop, the male looks so much like a hanging red chili pepper that in days gone by it was commonly called the “red mountain pepper” (紅山椒) in Chinese. Most of its time is spent in the upper and middle levels of the primary forest canopy. Cutting

Perched on treetops, male yellow-throated minivets look like hanging red chili peppers, giving rise to the name “red mountain pepper.”
(Photo: Guo Gengguang)



a lovely figure, this little bird endlessly calls out a high-pitched “shee shee, shee shee” – like a gaggle of models chattering at a fashion event!

As autumn makes way for winter, and tree leaves turn to red and yellow – the minivets perch on the arboreal canvas for a spell, resembling lovely pieces of jewelry. The art of their feathers now makes the perfect camouflage, and, taking to the wing, the flocks in the valleys seem blown about like leaves – grand bursts of color!

In winter, yellow-throated minivets move down to the low mountain areas. They do not fear humans and are frequently spotted in such locales as Maokong (貓空) and Erge Mountain (二格山).



In autumn and winter, yellow-throated minivets perched amidst the red and yellow tree leaves resemble lovely pieces of hanging jewelry. (Photo: Guo Gengguang)



The female yellow-throated minivet is bright yellow, overturning the general rule in nature of simple colors for female birds. (Photo: Guo Gengguang)



‘Big Bird on Campus’ – The Black-Crowned Night Heron

The black-crowned night heron is dull and dark, with indistinct features. As big as a chicken, it prefers secluded, low-level forest habitats. In the past, it was always regarded as a rarely-seen member of the heron family, and even as a migratory bird. Of late, as birding has gained popularity, sightings have taken place not only in low forests, but can also on tree-lined school campuses and in parklands.

After nightfall, in spring and summer, should you hear a persistent low “tooting” – there is almost surely lovemaking going on in the trees around you!

While foraging, the heron’s preference is to move slowly through the muddy grassland, listening intently for prey. Location determined, they strike with the speed of lightning to snatch their meal. Earthworms and other subsurface animals are their



Whether the black-crowned night heron can live safely is an indicator of local residents' respect for the survival of bird species. (Photo: Guo Gengguang)

main foods, but they will also occasionally peck at reptiles and amphibians on the surface.

Today, some schools are taking action to respect the living environment of avians. During breeding season controls are put into effect and students urged not to interfere. Over time, many campus' black-crowned night herons have become less fearful of humans in comparison with their fellow herons. On their own familiar terrain, they'll often be seen calmly pecking about within two or three meters of people, or standing stock still, as if daydreaming or in a daze. Move closer, however, and off they fly.

As a result, the question of their continued safe dwelling in the city becomes one of whether local residents respect their survival or not. 



Yellow-throated minivet
(All rights reserved)



Black-crowned night heron
(All rights reserved)



Nowadays, on school campuses with lush tree cover the black-crowned night heron is seen more and more often. (Photo: Guo Gengguang)



BOOK NEWS

This article is an excerpt from *Encounters with Avians on City Street Corners* (在街角，遇到飛行), soon to be published by the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government. Written in elegant prose by nature and ecology writer, Avian Liu (劉克襄), the reader is introduced to 50 bird species commonly sighted in Taipei City. QR codes are also provided with which readers can access various bird calls, and enjoy a veritable auditory feast of nature.

Double-Decker Sightseeing Buses Brighten the Streets

Taipei Viewing – New Heights & Breezy Rides



(Photo: Shi Chuntai)

Article | Xu Kaisen

Photos | Shi Chuntai, Xu Yirong, Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government

There's now a new way to play when you come to Taipei – take a ride on a double-decker sightseeing bus, and see all the popular hotspots in a single outing! During the city sightseeing-bus tour, scenic and architectural highlights are introduced, providing visitors with a quick outline of Taipei's contours. Travelers who have already crossed the sea to visit Taipei will surely be willing to put on light rain gear and risk a bit of the wet stuff, in order to experience the city's real atmosphere and ambience. To the intrepid voyager, this is the true meaning of travel!



(Photo: Shi Chuntai)

Taipei is a friendly tourist city that the American social media website BuzzFeed included among the “53 Beautiful Cities Everyone Should Visit At Least Once.” For a ticket costing just NT\$300, visitors can board a brightly-designed, highly e-oriented double-decker bus for a tour of Taipei from a novel high-up perspective.

Taipei is like a richly melodious symphony that allows visitors to explore her at many different tempos. “Lento” travel involves slow, leisurely explorations on foot; “andante” means unhurried wandering on YouBike rentals; “allegro” travel is energetic scooting about, hither and thither, on Taipei Metro jaunts. “Moderato” travel has now been added – comfortable, fun double-decker sightseeing bus rides, viewing the city from a high perch fanned by cool breezes. This is surely the easiest and most relaxing way to tour Taipei.

8 Buses Hit the Road – A New Page in Sightseeing Launched

Jenny Han, from South Korea, hopes to move to Taipei as an exchange student next year. Taking advantage of winter vacation, she has come to Taipei now to check out the school she wants to attend, and is touring the city while here. While she is standing on a Taipei street, trying to figure out how the local public transit works, a red bus stops right in front of her. Speaking to the attendant in halting English,

Han learns that this is a sightseeing bus. She buys a ticket on board using her VISA card, decides on an upper deck window seat, and then downloads a dedicated audio guide using the special bus-service App. Taipei’s winter weather is not as biting cold as in Korea, and she feels comfortable. As she listens to the guide introduce Taipei’s character and culture in her native Korean, she imagines the time she’ll spend here studying, and looks forward to experiencing Taipei’s gentle breezes again next year.

