

Macao

澳門

FUN IN THE SUN

**Kun Iam Statue
Waterfront Park
opens to the public**

**Ho Iat Seng reaffirms
the importance of
the GBA to Macao**

**Replanting our
city's woodlands**





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Publisher Government Information Bureau (GCS) of the Macao SAR
15th Floor, China Plaza Building,
Avenida da Praia Grande, 762 – 804, Macao
T. +853 2833 2886 F. +853 2835 5426
info@gcs.gov.mo

Director Chan Lou

Executive Editor Amelia Leong Man Ieng

Editor Eva Lei Sao Iok

Meet our team

Producer and Distributor Macaolink News and Information Services, Ltd.
Av. do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues 600-E,
Edif. Centro Comercial First Nacional 2406, Macao
T. + 853 2835 5315 F. +853 2835 5466
contact@macaulink.com.mo

Editor-in-Chief Gonçalo César de Sá
cesardesa@macaulink.com.mo

Business Development Director Mariana César de Sá
marianasa@macaulink.com.mo

Copy Editor Matt Fleming

Designers Fernando Chan, Sandra Norte

Contributing Writers Rafelle Allego, Vivianna Cheong,
Erico Dias, Erris Ho, Fei Pou Lo

Translator Kary Lam

Photographers Denzel Calangi, Patrick Lei Weng Kit,
António Sanmarful, Oswald Vas

Proofreader Anna O'Connor

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From the Editor

Eyes on the horizon

For all the heartening news of vaccine drives rolling out across the region, the pandemic appears to not be over with quite yet in Asia. Despite that, here in Macao all sights are still set towards the Greater Bay Area, eagerly eyeing up future relationships with mainland China that will bring much-needed development to our territory.

In April, for example, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng travelled to Hainan to attend the Boao Forum, meeting with provincial authorities and other top leaders. They discussed their shared interest in the tourism sector, exploring how to expand new frontiers of development between Macao and the tropical island – a popular destination that has seen record numbers of domestic tourists arrive this year as a result of international travel restrictions.

After Hainan, the Chief Executive travelled to Guangzhou to meet with senior Chinese leaders and discuss the Greater Bay Area. In line with guidelines laid out by Beijing and enjoying the full support of the central government, it seems all but guaranteed that Macao is slated to become an essential economic and tourism hub between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

With high-level communications about the city's economic prospects

taking place from afar, here on home soil the local government is also wasting no time. The inauguration of the newly renovated Macao Grand Prix Museum, which features high-tech upgrades including virtual-reality racing stations and simulators was recently announced. Meanwhile, projects like the Kun Iam Statue Waterfront Park Leisure Area, which boasts sprawling facilities for Macao's families and wellness-seekers, was opened to the public, not to mention the reforestation of Coloane Island and plans for the future central library of Macao, to be located in Tap Siac Square.

In our May issue, Macao Magazine is also looking ahead, featuring some of the city's up-and-coming young designers working in entertainment, technology and architecture, all destined for greatness in the future.

And for something a bit different, we explore the recent resurgence of jazz culture in Macao, bolstered by an unlikely community of passionate groups and individual aficionados. Be sure not to miss the incredible photo gallery taken by our journalist, who travelled to the ancient capital of Xi'an to stand face-to-face with one of China's most important archaeological discoveries, the inscrutable Terracotta Warriors.

Gonçalo César de Sá
Editor-in-Chief



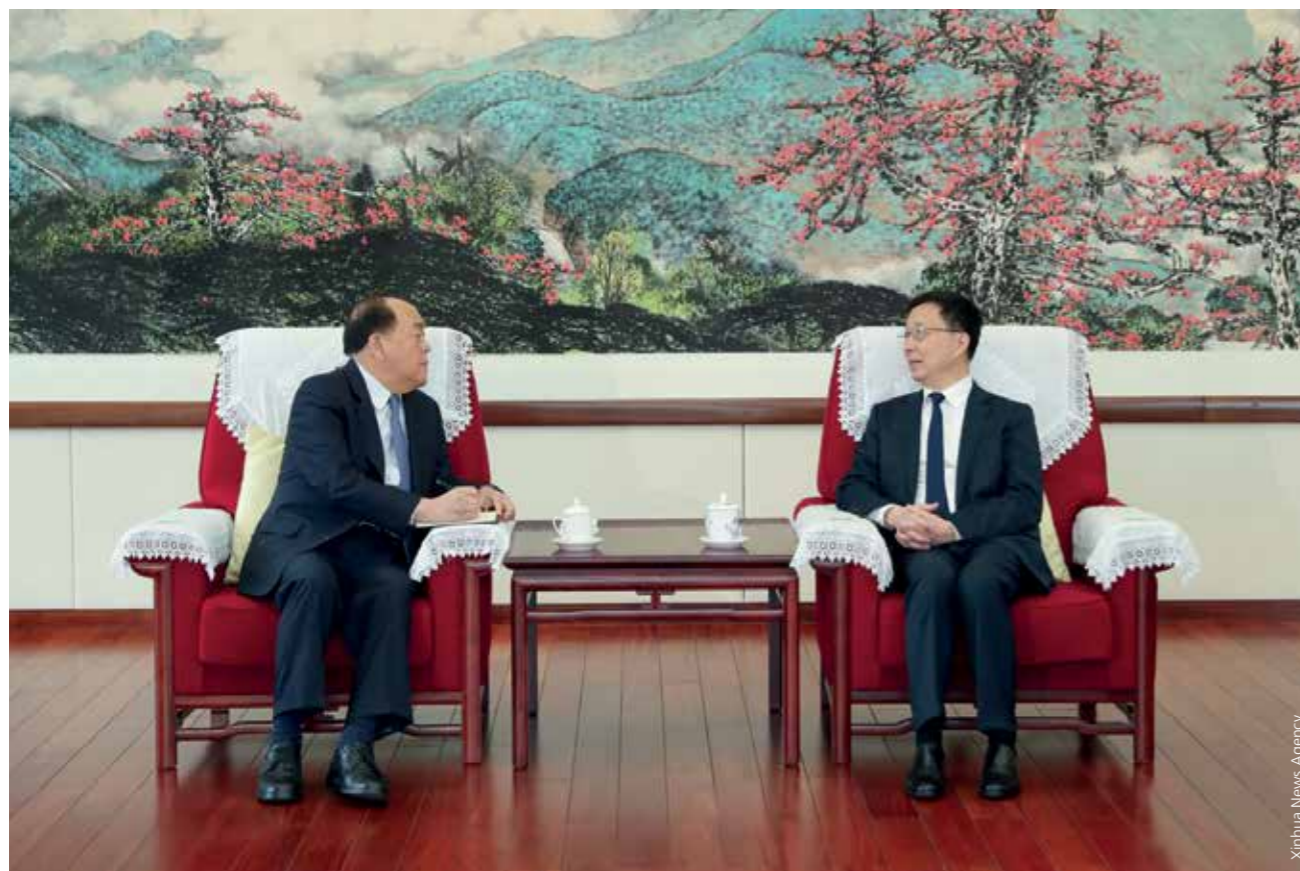
POLITICS

For the greater good

Macao's Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng vows to make an all-out effort to advance the region's Greater Bay Area project during a trip to mainland China last month.

Text **Gonçalo César de Sá** and **Christian Ritter**

Photos **Government Information Bureau** and **Xinhua News Agency**



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng meets with Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng in Guangzhou

(opposite page) Haikou Dayingshan Central Business District, Hainan

One of the most exciting projects in the region around Macao that's happening right now is the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). This is a megalopolis consisting of nine cities in Guangdong province and two Special Administrative Regions (SARs) – Macao and Hong Kong. Underway since 2017, the GBA aims to combine the strength of each city and SARs so it becomes a world-class region that, for a start, is positioned as an international technology and innovation hub with a global influence. And Macao Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng has just pledged once again to make an all-out effort to help advance the project.

The GBA is among the five largest bay areas in the world, along with London, Tokyo, New York and San Francisco. It has a population of more than 71 million people – which is around 5 per cent of China's total population – and covers a total area of 56,000 square kilometres, which is roughly the size of European country Croatia. Along with Macao and Hong Kong, the nine cities in the GBA have a combined regional GDP of more than US\$1.6 trillion (MOP 13.4 trillion). It's a key project that should cement a strong future for the entire region, hence Ho Iat Seng's eagerness to pledge Macao's efforts towards its success.

The Chief Executive pledged that Macao will make an all-out effort to support the strategic decisions taken by the central authorities' Leading Group for the Development (LGD) of the GBA during an LGD meeting in Guangzhou last month. He also reaffirmed that advancement of the GBA project will always be at the forefront of the local government's work. The meeting was headed by Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng.

In his remarks delivered at the meeting, Ho pointed out that China's 14th Five-Year Plan – one of a series of five-year social and economic development plans that have been issued since 1953 – covers a crucial period in which Macao can integrate itself further into the nation's development, adding that the plan has created fresh momentum for local initiatives. The Chief Executive also underlined that Macao is formulating its own second Five-Year Development Plan, which runs from this year to 2025. This plan will be compiled in line with the need for the GBA's high-quality development, as outlined in the central government's 14th Five-Year Plan.

Ho stressed at the meeting that Macao's second Five-Year Development Plan will also be in line with the city's strategic positioning as a world centre of tourism and leisure, as a commercial and trade co-operation service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and as a multicultural exchange and co-operation base with an emphasis on Chinese culture – collectively known as 'one centre, one platform and one base'. He also emphasised

that Macao's second Five-Year Development Plan will focus on how to facilitate adequate economic diversification and how to promote comprehensive development concerning livelihood issues that are faced by the city's residents.

The meeting was also attended by the Party Secretary of Guangdong, Li Xi, as well as the director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, Xia Baolong. Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam was also in attendance. During the meeting, Han Zheng, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC), gave instructions on the major work that's required to advance the GBA project.

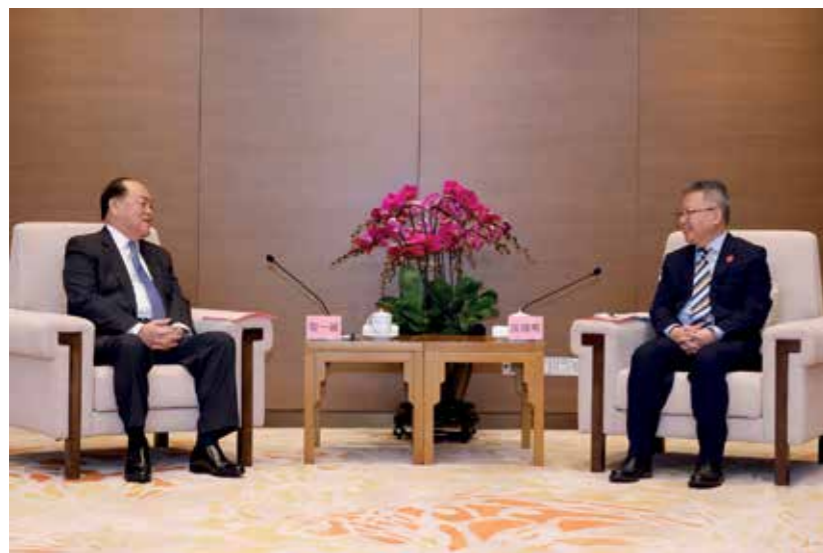
Regarding the future development of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Co-operation Zone planned for Hengqin – which is set to see many future developments carried out by both Guangdong province and the SAR working in

partnership – Ho said that once the overall development plan is published, Macao will work even closer with the Guangdong provincial government, as well as the Zhuhai municipal government, in pressing ahead with the project.

Hainan check-in

Ho Iat Seng's meeting with the Vice Premier at the LGD event in Guangzhou followed a trip by the Chief Executive to the island province of Hainan where co-operation between the two places was bolstered and new areas for future co-operation were opened. In Hainan, Ho attended the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021. The forum is a high-level platform for representatives of the political, commercial and academic sectors with an emphasis on strengthening dialogues and seeking co-operation in terms of Asian development.





(top) Ho Iat Seng meets with secretary of the Hainan Provincial Committee of the CPC, Shen Xiaoming

Ho Iat Seng meets with Governor of Hainan province, Feng Fei

Ho led a Macao delegation to Hainan's Qionghai city and during his two-day visit to the island province, he met with senior officials of the province and of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC). In a meeting with the secretary of the Hainan Provincial Committee of the CPC,

Shen Xiaoming, the two sides discussed how to bolster bilateral ties in economic and trade matters, tourism, developments related to high and new technology, financial services, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and the cultivation of talent in order to support economic development.

Macao's Chief Executive noted that Hainan and Macao have much room for co-operation when it comes to tourism and the two sides should work further as flight times between both places are fairly short. Shen pointed out that Hainan is looking forward to working closer with Macao in order to strengthen co-operation with the world's Portuguese-speaking countries and promote a model of multi-destination tourism.

Ho also met with the Governor of Hainan province, Feng Fei. They shared insights on how to press ahead on co-operation between Macao and Hainan concerning environmental protection and human resources. During the visit, Ho, accompanied by local officials, also visited the Mova Mall duty-free complex in the provincial capital Haikou and was briefed on its latest progress and prospects. Mova Mall is a major tourism and shopping destination in Haikou's city centre, featuring a vast array of shopping, dining and entertainment facilities, as well as more than 2,500 luxury hotel rooms within walking distance. The Mova Mall complex welcomed 22 million visitors in 2019. Ho said that the shopping complex's success story is a reference for Macao's economic diversification drive.

Packed Boao

Vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Edmund Ho – who was Chief Executive of Macao between 1999 and 2009 – was also present at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021 on 20 April. The conference attendees from Macao and Hong Kong called for technological innovation to spur high-quality development of the city cluster in the GBA. Edmund Ho called to promote industrial innovation with technological innovation, upgrade the industrial

chain and explore new co-operation models between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to promote the GBA's integrated development to a higher level.

During the conference, Macao's Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, attended a session entitled 'Invigorate Development through Vibrant City Clusters: The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as a Model'. Lei Wai Nong said Macao can provide legal and commercial services for the trade of commodities, textiles, and mechanical and electrical products between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

The Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021 was themed 'A World in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Co-operation'. It was mostly held via in-person meetings. Some sessions were held virtually to facilitate the participation of international representatives to ensure the events were held in line with pandemic-control measures. All in all, it was a successful conference and Ho's trip to both Hainan and Guangzhou was equally successful. In line with the Chief Executive's comments, it's time for an all-out effort to advance the GBA project for the future. ●

Macao's Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, speaks at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021

(below) 'Invigorate Development through Vibrant City Clusters: The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area as a Model' session at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021



Hainan: the new frontier

The island province is developing at a rapid pace.

