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DISCOVER TAIPEI

Dt

MAY. / JUN. BIMONTHLY 2011

A Powerful Surge of the Arts in Taipei

Taipei, a City of Art — “Good by Design”!

A Walkabout Tour of East Taipei’s Public Art

Oh the Things You’ll See! Art Down Taipei’s Lanes

The Taipei Int’l Flora Expo Captures the World’s
Attention — A Sparkling Success

Revitalizing Confucianism —
A New Program at Taipei Confucius Temple
Gives Intimate Access to Ancient Ways





MAY / JUNE
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Hope you enjoy reading this issue of DTB. If
you have any suggestions, please do not
hesitate to email or fax us.

A Powerful Surge of the Arts in Taipei


Taipei has been a point of great interest on the world map of late, with 21st Summer Deaflympics Taipei 2009, the Taipei Pavilion at the Expo 2010 Shanghai, and the 2010 Taipei International Flora Expo. The global spotlight will continue to shine on the city when it hosts the international 2011 IDA Congress Taipei in the coming months, a grand platform for the city's vibrant prowess in design and artistic creativity. With its public art in very public places, tucked-away arts spaces down side streets, and thrilling scene for live stage arts, it is evident the local urban lifestyle is artistically exuberant.

Our theme this issue is "A Powerful Surge of the Arts in Taipei." We feature the large-scale IDA Congress and its main events, the International Young Designers' Exhibition (YODEX) starting in May, 2011 Taipei Good Design photography contest, which looks at Taipei from some very unusual angles, and public artworks such as the Design Bus and Master D. There is a very full program of art-world things for you to do, and the rewards are great.

We also get an early glimpse of the magnificent Taipei Performing Arts Center, which will serve as a grand platform for Taipei arts on the world stage in the not-too-distant future. This is a building that is a work of art in itself, adding to the richness of the public art you see along the city's streets and in the warm and inviting arts spaces hidden away down its cozy lanes and alleys. These await your discovery, and you'll find each a charming revelation.

The Taipei International Flora Expo has come to a close, an extravaganza that has been a resounding success, garnering many local and international rewards and honors. We offer a retrospective, and also report on the future of the pavilions post-expo, many of which will continue to entertain you.

When this city's creative culinary scene meets its creative arts spaces, what sparks fly? Daring, unique treats with iconoclastic design flair. On another front, the breakfast scene, we take you on an excursion through tried-and-true local-style breakfast joints and point out where to get your Western-breakfast fixes. There's no better way to get a taste of Taipei!

The onset of Taipei's bustling summer means it's time to sit yourself down to a feast of festivals and other events. The Baosheng Cultural Festival, Revitalizing Confucianism program at Taipei Confucius Temple, International Wu-Wo Tea Ceremony and Tea Culture Festival, Taipei Film Festival, and Eye of the Times—Centennial Images of Taiwan exhibition are all ingredients in a great cultural ferment going on in the city, and you'll want to be on hand to drink your fill! 

CONTENTS

04 Special Feature

- 04 Taipei, a City of Art— “Good by Design” !
- 08 A New Local Landmark for International Arts—Taipei Performing Arts Center
- 10 A Walkabout Tour of East Taipei’s Public Art
- 14 Oh the Things You’ll See! Art Down Taipei’s Lanes

18 Taipei in’t Flora Expo Feature

- 18 The Taipei Int’l Flora Expo Captures the World’s Attention—A Sparkling Success
- 20 The Flora Expo Pavilions—The Expo’s End Is Just the Beginning

22 Local Life

- 22 Big Changes Come to Taipei International Airport—A New Look at Terminal 2
- 24 Timeless Temple Tradition, Progressive Innovation—Dalongdong Baoan Temple’s 2011 Baosheng Cultural Festival
- 26 Revitalizing Confucianism—A New Program at Taipei Confucius Temple Gives Intimate Access to Ancient Ways
- 28 The Dragon Boat Festival—Hitting the Stage by Hitting the Waves
- 31 A Loving Taipei, An Accessible Taipei

32 Chance Encounters with Fine Foods

- 32 A Leisured Taste of Some Very Sweet Art Spaces
- 36 Good Morning Taipei! Great Breakfast Options to Start Your Day-Tours





40

40 Taipei Health and Recreation Tours

- 40 Small Art Travels in a Big City—Pleasant Walks in Search of Modern Art
- 45 Pushing to Your Personal Summit—The TAIPEI 101 International Run-Up Race
- 46 “Taiwan in a Word”—In the Words of Foreign “Mandarin and Taiwanese” Speakers
- 48 2011 Computex Taipei—The Latest and Greatest in High-Tech

50 Journal of Taipei Personalities

- 50 A Walk in Search of Taipei Arts & Culture with poetic architect Ray Chen
- 52 Taipei in the Eyes of Foreign Friends

54 A Cavalcade of Arts and Culture

- 54 The 2011 Taipei Film Festival—London Calling, in Taipei Summer
- 56 The Joy of Brewing—Shared En Masse
- 58 Eye of the Times—Centennial Images of Taiwan
- 60 Bringing Sculpted Life to Japanese Haiku—Haiku-Sculpture 2011: International Exhibition for Art Academies

62 Handy Portable Information

- 62 May-June Arts Exhibition Calendar
- 65 Airport Transportation, Taipei Visitor Information Centers, Maps, and Other Practical Information



60



40



46



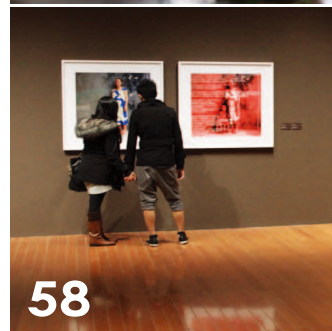
48



50



54



58





Taipei, a City of Art —

“Good by Design”!

Attractive design melts the cold, hard lines of a big city. After serving as the proud and successful host for two major international events recently, the Summer Deaflympics and the Taipei International Flora Expo, the city will now host the 2011 IDA Congress Taipei (2011 臺北世界設計大會), a grand conclave of professionals in the realms of industrial design, communication design, and interior architecture/design. This is the world's largest cross-disciplinary design event in almost 20 years. Taiwan happens to be celebrating the centenary of the Republic of China this year, and in complement, the Executive Yuan has declared this the Taiwan Year of Design (臺灣設計年). Activities of brilliant originality are bursting into bloom all around the island, and the city of Taipei is proudly at the front and center in this carnival of creative ferment.

Pleasing Design, Everywhere in Ebullient Blossom

You may well have noticed some of the unusual design expressions that have been popping up on Taipei's streets of late. A sleek slide-design bus and big, warm, and friendly tangerine-color character are two prime examples.

The Design Bus (設計魔法列車) was conceived by the Ministry of Economic Affairs as an eye-catching means to promote the Taiwan Year of Design and the 2011 IDA Congress, along with the duty of promoting aesthetics education in general. It travels the circuit of Taiwan's arts and culture events, providing a mobile platform for promotional exhibits and interaction, bringing the aesthetics of design directly into the lives of local citizens.





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As for that compellingly bright and colorful tangerine-tone figure, what you are looking at is installation art entitled Master D created to welcome the Taiwan Year of Design. It has three faces and six arms, inspired by the Chinese phrase *san tou liu bu* (三頭六臂), literally meaning “three heads and six arms,” in other words, “omnipotence.” It also seemingly honors the magical powers of the infinitely resourceful master designers. The three different faces seem to communicate directly with the viewer, and the arms, which can be repositioned, seem to interact directly with the surrounding environment. The mobile Master D will be moving around the city until Sep. 30, popping up in all sorts of places. So be prepared for the surprise!

Creative Competition Becomes a People—Wide Exercise

In addition to public artworks such as the Design Bus and Master D, the Taipei City Govt. is also staging a number of entertaining and provocative design competitions and exhibitions. First up is 2011 Taipei Good Design photo competition (2011臺北創意好點攝影比賽), which invites members of the public to look at their world through a camera lens and capture planar images that possess cross-boundary meaning.



What is captured and recorded can be a good idea, good design, or a good place. From now till May 31, everyone is invited to browse through the wide world of inspirations posted online and vote from their favorites (www.taipeixdesign.org.tw). During the process, everyone can explore in depth the nooks and crannies of this big city and discover its endless examples of “beauty by design.”

The highlight of the Taiwan Year of Design, The 30th International Young Designers' Exhibition (新一代設計展), will be held from May 20 to 23. First held in 1982, this has become a large-scale event and, in fact, the world's premiere student design exhibition. At this year's jamboree, there will be designs from 112 programs at 54 Taiwan schools and from 19 programs in nine other countries—the United States, Canada, England, France, Italy, Spain, Australia, Japan, and Singapore. The students pour their hearts and souls into these projects, and habitually cross all boundaries, however defined: product, graphics, packaging, trend and fashion, and multimedia. The only thing predictable is the heightening creativity each year, which means that when you attend, you are certain to witness marvelous matters never before encountered.



2

1. For the 2011 Taipei World Design Expo the Master D public artwork has been created, a very noticeable sample of Taipei's design vitality.
2. The Ministry of Economic Affairs' Design Bus has been patrolling the city streets announcing the coming of the Taipei World Design Expo.
3. The annual International Young Designers' Exhibition is a grand showcase for on-campus talent.
4. Another of the works at the International Young Designers' Exhibition, entitled “ME.OTABLE,” by Tang Weixiang of National Taipei University of Technology.

Adding to the stimulation provided by the exhibition are the International Young Designers' Competition (新一代設計競賽) and the YODEX Interior Design Competition (新一代設計展場設計競賽), whose goals are to encourage design excellence in Taiwan and to cultivate emerging talent. The awards ceremony to be held during the exhibition for the 2011 iF concept design awards, called the "Oscars of the design world," will also be well worth attending, the youthful ingenuity being celebrated providing much food for thought.

International Exhibitions—Clarion Call to the World

Following hard on the heels of these events will be the ROC Centenary Urban Regeneration Program: Taipei Residential Aesthetics Promotional Exhibit Plan (建國100年都市再生系列：臺北居住美學推展計畫), to be held from July through October at the URS27 Huashan Grand Green (URS27華山大草原; the "URS" stands for Urban Regeneration Station). Design exhibits of widely varying characters are to be staged, helping to stimulate the imagination and help form the vision for an aesthetic city lifestyle.

The city's modern arts spaces are also getting in on the fun. From Aug. 20 to Nov. 27, the Taipei Fine Arts Museum (臺北市立美術館) is hosting the UK Ultra-Contemporary Design Exhibition (英國超當代設計展), using London as the base and introducing the most


influential fantasy realizations of the best contemporary designer talent. The Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei (臺北當代藝術館) will in turn host the Taiwan Avant-Garde Fashion Design Exhibition (臺灣前衛時尚設計展) from Sep. 16 to Nov. 13, with the story of "folding technique" (摺學) as a source of creative-spark originality for its theme, and focusing on the pull of historical space and time as well as of cultural sentiments.

All these events, of tremendous value in and of themselves, will in this special year be the stepping stones to the grandest spectacle of all, the 2011 IDA Congress Taipei. After undergoing more than a year of bidding seeking to win the right to serve as the host, Taipei was chosen from among 19 cities in 13 countries by the International Design Alliance (IDA) in 2007. This is the world's most important design congress, with the IDA Congress Education Conference (IDA國際設計論壇) as its key event, three theme-night Social Events (三大主題之夜), and the 2011 Taipei World Design Expo (2011臺北世界設計大展) and Young Designers' Workshop (新世代設計工作營).

The IDA Congress Education Conference and Social Nights will happen from Oct. 24 through 26. Conference topics will encompass economics, science and technology, environmental protection, culture, and society, with experts invited from Taiwan and around the world. The theme for this year's



congress is “design at the edges” (交鋒), with a fusion of the domains of architecture, culture, and art sought. Following the concept “creating interactive experience in global design,” starting Sep. 30, there will be exhibits in succession at the Songshan Cultural and Creative Park (松山文化創意園區), TWTC Nangang Exhibition Hall (世貿南港展覽館), and TWTC Hall 1 (臺北世貿1館). The goal is to immerse visitors in a dialog between industrial, visual communication, interior, and fashion design, exposing them to works that challenge today's mainstream thinking. For the Young Designers' Workshop, invitations have been sent out to budding talents in countries around the globe to come visit Taiwan and engage in an invaluable exchange of creative thoughts, in a venue free of limiting national and intellectual boundaries.

Yes indeed, this big city is decidedly “good by design.” Time to hit the streets to dig up the many surprises and delights that await, all designed to bring more smiles to your days. 



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Information

2011 Taipei Good Design photo competition 2011臺北創意好點攝影比賽

Time: Online public voting until 5/31

Website: www.taipeixdesign.org.tw

Tel: (02) 2745-8199

International Young Designers' Exhibition (YODEX) 新一代設計展

Time: 5/20~5/23

Venues: Taipei World Trade Center Hall 1 and Hall 3

Admission: Full ticket NT\$200, student and preferential tickets NT\$150

Tel: (02) 2745-8199

Website: www.yodex.com.tw

※ Entry limited to those 12 years or older

2011 IDA Congress Taipei 2011臺北世界設計大會

◆ IDA Congress Education Conference & Three Theme Night Social Events IDA國際設計論壇 & 三大主題之夜

Time: 10/24~10/26

Conference Venue:

Taipei International Convention Center (social events at different venues; please visit the official website)

Registration Fees:

Advanced (until 5/31) – Full three-day package NT\$10,800 per person

Regular (6/1~7/31) – Full three-day package NT\$13,000 per person

General (8/1~10/26) – Full three-day package NT\$21,700 per person

◆ 2011 Taipei World Design Expo 2011臺北世界設計大展

1. Songshan Cultural and Creative Park
9/30~10/30

2. TWTC Nangang Exhibition Hall (4F)
10/22~10/30

3. Taipei World Trade Center Hall 1 (Areas A & D)
10/22~10/30

Tel: (02) 2745-8199

Website: www.2011idacongress.com

5. This year's International Young Designers' Exhibition has the work “Isomer” on display, created by Shih Chien University student Lin Yuru, featuring a 3D modular design.

6-7. One venue for the Taipei World Design Expo will be the Songshan Cultural and Creative Park, a show intersecting architecture, culture, and art.

A New Local Landmark for International Arts— TAIPEI PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Near Taipei's MRT Jiantan Station is the famous Shilin Night Market (士林夜市), a must-experience site for travelers to Taipei from overseas. Soon another facility sure to become a tourist icon will open nearby—the Taipei Performing Arts Center (臺北藝術中心), another sterling stage for presentation of the best in arts and culture in this city.

Impressive Design Innovation

Seeking to foster the development of local artistic talent, the city govt. announced its Taipei Performing Arts Center initiative in 1997. The site for the facility—one to be of novel type and function—near the MRT station and renowned night market was chosen in 2007.

A total of 136 architectural outfits from 24 countries submitted competition proposals to win the right to lead the TPAC building project. On a visit to the United States in 2008, Taipei City Mayor Hau Lungbin (郝龍斌) invited Mohsen Mostafavi, dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Design, to head the TPAC selection committee, on which sat an illustrious who's who of architectural scholars, master architects,

and experts from the theatrical world. From among the international competition's many brilliant designs, OMA's design emerged atop. Its design evoked the idea of a “magic cube,” with all theatrical facilities contained within the cube and the audience seating outside of it, in extensions to the four sides.

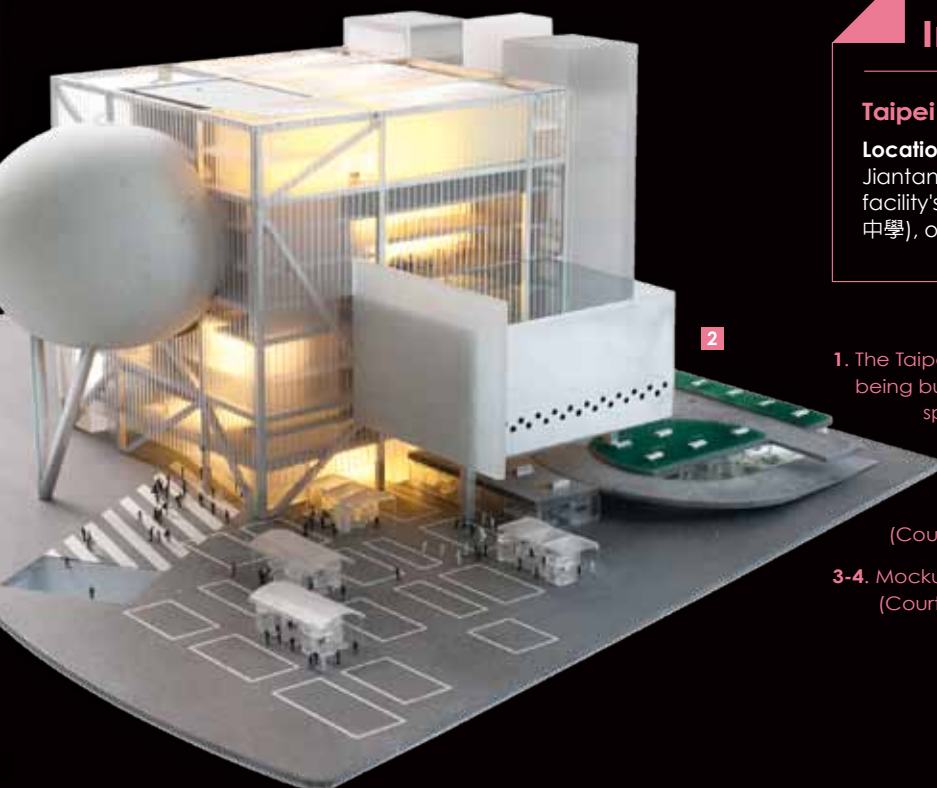
There is to be one large theatre, seating 1,500, and two smaller theatres that each seat 800, one a semi-circular proscenium theatre and the other a multi-functional theatre in a square shape. Though all three will function independently, combinations can be effected to create a “super theatre” seating 2,300 and more. The flexibility of the stage accommodations are intended to cultivate maximum creative experimentation and innovation. Another progressive design element will be to clad the cube in corrugated glass, allowing those without to see within; the intent is that those passing by will be intrigued by the action inside and will be attracted to attend the stage happenings. A public trajectory inside the cube allows those inside to see parts of the backstage areas that are hidden in the typical theatre, allowing precious glimpses into the magic of the theatrical world.



Inspired by the Taiwan Night Market

Rem Koolhaas was the leader of the OMA design team. Among his many, many celebrated accomplishments have been the Netherlands Dance Theater, Kunsthal in Rotterdam, and Casa da Musica in Porto, Portugal. OMA partner David Gianotten says that a major source of the inspiration for the OMA submission was, of all things, the Taiwan night-market *tempura* (甜不辣) stand. Design team members were in town searching for ideas, and marvelled how the stand could produce so many food options using such a small space. The secret was compartmentalizing the space, cutting it up for maximum efficiency.

The team was seeking to create an adaptive multifunctional facility that could accommodate both traditional and modern productions as well as warehouse-style capacity to handle special works of unusual dimension. "We decided we'd try a new way of building theatre never attempted before," he says, following the idea that the theatre experience is not just what is presented to the audience by the players on stage, but the entire production process, which should as much as possible be exposed to theatre-goers. "Designing TPAC was remarkably challenging, and remarkably rewarding." 🎭



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Information

Taipei Performing Arts Center 臺北藝術中心

Location: Sec. 4, Chengde Rd. (承德路4段), between Jiantan Rd. (劍潭路) and Wenlin Rd. (文林路); on the facility's north side is Bai Ling Senior High School (百齡中學), on its southeast MRT Jiantan Station.