In 2016, Taipei was included in MasterCard’s Global Top 20 Top Destination Cities Index for the first time, placing 15th, ahead of Osaka, Shanghai and others. Also in 2016, from January through November, the number of foreign visitors to Taipei reached 8.88 million, an increase of approximately 220,000 over the same period in the previous year. Around the globe, leading international metropolises such as New York, London, Paris, Hong Kong, and Singapore all have sightseeing buses specially designed for tourists, with routes connecting major attractions. It can well be said that this is the optimal type of transportation for providing visitors with a good understanding of a city’s profile. Thus, seeking to provide Taipei tourists with a sightseeing experience wholly different from that of the past, the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government has unveiled 8 purpose-built double-decker buses for use this year. In line with



Taipei City double-decker sightseeing buses take you on a novel “on-high” tour of the city. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)



The Taipei City double-decker sightseeing bus service formally went into operation early this year. (Photo: Shi Chuntai)

the standards of other global metropolitan areas, the service provides travelers with a convenient, time-saving choice.

Launching these buses was an important component in Mayor Wen-je Ko’s (柯文哲) “Tourism ABC” (觀光ABC) promise in his election campaign; the buses are the “B” in “ABC.” After the mayor took office, the Department began promoting the sightseeing-bus project, but because there were no precedents in Taiwan double-decker safety inspection, it was necessary to overcome many regulatory issues. But, after a series of testing-process twists and turns, the vehicles were at last ready for the road!

At the press conference introducing the service, Mayor Ko said that, “In the past, exploring Taipei usually meant taking the metro or a public bus, on which there was no chance to view the Taipei skies. With the formal launch of the Taipei Sightseeing double-decker bus service, the future offers new ‘heights’ in seeing Taipei.”

Sophisticated Service – Departures Adjusted to User Flow

The Taipei City Government also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Japan’s HATO BUS, which operates more than 100 routes under its banner. This will open a new page in Taiwan-Japan double-decker sightseeing-bus cooperation and will stimulate reciprocal visits between the two countries, enhancing travel convenience on both sides. The Taipei service will echo the operational approach used by HATO BUS i.e. each vehicle will have just one service attendant to provide tourist information and safety instructions, sell tickets, and attend to other traveler needs.

“Hop on, hop off” service is offered, meaning that during the validity period of a user’s ticket, he/she can get on or off at any stop, with no limit on the number of trips. Visitors can tailor their rides to personal preference – free to disembark and visit any attraction they wish!

Taipei Double-Decker Sightseeing Bus Routes and Fares

GPS positioning is used on-board to provide synchronized real-time information. Just download the Taipei Sightseeing App (饗樂趣台北 App) using your mobile phone and receive audio-guide service in any of the four languages – Chinese, English, Japanese, or Korean – with introductions to local attractions, businesses and more. While on the move, visitors enjoy Taipei's pleasing views while gaining a deeper understanding of the city's customs, history, and culture through the audio. As well, before the bus arrives at each stop, the stop name is announced over the broadcast system in the four languages named above.

Another matter worth mentioning is that a dedicated bus station has not yet been established for the service, so a user-flow detection system has been specially set up. As passengers get on and off, the system uses an image recognition function to automatically tally user numbers, with real-time relay of the information back to operations control. Control personnel can then refer to the data and adjust vehicle frequency, and users can use the App to check real-time status of seat availability. User-flow detection on buses is a pioneering initiative – the first time ever in Taiwan!



Each Taipei double-decker sightseeing bus is assigned 1 service personnel. (Photo: Xu Yirong)

Red Route

Operating Hours: 09:10 ~ 22:00

Departures: around 40 minutes

Route: Taipei Main Station → MRT Ximen Station (The Red House) → Xinyi Rd.-Linsen Rd. intersection (Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall) → Xinyi Rd.-Yongkang St. intersection → MRT Daan Park Station → Xinyi Rd.-Tonghua Rd. intersection (Linjiang Street Tourist Night Market) → Songlian Rd.-Songzhi Rd. intersection (Taipei 101/Taipei World Trade Center) → Mouth of Songshou Rd. (Vieshow Cinemas Xinyi) → MRT Taipei City Hall Station → MRT Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall Station → MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua Station → Dinghao Market → MRT Zhongxiao Fuxing Station → National Audit Office (Huashan 1914 Creative Park)

Blue Route

Operating Hours: 09:00 ~ 16:20

Departures: around 40 minutes

Route: Taipei Main Station → MRT Ximen Station (The Red House) → Xinyi Rd.-Linsen Rd. intersection (Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall) → Ambassador Hotel (SPOT Taipei) → Tatung Co. → Taipei Fine Arts Museum (Taipei Expo Park) → MRT Jiantan Station (Shilin Tourist Night Market) → Shilin Official Residence → National Palace Museum



Tickets

- 4 Hours Pass: NT\$300 (unlimited rides before 18:00)
- Day Tour Pass: NT\$500 (Red Route 09:10 ~ 18:00; Blue Route 09:00 ~ 16:20)
- Night Tour Pass: NT\$400 (Red Route 18:00 ~ 22:00)
- One day Pass: NT\$700 (valid during hours of operation on same day)
- Two days Pass: NT\$1,200 (valid during hours of operation on 2 consecutive days)

Unlimited rides during effective period for each type of ticket; multiple payment methods, including cash, credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, JCB and UnionPay accepted), EasyCard, iPASS Card, Alipay and WeChat Pay.

For more information, visit the official Taipei Sightseeing website: www.taipeisightseeing.com.tw





Taipei double-decker sightseeing buses pass by well-known Taipei attractions on their routes.

EasyCard Swiping – Instant Ticket Purchase Using App

The care and attention given to this project by the Taipei City Government can be seen in the fittings and equipment inside the bus. World-class intelligence systems have been incorporated; from ticket purchase to ride, the best in high-tech has been applied. Travelers can use the App to book tickets online, tap the App's QR code when boarding and scan the ticket barcode to confirm. Tickets can also be purchased from the vehicle attendant after getting on. There is a complete on-board payment system, and, of course, both EasyCard and iPASS smart cards can be used.

