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CNY Interview
Dato Jack Ting

Exclusive Interview
Jack Neo

Airbnb
Quick chat with
a host in Taiwan



Celebrating
Chinese New Year
2016

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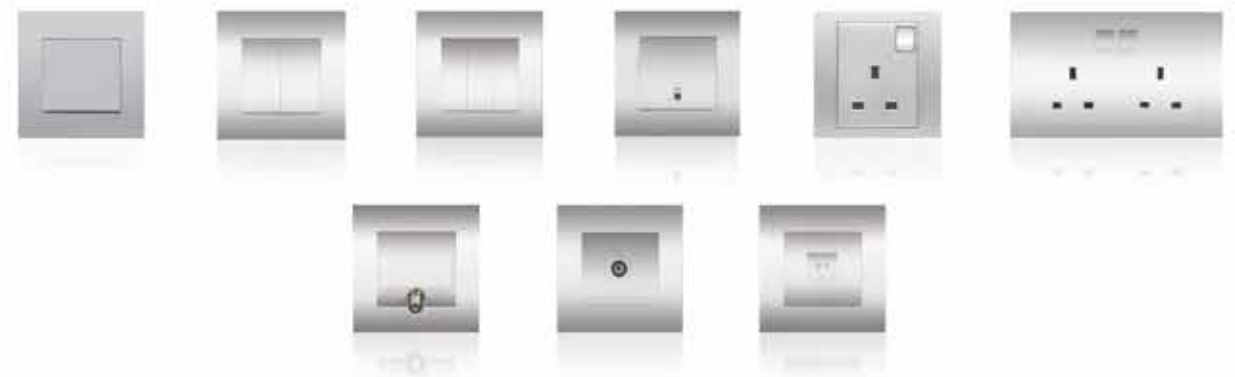
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Bruneian at Heart

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The Virtue of Hospitality

To commence our new Airbnb segment of the magazine we recently contacted owners and hosts of some of the most spectacular homes from around the region.

While visiting various sites in different countries, we discovered some recurring patterns that made certain hosts more popular than the others, as reflected in the star ratings and the commentaries from their guests. Many of these hosts usually have their homes booked way in advance, and quite frankly, do not need any extra publicity. However, these are the very people who went the extra mile to answer our questions. Their understanding of what hospitality means to total strangers is demonstrated in the friendly tone of their copy writing, their thoughtfulness and anticipation of what others want are shown by their attention to small details.

Throughout our research we tried to be very specific by looking for homes that exemplify the host country's culture and those that also provide design inspiration and ideas for our readers. As well as this, we also asked the hosts some curious questions, for example, "Why do you open up your homes to total strangers? Are you ever worried? And what are some of your best experiences?"

Chang Ju from Seoul, Korea replied: "Meeting new people from the other cultural backgrounds was always the most exciting experience when I was travelling. I think being an Airbnb host gives me a similar feeling."

As for overcoming the issue of trust?

Leli from Manila summed it up well: "We start off with the philosophy that there is good in everybody..."

We gained very valuable insights from this Q&A which were positive and uplifting, but more importantly, a reminder of the human kindness that still exists in the world.

As we celebrate Chinese New Year this month, may we remember to extend our hospitality to family, friends and strangers.

Gong Xi Fa Cai!

Best Regards


Shaun Hoon

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Lessons from the Past

Exclusive interview with **Jack Neo**



For the Chinese speaking community living in South East Asia, Chinese New Year (CNY) often reminds us of the name Jack Neo, as we are accustomed to watching a lighthearted “Jack Neo Film” which is usually launched during the CNY period. Jack Neo is the renowned movie director from Singapore who has directed more than two dozen films that are comical and yet at the same time address issues relevant to the society, particularly in Singapore. Neo was the recipient of the Cultural Medallion as well as the first filmmaker in Singapore to be honoured with the Public Service Award. Some of his box office successes include Money No Enough, I Not Stupid and recently, Ah Boys to Men.

This year, Neo’s film, Long Long Time Ago will be aired in Brunei in late February, depicting the simple life of the Kampong in the 1960s, underscoring what Singaporeans went through when their country became a republic.

We interviewed Jack Neo to find out more about his views on Chinese New Year, his upcoming movie as well as his plans for the future.

Read on and enjoy!

What does Chinese New Year mean to you?

Chinese New year (CNY) is a very important festival for me. Since I was young I always enjoyed CNY very much, but since becoming an adult, I have been making movies for people every CNY. Therefore CNY has taken on another meaning for me in my adult life. It means instead of celebrating it with my immediate family, I now celebrate CNY with a much larger audience through the movies I have produced.

I remember there was one year when we didn’t produce a movie to launch during CNY, I received feedback from people that they did not know where to go or what to do during CNY. When I heard about it, I was especially touched, so I kept reminding myself that no matter what, I must do one Chinese movie for my audience every year because it has become a habit that every CNY, they watch a Jack Neo movie.

Most of my movies are family oriented and have a family theme. Therefore, from the three year old to the eighty year old, movie goer, they are all able to understand and appreciate our productions. Not only that, people tend to make it a family affair by going to the movies in a group, as part of their new year activities.

Therefore, you can say that CNY is an important celebration for me and I treasure it very much.

Your upcoming movie, Long Long Time Ago which will be aired in Brunei in late February, depicts an era when life was a lot simpler, people were more trusting and community minded. Societies are supposed to evolve for the better.

What do you think has changed?

I think a lot has changed since my old kampong days. We have evolved as a society, and a lot of the values have evolved with time. People in the past used to view certain values or ways of conduct a lot more seriously than today.

For example, it used to be a big deal to see women smoking. But today, no one makes a fuss about it. In the past, when you saw someone with a tattoo,

you’d label them as “Pai-Kia”, today tattoos have become quite common amongst both genders and people call this body art. And it is not necessarily a bad thing.

With the introduction of the internet, it has shifted our way of thinking tremendously. We used to be very superstitious about certain practices, but with better knowledge and understanding about how things work, we have become a lot less superstitious.

So, I think that the information advancement has definitely played its part in improving the society. However, some changes are good, some may not be so good. To me, the most important thing is that human relationships should not change. You must continue to love your friends, your neighbours, help them and do not turn little frictions into hatred. Because a better world, a peaceful and harmonious world commences with love.

Yes, many things from the Kampong are no longer around. But if the evolution begins with love as

the fundamental virtue, I think it will be for the better. But if you lose sight of this real reason for improvement as the purpose, then it would affect the quality of life negatively.

You have been known to subtly inject social messages, sometimes with light hearted humour in all of your movies. What is the fundamental message that you wish to convey with this movie?

The main emphasis of this movie is to remind the audience to be grateful for what we have today by not taking our present situation for granted. Much of our achievements today is a result of the sacrifice and hard work of the past generation.

This movie depicts the very essence of human nature, where there'll always be black sheep amongst the crowd that will mess things up and discourage you. But in the midst of this, we also want to show that there are just as many people, if not more, who are sincere and who live a selfless life for the greater good of all.

You may be able to identify with many of these characters when you watch the movie, and you'll also be able to relate to these characters - to these people living amongst you in a very real way in your daily life.

In Long Long Time Ago, you'll be able to experience the nostalgic moments of the 1960s, where people spoke in a lot of different dialects as well as in the Malay language. It also shows the life of the Singaporean community after our independence; how we became a republic and survived. Essentially, it brings you back in time to the simple life of how people used to live in the Kampong.

I Not Stupid, Money No Enough, Ah Boys to Men, The Lion Men, My Papa Rich are some of your famous box office successes. Your choice of titles have always been very simple,



humorous, almost effortless and more often than not, grammatically questionable and extremely risky. On the other hand, they are also undeniably powerful, sticky and highly unforgettable.

How much effort do you put into coming up with your movie titles?

The movie titles are often decided as we write the movie. Most of the time, we would not intentionally spend too much time in developing it. Although many at times, we use less appropriate grammar because I want my movies to demonstrate the authentic culture and uniqueness of Singapore and Malaysia. People are able to relate to it a lot better.



Production Still from Jack Neo's latest movie "Long Long Time Ago". Screening in Brunei at the end of February 2016.

Reportedly you took two years to write Long Time Ago and had a budget of close to SGD 5million. What movies are you working on? What is going through Jack Neo's mind right now?

I am currently aiming to produce movies in collaboration with companies in foreign countries. For many years, we have produced a lot of movies for the audience in this region. And I feel that we are still not giving enough to our audience.

I hope to be able to find more inspiration and breakthroughs with our productions to present to our audiences. And all of these requires time. We are committed to completing all our tasks with the utmost excellence, regardless of what project we take on. The last thing we want is to compromise our quality because it would be a betrayal of trust to our loyal audience.

The previews of "Long Long Time Ago" look interesting as they show an entire era depicted in two hours. We wish you all the best in delivering a heartwarming story to the audience during this festive season.



