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0204

Shop stars

Three curator-driven boutiques are redefining the Beijing and Hong Kong shopping experience

02 FEI SPACE ▲

Back in the day, Beijing's independent boutique scene looked about as grey as a Mao suit. But since the opening of Ray Lee and Lin Jing's Fei Space in 2009, the situation has vastly improved. Located on the upper floor of a former radio factory in the 798 art district, a sprawling 1950s industrial plant built by Bauhaus-trained architects and refurbished this summer, Fei Space has earned a devoted following with its range of fashion and home accessories. Think anything from Bless bed sheets to Van Astyn bags, and Marios Schwab dresses to furniture and ceramics designed by Lin herself. 'Most concept spaces seem so clear and clever,' says Lee, a fashion stylist who has worked for David LaChapelle and the Campana brothers. 'Whereas we're more confusion and argument, as our expertise crosses over to art, fashion and design.' The boundary-crossing extends to the owners themselves, Lee being a Londoner of Chinese and Portuguese descent, and Lin a native of China's Guangzhou province who was schooled in Belgium. Tel: 86.10 5978 9580, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang district

03 KONZEPP ▲

Opened in March, Hong Kong retailer Konzepp is already a thriving regional design hub. The Sheung Wan store is an emporium of clothing, homeware and assorted miscellanea from all over Asia. Hong Kong-made travel guides for kids sit next to Korean bamboo massage sticks and jewellery made from miniature Japanese food replicas. Konzepp stocks 'the best of what each Asian country has to offer the international marketplace', according to co-founder Julie Shah, who has also forged links with various local brands. An underwear collection created with menswear label Moustache will soon be followed by wooden furniture made from the store's old rooftop beehive. Konzepp is a subsidiary of design and PR consultancy 33WILL, run by Hong Kong film mogul Willie Chan, manager to Hong Kong's biggest stars (including Jackie Chan), and his business partner Geoff Tsui, a Canadian-born designer. Konzepp's resulting clique of savvy consumers is so loyal that a new event space and bar opposite the store is being opened to cater for their all-hours socialising. konzepp.com



04 WUHAO ▲

Isabelle Pascal opened Wuhaio concept store on a hip hutong of Beijing's Doncheng district last year (see W*140). She is now looking at spaces in Chengdu and Hangzhou, and is even thinking of taking Wuhaio to Milan, Paris and New York. Offering everything from fashion and furniture to design objects and jewellery, Pascal transforms the store every season, commissioning Chinese designers to produce bespoke pieces, and working closely with design schools CAFA, Tsinghua and BIFT. Having started by showcasing just 15 designers, Wuhaio now promotes the work of more than 70. www.wuhaioonline.com

TALKING SHOPS
Clockwise from top left, Lin Jing and Ray Lee of Fei Space; Geoff Tsui of Konzepp; Isabelle Pascal of Wuhaio