Ken, who comes from Malaysia, is married to a lady from Taiwan. He says that the sightseeing buses in Malaysia only provide guide service in English, tickets can only be purchased from a counter, and there are no on-board USB charging ports. The Taipei double-deckers have audio-guide service in four languages; you can buy your tickets online the moment your plane lands; or you can buy your tickets overseas through a travel agency before even starting your trip – the ultimate in convenience!

Ken has also been on the sightseeing buses in Barcelona, London, Paris, and elsewhere, and says that tickets for all of them must be purchased on-the-spot, making them not as convenient as Taipei. A lover of DIY travel, he praises Taipei's handy transportation. Now, with the double-decker sightseeing buses as well, he can ride with ease and comfort to Taipei's tourism hotspots, and sometimes just decides to stay on the bus, happily taking in Taipei's scenery from his high-up perch!

5 Ticket Choices – Flexible Popular Attraction Touring

According to the Visitors Expenditure and Trends Survey Report released by the Taiwan Tourism Bureau, Ministry of Transportation and Communications (交通部觀光局), the ratio of DIY travelers as compared to travelers overall increased by four percent to 75% in the first three quarters of last year. The visitor rate for such Taipei City attractions as Ximending, Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, and tourist night markets is on the rise. Accordingly, two routes were mapped out for the city's sightseeing buses: Red and Blue. Both



Taipei Double-Decker Sightseeing Bus Fact File

begin at Taipei Main Station, with buses on one headed for Xinyi District, on the other for the National Palace Museum. The tours cover approximately 20km in total and encompass about 2 hours of riding. There are 20 stops overall, including the favorite hotspots mentioned above.

There are 4 types of tickets offered. The one-day ticket is just NT\$700, far less than what is charged in London (about NT\$1,013), Paris (about NT\$1,132), and Dubai (about NT\$1,841). Globe-trekking Ken, who has experienced many countries' sightseeing buses firsthand, thinks Taipei's price is very reasonable and competitive.

"I often tell friends and relatives back home how convenient a city Taipei is," he says, smiling. "With the sightseeing buses now added, the Blue and Red routes are entry-points for Taipei exploration. I've already posted the info on my Facebook page!" This friendly and convenient tourism environment is attentive to the needs of every traveler, reducing time spent running around, and making for a more in-depth experience of Taipei and its endless charms. 📍

Vehicle Body:

Length 12 meters, height 4 meters; body exterior painted with red base and images of Taipei 101, the North Gate, National Palace Museum, National Dr.Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, and other popular attractions; semi-open top.

Manufacturing Cost:

Each vehicle cost approximately NT\$15 million.

Chassis:

Volvo chassis imported from Sweden.

Seating:

47 seats on upper deck, with 10 seats in front section, which is roofed and air-conditioned; rear section has 37 open-air seats; lower deck is equipped with obstacle-free facilities, and has seating for 10, including 1 wheelchair space.



Taipei Basketball Star Quincy Davis III

Humbled To Call Taiwan Home

Article | Don Singleterry
Photos | Pure-Youth Construction Basketball Team, Chinese Taipei
Basketball Association

Upon entering the gym where the Pure-Youth Construction Basketball Team (璞園建築籃球隊) practices, the sounds of sneakers screeching along the smooth floors, teammates chattering and the coach blowing on his whistle are all too familiar. It is here that you will immediately notice Quincy Davis III. Although he isn't the tallest, fastest, or biggest player on the team, his actions both on and off the court are making an impact around the world.

Davis is a power forward/center for Pure-Youth Construction Basketball Team of Taiwan's professional basketball league, SBL. Hailing from California and resides in Mobile, Alabama, Davis has made Taipei his home for the last five years. His love for Taiwan and its people led him to renounce his American citizenship in favor of becoming an official Taiwanese national, setting in motion a wave of support.

(Photo: Pure-Youth Construction Basketball Team)

Taiwan: The Country of Brotherly Love

Davis dreamed of a career in basketball from an early age. After completing college, he went on to play basketball in Cyprus, Portugal, Venezuela, China, and Turkey. He returned to America to start a new chapter in his life as a firefighter, but before he could begin that career he received a life-changing phone call inviting him to play in Taiwan. “The love of the sport and the opportunity to further my career in a place that believed in my ability is what brought me to Taiwan,” Davis says. He adds that, “Taiwan is a hidden treasure that is so often overlooked.”

Davis had longed to play for Taiwan’s national team, but as a foreigner was ineligible to do so. To fulfill that dream, he made a sacrificing decision to renounce his American citizenship and became a Taiwanese national. This act brought national attention and an outpouring of support. He went on to play for the national team, and aid them in defeating rival mainland China, competing at a high level in international events.

“Taiwanese people here have a genuine love and respect for me that I have never experienced before.” Davis says. He elaborates further, “Taiwanese culture and my teammates add the word ‘guh,’ which means brother at the end of male’s names. Once you acknowledge a man as your brother, it reminds you to love and respect, and I think that is very cool.”

Building Better People Through Sports

With Taipei set to host the coming Universiade, Davis provides his insight on why this event is so important for Taiwan. “It’s a huge benefit locally and internationally. Sports instill social skills that people need today.” He notes that, “Children are not learning enough to work as a team to accomplish goals, nor are they given enough opportunities to be prideful and represent their country.” It is his belief that participation in sports can bring about positive change, and supports this with an analogy. “In international sports, we come together as a country, raise our flags and go compete like it’s a war. But war is such a horrible act of violence on humanity, that ‘NO ONE’ wins. We have an alternative by competing in sports in which we become friends, learn, grow, and go home to our loved ones.”

Davis highlights the benefits of sports and how it can impact one’s daily life, that would last their lifetime. “Sports teach discipline, strength, and how to fight through adversity. At some point you are going to have to work with others at any career path you choose, and sports will prepare you for that.” Off the court, Davis is equally passionate. He started a summer program, TYGA (Taiwan Youth Generation America), which takes aspiring youth to his hometown, to learn about the culture, language and opportunities there. “It gives them a chance to go to California, learn and become exposed to places

Davis renounced his American citizenship and became a Taiwanese national, went on to play for the national team. (Photos: Chinese Taipei Basketball Association)

outside of Taiwan,” he says. “It is humbling and gives me pride when I hear of the youth here aspiring to follow in my footsteps by playing sports.” When asked why he feels the need to encourage Taiwan’s youth, he responds that, “As a Taiwanese citizen, I feel that while I am on this earth, it’s my duty to make a positive impact on people’s lives.”

