

Recent Books from Hong Kong – Jan 2021

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Architecture

Asian Revitalization : Adaptive Reuse in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore / Edited by Katie Cummer and Lynne D. DiStefano
Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2021
248p.; 108 Ill.
9789888528554
\$ 58.00 / HB

Adaptive reuse refers to reusing an old building for a purpose other than which it was originally built or designed. This conservation approach has become increasingly popular around the world. However, there are few publications that focus on its application in Asia. This book fills this gap by looking at both unique and shared aspects of adaptive reuse in three Asian urban centers: Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore. Building on government policy documents and extensive field work, this book contextualizes adaptive reuse in each city and reveals the impetus behind a wide range of projects from revitalization in Hong Kong, commercial development in Shanghai, to community building in Singapore.

The introductory chapter sets adaptive reuse within an international perspective, noting salient differences and similarities between Asia and other parts of the world. It also anchors the discussion within a regional perspective, focusing on the similarities and differences between Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore. Each of the following four essays addresses a specific topic about adaptive reuse, including its relationship to urban development and sustainability, how it benefits heritage buildings, and how it reveals best practices in heritage conservation in Asia. The subsequent three essays, one for each city, supplemented with timelines, set out a clear framework for understanding the city-specific case studies that follow the essays. Afterwards, fifteen representative projects across the three cities are presented as in-depth case studies. The pairing of essays and case studies provides a detailed understanding

of each city's approach to adaptive reuse in the twenty-first century; a time when the need for sustainable development solutions are at the forefront. Intended for classroom use and professional readership, this book will be of considerable value in Asia, as well as elsewhere, providing material for stimulating and worthwhile discussion.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747202>

Asian Revitalization : Adaptive Reuse in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore / Edited by Katie Cummer and Lynne D. DiStefano
Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2021

248p.; 108 ill.

9789888528561

\$ 29.00 / PB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747203>

Art

Dear Hong Kong, Volume 1 / Oskar Valles & Aggie Lam

Hong Kong: Global Hongkongers, 2020

201p.

Includes Index

English & Chinese Language

9789887525004

\$ 80.00 / HB

1270gm.

Dear Hong Kong is a photo book about diversity and identity. This first volume is a snapshot of inspiring people from 80 parts of the world who live in Hong Kong and have contributed to our society. It is a tribute to the unique spirit of Asia's world city in 2020. Come in and let the colourful human stories of Hong Kong touch you.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747204>

Spatial Cemetary : A Journey Beneath the Surface of Hidden Hong Kong / HKURBEX

Hong Kong: Blacksmith Books, 2019

212p.

English & Chinese Language

9789887792864

\$ 32.95 / PB

628gm.

The book you are holding contains secrets and stories about Hong Kong that have never before been published. Prepare to have your preconceived notions of this bustling Asian financial hub butchered as you journey through crevices, enter hidden portals, clamber over barbed-wire fences, evade security guards and infiltrate derelict structures to travel back in time. Your hosts are an anonymous grassroots squad of explorers who will show you a side of Hong Kong only a specialist minority know about. Although the city has some of the most expensive property on the planet, an unknown world awaits beyond the shimmering skyscrapers and under the glitzy malls. This is the hidden kingdom of non-spaces: environments and structures that lie fallow, usually abandoned and left to rot, or suspended in limbo awaiting evictions and demolition. The HK Urbex crew - a covert collective of urban explorers whose exploits merge archaeology, ethnography, historiography and anthropology - unearth dead zones on the periphery of the city. They invite you to explore haunted schools, rummage through old crime scenes, reconnoitre condemned buildings and uncover the scraps of modernisation which won't be recorded in history books. So come inside, confront the aesthetic of loss, discover the value of dead architecture and see Hong Kong as you've never seen it before.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=670550>

Colours of Congo : Patterns, Symbols and Narratives in 20th-Century Congolese Paintings / Edited by Florian Knothe and Estela Ibáñez-García; introduced by Thomas Bayet

Hong Kong : HKU Museum and Art Gallery, 2021

216p. 9" x 11.5", Color ill.