February 2016 / 13



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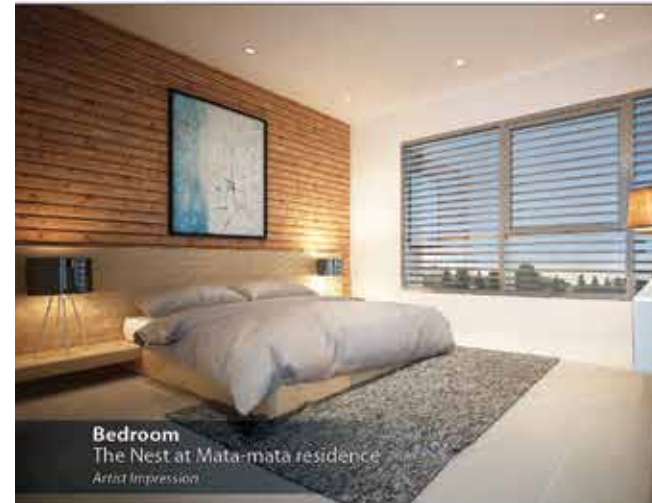
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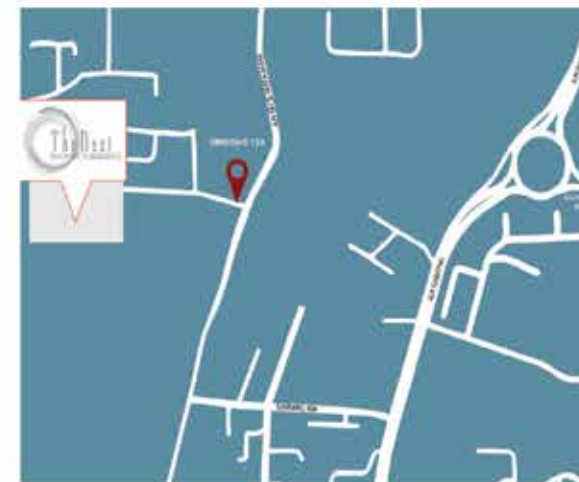


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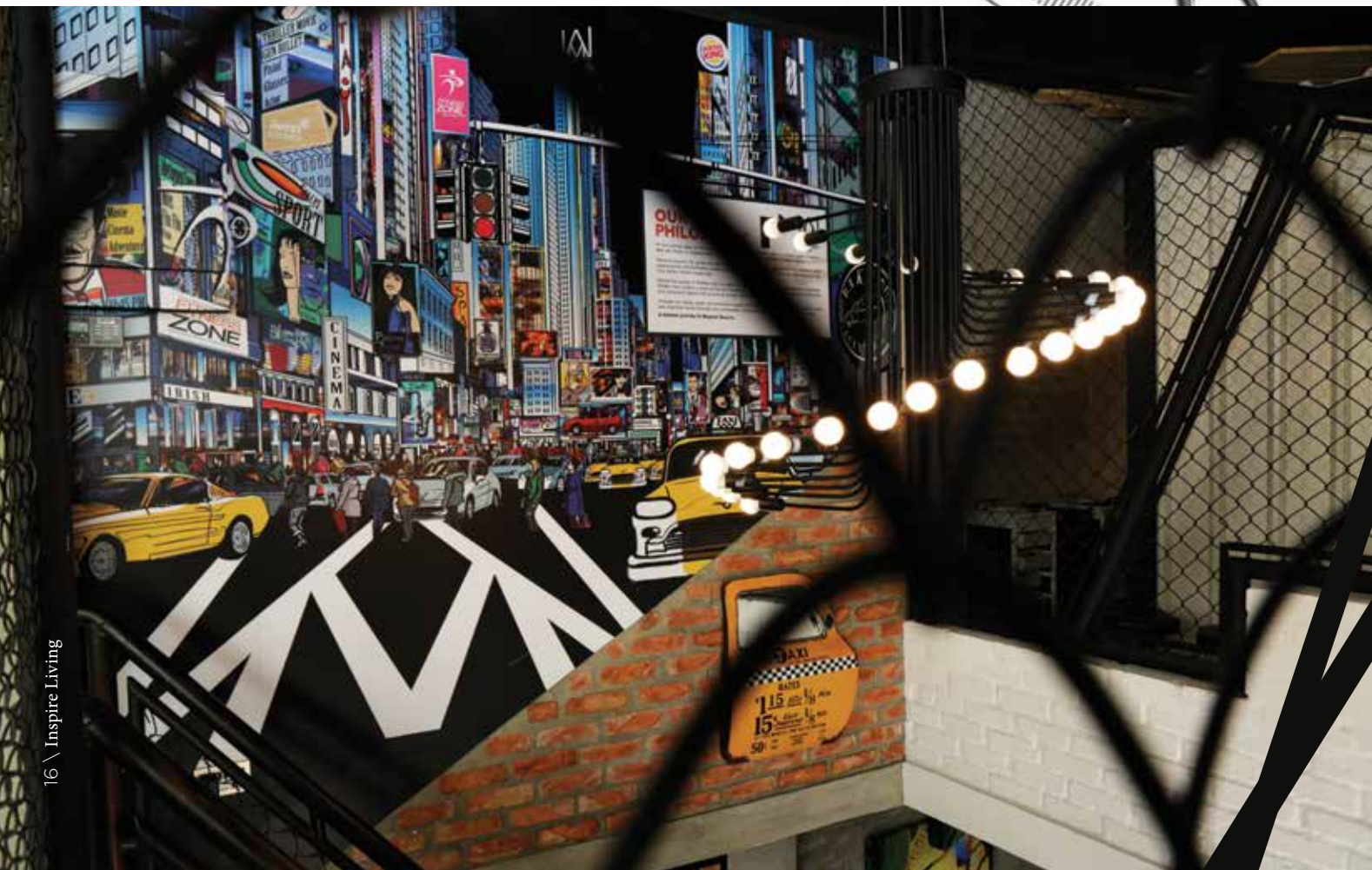


The Rockstar Experience

WoMen Hair Salon

By now, you would have heard about the new celebrity hair salon in town called WoMen opened by Wu Chun in collaboration with his personal stylist Sam Chen, whose hair studio caters to the top celebrities in Taiwan.

WoMen promises to take your hair styling experience to a whole new level. The expert stylists will be giving customers the latest celebrity haircuts and styles in an ultra- contemporary setting.



The designer of the interior of WoMen (Wu Chun himself) managed to create a space that has a sleek, modern-industrial edge by effectively using exposed brick, polished concrete floors and by converting raw containers into partitions. All of this, together with a combination of quirky ornament displays and furniture from all over the world – have made the salon look like a work of art.

Photos by Riley Khoo



WoMen Hair Salon

Unit A1, Ground & 1st Floor,
Block A, Kenangan II,
Spg. 150-5-13-18, Kg Kiulap
Tel: +673 223 6262



Customers can enjoy a free beverage & desserts

The owner's thoughtful design also includes a special kid's station to accommodate children who aspire to look like superstars. But more importantly, to make customers feel at home, are the waiting areas or mini lounges throughout the two storey salon with comfortable seating so that you can sip your favourite cup of coffee and enjoy a delicious piece of cake – all of which are complimentary. And if you feel like treating yourself to the total rock star experience, you can book the private room and enjoy absolute privacy, just for a little extra.

Adorning the walls of the salon are shelves displaying a wide range of international magazines as well as a collection of magazines which feature Wu Chun on the cover. For those who are looking for inspiration, Wu Chun's rise to stardom shows that any goal can be

achieved. For Wu Chun's fans from abroad, it doesn't get better than this, as being at WoMen is like being in the 3.0 version of the Wu Chun gallery, after Fitness Zone and Bake Culture.

If you are looking for a quick cut, blow and dry, WoMen Hair Saloon may not be the most suitable place for you. For now, even during the off peak period, there is a waiting time of nearly a week for an appointment. For an afternoon of true relaxation and indulgence, WoMen will definitely not disappoint.

A Majestic Legacy

Penang, Malaysia

This residence was purchased by Chung Keng Quee in 1893 and has now been fully restored. It has been refitted and transformed into the Pinang Peranakan Mansion to house a portion of the extensive collection of artifacts owned by connoisseur Peter Soon. Chung Keng Quee, one of the great tin magnates of the Straits Settlements, was not a Peranakan himself, yet bequeathed a late Victorian mansion of substantial magnificence that serves well to showcase the traditions and lifestyles of Baba and Nyonya families in times past.

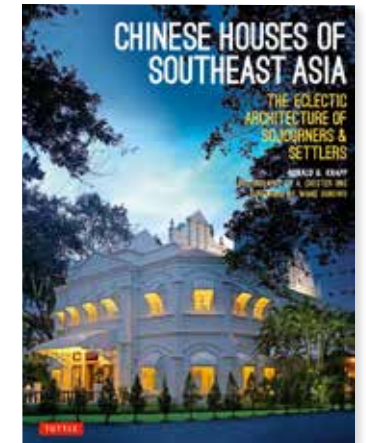


The imposing triple-bay ironworks of the protruding second-floor balcony over this side entrance nonetheless helped elevate its status to that of a handsome "main" entry. Above the entryway was placed a horizontal board with the characters rongyang, meaning "Glorious Sun/Yang," an especially auspicious invocation that is repeated elsewhere in calligraphy within the residence. Just inside the door is a sitting area with a table that opens to an extraordinary courtyard-like skywell with a granite impluvium, a slightly sunken area that drains rainwater falling into the building. A rich ensemble of cast-iron columns, brackets and balustrades helps elevate this space from being simply a traditional Chinese building element to one that proclaims "modernity". Patterned English tiles cover both the surrounding floor surfaces and the adjacent rooms.



