

For immediate release

Hong Kong Design Centre Presents 'In Harmony: Way of Tea'
4th Exhibition of DESIGN SPECTRUM

An All-encompassing Rendezvous Around Tea Culture
Brewing Tasteful Lifestyle with History, Aesthetics and Design

(27th April, 2020, Hong Kong) Design Spectrum, organised by Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) under the sponsorship of Create Hong Kong of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, is showcasing Asian design philosophy in four thematic exhibitions at 7 Mallory Street, a cluster of Grade II historic buildings in Wan Chai. Following three acclaimed design showcases, namely 'Material Modernity: Incredible Bamboo, Paper & Wood', 'Open Page: The Art of the Creative Process' and 'Refined Touch: Crossover between Design & Craft', the event culminates in the finale—'In Harmony: The Way of Tea', where visitors soak up the cosy, fascinating world of tea from the perspectives of history, culture and nature, giving substance to the joy of tea tasting with a nod to the relationship between man and tea through the lens of thoughtful design.

Tea Ware that Reveals the Multifaceted Aesthetics of Tea

Opening from 29th April to 19th July 2020 at 7 Mallory Street, the 'In Harmony: The Way of Tea' exhibition curated by Amy Chow, world-renowned interdisciplinary design expert, will bring fresh impetus to Design Spectrum's ongoing exhibition programme with thought-provoking insights from Lee Chi Wing, exhibition co-curator and founder of local product design brand Milk Design. A space dedicated to tea culture, the exhibition probes into the depths, the many possibilities, and the collective cultural memory originating from this ancient brew through the lens of history, aesthetics, life and nature. As Amy explains, "This exhibition focuses on everyday tea-drinking culture, from simplicity and directness of packaging and tea ware design to the ceremonial set-up which has an almost meditative effect on those taking part."

Featuring 45 projects by 20 design units from Hong Kong, the Mainland, Taiwan and Japan among other regions in Asia, the 4-part exhibition starts by enlightening visitors on the history of tea. This is followed by a study of the connection between tea, beauty and life through a diverse and versatile array of tea-related works, from tea ware and tea leaf product packaging to the design of teahouses. Among the exhibits are perfectly usable tea ware crafted by TOKI NASHIKI, a ceramics studio established by local young people who conceive pottery and everyday ware as that thin borderline between art and design, imbued with a sense of timelessness and used as a means to read their own interpretation into modern ceramics. Likewise, Annie Wan Lai Kuen, another exhibiting contemporary ceramic artist, uses daily objects as her subject matter to help us rediscover the extraordinary in the ordinary. Inspired by her personal experience of visiting homes and attending symposiums in Japan, her exhibits examine the interplay of art and life.

Multisensory Tea Stall Experience Highlights the Relationship between Tea and Nature

Co-curator Lee Chi Wing and his Milk Design team will add to the experiential edge with a 'Mobile Tea Stall' that goes against the popular perception of tea appreciation with a design that balances between form and function. On-site brewing services, alongside tea tasting and tea ceremony workshops, will be organised in collaboration with local tea brand BASAO as one of the extended activities during the exhibition period, to add an extra dimension to the tea appreciation.



7 Mallory Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Showcase_Shop 7, G/F
Gallery_Room 301, 303, 305, 307, 3/F
General Office_Shop 201, 2/F

香港灣仔茂蘿街7號
展示廳_Shop 7, G/F
展覽館_Room 301, 303, 305, 307, 3/F
辦事處_Shop 201, 2/F

Design Spectrum
www.designspectrum.hk

Hong Kong Design Centre
www.hkdesigncentre.org

a project of

Among the attractive programme line-up, workshops will be held for making hand-made white clay teacups and planting herbs, so visitors can enjoy a feast of the senses as they enjoy a cup of tea in a tranquil and cosy setting.

Apart from history and design aesthetics, the intrinsic bond between tea and nature are often implicit in human creations, from small tea ware to large-scale interior design. A good example is the works from 'Studio Kao Gong Ji' in Taiwan. An expert in bamboo craft, designer Feng Cheng-Tsung envisions a diverse collection of bamboo utensils for tea made with traditional techniques. ARCHSTUDIO from Beijing, meanwhile, has refurbished an old, hidden away "Tea House in Hutong" by reproducing the scene of a bamboo forest with wood and other elements, giving the tea house a new breath of life with a simplistic modern twist. An extravaganza of design works, **'In Harmony: The Way of Tea'** offers visitors a unique experience beyond the world of tea.