9789887470731

\$ 50.00 / PB

A strong international interest in Congolese art, its collection and public display has grown steadily since it was first institutionalised with the foundation of Belgium's Royal Museum of Central Africa (RMCA) in the early 1900s. In order to represent the chronological development of painting studios from Elisabethville to Brazzaville, this book is organised into three distinct sections. Following a general introduction to Congolese art since the initial colonial encounters, and Congolese painting more broadly, the first section describes the emerging workshop initiated by George Thiry. The book's second section discusses the painting studio established by Pierre Romain-Desfossés, and the final section focuses on the schools of Laurent Moonens and Pierre Lods, highlighting the development of similar but decisively different institutions that brought European art materials to the Congo. These workshops taught established

techniques and subsequently made famous in Europe some of the Congo's better established local artists.

By presenting historical facts and critical observations, this study hopes to provide an academic context, along with an extensively illustrated catalogue which includes biographical data on the more established painters. These are neither the first nor the last voices to discuss this historically important and visually impactful art form, the colonial circumstances that led to the development of this phenomenon or the international reception of these unique and increasingly influential painters. This work aims to draw attention to a significant area of African art history that developed along with international exchange, and which continues to arouse interest in the African continent within an increasingly globalized world. Although the time period described in this publication ends with the fall of colonial rule, many of the studios that began in the 1950s have continued, and their artistic output is currently enjoying a renewed reception that none of the artists could have likely anticipated with their first easel paintings back in the 1920s.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747205>

Biography /Memoirs

Designing A Life : A Cross-Cultural Journey : The Memoirs of Kai-Yin Lo / Kai Yin Lo

Hong Kong: Blacksmith Books, 2019

60p.

9789887963837

\$ 32.95 / PB

374gm.

"Designing a Life: A Cross-Cultural Journey" tells the inspiring story of Kai-Yin Lo, a determined woman born to a wealthy Hong Kong family who had to build her own future following an abrupt change in the family's fortunes. After a first job at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Hong Kong, she made her way to New York, working at Time Inc. to establish a new life. Encouraged by her first collection being accepted by Cartier New York, she employed talent, innovation and determination to become a designer of international renown, respected as an ambassador for cross-cultural exchange in art, design and thought.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=670456>

Stories from the Royal Hong Kong Police : Fifty Accounts from Officers of Hong Kong's Colonial-Era Police Force / The Royal Hong Kong Police Association

Hong Kong: Blacksmith Books, 2020

292p.

9789887963882

\$ 29.95 / PB

368gm.

Fighting to survive on a police patrol launch during a typhoon, and investigating a murder by a Vietnamese gangster in a refugee camp. Battling riots during the Cultural Revolution, countering drug smuggling and pimping by the triads, and dealing with bank robbers in a hostage situation. These are just some of the stories told in this riveting compilation of personal experiences of former Royal Hong Kong Police officers.

In 1997, Hong Kong returned to Chinese sovereignty after 156 years of British rule. This collection of no-holds-barred accounts by some 50 individual police officers, put together by three former colleagues, illustrates the last decades of the colony's colourful history. This is what life was really like on the front line.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747206>

Business

Why Your CEO Failed in China : True Tales of How Not To Do Business in the People's Republic / Jack Leblanc

Hong Kong: Blacksmith Books, 2020

284p.

9789887963813

\$ 29.95 / PB

358gm.

Jack Leblanc arrived in China in 1989 intending to teach for just two years. He was to spend the next two decades on a very different learning curve as he became involved in a series of business ventures in almost every part of the Middle Kingdom. From farmyard to factory, boardroom to banquet, Leblanc witnessed (and occasionally assisted) the transformation of China from a socialist economy into the world's greatest experiment in capitalism. Over time it dawned upon him that the key to success is to manage the differences in Chinese and Western business behavior. To do well in China you must carefully adapt your strategies - or face ruin faster than you can learn how to use chopsticks.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747207>

The Rise and Fall of the Hang Seng Index / Jake van der Kamp

Hong Kong: Blacksmith Books, 2020

212p.