Left: This view looking across the skywell reveals the extravagant use of cast-iron columns, brackets, and balustrades as well as the varying patterns within the adjacent semi-enclosed spaces around the atrium-like space.

The grand staircase to the second floor has a polished wooden handrail and balusters of painted cast iron in a fleur-de-lis pattern. The plan of the second floor duplicates that of the first with two large rooms and four small rooms arranged around the balconied space of the courtyard below. Except for the wooden floors, solid doors with fanlights, and exterior shuttered windows with wrought- and caste-iron trim, the rooms visited today display Peranakan artifacts, clothing, and furniture from Peter Soon's extensive collection.



In this article we have featured excerpts from "Chinese Houses Of Southeast Asia" The Eclectic Architecture Of Sojourners & Settlers by Ronald G. Knapp ISBN: 9780804844796 Published by: Tuttle Publishing Photos by: A. Chester Ong Forword by: Wang Gungwu

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Ways to improve your financial security and boost your savings in 2016!



A new year often inspires new financial habits. If you want to put yourself on a path to building wealth throughout the year, then consider these steps, all of which are designed to help you work towards greater financial security. They include both offensive moves, like saving more, as well as defensive ones, like protecting yourself from identity thefts.

1 Protect yourself against identity theft

Identity thieves can steal not just your money but also your identity, which allows them to create new, fraudulent accounts in your name. The cost can add up to tens of thousands of dollars as well as hours of your time trying to rectify the situation. One of the most common online identity theft methods is for an attacker to send an email with a hyperlink that leads victims to an official-looking site that requests personal information. People can be fooled into sharing their names, addresses, and credit card numbers. To keep yourself safe, avoid clicking on unfamiliar URLs sent to you via email, even if at first glance they appear to be from your bank or a retailer.

2 Use tools to help you save more

Apps can make it easier to protect bank accounts from fraud and save more money, and it can pay to use them.

3 Become more financially educated

When it comes to building wealth over time, financial literacy is critical. If you understand basic concepts when it comes to saving, investing and compound interest, then they are more likely to sit on a significant nest egg as you get older. That is why making an effort to educate yourself, whether through workplace education programs or online tutorials, can pay off.

4 Prepare your money to last longer

As you get older and prepare to retire, it is important to make sure your money will last. That means ensuring your investments are in a portfolio that is aggressive enough to outpace inflation and reviewing your budget for any big leaks.

5 Pay off expensive debt

If you are still carrying around credit card debt or other loans, then it is time to make a plan to pay it off. In “The Debt Escape Plan,” author Beverly Harzog suggests setting specific targets for yourself like paying off one credit card by April; and getting support and advice from a credit counsellor if necessary. You might also want to look for ways to scale back spending while simultaneously earning more money, which can then be put towards the debt.

6 Know how to restart

If you have had a rough 2015 and 2016 is about rebuilding, then you might want to focus on prioritising savings and re-establishing your credit. Financial experts suggest going slow, making on-time monthly payments, to eventually reach a higher credit score.

7 Use social media to help improve your finances

Facebook and Twitter are not just about fun and games; social media tools can also help you manage your finances. For example, revising your LinkedIn profile can help you land new clients or a new job. You can also check your Facebook “about” section to make sure you are not revealing details relevant to banking security questions that could make it easier for someone to hack into your account.

8 Improve your credit rating

Giving your credit score a boost can help you get a better interest rate on your mortgage or a new car loan. To improve it, you can start by paying off debt, requesting a credit line increment and always making on-time payments.

9 Rebalance your investments regularly

If you invest too conservatively, then your money might not keep up with inflation. Meanwhile, if you are overly aggressive, swings in the market could lead to a loss of assets at an inconvenient time, like shortly before retirement. Review your portfolio at least once a year to make sure you have the right combination for yourself.

10 Check your insurance policies

Life insurance is an essential part of safeguarding your (and your family’s) financial security, especially if you are the primary breadwinner. Reviewing your policies once a year to make sure they are in good standing and you have enough coverage is a good idea. You can also check if you have options to take out supplementary coverage through your workplace. But do remember that as important as it is to save money, it’s also important to spend it in ways that bring you joy before it’s too late.

AIA understands that while your needs may evolve at different stages of life, your desire to protect you and your loved ones will always stay the same. That’s why it is important that you review your policy every now and then to bridge the gap between the protection you have, and the protection you need. To ensure your family is protected against unfortunate events in life such as accident, illness, disability or death, AIA’s life insurance plans can help avoid financial strains should the needs arise. For individuals seeking to protect their health, AIA offers a comprehensive range of health insurance plans ranging from medical, hospitalisation and long term care to critical illness.

This advice on family living is made possible with support from



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**New Year
New Hope**
with Dato Jack Ting



Photography by Riley Khoo

For this Chinese New Year (CNY) issue, we spoke to a prominent businessman from the Chinese community in Brunei, Dato Jack Ting, the Managing Director of Cityneon Brunei. We asked him to tell us about how he celebrates the Lunar New Year; his view on the current economy; and to give his advice to people who are in the SME sector.

Despite having a conversation centered on culture and tradition, we gained practical insights and sometimes, counter intuitive perspectives about business and life from Dato Ting.

For example, unlike many Chinese business people who prefer to take breaks and leave the country during the CNY, Dato Ting encourages one to stay in Brunei during the CNY holiday. Like our Muslim friends' Hari Raya Adilfitri Open House practices, Dato Ting believes in the value of opening up our homes to foster relationship as well as to catch up with family, friends and associates. On top of that, Dato Ting sees the festive season as the ideal opportunity to celebrate diversity and to unite different races together in harmony. And this all starts at home.

Although Dato Ting is not inherently superstitious, he does respect and follow the traditions of not sweeping the floor and cleaning his clothes on the first day of the New Year. "After all, we will be too busy entertaining our guests all day and there will not be time for any laundry." Laughs Dato Ting. The Ting family normally opens up their home

on the first day of CNY with the help of his wife, his wife's family as well as his staff to welcome friends, relatives and business associates to their celebration.

A self-made man renowned for his work ethic in the business community, Dato Ting's business doesn't stop operating during the New Year period, as the date often coincides with the busiest time of the year - preparation for National Day on the 23rd of February. While he allows himself to be a little more relaxed during the festive season, Dato Ting still visits his office to show moral support to the non-Chinese staff who are still at work.

Dato Ting's company is not immune to the current economic slow down, and he doesn't pretend to

have the magic bullet for the economic situation, except that he tells himself and his staff to remain optimistic. "Because with every downturn cycle, the upturn is usually just around the corner." He further explained that "the important thing is to last through this tough time by being more vigilant for opportunities, have the humility to provide more while accepting less profit margin and be vigilant with spending in order to avoid cash flow problems."

Dato Ting believes that despite the economic condition, there are still pockets of opportunities to be found everywhere. The key is to be a lot more proactive in seeking out these opportunities as nothing will be presented to you, if you don't look for it.

As a business owner, Dato Ting has weathered three major economic downturn cycles in the last three decades. Even though this particular cycle seems to be one of the toughest, the virtue of hard work and versatility in every situation is one that he holds on to - and hopes that other business people would do the same.

As for his New Year resolution, Dato Ting's tone became slightly more philosophical. He said that having good health and happiness with the family is of utmost importance, while everything else pales in comparison, even the state of the economy.

Dato Ting would like to wish everyone happiness, prosperity and good health for Chinese New Year 2016!



Chinese cuisine represents one of the richest and most diverse culinary heritages in the world. It originated in different regions of China and has now gained global popularity. To the Chinese, food family and friends are inseparable. At Yi Yuan Ting Fine Dining Restaurant in Butu Bersurat you can relax and enjoy exquisite meals prepared by Master Chef Sun in an oriental atmosphere that is simple and serene.

Embracing an oriental aesthetic, this restaurant relies on creating a cosy, inviting atmosphere with beautiful Chinese artwork, lanterns and ornaments. But what adds a distinctive personality to the space are the poems on the walls which have been written in Chinese, but have also been translated into Malay and English. Written by one of the owners, these poems reflect positive thoughts about the essence of love and life. This tranquil setting with its reminders of the importance of core values, like respect and honesty, is the perfect place to disconnect from busy schedules and to reconnect with what is important in life.