Macao's Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, visited Hainan last month – and there are some major similarities between both Chinese places. One of the most apparent is the potential that the province and the SAR share in terms of tourism. Hainan is clearly being viewed as a tourism gem for the future – and it's developing rapidly right now in terms of free trade.

Last month, Chinese authorities announced 28 policies and measures to liberalise and facilitate the trade in goods and services at the Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP), according to the Ministry of Commerce in Beijing. The new measures are a response to the demand of market players and aim to bolster high-quality development of the Hainan FTP to achieve its high standard and phased development goals.

A total of 13 measures focus on goods trade while the rest of them deal with services. They will allow certain regions to pilot the easing of controls on the import and export of commodities like crude oil and refined oil. The import of sugar at the Hainan FTP will also be excluded from tariff rate quota management. Regarding trade in services, the country will adopt 15 measures, including supporting the establishment of national cultural export bases. The measures could open doors to develop trade relations with Macao.

The master plan for the Hainan FTP, announced

in June last year, envisages the development of the province as an internationally competitive trade zone with low tax rates to attract a greater assortment of international trading companies and investors. The plan requires establishing a basic free trade port policy system with a key focus on facilitating free trade and investment by

2025. According to the plan, the free trade port system and operations in Hainan will be more mature by 2035 and, by the middle of the century, a high-level free trade port with strong international influence will be fully established.

It's expected that by 2050, Hainan will become a unique international cluster with an advanced economic system, which includes a free trade zone, campuses of the best universities, the most modern

scientific laboratories and the headquarters of world corporations.

According to an English-language Chinese newspaper, during the whole of last year, Hainan's real GDP grew by 3.5 per cent from the previous year, fixed assets investment was up 8 per cent and retail sales were up 1.2 per cent. Last year marks the first time that the service sector has taken a much bigger share of Hainan's economy. In fact, it's become the mainstay of Hainan's economy, contributing 95.8 per cent of the province's gross economic growth last year.



DreamArchitect

(inset) The Phoenix Island in Sanya Bay, Hainan

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One of the play facilities at
the new Kun lam Statue
Waterfront Leisure Area

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Exploring Macao's newest park, the Kun lam Statue Waterfront Leisure Area

Text **Rafelle Marie Allego** Photos **Denzel Calangi**



Opened just last month, the new waterfront promenade is already a hit with locals. Learn more about what went into the planning and design of this exciting new addition to Macao's fitness and leisure facilities.

Most of us know that spending time outdoors is an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Not only does a walk in nature enhance our mood and get us moving, it's also been proven to boost creativity, improve focus and help mitigate pain. Studies have shown that physical exercise actually feels easier when we're outside, due to a psychological boost from greenery, and that spending time on the playground as a child can reduce vision problems later on in life.

Having designated outdoors spaces for exercise and play are essential to a community's health and wellbeing. So it's welcome news that Macao's latest urban park, Kun Iam Statue Waterfront Leisure Area, is finally open to the public after a year of construction. The park is named for its titular statue of Kun Iam, erected to the side of the park, the Buddhist goddess of compassion, mercy and kindness, who is also considered the patron of seafarers.

Newly opened at the end of April, Kun Iam Statue Waterfront Leisure Area is a recreational area that stretches along Macao's waterfront, representing a welcome addition to the city's leisure services offerings. Spanning 15,000-square-metres, the park includes a range of facilities, including a 400-metre walking trail, a gateball court, a roller-skating rink, and a multipurpose court for sports like basketball, football and volleyball.



The park, which cost over MOP 55 million(US\$ 6.9 million) to build and created over 200 jobs, was received with much fanfare from locals; IAM reported that more than 16,000 people visited the playground area in its first three days of operation.

Speaking to Josephine Tam Wai Fong, chief of the Division of Facility Maintenance at IAM's Department of Public Roads and Drainage, she says the vision behind the new promenade project was years in the making. "After the opening of the Taipa Central Park in 2012, we saw how popular it was to visit the park, for both residents and tourists alike," says Tam. "We thought that something similar to Taipa Central Park was needed Macao-side, and we started looking for a space big enough. We thought the empty area near NAPE Kun Iam Statue – which used to be a simple walking trail – was a perfect potential location for the park."

The park also offers lockers and vending machines under covered areas, with plans to build a café in the near future. Washroom facilities are still under construction, but IAM officials have announced that once they are completed, will offer family-friendly facilities including parent-child washrooms and nursing rooms for mothers.

Most impressive, however, is the sprawling 2,700-square-metre playground, with ample slides, swings and climbing structures to keep kids entertained for hours.

A playground to rule them all

With the location selected, plans moved ahead to develop the park, in consultation with the public. Among the feedback that officials received from the community was the importance of a play area that catered to children of all ages.

"If a family has children in different age groups, they have to go to different parks. The multi-faceted design of this playground gives everyone a space to play in, allowing the whole family to be in one place together – no additional adults are needed," explains Tam, noting that different areas of the playground are designed for the needs of different age groups.

Families with their children enjoy the playground at the new leisure area

All images in this spread courtesy of Government Information Bureau



Aerial views of the waterfront park

Equipped with large-scale play facilities, the playground includes ropes and obstacle courses for children to improve their motor skills and co-ordination, perfect for children aged five to 12 years old. In a separate nearby section, parents of toddlers can avail of a merry-go-round, swing sets, playground climbers and a small trampoline embedded into the ground, all suitable for younger children. Tam says that the design of the site also encourages play between children of different ages, which has been shown to improve the development of social skills among their peers.

Most of the equipment – which meets European international playground standards – was imported from Europe, South Korea and the US, where parks are much larger in scale than in Macao, according to Tam. The official says that the wider proportions give children more room to play in. “People also don’t need to go all the way to Taipa just to find a good-sized park anymore,” says Tam, adding that

the park’s convenience and waterfront view also add to its appeal.

Although the park isn’t technically complete yet, with some equipment delayed by the pandemic, Tam says her team is happy with what they’ve been able to offer the community so far. “We’ve received great feedback from people,” Tam says. “It makes us happy to be giving back. It’s like seeing a newborn that we put all our hearts into coming to life.”

Making health and fitness a priority

Beyond its cutting-edge playground facilities, Tam says the park has much to offer visitors of older ages as well. To encourage health and fitness within the park, planners looked at case studies from Europe and Singapore for inspiration, which were then adapted to fit the Macao environment. “We wanted to make use of whatever space we had, so nothing was left to waste, and we could give users the best facilities possible.”



Adjacent to the playground is a workout area with outdoor fitness equipment including strength-training machines and mobility apparatuses, as well as comfortable seating areas. “Due to the pandemic, we found that offering different types of outdoors facilities could be helpful in attracting citizens to exercise more,” says Tam. “Europeans believe that outdoor fitness is healthier than indoor, which is why we’ve introduced this kind of street fitness into the park. We’ve also made efforts to include equipment that the public are already accustomed to using.”

Designed with the public in mind, Tam says the space was built to fit seamlessly into its surrounding community. The park is divided into sections, in order to meet the recreational needs of all its guests, citing the far flung location of facilities like the sports courts and roller rink, which are closer to the Macao Science Centre.

“Because we anticipated a lot of noise from the multipurpose court, which is only open during the daytime, we moved it farther away from the NAPE residential area so that it would be less of a disturbance for people coming off of night shifts,” Tam says.

“Our job is to make everyone’s environment better, and an important part of that are parks like this for the public’s use,” says Tam. “Our team really wanted to give the community something new. From Monday to Friday, everyone is so busy, but we hope that this new space will benefit their health and get them to unwind here.” ●



Opening hours and ticketing

Due to the park’s popularity, a ticketing system has now been set up to book and use the facilities. The playground, gateball court, roller skating rink and sports court are open from 7am to 11pm. Other facilities like the walking trail and adult fitness and leisure areas are open day and night.



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ARTS

Central Library: the next chapter

Dutch design firm Mecanoo has published its plans for Macao's Central Library project in Tap Siac Square. Expect a new building with an impressive façade that integrates event spaces, reading areas and digital zones when it opens in 2025.

Text Vivianna Cheong Images courtesy of Mecanoo

Macao residents love to read and they love borrowing their books from the city's 17 libraries. In 2018, these libraries were visited 2.8 million times by Macao's more than 660,000 residents, as well as visitors from overseas. In 2019, that number soared to around 3.4 million. It dropped again last year to nearly 2.2 million due to the COVID-19 pandemic but, despite this decline, the libraries' online platforms were busier than ever as residents stayed at home for periods due to the city's pandemic control measures. The government's electronic library resources – featuring access to e-books, e-magazines, children's learning materials and an array of databases – received 1.6 million clicks, which is an increase of more than 3 per cent compared to 2019.

To highlight just how much readers in Macao missed visiting their local library last year, over the 14-day Chinese New Year period in February this year – when all 16

public libraries were open – there was a total of 110,000 visits recorded. To add to this, last month was the annual Macao Library Week – technically a celebration of reading that was run over a number of weeks – and, over the period, more than 17,000 books were collected during the event's highly anticipated 'book exchange' event. It was heralded as a successful event and showed just how much Macao's residents love reading, love their books and love their libraries.

Aside from the books that line the shelves inside the city's libraries, these buildings can also be a treat for the eyes on the outside. Macao has no shortage of architecture that offers a peek into the city's East-meet-West heritage – and its libraries also demonstrate how keen the SAR is on conserving its architectural history. The Patane Library on the northwestern edge of the Macao peninsula, for instance, sits in a typical coastal arcade structure of the Inner Harbour that's been around

for more than 80 years. Then there's the Red Market Library – which is more inland than the Patane but fairly close by – that opened in 2012 in a former Post Office branch. The exterior is not only of architectural value but the library's interior also preserves elements of the old post office. And then there's Coloane Library, a Portuguese building that was constructed in 1911 and once served the city as Coloane Public Elementary School.

In addition, some of Macao's libraries are dotted around the city's historic centre which was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2005. The largest of all is the magnificent Sir Robert Ho Tung Library, which is just up the road from Senado Square. It opened in 1958 but the building was constructed before 1894. It's named after the famous Hong Kong businessman and philanthropist as, after his death in 1956, his descendants carried out his wishes in his will by bequeathing the building, which he owned, to Macao's government so it could be opened as a public library that collects Chinese books.

Senado Library is another architectural gem in the World Heritage area. It sits inside the Municipal Affairs Bureau Building that overlooks Senado Square and is based on the design of the Biblioteca do Convento de Mafra in Portugal, with a strong luxurious classical style at play. It opened in 1929 and boasts a valuable collection of books, including rare tomes from the 17th to the mid-20th centuries. This was once the predecessor to the Macao Central Library – perhaps the most important library of all in the city.



Macao Central

The Central Library was established in Macao in 1895. It was initially part of the Liceu de Macau, which was the local Lusophone high school, and it was housed in St Augustine's Church in the heart of the peninsula but it relocated often over the following years. In 1917, it was transferred to St Joseph's Seminary and in 1929, it was again moved inside

the Leal Senado building. In 1983, it was transferred to a building in Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, near the famous Tap Siac Square, where it still stands today. It was officially named the Central Library in 1994 and received an interior renovation in 2007. In the same year, Macao's government announced that a replacement library would be built. And now, that's one step closer along the road to happening.

Artist rendering of the new Central Library's 'open-book' façade

(opposite page)
Hotel Estoril



“

You will go into the new library to have a cup of coffee and talk to a friend. Or you will go to see an exhibition or lecture. It will be a multifunctional space.

– Nuno Fontarra



Nuno Fontarra

(opposite page) Artist rendering of the view from one of the library's levels platform

There have been several updates to the new Central Library project since 2007 but the final plans are only just coming to fruition now. In March, the government announced that Dutch design practice Mecanoo had been chosen to design the new library. It won't be far from the existing library – just across Tap Siac Square, in fact. It will replace the Hotel Estoril building – which is scheduled to be demolished over the next few years – that was designed by Macao-born Portuguese architect Alfredo Victor Jorge Álvares in 1962 and was the first-ever gaming resort in the city. The modernist hotel building has been vacant since the 1990s so the new Central Library will be a welcome addition when it opens in 2025. The entire project is estimated to cost MOP 500 million (US\$62.5 million) by the time it opens.

Mecanoo – which has designed libraries around the world, including in the US, the UK, the Netherlands and Taiwan – has already unveiled its designs for the new Central Library, which will feature an incredible gridded light-filtering façade that literally opens up like a book when viewed from Tap Siac Square. The government

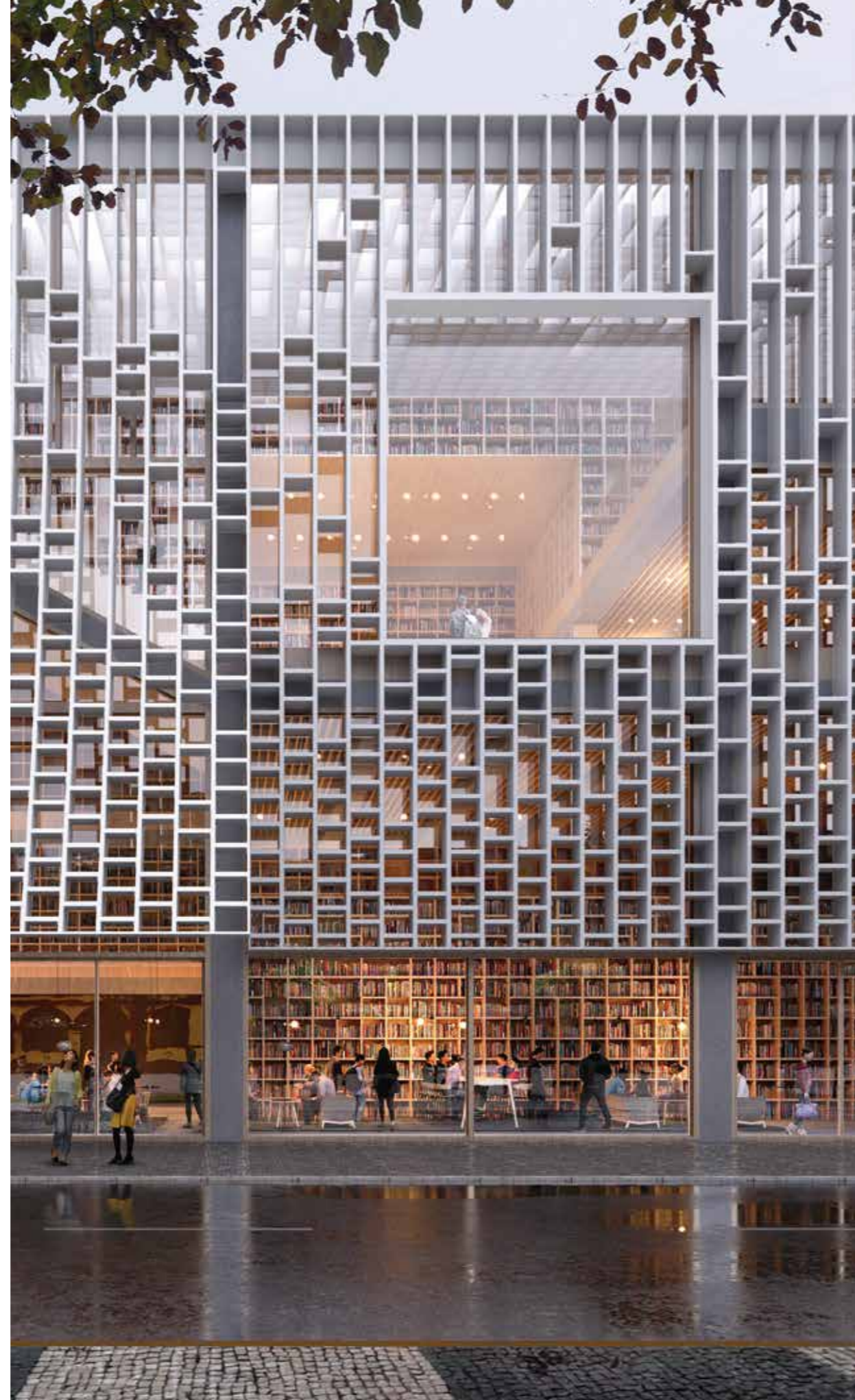
has already said that it'll be a 'multifunctional library in the 21st century'. Nuno Fontarra, architect and associate partner of Mecanoo, tells us about the firm's concepts when it comes to the new library designs. He says it will be 15,000 square metres in size and will have four levels. He also says that there will be an array of areas inside the facility including multimedia technology spaces, a children's reading area, a family library, a café and 'a large number of smart facilities for the general public'.