Urban Tea Oasis: Enjoy Planting and Unwind

Comprised of three radicals that represent leaves, men and trees respectively, the Chinese character for 'tea' embodies the intrinsic link between man and nature, as with the modern Chinese garden 'Herbal Pavilion' conceived by Milk Design. Perched in the Atrium on the ground floor of 7 Mallory Street, the pavilion serves as an urban farmland with contemporary use at the heart of the city. The land is tended by Joyce Ng, an Urban Grower who will share the joy of planting and her knowledge of the natural world with the neighbourhood and visitors. Design Spectrum will also organise herbs planting workshops to give participants a chance to take the plants home with them and gain a better understanding of tea and related plants at the end of the exhibition.

Centring around a simple wooden structure inspired by the Chinese pavilion, the small green patch is a wonderland where visitors can farm, unwind and enjoy nature amidst the hustle and bustle of the city.

Design Showcase on Ground Floor: Online Shop of Local Creative Works

Meanwhile, the newly renovated Design Showcase set up by Design Spectrum on the ground floor of 7 Mallory Street will continue to exhibit creative works by three young local designers. The trio this time are accessories brand ZOEE, whose founder Zoe blends conventional craftsmanship with innovative design in delicate and playful knots, garnering commissions from American fashion icon Iris Apfel; Novel Fineries, whose designer June breathes new life into the double-sided embroidery from Chinese Suzhou province with her signature butterfly motif pocket handkerchiefs, and introduces a modern take on fashion accessories with her latest Serpentine Knot collection; and finally, design-led problem solver Mike Mak, creator of a practical yet intriguing invention, the Wisdom Tree bookshelf by Furniture. Design fans can seize the opportunity to shop for creations from these three designers by scanning the QR code at the Design Showcase.

What's more, free guided tours are available at 7 Mallory Street to walk visitors through the exhibits and their design concepts, as well as visit the Design Showcase on the ground floor and 3/F Exhibition Area. For details of the **'In Harmony: The Way of Tea'** exhibition and related happenings including workshops on pottery, planting, design and tea ceremony and other tea appreciation programmes, please visit www.designspectrum.hk.

Attachment 1: Event Happenings of “In Harmony: Way of Tea” Exhibition*

Presented by DESIGN SPECTRUM

In Harmony: Way of Tea

Date:	29 th Apr to 19 th Jul 20
Time:	10am to 7pm, Monday to Sunday
Location:	3/F, 7 Mallory Street, Wan Chai
	Free Admission

Design Showcase by Local Design Power!

Date	Till 19 th Jul 20
Time:	10am to 7pm, Monday to Sunday
Location:	Shop 7, G/F, 7 Mallory Street, Wan Chai
	Free Admission

IDK Design Thinking Workshop: Mindfulness and Lifestyle Design

Date:	23 rd May 20 (Saturday) 24 th May 20 (Sunday)
Location:	3/F, 7 Mallory Street, Wan Chai
	Online Registration, Free of Charge

Herb Propagation Workshop

Date:	23 rd May 20 (Saturday) 24 th May 20 (Sunday)
Location:	Herbal Pavilion, G/F Public Open Space, 7 Mallory Street, Wan Chai
	Online Registration, Free of Charge

White Clay Tea Cups Pinching Workshop + Tea Tasting

Date:	31 st May 20 (Sunday) 5 th July 20 (Sunday)
Location:	3/F, 7 Mallory Street, Wan Chai
	Online Registration, Free of Charge

“Beginning from a simple bowl of tea” Experience Workshop

Date:	20 th Jun 20 (Saturday) 21 st Jun 20 (Sunday)
Location:	3/F Exhibition Area, 7 Mallory Street, Wan Chai
	Online Registration, Free of Charge

Discover the World of Oolong Tea

Date:	25 th Jun 20 (Thursday) 4 th Jul 20 (Saturday)
Location:	3/F Exhibition Area, 7 Mallory Street, Wan Chai
	Online Registration, Free of Charge

Designer Sharing

Date:	18 th Jun 20 (Thursday) 11 th Jul 20 (Saturday)
Location:	Online sessions will be conducted
	Online Registration, Free of Charge

*In light of the current COVID-19 situation and for the health and safety of participants, precautionary measures will be adopted for the exhibition and its extended events, and the above schedule is subject to possible change or adjustment. For the latest updates, please visit the official website at <https://www.designspectrum.hk/>.