Taipei State of Mind

It can be easy to forget that Davis in many ways is just like any other typical Taiwanese citizen. He enjoys internet golf, riding YouBike and KTV. “My singing is terrible,” he says with a laugh. He encourages visiting friends and relatives to try Taiwan’s local cuisine. “You always have to get them to try stinky tofu,” he says. His favorite food is *danbing*, or egg crepe, because, “You can put anything in it!” It’s these little things that make you realize that the 6ft 9in (2.08m) Davis is adventurous and fun loving.

As the conversation draws to a close, it becomes noticeable how often he uses the word “we.” Since becoming a citizen of Taiwan, Davis has completely bought into playing his part and making a contribution. When asked to give advice to others looking to renounce citizenship of their native country in favor of another, his reply is simple. “Do it for the right reason. Do it because you love and appreciate the culture.” He adds that, “Don’t try to change it either. Embrace it! Taiwan is the only place where I have felt that people care for my humanity and well-being. The Taiwanese are humble and I believe that they take good care of their people.”



For Davis, Taiwan is a home away from home. It is a place of humanity, love and acceptance. In an age where people of high status can be difficult to engage with, understand or relate to, this isn’t the case with Davis. He took time out for this interview on his birthday, something many would not consider doing. This confirms that he is in the right place, and Taiwan is better off for having him. 🇹🇼

Free-Spirited Use of Materials and Media

Lively Visual Effects, Easily Crossing Oceans and Boundaries

Article | Aoi Tsumura

Artworks | TAKORA Kimiyoshi Futori



School Trip Handbook | Photo by Yusuke Komiyama(mobilic,inc.) | Artwork © 2015 grAphic tAkorA

School Trip Handbook, Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government. This handbook can be read from the left or right. The cover design connects to the openings above, below, and to the left and right. (Photo: Artwork © 2015 grAphic tAkorA)

Infused with the liveliness of turquoise and patches of bright color, Japanese visual creator TAKORA Kimiyoshi Futori continually produces visually appealing works. From fashion to advertising, books, and window displays, he has collaborated with clients across a broad range of fields. Moreover, in his capacity as artist he has created many personal works. His dynamic stage is not limited to Japan, but rather has been expanded overseas. Recently, he cooperated with Taipei City in publication of the *School Trip Handbook* (《台北滿喫》修學小旅行手冊), targeted at young Japanese visitors to Taiwan. This was a collaborative work done with Taipei-based Japanese writers Yoshifumi and Mari Katakura. Its vivid design and convenient size, allowing it to be easily carried about, make it easy for young Japanese travelers to interact with Taiwan's places and people and actively carry out exchanges with local residents. It is hoped that such direct firsthand experiences will be the driver of exchange opportunities between Taiwan and Japan.

Connection to Taiwan Began With a Postage Stamp Album Design and the Links Between People

Born in Japan's famous seaport city of Kobe, Takora's connection with Taiwan can be traced back to his early childhood. His father was working on a ship, traveling the seas, and brought back a commemorative postage stamp album. According to Takora, it is due to his love of nostalgic images that he has always carefully preserved them. Subsequently, his first visit to Taiwan came in 2001. During a stopover, he took the opportunity to walk around and take a look. Observing his difficulty in communicating in English, a couple of university students who was passing by rushed over to help. This left a deep impression with Takora, and since then he has traveled to Taiwan often. In addition to the abovementioned handbook, he recently participated in the Neo TAIWAN, Taiwan-Japan Emerging Artist Project Exhibition (台日新銳創作家企畫展覽), held at the Ginza Mitsukoshi Department Store in Tokyo, held March 1st to 14th. He hopes that in the future his relationship with Taiwan will deepen.

This Artist's Big Break Came From Overseas Receiving Dynamic Stimulation From His Own Generation

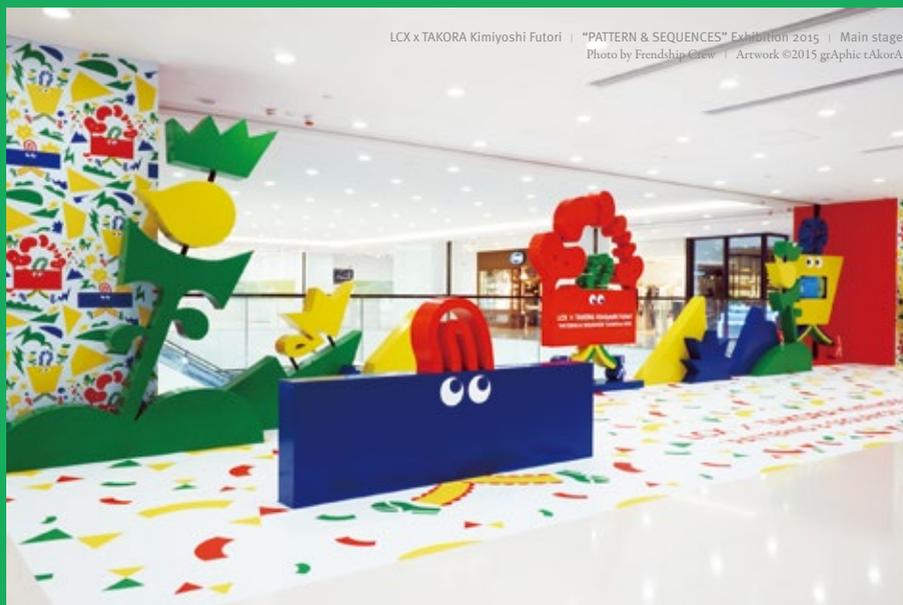
After graduating from art college, Takora immediately entered the workforce as a freelance artist. His first big break came in 2003, when a postcard book he had created was promoted in England, a place where people are in the habit of sending cards at Christmas or on birthdays. In that same year, his pattern designs were used by Japanese fashion label COMME des GARÇONS HOMME, which is very popular in Taiwan and elsewhere abroad. To personally witness the reaction to his work overseas, he first marketed his postcard book in Hong Kong, a place where English is widely spoken. Due to the opportunities that came his way in Hong Kong, his workload greatly increased. He experienced the "speed and heat" of work in Hong Kong first-hand, and found it very meaningful. While overseas he gained better understanding of the dynamic energy of people of the same generation, which he says led him to become the person he is today.

