

Hong Kong

Run-down high-rises and former warehouses hide some of Hong Kong's most interesting new creative and cuisine-based outposts.

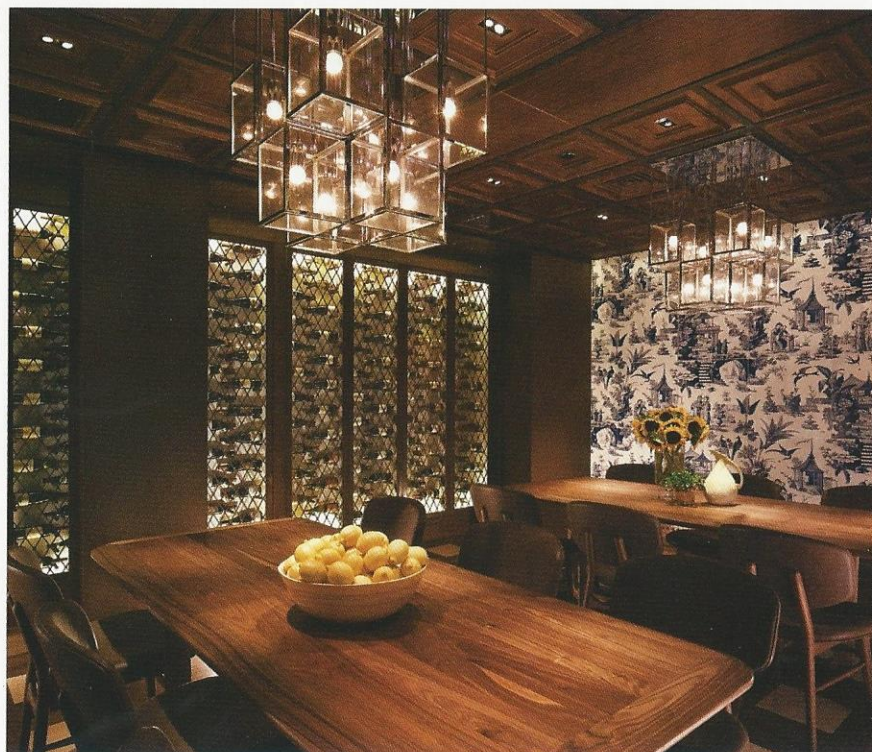
ACO

In a city as densely packed as Hong Kong, creative life is often found where you would least expect it. Hidden inside a grimy-looking high-rise on one of the city's busiest commercial streets, ACO, short for Arts and Culture Outreach, is a gallery, event space and bookstore with a small but thoughtful selection of literature and books on art, cultural theory, philosophy and politics. It is also the spiritual hub of the Foo Tak Building, a vertical artist village with artists' studios, independent film companies and new media production spaces spread over 14 floors. ACO regularly features exhibitions by emerging Hong Kong artists and designers like wood-block printmaker Karden Chan and SO... SOAP!, which makes community-produced, all-natural soap packaged in stylish bottles. 1/F, 365 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai. +852 2893 4808. aco.hk



POINT TO LIFE

Located inside Innocentre, a creative hub home to the Hong Kong Design Centre, the Hong Kong Design Library and an incubator for design start-ups, Point to Life is part-bookstore, part-showcase for local designers. A large selection of art, design and architecture books are organised by publisher, with especially strong representation of cutting-edge small presses like Hong Kong's MCCM Creations. There is also a large collection of back issues of art, design and culture magazines from Hong Kong and Taiwan, including ppaper, C for Culture and IdN. Beyond reading material, Point to Life sells clothing, jewellery and other work by some of the designers who work at Innocentre, like silkscreened bags by creative group Dirty Paper. 1/F, 72 Tat Chee Avenue, Yau Yat Chuen, Kowloon. +852 3188 2107. pointtolife.com



208 DUECENTO OTTO

In Sheung Wan, where the art and design scenes are booming, a former meat storage warehouse has been transformed into the stunning 208 Duecento Otto, a two-storey venue that blends tasty food, good wine and great atmosphere in an elegant but comfortable and unpretentious way. Raw materials dominate the design, from the steel pillars and marble tabletops, to the solid walnut floors and ceiling. The executive chef Vinny Lauria does seduce your palate with Italian cuisine, but the walls, covered in blue and white ceramic tiles printed with Chinese illustrations, will always remind you that you are still in Hong Kong. 208 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong. +852 2549 0208. 208.com.hk