1. The Taipei Performing Arts Center, a future landmark, is being built in Shilin near MRT Jiantan Station, to look like a sparkling diamond at night. (Courtesy / copyright OMA)
2. The center's advanced-concept design will give it the exterior look of a "magic cube." (Courtesy / copyright OMA)
- 3-4. Mockups showing the theaters' seating of 1,500 and 800. (Courtesy / copyright OMA)

A Walkabout Tour of East Taipei's Public Art

You're walking along Dunhua S. Rd. (敦化南路) at dusk. Cars are making their way home in heavy traffic. As you approach an intersection, and look up at the pedestrian signal light and... guess what? You see a half zebra, with the traffic light mounted on its back. The next day, you're out on a leisurely afternoon walk in the Xinyi Commerical District (信義計畫區) when you run into a cluster of sculpted forms of marble. There are kings, queens, knights, horses... and the ground is made of marble slabs too, in black and white squares. You've blundered across a massive outdoor chess game!



No, you've not been hallucinating. You've seen some of the splendid results of the city's year long promotion of public art in conspicuous locations, undertaken to add a dash of spice and a speck of creative pleasure to our lives.

Public Artworks— Remolding the Heart and Soul of a City

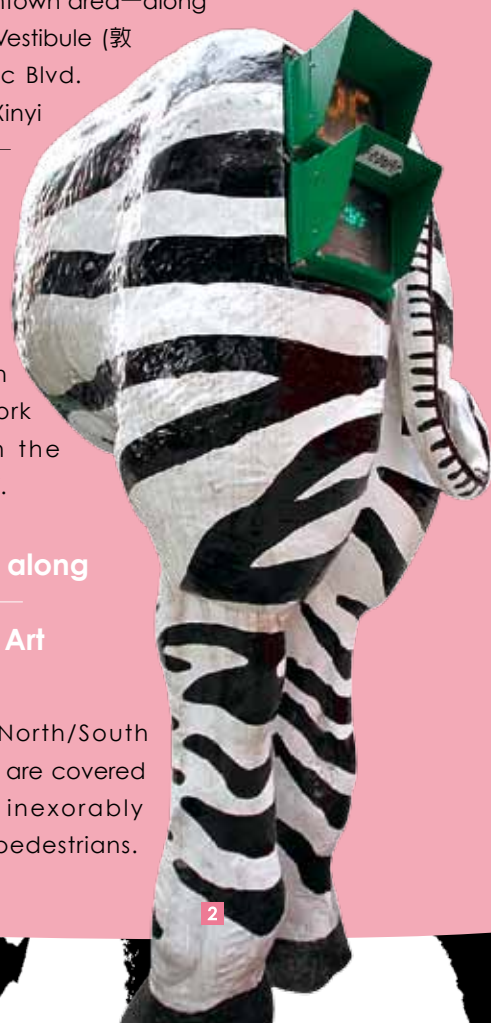
Public art has long been an essential feature of the face of this city. Bronze statues in the middle of roundabouts and mosaic murals at Jiantan Park (劍潭公園)

were among the earliest manifestations, key components of the life memories of local people. A new page was turned in 1998, when the Public Art Establishment Measures (公共藝術設置辦法) were ratified, stipulating that public artworks were to be installed at MRT stations, on traffic islands, along sidewalks, and at other highly visible locations. Citizens were soon being greeted by stone sculptures, holographic images, glass collages, interactive installations, and other creative visions brought to reality, giving expression to the soul of the island's culture while bringing great beauty to public spaces.

To encourage and assist both citizens and visitors to, one might say, “slow down and smell the artistic roses,” the city's Dept. of Cultural Affairs has created six Taipei Public Art Strolling Routes (公共藝術漫步路線). Three are located in the downtown area—along the Dunhua Public Art Vestibule (敦化藝術通廊), along Civic Blvd. (市民大道), and in the Xinyi Commerical District—stringing together the art of the east district. Let's head off now on a ramble of discoveries, seeing the world as seen through the eyes of the artwork composers, through the artistic “heart” of Taipei.

Greenness and Art along Dunhua N. & S. Rd.— The Dunhua Public Art Vestibule

On leafy Dunhua North/South Road, the traffic islands are covered with camphor trees inexorably drawing the gaze of pedestrians.



The artwork “Garden” (鳥籠外的花園), located close to the well-known Dunhua S. Rd. Eslite Bookstore (敦南誠品) outlet, is a giant red birdcage with a sculpted tree growing in it. Standing beside the frame are a couple of bright-yellow birds gazing out at the big world outside—a clear reminder that each of us must live our lives to the fullest and avoid becoming a deluded canary in a cage. Not far from this work, you come across a line of six chairs with somewhat haphazard shapes; they appear as though they are calling out for folks to visit them, to sit down and lend them some warmth with the artist that created them to contemplate the meaning of the endless streams of motor vehicles and passersby passing by while occupying a temporary oasis of peace.

Just north of here, near the MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua Station, you'll see the work “Tree River” (Metropolitan Silhouette) (樹河). Placed on the north/south walls of an MRT building above-ground on the traffic island. Lights are used to illuminate the images of a tree and a river. Flowing water is used to create a graceful, soothing sense of wind, water, and greenery. On the east and west sides of this building are hollow three-dimensional silhouettes of human figures, representing fast moving life in the big city. The work “Abuzz” (嗡嗡的風景), on Dunhua N. Rd.(敦化北路), is a reflection on the feelings of anxiety and stress engendered by the pace of living in big cities. The creator sets up six bells that draw people to stop and listen to the sounds deep within themselves. The scene is reminiscent of classical spaces for meditation found in the culture of the Far East, but placed in a novel context and given a new field of vision.

On the island at Dunhua S. Rd. and Heping E. Rd. (和平東路) is the work “Scarecrow” (稻草人), symbolizing the indomitable pioneering spirit of the forefathers of Taiwan's people and the importance of the rice culture to their existence. At the intersection of Dunhua S. Rd. and Civic Blvd. is the playful “Belisha Beacon” (時間斑馬線), and on the traffic island where Qingcheng St. (慶城街) meets Dunhua N. Rd. you can't miss the very conspicuous work “Jump” (飛躍東區), a tall red monument of time for the city.

1. “Chess,” at Shifu Rd. and Songshou Rd., is a work through which pedestrians must pass through, symbolizing “the chessboard of life.”
2. At Dunhua S. Rd. and Civic Blvd. is the playful “Belisha Beacon,” adding playful zest to a wait for a green light.
3. The artwork “Garden,” near the Dunhua S. Rd. Eslite Bookstore, reminds busy passersby of the beauties of spring.
4. Near MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua Station is “Tree River” (Metropolitan Silhouette), a vignette of city life.
5. The work “Abuzz” on Dunhua N. Rd. is a small oasis for contemplation amidst big-city bustle.
6. On the traffic island where Qingcheng St. meets Dunhua N. Rd. is “Jump,” a startling red monument.





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10

Visual Rest Stops Beside a Busy Thoroughfare: Civic Boulevard

Civic Blvd. sees a never-ending flow of vehicles. If you pay attention, however, in several shadowy spots under the raised expressway, you'll discover welcome breathing spaces that have an artistic air and flair. At the intersection with Keelung Rd. (基隆路) is the public artwork "Rhythm" (韻律), its mirror-like stainless steel reflecting the surrounding scenery, the artist in this way demonstrating that although the urban environment is complex, there is nevertheless a harmonious rhythm extant. The same concept has been used for the work that stands at Civic Blvd.'s intersection with Yanji St. (延吉街)—"Close" (合) is two interlocking hands, displaying the idea of the harmonious convergence of landscape, culture, and traffic arteries.

One of the city's most remarkable and visually compelling pieces of public art is "Deity, Time" (女武神，

時間廊), located at the corner of Civic Blvd. and Dunhua S. Rd. You'll see a huge godly female warrior made out of high-carbon steel, descending to the world of mortals with a magnificent steed in harness. She seems all-powerful, and want to instantly preserve the pleasant times before her eyes; the sculpture is encircled by a pathway of time however, trapping it within, suggesting that such beautiful objects cannot escape the irreversible passage of time, and thus must exist solely within our memory.

Continuing along Civic Blvd. toward its intersection with Songjiang Rd. (松江路), you'll meet up with a work entitled "Years" (金樹歲月), a tree in gold that hints at the prosperous dreams of many who come to Taipei. Then, at the corner of Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路), you are presented with "Rhyme" (韻—生命之旅), which addresses the endless turning of Mother Earth and the endless flow, like the current of a great river, of human lives.

Chance Encounters in a Busy Business District: Xinyi Commerical District

The Xinyi area is replete with distinctive architectural works, notably Taipei 101, Taipei City Hall, and the numerous shopping complexes. Like the district itself, the public artworks here are of distinctively international and avant-garde modern character, and in fact many have been created by overseas artists, reflecting the district's vanguard role of making Taipei a proudly cosmopolitan city—a true city of the world.

In the plaza before the Taipei 101 skyscraper in the Xinyi Commerical District is Robert Indiana's "LOVE." The word, spelled in English letters, is known throughout the world, and Indiana seeks to use this fact to dissolve barriers between East and West, his desire world peace and a cooperative prosperity. In her work "Between Earth and Sky" (天地之間), artist Ariel Moscovici has placed eight hemispheric shapes in a circle, symbolizing the infinite cycle of the universe and the endless circle of life—a physical embodiment of such ancient Chinese concepts as the "eight trigrams" (八卦) and the "spherical heavens and flat Earth" (天圓地方).

Finally—we visit a work entitled "Chess" (局) at the meeting of Shifu Rd. (市府路) and Songshou Rd. (松壽路), and another entitled "Hare on Ball and Claw" (站在圓球上與爪子上的野兔) that is located in the plaza outside the CPC Corporation Building (中油大樓) on Songren Rd. (松仁路). The first obliges pedestrians to pass through and participate in "the chessboard of life," a demonstration of the power of fate; the second is the sculptural manifestation of a drama once played out before the eyes of artist

Barry Flanagan in the English countryside, who watched two wild hares going after each other. Though vibrant and dramatic, the scene also struck him as humorous. For the pedestal, he has used the mythical dragon's claw and dragon's pearl of the East, cleverly making this work a synthesis of the art and culture of East and West.

Having tackled these three routes, your appetite has no doubt been whet for more exploration of this city's unique street vitality and design creativity. Remember,



12

there are six routes in all, so you still have three more to choose from, taking in works at the Dihua Sewage Treatment Plant (迪化污水處理廠), Nangang Software Park (南港軟體園區), and National Taiwan Science Education Center (國立科學教育館). Happy hunting! 📍

Information

For more information, please visit the Taipei Public Art website portal set up by the city's Dept. of Cultural Affairs at

taipeipublicart.culture.gov.tw.

7. The artwork "Rhythm," in mirror-like stainless, blends into the surrounding urban landscape at Civic Blvd. and Keelung Rd.
8. At Civic Blvd. and Yanji St. is "Close," two interlocking hands symbolizing the convergence of landscape, culture, and traffic arteries.
9. At Civic Blvd. and Zhongshan N. Rd. is "Rhyme," symbolizing life's endless flow.
10. "Deity, Time," at Civic Blvd. and Dunhua S. Rd., brings a splash of aesthetic beauty to an area below an elevated expressway.
11. With "Hare on Ball and Claw," for the pedestal the mythical dragon's claw and dragon's pearl of the East is used, cleverly making this work a synthesis of the art and culture of East and West.
12. In the plaza before the Taipei 101 skyscraper is "LOVE," communicating the idea that "love is the common language."



Oh the Things You'll See! Art Down Taipei's Lanes

1 2

Taipei, a pulsating metropolis of many faces and constant transformation, is a place not easy to define. Beside a gleaming skyscraper, standing just as proud, will be a single-story heritage-site residence. Beside unprepossessing public housing will be a luxury residence. Tucked amongst shops of sundry color and description will be a chic arts venue. There is great elegance and sophistication to be found down through this big city's intriguing maze of lanes and alleys, in the artistic and in the everyday— for art is life.

Mobile Performances: Live Theatre Venues

The curtain rises and the lights go on, revealing a world of green at Wenshan Theater (文山劇場) behind MRT Jingmei Station. Though formally called a “theater,” this is in fact a multifunctional space, with a below-ground theatrical facility with seating for 240, a reading room for families, an exhibit space, a dress-rehearsal hall, and rehearsal rooms. The goal is to bring art right into the local neighborhood, residents feeling “I have art right next door.”

Wenshan Theater was originally a place for family-oriented arts education. In 2009, the program was expanded to embrace all adults. This May, numerous plays probing the repertoire of life and its meaning will be put up here; June is being dedicated to children's theater. Detailed program information can be found at

wenshantheater.pixnet.net/blog. Be sure to check out the whimsical public artwork Role-Play Forest (文山戲林) on the first-floor lobby, with fairytale characters sculpted from Taiwan cedar holding up a miniature forest of unadorned lumber-cum-trees.

Affectionately nicknamed Taiwan's original “black box” (黑盒子) or experimental theater, the Crown Theater (皇冠小劇場) is hidden away in a financial building amidst the scores of outlets selling branded consumer goods in the Nanjing-Dunhua commercial district. The term “black box theater” arose as a result of the common use of jet-black coloring in the design of these simple, unadorned spaces, giving them the look and feel of an air-tight box. With a history of more than 20 years, the Crown Theater has always been a bold pioneer in Taiwan's experimental theater, and each year stages the much-anticipated Crown Arts Festival (皇冠藝術節). This festival will run from May 13 to June 4 this year and featured four masterful productions. These innovative works will encompass fantasy theater, dance, and innovative dramatic adaptation of classical literature.

Another unique venue with a distinctive style from another era is Guling St. Avant-garde Theatre (牯嶺街小劇場). This was originally a station for gendarmerie during the Japanese colonial period, and later became a police station during the early Nationalist period. It was most recently taken over by a union of avant-garde theatre groups as a performance space. A venue that creates

an ongoing dialogue between the deep-running roots of history and the modern arts, the experimental theater, which can seat 80, is a stage for progressive avant-garde works presented at irregular intervals. By way of example, from May 27 through 29, the National Taiwan Normal University Drama Club will take the stage for a graduation performance, followed by the Chinese Culture University Drama Club with an annual run of performances from June 24 through 26.

Art within Walled Borders: Exhibit Venues

Many of Taipei's exhibit spaces are tucked away in places where you would not expect them to be. On Sec. 2 of Anhe Rd. (安和路), you'll find PING Art Space (平藝術空間), which primarily carries the works of artists from Japan, mainland China, and Taiwan. From the fantastical mise-en-scenes concocted by Japanese artists to the stencil graffiti of Taiwan artists critiquing contemporary society, laced with humor and sarcasm, lovers of the world of artistic creation come in numbers, and are thrilled.

In a single-story building among the high-rises along Lane 100 of Dunhua S. Rd., two rabbits sit impassively looking at visitors. “The big one is the manager, the little one the ticket collector,” jests the true TOSEE Art Agency (土思藝術) manager, Michael—though entry is, in fact, free. Here, the calming wood floors and light mood music literally absorb you into a world of artistic sensibility. This gallery is primarily a space for the promotion of Taiwan contemporary art, with about eight shows each year overlapping each other between the basement and first floor exhibit spaces. From June 2 to July 3 this year, you can come and enjoy young artist Shiao Beichen's (蕭北辰) work “Floating Shadows” (浮影).

Step onto Liaoning St. (遼寧街) and the delectable scents of the street's famous night market rush over to

greet you. Following your nose, it's easy to miss Lane 45, down which you find TIVAC, the Taiwan International Visual Arts Center (臺灣國際視覺藝術中心), at an angle across from a colorful temple. Even more visually arresting is the very real-looking angel outside the door, decked out in T-shirt and jeans. Many a visitor stop dead in their tracks with their mouth wide-open or having a big smile. The TIVAC facility, an arts space that formerly served as



1. Crown Theater's grand lobby area, with distinctive book-like columns, is clearly dedicated to the literary world.
2. Taiwan International Visual Arts Center
3. PING Art Space primarily carries the works of artists from Japan, mainland China, and Taiwan.
4. TOSEE Art Agency has two big rabbits at its entrance, announcing this venue's dedication to contemporary arts.
5. Crown Theater has long been a Taiwan pioneer in experimental theater.





a private residence, specializes in imported works and in the photography art of talented young Taiwan artists.

Aesthetics without Borders: Hybrid Art Spaces

If the subject at hand is the emergence of popular arts venues in Taipei in recent times, The Red House (西門紅樓) must be mentioned and must be placed at the top of the list. A Historical Relic of the Third Rank, this complex was built in 1908. The exterior is Western in architectural style, and a bird's-eye view shows that the two sections of the structure are in a Chinese Eight Trigrams shape and a Western cross shape, respectively. Despite some history, the Red House does not feel out of place with the trend-setting Ximending. It stands tall, silent, and erect as the events of local and national history have marched by its door. The current exhibition in the octagonal (front) section is entitled The Red House: A Century of Stories and Blessings exploration of the heritage site's past and present.

Located down in the area of small lanes and alleys off Sec. 2, Chongqing S. Rd. (重慶南路), Nanhai Gallery (南海藝廊) is housed in a facility that was in fact once a house—the living quarters of a university dean. It is one of a cluster of arts and culture venues that bring an air of refined sophistication to this neighborhood—the aforementioned Guling St. Avant-garde Theatre, Yuyu Yang Lifescape Sculpture Museum (楊英風美術館), Postal Museum (郵政博物館), and National Museum of History (國立歷史博物館). Passing by an attractive banyan at the entrance portal, you enter a garden area thick with foliage enclosed by low walls. The building itself features an old-style glass-window door, and through it, you see the first-floor display area, dedicated to modern visual art, well-suited for the staging of small-scale joint exhibits

and with artists regularly invited to display, especially students from arts programs and other young artists looking for their voices to be heard. The second floor is a multifunctional performance space; here you can enjoy a program series entitled Mixing Membrane (同流膜), encouraging cross-over artistic expression, staged on irregular weekends and featuring jazz, sound art, student film exhibits, etc. The gallery is an invaluable cradle for the local arts, fostering strongly independent expression.


New Beginnings for Old Streetscapes: UrbanCore

In contrast to the Nanhai Gallery cluster, which has come together over the years bit by bit, the UrbanCore (城中藝術街區) neighborhood-regeneration project is following a comprehensive blueprint. Work on making the plans reality was launched by the JUT Foundation for Arts & Architecture (忠泰建築文化藝術基金會) in 2010, using land and long-abandoned structures donated by its parent enterprise. The anticipated completion date for the project is the end of this Sep. with art associations and creative groups being invited to help give life to a unique city space inhabited by rejuvenated ruins, residences, and art spaces.

At No. 89-4 of Sec. 1 on Zhonghua Rd. (中華路) you can find the UrbanCore Gallery. The UrbanCore Café & Bookshelf is at No. 89-6. These concerns provide books on architecture, design, and arts and offer spaces for discussion and information interchange. Around the corner is a display area being handled by the Association of the Visual Arts in Taiwan (中華民國視覺藝術協會), with the creative use of a still-operating noodle shop and a hair salon beside it where the neon flashes no more. A few doors on is the Taiwan Photography Museum (臺灣攝影博物館), another example of a former



private residence transformed into an arts space, dedicated to the work of Taiwan photographic artists. Other attractions are the intriguingly named Ruin Academy (廢墟建築學院) and the Taipei Contemporary Art Center (臺北當代藝術中心), both arts and culture spaces featuring irregular multimedia arts creative showcases. More details can be found at www.tcac.tw.

Time now to head down into the lanes and alleys, the nooks and crannies, of Taipei's neighborhoods don't you think? Art is life and life is art—and sweet serendipity is waiting to jump out and surprise you. 

6. Taiwan International Visual Arts Center (TIVAC) is a photography-dedicated arts space that formerly served as a private residence.

7. The Red House, a Historical Relic of the Third Rank, is a hybrid arts venue.

8. Nanhai Gallery stresses individualistic local creativity, acting as an incubator.

9. The UrbanCore projects take unused and underused spaces and make them a crossroads where old ruins, homes, and art intersect.