Working with Fukunaga Print on a project to explore possibilities for paper use – the "paper workshop" – the "AirVase Message Card" was developed as part of the "AirVase" collaboration.

AirVase Message Card | Photo by Yusuke Komiyama(mobile,inc.) | Artwork ©2015 grAphic tAkorA



His first overseas solo exhibition, "PATTERN & SEQUENCES," was held at LCX, popular among teenagers and young adults, located in a large, multiplex commercial building in Hong Kong's Tsim Sha Tsui district in 2015.



LCX x TAKORA Kimiyoshi Futori | "PATTERN & SEQUENCES" Exhibition 2015 | Main stage
Photo by Friendship Crew | Artwork ©2015 grAphic tAkorA

Not constrained by materials or media, he has worked extensively in fashion design, graphics, advertising, and window displays. To explore potential uses for paper, Fukunaga Print Co., Ltd. initiated a special project – a “paper workshop” – to promote the “Airvase.” The “Airvase Message Card,” developed through the Airvase collaboration, is currently on the market. The Airvase was also selected for the TOP AWARDS ASIA 2017.

Taiwan's Fusion of Old and New Dynamic, Changing Taipei

Takora has a strong connection with foreign lands. In Japan, except for Kyoto and Nara, which are cities with a long history, old buildings are being torn down everywhere, creating tasteless and odorless worlds. He feels that this is a great loss. In describing Taiwan's allure, he says, “There is a love of old things.” For example, buildings and sites from the Japanese era have been preserved, and ingeniously used in modern ways. He has been affected by how people naturally cherish and place importance on preserving the valued aspects of neighborhood streets and roads. The blending of new and old creates streets of special character that

invite a bright future. He therefore finds himself mesmerized in watching Taiwan's trends.

Compared to other cities, there is a slower pace of life in Taipei. Recreational areas can be found in the city's outskirts, such as Yangmingshan (陽明山) and the Beitou (北投) hot-springs area, giving people the impression of a small-scale metropolis. It is due to this small scale that he feels the result is that it is easier for Taipei to stand out, in comparison with cities with large populations such as Tokyo. Recently, comparing the city with his first visit, he has more deeply felt the effort to better welcome tourists, as well as the enthusiasm in organizing arts and design events. His work has brought him deeper connections with people in Taipei, and hopefully will lead to new connections and new projects.

The Allure of Taiwan Arts The “Sense of Speed” Forming Today

Last year Taipei served as the designated World Design Capital, staging myriad related activities. Taiwan design and arts have received high marks



Blessing Pineapple / TAKO LABO printed and dyed fabric | Neo Taiwan@Ginza Mitsukoshi Products, works | Photo by Yusuke Komiyama(mobile,inc.) | Artwork ©2017 grAphic tAkorA

This work, *Blessing Pineapple*, was displayed at the Taiwan-Japan Emerging Artist Project Exhibition organized by the Ginza Mitsukoshi Department Store.

around the globe. Looking at Taiwan iconic art, Takora observes, “There has been rapid absorption of America’s DIY culture and Japan’s pop culture.” What is unique is the use of typography and risograph printing, printing techniques that possess profound meaning, to create exquisite paper products and handmade printed works (zines, which are small-quantity self-produced, personal publications). These have attracted Takora’s attention. Moreover, he feels that the design of books, which are mostly text, especially in terms of the use of authentic traditional characters to present a unique aesthetic, surpasses that of Japan.

In terms of Taiwan design, which has recently caught his attention, Takora gives high praise. He says, “Taiwan’s design advantage is in creating an overall impression and emphasizing strengths, not in being particular to details.” Due to the increasing popularity of his designs, the opportunities for Takora to have direct contact with Taiwanese creators have become numerous, and he has been more than happy to come to Taiwan on visits. He hopes that in the future he will be able to gain even deeper understanding of Taiwan through working with Taiwanese. 📍

Takora’s Recommendations - Taipei’s Little Pleasures

Shimokitazawa Generations

“In this shop cum art gallery, all of the art books, periodicals, and zines are personally selected by the owner.”

“I can obtain information about hot local artists that is not very easy to find in Japan. I can sense the future. This is a delightful place.”

61 note and Brush & Green

“Born in the Kansai region, this fusion coffee, lifestyle, plant, and brush shop is run by Mr. Azuma, who has roots in Taiwan.”

“Whenever I come to Taipei, I will definitely go there to sit awhile, and obtain the most up-to-date information about the city.”

Guang Hua Digital Plaza (光華商場) and Surroundings

“This is a sacred place for people who like Taiwanese films. You can find DVDs of Taiwanese films not shown in Japan.”

“Among the films that I have recently seen, my favorite is *Our Times* (我的少女時代). From the setting of this film in the ‘80s and ‘90s, I can learn what Taiwan looked like during that time.”

Street-side Breakfast Shops

“The breakfast foods that Taiwanese people eat every day in street-side shops are extremely tasty!”

“For example, there is soy milk, rice porridge, etc., a diversity of choices. Among them, my favorite is the sandwiches sold in breakfast shops, with Taiwan’s uniquely sweet mayonnaise added.”