Impeccable service and excellent cuisine are what is to be expected at Yi Yuan Ting. Both traditional favourites and innovative Chinese dishes will be prepared by MasterChef Sun and his students. Chef Sun who was an apprentice to renowned Chef Martin Yan brings over 27 years of experience to this restaurant and prides himself on the perfect preparation and presentation of every dish. He's also won many international awards and medals for his well-known dishes. Some of his popular dishes at Yi Yuan Ting Fine Dining Restaurant include Thai Style Fish Head Curry, Binchotan Charcoal Beancurd with the Chef's signature Butter Custard Sauce and Cheese Stuffed Squid Balls to name a few. For CNY 2016 many customers have ordered Chef Sun's Special Yeesang and his Braised Eight Treasure in Hotpot. And the great news for Bruneians is that Chef Sun will now be permanently based in Brunei at Yi Yuan Ting Fine Dining Restaurant so we can look forward to trying his new dishes which will no doubt continue to push the culinary boundaries

and to provide a fine dining experience that is truly exceptional.

Here is a Q & A with Chef Sun.

How long have you been cooking professionally?
Since 1988, I started at the Shangri-La Hotel in Sabah.

What was your big break?

I have to say it's not having anyone complain in 28 years, or perhaps it's boiling hot water... Haha...Just kidding, it's my golden prawns, dubbed - Dragon's Shadow on Golden Sand. I was awarded Champion in the 2nd Malaysian Golden Chef Competition where my dish was chosen over 1996 others.

How would you describe your style of cooking?

I have to say that I don't have a specific style - I just use my heart to make every dish that I can. However, I like to experiment with different ingredients from around the world.

Do you have a "signature dish" or favourite dish you enjoy cooking?

As a professional chef, I don't have any particular preference for a dish or cuisine.



How has your food/menu evolved over the years, and which chefs have had the most influence on you?

Like any professional, constantly evolving one's craft is necessary. As long as one has a great passion and a strong sense of one's raison être for one's profession, one should constantly search for ways to excel. As for which chefs have influenced me the most, it is in fact a group of chefs. When I started working in Penang, I got to know a group of chefs who worked in a hotel. It was then I found out that there were competitions in which chefs could compete in and that was when I first started to compete professionally. I could see their passion for cooking in their eyes. Every one of them could speak English fluently, which was rather rare; estimate costings and manage a team -and this is what inspired me. And it was because of them that I changed my attitude towards cooking. Consequently, Chef Martin Yan gave me a lot of guidance when we filmed a TV program about cooking together. While Master Chef Michael Au became my mentor.

In recent years, I have begun to integrate cultural elements into my dishes and cuisine. I started to study the depths of Chinese cuisine as well as the cuisines from different cultures with the hope of presenting my cooking with a cultural backdrop.

What is your greatest achievement to date?

I dare not say that they are any great achievements, I only strive to excel in my profession. In recent years, I have been creating original dishes that are inspired by Chinese, Western as well as Japanese cuisines while integrating a poetic flare to their presentation.

What trends are you seeing in Asian cooking today, and which are you most excited by?

The best of Asian cooking is Thai cuisine, you can find this anywhere in the world, followed by Indonesian cooking. I think that for a particular cuisine to flourish, it is not only the responsibility of the chef. Instead, the government also bears great responsibilities in developing and promulgating it because a nation's cuisine embodies its spirit and culture.

What future challenges and developments do you foresee in the restaurant business in Brunei?

The restaurant business in Brunei is indeed challenging - suitable players and ingredients to make the dishes are very difficult to come by. To expand the Bruneian food and beverage industry, the government must first boost the tourism industry and put this industry in the international arena.



TRENDING
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Top Product Picks

Great ideas and inspiring solutions to enhance the way you live.

BOLD ELEGANCE - My Space Gallery

Designed by the Austrian designer Erwin Leo Himmel, the Khroma Collection incorporates vibrant, intense colour, textures, comfort and technology into one bathroom to create a space that is warm and personal while also being daring and avant-garde. Vincent Gregoire, interior designer and creative director at the prestigious French trend agency Nelly Rodi, who specialises in forecasting trends for fashion, design and interior decoration, chose the Passion Red colour to make the Khroma Collection a genuine gift for your senses.

Khroma Mirror
BND 550

The Khroma bathroom mirror is equipped with lighting and anti-moisture functions. They can be activated by a touch on the glass. The side panels of the mirror can be turned inward by up to 45 degrees, a humanistic design allowing you to see your left and right without turning around.

^ My Space Gallery



Khroma
Close Coupled Back to Wall Toilet Suite
BND 1,250

Featuring a white finish with a Passion Red self-closing toilet seat. This model has a push button dual flush 3L/6L. The Khroma toilet seat and backrest feature Roca Soft Texture. The surface of the innovative high-tech material feels smooth, soft and is clean to touch.

^ My Space Gallery



DISTINCTIVE DESIGN - LOFT AND CO

Ploum by the R. & E. Bouroullec Brothers.
BND 6,094

The Ploum sofa's truly ample dimensions provides extreme comfort and accommodates different ways of sitting, stretching out or even lying down. The settee is asymmetrical in construction with a freely formed shape turning the Ploum into a veritable nest.

^ LOFT & CO



Bloom by Hiroshi Kawano
BND 400

Create your own sculptural lighting with this malleable graphic design. The Bloom features a striking shade with interlocking rings of polyether foam. This highly original design creates a multitude of abstract shapes and shadows that shift with the viewer's perspective. Available in Black or White the thick lines are borrowed from Japanese illustration of soft flowing white waves similar to delicate paper hanging decorations.

^ LOFT & CO



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\$217 billion
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60%
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FROM TODAY

\$75,000
INCOME
PER PERSON
FORECAST BY 2031

35%
INCREASE
FROM TODAY

\$62 billion
VALUE
OF BRISBANE
EXPORTS IN 2031

41%
INCREASE
FROM TODAY

Prepared by Urbis Source: Brisbane Marketing



As of late, Brisbane has been receiving a lot of talk and hype as the new World City of Australia, after hosting the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2014. This thriving, progressive and multicultural city is ever ready to play an economic leadership role in the Asia Pacific region.

Despite the mining and resources industry facing a challenging time now, Brisbane is supported by many other industries such as higher education and technology, while aiming to become a global hub in scientific innovation, meetings and is committed to strengthening trade and commerce across the globe.

With strong demand continuing for its natural resources from emerging Asia, Australia is in an enviable position. Queensland is perfectly positioned to capitalise on this and consequently the Queensland economy is expected to grow 6 per cent in 2015-16 (Source: Queensland Treasury and Trade, State Budget 2013-14 Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review).

Brisbane is also Queensland's economic engine room – a growth city with a strong history of economic performance and significant infrastructure investment. The economy is predicted to grow to be worth more than \$217 billion by 2031 (Source: Brisbane City Council, Economic Development Plan 2012-2031).



Consumer confidence in Brisbane is strong due to its younger and faster growing population than the other capital cities in Australia. South East Queensland is one of Australia's largest metropolitan regions, comprising of 3.1m people. With such a youthful and skilled population, it will not be surprising that Brisbane will soon catch up to its neighbours - Melbourne & Sydney.

Brisbane will be on the road to becoming an economic powerhouse in the Asia Pacific region in the near future.

This article is contributed by Joann Tay, from +Vantage group.



24 hours



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PROPERTY
Houses in Sg. Tilong, Brunei