9789887963912

\$ 29.95 / PB

274gm.

"Every adult human being is an investment expert. Life is an investment exercise and you are your own best investment adviser." Jake van der Kamp is a resident of Hong Kong for more than 40 years. He has enjoyed a varied career, working first as an Asian investment analyst and then as a financial columnist for Hong Kong's South China Morning Post. In this book he offers a "how to" manual on investment. He argues that you are already your own best adviser on when and what investments to make - and you should rely on investment professionals only for advice on how and where to do so.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747208>

Comics/Graphic Novels

Hong Kong Sweet and Sour / Daniel Zabo

Hong Kong: Blacksmith Books, 2020

1v.

9789881376596

\$ 19.95 / PB

150gm.

French artist Zabo visited Hong Kong in the 1960s, and condensed his year-long stay into a book of cartoons which has come to be known as an emblem of the era. Life in Hong Kong's streets and trades is humorously illustrated with a touch of satire, covering popular habits, social etiquette, traditions and the customs of local people as well as foreign residents. Even half a century later, Zabo's portrayal of Hong Kong still rings true, and his take on life will resonate in the fond memories of all who lived through the Swinging Sixties.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=722597>

History

Women, Crime and the Courts : Hong Kong 1841-1941/ Patricia O'Sullivan

Hong Kong: Blacksmith Books, 2021

352p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

\$ 29.95 / PB

412gm.

Kwan Lai-chun was sick of being made to feel second-class by her husband's concubine; sick of her mother-in-law's endless carping about the money she spent; sick of the whole family really. Late one sticky, humid night something snapped in her - and she grabbed the meat chopper. Within minutes, three people were dead: the concubine with over 70 gashes, many of them to the bone. Kwan was found guilty and became the second and last woman in Hong Kong to suffer the death penalty. But behind her story, and those of the city's other female murderers, lie complex webs of relationships and jealousies, poverty and despair. Taking the first 100 years of Hong Kong's colonial history, this book unravels the lives of women - Chinese and Westerners alike - who found themselves on the wrong side of the law. Hong Kong's female prison population was a tiny fraction of that in America, but there are still plenty of tales from its women kidnappers, fraudsters, bomb-makers, thieves and cruel mistresses.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747214>

Empowered by Ancestors : Controversy over the Imperial Temple in Song China (960–1279) / Cheung Hiu Yu

Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2021

232p.

9789888528585

\$ 79.00 / HB

Empowered by Ancestors: Controversy over the Imperial Temple in Song China (960–1279) examines the enduring tension between cultural authority and political power in imperial China by inquiring into Song ritual debates over the Imperial Temple. During these debates, Song-educated elites utilized various discourses to rectify temple rituals in their own ways. In this process, political interests were less emphasized and even detached from ritual discussions. Meanwhile, Song scholars of particular schools developed various ritual theories that were used to reshape society in later periods. Hence, the Song ritual debates exemplified the great transmission of ancestral ritual norms from the top stratum of imperial court downward to society. In this book, the author attempts to provide a lens through which historians, anthropologists,

experts in Chinese Classics, and scholars from other disciplines can explore Chinese ritual in its intellectual, social, and political forms.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=745920>

Coolie Ships of the Chinese Diaspora (1846-1874) / John Asome

Hong Kong: Proverse Hong Kong, 2020

464p.

Includes Index

9789888491988

Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series

\$ 70.00 / PB

584gm.

