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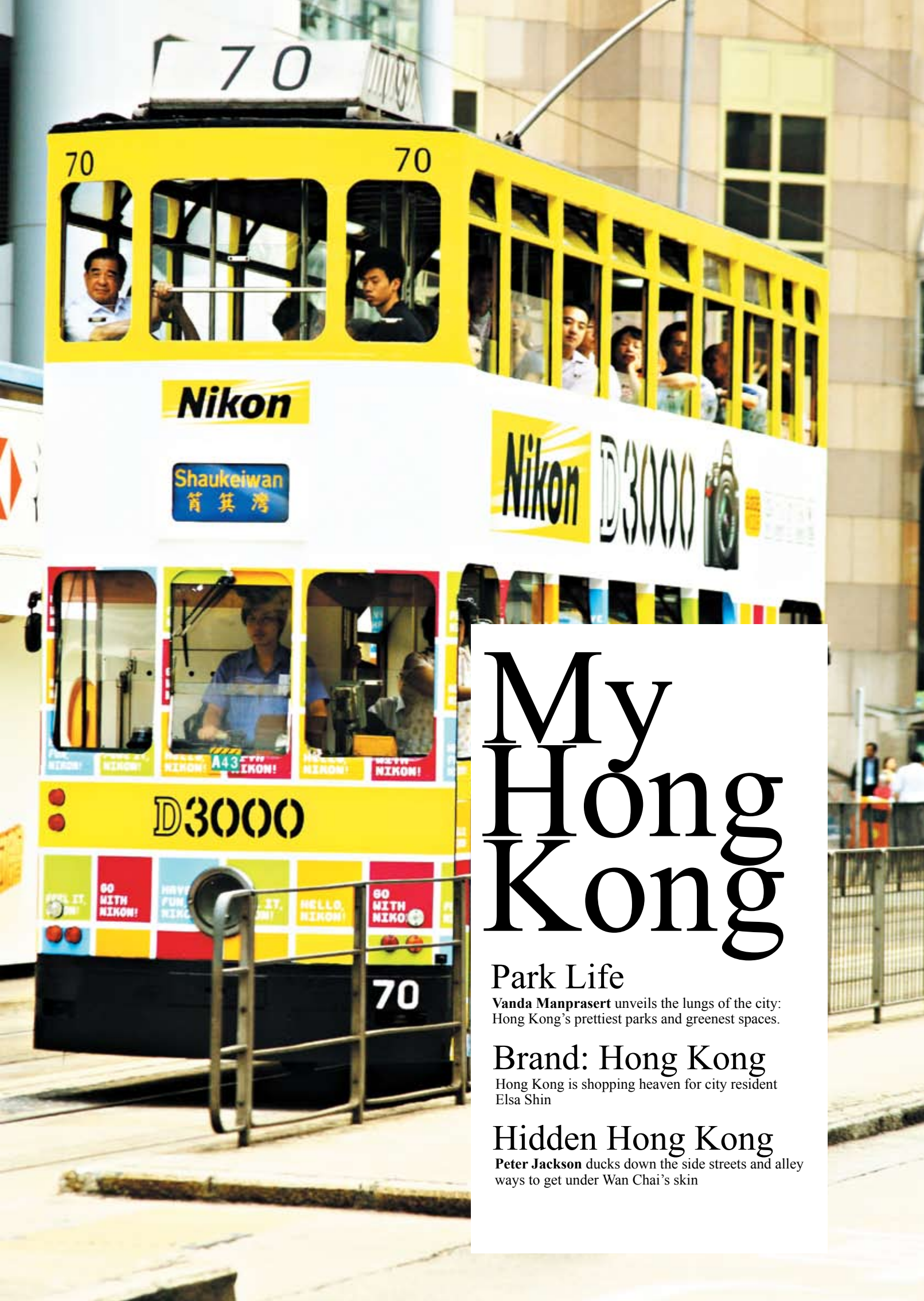
My  
Hong Kong  
Personal takes on the big city

Asia's <sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup>  
floating  
tent eco-lodge