10. New vitality is being brought to older city blocks.

11. Full info on the regeneration project is available at the UrbanCore Café & Bookshelf.

Information

Wenshan Theater 文山劇場

Tel: (02) 2933-2199

Add: 32 Jingwen St. (景文街32號)

Website: wenshantheater.pixnet.net/blog

Crown Theater 皇冠小劇場

Tel: (02) 2716-8888

Add: B1, 50, Lane 120, Dunhua N. Rd. (敦化北路120巷50號地下1樓)

Website: www.danceforum.com.tw

Guling Street Avant-garde Theatre 牯嶺街小劇場

Tel: (02) 2391-9393

Add: 2, Lane 5, Guling St. (牯嶺街5巷2號)

Website: www.glt.org.tw

PING Art Space 平藝術空間

Tel: (02) 2738-3317

Add: 179, Sec. 2, Anhe Rd. (安和路2段179號)

Website: www.artping2.com

TOSEE Art Agency 土思藝術

Tel: (02) 2731-1411

Add: 41, Lane 100, Sec. 1, Dunhua S. Rd. (敦化南路1段100巷41號)

Website: www.tosee-art.com

Taiwan International Visual Arts Center (TIVAC) 臺灣國際視覺藝術中心

Tel: (02) 2773-8778

Add: 29, Lane 45, Liaoning St. (遼寧街45巷29號)

Website: www.tivac.tw

The Red House 西門紅樓

Tel: (02) 2311-9380

Add: 10 Chengdu Rd. (成都路10號)

Website: www.redhouse.org.tw

Nanhai Gallery 南海藝廊

Tel: (02) 2392-5080

Add: 3, Lane 19, Sec. 2, Chongqing S. Rd. (重慶南路2段19巷3號)

Website: blog.roodo.com/nanhai

UrbanCore 城中藝術街區

Tel: (02) 8773-5556 (JUT Foundation for Arts & Architecture)

Location: Area encompassed by Lane 85/Lane 91, Sec. 1, Zhonghua Rd. and Yanping S. Rd. (中華路1段85巷、91巷及延平南路間之街區)

Website: www.jut-arts.org.tw



The Taipei Int'l Flora Expo Captures the World's Attention A Sparkling Success

The Taipei Int'l Flora Expo (臺北國際花卉博覽會), starring on the global stage for 171 glorious days, set a near-9-million people attendance record and broke 10 other world records. It wonderfully achieved one of its main goals, breaking down the barrier between the world of people and the world of flowers, and with the curtains now drawn, many are already filled with a longing for new Flora Expo encounters. Fret not, flower-admirers, for the splendor of the Flora Expo will live on for another year in altered form—check the Taipei City Govt. website for all the needed info.

Dr. Doeke Faber: “The Taipei Expo is the best I have seen in 50 years, and has set the example for the next 10 years!”

The sterling success of the Taipei Flora Expo has resulted in many awards and honors, but perhaps the words of Dr. Doeke Faber, president of the authorizing organization, the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH), are most cherished: He expressed excitement upon his visit on seeing how the city's parks are so much greener and more beautiful, and how the pavilions are in harmony with the expo's eco-friendly concepts. He said this expo has established a new Flora Expo standard, and is the most beautiful he has ever seen.



The closing ceremonies on April 25 had Dr. Faber, Taipei Mayor Hau Lungbin, and ROC President Ma Yingjeou on hand. The winners of the Global Garden Area competition were introduced, and Taiwan took the Taipei International Flora Expo's first prize for its garden, in which the glories of bamboo were highlighted. It was universally acclaimed by both visitors and AIPH judges, proclaimed the most popular in addition to gaining the AIPH's gold-medal grand prize. Mayor Hau presented certificates of appreciation to many of the heroes who toiled so hard behind the scenes to make the Flora Expo such a grand international success.

100% MIT, Awards and Honors in Great Number

From planning to design to construction, and from installation to operation—from beginning to end, head to toe, this was an MIT (Made in Taiwan) event handled by Taiwan citizens only, establishing a unique world number one. The expo has been recognized by the You Bring Charm to the World Awards in the category of public affairs, and been declared the Best International Garden Tourism Event of 2011 by the Canada Blooms Horticultural Society. It has been given a 2010 FIABCI Taiwan Real Estate Excellence Award for Best Public Construction Planning and Design, the top prize in the Taiwan Architecture Awards for 2010, and a 2010 Taiwan Interior Design Gold Award for Best Exhibition Space. The numerous awards and honors bestowed are clear demonstration of Taiwan's world-class creative originality and national strength.

Colorful flowers and plants from Taiwan and lands around the globe carpeted the expo grounds during the event, expressing themselves exuberantly in outdoor courtyard-garden areas, in floral landscaping, etc. The world of the Taipei Flora Expo was indeed a world of kaleidoscopic visual wonder. The worlds of water and land were deliberately brought together in seamless union, enabling visitors to get closer to the riverside of this big, busy city and experience its beauties. Passenger outings on Keelung River Blue Highway yacht excursions to April 25 had surpassed the 300,000 mark, far more than the previous high of 70,000 set during a full year on Danshui River outings.

In the cultural arts sphere, the Flora Expo relentlessly regaled visitors with over 8,000 live performances put on at over a dozen of performance venues spread across the four park areas, a brilliant showcase of the vibrant originality that Taiwan's performance troupes have to offer.

It can be said, and has been said on many fronts, that the Taipei International Flora Expo has surpassed all global standards for such an event. It has proved to be an invaluable platform for showing off Taiwan's wide-ranging hard and soft strengths, and now that the final curtain has been lowered, the expo's goal of demonstrating “the power of beauty” to the world has been fully realized. The Taipei International Flora Expo has, in every sense, been both the pride of Taipei and the pride of all Taiwan. 🌸



1. The Flora Expo closing ceremonies were held on April 25.
2. Taiwan Garden won the top prize for AIPH international outdoor garden competition held at the Global Garden Area.
3. Performers from a total of 37 artistic troupes joined the closing parade.
4. Dr. Doeke Faber (left), AIPH president and Taipei Mayor Hau Lungbin (right), at the Flora Expo's closing award ceremony.

The Expo's End is Just the Beginning

The Flora Expo Pavilions

The magnificently colorful and successful Taipei International Flora Expo came to a close on April 25. It has been a feast for the eyes, with an incredible 30 million individual flowers and plants stepping up on stage for their moment in the sun. Yet while the sweet memories of the expo itself will live on in the memories of those who have visited, plans are well developed to keep the expo's 14 pavilions in place and serving the community, moving on to other duties with refits for their new roles. You'll be able to renew your friendship with these old friends as of July 1.



1. Like the Pavilion of New Fashion, ForEver is made of recycled PET bottles, displaying the local Taiwan spirit and creativity.

2-3. The Taipei Food Festival will prepare different feasts on three different days-- the classic wedding banquet, open-air temple fair banquet, and birthday "longevity" feast--great exposure to Taiwan's love of the banquet.

4. The 2011 World Championship of Cookery will have 500 culinary masters competing for NT\$1 million in prize money; here we see Taipei Mayor Hau Lungbin presenting the top award to last year's champion.

There will be a variety of function adjustments. In the Fine Arts Park Area, the EXPO Hall (舞蝶館) designed to look like a butterfly pupa, will serve as a space for arts and culture performances. The Pavilion of Aroma of Flowers (風味館), which was home for the expo's flagship souvenir store, will now be a retail destination displaying the unique products of Taiwan's indigenous peoples. In the Xinsheg Park Area, the Pavilion of Future (未來館) will be a venue for horticultural exhibitions staged on an irregular basis. The Pavilion of Angel Life (天使生活館) will continue to be run by Taipei's Angel Art Gallery (天使美術館) for another nine years, to serve in the future as a showcase for new technology. In the Yuanshan Park Area, the Pavilion of New Fashion (流行館), the world's first work of architecture made with bricks of recycled PET bottles, will continue to be showcased after the expo.

Two pavilions, the Taipei Fine Arts Museum (臺北市立美術館) and Taipei Story House (台北故事館), were in service before the expo and are continuing their service afterwards. A number of other sites in the Yuanshan Park Area--the EXPO Theater (真相館), Pavilion of Culture (文化館), and Celebrity's House (名人館)--along with the Palace of Floral Teas (花茶殿), the refurbished and expanded version of the original Lin An-tai Historic House (林安泰古厝) on the site, will have their Flora Expo display temporarily extended until July. The expo's most popular pavilion, the Pavilion of Dreams (夢想館), will undergo maintenance and then continue with its original exhibits for another year.

Top Chef Competition and Culinary Exhibition

During the Flora Expo, the EXPO Dome (爭艷館) in the Yuanshan Park Area was a venue for large-scale international horticultural competitions and special exhibitions. The Yuanshan Park Area facility will now switch hats for work as a premium Taipei site for exhibitions and events of many different types. In fact, it will immediately host the 2011 Taipei Food Festival & World Championship of Cookery (2011世界廚王臺北爭霸賽暨美食博覽會).



The city of Taipei has a well-deserved reputation as one of the world's great kitchens. All eight of China's great regional culinary traditions are well-represented here, and Taiwan's own superb range of snacking delicacies is constantly listed by international travelers as a prime reason for visiting the island. The 2011 Taipei Food Festival & World Championship of Cookery is being presented as a platform to introduce Taipei's great chefs and foods to travelers, and will run from May 26 through May 30. The EXPO Dome will host 29 of the country's great names from the world of Chinese food, these master chefs joined by peers from many other regions, this veritable army of kitchen kings vying for the right to sit atop the throne as culinary world champion and for NT\$1 million in prize money.

You may not have the chance to witness the great Chinese food cook-off, but don't fret. The "Family Interactive Cooking Contest" is being staged on May 28; come see parents and their kids share a level of unspoken intuition that adds extra zest and flavor to their creations. Another option is to take in the fair on fine foods, where you'll be introduced to all kinds of food ingredients, organic food items, specialty foods from farmers' and fishermen's associations, cooking facilities, and much else besides, browsing and shopping to your heart's content.

In addition, the site will serve as a splendid buffet display, with countless food delicacies presented for your visual delectation by top Taipei chefs and restaurants. These are for your taste delectation as well, for samples are given and you can order full servings. And it gets even better—for full, sumptuous meals, head to the Taipei traditional snack foods area, and you can even

reserve a full table for a premium feast online, to be served at a special on-site dining area, where you can enjoy Taiwan's pleasurable banquet-party culture with others. There are three different types of feast menus being served on May 27, 28, and 29: the classic wedding banquet, open-air temple fair banquet, and birthday "longevity" feast. This is the perfect way to dive right in to the tradition of outdoor cooking and dining, beloved by the people of Taiwan since pioneer days and always carried on with great gusto.

Come one, come all, to one of the great culinary shows on Earth! We've reserved a spot just for you, so all you're responsible for now is getting yourself there—oh, and bringing along your appetite. 🍴

Information

2011 Taipei Food Festival & World Championship of Cookery 2011世界廚王臺北爭霸賽暨美食博覽會

Time: 5/26~5/29 11:00~20:30
5/30 11:00~16:00

Venue: EXPO Dome, Yuanshan Park Area; 1 Yumen St. (圓山公園區爭霸館; 玉門街1號)

Tel: (02) 2381-6090 (Taipei Restaurant and Beverage Workers Union)

Website: www.cooking.com.tw

Admission: NT\$200 (ticket cost includes NT\$50 that can be used for on-site purchases)

Online Table Reservations:

Until 5/28, each person limited to 1 table (seating for 10), NT\$6,000.

Big Changes Come to Taipei International Airport— A New Look at Terminal 2

Taipei International Airport (臺北國際航空站), also called Taipei Songshan Airport (臺北松山機場), has been an intrinsic part of Taipei life for the past half a century. Last year, direct flights with Shanghai Hongqiao Airport and Tokyo Haneda Airport were inaugurated, bringing international visitors in great number directly into the heart of the city. In order to best handle the increased frequency of flight services, the airport inaugurated a comprehensive three-stage construction and renovation project in March last year.

After undergoing a thorough overhaul, Terminal 2 was formally reopened on March 29. The facility is now dedicated exclusively to domestic air-service operations. Terminal 1 now handles all international services. Travelers will now find immigration and other procedures much simplified and easier to navigate, and your airport experience is made even more pleasant by the fact that the terminal facilities have a fresh look and are much more attractive.

The lobby in the new terminal is bright, airy, and roomy. Among the many other visually compelling new features are the marble floors, two sky bridges, check-in and boarding counters, two 48-meter luggage carousels, locker facilities, and waiting lounges. The check-in counter is just 200 steps from your boarding gate, and on the first level, you'll also find a convenience store and a quality restaurant. These and other premium quality design elements create a strong first impression of the city when travelers arrive and a lasting impression when they leave.

The 24H convenience store, located on the west side of the terminal's exit area, can handle all your spur-of-the-moment needs. In addition, the licensed operator of the terminal's waiting-area restaurant has entered into an agreement with a well-known local café chain to supply its premium brand





coffee selections. The airlines operating out of the terminal have also cooperated to set up a VIP lounge, a great place to sit back, relax, and enjoy a cup of excellent coffee before boarding your plane and continuing with your busy schedule.

An outdoor observation deck will open on the top floor of the terminal in July, which will be outfitted with a food bar serving coffee and other drinks plus light foods and baked treats. This will no doubt be an extremely popular place for an up-close view of the mighty man-made eagles soaring in low over the city, hearts quickening as they touch down directly before you.

Something else of great benefit to travelers is a new Visitor Information Center set up in the terminal by the city govt.'s Dept. of Information and Tourism. Service and information materials are provided in English and Japanese and other languages. Foreign travelers arriving at Terminal 1, just a short distance away, can come over to get their hands on all the tourism-related information they need

for their Taipei stay—scenic spots, transportation, accommodation, package tours, and more. You can even go online to check out more.

Welcome to Taipei! As the Visitor Information Center staff will no doubt let you know, Taipei is a fun place, with fine scenic sites, entertainment, food, and places to stay, making your time very well spent. 100

1. The city govt. has set up Visitor Information Centers throughout the city, providing information in English, Japanese, and other languages.
2. At the west exit of the domestic-service terminal is a 24-hour convenience store, where most sudden needs can be met.
3. Just a few steps are needed to move from check-in counter to boarding gate, making things easy.

Information

Taipei International (Songshan) Airport 臺北國際航空站

Add: 340-9 Dunhua N. Rd. (敦化北路340之9號)

Tel: (02) 8770-3460

Website: www.tsa.gov.tw

Taipei Songshan Airport Visitor Information Center 臺北松山機場站旅遊服務中心

Tel: (02)2546-4741

Hours: 08:00~20:00



1

Timeless Temple Tradition, Progressive Innovation— Dalongdong Baoan Temple's 2011 Baosheng Cultural Festival

The art-rich and people-rich Dalongdong Baoan Temple (大龍峒保安宮) is a Historical Relic of the Second Rank. Honored in 2003 with a UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for Cultural Conservation, the temple is laid out on a grand scale and is a magnificent example of traditional temple art and architecture. The masterpieces seen here—wall murals, stone and wood carvings, clay sculptures, koji pottery (交趾陶), traditional cut-and-paste ceramics (剪黏)—are among the world's best works of temple art.

The temple's main deity is Baosheng Dadi, the God of Medicine (保生大帝). This god's birthday falls on the 15th day of the lunar calendar's third month, and is celebrated with a festival of great pomp and ceremony each year. Since 1994, the festival organizers have been incorporating attractive elements of a modern cultural spirit

into the event while remaining faithful to the original religious meaning and traditions, adding temple-fair battle-array parades (藝陣), traditional ceremonies, academic symposiums, and other events and formally designating the celebrations of the Baosheng Cultural Festival (保生文化祭). The festival is spread over two full months, becoming a key city model for large-scale religious events. Its name has spread overseas, and today many international travelers can be spotted among the happy crowds.

May 28 is the birthday of another key Baoan Temple deity, Shen Nong (神農大帝), the God of Agriculture. On this day, the 26th day of the 4th lunar month, there will be a formal birthday celebration, a contest for Songjiang battle-array (宋江陣) troupes from throughout Taiwan, and



3

a grand parade where the god inspects the neighborhood. The Songjiang style of battle-array formations is perhaps the most famous, a coloring and riveting combination of arts and martial arts. The performers deftly engage in thrilling mock battles, wielding short-hilted broadswords, double axes, quarterstaves, and other fierce old-style weaponry—gesturing, shouting, exchanging mock blows, and demonstrating all sorts of thrilling, instantaneous transformations of battle-array formations. After the thrilling performance spectacular before the temple, Shen Nong sets off in his sedan chair on a grand inspection tour of his domain.



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The Shen Nong birthday celebration will be staged from 8 to 9 am, the Songjiang battle-array competition from 9 am to noon, and the inspection procession from 13:00 to 14:00.

June 3 will feature the "Baosheng Dadi Enlightenment Commemoration Ceremony" (保生大帝飛昇紀念慶典), staged before Baoan Temple's main hall from 9:00 to 9:30am, with more than 30 precious culinary delicacies presented as sacrificial offerings in his honor. The scene will be both stately and resplendent, with intricate

carvings of fruits and vegetables being perhaps the most eye-catching highlights, the classic imperial-style feast laid out with a visual allure that is sumptuous and artistically elegant.

The Baosheng Cultural Festival is a highlight of the local religious calendar, and is a terrific opportunity for foreign visitors and resident expatriates to witness local worship rites while enjoying the very best in temple decoration. How can you possibly deny yourself a carnival that presents the finest of traditions and the modern alongside the most revealing and meaningful in religion and art? 📍

1. The Songjiang battle-array formation combines art with the martial arts. (Photo by Fan Huiling)
2. The Baosheng Cultural Festival presents a majestic parade of folk-arts performances.
3. The opening ceremony for the Baosheng Cultural Festival. (Photo courtesy of Dalongdong Baoan Temple)

Information

Dalongdong Baoan Temple 大龍峒保安宮

Add: 61 Hami St. (哈密街61號)

Tel: (02) 2595-1676

Website: www.baoan.org.tw

Transportation: Take bus No. Red 33 or No. 2, 41, 246, or 288 to Dalongdong Baoan Temple stop (大龍峒保安宮站); take No. 223, 250, 302, or 601 to Jiuquan Rd.-Chongqing Rd. intersection stop (酒泉重慶路口站).

MRT: From MRT Yuanshan Station on the Danshui Line, take Exit No. 2 and walk approx. 15 minutes.

Revitalizing Confucianism — **A NEW PROGRAM AT TAIPEI CONFUCIUS TEMPLE GIVES INTIMATE ACCESS TO ANCIENT WAYS**



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The old streets of the Dalongdong (大龍峒) neighborhood have long flowed with an air of cultured sophistication. Standing by the famous Baoan Temple (保安宮) heritage site is Taipei Confucius Temple (臺北市孔廟), a solemn, sedate, and classically elegant work of architectural art. This is not only a premium tourist site, but also a priceless repository for timeless Confucian culture, passing on ancient teachings and understanding of the ancient rites.

Construction on the temple was started in 1925, with land and funding coming from local gentry and Confucian devotees. A massive project, it was at last completed in 1939. Today under the jurisdiction of the city government's Dept. of Civil Affairs, it is a Historical Relic of the Third Rank. Each year on Sep. 28, the birthday of Confucius, ancient rites honoring the Great Sage are carried out. On the day many people, including many intrigued foreigners, start lining up at 2 or 3 in the morning to wait for the limited number of door tickets. All find the wait well worth it, for the ceremonies are elaborate and majestic.

The temple has of late unveiled a new program, entitled Revitalizing Confucianism: Display, Presentation, and Experience—Ancient Sacrificial Rites to Confucius, which presents the ancient rites on a daily basis, allowing you to see the performances of classical Chinese music and dance at any time, and also offers calligraphy classes and other representative activities that will give you deeper insight into the world of Confucianism.