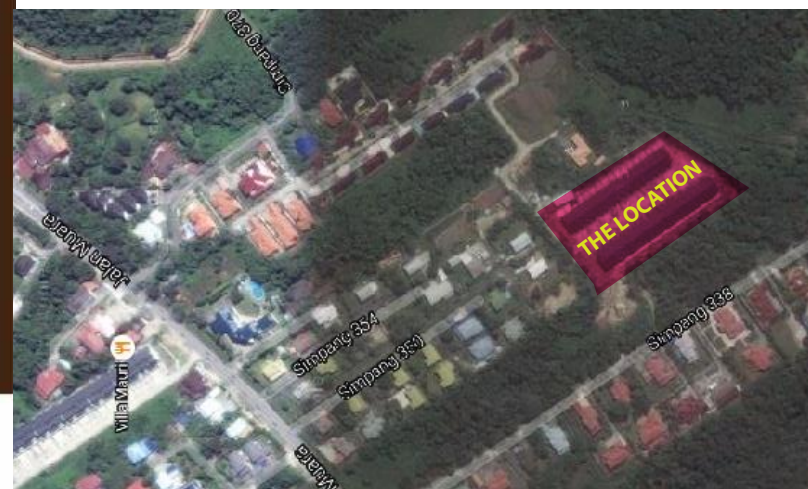


Semi - D House Sg. Tilong, Jln Muara

Property ID: IL-FE/S/02550



- Prime Hilltop Location
- Close to Hua Ho Manggis, Berakas Highway & Aman Complex
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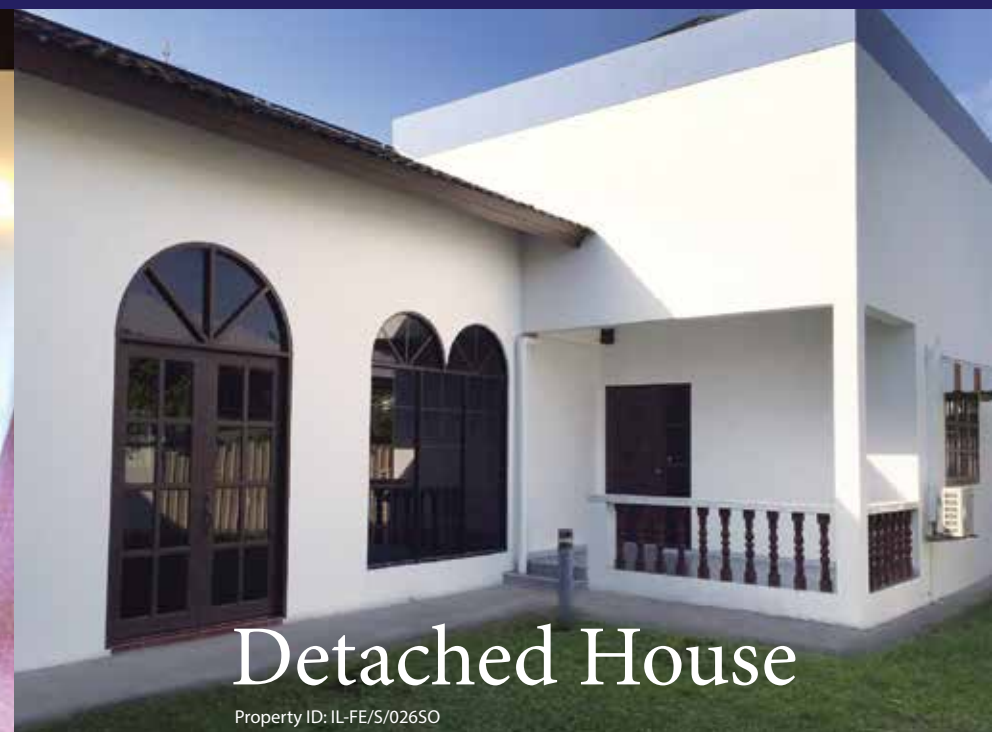
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 E oregonsystems@yahoo.com

Oregon Systems

FOR SALE



Detached House

Property ID: IL-FE/S/02650

Location: Pandan 4, Kuala Belait
 Type: 2 Storey Detached House with High Ceiling, European Design
 No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms, 1 Living Room, 1 Family Room
 Price: BND 580,000

Land Title: Freehold
 Land Size: 0.19 acre
 Status: Available Fully Furnished
 Price includes all furniture, TV, Astro, Fridge, Washing Machine and Dryer

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FOR SALE / RENT

Detached House

Property ID: IL-FE/S/02750

Location: Kg. Rimba, Gadong
 Type: Two Storey Detached House
 No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms
 Price: For Sale: BND 460,000
 For Rent: BND 2,200 (Semi Furnished)
 For Rent: BND 2,800 (Fully Furnished)

Land Title: Leasehold
 Land Size: 0.11 acre
 Status: Available



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Build up:
2,932
Sq feet

Land Size:
0.083 acre to 0.127 acre

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For Sale

For Sale

KUALA BELAIT



Property ID: IL-FE/S/00100
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 4 Toilets
Land Title: Kekal
Land Size: 0.223 acre
Built-up Area: 4,521 ft²
Price: BND 450K
Status: Proposed, Only 1 Unit Remaining



Property ID: IL-FE/S/00200
Type: 3 Storey Apartment
No. of Rooms: 3 Bedrooms + 4 Toilets
Land Title: 60 Years Strata Title
Built-up Area: 2,188 ft²
Price: BND 300K
Status: Proposed, Only 1 Unit Remaining



Property ID: IL-FE/S/00300
Type: Detached Bungalow
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 1 Living Room + 1 Family Room
Price: BND 580K
Status: Available, Fully Furnished
High Ceiling, European Design

MANGGIS, JLN. MUARA



Property ID: IL-FE/S/00400
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 4 Bathrooms
Land Title: Freehold
Land Size: 0.08 acre
Built-up Area: Approx 2,300 ft²
Price: BND 500K
Status: Brand New and Lightly Furnished (3 Covered Carparks)

KG. TJ. BUNUT



Property ID: IL-FE/S/01300
Type: 2 Storey Terrace
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms
Land Title: Freehold
Built-up Area: Approx 2,200 ft²
Price: BND 250K
Status: Under Construction

KG. SG. TAMPOI



Property ID: IL-FE/S/014AL
Type: Terrace
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Toilets
Land Title: Kekal
Land Size: 0.041 acre (Intermediate Unit), 0.061 acre (Corner Unit)
Built-up Area: 2,280 ft²
Price: BND 268K (Intermediate Unit), BND 285K (Corner Unit)
Status: Available

KG. SG. HANCHING



Property ID: IL-FE/S/015AL
Type: Terrace
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Toilets
Land Title: Kekal (Rakyat Jati)/Lease (Non Rakyat Jati)
Land Size: 0.043 acre
Built-up Area: 1,850 ft²
Price: BND 238K
Status: Proposed



Property ID: IL-FE/S/016AL
Type: Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 4 Toilets
Land Title: Kekal (Rakyat Jati)/Lease (Non Rakyat Jati)
Land Size: 0.065 acre
Built-up Area: 2,066 ft²
Price: BND 295K
Status: Proposed

JLN. MUARA



Property ID: IL-FE/S/005LR
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 5 Bathrooms
Land Size: 0.075 acre
Built-up Area: 2,636 ft²
Price: BND 350K
Status: Under Construction

KILANAS - BAN 2A



Property ID: IL-FE/S/006OLR
Type: Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms
Land Size: 0.093 acre
Price: BND 340K - BND 350K
Status: Proposed

KILANAS - BAN 4



Property ID: IL-FE/S/007CS
Type: 2 Storey Terrace
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 4 Bathrooms
Land Title: Lease 91 Years | Open to Foreigners
Built-up Area: 2,500 ft²
Price: BND 257K
Status: Under Construction

MADANG



Property ID: IL-FE/S/008CS
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Land Title: Lease
Land Size: 0.063 acre
Built-up Area: 2,100 ft²
Price: BND 280K
Status: Under Construction

SG. TALI



Property ID: IL-FE/S/017DE
Type: 2.5 Storey Terrace
Land Title: 50 Years Lease
Land Size: 0.0617acre - 0.1188 acre
Built-up Area: 3,534 ft²
Price: BND 468K - BND 500K
Status: Completed

KG. JANGSAK



Property ID: IL-FE/S/018AL
Type: Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Toilets
Land Size: 0.08 - 0.09 acre
Built-up Area: 2,191-2,553 ft²
Price: BND 280K - BND 330K
Status: 3 Units Available

KG. SABUN



Property ID: IL-FE/S/019AL
Type: Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 1 Study Room
Land Size: 0.16 acre
Built-up Area: Approx. 2,700 ft²
Price: BND 330K
Status: 3 Units Available

MENTIRI



Property ID: IL-FE/S/020CS
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 4 Bathrooms
Land Title: Freehold or Lease Available
Built-up Area: 2,400 ft²
Price: BND 350K
Status: Completed

SUBOK



Property ID: IL-FE/S/009LR
Type: Linked House
No. of Rooms: 5 Bedrooms
Land Size: 0.143 acre
Built-up Area: 3,717 ft²
Price: BND 460K
Status: Under Construction



Property ID: IL-FE/S/010CS
Type: 2 Storey Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Land Title: Freehold
Land Size: 0.126 acre
Built-up Area: 2,200 ft²
Price: BND 400K
Status: Completed with OP



Property ID: IL-FE/S/011LR
Type: Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 5 Bedrooms
Land Size: 0.078-0.105 acre
Built-up Area: 3,288-3,400 ft²
Price: BND 395K - BND 420K
Status: Under Construction

KAPOK



Property ID: IL-FE/S/012CS
Type: 2 Storey Detached
No. of Rooms: 6 Bedrooms + 6 Bathrooms + 2 Living Rooms + 2 Kitchens
Land Title: Freehold
Land Size: 0.14 acre
Built-up Area: 3,500 ft²
Price: BND 425K
Status: Under Construction

TELISAI



Property ID: IL-FE/S/021CS
Type: Apartment
No. of Rooms: 3 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Price: BND 299K
Status: Proposed, Fully Furnished

BEBATIK VILLA



Property ID: IL-FE/S/022DE
Type: 2 Storey Detached
No. of Rooms: 5 Bedrooms + 4 Bathrooms
Land Title: Kekal
Land Size: 0.126 acre
Built-up Area: 2,525 ft²
Price: BND 375K - BND 480K
Status: Completed

JERUDONG



Property ID: IL-FE/S/023DE
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 4 Bathrooms
Land Title: Kekal
Land Size: 0.0748acre - 0.1014 acre
Built-up Area: 2,423 ft²
Price: BND 289K - BND 329K
Status: Proposed



Property ID: IL-FE/S/024LR
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 4 Bathrooms + 2 Kitchens
Land Size: 0.12 acre
Built-up Area: 3,000 ft²
Price: BND 288K
Status: Proposed (2 Units Remaining)

Contact Janet | +673 818 7128 \ +673 223 3630 | janet@catalyst.com.bn

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For Rent

For Rent

KUALA BELAIT



Property ID: IL-FE/R/00100
Type: Duplex Apartment
No. of Rooms: 3 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Price: BND 1,200/mth
Status: Available