February/March 2010

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# My Hong Kong

## Park Life

**Vanda Manprasert** unveils the lungs of the city: Hong Kong's prettiest parks and greenest spaces.

## Brand: Hong Kong

Hong Kong is shopping heaven for city resident **Elsa Shin**

## Hidden Hong Kong

**Peter Jackson** ducks down the side streets and alley ways to get under Wan Chai's skin

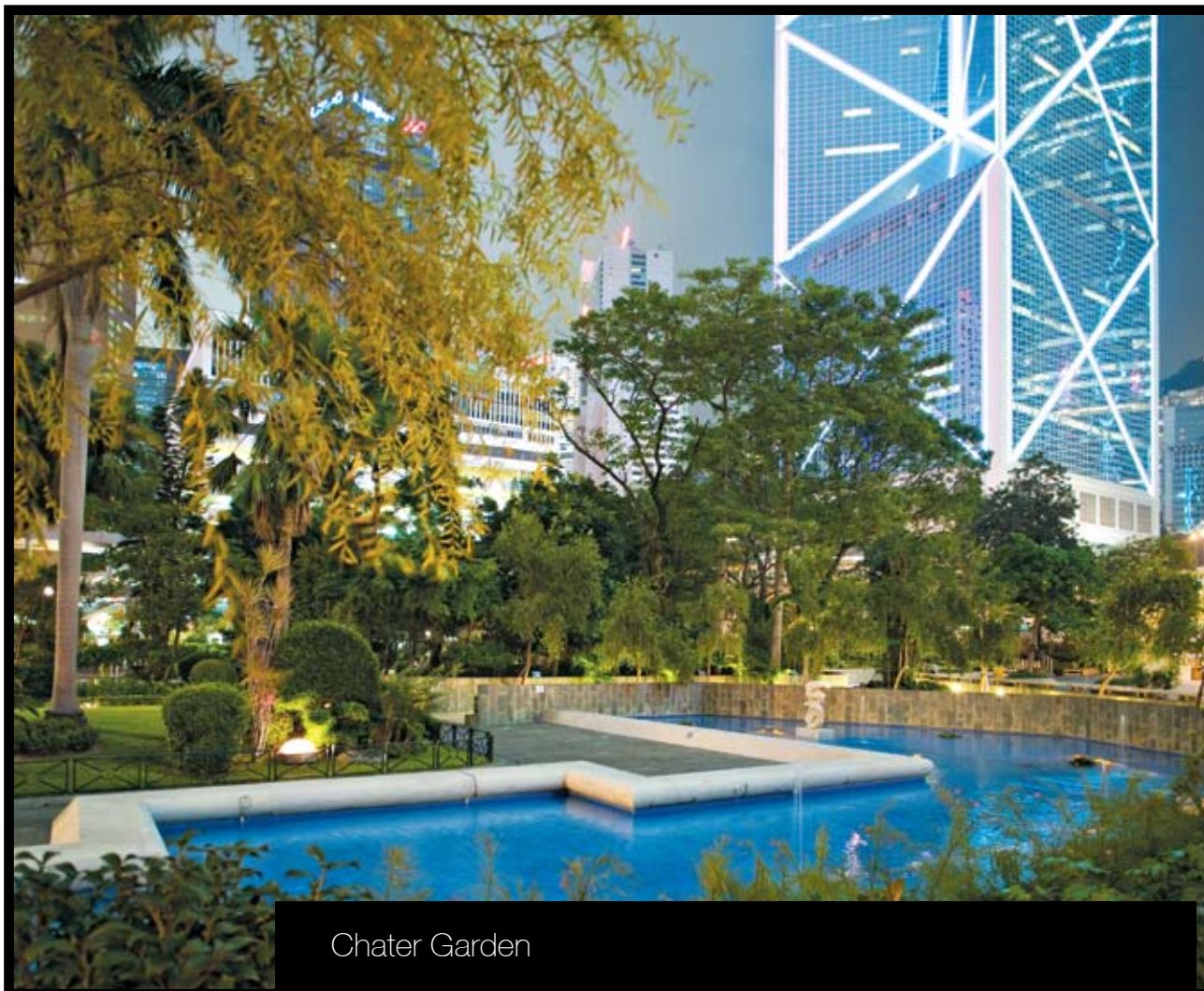
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# Park Life

By Vanda Manprasert

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“ Parks and public gardens in Hong Kong are few and far between, nestled like small green gems amongst the bristling skyscrapers of the city. Popular with locals for early morning tai chi or cool evening walks after the heat of the day, they are the perfect spot to escape from the business hordes in Central or shopping mania of Nathan Road in Kowloon. ”



Chater Garden

Located within close walking distance of the Peak Tram terminus, Chater Garden is a pleasant open area in the middle of Central with palm trees, manicured lawns and benches. At night the park is a friendly place to walk through, with a stunning view of the lights on the Bank of China tower.