Ancient Sacrificial Rites to Confucius— Ya Yue Dance

The Ya Yue Dance (雅樂舞) is an ancient type of performance combining dance and music in strict harmony. It is revered as the authentic model of what the people of the past would have witnessed. The dance movements are calm, solemn, simple, and elegant, and each dance routine invites quiet contemplation and is imbued with deep meaning. It was used only on the most august occasions, such as during worship sacrifices to Heaven and

Earth or to ancestors, during palace ceremonies, on the triumphant return of imperial generals, after military-training state hunts, and so on. The first section of the Confucius Temple's Ya Yue Dance presents the Yi Dance (佾舞) performed as an intrinsic component of the ancient Confucius-worship rites; the second and third sections present Yi Dance adaptations.

Time: Until 7/23, Tue-Sat 09:00~09:30

Celebration of Passing Exam— The Practice of Study

Merging calligraphy with worship rites, here the tools of the calligrapher are used in honor of the Great Teacher, who esteemed learning above all. Various rites and ceremonial methods are used by calligraphy masters to establish a bond of intimacy with session students for the written word, including sacrificial tributes, the reading of the classics, and the practice of calligraphy. These symbolize the individual's pursuit of knowledge and wisdom, and are especially appropriate for those facing written examinations—notably students seeking smooth passage through the rigorous scholastic entrance-exam process.

Time: Until 7/23, Tue-Fri afternoon 15:00~15:30, Sat 10:00~10:30, Sun 09:00~09:30 and 15:00~15:30; limit of 50 audiences per show.

Taipei Confucius Temple Situation Play— "Legends of Confucius Temple Trilogy"

Each of the plays in the "Legends of Confucius Temple Trilogy" (孔廟傳奇三部曲) is either directly or indirectly related with Confucius. The third, "Liyun Datong" (禮運大同), is suitable for all members of the family, the plot bringing the Great Sage into the present day and have him show with concrete example how the Confucian tenets and spirit are relevant and can be incorporated into our modern lives. The presentation is boisterous and relaxed, lively, and intriguingly delightful. "Liyun Datong" is the Confucian ideal of a "Great Harmony" emerging when the "Great Way" prevails. 🎭

Time: Until 5/28, Sat 19:30~20:30; limit of 500 audiences per show.



1. The play "Liyun Datong," third in a trilogy being presented by the temple, is suitable for the whole family.
2. The Ya Yue Dance is an adaptation of ancient ritualistic dance performed in Confucian ceremonies.
3. Foreign visitors are common at the calligraphy-experience sessions, enjoying the beauty of this intrinsic element of traditional Chinese culture.

Information

Taipei Confucius Temple 臺北市孔廟

Add: 275 Dalong St. (大龍街275號)

Tel: (02) 2592-3934

Hours: Tue-Sat 08:30~21:00; Sun and national holidays 08:30~17:00; closed Mon

Registration: www.tct2560.com or (02) 2592-3934

Website: www.ct.taipei.gov.tw

Transportation:

MRT: MRT Yuanshan Station on Danshui Line, Exit No. 2, walk approx. 10 minutes

Bus: 1. Dalongdong stop (大龍峒站): No. 41, 201, 288
2. Mouth of Jiuquan St. (酒泉街口): No. 41, 215, 223, 250, 288, 302, 304, 601



THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL— Hitting the Stage by Hitting the Waves

Yes, it's time once again. The boats are coming out for the Dragon Boat Festival, June 6, 5th day of the 5th month on the lunar calendar. As always, Taipei folks are anticipating all the great fun traditions—eating *zongzi* (粽子) or glutinous rice tamales, egg standing contests, making *xiangbao* (香包) or scented sachets that serve as talismans. And as always, the city govt. will stage a big carnival-type festival, with big and hotly contested international dragon-boat championships as the main attraction.

The dragon-boat wars go on from June 4 through 6, with the pulsating theatrical drama highlighting Health and Happiness on Taipei's Riverside—2011 Taipei Dragon Boat Festival (水岸臺北2011端午嘉年華). They're held on the stretch of the Keelung River at Dajia Riverside Park (大佳河

濱公園), the three-day heats and finals called the Taipei International Dragon Boat Championship. Adding to your pleasure will be folk song and dance performances, sessions where you make *zongzi* yourself, egg standing competitions, and many other entertaining activities, collectively part of what is being called the "Taipei Great Starlight Stage." At the "Market Carnival," you get creative cultural products, crafts by Taiwan's indigenous peoples, and superb traditional snack foods. Either before or after, slide over to the family-oriented "Riverside Grassland Sport" area for some rollicking exercise. As you can see, your day(s) at the races will be very full, watching some passionate rowing, cheering the racers on, and engaging in free-spirited fun with family and friends at your choice of the various other leisure and recreation areas.



1. The international dragon-boat races at the Taipei festival are among the country's biggest competitions.
2. Mayor Hau Lungbin(left) presided at the traditional eye-dotting ceremony.
- 3-4. Foreign residents and visiting travelers much enjoy the traditional wrapping of *zongzi* and egg-standing activities.

Before the dragon boat festival, be at Beitou's Zhoumei Qu Yuan Temple (洲美屈原宮) on May 21 for the Dragon Boat Eye-Dotting Ceremony. The mayor will preside over the ceremony, and the icon of Qu Yuan (屈原) will be brought forth to formally greet the boats. Sacrificial offerings will be tossed into the waters to honor and placate the river deities. These ceremonies are laden with meaning, and adhere exactly to ancient practices.

Let's Make Zongzi, Shall We?

Zongzi is the traditional food treat of the Dragon Boat Festival. Taiwan has many flavor variations. The southern-style edition contains uncooked rice, in which you find streaky pork, mushroom, chestnut, dried shrimp, egg yolk, and peanuts. This is placed in boiling water until cooked soft. For northern-style *zongzi*, cooked rice is taken and first stir-fried, then the rice and wrapping leaf are steamed together to allow the leaf's fragrance to permeate the rice. The final taste is akin to another Taiwan food favorite, glutinous oil rice (油飯).

Another southern edition is a simple and straightforward recipe that combines glutinous rice and peanuts, called *caizong* (菜粽) or vegetable *zongzi*; the sticky mass of rice is silky soft, and "simply" delicious. Huzhou *zongzi* (湖州粽) are packed with the flavors of Jiangzhe (江浙), a region in China renowned for culinary invention; round-shaped glutinous rice is used, streaky pork is introduced, and a long cylindrical shape is created, the mass is boiled in water, the rice becomes soft and somewhat transparent, and the taste is delicately oily and moist.

Want to learn how to wrap your own *zongzi*? Grandma Zhong (鍾奶奶), an expert wrapper from the well-known Nanyuan (南園) outlet at Nanmen Market (南門市場) in Taipei, offers this mini lesson for foreign readers on making a simple Huzhou-style *zongzi*. To prepare, get four same-sized bamboo leaves, a length of kitchen twine, a cut of pork from the pig's upper shoulder area, and round glutinous rice. (All these ingredients are available at Nanmen Market)

How to wrap a simple Huzhou *Zongzi*



Step 1: Wash the rice and let it drip-dry, then mix in 2-3 spoonfuls of soy sauce and let it sit for one hour until color is uniform.



Step 2: Cut the meat into long strips, then marinate for 2~3 hours in a combination of Shaoxing rice wine (紹興酒), soy sauce, and refined white sugar.



Step 3: Clean the bamboo leaves and twine with a brush, then scald in water; place two leaves together, stalk sections facing outward, then with tips opposing each other, curl leaves in a scoop shape.



Step 4: Place one large spoon of rice in bottom of cone, add one chunk of meat, and cover with two large spoons of rice.



Step 5: Bend leaf to cover the cone opening, then tie up the *zongzi* securely with the twine.



Step 6: Put enough water to cover the *zongzi* in a pot, then bring to a boil; place a string of *zongzi* (about 12) in the pot and boil for 3 hours.



Note from Grandma Zhong:

For optimal softness and chewiness, *zongzi* should be eaten when still warm. If cold, use water to heat for 30 minutes for maximum flavor; if steaming in a rice cooker, also sprinkle water on the *zongzi*. If your water evaporates during the process, add water that's just been boiled; do not use cold water. Dt



Information

Health and Happiness on Taipei's Riverside—2011 Taipei Dragon Boat Festival

水岸臺北2011端午嘉年華

Time: 6/4~6/6

Venue: Dajia Riverside Park (大佳河濱公園)

Tel: (02) 2570-2330, ext. 149
(Taipei Sports Office)

Website: 2011dragonboat.tpec.edu.tw

Dragon Boat Eye-Dotting Ceremony

端午龍舟點睛祭江大典

Time: 5/21 10:00~12:00

Venue: Qu Yuan Temple 屈原宮

Add: 122 Zhoumei St. (洲美街122號)

Taipei International Dragon Boat Championship

臺北國際龍舟錦標賽

Time: 08:30~18:00 (finals on 6/6 from 12:00~14:00, with live broadcast)

A Loving Taipei, An Accessible Taipei

For the physically challenged and the elderly, any time spent outside navigating the city on foot takes far more effort and concentration than those of us free of any physical limitations. In recent years, the Taipei City Govt. has been systematically creating a barrier-free pedestrian environment, creating facilities and services that ensure one and all can take full advantage of the benefits of city living. These include rehab buses, low-floor buses, the Elderly and Care Demonstration Taxi fleet (敬老愛心計程車示範車隊), and a dynamic bus information system, making life easier for the physically and mentally challenged as well as for our senior citizens and expanding their life horizons.

Upgrading Public Transportation— Barrier-Free Environment for the Disadvantaged

Trying to climb the two or three steps to enter conventional buses can be difficult for the physically and mentally challenged, seniors, and people pushing baby strollers. To ensure easy access for all, the city's Dept. of Transportation has been incorporating low-floor buses into the local service since 2001, with more than 600 such vehicles on the road as of the end of 2010. They are primarily used on trunk routes and for access to medical institutions.

Low-floor buses are just 35 cm off the ground, with just one step to enter the bus. At stops, the body of the bus actually leans 7 cm toward the sidewalk, bringing it even closer to the ground, making things even easier for passengers. Doors are fitted with inclined ramps, and seats are obstruction-free, and there are special safety belts installed for wheelchair users.



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Bus Information at Your Fingertips— Citywide Travel Made Easy and Carefree

The information signboards at the city's network of public bus stops are being progressively changed. The new boards offer clearer information on routes, and route maps are placed in a lower position to allow easy reading. Friendlier travel environments are also provided for the visually challenged with the installation of pedestrian audio signals at major intersections near hospitals, schools, railway stations, well-known scenic sites, and government facilities.

This city's traffic environment is becoming friendlier as it is made even more barrier-free, and both the service quality and civic spirit shown by the operators of public-transportation facilities is upgraded with each passing day. The range of public transit resources available to disadvantaged groups has been improved dramatically, with easy access to



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these resources ensured. Your time is precious, and is now always efficiently used when you use Taipei's world-class barrier-free system. 12

Taipei e-bus System: 5284.taipei.gov.tw

1. The city's introduction of low-floor buses has done much for riders in creating an obstacle-free Taipei.
2. New bus-stop information signboards offer clearer route information, and route maps are placed lower to allow easy inspection for all.

A Leisured Taste of Some Very Sweet Art Spaces

When fine food meets art spaces, creative sparks fly. In Taipei, numerous spaces that have over the years been left unused or underused have been saved, refitted, and reintroduced to local society with new functions; these include a brewery, mayor's residence, ambassador's residence and old school buildings. Their original looks have been maintained while giving them a new look and a new purpose. Each of these distinctive bright city lights take on even greater luster when fine dining has been introduced, creating quiet and refined spaces of relaxed and sophisticated ambiance with a decidedly aesthetic flair.

Old Brewery, Old-Style Recipes, New Tastes

The complex that today is home to the Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914創意文化園區) was opened in 1914 as a brewery. There are numerous large buildings on the site that, in the past, were used for storage, brewing, distilling, and so on. Today the site is handed over to artists. Six outdoor performing-arts areas occupy the site, including Huashan Square (華山劇場),

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Art Boulevard (藝術大街), and Organic Square (草原劇場). There is a constant stream of innovative cross-boundary artistic events being staged.

Today's M7 building was once used for repairing brewing/distilling equipments. It has high ceilings, and the tall windows allow warm sunbeams to flow in, creating a vigorous atmosphere. The well-known Restaurant AoBa (青葉餐廳), which specializes in Taiwanese food, has catered to the youth crowd that predominates at Huashan by setting up an all-you-can-eat buffet eatery here called Chingye-Shinleyuan (青葉新樂園). Among the many classic Taiwanese dishes here, you'll find such treats as boneless chicken with scallions, steamed minced pork with pickles, and soysauce-stewed meats—accompany these with the restaurant's signature creation, that old Taiwan standard sweet-potato congee, and you have the quintessential Taiwanese repast. An extra-special area at this restaurant is the mock night market, which even sports vendor's stands, where must-have Taiwanese night-market snack treats such as oyster omelets, qiezai noodles (切仔麵), and steamed meat dumplings are made fresh-as-can-be right in front of you. Another area recreates the special look and feel of the typical old-time “grandma's kitchen,” inspiring sweet waves of nostalgia in appreciative local diners.



1. Huashan 1914 Creative Park's Chingye-Shinleyuan, housed in a heritage building, has many classic Taiwanese dishes, including soysauce-stewed meats and old sweet-potato congee.
2. Chingye-Shinleyuan even has a mock night market with vendor's stands featuring must-have Taiwanese night-market snack treats.
3. La Mairie Café has a lovely restaurant serving fine dishes such as a polygonum stewed-chicken soup and noodles with tea-seed oil.

Age Brings Class at this Heritage Portal

The Taipei Mayor's Residence Arts Salon (市長官邸藝文沙龍) was built in 1940 during the Japanese colonial period. It has a Japanese-style facade and courtyard area. But upon entering, you will immediately notice that the interior features a mix of Japanese-style tatamis and Western-style furniture—a theme commonly followed in Taiwan's earlier period. Today, the interior is divided into a restaurant/café (La Mairie Café), performance area, Japanese-style lecture room, a living art gallery, and the Sunlight Shop (陽光商舖), selling everyday-living products with aesthetic designs. In fact, pleasant natural lighting pours into all of the rooms through windows that look out over the calming scene of lush courtyard greenery.

There is comfortable alfresco seating here, and on bright sunny days, no surprise, you'll find each and every sit-down spot happily occupied. The restaurant presents a full menu, with both Chinese and Western items offered. There's a





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polygonum
stewed chicken
soup that goes
well with the noodles
with tea seed oil; you'll
taste the mellow, savory
traces of such Chinese
medicinal ingredients as wolfberry
and Chinese angelica root. Another
recommended dish is the fried cod with
rice and crayfish juice; the rounded cod steak
is same-day fresh, and it comes with small, creamy
risotto rolls, the two together a hearty, rich, and filling
combo. Whichever meal you choose, another welcome
ingredient is the ample sprinkling of fresh sunlight, added
gratis.

Fine Food, Elegant Airs in the Ambassador's Bedroom

Situated just off tree-shaded Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山
北路), SPOT-Taipei (光點台北) is housed in a lovely white-
stucco mansion created in the American antebellum
style, which was once home to the U.S. ambassador.

For quite a long time forgotten and covered with dust,
the complex has recently been revived and now plays
a multi-functional role, housing a film theater, art exhibit
space, restaurant, café, and shop selling creative
household items. The restaurant/bar Le Ballon Rouge (紅
氣球), located on the second floor, takes its name from
the French feature film *Le Voyage du Ballon Rouge*. Its
dining area was once the ambassador's bedroom, and
a number of the original fixtures are still in place, notably
the fireplace and wood-lattice windows. The restaurant
features an airy VIP lounge with windows on three sides
that looks down on the courtyard, and also has seating
on a broad veranda that overlooks the peaceful
courtyard. The setting is both comfortable and elegant.

The restaurant's menu is predominantly
Western. A rewarding choice is
specialty, Mexican-style spicy
the head chef's
chicken leg,
and robust
which comes roasted with a thick
sauce made with three types of hot
pepper and pepper powder. While
here, you should also try one of the
special cinema-theme mixed drinks. A
choice of deliciously strong and thick
character is the Café Lumière (咖啡時
光), named after a movie of the same
name by Taiwan director Hou Hsiao-

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hsien (侯孝賢), who oversees SPOT-Taipei; it marries espresso with coffee liqueur. Another creative choice is the Vive L'Amour (愛情萬歲), named after a film by another proud son of Taiwan, Tsai Ming-liang (蔡明亮), a berry feast with, among other stars, strawberry, crowberry, and raspberry in a sweet and sour medley that tap dances merrily across your tongue. (Please be sure to drink in moderation.)

Food and Drink Oasis amidst the Art of Old and New

The Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei (臺北當代藝術館) is housed in a red-brick and grey-tile heritage building on Changan W. Rd. (長安西路) that was constructed during the Japanese colonial period. The symmetrical facility is in a “U” shape, featuring wings with a high gable theme and corridors. The complex was originally built as a school, and was later home to the city govt. administration. Today, it serves as a museum showcase promoting progressive modern art by local and international talent.

You'll find Artco de Café (典藏咖啡館) in the right wing. Its air suffused with the aroma of history, the interior has an avant-garde minimalist theme, with the color black present in force highlighted with white and grey flourishes and completed with a selection of contemporary artwork. The most popular menu items are the chicken leg with pepper sauce and the beef noodles, especially with the local area's office crowd. The café's alfresco seating area has a decidedly international flair, with small-scale musical concerts a well-attended weekend fixture, complemented with outdoor film screenings and a creative-designer bazaar. This, you'll find, is always an oasis of cultured sophistication, but especially so on holidays. 10

4. The Taipei Mayor's Residence Arts Salon stages regular exhibits, enabling you to savor great art with great food.
5. La Mairie Café's fried cod with rice and crayfish juice, which comes with small, creamy risotto rolls, is a hearty, rich, and filling combo.
6. The restaurant/bar Le Ballon Rouge has its dining area where the US ambassador's bedroom once was, with original fixtures still in place, evoking the character of an earlier time.
- 7-8. Le Ballon Rouge's Mexican-style spicy chicken leg, made with three types of hot pepper and pepper powder, goes well with the mixed drink Café Lumière, named after a movie by Taiwan director Hou Hsiao-hsien.
9. The Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei's Artco de Café brings people in especially for its food, notably such treats as chicken leg with pepper sauce.
10. Artco de Café is suffused with the aroma of history, with interior sporting an avant-garde minimalist theme and contemporary artwork.



Information

Chingye-Shinleyuan 青葉新樂園

Add: 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. : Building M7, Huashan 1914 Creative Park
(八德路1段1號：華山創意文化園區中7館)

Tel: (02) 3322-2009

Taipei Mayor's Residence Arts Salon — La Mairie Café

市長官邸藝文沙龍—市長官邸餐廳

Add: 46 Xuzhou Rd. (徐州路46號)

Tel: (02) 2392-9510

SPOT-Taipei Le Ballon Rouge 光點台北紅氣球

Add: 2F, 18, Sec. 2, Zhongshan N. Rd.
(中山北路2段18號2樓)

Tel: (02) 2562-5602

Artco de Café 典藏咖啡館

Add: 39 Chang'an W. Rd. : east side of MOCA Taipei
(長安西路39號：臺北當代藝術館東側)

Tel: (02) 2550-8535

Good Morning Taipei

Great Breakfast Options to Start Your Day-Tours

When in Taipei, eat breakfast the Taipei way. You are spoiled for choices, and your options are almost unlimited—the traditional Chinese breakfast, a Western breakfast, and the breakfast favourites from many other international culinary traditions. Whether it's a simple breakfast on a weekday before heading off to work, or a more ambitious breakfast or brunch on a more leisurely and carefree day, Taipei is ready to sate your needs with pretty much anything you are fond of. On your travels, you should be able to treat yourself to what you want, when you want it, and this city's fine breakfast spots are a great launchpad—perhaps that should be the “first fuel stop”—for your day's explorations.