Fontarra says that the inner design of the new library will be 'a journey' for the visitors who enter the building from Tap Siac Square. He says: "When you go into a normal building, you see stairs and you go around them. This is not the case [at the new library when it's built]. If you go up the stairs, there's a platform where you can see everything in the building, including the café. And then, when you take the stairs to the next level, you reach a reading room where you can look down. It gives you another perspective of the entrance space. Step by step, you go up. At every level, you get to review the library from a different perspective."

The final design of the new library is yet to be confirmed but it will carry the memory of Hotel Estoril in its makeup. From the existing designs that have been made public, the library's gridded white façade – which will reference the grids that adorn the front of the hotel – will be dramatic and eye-catching. The grids themselves will filter light through the library. Fontarra indicates that the façade design will be 'very similar with that of the hotel'. "The pattern will be similar," he says, "but we will make it denser because we want to filter in the light a little bit." He adds that the new building will be different to Mecanoo's library designs in Europe in terms of light as, in Macao, more shadow is needed, especially in the summer when the sun is strong during the day. The dense grids will provide much shadow in the library when the sun is glaring.

As the design is still at a relatively early stage, the materials used in its construction may yet change. However, Fontarra indicates that the intended white colour of the façade will be in keeping with Hotel Estoril's colour scheme. He says: "If we use other colours, such as red and yellow, the library becomes another presence and something else. Using the same colour as the [hotel] building gives it continuity. You will still remember what was there before." Hotel Estoril has a beautiful mosaic mural – designed by the late Italian sculptor and Macao resident Oseo Acconci, depicting the Roman goddess of chance, Fortuna – on its façade right now and Fontarra says this will be kept on show to remind the public of the hotel's history.

Artist rendering of a close-up of the new Central Library's façade



Like an open book

The concept of the new library's 'open-book' façade when viewed from Tap Siac Square literally signifies opening visitors up to the world of knowledge and ideas within the building. Fontarra says that he has spoken with many people in the past when designing libraries across the world and he has been told that in this digital age, young people may not be inspired to visit libraries any more as so much information is now available online. But he adds that the design at Macao's Central Library is an open book as it reinforces the idea that libraries are open to more than just physical books. He says they are open to a whole world of knowledge and information. He says: "When we started working on libraries 20 years ago, libraries were dying a bit because of the digital age. Libraries can change and become something else. They can become archives with many objects in stock. We don't want an archive library at the Central Library, though. We want this to be a public library that covers a whole range of learning experiences."

Some of the design ideas for the new central library actually came from librarians across the world who have worked with Fontarra on previous projects. He says that some librarians in the past have told him they 'want to have an open library where we [the users] could take a book and read it outside'. So he has been encouraged to think about how to integrate spaces and that has helped shape the design for the new library. Different to traditional institutional libraries that only offer a quiet reading environment, the new library will be more of a space where people learn, express themselves and explore ideas. He says: "You don't just go in to read a book. You go in to have a cup of coffee and talk to a friend. Or you go to see an exhibition or lecture. It's multifunctional." Fontarra says that visitors will be able to 'walk around the blended spaces and get inspired'. He also mentions that the digital world will be present. For example, elderly visitors can use

the computers in the library to learn how to master social media.

The ground floor, which will be the social hub of the library, will be made up of areas for teenagers and children, as well as multifunctional rooms and the coffee shop. The spaces will blend into each other, except for the children's area. "The children's library will be close to the café," says Fontarra, "so the parents can have their kids with educators in the area and they can have coffee at the café at the same time." As visitors go up to other levels, they will find more individual reading areas and study spaces. Fontarra continues: "We want everybody to be exposed to knowledge because everything becomes a mix now. We think it's a welcoming place for people to come."

The government's Cultural Affairs Bureau is behind the new library project. The bureau has previously stated that the project is set to promote 'the vitality of the whole public area', referring to Tap Siac Square. According to Fontarra, buildings are 'languages of years' so the idea is to 'bind' the library building to the square. "We're building a library that aligns with the heights of the other buildings around the square. We want to relate the library to the other buildings on a similar scale. We are actually making the square more of a square because a good square has good façades. We do a lot of communication with the square."

Macao has developed a passion for reading and absorbing knowledge over the years. Many of the city's libraries carry historical and fictional works from the East and West, providing an abundance of food for thought for local readers and thinkers. However, the new Central Library, when it opens in 2025, will be a library for the future, integrating spaces and creating an impressive façade in one of Macao's most famous squares. There's still a way to go but now that Mecanoo's designs have been published, the next chapter in the SAR's library history is being written, reinforcing the importance of knowledge alongside contemporary flair in the modern city setting. A literary adventure awaits us four years from now. ●

ENVIRONMENT

The tree surgery

Over the years, thousands of Macao's trees have been damaged by typhoons, termites and pests. The city has now become a surgery of sorts as the government has started a massive reforestation project – and it's not just woodland experts who are replanting the city's forests.

Text Rafelle Marie Allego Photos Oswald Vas

Courtesy of Municipal Affairs Bureau



The *Rhodoleia championii*, a plant species that can be found growing in China

There is no doubt that all of the world's forests are important for the future of the planet. Trees – along with every other plant – take in the sun's energy, water and carbon dioxide before releasing oxygen into the air so that we can breathe. They also help soil capture significant amounts of carbon for future energy use and provide wood for us to build with or burn. And they provide habitats for animals, livelihoods for humans, protection for watersheds – the land areas that drain into a river or lake – and prevent soil erosion, and are crucial in the fight against climate change as they absorb harmful greenhouse gases. In short, we – and the entire Earth – need forests to survive.

Macao also needs its woodlands. It too needs watershed and soil protection, habitats for local animals, jobs for humans and places for people to walk around and enjoy. Around half of the city's green spaces are located in Coloane, with the rest scattered across the SAR, a territory with a land area that's roughly 33 square kilometres. This equates to about 17 square kilometres of green space in Macao, although woodlands only take up about 500 hectares – five square kilometres – of space. However, these forested zones have suffered

serious damage over the past few years due to a trio of powerful natural disasters.

The first of these disasters was Typhoon Hato in 2017, which was one of the strongest typhoons to hit the region in 50 years. The next year came Typhoon Mangkhut, another powerful force that prompted all of the city's casinos to close for the first time as it passed through town. Then, just last August, Typhoon Higos uprooted trees and caused damage across the SAR despite being less powerful than Hato or Mangkhut. Combined, these three typhoons destroyed or damaged more than 500,000 trees in Coloane's mountain forests, according to the government's Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM).

Macao's government understands the importance of the city's woodlands and is dedicated to safeguarding the forests in the light of those devastating typhoons. In fact, the IAM last year planted more than 40,000 seedlings over an area of about 0.4 square kilometres in Coloane during the first stage of a massive reforestation project. By 2024, the bureau aims to restore 1.2 square kilometres of forest in Macao. Last year's replanting mission was just the beginning.



Philip Kuok Fei Lek

Re-rooting the greens

Philip Kuok Fei Lek, chief of the Division of Conservation of Nature under the IAM's Department of Green Areas and Gardens, meets us near one of the newly replanted woodland zones in Coloane. He tells us that although some of Macao's forested zones are 'naturally resilient', there are nevertheless extensive swathes of woodland 'that are severely damaged and need to be replanted for continuous repair and restoration'. He says that a few years ago, the IAM commissioned a team of experts from Guangzhou's Sun Yat-sen University to investigate the city's woodland areas. The team has been doing that since 2018 and, since then, the Forestry Administration of Guangdong province has also been supporting the city's tree restoration project by placing the Guangdong Academy of Forestry in charge. Kuok leads the IAM division on the ground but works closely with the academy to ensure the project is carried out successfully.

Earlier this year, Kuok's division planted some tree species in Coloane that were each around 80 centimetres high at the time but have now reached up to three metres in height. He says that the species are all native to the southern China region and they include the 'Elaeocarpus sylvestris', the 'Castanopsis hystrix', the 'Artocarpus nitidu' and the 'Ormosia pinnata', adding that the division 'prioritises the replanting of trees native to southern China'. He also says that when these trees eventually scatter their leaves, this will aid plant growth on the forest floor.

This reforestation project is 'necessary', according to Kuok, because of the typhoon damage. He notes that a previous reforestation scheme in the mountainous areas of Coloane began back in the 1980s, however the 'pioneer species' – which are the hardy trees that first colonise a barren environment or an ecosystem that has been disrupted by, say, a typhoon – that

were planted 'had short lifespans'. This is another reason, according to Kuok, that this reforestation project is necessary. He also notes that plenty of planning has to go into the new initiative, including what trees are selected. This, he adds, depends on the geographical conditions around every reforestation site. "It depends on how deep the roots will grow under the soil," he says, "and whether or not they will cause damage to other surrounding roots. But [the ground] also needs to be deep enough so that the plant won't fall over. It's case by case, with soil analysis."

Woodland clearing

The current restoration project isn't just about replanting trees. It's also about clearing damaged trees before new ones are planted 'within five to 10 metres from existing woodland trails'. This is part of the project's second stage. It sees the team zeroing in on signs of degradation, clearing the damaged trees and 'gradually replacing them in an orderly manner', using supporting frames wherever necessary. "We also clear out the vines as they suffocate the trees' growth," says Kuok, pointing to a nearby clump as he explains how allowing these vines to grow could reduce – or even destroy – the biodiversity in the area. Through restoration, he says, plants grow better and then can provide food sources and good breeding conditions for wild animals.

Local eco-activist Joe Chan – who is the chairman of the Macau Green Student Union as well as vice-chairman of Green Future, two city-based environmental groups he helped to establish – says that he hopes the reforestation project is successfully completed. He understands the need for small-scale and regional reforestation schemes in Macao but says he is wary of the impact that human intervention can cause. "I understand and know the need for reforestation," he says. "The government is right about the ageing problem in Coloane's forests because the trees planted in the 1980s are getting old. But hitting a balance and minimising the impact of human intervention is key."



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Top trees

A few tree species native to the southern China region that grow in Macao

1 *Acacia confusa*

This perennial tree species – also known as the 'Taiwan acacia' – can grow from six to 15 metres tall. The species is commonly found in provinces like Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Jiangxi, Sichuan and Yunnan, as well as in the Philippines and Indonesia. Its wood is used for agricultural tools, while its flowers can be used as flavourings in their raw form.

2 *Artocarpus nitidus*

Subspecies *lingnanensis*

Commonly found in the provinces of Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Hunan and Yunnan, this species can also be found in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. Also known as 'Lingnan artocarpus', this species can grow up to 17 metres high.

3 *Elaeocarpus sylvestris*

Also known as the 'woodland elaeocarpus', this species can be found in many Chinese provinces like Fujian, Hainan, Yunnan, Guangdong and Sichuan, as well as in Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. This species, with its slender branches, can grow up to around 10 metres high, surviving in high altitudes of up to 2,000 metres.

4 *Ormosia pinnata*

Also known as the 'Hainan ormosia', this species is commonly found in the Guangxi, Hainan and Guangdong provinces, as well as in Vietnam and Thailand. Its wood can be used for furniture and as a building material. This species typically flowers from June to August.

5 *Castanopsis hystrix*

This tree species – also known as the 'red oak chestnut' – can grow up to 25 metres high and flowers from April to June, bearing fruit from August to November. This species can survive on slopes from 30 to 1,600 metres above sea level. It is commonly found in provinces like Guangdong, Hainan, Guangxi and Yunnan.



To learn about Macao's trees and much more, scan this QR code to access the IAM's Macao Bio Database, which details all the wildlife in the SAR.



Branching out

More trees to be planted in Macao over the coming months

On top of the reforestation project in Coloane, the IAM also aims to plant more than 5,000 trees around the city's green belts and pavements over the coming months. According to a spokesman from the bureau, 2,118 trees were planted in the first quarter of this year following a total of 1,849 trees planted last year. Chan Shek Kiu, an emeritus professor at the University of Saint Joseph's Institute of Science and Environment, works in environmental protection and management. He supports the replanting of additional trees in Macao and talks us through the pros and cons of such a project...