Property ID: IL-FE/R/002LR
Type: Apartment
No. of Rooms: 3 Bedrooms + Swimming Pool + Gym
Price: BND 2,500/mth
Status: New, Fully Furnished

KILANAS



Property ID: IL-FE/R/00300
Type: 2 Storey Detached House
No. of Rooms: 5 Bedrooms + 5 Bathrooms
Price: BND 2,000/mth
Status: Semi-Furnished

Property ID: IL-FE/R/004DE
Type: Semi-Detached Bungalow
No. of Rooms: 3 Bedrooms + 2 Bathrooms
Price: BND 650/mth
Status: Available

SG. HANCHING



Property ID: IL-FE/R/013HM
Type: 2 Storey Detached
No. of Rooms: 5 Bedrooms + 4 Bathrooms
Price: BND 1,500/mth
Status: Used

JLN. BERAKAS



Property ID: IL-FE/R/014LR
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms
Price: BND 2,000/mth
Status: Brand New, Furnished

BUNUT



Property ID: IL-FE/R/015DE
Type: 2 Storey Terrace
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Price: BND 900/mth
Status: Available

JANGSAK



Property ID: IL-FE/R/016DE
Type: 2 Storey Terrace
No. of Rooms: 3 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Price: Intermediate Unit BND 800/mth
Corner Unit BND 1,000/mth
Status: Available

SUBOK



Property ID: IL-FE/R/00500
Type: 2 Storey Detached
No. of Rooms: 6 Bedrooms + 7 Bathrooms
Price: BND 1,800/mth
Status: Available and Fully Furnished
Including Air Conditioning, Curtains, Window and Door Grills

Property ID: IL-FE/R/006HM
Type: 2 Storey Detached
No. of Rooms: 7 Bedrooms + 6 Bathrooms
Price: BND 3,800/mth
Status: Used

JLN. MUARA



Property ID: IL-FE/R/007LR
Type: Terrace
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms
Price: BND 1,635/mth
Status: Fully Furnished

Property ID: IL-FE/R/00800
Type: 2 Storey Detached House
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Land Size: 0.33 acre
Price: BND 1,500/mth
Status: Available (Unfurnished)

RIMBA



Property ID: IL-FE/R/017LR
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms
Price: BND 1,800/mth
Status: Fully Furnished with Big Compound



Property ID: IL-FE/R/018SP
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Price: BND 1,800/mth
Status: Partially-Furnished

LEMPAKI



Property ID: IL-FE/R/019DE
Type: 2 Storey Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms
Price: BND 1,800/mth
Status: Furnished

SG. AKAR



Property ID: IL-FE/R/020DE
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Price: BND 1,800/mth
Status: Furnished

BERIBI



Property ID: IL-FE/R/009HM
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Price: BND 2,100/mth
Status: New

Property ID: IL-FE/R/010HM
Type: 2 Storey Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 4 Bathrooms
Price: BND 2,500/mth
Status: Used

LAMBAK



Property ID: IL-FE/R/011HM
Type: 2 Storey Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 5 Bathrooms
Price: BND 2,000/mth
Status: Used

SALAMBIGAR



Property ID: IL-FE/R/012HM
Type: 2 Storey Detached
No. of Rooms: 7 Bedrooms + 6 Bathrooms
Price: BND 3,800/mth
Status: Used

KIARONG



Property ID: IL-FE/R/021HM
Type: 2 Storey Semi Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 5 Bathrooms
Price: BND 2,000/mth
Status: New



Property ID: IL-FE/R/022HM
Type: 2 Storey Semi Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Price: BND 1,800/mth
Status: New

TUNGKU LINK



Property ID: IL-FE/R/023LR
Type: Bungalow
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms
Price: BND 3,000/mth
Status: Fully Furnished

TJ. NANGKA



Property ID: IL-FE/R/024SP
Type: 2 Storey Semi-Detached
No. of Rooms: 4 Bedrooms + 3 Bathrooms
Price: BND 1,500/mth
Status: Fully-Furnished

Contact Janet | +673 818 7128 \ +673 223 3630 | janet@catalyst.com.bn

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- And so much more!

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Fun Bee Park, Batu Bersurat
9:00am – 4:00pm

ARTWALK

fun bee park

IA Salon

ARTWALK

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Syalfuddin Soil Artist

Sean Chal from Korea Sand Artist

Merriok Chin Wee Fun Bee Park Student Artist

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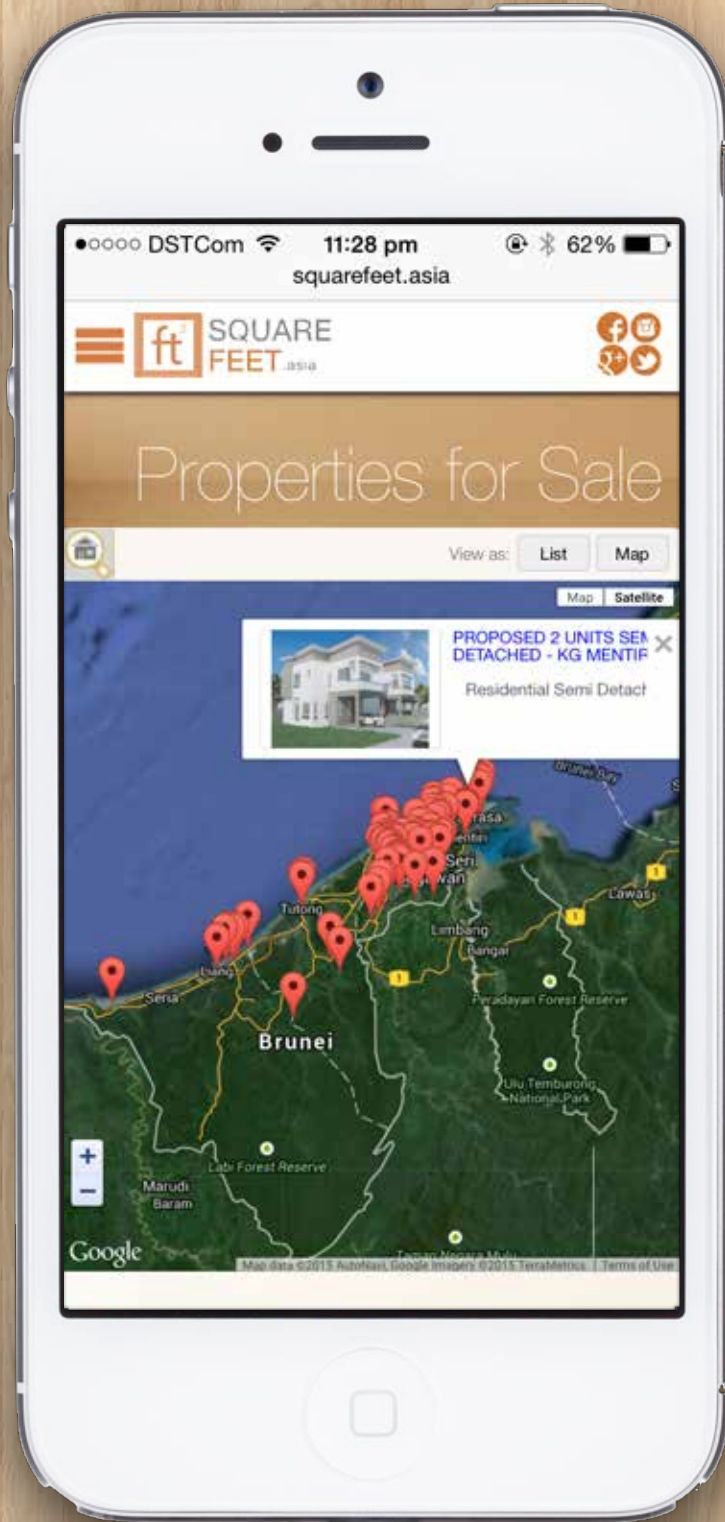
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Beijing Tea House

The Beijing Tea House designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, overlooking the Forbidden City.





CELEBRATING CHINESE CULTURE IN CHINATOWN IN MANILA & VANCOUVER

China isn't the only country rolling out the red carpet for the Lunar New Year. Cities across the globe – home to large ethnic Chinese communities – are also preparing for spectacular celebrations. And to welcome in The Year of the Monkey, Chinatowns in major cities will host parties that add a touch of local custom and also include traditional lion and dragon dance performances, parades, flower displays and food. All are observed in the hope of bringing luck and fortune in the New Year. Here we take a glimpse of how CNY is celebrated in Manila & Vancouver:



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MANILA

Manila's Chinatown is located just across the Pasig River opposite the Spanish walled city Intramuros. It is known by various names -: to the tourists, it is Chinatown; to the Filipinos, the area is known as Binondo; and Chinese Filipinos refer to the area as "Chi Lai", a Hokkien term meaning inner city. It has a rich history and heritage dating back to the early decades of the Spanish colonial period. It prides itself on not only having the best and most authentic Chinese cuisine in town but also landmarks, relics and ancient practices of cultural and historic significance. It has been said that "Chinatown played an important role in the growth of Manila. For the first four centuries, this was the centre of trade and commerce in the city. This was also the first stop of the Chinese immigrants who settled and found a new life in Manila. With the coming of these immigrants, a new culture was introduced that enriched the melting pot of the city."