The True Tastes of Taiwan in a Traditional Chinese Breakfast

If you're looking to blend into the Taipei local life, the tasty Chinese breakfast experience is a must. A good choice is Fu Hang Dou Jiang (阜杭豆漿) on the second floor of Huashan Market (華山市場)—one of the market's most popular stands, in business over 50 years. A great source of pride is that this was the favorite breakfast stop for Hau Lungbin (郝龍斌), now the mayor of Taipei, way back during his high school days. The joint is renowned for its thick *shaobing* (flat rectangular bread often with sesame seeds sprinkled on top), which has a light aroma of onion and a delicious charcoal-baked shell with a hint of sweetness. It is cut, and deep-fried Chinese cruller

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and egg with scallion are placed in between to create an iconic local breakfast food. Accompanied by a bowl of savory soybean milk—the *doujiang* (豆漿) in the eatery's name—containing dried shrimp, chopped green onion, pickled mustard, black vinegar, soybean sauce, this is a breakfast filled with nostalgia for the locals sitting around you, and a source of new memories to be cherished.

The long-time favorites at Qingdao Soybean Milk Restaurant (青島豆漿店) are fried leek dumplings and *shaobing* with meat filling. The dumplings are plump, the filling containing thin bean noodles, dried beancurd, dried shrimp, and of course leek. The *shaobings* are meaty and juicy. It is best accompanied with a glass of regular soybean milk (i.e., no other ingredients, gently burnt in the classic manner). This is a classic breakfast many locals will have every day.

Not far away from the Presidential Office is the restaurant, Three Flavors Fragrant Baozi (三味香包子). *Baozi* (包子) are steamed buns with fillings, and a favorite among working professionals. Its dried noodles with pickled mustard and pork slivers, served up alongside its wonton soup featuring delicious Taiwan black pig meat or one of the range of steamed buns—including the signature buns stuffed with juicy minced meat, or perhaps those with sweetened bean paste—is a great way to warm up your new day.

Another quintessential Taiwan breakfast is congee with pickled vegetables and other side dishes. Head to the Taipei Hero House (國軍英雄館), close to MRT Ximen Station, where in the Ruyi Hall (如意廳) you can dig into the all-you-can-eat Taiwan breakfast for just NT\$100.

1. Fu Hang Dou Jiang offers house-specialty thick sesame-seed cakes and savory soybean milk.
2. Fu Hang Dou Jiang has been open over 50 years, its flavors and preparation unchanged, a place of fond memories of youth for many Taipei people.
3. Three Flavors Fragrant Baozi offers wonton soup made with delicious black-pig pork, a novel breakfast selection.
4. In Ruyi Hall at Taipei Hero House, your classic all-you-can-eat Taiwan breakfast is just NT\$100.



3

The congee with sweet potato is accompanied by five types of hot stir-fry vegetables and fried eggs. The cooked rice with gluten is especially favored by Japanese customers, and there are pickled baby cucumbers and other pickled vegetables. Follow up with a bowl of red-bean soup to help the digestion.

Elsewhere, enjoy Hong Kong-style morning tea at the 24H Citystar Restaurant (京星港式飲茶), where the congee with preserved eggs and lean meat is highly recommended as is the shrimp-ball noodle soup. Matching these with your favorite among the HK-style snacks, such as the barbecued-pork buns, fried spring rolls, fried white-radish cake, and beef balls. Rinse the delicacies with some fine hot tea, and you will instantly taste the Hong Kong style in Taipei.



4



Western Breakfast, Fast or Slow

As foreign cultural influences in general have been incorporated in Taiwan over the years, so have foreign breakfast traditions, with items such as toast, burgers, sandwiches, bagels, coffee, and tea with milk becoming familiar standbys, especially with the younger set and the office crowd. On Zhuangjing Rd. (莊敬路) is Chen Gen Zhao Cha (陳根找茶), where though you will find familiar names like French toast you are also entertained with Chinese culinary flourishes. For example, with the cheese and (lean) bacon crepe, a *danbing* (蛋餅) is substituted for the French pastry—a thin Chinese-style crepe flavored with spring onion—and sesame powder is added to the tea with milk. The many meets here at East-West culinary crossroads result in some long-to-be-savored taste thrills.



For a genuine American-style breakfast, head to Pickles (阿肯美式餐廳), near National Taiwan Normal University (師大), for its aromatic Cod Fish Set Breakfast. Your fried codfish fillet made even more flavourful with the specially-made tartar sauce and spicy crabmeat sauce. Your filling up-at-it-early repast also comes with such good things as scrambled or fried eggs, toast, salad, hash browns, fruit, and liquid refreshment. What heartier way to start your day?



For another change of cultural pace, how about a classic Singaporean-style breakfast? At Ya Kun Kaya Toast (亞坤咖啡館), located in the Neihu District (內湖區), everything down to the plates comes from this chain's 60-year-old founding shop in Singapore. The signature kaya toast is spread with kaya, a spread much loved in Singapore, made with eggs, sugar, and coconut milk and flavored with pandan. The toast is prepared on an iron plate with butter and white sugar. The texture is chewy, the flavor fragrant and sweet. Next try the toast with a dip made with soft-boiled eggs mixed with soybean sauce and ground pepper, a treat of distinctive taste and rich character. Also, don't miss your serving of frothy "teh tarik" or "pulled tea" (拉茶), made with Ceylon black tea and condensed milk.

In recent years, brunch get-togethers have become quite popular with the city's residents, adding another selection to the menu of possible culinary outings. In Taipei's east district, you'll find Hsiang the Brunch (向餐廳), where the refined, upscale ambiance attracts a great many female customers. The visually delicious Italian-style brunch, thick soup, seafood, vegetable quiche, baked noodles with shellfish, Italian baked eggs, and other tasty attractions are difficult to choose from, but whatever you do, put the cherry on top of your brunch excursion with either the chocolate mousse with wild-berry jam or the blueberry sorbet yogurt. Finish with Austrian Julius Meinl coffee and you've finished well high perfectly.

5. East and West meet at Chen Gen Zhao Cha, with cheese and lean-bacon *danbing* matched with sesame-flavored milk tea.
6. The cod fish set breakfast at Pickles features large portions, making for a tasty and filling breakfast.
7. Ya Kun Kaya Toast serves authentic Singapore treats.



8

A fine choice for an American-style brunch is the Second Floor Café (貳樓) in the Gongguan (公館) area. This is a popular morning gathering spot for the local student crowd. You'll have to study hard to choose from among the menu's more than 10 tasty brunch selections, but recommended is the Jumbo Brunch Set, which features original-flavor bagels, a range of jams, German sausage, roasted bacon, and two drinks—perfect for a rendezvous of two.

A good breakfast leads to a good day, filled with vim and vigor. When up bright and early in Taipei, head to whichever Chinese or Western spot most tickles your fancy this particular day. Then follow your nose—which will follow your heart. 🍴



9

Information

Fu Hang Dou Jiang 阜杭豆漿

Add: 2F, 108, Sec. 1, Zhongxiao E. Rd.; Huashan Market (忠孝東路1段108號2樓; 華山市場2樓)

Tel: (02) 2392-2175

Qingdao Soybean Milk Restaurant 青島豆漿店

Add: 139-3, Sec. 1, Hangzhou S. Rd. (杭州南路1段139之3號)

Tel: (02) 2393-4958

Three Flavors Fragrant Baozi 三味香包子

Add: 19 Taoyuan St. (桃源街19號)

Tel: (02) 2388-8858

Ruyi Hall, Taipei Hero House

國軍英雄館如意廳

Add: 20, Sec. 1, Changsha St.; 2F, Taipei Hero House (長沙街1段20號; 國軍英雄館2樓)

Tel: (02) 2331-9722

Citystar Restaurant 京星港式飲茶

Add: 2F, 166, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路4段166號2樓)

Tel: (02) 2777-1717

Chen Gen Zhao Cha 陳根找茶

Add: 7, Lane 391, Zhuangjing Rd. (莊敬路391巷7號)

Tel: (02) 2725-3696

Pickles 阿肯美式餐廳

Add: 14, Lane 13, Pucheng St. (浦城街13巷14號)

Tel: (02) 8369-5858

Ya Kun Kaya Toast 亞坤咖啡館

Add: 34, Alley 18, Lane 478, Ruiguang Rd. (瑞光路478巷18弄34號)

Tel: (02) 8751-9656

Hsiang the Brunch 向餐廳

Add: 18, Lane 236, Sec. 1, Dunhua S. Rd. (敦化南路1段236巷18號)

Tel: (02) 8771-8258

Second Floor Café 貳樓

Add: 7, Alley 9, Lane 316, Sec. 3, Roosevelt Rd. (羅斯福路3段316巷9弄7號)

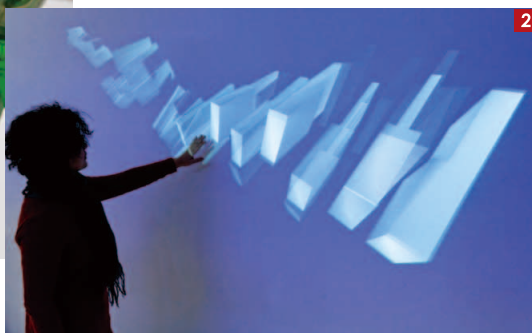
Tel: (02) 2364-1666

8. Highlights at Hsiang the Brunch are the Italian-style brunch, soups, and enticing range of entrees and desserts, making for a full day of delectable leisure.
9. Second Floor Café has 10 terrific brunch selections, with the jumbo brunch set, big enough for two, among the most popular.

Pleasant Walks in Search of Modern Art

Small Art Travels in a Big City

This big city is teeming with inviting small art spaces. Many are tucked away in unexpected places, suddenly revealing themselves like bright fireflies. In many instances, these beacons of artistic light come to be clustered in close proximity, forming gardens of creativity. In many other instances, hybrid management makes a venue both a feast for the visual senses and a feast for the tongue—of the palette and the palate. Save one of your precious days away from work for the three-segment walking tour we've prepared for you, meandering along the city's necklaces of modern art pearls that generate vigorous sparks to the mind and spirit.



Route: VVG Table (French-style brunch) →VVG Something (small bookstore browsing) →Museum of Tomorrow (merchandise by international design masters) →XMS Media Gallery (new media arts) →Aurum Glory Art Space (works of contemporary art) →Sakshi Gallery (international cultural expression)→IT Park (art exhibits) →VT Artsalon (young artists' creative energy) →Fu Ba Wang Pork Knuckle and Rice (classic old-style *luroufan* for dinner)





1. "Nature God," by India's Chintan Upadhyay, at Sakshi Gallery.

2. At XMS Media Gallery the work "Music Senses Walls" synthesizes music with projection, bringing art and audience together in a synthesized interactive experience.

3-4. At the elegant VVG Table vin chaud or French hot red wine mulled with spices, along with café au lait, bring dormant taste buds to life at breakfast; French southern-style breakfasts using fresh in-season ingredients completes the artist's-life ambiance.



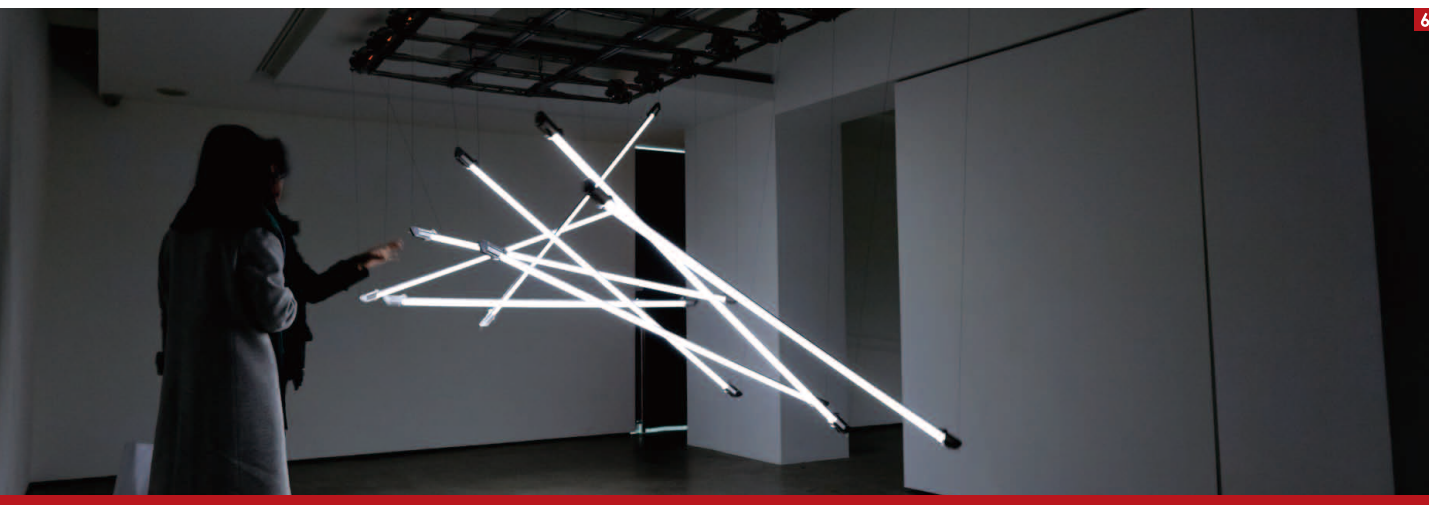
Art-Hunt in the East District

What is an absolute must-do before any modern-art sightseeing tour? A sumptuous brunch, of course. As you step into the elegant VVG Table (好樣餐桌), you are greeted with an attractive scene becalmed by a solid-wood floor and high-quality antique furnishings. The warm and embracing décor is the accomplishment of the owner, who was once an interior designer. The popular weekend brunch has an artist's flair about it: start with vin chaud, much in vogue in France's markets, French hot red wine mulled with spices that immediately brings dormant taste buds to life; course after course of southern-French-style dishes featuring classic European spices and seasonings and exclusively presenting fresh in-season ingredients; a large warm bowl of café au lait to finish. You are regaled with a parade of tastes, a painter's palette of colors, and a master's touch at presentation—a meal that is a work of art.

After amply satisfying the appetite, it's off on the shortest of walks—across the alley—to VVG Something (好樣本事) for satisfaction of your intellectual appetite. Right in the center of this chic bookstore, on the long central table, is a precious trove of books on cooking, interior design, and art photography collected from around the globe. Along the shop's sides is a wonderful collection of antique objects and furniture. If you're the type that loves non-mainstream design and iconoclastic period pieces, you will be wearing a dreamy smile right now.



5



6



7

5-6. The Museum of Tomorrow (MOT) has chic practical merchandise for you from designers around the globe, and also stages unique contemporary arts exhibits.

7. XMS Media Gallery is a hybrid media-arts space bringing together interactive arts and the café experience, perfect for afternoon get-togethers with friends.

8-9. Japanese wood sculptor Ena Nagao's artwork, in Aurum Glory Art Space, a space of quiet, unadorned simplicity.

10. IT Park displays the works of both local and international artists, using a wide array of media.

11. Sakshi Gallery is a place of quiet reflection and international artistry, with a charm different from the mainstream.

After this, saunter along Civic Blvd. until you reach the Breeze Center (微風廣場) supermall. Directly across the road is the Museum of Tomorrow, or MOT (MOT概念館). The official goal in opening the facility is to create “A Better Tomorrow,” and what you find here are works of avant-garde modern furniture from around the world, derivative merchandise from contemporary artists—and compelling regular themed exhibits that push the imagination outside normal boundaries. In May and June this year, the flagship store is staging the special exhibit Urban Arcadia (城市烏有園), a collaborative vision that brings together the renowned Dutch architecture and urban-design team MVRDV and Chinese contemporary sculptor Zhan Wang (展望) in a cross-boundary tour-de-force. The concepts of East and West are married in the hybrid-art work “Jia Shan De Wu” (假山疊壩).



The Joy of Art in the Huashan 1914 Creative Park Neighborhood

After you've finished at the MOT commercialization-of-art emporium, walk to nearby MRT Zhongxiao Fuxing Station and hop on a train for the one-stop

ride to MRT Zhongxiao Xinsheng Station. From here it's a quick jaunt to Huashan 1914 Creative Park (華山1914創意文化園區). This is a heritage complex given over to the youth to show off their exuberant creative imaginations, and such a success that other bright-light art spaces are now going up all around. Just a few steps away are XMS Media Gallery (媒塑藝饗) and Aurum Glory Art Space (元華藝術空間), each dedicated to contemporary arts but with characters light years apart.

XMS Media Gallery is a hybrid media arts space established in 2010 by designer Frankie Fan (范赫鏢), who created the Flora Melody Hall (落英繽紛) high-tech interactive exhibit at the Taipei Int'l Flora Expo's Celebrity's House (名人館) pavilion. The works here are juxtapositions of art and technology that oblige new and unexpected experiences in the viewer—one work called “Ink Shadow Profiles” (墨影異形) for example, is an interaction of water and ink, another called “Music Senses Walls” (音樂體感牆) synthesizes music with projection, and a third named “Gala Interactive Music Stage” (Gala互動音樂台) creates an experience for people in large numbers.

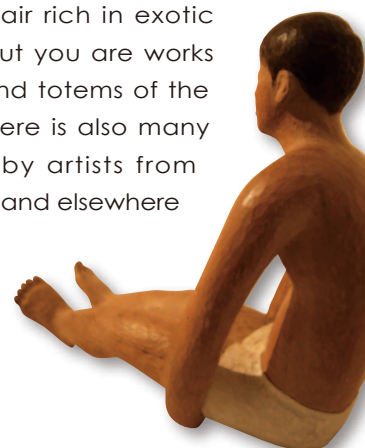
Aurum Glory Art Space is tucked in amongst the old residential buildings that inhabit this

neighborhood's lanes and alleys. Its exuberant aesthetic character is defined by big French windows and bright decorations of simple line. Exhibits here, which are changed about every two months, are dedicated to the contemporary arts and feature works in all media; until May 28 you can catch a solo exhibition by Japanese artist Ena Nagao, entitled Living (生活點滴). Aurum Glory is a place of quiet, unadorned simplicity, has the newest works from bright artistic minds around our world, and is a small world where time slows down to allow you to engage in quiet, heart-to-heart dialogs with each other.

An Yitong St. Artistic Treasure Dig

If you've set out on a safari looking to bag great experiences in the contemporary arts, the Yitong St. (伊通街) neighborhood must be included. From MRT Zhongxiao Xinsheng Station, take the Luzhou Line to MRT Songjiang Nanjing Station. It's just one stop, and from the station Yitong St. is a short walk.

Beside the street's park are three art spaces of widely varying nature. Sakshi Gallery (夏可喜藝廊) is the largest outlet of this Indian gallery enterprise in East Asia. Its very air rich in exotic international character. All about you are works of art heavy with the symbols and totems of the Indian sub-continent, though there is also many a contemporary-art creation by artists from Thailand, Korea, mainland China, and elsewhere in the region. It is clear to the viewer that a highly critical and discerning eye is brought to bear in choosing which avant-garde works to carry.





12

IT Park (伊通公園) has been in place for the last 20 odd years, a Taipei pioneer in the promotion of contemporary art. Artists from different generations have been shown here, promoting intergenerational idea exchange. In addition to the enjoyment of the regular showings of local and overseas artists, this gallery is also known as a great spot for a premium cup of coffee and a good read. VT Artsalon (非常廟藝文空間) is dedicated to the promotion of artists 30 years of age and younger, the works carried ranging from painting to music. In May and July, it is staging a special fifth-anniversary exhibition that features the works of 23 artists, the creations ranging freely in form and subject matter, providing much drama for the eye.