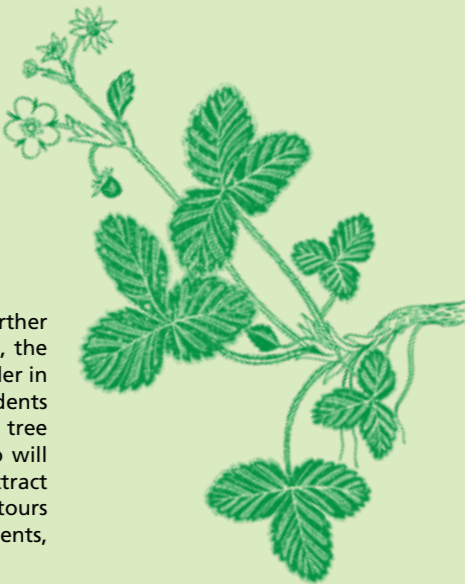
Pros

- 1 They help slow down global warming by cutting down on atmospheric carbon dioxide
- 2 They reduce the chances of landslides
- 3 They provide natural habitat for animals
- 4 More trees means improved air quality
- 5 Certain tree species can be 'saved'
- 6 Planting trees provides employment
- 7 The process can also educate children
- 8 New trees provide shade



Cons

- 1 Planting trees cuts down on the available space for housing projects
- 2 More trees means an increased chance of wildfires
- 3 Planting and maintaining trees can be expensive
- 4 Pests and litter can be spin-off problems



Professor Chan says: "Once further replanting is carried out in Macao, the climate may change, making it cooler in the summer, allowing Macao residents and tourists to go hiking under tree shades. The green areas of Macao will be increased and the city will attract more tourists, allowing more ecotours to be organised to educate residents, especially children and students."

Chan says that the new project, which started almost two years ago, is large-scale and that alone will impact the surrounding ecosystem, particularly in Coloane, which is the project's main focus. "For example, the massive clean-up of old trees exposes the soil to the sun which interrupts the micro-ecosystem underground. Soil fertility and stability are also ruined by intensive interventions."

But Chan is upbeat about the project. "Fortunately, the IAM has noticed the public's concern on this issue. So, starting from the end of last year, they improved the way new trees are planted to ensure the survival of young branches. The government is doing a lot to transform Coloane but whether it's good or bad for nature, only time will tell. It has been giving out lots of details on its planning and scientific data, so that's a good sign." Chan adds that he would like to see the IAM 'sharing more long-term scientific research' about the tree diversity in Coloane, as well as publishing 'an online report about the biodiversity of Macao to evaluate the reforestation project's effectiveness'.

The wood for the trees

Due to the ongoing analysis of the wooded areas in Macao, the total cost of the reforestation project has not yet been calculated. "Every year, we make adjustments based on the progress we've made on the restoration. We can only calculate the whole costs after the project is completed in 2024. And even though it's planned, it still depends on the weather," says Kuok.

The weather is just one of the challenges faced by Kuok and his team. Aside from the disruption

caused by rainfall, there are also tree diseases that lie in wait and can ruin the saplings the team has just planted. In Macao, the most damaging pest is the 'Hemiberlesia pitysophila Takagi', a tiny insect that infests pine trees and sucks out the sap. This hampers their growth as an infestation disables them from photosynthesising, which can kill them over time. There's also the Phytophthora root and stem rot, a fungal disease that can cause seed and stem rot of plants at various stages of their growth.

Another menace out there is one of the world's most damaging pests, the termite. While most termites feed on dead wood, a few species eat live trees, weakening the plant's limbs so that the branches break during storms, eventually killing the tree. Whether by disease, pest or typhoon, Kuok knows that damaged trees need replacing, so the project is constantly changing once newly damaged examples are discovered.

Despite the challenges, however, Kuok says that the survival rate of all the newly planted trees is around 90 per cent and that the trees have 'successfully adapted to the local environment and the restoration effect has reached the planned requirements'. The IAM, says Kuok, is 'closely monitoring the second phase of the project' and the results, so far, 'are in line with expectations'.

Joe Chan says that the zones in Coloane that are being rejuvenated under the project will be 'hairless' for a time, meaning that it will take a few years for these zones to be covered in tall trees once again. "In the short-term, most of Coloane will remain hairless for at least five years. But, in the long-term, the trees the government is planting are well adapted to our local environment, so they can establish a new ecosystem within decades if they are not damaged by another extreme typhoon or a drought in the coming years."

Macao cares

Macao cares about its environment. And to promote environmental education, every year the government organises Macao

Green Week, which always includes awareness raising and a celebration of the city's woodlands. In March, the IAM marked the 40th edition of Macao Green Week with tree-planting activities in Coloane. On the week's launch day on 21 March, primary school pupils and former IAM workers whose duties were related to tree planting joined forces and planted 50 'Casuarina equisetifolia' - whistling pine - trees at Hac Sa Beach Park. The People's Liberation Army's Macao Garrison also planted 250 saplings at the nearby Hac Sa Reservoir Barbecue Park.

In total, on the launch day, about 150 people joined the IAM's team and helped with the ongoing reforestation project. As well as planting trees, the volunteers helped check on tree growth in the forested areas and they also fertilised soil and did some weeding. "Macao Green Week is held so the public can have a deeper understanding of the trees in Macao's forests," says Kuok. "They learn about the protection of nature and inherit the concept of 'love the greens and build a better city together'."

Members of the city's Community Services Advisory Council - which is made up of locals who act as consultants to the government on grassroots issues - also planted 77 seedlings during Macao Green Week. These were for 25 Guangzhou cherry trees and 52 'Lagerstroemia speciosa' - also known as giant crepe-myrtle - trees which were planted along Avenida dos Jogos da Ásia Oriental near Macau Jockey Club, as well as along Avenida do Oceano near Sai Van Bridge.

As Kuok explains, the Guangzhou trees 'are dense and pink, as well as more heat-resistant', while the crepe-myrtles - which boast purple flowers that bloom in the springtime - belong to a 'well-travelled tree species that is wind-tolerant, drought-resistant and pollution-resistant'.



António Sanmarful

Joe Chan

“

Many trees have grown from 80 centimetres when they were planted to more than three metres now. Some have even reached a height of four metres.

— Philip Kuok Fei Lek

“These two kinds of trees,” he adds, “will bring richer colours to the city and [the area around those avenues] can become a new scenic spot for locals to enjoy in the future.”

Also during Green Week, there was a Forest Care event held at the Parque Natural da Taipa Grande next to the city’s international airport. This was an educational event, with around 100 participants being given the chance to experience what the reforestation team does every day. They were taught about individual sapling care as well as how the IAM team looks after Macao’s woodlands in general. They were also taught about the strict controls over planting trees in the SAR, as not just

anyone can plant a tree anywhere they like. All in all, the visitors learned about the government’s dedication to Macao’s trees.

Anyone in Macao, however, can check out the new saplings and the reforestation project’s progress in Coloane any time. For anyone wanting to help the IAM team as well as the local environment and ecology, Kuok advises they regularly check on the IAM’s announcements online, especially during Macao Green Week. And as every year progresses, so will the size and amount of those replanted trees. Soon, if all goes well and the typhoons stay away, you will be able to see Macao’s forest for the trees. ●

Aerial view of one of the spots IAM replanted trees near the A-Ma Temple in Coloane



博物館的未來：
恢復與重塑

O Futuro dos
Museus:
Recuperar e
Reimaginar

The Future of
Museums:
Recover &
Reimagine



2021 澳門 國際博物館日 嘉年華

Carnaval do
Dia Internacional
dos Museus de
Macao 2021

Macao
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SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Ring-tailed lemur babies, welcome!

Let's meet the twins just born in March, with introductions made by the IAM.

Text **Rafelle Allego** Photos **Municipal Affairs Bureau**

On 15 March 2020, the Seac Pai Van Park welcomed the birth of twin ring-tailed lemurs. And as a species that often gives birth to only one pup at a time, this was a rare occasion worth noting.

As the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has revealed, their five-year-old mother and the infants are in good health, with a special team monitoring their conditions. While very active – born with their eyes open and their bodies covered in fur – officials have said that the two baby lemurs cling to their mother's belly most of the time. The babies have also been

likened to full grown ring-tailed lemur adults whose average lifespan in the wild can go up to 18 years.

Yet to be named, officials still have not determined their genders in order not to frighten the cubs. However, the IAM team is observing both lemur babies daily to get a better picture of their mental and physical conditions.

Still adjusting to their environment, it is still too early for the young ones to make their public debut. "They are still sensitive to the external environment," IAM officials say, adding that it will depend on the twin's adaptation.





Ring-tailed lemurs – with their distinctive black-and-white striped tails – originate from Madagascar and some of its tiny island neighbours. According to San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, lemur infants begin trying solid foods when they are around 3-4 weeks old and are weaned at 5-6 months. While other lemur species spend their time up in trees, ring-tailed lemurs remain grounded most of the time, using their hands and feet to move around. Another thing to note about this species is that their tails cannot be used for grip, unlike their other cousins.

As the Seac Pai Van Park's monkey zone is still closed for venue maintenance – which still requires disinfecting and cleansing – announcements will be made for when public visits will be allowed. Aside from the ring-tailed lemurs, other residents in this zone are squirrel monkeys, dusky leaf monkeys, Southern pig-tailed macaque and Northern white-cheeked gibbons. There is also a Giant Panda Pavilion at the park that houses a pair of red pandas and its four big stars, the family of giant pandas. ●

The ring-tailed facts



1 With an average lifespan of 18 years in the wild, they can weigh from 2.3 to 3.4 kilograms (5 to 7.5 pounds).

2 They spend much of their time grounded, which is different to other lemur species.

3 Their diet consists of fruits mostly, as well as leaves, flowers, tree bark and sap.

4 Their trademark black and white ringed tails can grow up to 63.5 centimetres.

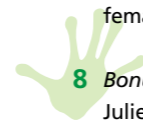
5 Considered an endangered species, these primates are found only in Madagascar and its neighbouring islands.

6

They mark territories through scent glands, with males having stink battles to exert dominance during mating season. Covering their long tails with smelly secretions, they wave them up in the air to determine who has the most power.

7

These ring-tailed lemurs live in groups called troops, with 6 to 30 animals in the troop. Normally, a dominant female presides over all.



8 *Bonus fun fact:* King Julien from Dreamwork's 'Madagascar' animated film series is a ring-tailed lemur... who liked to 'move it, move it'.

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ART & DESIGN

Designers for life

Meet six talented young designers from Macao who are using their skills to try and make a difference in the city.

Text Erico Dias Photos António Sanmarful



(from left) Raymond Nogueira,
Vivian Lu, Tramy Lui, Au Chon Hin,
Widy Leong and Josephine Lam

Wherever you look, you can see design. Design of buildings, rooms, landscaped areas, roads, books, clothes and everything in between. Ever since the dawn of mankind, there's been a healthy army of designers out there working to make, well, everything that's man-made. Traditionally, a designer is a person who plans a project by preparing drawings and other materials but today it simply refers to all those skilled people who design all the things around us.

Macao has its own set of skilled designers. Some learn their trades in the city and head overseas but others stay and contribute to the development of the SAR. There are fashion designers, industrial product designers, furniture designers, interior designers and many others who are skilled with both their creative minds and hands living and working in the city. And then there are those who thrive in the digital world, such as web designers, animation designers, graphic designs and motion graphics designers.

Young people make up the next generation of skilled designers in Macao. They may be tempted to move overseas but we meet a sextet of talented young creatives who are dedicated to the city and want to contribute to it over the coming years. Meet six of the most creative young design minds in Macao.

The illustrator

Be under no illusion – an illustrator is a designer. This is someone who designs pictures for books, magazines, advertisements and other media through the art of drawing. And Tramy Lui is one of the best young illustrators in Macao. The 29-year-old established Tick Design – a firm that creates ‘inspiring visual experiences and one-of-a-kind designs’ for clients from all sorts of industries – with her sister, Katy Lui, in 2015. But Tramy Lui's interest in art and design began much earlier when she was in high school. She says that back then she ‘tried her own creations and activities’ using only a pen and paper at first. Step by step, however, she shifted from using the pen to using watercolours and then to using digital boards, which are electronic alternatives to black and

whiteboards, displaying live drawing that can interact with technology.

Lui learned many illustration skills as a child in her own spare time, both while she was at high school and when she attended Pooi To Middle School in the heart of Macao, which she graduated from in 2011. She then attended the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) until 2015, attaining a degree in advertising and graphic design. “At the age of 20,” she says, “I joined Louis Vuitton in Macao and became the first painter in the Macao district, which meant I

Illustrator and owner of Tick Design, Tramy Lui

“

The design industry in Macao is getting better and better.

– Tramy Lui



Tick Designs collaboration with UNIQLO UTme

would make customised designs for clients and then paint those designs on Louis Vuitton clothes. I like the freshness of taking on new challenges. Each design and illustration project has different requirements. My designs are never repeated, making them unique.”

Being an illustrator is not an easy job. It's highly skilled and time consuming. Lui admits it can be ‘difficult’ but she also says that keeping her customers happy is a positive experience. “It is common to work overtime every day,” she says, “and it's hard to plan a vacation or take days off. But I believe that all the effort means that I create amazing works of art. The most important thing is the sense of accomplishment I get when I help our customers solve their difficulties.” Lui's inspiration and favourite artist is Alphonse Mucha, who was a Czech painter, illustrator and graphic artist in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was celebrated for his paintings of women and theatrical scenery. “I like his gorgeous compositions,” says Lui, “and the beautiful physical depiction of the characters he painted.”

“The design industry in Macao is getting better and better,” says Lui. “I recently participated in several illustration projects with international brands. I am very happy that more people and organisations all the time enjoy working with illustrators in Macao. Many local companies have realised the importance of design, which can add value to their companies. The Macao government also has different funding projects to promote the development of the cultural and creative industries.”

For Lui, the key is to ‘appreciate everything, regret nothing’. She says: “I live by this motto as it gives me the motivation to make different decisions. There will be exhausting moments in the illustration process when you just want to give up. But I always remind myself of the reasons why I started to design in the first place. And then I finish the job to the best of my creative ability.”

The graphic designer

Another talented young designer in the city is the co-founder of design studio Untitled Macao, Au Chon Hin. The 30-year-old graphic designer established the firm with a colleague in 2017 and since then, the studio has scooped 30 awards in regional and international design competitions. Hin studied at the Macao Polytechnic Institute, graduating in 2014. “I have been very passionate about design since I was in middle school,” he recalls. “After middle school, I went to Beijing, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and other places to participate in competitions while I was still studying at the IPM.”

Hin has been working in the design industry for nearly eight years now, originally working jobs in both large and small design firms in Macao before going out on his own, but he acknowledges that ‘there are still many things to learn’. “When I first started working as a part-timer or an intern, it gave me a sense of security because the things I was responsible for were limited – but at the same time, the things I learned were also limited. My current job is completely the opposite.”

Untitled Macao's collaboration with ‘Che Che’ on recyclable cans designs



Hin says that he takes pride in the fact that he has work shown all over Macao, in the city's streets and alleyways. He often designs advertisements and posters for events, with many of these ending up on the city's walls. “There are pros and cons to starting a business,” he says. “I have now been exposed to things in different fields besides design. And although the design process can be frustrating once you actually run a design business, the sense of accomplishment when a project is done can be sweet. Any problems along the way only serve to motivate me further to produce the best design work possible.”