BETWEEN 1846 AND 1874, OVER 290,000 CHINESE were embarked as indentured labourers destined mainly for Peru, Cuba and the British, French and Dutch West Indies. Of these, 15.13% did not reach their destination. The demand for labour was high. Among the poor, penniless and destitute of southern China, the search for remunerated work was also high. When demand outran the initial willing supply, trickery and misrepresentation, even kidnapping, came to be used in obtaining recruits. These were among the several factors contributing to onboard suicides, attempted insurrections and successful mutinies when captains and some crew were killed or tortured, ships set on fire and sometimes entirely destroyed. There were also occurrences when recruits signed on, intent on piracy, which was occasionally successful. Authorities in the ports of departure introduced legislation to counter abuses. Receiving countries also introduced legislation related to imported labour. In this study, John Asome provides data on 732 voyages and commentary on a good number of these. As an expert in the field, Walton Look Lai, says, John Asome has filled, "an enormous gap in our knowledge of the Chinese coolie trade....He has enabled readers and future scholars to distinguish fact from myth, reality from exaggeration, in the understanding of this vast and complex experience."

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747215>

Law

The Concept of Proportionality in Public Law / Chung Wai Man, Franco

Hong Kong: City University of Hong Kong Press, 2020

lvi, 640p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789629373788

\$ 75.00 / PB

1320gm.

Proportionality is a German, and thus continental European, concept in public law that is applied by both the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). The principle specifies that measures adopted by executive authorities should not exceed the limits of what is appropriate and necessary in order to achieve legitimate objectives in the interest of the public.

Using a functional comparative approach, this book evaluates the extent to which proportionality has been integrated into the English and Hong Kong judicial systems by comparing case law in these courts with that of the CJEU and the ECtHR. The text also reviews the development of proportionality and presents a topical understanding of why its adoption and application have encountered difficulties in some jurisdictions, such as the United Kingdom and Hong Kong.

Written by a scholar with experience from both within the Hong Kong judicial system and from international research, this book is the first all-encompassing reference for legal practitioners. With its exploration of alternatives to proportionality and particular cases where issues of proportionality have arisen, this text is highly relevant in legal climates worldwide.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747216>

Literature

Transmutations of Desire : Literature and Religion in Late Imperial China
/ Qiancheng Li

Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 2020
xii, 306p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789882371224

\$ 50.00 / HB

612gm.

In the West, love occupies the center stage in the modern age, whether in art, intellectual life, or the economic life. We may observe a similar development in China, on its own impetus, which has resulted in this characteristic of modernity—this feature of modern life has been securely and unambiguously established, not the least abetted by the thriving of literature about *qing*, whether in traditional or modern forms. Qiancheng Li examines the nuances of this trend in the Chinese context. The emphasis is on readings of literary texts, including important Ming- and

Qing-dynasty works of drama, Buddhist texts and other religious/philosophical works, in all their subtlety and evocative power.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747217>

Vague Expectations : Xiao Hong Miscellany / (Compiled & Translated)
Howard Goldblatt (Series Eds) Lawrence Wang-chi Wong & Theodore
Huters

Hong Kong: Research Centre for Translation, The Chinese University of
Hong Kong, 2020

264p.

9789627255475

Renditions Paperbacks Series

\$ 15.00 / PB

328gm.

As a novelist, Northeast writer Xiao Hong has few peers. In the introduction to her maiden novel, *Lu Xun*, for whom praise had to be earned, wrote, 'Keen observations and an extraordinary writing style add considerably to [its] vividness and beauty. Its spirit is robust.' This plaudit came at the beginning of her tragically truncated career and life. Barely six years later, Mao Dun would write about another of her novels: 'Satire is here, and humour. At the start you read with a sense of relaxation; then little by little your heart grows heavier. Still there is beauty, slightly morbid perhaps but bound to fascinate you.' Less well-known, but equally impressive, is her corpus of stories, essays, and miscellaneous writing, most published during her short lifetime. The characteristics cited in the appreciations of the two titans of Republican letters are all visible in the two dozen pieces included in this volume. Little wonder that Xiao Hong is one of the most widely read, widely written about, and widely translated Chinese writers of the first half of the twentieth century.