After spending a day on one's feet and acquiring so much food for the soul, food for the body will no doubt be much desired. Head to Siping St. (四平街), where Fu Ba Wang Pork Knuckle and Rice (富霸王豬腳飯) is open and awaiting your arrival. Open 20 years now, the two main traditional-style delectables that keep folks coming here are *luroufan* (滷肉飯), meaning soy sauce-stewed meat with rice, and soy sauce-braised pork knuckle. You'll be savoring deep-rooted Taiwan tradition as you contemplate the boundless contemporary arts—a fine way to look at life in Taipei as a whole, where the heady mix of old and new creates a wonderful world of great tastes to explore. 12

12. VT Artsalon is a space for young artists to show off their highly individualistic, exuberant creative visions.

13. Authentic old-style Taiwan flavors are brought to your table at Fu Ba Wang Pork Knuckle and Rice, a heritage business.



13

Information

VVG Table 好樣餐桌

Add: 14, Alley 40, Lane 181, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路4段181巷40弄14號)

Tel: (02) 2775-5120

VVG Something 好樣本事

Add: 13, Alley 40, Lane 181, Sec. 4, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路4段181巷40弄13號)

Tel: (02) 2773-1358

Museum of Tomorrow

MOT概念館

Add: 22, Sec. 1, Fuxing S. Rd. (復興南路1段22號)

Tel: (02) 2751-8088

XMS Media Gallery 媒塑藝響

Add: 33, Sec. 2, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路2段33號)

Tel: (02) 2392-4359

Aurum Glory Art Space

元華藝術空間

Add: 4, Alley 2, Lane 39, Sec. 2, Zhongxiao E. Rd. (忠孝東路2段39巷2弄4號)

Tel: (02) 2358-2080

Sakshi Gallery 夏可喜

Add: 33 Yitong St. (伊通街33號)

Tel: (02) 2516-5386

IT Park 伊通公園

Add: 2/3F, 41 Yitong St. (伊通街41號2、3樓)

Tel: (02) 2507-7243

VT Artsalon 非常廟藝文空間

Add: B1, 47 Yitong St. (伊通街47號地下1樓)

Tel: (02) 2516-1060

Fu Ba Wang Pork Knuckle and Rice

富霸王豬腳飯

Add: 20, Lane 115, Sec. 2, Nanjing E. Rd. (南京東路2段115巷20號)

Tel: (02) 2507-1918



Pushing to Your Personal Summit

The TAIPEI 101

International Run-Up Race

The need to succeed, to press past our seemingly unsurpassable limits, resides in almost every one of us. The annual Taipei International 101 Run-Up Race (台北101國際登高賽) resides near the summit of the list of global extreme challenges, and this year's edition, being staged on June 5, will be the seventh. The scope of the event is being significantly broadened this time round to celebrate the centenary of the Republic of China, and a vast army of about 6,000 runners is expected. The organizer also anticipates an especially distinguished group of elite international runners for this race, like all other entrants seeking to push beyond their physical and mental horizons.

The run-up was first held in 2005, and the magnificent heaven-scraping Taipei 101 tower each year serving as the race course. Though in recent years, countries have been in a heated race into the skies, building skyscrapers ever higher and Taipei 101 is no longer the world's highest building, its cachet remains undiminished, and its claim to be the world's tallest platform for such a race remains unchallenged.

Racers are divided into three categories. The Self-challenge Individuals category is open to all comers 15 years of age and older, the Group Racers category is for teams of 30 from businesses, schools, and other organizations, and the Elite Runners category features the best runners from Taiwan and around the world, specially invited by the organizers, along with a corps of VIP invitees. The total prize money this year contains the lucky number "101" —NT\$1.01 million; the male and female champions in the Elite Runners category will each receive NT\$200,000. Runners in the Self-

challenge Individuals category are not ranked—each racer who finishes the course instead receives a certificate of completion.

In the Elite Runners category are racers who specialize in this type of competition, along with a selection of invited marathoners. The first group—especially those with a track record of significant wins—is given priority. Last year, Italian runner Marco DeGasperi was crowned champion in the men's division, achieving a personal best of 11 minutes, 9 seconds. New Zealander Melissa Moon was champion in the women's division, clocking a time of 14 minutes, 16 seconds. Both will be in Taipei to defend their crowns in this year's run. It is expected that racers from at least 15 countries and territories will be vying to be the toast of the town, sitting high atop the elite-runner throne.

In the spirit of "Here for Good"—race for visually-impaired children, athletes from around the world are taking part. Their dedication and enthusiasm is infectious, inspiring us all—both together and as individuals—to be the best we can possibly be and to always reach for our summits. 🏃

Information

**2011 Standard Chartered · Taipei 101
International Run-Up Race**
2011渣打—台北101國際登高賽

Time: 6/5

Tel: (02) 8101-8937

Website: www.taipei-101.com.tw



“Taiwan in a Word”

In the Words of Foreign “Mandarin and Taiwanese” Speakers

You'll be interested to know that the seventh edition of the annual Mandarin/Taiwanese Speech Contest for Foreigners (外籍人士說國臺語演講比賽) is just around the corner. There is a single

theme for participants' speeches each year; past subjects have been—having fun in Taipei, how to spend Chinese New Year, and saving the earth. Many expatriates sign up for the challenge, relishing the chance to put their language studies to the test and to relate how they've developed an affection for the island and what they've experienced.

This year the organizer, Radio Taiwan International, has chosen “Taiwan in a Word” (一個字說臺灣) as the theme. The idea is not only to check how well the contestants can speak, but also to check out how well they recognize and understand Chinese written characters. There is no age limit on contestants' eligibility—all you need is a valid visa or Alien Resident Certificate. Each year, quite a few of the competitors show a remarkable degree of fluency in their 3-minute speeches, a source of fascination for the Taiwan public, and TV stations vie to get these contestants on their shows.

Contestants compete as individuals or teams. The language is Mandarin or Taiwanese, and there is no formal format for the speeches. You can simply talk, chant, or do a little of both—whatever you like. In addition to pronunciation and fluency, your speech is also

1. The first-prize winner in the 2010 contest was from Turkey, thrilling the audience with self-crafted props, costume, and makeup.
2. Creativity is a key factor in the judging, and great ingenuity has been shown in past competitions. (Photo of 2010 second prize-winner Dustin, a Canadian)
3. In 2010 Priya, from India, won first prize for Stage Manner, bringing her child on stage to test their Chinese.
4. American contestant Wesley's easygoing sense of humor so impressed Radio Taiwan International that he is now a program host.

judged on creativity, and each year there are clever performances that bring great rounds of spontaneous acclaim. On one occasion, a Korean contestant mimicked the campaign rally speeches by Taiwan politicians. On another, an entrant followed the strict tonal patterns and rhyme scheme of an ancient form of Chinese poetry (quatrains with seven characters in each line) to express the direction that ROC presidential policy was taking the country. One contestant thrilled the audience by speaking in Hakka as well as the main contest languages. The delightful political views brought a round of applause in appreciation, and the performance clearly conveyed how these observers have paid close attention to their surroundings while living in Taiwan.

In the 2009 competition, an American named Wesley took the most confident prize. A person with a passion for Chinese characters, he became friends with other European contestants in that year's event, and his natural and easygoing charm, wit, and humor impressed the host organization so much that Wesley was invited to become one of their program hosts. He today marvels at his good luck that brought his love for the Chinese language parlaying into a job he loves, an award far greater than he could ever have imagined.

In last year's competition, a woman named Priya, from India, was the most confident prize winner. Sharing a tip culled from her own experience, she says it is crucial to share one's multi-varied and

intriguing points of view, from different angles, with the audience, and to effectively use props and attire to best display your originality and creativity. This will not only create a favourable impression with the judges, but help the audience to more fully understand the contents of your speech.

Preliminary round speeches by those who qualify for the finals are put on the RTI website; netizens worldwide are welcome to access them and to cast their vote for the "people's favorite." If you're not going to enter the contest yourself, however, it is of course your best choice to come hear the speeches live and cheer on the competitors, who are showing great bravery.

Among the extra benefits are that you'll get to practice your Chinese listening comprehension, learn more about Chinese characters, and learn more about the place you're now living in via entrants' own impressions of Taiwan. ①



Information

2011 Mandarin/Taiwanese Speech Contest for Foreigners

2011外籍人士說國臺語演講比賽

1. Registration Period: Until 5/17

2. Preliminary Round Time and Venue:

5/29 (Sun) 09:00

Y17 Taipei Youth Activity Center; 5F, 17, Sec. 1, Ren'ai Rd.
(Y17臺北市青少年育樂中心; 仁愛路1段17號5樓)

3. Finals Time and Venue:

6/12 (Sun) 13:00

The Red House, 2F Theater; 10 Chengdu Rd.
(西門紅樓2樓劇場; 成都路10號)

Tel: (02) 2885-6168, ext. 722 (Radio Taiwan International)

Website: www.rti.org.tw



2011 COMPUTEX Taipei

The Latest and Greatest in High-Tech

Tablet PCs, e-books, 3D technology...the world of high-tech seems to give us new thrills each and every day. We feel like we can travel the world and contact everyone in it just by tapping our fingers a few times. Slip on a pair of 3D glasses and we can experience it “live”—and sometimes better than real life. If you want to know the latest word—nirvana awaits you at




Computex Taipei 2011 (2011年臺北國際電腦展), one of the world's greatest ICT showcases.

Computex Taipei is the champion ICT show in Asia, and second-largest in the world. All the big-name brands are on hand to roll out their newest and soon-to-be-hottest products. The event has gotten ever larger and ever more superlative over the course of its 31 years, and this year, 1,800 manufacturers from 185 countries will be vying for your attention at a whopping 5,200 booths. That's a lot of browsing for you to do, and you'll be doing it across five venues—Taipei World Trade Center Hall 1, 2, and 3 (臺北世貿中心展覽一、二、三館), the Taipei International Convention Center (臺北國際會議中心), and the Nangang Exhibition Hall (南港展覽館). Reserve these dates on your calendar: May 31 through June 4. You'll be in ICT heaven, and your dreams will be made reality with many things you could not possibly have imagined.

This year, the hot-topics are smart handheld devices, multimedia products, and cloud computing. Much attention will focus on two special display showcases, the Embedded Product Area and Internet of Things Area, incorporating the ideas of tomorrow into the products of today.

In order to heighten the service quality for visitors and integrate the expo's themes, this year, a new mobile-phone guide service is being unveiled. Downloads on a wide array of information are available via computer and mobile phone—locations, event calendar, shuttle buses, etc. The location-finder service guides you through five major venues and booths to the brands that might be of most interest to you, saving you time by giving the most accurate picture of what's going on and where you'd best be.

On the first level at the Nangang Exhibition Hall, visitors can see a special display on innovative 10th anniversary Best Choice award winners, winners of the design and innovation awards, and winners of Taiwan Excellence Awards. There are also exhibitor sections dedicated to components & parts and to data-storage products. The main attractions on the second level are country-brand pavilions and system products. Over at TWTC Hall 1, the main focus is computer peripherals and media, at Hall 3, display and digital entertainment products. This year's new attraction, the Internet of Things Area, is in Hall 2. The TICC will be home to what is called the Stellar Exhibitors showcase platform.

Note that from May 31 to June 1, admission is restricted to buyers from overseas. The doors are then opened to domestic trade professionals starting June 2. The general public are invited on June 4. Whichever group you might belong to, the future awaits you at Computex Taipei 2011. 

2011 Computex Taipei 2011 臺北國際電腦展

Time: 5/31-6/3 09:30~18:00; 6/4 09:30~16:00

Venue:

Nangang Exhibition Hall
(1 Jingmao 2nd Rd.; 經貿二路1號)

Taipei World Trade Center Hall 1
(5, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd.; 信義路5段5號)

Taipei World Trade Center Hall 2
(3 Songlian Rd.; 松廉路3號)

Taipei World Trade Center Hall 3
(6 Songshou Rd.; 松壽路6號)

Taipei International Convention Center
(1, Sec. 5, Xinyi Rd.; 信義路5段1號)

Visitor Info

5/31 to 6/1

Open exclusively to foreign buyers and Taipei-based international purchase professionals.

6/2 to 6/4

Open to domestic trade professionals with appropriate admission credentials.

6/4

Open to the general public with ticket purchase (NT\$200).

Organizers:

Taiwan External Trade Development Council, TAITRA

Website: www.computextaipei.com.tw

Taipei Computer Association, TCA

Website: www.computex.biz

1. New products are showcased at a pre-exhibition press gathering for the upcoming computer trade show, graced with approachable and beautiful representatives appointed by manufacturers.
2. Computex Taipei is a key platform for the unveiling of new products by both local and overseas firms.



A Walk in Search of Taipei Arts & Culture with Poetic Architect Ray Chen



Ray Chen 陳瑞憲

Director of Architecture & Interior Design,
Ray Chen International

Projects

Sanxitang Tea House, National Palace Museum (國立故宮博物院三希堂)

Eslite Xinyi flagship store (誠品書店信義旗艦店)

Eslite Dunnan store (誠品書店敦南店)

Hotel Quote Taipei (Hotel Quote臺北)

Q square (京站時尚廣場)

Palais de Chine Hotel (君品酒店)

Down an alley off Jiangou N. Rd.(建國北路), a number of leafy green trees stand silent guard over an entranceway. Down a flight of steps, we reach the basement level. A pond gurgles, its swirling stirs and refreshes the air. Inside, bookcases lining walls are softened with soothing lamplight. This office setting well captures the calm and scholarly temperament of the master of the house, architect Ray Chen (陳瑞憲), the well-known designer of the poetic spaces that define the Eslite Bookstore (誠品書店) chain.

Launching into a discussion of the city's aesthetics, Chen's words quickly becomes contemplative: "It's not love at first sight for most people when they set their eyes on Taipei, because she doesn't have the bright lights of a dazzling star, mesmerizing you. But once you're here a number of days, the deep attractions of the local culture and lifestyle begin to reveal themselves to you, and the rich colors of this city's character grab firm hold of you!"

Chen points out the fact that Taipei is located in a basin, and surrounded by mountains. It takes just 30 minutes by car to get from downtown to the mountains for a hot-spring spa, and just a little longer



1. The culture and tea gatherings hosted by well-known tea specialist Xie Zhizhang are portals into local world tea-culture aesthetics.
2. The Eslite Bookstore poetic spaces created by Ray Chen are openings into Taipei's deep currents of cultural character.
3. Yangmingshan's Xiaoyoukeng is a place of great natural beauty, the air thick with a poetic essence.
4. The shops behind SPOT-Taipei Film House on Zhongshan N. Rd. are dreams-made-true for young people with artistic vision and entrepreneurial spirit.

to the coastal headlands to watch crashing waves. “I live close to Yangmingshan (陽明山) near Chinese Culture University (文化大學),” says Chen, “and every week I head into the park for long walks, and visit scenic spots such as Xiaoyoukeng (小油坑), Juansi Waterfall (絹絲瀑布), and the Erziping Trail (二子坪步道). Then I tuck myself into a local eatery for some delicious mountain-grown range chicken.” Smiling, he adds that it isn't always easy for non-locals to find these small, hidden-away eateries. Travel through the Pingdengli (平等里) area on the way downhill to Waishuangxi (外雙溪), where the National Palace Museum is, and you'll spot many small cafes. The cafes, the leafy, narrow roads, and the lovely hill-country scenery give this the ambiance of France's Provence, says Chen.

He also likes to visit the small shops clustered in the area behind SPOT-Taipei Film House (光點台北) on Zhongshan N. Rd. These iconoclastic businesses offer food and drink, fashionable clothing, and knick-knacks, and are defined by a free-wheeling youthful design ethic and non-mainstream war cry. Each, Chen says, makes its own bold statement, shouting out “I” exist! Another favorite haunt is the Wannian Commercial Building (萬年商業大樓) in the Ximending (西門町) youth-chic district. This local shopping mecca is filled with first-run fashion and pop culture from Japan, Korea, the USA, England, and elsewhere, and Chen finds the place a great source of information and inspiration while, at the same time, simply enjoying its use as a runway for highly individualistic youth-taste self-declarations.

Foreigners visiting or living in Taipei soon come to consider the outlets of the Eslite Bookstore chain something of a second home. When he returned to Taiwan from Japan over 20 years ago, Chen found that aesthetics had taken a back seat to pell-mell economic development in Taiwan, and decided to create a poetic-type space—the first Eslite Bookstore—to develop a taste for the beautiful among the public. Time spent in bookstores built for browsing has now become an intrinsic part of the Taipei lifestyle, a phenomenon, says Chen, that fully reveals this society's deep-running cultural undercurrents and the local people's thirst for freedom, knowledge, and self-actualization.

This sentiment is also reflected in Chen's recommendation that visitors spend time exploring Taiwan's tea culture. Xiao Man (小慢) on Taishun St. (泰順街), for example, is a place where tea, light foods, and pottery are delicately woven into the fabric of everyday living, and a fun and informative time is always enjoyed at the irregular culture and tea gatherings hosted by well-known tea specialist Xie Zhizhang (解致璋). Both are wonderful portals into the local world of tea culture aesthetics.

When in Taipei, sitting yourself down to some fine Taiwan cultivated tea is a must. Two other musts are to walk the city slowly, and to savor it even more slowly, to sense the full aromatic flavor of her unique cultural charms and spatial aesthetics. 🍵

Taipei in the Eyes of Foreign Friends



David Gianotten

Homeland: Amsterdam, Netherlands

Occupation: OMA Asia (Hong Kong),
partner, architect

Time in Taipei: Weekly trips

Reason in Taipei: Work

“Taipei is a wonderfully vibrant city,” says David Gianotten and Adam Frampton, who are based in Hong Kong and work for an architectural firm called Office for Metropolitan Architecture. They are here to help in the planning of the Taipei Performing Arts Center (臺北藝術中心) and travel to Taipei almost every week.

To ensure the center has a truly one-of-a-kind character, David has traveled the world checking out other such facilities, and spent time in Taipei seeking to understand the lifestyle and culture of the local people. He says he has found that Taipei folks seem to go to sleep later than anywhere else on the planet. “Taipei’s nightlife is really quite remarkable,” he says, noting that he marvels at how each small stand at local night markets are able to produce such a startling variety of foods. The originality and dynamism he’s seen impressed him.

Both David and Adam enjoy different cultures and arts they had never experienced, and they’ve been especially fond of Huashan 1914 Creative Park, which has rejuvenated the buildings at an abandoned old brewery, offering an attractive modern artistic creativity, and deftly blending old with new. Other fine-arts attractions they admire are the wide-ranging quality programs at the National Theater (國家戲劇院) and Taipei Fine Arts Museum, the dance productions of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan (雲門舞集), and the work of playwright and stage director Stan Lai (賴聲川). Adam says he really enjoys trips to Eslite Bookstore, both because it stays open 24 hours and because it seems he can find almost any title he’s looking for—something he says is not common in other countries. David enjoys the street life here because it fully reveals locals’ kind and genial disposition, by way of example telling a story: One day, he sat down at a roadside eatery with visiting family members and found that they could not read the menu, obliged to look at neighboring tables and point out what looked good. To their surprise, the other diners were not at all put out, a number coming over to help them order.

David, a long-time observer of life and culture on the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, ends by talking about Taipei’s thirst for the new and fresh. “China may be the world leader in the economic realm,” he says, “but in the cultural realm, Taipei is right at the forefront.”



Adam Frampton

Homeland: USA

Occupation: OMA Asia (Hong Kong),
associate architect

Time in Taipei: Weekly trips

Reason in Taipei: Work



Nethalie Pelissier

Hometown: France

Occupation: Amateur painter

Time in Taipei: 4 years

Reason in Taipei: Work


Here with her husband, who works in the computer industry at Dell, Nethalie has been in Taipei four years. The couple had previously lived in the USA for 11 years. Nethalie finds Taipei people kinder, and the city's living environment safer, than most places she's been, noting how you will find youngsters still playing and doing other things outside after dark, with no worries. She feels reassured and at ease here.