Chinese New Year Festival in Manila



Lion and Dragon Dance in Manila

If you are heading to the Philippines for the Chinese New Year then, you will be in for a treat. The Binondo district of Manila becomes a riot of fun and colour during this time of year with a parade of huge dancing lions and dragons. People hang the "ang pao" on the entrance of their homes for the dancers to collect. About 5% of the total 4 million population of the Philippines consists of the "Tsinoy's" and it is this population that makes the Chinese New Year such a gala affair in the Philippines. Although not an official holiday, Chinese New Year in the Philippines is a treat for anybody visiting at this time. Red is the auspicious colour for this occasion and children receive gifts in bright red envelopes with Chinese characters, called "ang pao". You will also be able to sample the flavours of "tikoy", the traditional Chinese New Year food made out of sticky rice that is available only at this time of the year.



Chinese New Year Parade in Vancouver

VANCOUVER

Chinatown in Vancouver was first inhabited by the Chinese in 1885 and is the second largest Chinatown in North America. Thousands of Chinese and Asian immigrants were attracted to the area by the prospect of work, as gold mines, sawmills, lumber camps, railroad construction and more required large labour-forces. Between 1890-1920, early Chinese immigrants settled in what was known as Shanghai Alley and Canton Alley. By 1890, Shanghai Alley was home to more than 1,000 Chinese residents. Much of the community's activities and entertainment evolved around a 500 seat Chinese theatre built in 1898. Canton Alley was created in 1904 as a Chinese style courtyard surrounded by two parallel rows of buildings running south from Pender Street. The Alleys were the convergence of vibrant nightlife, opera music, shopping, political and cultural activities. Today Vancouver can still boast of having a large Chinatown district. It has an authentic oriental atmosphere, with many well-preserved buildings in oriental style.

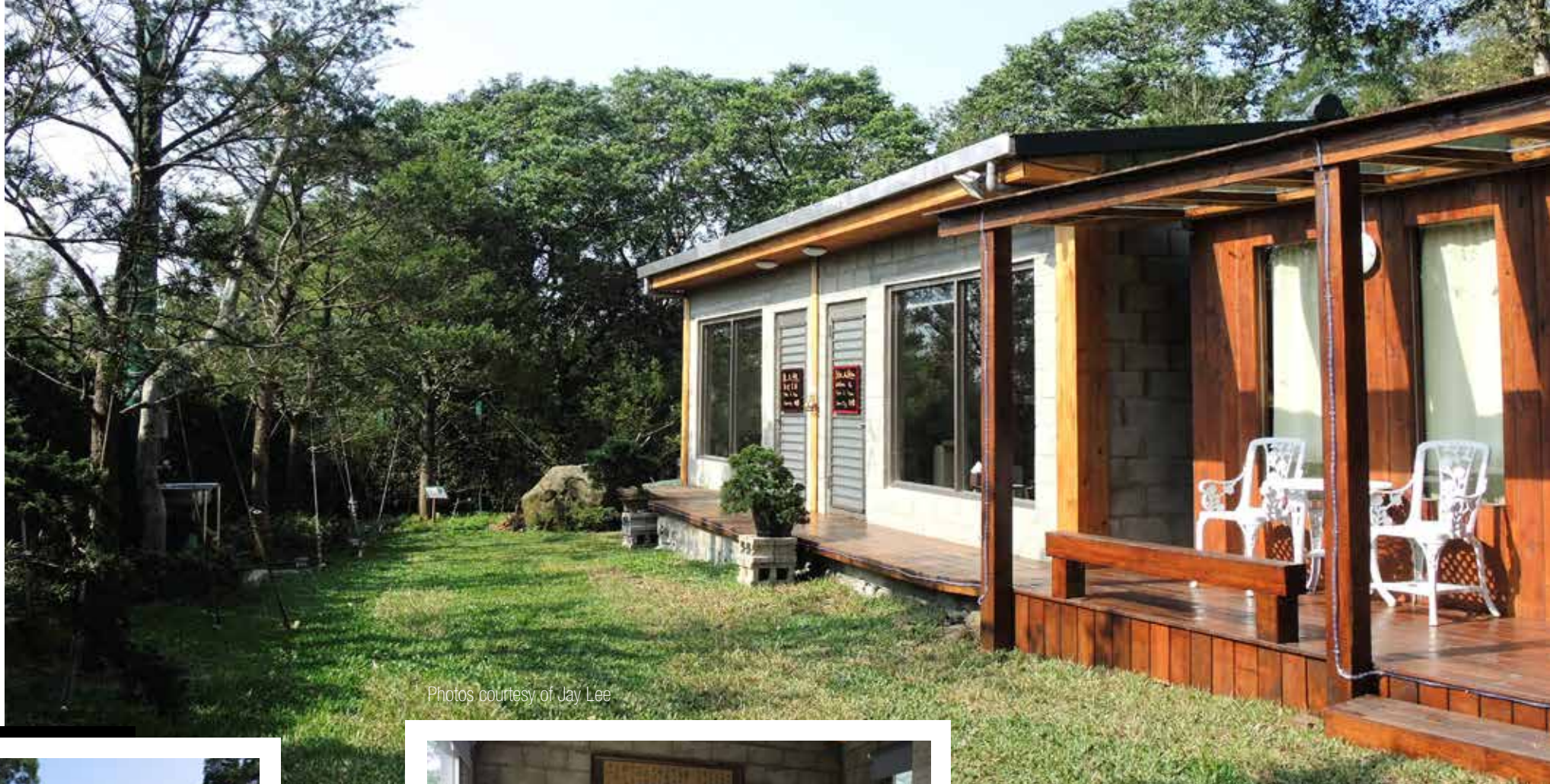


Chinatown in Vancouver

This year one of the best places to celebrate CNY is Vancouver's Chinatown, with the highlight being the parade on Sunday, February 14th. A Vancouver cultural festivity that you won't want to miss is Chinatown's New Year's parade. There are colourful dragons and numerous bands and people in costumes marching down the streets. The parade goes down West Pender under the Chinatown Millennium gate, up Gore Street, and then back up along Keefer. Tens of thousands of people crowd the perimeter of Chinatown, awaiting the 3,000 performers including 50 lion dance teams, Vancouver Police Department Motorcycle Drill Teams, marching bands and more. After the parade, visitors can head to the Vancouver Chinatown Spring Festival & Cultural Fair at Sun Yat-sen Plaza, before going to dinner at any of the authentic regional-specific Chinese restaurants in the city.

波波爺爺

Homestay



Photos courtesy of Jay Lee

Quick chat with Airbnb host Jay Lee (Japanese Tatami at Yangmingshan, Taiwan)

Airbnb has become the most popular alternative to staying in a hotel for travellers worldwide. The accommodation is usually cheaper than a traditional hotel and offers a more social and authentic travel experience. Whether you're looking for more space and amenities or you just want to know more about the local way of life – it's worth considering the many options available on Airbnb. To find out more about what makes Airbnb accommodation such an enticing and attractive alternative, we interviewed Jay Lee an Airbnb host from Taiwan.



波波爺爺

Japanese Tatami at Yangmingshan

Sanzhi District, New Taipei City, Taiwan ★★★★★ (6)



Private room



3 Guests



1 Bed

<https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/8573052>



Why did you decide to put your house on Airbnb?

Actually we didn't plan to put our place on Airbnb at the very beginning. The original intention was to build a garden to nurture endangered species of plants. After the garden was built, we invited our close friends to see our garden. They found that our place was much more than a garden and suggested to us that we should share the spirit and the beautiful place to friends all around the world. Then we did it.

Tell us about the inspirations behind your home design.

The home is designed by three stubborn people, Water Lee (Dad), Jay Lee (Son), Moon Lun (Daughter in law). Water loves Japanese and Chinese style; and Jay and Moon love the neat and simple IKEA style. It was hard to imagine how to combine all of these together, but after more than a hundred discussions (or fights ^_^), we found out the best way to solve this problem. It's what we have now, Grandpa PoPo Home-stay.

How did you overcome the issue of trust to allow total strangers to stay at your property?

If you've read our room description on Airbnb, you will find that we must be one of the strictest hosts on Airbnb. We set clear rules for our guests: they must introduce themselves and be verified by the Airbnb system prior to making a reservation. If guests are not patient enough to go through these processes, they will give up right away. Normally, when people are really interested in booking your rooms, they respect the rules you set and follow your instructions step by step until the reservation is made. We trust Airbnb's system and trust our own management.

What makes your home an ideal holiday stay?

It is tranquil and natural. Our home-stay is located in a suburb of Taipei City, and a well-known national park in Taiwan. It's easy to get to the famous old

street in Danshui (15mins ride), also 15mins to get to the starting point of the hiking route. Our home is perfect for your holiday escape.