In a world that is rapidly shifting from manual to digital work, Hin says that a designer's creative mind is still his or her sharpest tool. “In this era, when technology is becoming more developed, the mind of a designer is still the most valuable tool. We can't rely on the idea that technology will always solve our design problems. We should always consider our own creativity as our strongest tool before we set out to change the world.”

Hin has travelled the globe and won many design awards for his work but he's also missed out on

many too. “Failure can take us to the next stage,” he says. “When we fail, we must pick ourselves up, try different ideas and fields, understand ourselves and our industry and then move on with confidence, learning from our mistakes. Our past and our future won't regret it.”

Co-founder of Untitled Macao, Au Chon Hin



Poster design for 'Macao Design Week' by Untitled Macao

The stage designer

A stage designer has the ability to turn an empty stage into an exquisite feast for the eyes. Vivian Lu is one of the best in Macao. For the past eight years, the 29-year-old has been building incredible stages in the city's theatres. Lu was actually born in Hong Kong and moved to Macao a year later. She graduated from the School of the Nations, a Bahá'í-inspired school, in 2009 before moving to the UK to further her studies in art and design. There, she spent a year on an art and design foundation course at the Chelsea College of Arts in London before spending three years at one of London's most famous art schools, Central Saint Martins. She graduated from there in 2014 and returned to Macao.

During those years of study, Lu's skills and enthusiasm for design grew. Since 2014, she has worked in a number of theatre design roles across Macao and has picked up many more skills and far more experience. As a stage designer – which is basically the person who designs the stage for a production, as well as deciding on costumes and props too – and an expert in spatial design,

she now has two major roles. Firstly, she owns her own company called Vivian Lu Design Studio Limited, in which she works as a stage design freelancer. Secondly, she also runs an event experience agency with her best friend, Alex Choi Teixeira, called We Create International. Together, the women design a range of events in Macao and beyond. “We work in different fields,” says Lu. “I do most of the spatial and concept designing and she's more into creating the event and the experience for our clients. Most of the clientele we work with are corporate-based, such as real estate firms and banks.”

Lu, who is also currently studying online for a master's degree in visual and experiential design with the Berlin-based University of Europe for Applied Sciences, says she loves being a designer and she loves stage design. She has designed stages for more than 60 shows over the past five years, in Macao, Portugal, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore and London. Highlights include designing for the International Youth Music Festival 2019 in Macao, the Neverland fashion show in London and 'Absinthe', a play that covered themes of physics, matter



Vivian Lu, stage designer, owner of Vivian Lu Design Limited and co-owner of We Create International



and psychology in Shanghai. She says that the role of a stage designer is ‘all about conveying a message to the audience’. “I like what I do because I get to communicate with people, visually and through sounds,” she says. She cites her mother as one of her big influences in life, saying she is ‘hard working, smart and inspirational’, working her way up ‘from a really poor family background’.

Another major influence for Lu is Esmeralda ‘Es’ Devlin, a London-based artist and stage designer who’s done it all over the years, including designing the closing ceremony for the 2012 London Olympics. “She has inspired me,” says Lu. “Her style is so clean and her work is so bold. I have learned a lot from her stage design work. In fact, one of my ambitions is to do something as amazing as she did for the London Olympics at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.” Lu – who won a Design For Asia (DFA) award in Hong Kong in 2019 for her excellent stage designs – is certainly ambitious, then. “If we’re not given our chances then we have to create them,” she says. “People sometimes complain that we don’t have the chance to do this or do that in Macao. I disagree. If you think you can’t achieve something, work at it and find a way. With that sort of mindset, you will always dig out a chance to achieve your dreams.”



The brains behind Loving Macau, Josephine Lam

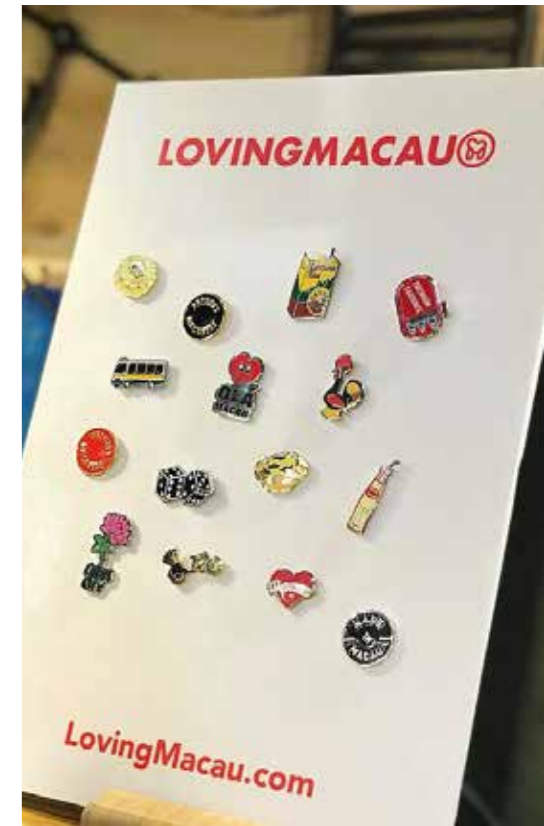
The product designer

Macao is everything to Josephine Lam. The 28-year-old product designer wasn’t just born and partially raised in the city but her entire career goal is to create products that symbolise the SAR. She actually lived in Vancouver, Canada, between the ages of two and 12 years old before returning to Macao and graduating from The International School of Macao (TIS) in 2010. She then went back to Canada and graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) University in Toronto with a degree in graphic design in 2015 before coming home to Macao, where she’s been ever since.

Lam grew up in a family of ‘hardworking business owners’. She says that her parents ‘gave her the opportunity to study abroad and inspired her to find her own

path to happiness’. And that path led her to co-founding two Macao-based design businesses with her husband, Miguel Miranda, in 2015. Loving Macau is a cool street culture brand that uses Macao motifs like the lotus flower to create anything from T-shirts and accessories to souvenirs. Womb Studio is a graphic design and production studio. “Loving Macau is a leader in the Macao cultural gifts sector and a staple of Macao culture,” says Lam. “Our aim is to showcase our work through creative-yet-simple designs that can be globally appreciated.” Lam adds that she and her husband have ‘provided apparel design and merchandise’ for places like The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao, the University of Macau and the Keith Haring Maze which was at The Venetian Macao in 2018.

It’s no surprise that Lam



Macao-inspired magnets by Loving Macau

became a product designer. She says that when she was a child, she always ‘gravitated towards arts, painting and illustration’. “I appreciate the freedom my parents gave me to choose a career they were not fully confident in,” she says, “but they trusted me to do something meaningful. I would like to set an example for my son – who will be born soon – so he can find his passion one day and enjoy every moment of it.” Lam also says that her husband is wonderfully supportive. “My husband is my great mentor in life,” she says. “He has been an essential part of my journey, both individually and professionally. He gives me guidance, motivation and emotional support, and he’s helped us both reach so many goals

in our businesses by using his vast experience.”

Lam notes that there’s a strong design industry in Macao but there’s ‘room for development’ when it comes to design businesses creating effective brand images for themselves. She says: “I believe that more businesses in Macao are becoming interested in renovating their brand identity to attract more consumers and thus build a stronger image in order to stand out from their competitors.” Lam also urges other young designers to adopt the same motto that she does. She lives by the motto of ‘KISS’, which stands for Keep It Simple Stupid, a design principle noted by the US Navy in the 1960s as it focuses on never overcomplicating your work. “Being concise has helped me to achieve a clearer mind, reduce any miscommunication and, simply, become more productive.”

‘Macao’ Hoodie designs by Loving Macau



The interior designer

As a child, Widy Leong would look at a room or interior space and just imagine what she could make it look like. When she got older, she stopped imagining and began to do it for real. The 25-year-old was born and raised in Macao but she moved to Manchester in the UK in 2011 to learn more about her passion. She graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University in 2019 with a degree in interior design before returning to her hometown to be close to her family and because she firmly believes that Macao has a strong interior design industry. She says she’s keen to make a name for herself as an interior designer in the city. She now works at Artist Design, an interior design studio near Fisherman’s Wharf.

Leong’s interest in interior design began when she was much younger and ‘had a conversation’ with her family. “We spoke and I realised they were running out of storage spaces at our home after they’d been shopping. I wanted to help so I asked myself ‘how can I make more space within this small space?’ So, I did it. I reorganised our home and created much more space without losing the look of our lovely interiors. After that, I was hooked and knew what I wanted to do with my career. And now I do that for my clients. Even if a project takes three months or more, I enjoy it. I enjoy every interior design project I undertake.”

When she went to Manchester Metropolitan University’s School of Art, Leong actually joined a graphic design and fine arts course at first. But soon,



her passion for interior design resurfaced and she applied to transfer to the relevant degree course. But she was rejected. “I was upset,” she says. “I didn’t have any work that showed my interior design potential. However, I didn’t let that stop me so I met with my art tutor and brought every single painting and doodle I’d ever made that was related to interior design. My tutor looked at it, drew a big smiley face on a piece of paper and then wrote ‘pass’. He later said he’d accepted my transfer application because my method of showcasing my ideas was ‘strange and compelling’. He told me ‘a designer



Interior design by Widy Leong from Artist Design

“

Always be competitive and see things from the other’s perspective. Your designs should always reflect your personal taste and your expressions of uniqueness.

– Widy Leong

or artist needs their persistence to be greater than their fear of failure’. From that moment, I was going to become the best interior designer that I could be.”

Leong has worked at Artist Design for a year now. She says she’s worked on ‘residential and commercial interior design’ projects, including the Pride Oceania high-rise building near Kun Iam Temple, the Waterfront Duet luxury residential property in Fai Chi Kei and the receptions at the two Uni-Care Dental Centres in Macao. She says she’s delighted by the ‘growth of many design organisations in Macao’ and she also notes that the recent promotion of the Greater Bay Area has given young people in Macao ‘a wider sight on our cultural values which can be used in our daily lives and professions’. And any tips for other aspiring interior designers in the city? “Always be competitive and see things from the third person’s perspective. Your designs should always reflect your personal taste and your expressions of uniqueness.”

The multimedia designer

You may think a 36-year-old doesn't qualify as a youngster. But Raymond Nogueira's journey from manual to digital design work over the years is fascinating and he nevertheless still feels like a young multimedia designer as he still has so much to learn. When he was growing up in Macao, there wasn't any internet. There was little in the way of photographic or design tools on a computer for him to use. So he used handmade printing techniques when he was young; however, he's now adept at digital graphic design and even animation. It's this mixture of digital and manual that really makes Nogueira a leader in multimedia design in Macao.

Nogueira was captivated by art at a young age. He went to Yuet Wah College in his early years before graduating from the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) in 2008 with a degree in graphic design. His fascination began, however, when the Hollywood blockbuster 'Titanic' came out. "I was always eager to know how all the design and graphics worked behind the scenes on TV and film," he says. "And I began to explore this when I was about 12 years old. When I saw 'Titanic,' I was really eager to know how they could make the film with so much water around. So, I watched the making of the film and I became fascinated. That movie taught me the importance of graphic and artistic design when creating a wonderful experience for the senses. From then on, I was intent on becoming a designer."

Before joining IPM, Nogueira worked at a printing output centre in Macao that created publications, posters, book leaflets and newspaper adverts. He cut his teeth learning offset printing and print techniques,



'The time of joy' created by Rampages Production for the Macao Light Festival 2019

however it was pretty much all done manually. "I learned all about hand-made work there," he says. "But I wanted to learn more so I joined the IPM. After that, I joined the Conde Group in Macao, which designs all sorts of products, like publications and advertisements. I did that for two years." Nogueira says he left Conde and 'one day I was walking around Macao when I saw an animation poster that simply said 'Go to Wynn', referring to the Wynn entertainment complex'. "It wasn't great," he says. "But it was simple and effective. I thought for a long time about how I would make that poster better."

Nogueira thought and thought before deciding he needed to learn and learn. He wanted to convey strong messages simply and effectively through design – plus, he also had a burning desire to learn animation design techniques. So he headed for Shanghai. "Me and my best friend moved to Shanghai to learn more about digital animation," he says. "There, I learned 3D animation and all sorts of animation effects." He joined the Institute of Digital Media Technology (IDMT) in Shanghai in 2010, returning to Macao a few years later, equipped with important animation and multimedia design skills.

In Macao, Nogueira joined Nextra Marketing and Business Consulting for a year and a half as a designer and, after that, he joined local original music producer 100 Plus Music for two years. "Before these roles," he says, "I learned projection mapping. This is where objects – which can be as big as a large building – are turned into display surfaces for video production. I actually learned the skill during a workshop series in 2013 and 2014 but I became good at it through much practice. I worked at Nextra and 100 Plus as a graphic



Raymond Nogueira, multimedia designer and owner of Rampages Production

designer in the day but I was a multimedia designer and projection mapper for local dance and theatre groups at night. This was a lot of work but it really helped me to become a better overall multimedia designer. After that, I realised that I wanted to be a freelance multimedia artist and designer. So I quit and went on a new journey."

Nogueira started his own company in 2015. Rampages Production, in short, covers all of Nogueira's skills as it specialises in projection mapping, multimedia and graphic design. It is based near Mong-Ha Fort at the Macau Design Centre (MDC) and has grown since he started it with a colleague. "I love it," he says. "I wouldn't work anywhere else. We have some clients for all sorts of multimedia design projects. We could do with more of a marketing team but otherwise, I'm really pleased by how we've grown in just six years. In fact, I'm really pleased by how much Macao's design industry has grown recently, step by step. I think we need more promotion for artistic design careers in our schools but, on the whole, it's

a healthy place to be in right now." Nogueira adds that young designers always need to try. "If you don't try, you'll never know," he says. "I first learned painting, then printing in terms of making stickers, then graphic design, multimedia design and projection mapping. I kept on trying. If you have a passion, just keep trying until you get there."

And that sums up our sextet of young designers perfectly. Each one of these talents found a passion in design and then they tried and tried until they became the young successes they are today. In a world so surrounded by design, these six creatives have continually honed their art and are helping to strengthen Macao's already strong design industry in their own ways. They have stayed at home and they are working to make a better industry for all. Next time you see an illustration or a souvenir or perhaps a projection mapped on to a building, spare a thought for the minds behind the design. They shape the world we live in – and some of them were dreaming of doing this when they were young children. ●





Macao **ABROAD**

Inside job

Interior design isn't just a career for Jessica Ma, a Macao girl who now lives and works in New York. It's a heartfelt passion.

Text **Erico Dias** Photos **Courtesy of Jessica Ma**

Interior design is both an art and a science. It's all about enhancing a building's interior 'experience' to achieve a functional-yet-pleasing environment for anyone who uses the space. An interior designer is someone who co-ordinates, researches and curates such an enhancement project. Jessica WL Ma is a talented young interior designer who has recently moved from Macao to pursue her dreams in New York. You've just read about six talented young designers in Macao but Ma is a 23-year-old with a passion for design honed in the SAR who has taken to the US so she can represent our city on the world stage.