About Design Spectrum

Design Spectrum is a new initiative organised by Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) and sponsored by Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR Government) to foster a good design culture in the community. Located in a revitalised cluster of Grade 2 historic buildings at 7 Mallory Street, Wan Chai, Design Spectrum features year-round exhibitions, exchanges, design appreciation and other promotion programmes to cultivate a creative atmosphere, while nurturing local creative capital. It serves as a unique public face for HKDC to strengthen linkages with the community and partners locally, in other cities of the Greater Bay Area, ASEAN cities and overseas, and contributes towards creative and cultural tourism.

For more information, please visit the website at <http://www.designspectrum.hk>.

About Curator Amy Chow

Amy Chow is an interdisciplinary design expert and connoisseur with achievements in multiple roles. Trained in multiple creative hubs like San Francisco, Los Angeles and Rome, Amy joined The Hong Kong Design Centre as Design and Project Director (2005-2012), overseeing the DFA Awards, research, professional training workshops and exhibitions. Over the last decade, she has spearheaded numerous critically acclaimed design exhibitions to the local and international audience, including Creative Hong Kong: Project 9707 (2007) which was seen in Vancouver, Milan, London, New York and Seoul, the six-month-long Creative Ecologies of Hong Kong: Business Living Creativity (2010) at the Shanghai World Expo, Creative Ecologies+ (2012) at The Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Imminent Domain: Designing the life of tomorrow (2013), at Asia Society Hong Kong Center and Confluence 20+ (2017), a monumental roving exhibition series which has travelled to Milan, Hong Kong, Seoul and Chicago. As an intellectual and academician, she has lectured in many design institutions and coordinated academic programs.

About Co-Curator Lee Chi Wing – Milk Design

Lee Chi Wing, founder and design director of Milk Design, graduated from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the École Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle in Paris with a BA and an MA in product design respectively. He embarked on his design journey in Habitat France and Raison Pure. Upon his return to Hong Kong, he joined Philips Design before setting up Milk Design in 1998, which was hailed by the Time Out magazine as one of the Top 25 Hong Kong designers need to know. His design was described by Monocle Magazine as simple and experimental. Driven by the belief that design, as part of daily living, spans from one's culture and tradition, Lee strives to rethink and realises ideas from a modern perspective. Milk Design won an Asia Design Award - Silver award from the Hong Kong Designers Association and a Design for Asia Awards – Bronze award from the Hong Kong Design Centre in 2007 for Cathay Pacific's inflight tableware, which stood out with a dose of local culture. 'A New Bamboo Chair', another iconic work that combines traditional craftsmanship and modern aesthetics, was acquired by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum for its permanent collection.

About 7 Mallory Street

Established in July 2013, 7 Mallory Street is a preservation-revitalisation project of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), comprising a cluster of 10 pre-war Grade II historic buildings built in the 1910s. After refurbishment by the URA, prominent features of the project such as cantilevered balconies, tiled pitched roofs, timber French doors and internal timber staircases are retained and preserved. 7 Mallory Street also serves as a multi-functional community space for various community, cultural, art and design programmes to take place.

For more information, please visit the website at <https://mallory.ura-vb.org.hk/>.

About Hong Kong Design Centre

Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC) is a non-governmental organisation and was founded in 2001 as a strategic partner of the HKSAR Government in establishing Hong Kong as an international centre of design excellence in Asia. Our public mission is to promote wider and strategic use of design and design thinking to create business value and improve societal well-being, with the aim of advancing Hong Kong as an international design centre in Asia.

For more information, please visit the website at: <http://www.hkdesigncentre.org>

About Create Hong Kong

Create Hong Kong (CreateHK) is a dedicated agency set up by the HKSAR Government in June 2009. It is under the Communications and Creative Industries Branch of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau and dedicated to spearheading the development of creative industries in Hong Kong. Its strategic foci are nurturing talent and facilitating start-ups, exploring markets, and promoting Hong Kong as Asia's creative capital and fostering a creative atmosphere in the community. CreateHK sponsors HKDC to organise various projects to promote Hong Kong design. CreateHK's website: www.createhk.gov.hk.

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