Tell us something only local knows about your city or the surroundings of your home.

The most spectacular landscape of Yangmingshan National Park can't be seen in Taipei. You can only see it from our side. I can't tell you why, I can only prove it thru your eyes. ^_^

What advice can you share with homeowners thinking about sharing their home on Airbnb?

Be patient with all of your guests, even if they are rude or annoying. If you treat them with passion and patience, you'll build a strong bond between the guests and you. Always keep your place clean and neat, no one likes staying in dirty rooms when they are on their holidays. Set clear rules and execute them, it's the best way to protect your guests and you.

What has been the best experience being an Airbnb host so far?

Becoming really good friends with our guests. Since October 2014 till now, we've hosted more than 150 guests from all around the world. More than 20 guests became our close friends since then, it's wonderful to meet all of these people and to have them in our lives.



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FOCUSING Kids Advice

Sensible Sleeping Solutions for your children

Children need a good bed simply because a good night's sleep is important if they are to continue to grow in a healthy way. A bed is also much more than just somewhere to sleep for a child, it can also be the centre of a world of imagination and fun.



Actual product may vary from image shown. Decors, Pillows & Mattress not included.

Bunk beds are always a favourite choice and they can provide a very practical solution to space problems. If you are thinking of buying a set of bunk beds built in safety features are important. You will need a good solid set of railings on the side of the top bunk to stop children from accidentally rolling off their bed. And a safety ladder is another crucial feature. It's advisable that you also look for bunk beds that can be separated into two single beds for maximum flexibility – so that when the children get older they will still be practical.

Loft beds are also a great way to save space. By raising a single bed up high you can use the space underneath for storage. Storage cabinets can easily be fitted in or the space can be used for sofas and desks – creating quiet, cosy areas for reading and study. Cabin beds are similar to loft beds but they are designed for younger children so they are not so high. They can create a very attractive bedroom environment and offer similar space saving opportunities, but the disadvantage is that your child will grow out of a cabin bed quite quickly so they can prove to be an expensive solution.

Trundle beds are available in contemporary and traditional styles. With this type of bed, one twin bed unit pulls out from underneath another to easily accommodate a friend for a sleepover. These beds roll back in when not needed.

The captain's bed is similar to the trundle bed, it is a twin bed with storage drawers underneath all on the same frame and has high sides to prevent the sleeper from accidentally "falling overboard".

An ideal solution for a very young child moving from a cot to a proper bed is a **junior bed** or a **starter bed**. These beds are available in bright and imaginative styles which can make the transition fun for the child. Beds shaped like fire trucks or pirate ships are great for young boys while princess four posters will suit many young girls.

However, for a regular, affordable child's bed a **single bed** or **divan bed** is perfect. The initial purchase costs will be quite low and selecting a suitable size means you can avoid having to replace the bed as your little one grows.

This advice on Kids is made possible with support from



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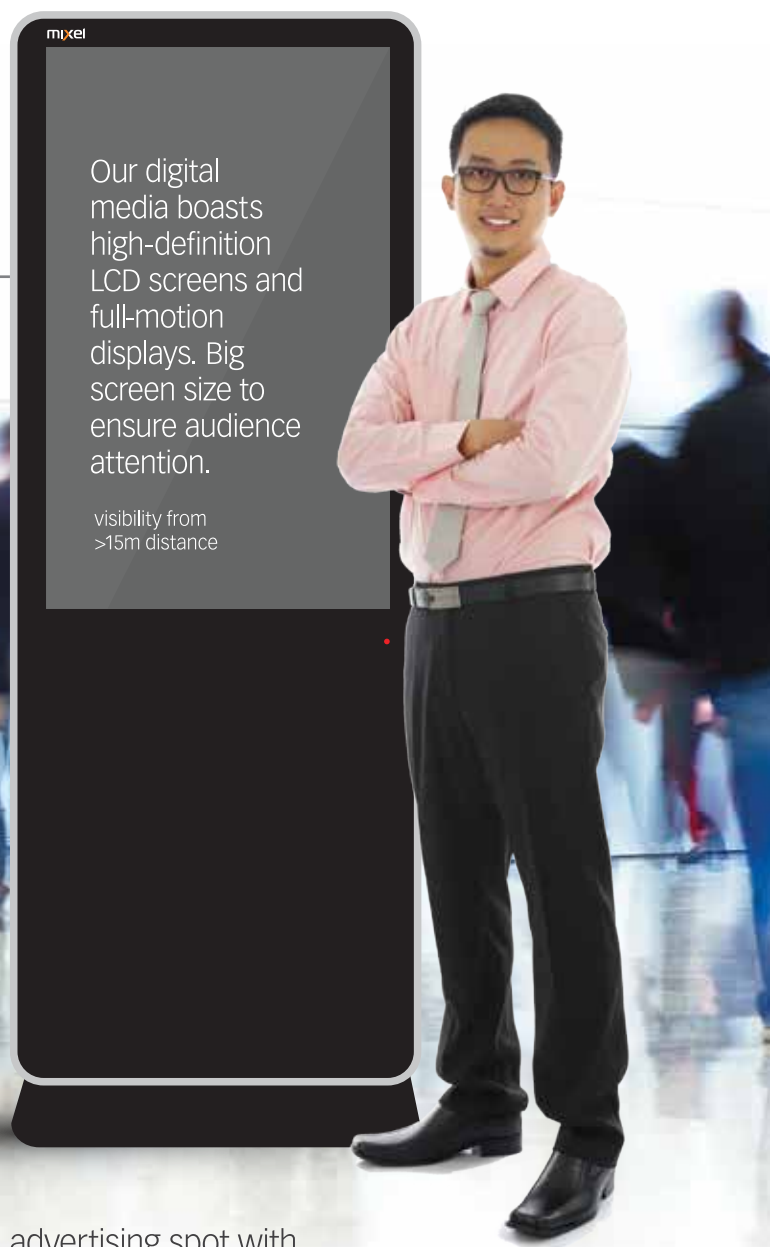
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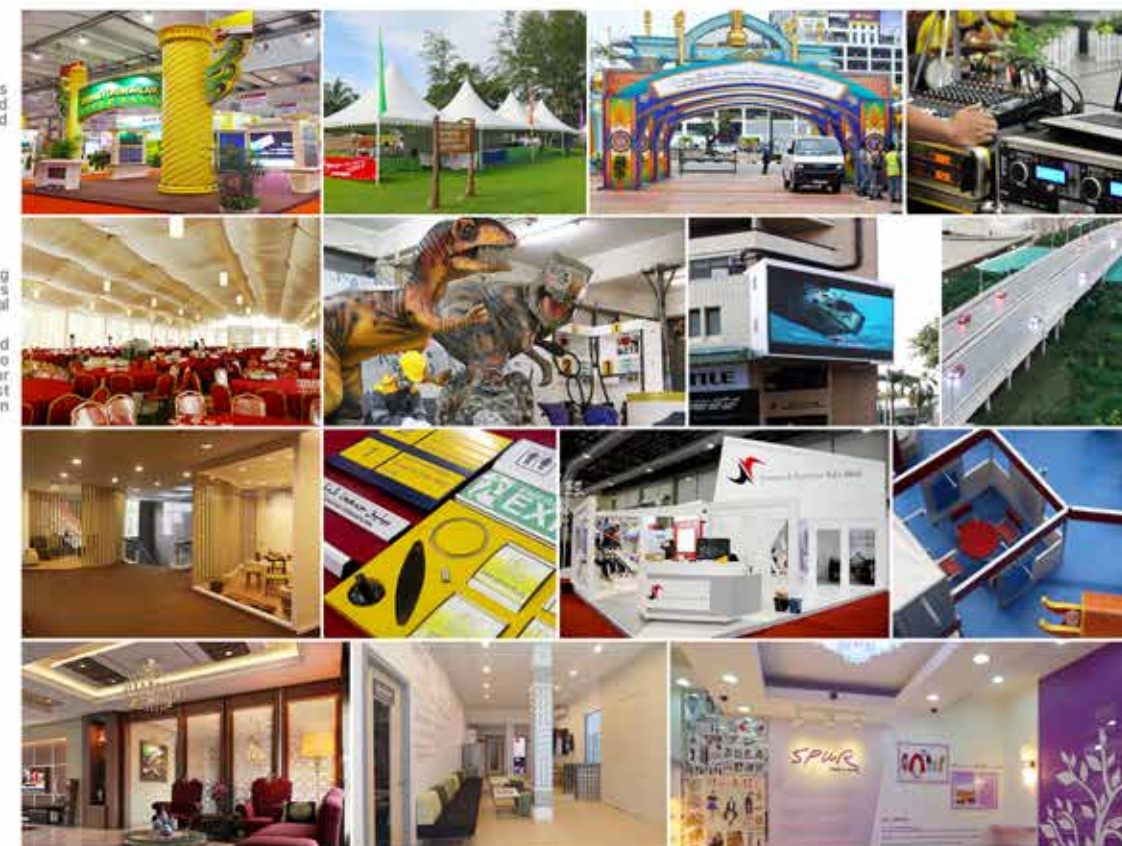
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