An amateur painter, Nethalie works with acrylics and oils. Her primary subjects are flowers, people, and kids. Her favorite places to go for inspiration are Yangmingshan and the Jianguo Holiday Flower Market (建國假日花市). The flower market strikes her as much like a flower museum, with new "exhibitions" of flowers and plants with each changing season, and she tries to visit once a week. She also likes the artistic atmosphere that seems to ever more deeply permeate the city, and spends a good deal of her time visiting art spaces, noting special admiration for the clear and simple theme orientation of the Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei, its use of display spaces appropriate to the size of works presented, and its dedication to avant-garde innovation. Another spot that she has a fondness for is the Suho Paper Memorial Museum (樹火紀念紙博物館), with its splendid, intelligently wide-ranging use of paper as a medium of expression in its exhibits.

Nethalie's works can be seen before May 15 at the Taipei Mayor's Residence Arts Salon. This venue offers good food, good coffee, lush greenery and, as you shall see, fine art—a great place to meet up with friends for an afternoon of aesthetic stimulation.

Daniel has been a resident of Taipei for 20 years now. An English and arts teacher at Taipei American School, he is also an amateur artist.

"Much of the inspiration for my art comes from my childhood years," he says, "but I also collect many elements from the streets here, so you'll see Taipei expressed in my works." He often heads to businesses on Taiyuan Rd. (太原路) and Bade Rd. (八德路) in search of materials, and will take photos to record sights that might well make it into his works. Moving ever closer to becoming a full-time artist, he had his own show at Wistaria Tea House (紫藤廬), a teahouse/arts venue, in January this year. His works, which he refers to as "tower sculptures" and "small boxes," are dynamic 3D collages bringing together driftwood, gypsum, bright paints, and recycled materials.

Daniel is married to a local lady, and has twins. He loves heading off with the whole family to bustling Ximending, Sisinan Village (四四南村), and Yongkang St. (永康街), all suffused with a heady nostalgic air, and to AKI Gallery, a space bursting with the boundary-busting enthusiasm of young creators. "The city's architecture has come a long, long way in the past 20 years," he says, "and I enjoy seeing how more natural and organic materials are now being used. The results are unique, and display tremendous character." 



Daniel Castelaz

Hometown: Chicago, USA

Occupation: Teacher, Taipei American School

Time in Taipei: 20 years

Reason in Taipei: Work

The 2011 Taipei Film Festival

London Calling, in Taipei Summer



1. *Late Autumn*, a 2010 work from Korea.



2

2. *Black Narcissus*, by England's master director Michael Powell, this year's Director in Focus.



3

3. The black comedy *Shallow Grave*, the maiden film of England's Danny Boyle.

4. *I Know Where I'm Going!*, another featured festival film.

5. *Mutant Girls Squad*, a quirky film with quintessential Japanese themes.



4

5

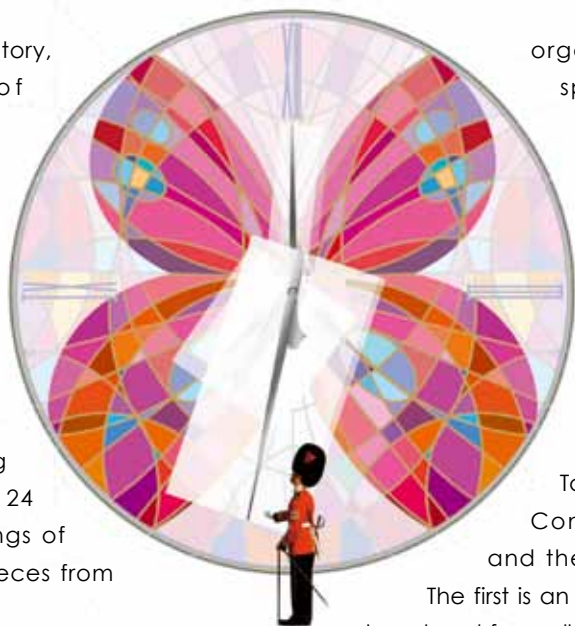


With a long and storied history, London, the “city of fog,” has a noble and glorious pedigree. The grand metropolis has been chosen as the focus city for this year’s Taipei Film Festival (臺北電影節), with many a fine film to regale movie fans with displays of the inimitable English style. The 2011 round for this popular festival will have a run stretching over three weeks, from June 24 through July 16, with screenings of a superlative cast of masterpieces from Taiwan and around the globe.

“To allow Taipei and international cities to have a good look at one another” has been the festival’s longstanding special mission. In a past survey prepared by the festival’s organizers, London was chosen by festival-goers as the city they would most like as the focus city. English films possess a character strikingly different from the works created by Hollywood, and since London is the host of the 2012 Summer Olympics, there seems no time more meaningful than the present to focus the TaipeiFF spotlight on the great city.

The curtains will be going up on a sterling selection of England’s finest cinematic creations. Among the classics you can sit down to are *The 39 Steps*, by that master of horror films Alfred Hitchcock, and *Brief Encounter*, by the acclaimed David Lean. Also being screened is the startling black comedy *Shallow Grave*, the maiden film of Danny Boyle, directorial creator of the powerful *Slumdog Millionaire*, and the three literary films based on novelist E.M. Forster’s works crafted by director James Ivory, including *A Room with a View*. Film maestro Michael Powell has been chosen for this year’s Director in Focus program, with five works from his golden era selected for screening, including *Black Narcissus* and *A Matter of Life and Death*, none of which has ever before been shown on the silver screen in Taiwan.

To maximize the festival’s diversity and foster youth interest, there will be showings of such films as *Late Autumn*, a Korean work that was invited to the Berlin International Film Festival and Pusan International Film Festival, and *Mutant Girls Squad*, an iconoclastic, quintessentially Japanese coming-of-age flick. The



organizers have also chosen a special wide-ranging line-up of thrilling films for late-night weekend showings, providing night-hawk festival-goers their full quota of shrieks, screams, and whimpers.

Each year, two of the most closely watched attractions at the festival are its two big competitions—the Taipei Film Festival New Talent Competition (國際青年導演競賽) and the Taipei Awards (臺北電影獎).

The first is an international competition, with works entered from all over the world. The creators of those selected as competition participants are invited to Taipei, with special gatherings organized for them to meet face to face with film enthusiasts. The Taipei Awards are a platform for home-grown Taiwan talent, with the NT\$1 million Grand Prize encouraging industry talent to commit themselves to ever more ambitious works and serving as an inviting red carpet bringing in the very best in Taiwan cinematic creativity and ingenuity for you to savor.

The Taipei Film Festival is an annual highlight of the Taipei summer—and in the heat of this year’s summer is set to blaze new paths and bold new visions for lovers of the world of films. 101

Information

2011 Taipei Film Festival 2011 臺北電影節

Time: 6/24~7/16

Screening Venues:

Zhongshan Hall, Governor Cinemas, Vieshow Cinemas Xinyi
(中山堂、總督數位影城、信義威秀影城)

Admission: Adult single-entry ticket NT\$200,
preferential ticket NT\$180

Sales Period: 6/2~7/15

Sales Locations:

All Taiwan ERA Ticket sales points or online at www.ticket.com.tw; during festival period, tickets can be bought at individual screening venues

Website: www.taipeiff.org.tw



The Joy of Brewing—Shared En Masse

Care for a cuppa? Well, you've come to the right place. Wherever you go on this green island, there seems to be a place or two within easy sight that serves up the golden brew. Growing tea is a big business here, and the fragrance of Taiwan leaves are known and cherished by knowledgeable tea drinkers around the globe. The renowned “tea ceremony” is long-established and much savored here, with its fastidiousness about ritual, brewing technique, utensils used, character of each type of leaf and its season, and with the advent of this summer season, you are hereby cordially invited to Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall (中正紀念堂) for some good brew, fine fragrance, and equally fine talk.

Taiwan is not only a key world producer of quality tea leaves, but also an important place in the world of tea culture. In 1989, the Lu-Yu Tea Culture Institute (陸羽茶藝中心) established Taipei's Wu-Wo Tea Ceremony (無我茶會), open to all comers regardless of nationality, race, or religion. The point of the initiative was simple—enjoying tea. Its brewing, its presentation etiquette, and its tasting, each embodying the harmonious spirit of tea arts, and modern Taiwan concepts concerning tea are being brought to the ceremony. The Wu-Wo Tea Ceremony is now an international event, with editions staged in

Taiwan, China, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, and as far as the United States.

The Wu-Wo Tea Ceremony— Preserving Distinction, Promoting Culture

The event in each country follows that land's own national character, aesthetics, philosophical outlook, and traditional crafts, which together engender pleasingly distinctive tea art cultures. The Japanese, for example, inherited their tea culture from the literati of China's Song Dynasty, bringing the tea ceremony etiquette and the quest for the ultimate in refinement out from the temple and into the lives of commoners. Tea drinking became a cultural activity that crossed boundaries of social status. The master of the household prepares tea and dedicated snack foods to entertain guests, with both host and guests following highly ritualized etiquette and procedures.

The practice of sitting down for tea also has a long history in Korea, where there are many forms of traditional tea, with up to hundreds of different ingredient used. These include different types of grain such as barley and corn, medicinal herbs, and fruits. In recent years in the US, in large part because of the Wu-Wo Tea Ceremony promotion, there has been a



surge of interest in tea arts and the meditative joys brought in the act of brewing. In China, the tea ceremony is steeped in Confucian thoughts, emphasizing the concept of the beauty of the mean via harmonious reconciliation of the bitter, sweet, and sour. The Confucian tradition is also manifested in the emphasis on courteous hospitality toward guests, especially elders, and on a presentation of modesty and amiability while drinking.

This year will see the 13th different International Wu-Wo Tea Ceremony and Tea Culture Festival (國際無我茶會暨國際茶文化節), which is held every two years in different places. Taiwan was chosen as this year's host by the organizer in order to celebrate the centenary of the Republic of China, and the event will be spread over 6 days, from May 27 to June 1, letting people from around the world get an intimate look at this island's wonderful teas and its appealing tea culture.

The Tea Party— Fulfilling Your Taste and Artistic Desires

The event will be divided into “active” and “quiet” sections. In the active component will be attractions such as the “Party of A Thousand Big Tea Party,” “Essay Presentations,” and “Tea Ceremony Performances” demonstrating the different approaches taken by peoples around the world. Experts from near and far will be present for the tea-vaganza, including from Japan, Korea, mainland

China, Singapore, Malaysia, United States, Italy, and France, with the essence of their national cultures demonstrated in the tea ceremonies. In the quiet component, the focus will be on tea-related poetry, calligraphy, tea utensils, tea setting placement, etc.

On each day of the event, there will be times for special brewings of tea by masters of the art, which will then be presented to visitors. Lovers of all things tea! There is only one place for you to be at this time this summer—at this international celebration with an army of like-minded new friends. ☺



1-2. Tea-ceremony traditions vary in each country, in accordance with folk customs, aesthetic concepts, philosophy, and traditional handicraft arts.

3. Over a thousand people enjoying the brewing of tea in the grand CKS Memorial Hall plaza.

Information

The 13th International Wu-Wo Tea Ceremony and Tea Culture Festival 第十三屆國際無我茶會暨國際茶文化節

Time: 5/27~6/1: 09:00~18:00 (Static Exhibition)
5/28 10:00~12:00 (Party of A Thousand Big Tea Party)

Venue: Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall
中正紀念堂

Add: 21 Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21號)

Tel: (02) 2343-1100, (02) 2331-6636

Transportation:

1. Take MRT Danshui Line to MRT Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall Station.
2. Take bus No. 15, 18, 20, 22, 37, 204, 208, 214, 236, 248, 249, 251, 252, 261, 263, 270, 293, 297, 621, 623, 630, 651, and buses on the Xinyi trunk line, to CKS Memorial Hall stop or to Nanmen Market (南門市場).

Website: www.wu-wotea.com.tw

鑊湯無冷

趙州與去尚留香



Eye of the Times — Centennial Images of Taiwan

1


This year is the centenary of the founding of the Republic of China, a time for contemplation and remembrance of things past. As one of its contributions to the year-long celebration, the Taipei Fine Arts Museum has put together the photography exhibition *Eye of the Times – Centennial Images of Taiwan* (時代之眼—臺灣百年身影), spanning 140 years of Taiwan's history. A collection of about 270 images trace the changes seen by the island's people over different time periods. Time starts to move with the visual records compiled by John Thomson, a Scottish Presbyterian minister who arrived on the island in 1871, and runs through the works of a total of 117 artists, with many of the vintage photos rarely if ever seen in public. This precious display of photographic treasures is co-curated by distinguished Taiwan photographer Chuang Ling (莊靈) and Chang Tsangsang (張蒼松).

Moving on through the decades, we visit the Japanese colonial period (1895-1945) and a series of photos taken by Japanese anthropologists on Taiwan's native peoples and its society. We see the techniques used during the 20 years from the

end of the Japanese rule through the beginning of the Nationalist rule, in which the portraiture methods of Japanese war correspondents come to the fore, giving birth to the “Genesis Period of Taiwan Photography.” We see riveting historical images of Taiwan youths called up for service in the Japanese military, and of a defeated Japan's soldiers and citizens selling their daily possessions on Taiwan's streets before being repatriated. In the “Documentary and Photoreportage” (報導攝影) series of works, we see images captured in the 1970s under the shadow of martial law, and we see the results of the lifting of martial law in the later 1980s, with the relaxation of political party ban and news censorship.

As the “Art Photography” (美術攝影) period hit the stage, the photographer hit the road, roaming far and wide and combining wide-ranging exploration with high aesthetics, such as in Yao Juichung's (姚瑞中) *Recover Mainland China* (反攻大陸行動) work. The camera is used to record wanderings far from home—Tiananmen in Beijing, the Great Wall—sneering at the

official political culture of Taiwan before the 1970s and before, where the retaking of the mainland was declared the sole purpose of Taiwan society. In “Images of the Mind,” (心象攝影) we see how the traditions and other special characteristics of Taiwan are defined by leading photographic artists, engendering deeply contemplated works such as Ko Si Chi's (柯錫杰) *Night Lily* (夜百合) and Guo Ying-sheng's (郭英聲) use of the Hakka people's colorful traditional floral fabrics as theme.

This exhibition is designed as a documentary record of the lives of Taiwan's common people, with a special highlight on its exploration of the “small worlds” of those who inhabit its numerous offshore islands. From Lin Wang (林旺), the famous Taipei Zoo elephant that almost everyone living in Taiwan know, to the great 921 Earthquake of 1999, and to the Typhoon Morakot flood disaster of 2009, young and old can revisit the strongest images of their lives as seen through the “eye of the times” —the lens of the photographer. The show provides much food for thought on the past 100-plus years of Taiwan, the island's present, and her possible futures. 

1. Juan Ijong's (阮義忠) 1986 work *People and the Land – Syuhai* (Taidong County) (Taipei Fine Arts Museum collection)
2. In this exhibit the course and vitality of Taiwan's photography and video art can be traced over the past 100 years.
3. Lin Boliang's (林柏樑) 1996 work *Facing the Unknown Future* (Taipei Fine Arts Museum collection)
4. From Chou Chinghui's (周慶輝) 1990-1994 series *Frozen in Time - Images of a Leper Colony; the owner of these hands is named Ye Maolu*. (from the artist's personal collection)

Information

Eye of the Times – Centennial Images of Taiwan 時代之眼－臺灣百年身影

Time: Tue~Sun 09:30~17:30, extended hours on Sat to 20:30

Venue: Taipei Fine Arts Museum 臺北市立美術館

Add: 181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd.
(中山北路3段181號)

Tel: (02) 2595-7656

Transportation: Bus options from other locations include No. 21, 40, 42, 126, 203, 208, 213, 218, 220, 247, 260, 277, 279, 287, 308, 310, 612, and 677; get off at the Taipei Fine Arts museum stop (臺北市立美術館站).

Website: www.tfam.museum





Bringing Sculpted Life to Japanese Haiku

Haiku-Sculpture 2011: International Exhibition for Art Academies



What are some of the iconic forms of cultural expression that leap to mind when asked about Japan? There's the tea ceremony, judo, and kendo. But many might say the abbreviated, tightly controlled form of poetry known as haiku best captures the Japanese cultural spirit. Though exquisite precision of word choice is required to meet the strictly abbreviated format, the images created and meaning evoked are powerful.

The idea of taking the mode of expression used in haiku—three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables, totalling 17—and using the format in sculptural artworks was the inspiration of Prof. Fumiho Kamijo of the Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts. Each three-part work created must measure 5, 7, and 5 inches (15cm, 21 cm, 15cm). The 4th edition of the exhibition brought to life as a result, Haiku-Sculpture 2011: International Exhibition for Art Academies (雕刻五・七・五國際藝術大學交流展), is being staged in Taipei, with artists from 26 prominent art academies/universities taking part, from Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and mainland China. One and all—and especially you—are invited to come to see what has taken shape.

Though the best of haiku is beautifully lyrical, the simple 5-7-5 format of three lines means anyone can try their hand at it. There is no complicated plot or story to concoct—the emphasis is on creating an atmospheric mood, with just a few mental images to express in a few words. The sculptures of the exhibition give material expression to the mental images expressed in immaterial, ephemeral form in the poetry, with the creative theme this year the four seasons.

The sculptors can use any materials they want, and express any poetic meaning they desire, as long as they keep to the 5-7-5 dimensions. Both great




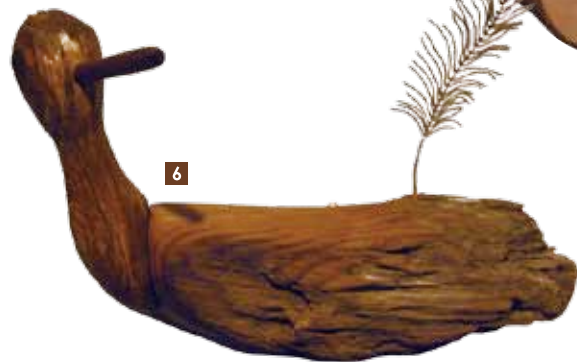
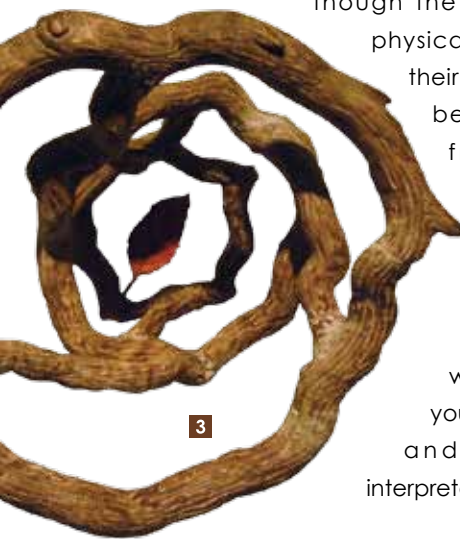
refinement of vision and techniques are thus required, each decision carrying great weight—just as when one is deliberating on word choice in haiku poetry.

Creative vision must be realized within unforgiving boundaries, and the completed three-dimensional piece

is fixed on white paper above a wooden board, immediately bringing physical life and vitality to the haiku's imagery as if the two are engaged in dialogue. Through this approach, the aesthetic experience is heightened immeasurably, and the range for sculptural expression made boundless.

The goal behind the exhibition is to expand sculptural art into a new realm, creating a new experience for both the artist and viewer. The essence of haiku and its process of creation transcend social status, race, and cultural background, and this exhibition serves as a grand intersection of ideas contributed by individuals from many lands. Through the mind's eye of each artist, the “soul” or life-force of their haiku is given tactile existence, and

though the rules of their allowed physical boundaries are finite, their flights of creative fancy become infinite, soaring freely. The emotions and insights expressed when “sculpture is fused with haiku” are powerful—and the many transcendent works on display await your arrival, contemplation, and intensely personal interpretation. 