Born in 1911, the year that the Manchu regime was overthrown, in Harbin, Heilongjiang, Xiao Hong began a writing career in 1933, gaining nationwide notice for her first novel, thanks largely to the patronage of Lu Xun, with whom she would develop a deep friendship. She was highly popular among writers and poets, who were her friends, and a host of countrymen and countrywomen, who were her fans, her reading public. She died in Hong Kong in 1942, only weeks after it fell to the Japanese.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747218>

Between Two Shores / T.L. Tsim

Hong Kong: Angelina Lai Fun Wong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Press, 2020

xiv, 362p.
9789887885696
\$ 30.00 / HB
612gm.

This is a story which begins in California and ends in China. It is a detective tale with a subtle love interest. Victor Lin, a Chinese-American died in mysterious circumstances on a trip to the Thousand Island Lake south of the city of Hangzhou. His wife Anne Gavin, an Irish-American, went to China to find out what really happened. In the course of her investigation, she teamed up with David Han, an academic from Hong Kong who also lost his sister in the same "accident". As the story unfolds, the reader is treated to an exploration of the Chinese mind torn between two cultures - the native Chinese culture and the culture of the West. At one level, this is a story about corruption, obsession, and the quest for closure. But running through the story is the soul-searching of David Han and the identity crisis he was going through. In the course of telling the story, *Between Two Shores* takes the reader behind the shroud that hides the Chinese persona and reveals the fears, aspirations, frustrations and underlying beliefs of the Chinese people. It splits open the archetypal "Chinese characteristics" to reveal the deep-seated motivations which underpin Chinese behavior. It is a very revealing book and goes to depths never before explored.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747219>

Blue Dragon Spring / Jan Pearson
Hong Kong: Proverse Hong Kong, 2020
vi, 246p.
9789888492152
\$ 25.00 / PB
338gm.

A well-written "murder/mystery", set, largely, in Hong Kong, with many local references, including the now demolished "Walled City". In the world before texting and mobile phones, these events could happen.

Hong Kong enters 1980 in a restless mood. As China's doors open to foreign investment, Hong Kong's manufacturing base declines and the number of illegal immigrants continues to grow. Britain's lease of the Hong Kong New Territories will expire on 30 June 1997. Confidence in Hong Kong's future is already affected by speculation about the

handover to China that this may trigger. Many Hong Kong nationals depart to live overseas./In January, the illegitimate son of Hong Kong's most powerful gangster, who is also the nephew of tycoon Yip Yee Koon, abandons his role as leader of the Wo Luen Shing Triad and returns to England where he was educated. Tony Smith's departure unleashes family secrets which almost decimate the Yip empire. At the same time, other criminal groups in the infamous Kowloon Walled City use his exit to seize power.

A month or so later, Pearl Green, in her role as Director of the Hong Kong-based June Bowen Foundation, is in England to attend a conference. In London's Soho, she witnesses a worrying incident. After hearing her account, her father, London-based James Gates, links the matter to a Hong Kong source and travels out unexpectedly. On the plane, James encounters a beautiful Eurasian woman, and sees she is wearing Tony Smith's distinctive dragon sapphire ring, worn only by the leader of the Wo Luen Shing.—Smith must be dead.— James is appalled by this overt display of power. He assigns his men on the ground in Hong Kong—Peter Benson, and Yip Yee Koon's very flappable chauffeur, Hua Leung—to follow the woman with the blue dragon ring. What can they discover about her plans for contributing to the palpable restlessness abroad in Hong Kong in the opening months of this new decade?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747220>

The Best China : Essays from Hong Kong / (Ed) John Minford
Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press, 2020
xxviii, 340p.

9789882371972

Hong Kong Literature Series

\$ 35.00 / HB

508gm.

It represents one of the finest traditions in Chinese culture: the tradition of creativity, of the freedom of thought, freedom of spirit and freedom of the imagination. These are the characteristics of Hong Kong literature. The Best China, an expression traditionally used to refer to the finest crockery brought out when one is entertaining special guests, has been adapted here to mean the best Chinese tradition of free-thinking discursive prose.