LCX x TAKORA Kimiyoshi Futori | “PATTERN & SEQUENCES” Exhibition 2015 | Promotional good “Lomography Camera”

Photo by Yusuke Komiyama(mobile,inc.) | Artwork ©2015 grAphic tAkorA

Lomography camera produced for and promoted during his solo exhibition in Hong Kong.

Foodie Tour in Taipei!!

Hello, everyone! I am Teacher Iku (Iku Sato), and have lived in Taipei for seven years. During the week I am usually busy teaching Japanese, writing books, and drawing illustrations. On my days off, my favorite form of entertainment is to explore the delicious local food with my Taiwanese wife.

Walk along a small alley, take an unplanned turn, at the end you will find night-market vendors selling tasty street food. This is what Taipei is like. Although it is nice to take a stroll with a guidebook in hand, you can also experience the fun of touring by following your instincts, trying new goodies while wandering around. Come on! Let's explore Taiwan on a foodie tour.

Take a big bite of a sizzling fried chicken fillet, savor juicy, tender, chewy soup dumplings, and treat yourself to a serving of sweet mango shaved ice, with one hand always holding a cup of pearl milk tea. Oh, who can resist such yummy goodies? In Japan and around the world, people often say, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach." That being said, I still never thought I would have become so addicted to Taiwanese food.

Written/Illustrated by Teacher Iku (Iku Sato)

Born in Tokyo, Mr. Iku came to Taiwan seven years ago. While working as a writer, illustrator, and Japanese teacher in Taiwan, he also makes frequent appearances on TV programs and radio shows.

Facebook fan page "Ikulaoshi":
www.facebook.com/ikulaoshi

facebook ikulaoshi



Longan and rice pudding congee with *you tiao* at A Cai Ma Sweet Soups. (Photo: Jiao Tong)



Exclusive Comfort Food Recommendations

Jiao Tong Takes You on a Tour – Huaxi Street Sweet Soups



Article | Jiao Tong

Photos | Jiao Tong, Chic-Jen Yan

In earlier times, Huaxi Street (華西街) near Guiyang Street (貴陽街) was a most active area filled with organized crime and brothels. Today, it is a quieter place, perhaps somewhat distant from the MRT Longshan Temple Station (捷運龍山寺站), and most tourists do not walk to the end of it. A Cai Ma Sweet Soups (阿猜嬭甜湯) has seen a decline in customers. Before I even had the chance to sit down and think about what to order, the owner's wife recognized me and asked, "Aren't you Mr. Jiao Tong (焦桐)?" The eatery's founder, A Cai Ma, is suffering from dementia, and her son Ke De-Long (柯得隆) and his wife have taken over. I didn't know that they were among my readers and had purchased several of my books.

The Secret to Eating at A Cai Ma Sweet Soups

The A Cai Ma Sweet Soups menu is not extensive. All of the selections are written on wooden plaques hung at the front of the stall. Red bean soup (紅豆湯), peanut soup (花生湯), *tangyuan* (glutinous rice dumplings; 湯圓), and rock sugar with white fungus and lotus seeds soup (冰糖白木耳蓮子湯), can all be ordered in combination to create different dishes. I ordered longan and rice pudding congee (米糕桂圓粥)

There are longans in every spoon of congee and they were a great match! Longan and glutinous rice are simmered to create a sweet porridge. It is more than sweet; the dried longan and brown sugar enhance the different layers of sweetness, elevating the whole taste to a new type of sweet sensation. In the combination of glutinous rice and dried longan, the rice absorbs the fragrant aroma and color of the fruit. The two become one in an expression of great culinary love!

After finishing half, the owner cut two pieces of *you tiao* (deep fried dough sticks; 油條) and placed them in my congee. He asked me to try it and see how it tastes. Just as expected, it was great! The unimpressive, cold *you tiao*, when added to the bowl, worked wonder and altered the texture of the rice pudding. As a third party to the rice pudding and longan congee combo, I was initially worried that the *you tiao* would leave an oily taste and destroy the overall harmony of the ingredients. On the contrary, it added warmth, reduced sweetness, and enriched the aroma.

The addition of *you tiao* to rice pudding congee is characteristic of southern Taiwan, where the warm hospitality makes sweet congee especially suited to the winter months. Eating this dish with that special someone, happiness seems to well up from the bowl. No matter how cold it is outside, home feels warm and safe.

I thought that if the large pot of longan and

rice pudding congee had not been completely sold out, it could be frozen to make especially great popsicles! When I was almost finished, the owner rewarded me again with a spoonful of red bean soup. The combination of longan, rice pudding congee and red bean soup, in addition to being delicious, revived pleasant emotions in me, such as the guilty pleasure of a love affair! When it came the time to pay the check, I asked how much. It should have been NT\$60 but, the owner only charged me NT\$50. Eating at this stall, I had not only met one of my readers and enjoyed some delicious food, but had also received a discount. As I left, I almost burst into song!

Sampling Sweet Soups, Experiencing the Lifestyles of Everyday People

About 50 meters from A Cai Ma Sweet Soups is another place along Huaxi Street worth visiting: Beigang Sweet Soup (北港甜湯). The rice pudding congee, taro root soup (芋頭湯) and grilled *mochi* (sticky rice ball; 麻糬) are nutritious and tasty. Not far from Beigang Sweet Soup, next to Bangka Park (艋舺公園), is 36 Tangyuan Shop (三六圓仔店) (Rice-based Foods Shop; 糰店). It also serves grilled mochi with a generous filling and is a must-try. The peanut soup and puff cookies (凸餅) are also very good. The cookies contain maltose on the inside, so that when added to the peanut soup, a wonderful fusion is created in an alternative style. The result is filled with the flavors of everyday

The grilled mochi at Beigang Sweet Soup is both nutritious and tasty. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)



Peanut soup served at 36 Tangyuan Shop. (Photo: Chic-Jen Yan)



life of common people. In addition to various sweet soups, other items associated with past agricultural society can be found here, such as red tortoise cake (紅龜粿), *mingtou* cake (冥頭粿), tortoise bun (麵龜), birthday peach bun (壽桃), *fong-pen* rice cake (鳳片糕) and *feng yan* cake (鳳眼糕). With one bite, it was as if I had returned to earlier times, the days of water buffalo, rickshaws, guilds, tea shops, sweets shops, textile mills, Kenban (geisha offices)... 