Information

Haiku-Sculpture 2011: International Exhibition for Art Academies

雕刻五、七、五國際藝術大學交流展

Time: Until 6/19; 10:00~17:00 (Tue-Sun)

Venue: Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei
National University of the Arts
臺北藝術大學關渡美術館

Add: 1 Xueyuan Rd. (學園路1號)

Tel: (02) 2896-1000

Transportation:

Take a TNUA shuttle bus or No. Red 35 public bus from bus-waiting area just to the right of Exit No. 1 at MRT Guandu Station

Website: kdmofa.tnua.edu.tw

1. Koji Tanada's *Zero Gravity and Boy*.

2. Yoshiharu Maekawa's *Flower Vessel*.

3. Tetsurou Tomonari's *A Gift in Autumn*.

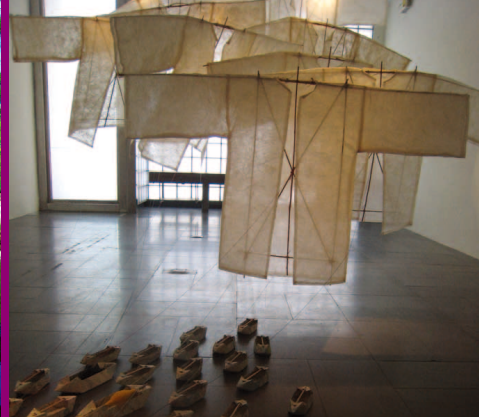
4. The format used in haiku, three lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables, totalling 17, is used in sculpture, with each three-part work measuring 5, 7, and 5 inches; this creates a new visual experience for both artist and viewer.

5. Hiromichi Hojima's *The Lizard's House*.

6. Daisuke Noma's *Sing*.

2011 **05/06**

May-June Arts Exhibition Calendar



National Palace Museum

Tel: (02) 2881-2021

Add: 221, Sec. 2, Zhishan Rd. (至善路2段221號)

Website: www.npm.gov.tw

Until 05/25

The Art and Aesthetics of Form: Selections from the History of Chinese Painting

Until 07/17

The Tibetan Dragon Sutra: The Great Treasury of Buddhist Scriptures in the National Palace Museum

Taipei Fine Arts Museum

Tel: (02)2595-7656

Add: 181, Sec. 3, Zhongshan N. Rd. (中山北路3段181號)

Website: www.tfam.museum

Until 06/12

Glenn Murcutt: Architecture for Place – Thinking Drawing/Working Drawing

Until 06/12

10 Years On: Liao Chi-Chun Oil Painting Awards

Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei (MOCA Taipei)

Tel: (02) 2552-3721

Add: 39 Chang'an W. Rd. (長安西路39號)

Website: www.mocatapei.org.tw

Until 06/26

Reality Impalpable

National Theater & Concert Hall

Tel: (02) 3393-9888

Add: 21-1 Zhongshan S. Rd. (中山南路21-1號)

Website: www.ntch.edu.tw

05/18

Sing as You Wish, My Children

05/20 - 05/27

2011 Taiwan International Percussion Convention

05/26, 05/28, 05/29, 05/31, 06/01

Les Petits Chanteurs de Saint-Marc

05/29

Young Stars of Chinese Chamber Music

06/17

Nco: The Classics of Wei Yang and Chan-Shun Huang

06/19

Nso: Relief in Summer – Mahler No. 3

06/18, 06/19

Ryu Goto Violin Recital

Huashan 1914 Creative Park

Tel: (02) 2358-1914

Add: 1, Sec. 1, Bade Rd. (八德路1段1號)

Website: web.huashan1914.com

05/27 - 06/05

Lecture de la pièce – La belle dormeuse

Treasure Hill Artist Village

Tel: (02) 2364-5313

Add: 4-8, Aly. 37, Ln. 230, Sec. 3, Tingzhou Rd. (汀州路3段230巷37弄4-8號)

Until 05/31

Red Dot Animation Workshop

National Museum of History

Tel: (02) 2361-0270

Add: 49 Nanhai Rd. (南海路49號)

Website: www.nmh.gov.tw

Until 06/26

Impressions of Taiwan – 2011 Watercolor Exhibition

National Taiwan Science Education Center

Tel: (02) 6610-1234

Add: 189 Shishang Rd. (士商路189號)

Website: www.ntsec.gov.tw

Until 05/29

Trick Art Exhibition

Until 08/31

The Science of Deception

Su Ho Memorial Paper Museum

Add: 68, Sec. 2, Chang'an E. Rd. (長安東路2段68號)

Tel: (02) 2507-5535

Website: www.suho.org.tw

Until 06/11

Border Crossings – Paper x Travel



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How To Get from Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport to Taipei

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 50%, with freeway tolls extra; average fare to Taipei around NT\$1,100.

Terminal I Arrivals hall taxi-service counter tel. no.: (03) 398-2832

Terminal II Arrivals hall taxi-service counter tel. no.: (03) 398-3599

Mocca Power Co.

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)

Reservations tel: 0926-170-090

One-way fare: NT\$800, travel time 30-40 mins

Passenger Coach 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)

Coach-service companies: Taiwan Bus Corp., Evergreen Bus, Free Go Express, Citi Air Bus

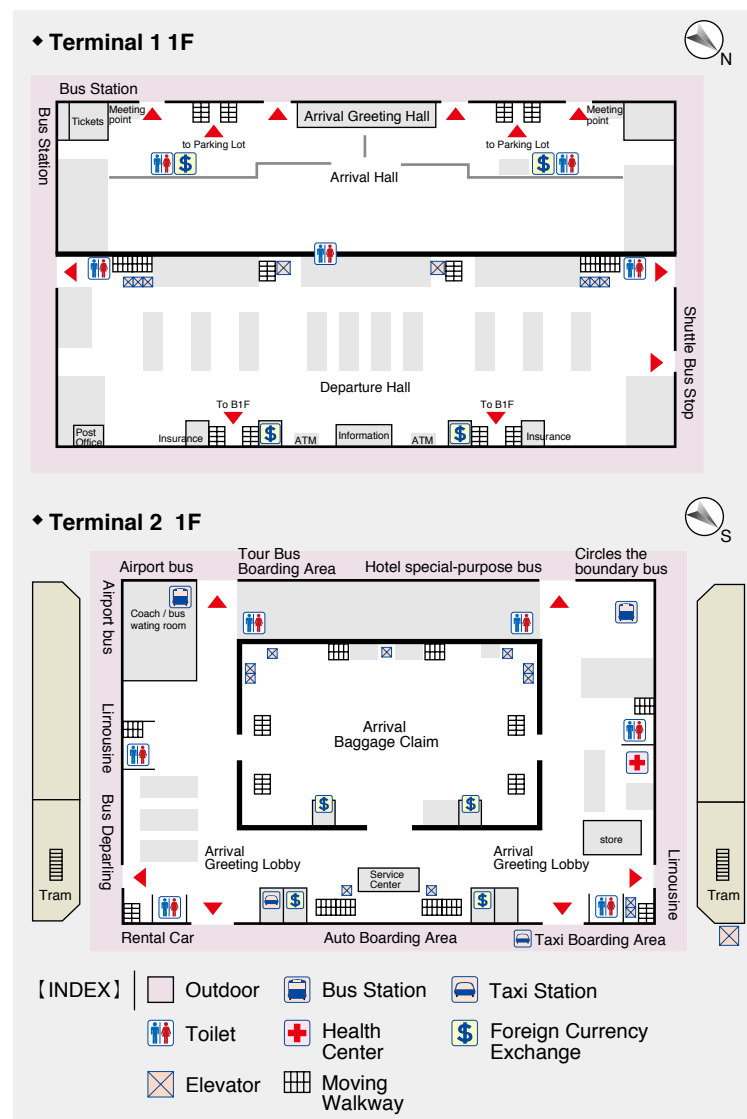
One-way fare: NT\$85~145

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

Schedule: Every 15~20 minutes (Citi Air Bus 20~30 minutes)

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

The Transportation Map of Taoyuan International Airport Terminal I & II



NOTICE

In order to improve the quality of telephone service to the public, the city government is systematically implementing the 1999 Citizen Hotline plan (1999市民熱線優化專案). Since 3 July in 2008, 16 toll-free 0800 lines from 15 Taipei City Government departments, along with two non-0800 lines from the Department of Environmental Protection (環保局), have been consolidated within the 1999 public-access hotline service. For more information, please call 1999 or visit the website of the Research, Development and Evaluation Commission (研考會) at www.rdec.taipei.gov.tw

TAIWAN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police / 110

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

Fire / 119

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

Women and Children Protection Hotline / 113 ext. 0

24-hour emergency, legal information, and psychological services for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse.

NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Unit	Tel. No.
Taipei City Govt. Citizen Hotline	1999
English Directory Service	106
IDD Telephone Service Hotline	0800-080-100 ext.9
Time-of-Day Service	117
Weather Bureau	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
Government Information Office, Executive Yuan	(02) 3356-8888
Bureau of Foreign Trade	(02) 2351-0271
Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA)	(02) 2725-5200
Taiwan Visitors Association	(02) 2594-3261
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	(02) 2348-2999
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Citizens Hotline	(02) 2380-5678
Police Radio 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	0800-030-598 ext.3
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 indicate service in English provided

LIST OF TAIPEI VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

Taipei Main Station Visitor Information Center
(02) 2312-3256
1F(North-east end), 3 Beiping W. Rd., Zhongzheng District

Songshan Airport Visitor Information Center
(02) 2546-4741
340-10, Dunhua N. Rd., Songshan District

East Street Mall Information Center
(02) 6638-0059
Underground Mall 4-2, 77, Sec.1, Da'an Rd., Da'an District

MRT Ximen Station Visitor Information Center
(02) 2375-3096
B1 32-1, Baoqing Rd., Zhongzheng District

MRT Yuanshan Station Visitor Information Center
(02) 2591-6130
9-1 Jiuquan St., Shilin District

MRT Jiantan Station Visitor Information Center
(02) 2883-0313
65 Sec. 5, Zhongshan N. Rd., Shilin District

MRT Beitou Station Visitor Information Center
(02) 2894-6923
1 Guangming Rd., Beitou District

Miramar Entertainment Park Visitor Information Center
(02) 8501-2762
20 Jingye 3rd Rd., Zhongshan District

Yangming Park Visitor Information Center
(02) 2861-8975
26 Sec. 2, Hushan Rd., Beitou District

Gongguan Visitor Information Center
(02) 2364-8618
1 Siyuan St., Zhongzheng District

Plum Garden Visitor Information Center
(02) 2897-2647
6 Zhongshan Rd., Beitou District

Maokong Gondola Taipei Zoo Station Visitor Information Center
(02) 8661-7627
2 Lane 10, Sec. 2, Xinguang Rd. (1F, Maokong Gondola Service Center)

Maokong Gondola Maokong Station Visitor Information Center
(02) 2937-8563
35 Lane 38, Sec. 3, Zhinan Rd. (Exit area, Maokong Station)

A Walkabout Tour of East Taipei's Public Art



Transportation Information

Xinyi Commercial District

LOVE (LOVE 臺北之愛)
Between Earth and Sky (天地之間)
Hare on Ball and Claw
(站在圓球上與爪子上的野兔)
Chess (局)

The Dunhua Public Art Vestibule

Garden (鳥籠外的花園)
Tree River (Metropolitan Silhouette) (樹河)
Abuzz (嗡嗡的風景)

Scarecrow (稻草人)
Belisha Beacon (時間斑馬線)
Jump (飛躍東區)

Civic Boulevard

Rhythm (韻律)
Close (合)
Deity, Time (女武神，時間廊)
Years (金樹歲月)
Rhyme (韻—生命之旅)

Small Art Travels in a Big City – Pleasant Walks in Search of Modern Art



Transportation Information

VVG TABLE、VVG Something

Bus

0 East、204、212、232、235、262、275、278、292、299、33、52、605、630、662、663、902、905、906、909、Dunhua trunk line buses to MRT Zhongxiao Dunhua Station stop, walk 5-7 minutes

MRT

Bannan Line, Zhongxiao Dunhua Station, Exit No. 1 (walk 5-7 minutes)

Museum of Tomorrow (MOT)

Walk along Civic Blvd. to Fuxing S. Rd., about 10 minutes

XMS Media Gallery

Bus

From MRT Zhongxiao Fuxing Station, take No. 212、232、262、299 to National Audit Office (審計部) stop.

MRT

Bannan Line, Zhongxiao Xinsheng Station, Exit No. 1 (walk 5-7 minutes)

Aurum Glory Art Space

XMS Media Gallery→Walk 1 minute→Aurum Glory Art Space

Sakshi Gallery

Bus

From MRT Zhongxiao Xinsheng Station take No. 672、668、214、280、642、643 to stop at intersection of Chang'an E. Rd. and Songjiang Rd.

MRT

Luzhou Line, Songjiang Nanjing Station, Exit No. 4 (walk 5-7 minutes)

IT Park

Sakshi Gallery→Walk 2 minutes→IT Park

VT Artsalon

Sakshi Gallery→Walk 1 minute→VT Artsalon

Fu Ba Wang Pork Knuckle and Rice

Sakshi Gallery→Walk 10 minutes→Fu Ba Wang Pork Knuckle and Rice



Discover Taipei Questionnaire

Dear readers,

Thank you very much for taking the time to read Discover Taipei. This English-language bimonthly magazine has been published since 1998. We mean to introduce Taipei to both long-term foreign residents and short-term visitors from all over the world. To help us meet your needs and better serve you, we hope that you can take the time to fill out the following questionnaire and send it back to us (no postage necessary). Please mail in your questionnaire by July 31, 2011 for a chance to win a delicate prize. We will draw 20 lucky participants. (Notice will be given by phone or email) Thank you for your support.

Department of Information and Tourism
Taipei City Government

Personal Information

Please leave your contact information below.

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Age: ☐ Below 20 ☐ 21-30 ☐ 31-40 ☐ 41-50 ☐ 51-60 ☐ Above 61

Profession: ☐ Student ☐ Teacher ☐ Public Servant ☐ Commerce ☐ Manufacturing

☐ Administration ☐ Marketing & Public Relations ☐ Engineering

☐ Other (Please specify : _____)

I. Contents

(1) Please indicate your opinion of each column in *Discover Taipei*.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| a. Special Feature | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| b. Taipei Int'l Flora Expo Feature | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| c. Local Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| d. Chance Encounters with Fine Foods | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| e. Taipei Health and Recreation Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| f. Journal of Taipei Personalities | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| g. A Cavalcade of Arts and Culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |
| h. Handy Portable Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied |

(2) Is there any other column or any kind of article not mentioned above that you would like to read in future editions of *Discover Taipei*?

II. Design

a. What do you think of *Discover Taipei*'s cover design?

☐ Very satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied

b. What do you think of *Discover Taipei*'s layout?

☐ Very satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied

c. What do you think of the photos in *Discover Taipei*?

☐ Very satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied

d. What do you think of *Discover Taipei*'s printing quality?

☐ Very satisfied ☐ Satisfied ☐ Neutral ☐ Dissatisfied ☐ Very Dissatisfied



III. Magazine Distribution

a. Where do you usually obtain your copy of the magazine?

- ☐ Subscriber
☐ MRT: _____ Station
☐ Hotel: _____ Hotel
☐ Airport
☐ Language Center
☐ Police Station
☐ Museum: _____ Museum
☐ Bookstore: _____ Bookstore
☐ Taipei Main Station Visitor Information Center
☐ Other Location (Please Specify: _____)

b. Is it easy and convenient for you to get the magazine?

- ☐ Yes (Continue to Q c.) ☐ No (Please skip to Q d.)

c. Is there always sufficient quantity at the location you normally pick it up from?

If not, can you identify this location?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No (Location: _____)

d. Is there any other location(s) that you would like us to place the magazine?

e. Do you know that *Discover Taipei* provides a digital version online?

- ☐ Yes (Go to Q f.) ☐ No

f. How many times per month have you browsed or downloaded the digital version of *Discover Taipei* from our website?

- ☐ 1 to 2 times ☐ 3 to 5 times ☐ more than 5 times

IV. General Questions

a. In general, how do you like *Discover Taipei*?

- ☐ Very much ☐ Quite a lot ☐ OK ☐ So-so ☐ Not at all

b. Why do you like or dislike reading *Discover Taipei*?

c. Do you have any other opinion(s) or suggestion(s) that you would like to tell us?

(Please write below)

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4F, 1, Shifu Rd., Taipei 11008, Taiwan, R.O.C.

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Business Competitiveness

Overall business environment is more competitive than
Vancouver•Paris

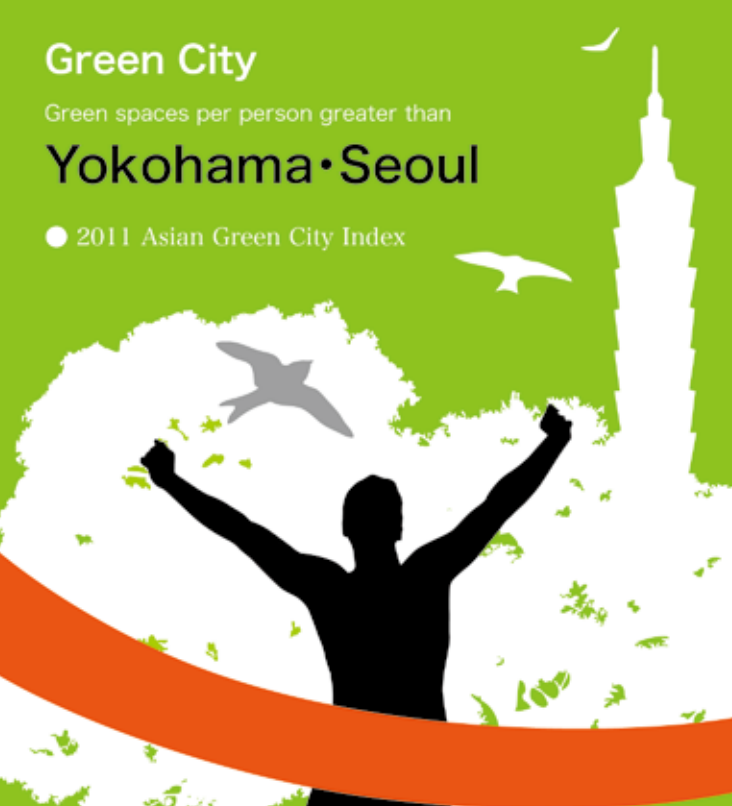
● 2011 Global Financial Centres Index



Convenient Infrastructure

Higher quality of living than
Prague•Bangkok

● 2010 Location Ratings Survey



Green City

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Yokohama•Seoul

● 2011 Asian Green City Index



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● 2011 Global Liveability Survey

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台北101

登高鳥瞰臺北新視野
Rising to New Heights
高所から眺める台北の新景観

自來水園區

Taipei Water Park

台北ウォーターパーク

市中心的水世界
A fun-packed water world right inside the city
市の中心部にあるウォーターワールド

臺北啤酒文化園區

Taipei Brewery

台北ブリュワリー

呼乾啦！有酒又有樂
Cheers! Learn how beer is made
and enjoy the product
思わず乾杯！お酒とあふれる笑顔

康青龍生活圈

Kang-Qing-Long District

康青龍(永康・青田・龍泉)地区

人文薈萃的文化融匯
A melting pot of diverse cultures
文化の精華が集まるインターナショナルエリア

四四南村

Sisinan Village

四四南村

眷村再現文化風景
Revel in the atmosphere
of an old military village
外省人畫風に再現された文化の村

貓空纜車・貓空樟樹步道

Maoxiong Gondola and Camphor Trail

貓空ロープウェイ・貓空クスノキ遊歩道

貓空ロープウェイ・貓空山
Maoxiong Gondola and Camphor Trail
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