Ma was born in Bloemfontein, South Africa, in 1997 and raised by her parents – who are from Macao – during her childhood in the colourful African country. She moved to the SAR during her early teens before graduating from The International School of Macao (TIS). To further her studies, she then went to Hong Kong where she began a biomedical engineering degree at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) in 2016 – but soon quit the course. “I always thought I was going to go into the medical field since it was a field that I enjoyed and was interested in,” she explains. “But I felt that it constricted my creativity and I knew I always had a lot of creative potential. So, I decided to transition into interior design.”

In 2017, Ma joined Hong Kong's Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) campus – which sadly closed its doors after 10 years in the city last year – and started to work on a fine arts interior design degree course.



The Juvet Hotel, Osaka

Over the following years, she not only studied in Hong Kong but she also expanded her skills, knowledge and contacts base in the US at the SCAD campuses in both Savannah and Atlanta, Georgia. She says that the college helped her grow as a designer and an individual over those years. She graduated in November – after spending half a year studying from Macao due to the COVID-19 pandemic – and admits that she had vastly increased her interior design knowhow and experience in areas such as healthcare, hospitality, education and sustainability.

Art and design are two 'similar-yet-different' areas of study, says Ma. But she adds that, when we are young, we only see these subjects as one entity: art. Many designers begin as talented young artists. Ma says that when she was a child, drawing and crafting were two of her favourite activities. When she was just four years old in South Africa, she was already curious about house designs as she lived in a traditional suburban neighbourhood but further down her road there were more contemporary houses which would catch her eye. “I used to take walks with my sister and my dog,” recalls Ma, “and I always wondered what these houses looked like inside because the exteriors were very intriguing. Whenever I was with my parents, I would beg to look inside them and pretend we were interested in buying the house. I was fascinated by how people used personality, style and design to symbolise their lives.”



Allbirds workspace, Savannah, Georgia



Independent Living Inc, Newburgh, NY; (right) The Web was Jessica Ma's University thesis project where she implemented the 3 C's of 'co-living, co-working and co-reaching'



Ma admits that she had 'no idea' about the intricacies of interior design before she began her studies at SCAD. "In college," she says, "I learned that it's so much more than just choosing paint colours for walls and picking furniture pieces. It's about curating an impactful and memorable experience. Interior designers bring art and function into spaces." Ma also points out that the differences between studying at SCAD Hong Kong and in the US helped form her as a 'conscious designer'. "In Hong Kong," she says, "there's a lot of people from multicultural backgrounds, with diverse perspectives. It's so fast-paced, so you're always thinking and that can be too much at times! My experience in the US has been a lot slower with more freedom to express myself as a creative."

Friends and mentors

When it comes to personal growth as an interior designer, Ma says she's grown over the years by communicating with other creative individuals – not just interior designers – in Asia and the US. She says she's made many good friends from design backgrounds as there's always a similarity in the way they 'use their own creative ways to express themselves'. She also highlights two of her mentors who have helped shape her profession – Professor Rodrigo Buelvas at SCAD Hong Kong and Rogerio Santos de Oliveira, one of the managing partners at Arquitectos Associados, which is one of the oldest design firms in Macao.

"At design school," says Ma, "it's really important to be mentored by the people who inspire you. I was really

fortunate. Professor Rodrigo Buelvas at SCAD Hong Kong is an exceptional thinker and designer who really pushed his students to think beyond the norm. I brought that drive to all of my courses – and to my work now. He is still my mentor." As for Rogerio Santos de Oliveira in Macao, Ma worked closely with him at Arquitectos Associados following her graduation. She worked on a range of residential, urban planning and government projects. "He is a great mentor," she says. "There is no boss-employee relationship. Instead, there's a collaborative and united mindset to learn and progress. He is open, experienced and has taught me so much."

Ma isn't just a promising interior designer when it comes to her knowledge and experience. She's also got a handful of awards behind her. She is a two-time winner of the National Student Portfolio Competition by the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), winning in 2019 and last year. She also won the Gensler Brinkmann Scholarship in 2019 and was able to intern at the reputable firm's headquarters in San Francisco in the US. Plus, she graduated as the 'valedictorian' – the student with the highest marks in their class – at SCAD and was recently awarded the Emerging Interior Designer of the Year prize by the International Design Awards (IDA) which is based in the US. She won a total of 11 awards at last year's IDA Gala.

Ma's big move to New York happened earlier this year. She has become a junior designer at Icrave, an award-winning design and brand strategy firm in the Big Apple. The hospitality firm works on diverse projects ranging from entertainment to healthcare. "I'm super excited," says Ma. "I think most designers dream of working in New

York City alongside other designers from across the world who share the same drive and ambition. If you choose to move to NYC and live in a tiny apartment, it's definitely the first step to showing your passion to succeed in this competitive city."

Putting the Ma in Macao

Ma admits she will miss Macao despite falling in love with New York. She learned a lot in the Chinese city and hopes she can return one day to share her experience and 'help build the city in the future'. "Macao is a very interesting place to grow up in," she says. "It has shaped me as a thinker and creator. I have been exposed to so many different cultures. It's such a developed yet authentic city. However, there is still so much room for design to impact and improve the lifestyles of the people. This has motivated me to excel in my chosen path and potentially bring my design outlook and experience back to the city I call home."

'Do what you love and you'll never work a day in your life' was a saying Ma used to tell herself before she became an interior designer. "I used to say that," she recalls, "but I've now come to the conclusion that it's not true. I believe 'if you do what you love, you'll work hard every day of your life so you can truly create an impact'."

Ma is a promising young designer who is representing Macao on the world stage. She loves New York and is excited about her new role in a top design firm – but she also understands that the hard work starts here and that she must grow in order to fuel her ambition to one day return to Macao and add to the city's homegrown interior design industry. When all is said and done, though, she cites honesty as the best policy for up-and-coming designers. "Be super honest even if you don't want to know the truth," she says. "Be honest with yourself and realise what you enjoy and what you don't. At the end of the day, it's your own life and only you can choose to make a difference." ●

A designer for life

What Jessica Ma's two mentors tell us about this promising young interior designer...

Professor Rodrigo Buelvas, formerly Ma's mentor at SCAD Hong Kong but who now runs his own firm in Miami called Studio Rodrigo Buelvas, says: "Jessica is friendly, vivacious, extremely hardworking, responsible and committed to her studies. She is always ready to lend a helping hand to her classmates, contributing her ideas and supporting team efforts in any crucial project deadlines. What you cannot see from her projects is what I saw in my classroom a few years ago – a very bright student eager to learn in an open, unbiased and absolutely determined manner. It will be with me forever as one of the best experiences of my teaching career."

Rogerio Santos de Oliveira, managing partner at Arquitectos Associados in Macao, says: "Early on, we understood that Jessica is a talented designer at the beginning of what will certainly be a great professional career. During her short tenure, she gradually took bigger responsibilities with ease and we felt that she could be the lead concept designer in our interior projects. Besides her innate grasp of aesthetic principles, she also proved to be an efficient worker with an excellent work ethic. She just graduated, so we're excited to see her not only mature her design approach but also her future contribution to the industry."

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SPORTS

Driving back the years

Since 1954, the Macau Grand Prix has been a major sporting event in the city. And since 1993, there's been a museum dedicated to the epic races. We tour Macao's new-look Grand Prix Museum after it reopens following an expensive refurbishment.

Text Erico Dias Photos Oswald Vas

Think of a great annual sporting event in Macao. We guarantee you thought of the Macau Grand Prix, an urban motorsport race for cars and motorcycles that has been taking place across the city's roads since 1954. This is a major sporting event that is rich in history – and this history is captured in Macao's Grand Prix Museum, which closed for renovations in July 2017 but reopened last month to much fanfare.

The Grand Prix Museum, which is in Rua de Luís Gonzaga Gomes, opposite Lotus Square and not far from Fisherman's Wharf, was inaugurated at the 40th Macau Grand Prix on 18 November 1993. Since then, it's seen a steady flow of visitors but in 2016, the refurbishment project was presented to the government, with a public tender launched at the start of 2017. Back then, the government's estimated budget for the renovation project – which included sewage works – was MOP 380 million (US\$47.5 million). The budget was later increased to MOP 479 million (US\$59.8 million) to include the purchase of equipment for the new-look museum, which reopened on 2 April.

The new museum is a sight to behold. It's spacious, informative, entertaining and beautifully put together. It's got four floors and a total of 16,000 square metres of events space for exhibitions and film showings has been added. Nine new vehicles are now on display, namely Formula 3 of Lewis Hamilton, Sebastian Vettel and Lando Norris; motorcycles of Peter Hickman and John MacDonald; and touring cars of Robert Huff, Edoardo Mortara, John MacDonald and Kevin Tse Wing Kin. There are also more engaging exhibitions and interactive games, thanks to the museum itself and the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), which has managed the renovation project.

MGTO's in-house team provided the initial concept for the remodelling of the Macao Grand Prix Museum, following which a tender for the design and construction of the museum project was launched. The tender was awarded to Companhia de Construção e Fomento Predial Lek Pou Wai and Companhia de Engenharia e de Construção da China (Macao), with the works conducted all the way with input from MGTO.



Portuguese driver Eddie Carvalho's Triumph TR2 that won the inaugural Macau Grand Prix



Photo courtesy of Teddy Yip Jr



(inset) Teddy Yip Jr; the new renovated exterior of the Macao Grand Prix Museum

Locals and tourists are targets for the new-look museum. It used to be free entry but now there's a charge. Visitors aged between 12 and 65 years old now pay MOP 80 (US\$10) to access the building but Macao residents get 50 per cent off. One man who is excited about the whole project is the son of perhaps the biggest driving force behind the success of the Macau Grand Prix, Teddy Yip, who ran Theodore Racing before he sadly died in 2003. Teddy Yip Jr says that, from what he's seen, the new-look museum is 'absolutely brilliant'. He adds that it has 'consistently been a firm favourite' with guests that he's brought to Macao.

"What was already a monument to the rich motorsport history of Macao," says Teddy Yip Jr, "has been beautifully refreshed and expanded. I'm sure the new level of interactivity will cement it as a must-do activity in the city going forward. Seeing my father there alongside so many giants of the sport is a lovely reminder of the singular honour and privilege I have of carrying the Theodore Racing legacy on into the 21st century. Win or lose, I hope that I can do so with even half his grace and style."

Pole position

Macao's first six-ton machine room-less (MRL) elevator which lifts car exhibits for display purposes but does not need a separate machine room to operate – and a six-ton glass platform have also been added to the museum during the renovation works. Then there are interactive racing car and motorcycle simulations on every floor, as well as wax figures depicting racers. Highlights include an immersive simulation space that recreates the race day experience, as well as the first Macau Grand Prix winner Eduardo 'Eddie' de Carvalho's red Triumph TR2. There's also a deconstructed motorcycle, an exhibition on racing pioneer Theodore 'Teddy' Yip and an open-air mural of late Brazilian driving legend Ayrton Senna.

The museum is also a green space. A solar energy system consisting of 446 solar panels has been installed on the building. These panels capture and transform solar energy into electricity which helps run the air-conditioning and water-heating systems. In fact, the whole museum has already been given a 'gold' rating – the second-highest rating a building can get



Government Information Bureau

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng officially inaugurated the Macao Grand Prix Museum on 1st June

- under the global Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system. And it's disabled-friendly too as a range of facilities have been added to help disabled visitors get around the exhibits.

The new revamp is actually the second to have taken place in the museum's history. For the Grand Prix's 50th anniversary in 2003, the building was first renovated. But this time, there has been much more work under a more costly and ambitious revamp project. And it's certainly had time on its side due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There had been high hopes that it would open last year but the coronavirus - as well as a few technical issues - put the brakes on that. However, there were many fascinated visitors alongside MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes and deputy director Ricky Hoi on the reopening day last month. Senna Fernandes and Hoi greeted visitors and engaged in conversations on what they thought about the revamp.

"We hope that the new generation of Macao enjoys the Grand Prix and inherits its culture," says Senna Fernandes. "Many people in Macao have grown up with it and its memories. Macao

is small and many people live near the [Grand Prix race] circuits, which in recent years have become much more professional. We would like to enhance the relationship between residents and the Macau Grand Prix."

The furnish line

The newly furnished museum consists of four floors - a basement, a ground floor and two upper levels. On exhibition in the basement is the Macau GT Cup, which was introduced in 2007 for GT3 category cars, which are racing versions of road-going supercars. Also on display are cars which took part in the old Guia Race of Macau, which was once an annual one-off international touring race in the city but is now known as the WTCR Race of Macau that's held during the Macau Grand Prix weekend. One of the cars was driven by André Couto, a Macanese driver who won his home F3 Grand Prix in 2000 and used to be a regular in the old Guia Race. Also in the basement is a range of interactive activities where you can lift a trophy on a podium, learn about aerodynamics and change racing car tyres.



(above) Formula cars of David Purley, Riccardo Patrese and Vern Schuppan

(left) Sebastian Vettel's Dallara F305

The ground floor showcases a 3D projection mapping of the Guia Circuit, which is the street circuit at the southeastern end of Macao’s peninsula that the Grand Prix takes place on, fully equipped with high speed straights and tight corners. There’s also a café and gift shop here, selling souvenirs that have been created by local design companies More Than Design, Meet Culture and Yumoku Saiku.

Just above is level one which focuses on the Grand Prix over the years, with many cars on display. Some of these were driven by the likes of Portuguese legend António Félix da Costa, who won the Macau Grand Prix in 2012 and 2016, as

“*What was already a monument to the rich motorsport history of Macao has been beautifully refreshed and expanded.*”

– Teddy Yip Jr

well as current F1 icons Sebastian Vettel and Lewis Hamilton. The Ayrton Senna mural – created by Lisbon-based street artist Alexandre Farto, also known as Vhils – is also on level one, as is an exciting interactive gaming area that focuses on F3 virtual racing on the streets of Macao.

Bikes get into gear on level two. The annual Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix may not be as well-known as the racing car version but it’s no less important. Level two covers motorcycles in depth and includes a deconstructed Yamaha R1 – a bike sometimes ridden by Spanish rider, Raül Torras, who suffered a traumatic head injury

during the 2018 Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix but later recovered. The Yamaha is deconstructed into five parts so that visitors get a full view of how this incredible machine is put together. Also on level two are more engaging interactive games and a cabinet of trophies.

