

SCOOT

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more in a new chapter for
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ENCOUNTERS IN
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7 YOUR HACKS:
ALL-NATURAL AUROVILLE
& SAPPORO'S SUMMER
PLEASURES



GRIT OVER GLAMOUR



WORDS
KIMBERLEY KOO
PHOTOGRAPHY
VIVIEN LIU



“Looking up at one of the towers in Mei Foo Sun Chuen, one of Hong Kong’s first housing estates. It’s still among the most prominent of its kind today.”



“The futuristic office towers in Central, the financial district of Hong Kong, stand in sharp contrast to the older, smaller streetscapes within the city.”

Hong Kong has ranked consistently as one of the “smartest” cities in the world. In the latest GfK Connected Consumer Index ranking of 78 countries, the city again came out on top as being the most connected to technological devices. But under this sheen of advancement is a concrete jungle with character, dynamism and grit.

We look at the city’s fast-evolving façade through the eyes of Vivien Liu, an architect-photographer, who sifts out the symmetry and geometry in her surroundings. Her background in building design brings a certain technical layer to her perspective and sense of space. She captures the essence of Hong Kong’s culture, heightening people’s awareness of tradition and also their sense of cultural preservation. Here, she gives us a walk-through.





“High-density living in a public housing estate in Choi Hung. These repetitive, geometric patterns are ubiquitous as a result of housing organisation in one of the most densely developed cities in the world.”



“Hong Kong never ceases to surprise, even in its secret spaces – such as this abandoned fire station.”

ORIENT EXPRESSIONS



“The repetition of buildings laid out in a continuous cross-shaped design dominates the cityscape in Whampoa.”



“All the lights in the Mid-Levels district.”



“An iconic red Urban Taxi travelling on Cotton Tree Drive.”



BUILDING A FOLLOWING

Thirty-two-year-old Hong Kong-born Canadian Vivien Liu, who's a Harvard graduate and practising architect, has combined her skills in building design and photography to present a unique perspective of Hong Kong. With a seasoned technical eye and a penchant for balanced proportions and geometric patterns, Vivien has created a distinctive and engrossing visual take on the city. She shares her photography on a number of online platforms, but her curated Instagram gallery has garnered the most attention - she has 168,000 followers, and counting. To follow her work and see a different side of Hong Kong, follow her at @vdubl on Instagram, Tumblr and Snapchat.



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