This anthology of essays from Hong Kong and the diaspora, ranging across the past hundred and seventy years, records the intellectual ferment that has characterized the city since its founding in 1842,

sometimes restless and questioning, sometimes meditative and lyrical, buoyed by an all-pervasive and indomitable spirit of freedom.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747221>

Ordinary Days : A Memoir in Six Chapters / Leo Ou-fan Lee & Esther Yuk-ying Lee (Ed) John Minford (Translator) Carol Ong and Annie Ren
Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong Press, 2020

xlii, 358p

9789882371965

Hong Kong Literature Series

USD 30.00 / HB

550gm.

The memoir *Ordinary Days* by the scholar and critic Leo Ou-fan Lee and his wife Esther Yuk-ying Lee brings to this Hong Kong series an intensely personal touch, consciously echoing the great sentimental memoir of 18th-century China, Shen Fu's *Six Chapters of a Floating Life*. With disarming candour, Leo and Esther lay bare their hearts so unreservedly, to share with us their story of love and suffering, charting in a series of memorable chapters their shared spiritual quest. This is a brave book. It lays bare in a most unusual way the heart and soul of a charming and highly cultivated Chinese couple, the scholar and critic Leo Ou-fan Lee and his wife Esther Lee Yuk-ying. It charts the love story of two individuals who are no longer young, and it also boldly breaks the taboo surrounding the twin topics of depression and suicide.

Set partly against the recent backdrop of some of Hong Kong's most turbulent years, partly in the far-flung diaspora of the Chinese intelligentsia, this is a revealing record of the inner life of a highly cultivated modern Chinese couple.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747222>

The Kowloon English Club / Stephen Griffiths

Hong Kong: Blacksmith Books, 2020

288p.

9789887963875

\$ 24.95 / PB

314gm.

Asia, 1996. What do you do when you have failed to find the meaning of life in India, your money has run out, your girlfriend has gone, and prospects at home are limited? Go further east, young man!

Meet Joe Walsh, a backpacker who is determined to put a wayward life behind him and make it big in Hong Kong, where fortune still favours the

British and opportunities are there for the taking. In the final full year of British-ruled Hong Kong, tourists and hordes of transient workers are exploiting the economy as well as the occasion.

Arriving almost penniless, with issues in love and life, Joe decides to make the most of this opportunity: he discovers one of the world's most exciting cities, finds challenging new jobs, makes friends with an extraordinary cast of characters, and dates local women. He finds himself absorbed into a vibrant social scene through the communal existence of a travellers' hostel, where drink, drugs and casual sex are a way of life. A stint selling sandwiches gives way to an English-teaching job, where he can at last start to live out his ambitions.

But an already stressful existence worsens after a night out goes wrong. As personal relationships sour and the pressures of long hours, minimum pay, classroom clashes and abject living conditions mount, Joe is forced to confront people he wishes he'd never met, face hazards that are not signposted, and answer important questions that cannot be put off a moment longer.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747223>

Strangers on the Praia : A Tale of Refugees and Resistance in Wartime

Macao / Paul French

Hong Kong: Blacksmith Books, 2020

96p.

9789887963899

\$ 15.95 / PB

106gm.

Based on true stories and new research, Paul French weaves together the stories of those Jewish refugees who moved on from wartime Shanghai to seek a possible route to freedom via the Portuguese colony of Macao – “the Casablanca of the Orient”.

The delicately balanced neutral enclave became their wartime home, amid Nazi and Japanese spies, escaped Allied prisoners from Hong Kong, and displaced Chinese.

Strangers on the Praia relates the story of one young woman's struggle for freedom that would ultimately prove an act of brave resistance.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747224>

Hong Kong : Growing Pains : Poetry / Jon Ng

Hong Kong: Proverse Hong Kong, 2020

72p.

9789888492138

\$ 18.00 / PB

104gm.

HONG KONG: GROWING PAINS is an exploration of the city of Hong Kong, detailing experiences that exist within its ever-changing space, examining some of the pressures felt while growing up in the financial entrepôt, before moving on to the translation of emotions felt during the tumultuous second half of 2019, as protests rocked the amorphous Special Administrative Region. Hong Kong: Growing Pains is Jon Ng's first published collection.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=747225>