Podium legends

Soon, eight wax figures of racing legends will be peppered across the museum, however details on who are yet to be released. But there could be one of Eduardo de Carvalho, who won the first-ever Macao Grand Prix in 1954, or one of Teddy Yip, that great force behind

the races. And then there could be Ayrton Senna, current F1 world champion Lewis Hamilton and the legendary Michael Schumacher, who won the Macao race in 1990, among others. These figures will be recognisable to the fans who flock to Macao every year for the Grand Prix but may be new to visitors to the museum who are only just learning about the sport now.

There will also be more interactive games added to the museum soon but already the MOP 479 million (US\$59.8 million) refurbishment works have clearly created an incredible motor racing experience for visitors. The MGTO has already said it plans to run

regular activities at and around the museum throughout the year, such as guided tours, special exhibitions, workshops and new collections on display. It has also said it aims to get schools and community organisations engaged with the Macau Grand Prix and the museum in the future.

It’s all about sharing the knowledge and experience of the Macau Grand Prix with future generations in the city, as well as sharing Macao’s sporting culture with locals and visitors from across the world. If that doesn’t get you starting your engines and racing over to the museum to take a look, then we don’t know what will. ●

Icons of the track

Four famous racing legends who are part of the Macau Grand Prix folklore



Theodore ‘Teddy’ Yip
Teddy Yip was the driving force behind the Macau Grand Prix. Without him, it may never have been so successful. He was a Dutch-Indonesian businessman who founded Theodore Racing in the 1970s, the first and only Chinese team to compete in Formula 1. It once boasted the likes of Ayrton Senna and Mika Häkkinen in its ranks. Theodore Racing won the Macau Grand Prix eight times, its most famous win being recorded with Ayrton Senna in 1983. It raced for the last time under Yip senior’s name in 1992. Today, Teddy Yip is known as ‘Mr Macau Grand Prix’ as he put so much effort into making the event a major success. He died in 2003, aged 96.



Michael Schumacher
Quite simply the most decorated F1 racing driver ever. As it stands, at least. Michael Schumacher won a joint-record seven World Championship titles, competing for the Jordan, Benetton, Ferrari and Mercedes teams. The German, who won his first club karting championship at the age of six, made his debut in the Macao event in 1989 but finished low. In the 1990 race, however, he had a fierce battle with fellow legend Mika Häkkinen and beat him on the last lap. The 52-year-old retired from the sport in 2007. At that time, he held the F1 records for the most wins with 91, the most pole positions with 68 and the most podium finishes with 155. But those records have since been beaten by another outstanding talent...

Ayrton Senna da Silva
Probably the most well-known tragedy in motor racing history, Ayrton Senna died aged 34 on 1 May 1994 in the San Marino Grand Prix when his car left the track and crashed into a concrete barrier. The world stood still and has forever since remembered the incredible driver who was voted by more than 200 of his fellow Formula 1 stars as the best driver of all time in a poll made around 12 years ago. The Brazilian won the World Championship three times and also won the Macau Grand Prix in 1983 – his only ever outing in the event. He once called Macao’s race ‘very challenging’ and said ‘there’s no room for error’.



Lewis Hamilton
World F1 champion until 2021, Hamilton was an unstoppable force behind the wheel. Lewis Hamilton last year equalled Schumacher’s seven World Championship titles. He also beat Schumacher’s wins, pole positions and podium finish records. The 36-year-old Brit, who became the youngest ever F1 champion at the age of 23 in 2008 before that was beaten in 2010, once raced for McLaren but now races for the Mercedes team. He raced in the Macau Grand Prix twice, underperforming in 2003 but finishing in second place in 2004.



SCIENCE

Partners in science

The relationship between China and Portugal is strengthening all the time. A new biomedical science partnership between the two nations is evidence that the future is bright for Sino-Portuguese ties.

Text Fei Pou Lo

Much of the world's progression in terms of medicine over the past few decades is down to biomedical science. This discipline combines the fields of biology and medicine in order to focus on the health of both animals and humans. The biomedical sciences are a set of sciences that apply natural and formal sciences to develop knowledge and technologies that can be used in healthcare – and we need them. For instance, identifying outbreaks of infectious diseases comes under the biomedical science banner and seldom has there been a time the human race has needed this branch of science so badly.

Pharmacology, human physiology and human nutrition are biomedical sciences. Determining the blood requirements of critically ill patients and monitoring biomarkers in cancer also fall under the heading. Biomedical science staff mostly work in healthcare laboratories where they do anything from evaluating the effectiveness of treatment by analysing tissue samples from patients to diagnosing diseases. In short, pretty much everyone in the world will, at some point in their lives, benefit from the services of a biomedical scientist.

Biomedical science is also being placed under a microscope by both China and Portugal when it comes to strengthening ties between the two countries right now. There's a new impetus to create strong biomedical partnerships when it comes to bilateral Portugal-China co-operation. Further to this, the new Chinese ambassador in Lisbon has highlighted this medical field as a major one in terms of future co-operation between both countries.



Video call signing of the partnership agreement between the Champalimaud Foundation in Lisbon and China's Shandong First Medical University

(right) The Champalimaud Foundation in Lisbon

(inset right) Professor Markus Maeurer

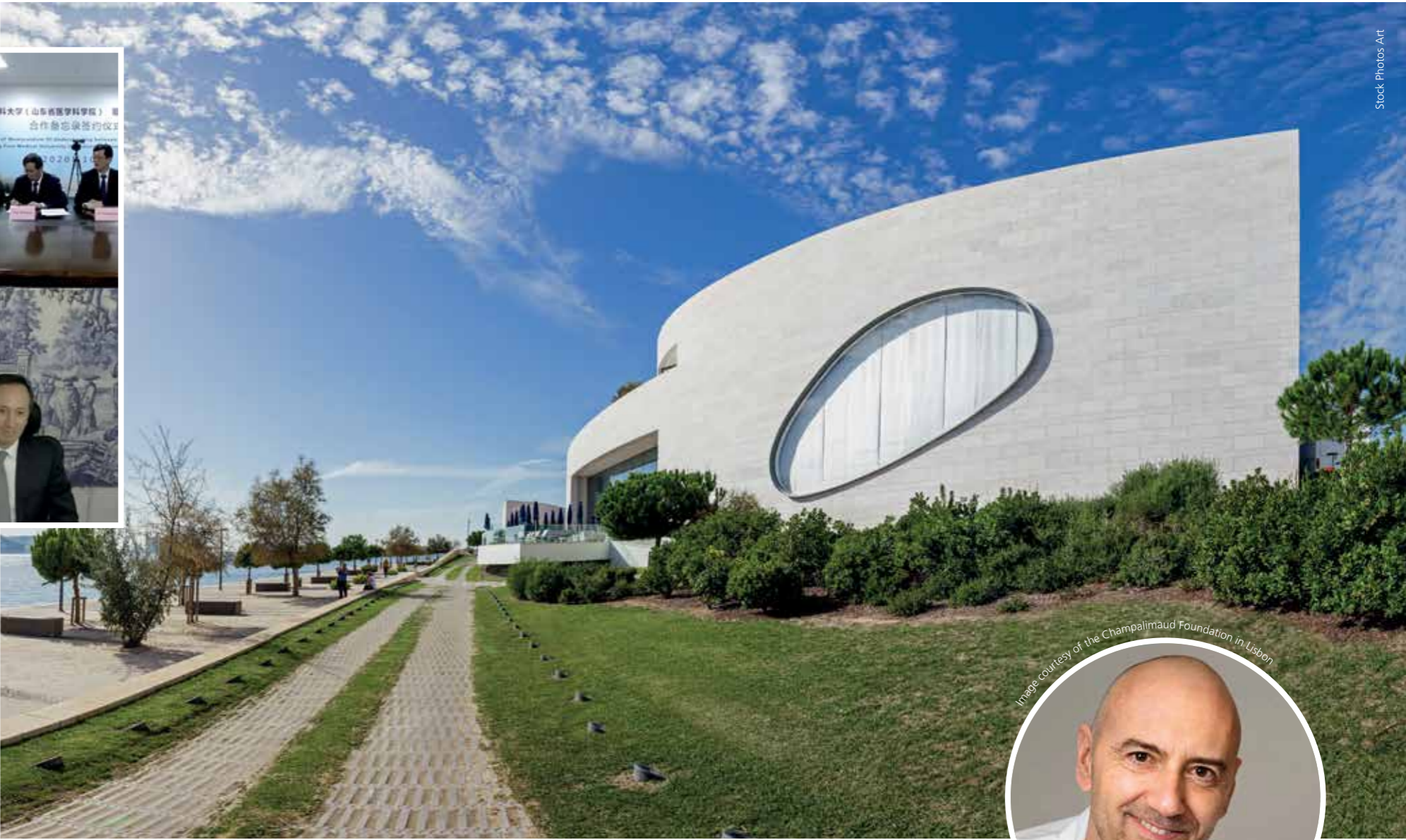


Image courtesy of the Champalimaud Foundation in Lisbon

Medical partners

Towards the end of last year, it was announced that an internationally renowned biomedical research centre, the Champalimaud Foundation in Lisbon, is establishing a partnership with China's Shandong First Medical University, a non-profit public higher education

institution in the large metropolis of Tai'an in Shandong which also has campuses in Jinan and Qingdao. This partnership is all about cancer research and treatment.

According to a statement, the agreement envisages an initial focus on immunotherapy – a form of cancer treatment that helps a person's immune system fight cancer – as well as providing for

the creation of an Institute of Immunotechnology in China. It is expected to cost around US\$10 million (MOP 80 million) to kickstart and 'technical and scientific support' for the project will be provided by the Champalimaud Foundation, which has been around for more than 15 years and has the former Portuguese Minister of Health, Leonor Beleza, as its president.



Shandong First Medical University

Image courtesy of Shandong First Medical University

The partnership agreement was signed in October. Professor Markus Maeurer, physician and principal investigator at the Champalimaud Foundation's Immunotherapy and Immunosurgery service, is leading the clinical research and collaboration project. The agreement was signed by João Silveira Botelho, vice president of the Champalimaud Foundation, and by Professor Han Jinxiang, the permanent executive deputy secretary of the Shandong First Medical University. It was signed in the presence of José Augusto Duarte, the Portuguese Ambassador to China, and Cai Run, the former Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Portugal.

The Champalimaud Foundation's goal is to become a world reference centre for the study and treatment of pancreatic cancer. Immunotherapy is used to treat aggressive cancers as there are few therapeutic options for these cases, leading to high rates of mortality and morbidity. This is often the case with pancreatic

cancer, which can be severe and sudden. Partnering with the Chinese university helps the foundation with its mission and will help inform future co-operation projects between China and Portugal.

The signed agreement provides for joint research and technological development projects, as well as for the organisations to jointly design clinical treatment strategies and to exchange and share technical and scientific resources. In the long term, the intention is to foster and expand the links between the new Institute of Immunotechnology and the business sector in China – as well as universities and local, regional and national governments – so that international co-operation programmes can be expanded, thus contributing to the strengthening of European-Chinese ties.

The partnership provides that the university in Shandong will dedicate a building on its campus where the Portuguese and Chinese research teams will be integrated and will work together on projects.

These teams will be dedicated to oncological and infectious immunotechnology – basically the technology used in terms of the immune system when it comes to fighting cancer and disease. And in the building, a new centre will be created – the China-Europe Immunotechnology Institute. The university in Shandong has also expressed an interest in the foundation being closely linked to the centre's long-term management. Both the Champalimaud Foundation and the Shandong First Medical University hope to attract, during the second phase of the project, direct investment from other public and private entities – both inside the Shandong region and further afield.

In March, a weekly British scientific journal classified the Champalimaud Foundation as the fourth best non-profit institution in artificial intelligence (AI) in the world. AI is a technology that is becoming increasingly used in

biomedical science, with computer techniques performing clinical diagnoses and suggesting possible treatments. Leonor Beleza said that the ranking by the 'Nature' journal was a 'recognition of the merit and excellence of research' at the foundation. She added that the foundation 'presents the largest concentration of groups working in computational neuroscience in Portugal'.

Chinese investment

The Champalimaud and Shandong First Medical University project is not the first medical project that China and Portugal have partnered on. There are, in fact, a number of healthcare providers in the European country that are now owned by Chinese investors. One of the most high profile is the Hospital da Luz in Lisbon, which is one of Portugal's best-known and most expensive private clinics. Luz

Saúde, one of the largest healthcare providers in the Portuguese market, runs the hospital. The provider is part of the massive Chinese conglomerate Fosun.

Towards the end of last year, a national newspaper in Portugal reported that Luz Saúde was the company that had done the most business with the Portuguese state since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic through its subsidiary GLSMed Trade, a distribution company of medical products, equipment and devices. It was reported that roughly 38 million euros (MOP 371 million) worth of business had been done.

Other reports last month state that hospitals in the Luz Saúde group suffered a drop of between 70 and 80 per cent in activity due to the cancellation of non-urgent medical cases as a result of the pandemic – but from the perspective of product distribution and health equipment, business had increased. More

Andre Roque Almeida



“

Since the emergence of COVID-19, thanks to understanding, support and mutual help, the Sino-Portuguese friendship has deepened.

– Zhao Bentang



Chinese Ambassador to Portugal Zhao Bentang

than 18 million euros (MOP 176 million), for example, was spent on purchasing COVID-19 tests manufactured by Fosun Pharma, it was reported. Another Chinese company, Guangdong H&P Import and Export Company, was reported as the firm that had done the second-most business – worth 31 million euros (MOP 303 million) – with China since the start of the pandemic.

It can be said that the medical industry is a fairly new area of co-operation between China and Portugal. And it only shows signs of growing in the coming years. In fact, Sino-Portuguese relations have been strengthening over the past few years. Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit to Portugal in 2018 was a key moment in the ties between both countries and Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa’s visit to China in 2019 only served to tighten the growing bond between the nations. And since the end of February, there’s been a new Chinese Ambassador to Portugal, Zhao Bentang. In March, the diplomat vowed to

uphold the ‘good development’ of bilateral ties between his country and Portugal.

In an article published last month in the Portuguese press, Zhao Bentang said that the potential for co-operation between the two countries is extremely broad. He emphasised that Portugal and China are global strategic partners with ‘strong economic and technological ties’, as well as a ‘very broad perspective for co-operation’. He also highlighted the energy, digital economy and health sectors as areas of particular mutual interest. Plus, he recalled that Portugal and China are global strategic partners, with strong economic and technological complementarity and perspectives for co-operation.

The diplomat, who succeeded former Ambassador to Portugal Cai Run, said: “The Chinese side is willing to create more synergy with the Portuguese side in terms of development strategy, deepen co-operation in the areas of economy and trade, energy, infrastructure, digital

Andre Roque Almeida



technology, health, green development and in third markets to better benefit people and make an even greater contribution to regional and international development and prosperity.” He added that ‘projects in areas such as infrastructure, energy and others are making progress, while new areas of co-operation are constantly emerging’. He cited industry, the digital economy and health as new areas of co-operation.