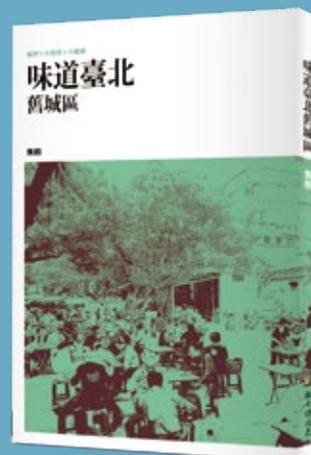
This article is an excerpt from *Tastes of Taipei's Old City Areas* (味道臺北舊城區), published by the Department of Information and Tourism, Taipei City Government. Jiao Tong, the author, has spent more than a decade carrying out in-depth explorations and research into food. He has tracked the historical development of Taipei with the evolution of traditional cuisine, and describes the different dishes in a warm and elegant style, while providing an introduction to treats from Taipei's old neighborhoods. To complete this book, Jiao Tong spent nearly half a year visiting the areas of Bangka (艋舺), Dadaocheng and Dalongdong (大龍峒), where he sampled different food and beverage items at hundreds of eateries, finally selecting 167 to include in his study. He leads travelers on an exploration of Taipei's traditional flavors.

Tastes of Taipei's Old City Areas 《味道臺北舊城區》

Author: Jiao Tong

Price: NT\$250

Available from eslite Bookstore (誠品書店), Kingstone (金石堂), Books (博客來) and major bookstores throughout Taiwan.





A Turkish Director Tells Stories Through His Camera Lens

Kürşat Kızbaz Talks About His Visit to Taipei

Article
Photos

Shao Weiyan
Shi Chuntai, Taipei City Government
Department of Information and Tourism

Kızbaz hopes to convey the allure of Taipei to the world through his camera lens. (Photo: Taipei City Government Department of Information and Tourism)

“Taipei is not a cold cement giant,” says renowned Turkish director, Kürşat Kızbaz. He used this sentence to describe the Taipei that he had seen with his own eyes before the start of this interview. This sturdy, stalwart city, situated in the Taipei Basin with rivers flowing through it and mountains all around, narrates its own unique story. What is different is that this time, she is presenting her rich culture and fluid spaces through the medium of a traveler who is picky about images and adept at condensing scenes.

For most people in Taiwan, Kürşat Kızbaz is not a familiar name. But, in Turkey, which is an 11-hour flight from Taiwan, he is a famed director and producer. In 2002, he directed *Rumi-Ablaf*, which was shown in over 200 countries on the global Discovery Channel, Discovery Channel Europe and NTVmsnbc. Millions of people were awed and inspired by this documentary film.

Kızbaz has continued to release documentaries,

and has received much attention in Turkey and internationally. Over the past seven years, he has filmed 37 films on Turkish history and culture for Turkish Airlines. His skill at using images to tell a story has been demonstrated to the world. This time, Kızbaz was invited by Turkish Airlines to visit Taipei and shoot a documentary of the city. Armed with his sense and sensibility-intertwined cinematographic vocabulary, he focused on Taipei to create something that will be shown on more than 200 international routes flown by Turkish Airlines. The resulting film will reveal the unique stories of our beautiful Taipei to worldwide audiences.

People and Culture Play Leading Roles in Enriching Taipei

Kızbaz, as a follower of Islam, has allowed his beard to grow thick. His eyes sparkle when talking about filming in Taipei. “It is very clean here! The people here are so enthusiastic,” he exclaims,



Kızbaz traveled all over Taipei, covering its highlights, including traditional temples and famous sites, during his short eight-day stay. (Photo: Taipei City Government Department of Information and Tourism)

as he raises his hands in a show of sincerity. After leaving the airport, Kızbaz was constantly amazed at the orderly tree-lined streets and the lack of litter. He says, “I came back not long ago from filming in Japan. People always say that Japan is the strictest in terms of demand for cleanliness, but from what I have seen, Taipei’s level surpasses Tokyo’s!”

During his eight-day stay in Taipei, Kızbaz traveled all over the city, visiting traditional temples and famous sites, such as Taipei 101, the National Palace Museum, Dalongdong Baoan Temple (大龍峒保安宮), Manka Longshan Temple (艋舺龍山寺), Xingtian Temple (行天宮), the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Liberty Square (自由廣場), Taipei Public Library Beitou Branch (台北市立圖書館北投分館), Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914文化創意產業園區) and Songshan Cultural and Creative Park. Each of these became a milestone in his cinematic journey.

Although it is not easy for a documentary director to take in all of a city’s highlights in a short time, he traveled along routes where modern and traditional Taipei intersect. Only in Taipei could he encounter the diversity of people and experiences he was searching for. Kızbaz says that, “I especially remember the enthusiastic shopkeepers and other people, as well as

that street in Dadaocheng filled with cultural energy and atmosphere. It made me feel that were I to walk randomly down any street in Taipei I would be able to outline a moving story.”

A City With the DNA to Ferment Imagination

In addition to expressing his admiration for Taiwan’s creativity in design, Kızbaz repeatedly praised the food and vitality of Taipei’s traditional and night markets. In his words, Taipei is a never-ending carnival! Every minute and every second of the day, it is possible to find something to eat, and to experience modernity, culture, creativity and relaxation.

As the interview ended, Kızbaz shared his perception of Taipei with us: “It is difficult to compare Taipei with other cities. It possesses the modernity of New York and the order of Tokyo. But, there are also hard-to-describe, but very attractive, Eastern influences. I hope that through my camera lens I am able to convey the allure of this world-class city. I suspect that the Taipei I have seen is a city with the DNA to ferment imagination.” 