Zhao, in the article, also highlighted the growing flow of Chinese tourists to Portugal, as well as an increase in Chinese students studying in the European nation. He pointed out that there are more than 30 higher education institutions in China that have Portuguese language courses and that in Portugal, a number of institutes and schools have Chinese language courses on their curricula. He added: “Since the emergence of COVID-19, thanks to understanding, support and mutual help, the Sino-Portuguese friendship has deepened [and] the China-Portugal global

strategic partnership has grown stronger.” China and Portugal established diplomatic relations in February 1979 and a global strategic partnership in 2005.

In the article, the diplomat also quotes President Rebelo de Sousa, who recalled that the Portuguese and the Chinese met about 500 years ago and that the relationship between both ‘is exceptional’. He said: “I agree with that a lot. Although China and Portugal are located at both ends of Eurasia, the friendship between their peoples goes back a long way.” The relations between China and Portugal do indeed go back a long way – but they are growing all the time, mostly notably during the COVID-19 pandemic in the medical sphere. And that includes in the biomedical sciences, highlighted by the Champalimaud and Shandong First Medical University project, a world first in terms of immunotechnology and perhaps the first of many joint biomedical science projects between two countries who have a bright future together. ●

ARTS AND CULTURE

All that jazz

Text Viviana Cheong

Macao may have a multicultural society but getting a swinging jazz scene going has been a challenge over the years. Musicians and enthusiasts in the city have nevertheless battled on in the hope there'll one day be a thriving scene to make all the cool cats proud.

Jazz music has been hot stuff ever since it originated in the African-American communities of Louisiana in the United States in the late 19th century. With its roots in genres like blues and ragtime, it quickly became a style that put experimentation and musicianship at the front of centre. Often controversial, jazz was once frowned upon by musical purists but it has thrived over the years and is today celebrated by enthusiasts across the globe. Sure, jazz gigs may have been on hold in most countries over the past year due to the pandemic but it hasn't stopped fans and musicians preparing for concerts as soon as they're back on.

Jazz has been in Macao for decades. It came with the Portuguese community who brought Western music to the city but it has been universally loved by people from all cultural backgrounds for a long time. Countless jazz performances by local and international musicians have taken place in Macao over the years and behind every performance is a team of dedicated organisers, educators, skilled musicians and stage management professionals. However, life for these talents and enthusiasts in the city is challenging – there are only a few venues that stage jazz gigs and the knock-on effects include a lack of audience development, performing opportunities and musicianship experience.

Some live music venues in Macao receive subsidies from the government so that they can pay musicians, hire sound equipment, bring in international jazz maestros for performances and educational workshops, and attend overseas events for learning exchanges. But getting a jazz movement going in the city is a challenge. Some concert organisers look to places like bars and restaurants instead of small band rooms to cater for the local fans, the tourists and the students who return from the West with a new interest in the musical art form.

A handful of local children have been learning jazz instruments, while the number of jazz instructors in Macao has been growing steadily. However, the genre still needs promoting among parents as many still prefer their children to learn classical music, in which musicianship gets recognised through official exams and grades. So, who is doing this promotional work?

The cool cats

When it comes to staging jazz shows around town in Macao, one name stands out – the Jazz Club de Macau. Also known as JCM or simply the Macau Jazz Club, this institution was founded in 1985.

The JCM runs gigs across a range of venues in Macao these days. It also organised the Macau Jazz Festival every year until 2015, touting it as ‘one of the oldest jazz festivals in Asia’. The festival always had a hot mix of local and international talents on stages across town but it hasn’t been run since its 15th edition in 2015 due to a lack of funding, given the fact that such an event requires substantial costs to run.

“When you visit a city, you may have missed the jazz festivals but you can still catch the regular jazz performances. An international city should provide entertainment daily.”

– José Luís de Sales Marques

Perhaps it will one day return but it stands as an advertisement for how challenging putting jazz gigs and festivals on in Macao can be.

José Luís de Sales Marques – author, president of the board of directors at the Institute of European Studies of Macau and a well-known figure in the city – has been the president of the JCM since 2013. He says he’s always been looking for ways for jazz to be on the rise in the city. “When it comes to the Macau Jazz Festival,” he says, “we have tried to be independent from the government’s funding because the subsidy can be hard to predict. But the festival is an expensive event to organise. We hope it will return one day.” Sales Marques adds that the club itself has been going strong, particularly since 2017, when ‘we teamed up with the Live Music Association (LMA)’. “We have previously held Sunday jazz



MFP/Jazz Club de Macau, 2021



The Bridge (left to right): Phil Reaves, Humphrey Cheong, José Chan and Ray Ricardo Elma

MFP/Jazz Club de Macau, 2021



(above) José Luís de Sales Marques

Senior group of Macau Youth Jazz Orchestra

Macao Jazz Promotion Association

sessions together,” he says. “There was always a special atmosphere [at those sessions].”

Miguel Khan – once a video jockey in Tokyo – is the vice president of the JCM. He says that jazz gigs need bigger spaces than the small band rooms in Macao. “The partnership with the LMA has been great,” he says, “but I have noticed some audience members have wanted more in terms of space and food.” Khan says that he learned a lot about how to stage a jazz concert when he was in Tokyo. “When I played in Tokyo,” he says, “everything was elaborate. Many jazz performances were held in restaurants. And they not only featured musicians but also invited music critics to write reviews on the performances. That’s why they invited us to perform. They wanted to know what influenced us.”

Commitment is key in the development of a city’s jazz scene, notes Sales Marques. “If there is an investment in music festivals [in a city],” he says, “what about the day-to-day performances? When you visit a city, you may have missed the international jazz day or the musical festivals but you can [still] catch the regular performances. An international city should provide entertainment daily.” He says that the club has thus formed partnerships with hotels and restaurants, including the Tromba Rija in Macau Tower, the Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16, the Four Seasons Hotel and Rocks Hotel at Fisherman’s Wharf.



Jazz performance with Groove Ensemble II



As for Macao's local audience, many Westerners are used to live jazz gigs. But members of the Cantonese-speaking community can be more used to listening to music with lyrics. Khan says: "If we go completely instrumental, the audience must have a deep understanding of the instruments. We've received some feedback so, in a recent performance, we invited a lady singer to perform with our jazz music. The music followed what she sang." Khan adds that 'the more events that take place, the more the audience will get to understand the layers of jazz music and instruments'.

Last summer, local jazz band The Bridge started performing at the Gathering at Dusk in Senado Square event. It was a relaxed event offering food and drink, and live music to help lift the shadow of pandemic – and it's still going today. The band plays daily to residents and tourists from mainland China. Humphrey

Cheong, the band's saxophonist and a DJ for a local jazz radio show, notes that the event means that 'local musicians have the opportunity to perform to locals so they get to know more about us'. He says: "Apart from Tokyo, Macao is the second oldest city in Asia to hold an international jazz festival. We've been organising such events on and off for a long time."

Cheong says that the JCM held an International Jazz Day on 30 April. The event, at Splash Restaurant in the Four Seasons Hotel Macao, aimed 'to celebrate jazz and highlight the natural force of this musical genre in bringing people together'. Big draws on the bill included the OR Quartet from China, as well as the Tomos Griffiths Big Band and, of course, The Bridge. "It was a great opportunity to get musicians together," says Cheong, "and was an important festival. Hopefully, after the pandemic, we can invite more artists to Macao and bring in more outreach events like the International Jazz Day."

Jazzing it up

The non-profit Macau Jazz Promotion Association, set up in 2010, has performed at events like the Macao International Music Festival, as well as at various spots across town, including in the Sir Robert Ho Tung Library, the Hong Kung Temple and the Lou Kau Mansion. In December 2012, the association initiated the popular Macau Jazz Week, which focused on local musicians jamming with international maestros. The event ran every December until the pandemic hit last year. Since 2014, the association has also performed once a month at the Rui Cunha Foundation.

The association holds jazz education as one of its artistic missions. It founded the Macau Jazz Orchestra in 2018 and the Macau Youth Jazz Orchestra last year. Also, since 2013, it has teamed up with Portuguese musician and composer Zé Eduardo to organise the Zé Eduardo Jazz Workshop

series for anyone who's interested in the art form in Macao. Mars Lei, the president of the association, says it's difficult to survive, though. "Education is our main source of income," he says. "It's difficult to rely on other methods, such as performing."

Since the Macau Jazz Promotion Association takes on the role of educating jazz, its packed schedule does not allow the team to work part-time, says Lei. "I work full-time now on a government subsidy," he says. "There is a lot of administration work to take care of." He also indicates the importance of training the younger generations in jazz. Compared to classical music instruments, jazz instruments entice far fewer students, he notes. "Many parents don't understand," he says. "Some of our students come here because their fathers like jazz."

Macao Youth Jazz Orchestra is split into two groups – primary and secondary pupils. Those who already have a certain

Mars Lei, the president of Macau Jazz Promotion Association

level of musical experience are taught to play instruments like saxophones, jazz drums, piano and bass. Primary pupils also take lessons in musical genres like swing and bossa nova. Secondary pupils traditionally come from the city's Portuguese or international schools, says Lei. "Teenagers are at an age when they shape their taste and character," he says, "so they embrace jazz music." He also notes that musical education outreach work in Macao has greatly improved over the past decade, allowing students to explore many types of instrument.

Rhythm and style

Talented jazz guitarist Hon Chong Chan started playing guitar in Macao at 14 years old. He furthered his string skills at the Beijing Contemporary Music Academy from 2008. Now 34 years old, he reflects on his youth, on when he fell in love with the art form and on American jazz trumpeter, bandleader, composer and legend Miles Davis. "At that time," he says, "I listened to Miles Davis albums but I didn't understand the layers. Pop music usually expresses with bass drums and snare drums, which is easier to understand. But jazz rhythm relies on cymbals. What I knew about jazz was lyrical and smooth jazz, such as Kenny G. Beijing opened up a world of jazz to me. There is so much jazz improvisation [there]." Chan also says that when he learned guitar in Macao, he mostly followed the guidance of his music teachers. But when he got to Beijing, he realised he must work hard on musical theory and his music score reading skills.

Chan – who used to study jazz guitar under well-known

Hong Kong musician Tommy Ho – returned to Macao in 2011 and saw a few jazz performance opportunities. "I usually played once a month," he says, "mainly at music festivals and hotels." He now mostly plays in nearby Shenzhen. He notes that some musicians may stop playing later on in life because of family or career reasons. "Many jazz musicians or general musicians may stop playing when they reach a certain age. They have daytime jobs or families to look after. You can't only spend a year or two if you want to achieve something in jazz. You must spend eight to 10 years."

In 2019, Chan furthered his jazz musicianship at The Collective School of Music in New York. He says that the Big Apple is 'another world' in terms of jazz and he was inspired to record his first album, 'Traveling Coffee', with the Hon Chong Chan Quartet, which was recorded in New York before being produced and released just last year in Macao. "In New York," he says, "many

musicians do that. A friend of mine, who is also a jazz guitarist from Hong Kong, advised me to record an album as a portfolio or a documentation of my journey in New York." Chan mentions the COVID-19 pandemic too as it hit the world not long after he returned to Macao in 2019. He says he's performed occasionally since, as well as taught guitar styles like jazz, rock and acoustic.

Jazz music has been around in Macao for many years. It has had periods of growth and decline but there is now a strong community of musicians and enthusiasts in the city which keep the scene going, whether that's in terms of gigs, festivals, education or outreach events. It can be cleverly promoted in the city – combining performances with good food, drinks and interesting interiors – but its future remains uncertain. However, if young people keep picking up their instruments and learning this exciting musical art form, then we should be fairly confident that Macao will be jazzing it up for decades to come. ●

Jazz guitarist Hon Chong Chan

Hon Chong Chan

ZOOM

Exploring ancient Shaanxi

Text and images **Rafelle Marie Allego**

Few Chinese provinces are as beautiful as Shaanxi, which lies in the north of the country. Its ancient capital, Xi'an, is home to the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor, which was constructed between 246 and 208 BC and contains thousands of the famous clay soldiers known as the Terracotta Army. There's also the Shaanxi History Museum, which is one of China's first huge state museums with modern facilities. The team at Macao Magazine visited both fascinating destinations on a trip to the province between 18 and 23 April. We joined a Portuguese and English press delegation from Macao which was headed by the director of the Publicity and Culture Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, Wan Sucheng.

During the six-day trip, the media delegation explored Shaanxi's tourist destinations and two cities. Xi'an is one of the oldest cities in China and it also marks the start of the Silk Road. Yan'an holds historical significance as the bastion of Chinese communists from the 1930s to 1949. All in all, it was an interesting trip and we've chosen to share some of the photos taken by our team at the Shaanxi History Museum and the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor with our readers. Enjoy exploring these historical gems with us...

A replica of a horse-drawn chariot on display at the Shaanxi History Museum. This particular model, which would have been in action during the Qin Dynasty between 221 and 206 BC, has a heavy box carriage with an oval-shaped canopy. The real chariot was excavated in 1980 at the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor.



This camel figurine – carrying seven musicians – is an example of Tang Dynasty tri-colour glazed ceramics. It is on display at the Shaanxi History Museum and it dates back to between 618 and 907.

The Zhongshan Grottoes, located at the foot of Shaanxi's Zhongshan Mountain, are believed to have been built during the Eastern Jin Dynasty between 317 and 420. The grottoes consist of 18 caves and, in the main cave alone, more than 10,000 Buddha statues have been found. This floor-to-ceiling display at the Shaanxi History Museum contains some of those remarkable statues.



These Tang Dynasty Chinese zodiac figures are from between 618 and 907. They catch much attention at the Shaanxi History Museum as visitors try to guess which figure represents which of the 12 signs of the zodiac.



A horse-drawn chariot that was excavated in 1980 on display at the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor. With an umbrella-like canopy, this chariot – which is not a replica – was historically used in battle or on tours of inspection.





The excavation continues at the mausoleum complex, with more recent discoveries placed near an on-site lab for further studies. Early last year, archaeologists uncovered 200 more warriors of the Terracotta Army.



The Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor is a sight to behold. There are three pits at the mausoleum complex that hold thousands of Terracotta Army statues. Pit One is by far the largest, measuring 230 metres long from east to west and 62 metres wide from north to south. It's an impressive sight.

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(Fortaleza do Monte)

Address

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(última admissão às 17:30)

Encerrado às segundas-feiras

Aberto aos feriados públicos

Operation Hours

10:00 — 18:00

(Ticket booth closes at 17:30)

Closed on Mondays

Open on public holidays