Renowned Turkish director Kürşat Kızbaz.
(Photo: Shi Chuntai)



Travel Information

For traveling between Taipei and Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, whether by inexpensive, high-quality shuttle, safe and fast taxi, or high-grade professional airport limo service, you're spoiled for choice in satisfying your particular time and budget.

Taxi

Service locations:

North of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal I and South of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal II

One-way fare:

Meter count plus 15%, with freeway tolls extra; average fare to Taipei around NT\$1,100.

Terminal I Arrivals Hall taxi-service counter

Tel:(03)398-2832

Terminal II Arrivals Hall taxi-service counter

Tel:(03)398-3599

Passenger Shuttle Bus

Service locations:

Southwest of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal I (exterior vehicle pickup corridor) and northeast of the Arrivals Hall of Terminal II (exterior vehicle pickup corridor)

Shuttle-service companies:

Kuo-Kuang Motor Transportation, Evergreen Bus, Free Go Express, Citi Air Bus

One-way fare: NT\$85~145

Travel time:

40~60 minutes depending on routes (60~90 minutes for Citi Air Bus, which has more stops)

Schedule: Every 15~20 minutes

Metro Taipei

Service Hours: 06:00~24:00; 24-Hour Customer Service Hotline: (02)218-12345

| Ticket | Price |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  One-Way Trip | NT\$20-65 |
|  Easy Card | Price: NT\$100 (without deposit). The card provides discounts on transit fares and can also be used for small purchases at convenience stores and other designated shops. |
|  iPass | Metro station information counters are only authorized to sell the General Adult Card, which is sold outright without any deposit or credit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility: Ordinary passengers. • Price: NT\$100 (without deposit). • Availability: Select stores, online, all Taipei Metro stations. • Metro discount: 20% discount on each trip. • Transfer discount: Passengers who use a General Adult Card to transfer from the metro to a bus or vice versa within one hour will receive an NT\$8 discount. |
|  Day Pass | NT\$150 |
|  Taipei Pass | The Taipei Pass is activated upon first use on bus or metro ticket readers and valid for unlimited use till expiration. The Taipei Pass can be purchased at all Metro stations, and is used on the Taipei Metro and on Taipei and New Taipei City public buses (with Taipei Pass stickers showing). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-Day Pass: NT\$180 Two-Day Pass: NT\$310 Three-Day Pass: NT\$440 Five-Day Pass: NT\$700 Maokong Gondola One-Day Pass: NT\$350 |
|  Taipei Metro Pass | 24hr: NT\$180 48hr: NT\$280 72hr: NT\$380 |

NOTICE

In order to facilitate inquiries by the public, the city government has set up the 1999 Taipei Citizen Hotline. Whether by telephone, cell phone, or Voice over IP (payphone excluded), dial 1999 for free access. There is a time limit, with service personnel restricted to 10-minute service availability, and a 10-minute limit on call transfers. Callers are asked to make the most efficient use of this resource, making all calls as brief as possible. For more information, call 1999 or visit <http://english.rdec.gov.taipei/>



TAIWAN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police / 110

Crimes, traffic accidents, and other incidents for which police assistance is needed

Fire and Emergency / 119

Fire, injury or accident, or other urgent matters for which emergency relief is needed

Women and Children Protection Hotline / 113 ext.1

24-hour emergency, legal information, and psychological services for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse. Foreigner 24-hour General Inquiry Hotline: 0800-024-111

NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| Unit | Tel |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Taipei City Govt. Citizen Hotline | 1999 (02-2720-8889 outside Taipei City) |
| English Directory Service | 106 |
| IDD Telephone Service Hotline | 0800-080-100 ext.9 |
| Time-of-Day Service | 117 |
| Weather Service | 166 |
| Traffic Reports | 168 |
| Tourism Bureau (MOTC) 24-Hour Toll-Free Travel Information Hotline | 0800-011-765 |
| Tourism Bureau (MOTC) Toll-Free Traveler Complaints Hotline | 0800-211-734 |
| International Community Service Hotline | 0800-024-111 |
| Tourism Bureau Information Counter, Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport | Terminal 1: (03)398-2194 Terminal 2: (03)398-3341 |
| Bureau of Foreign Trade | (02)2351-0271 |
| Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) | (02)2725-5200 |
| Taiwan Visitors Association | (02)2594-3261 |
| The Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Taipei | (02)2522-2163 |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs | (02)2348-2999 |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs Citizens Hotline | (02)2380-5678 |
| Police Broadcasting Station | (02)2388-8099 |
| English Hotline for Taxi Service | 0800-055-850 ext.2 |
| Consumer Service Center Hotline | 1950 |
| Bureau of National Health Insurance Information Hotline | 0500-030-598 |
| AIDS Information Hotline | 0800-888-995 |

Source for Above Information:
Information For Foreigners Service / Tel: 0800-024-111
Tourism Bureau, Ministry of Transportation and Communications
Tel: (02)2349-1500

※ Entries in brown columns indicate service in English provided

LIST OF TAIPEI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

Taipei Main Station

(02)2312-3256
1F, 3, Beiping W. Rd.

Songshan Airport

(02)2546-4741
340-10, Dunhua N. Rd.

MRT Ximen Station

(02)2375-3096
B1, 32-1, Baoqing Rd.

MRT Jiantan Station

(02)2883-0313 65
65, Sec. 5, Zhongshan N. Rd.

MRT Beitou Station

(02)2894-6923
1, Guangming Rd.

MRT Taipei 101/World Trade Center Station

(02)2758-6593
B1, 20, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd.

Plum Garden Visitor Center

(02)2897-2647
6, Zhongshan Rd.

Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Center

(02)8501-2762
20, Jingye 3rd Rd

Gondola Maokong Station

(02)2937-8563
35, Ln. 38, Sec. 3, Zhinan Rd.
(Exit area, Maokong Station)

Dadaochang Visitor Center

(02)2559-6802
44, Sec. 1, Dihua St.



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