## Hong Kong Park

Koi ponds and trickling waterfalls flank the tree-lined paths, backed by a view of Hong Kong's skyline. The most prominent structure looming over this famous city park is the eye-catching Lippo Center, constructed of interlocking glass and steel spurs supporting hexagonal twin towers.



## Kowloon Park

Stretching along Nathan Road between Haiphong and Austin roads, Kowloon Park offers an escape from the hectic commercial bustle of Tsim Sha Shui. Attracting visitors with its Chinese gardens, you can also enjoy bird collections of flamingoes and mandarin ducks as well as Sunday afternoon kung fu demonstrations.



## Victoria Park

Situated just east of Causeway Bay, this spacious, flat area is divided up into recreational zones of sports fields, ornamental gardens, shaded picnic areas and paved jogging paths.



## Zoological and Botanical Gardens

The Gardens are perched on the slopes south of Upper Albert Road, overlooking Central. A low-key place to get away from the crowds.



## Cheung Kong Park

A tiny oasis for urban dwellers, the quiet lily ponds of Cheung Kong Park are tucked away between massive skyscrapers in all directions.

For more information, visit [www.discoverhongkong.com](http://www.discoverhongkong.com)

# Brand: Hong Kong

By Elsa Shin

“ Home of Asia's love affair with luxury, Hong Kong is a shopper's paradise with both cult international designer brands and home-grown talent to choose from. From slick malls to hidden gem boutiques, bespoke tailors to bustling local markets, the city has it all. ”

## SOHO & MID-LEVELS

The area's hip mix of shops, galleries and cafes is dripping with boutique chic. It even has its own website where you can tap into the latest trends. [www.ilovesoho.hk](http://www.ilovesoho.hk)

## SHEUNG WAN

The handsomely renovated Western Market is an Edwardian building filled with Chinese handicraft stores and fabric shops situated at the corner of Connaught Road and Morrison Street. Walk around the surrounding area to see the Chinese-style shops selling dried seafood and medicinal herbs. Famous Cat Street bazaar has stalls and shops selling antiques: old coins, jade and stone carvings jostle for space with fun Mao watches and memorabilia.

## CENTRAL

Skyscrapers and shopping malls define the Central district, but you can still find some unique hidden gems amongst the more established international and Asian designers.



### Pagoda Gallery

190 Queen's Road Central

Run by a charming and knowledgeable sister double act, Pagoda Gallery is a treasure trove of mainland Chinese antiques tucked in a tiny two storey shop. The owners are only too happy to explain the origins of the store's gold death masks, hand painted ceramics, or carved jade animals.



### Tayma Fine Jewellery

Shop 252, 2nd Floor, Prince's Building, 10 Chater Road

Handmade European-style jewellery with personality

### Shanghai Tang

Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street

China's first international luxury brand offers modern, distinctive ready-to-wear

### KOU

22 F Fung House, 19-20 Connaught Road

Stunning showpiece home cum shop to display interior designer Lu Kou's lifestyle products

# HARBOUR CITY

A complex of four interconnected malls with hundreds of designer shops, built on the site of the old ship docks

## Vivienne Tam

Inspired modern Chinese clothing from this New York-based designer.

## SportX

Huge collection of sportswear labels, both serious and stylish.

## KidX

Boasts the largest Toys "R" Us in Asia.

Visit [www.shops.hk](http://www.shops.hk), an online collective shopping portal to explore the city's fashion talents

# NATHAN ROAD



The famous 'Golden Mile' of Nathan Road is alive with people night and day wandering under the neon signs of its shops, hotels, restaurants and nightspots. Walk the strip north to Mong Kok and Yau Ma Tei's street markets, or south to Kowloon MTR (subway) station and the Elements Mall.

# WAN CHAI



Steeped in history, Wan Chai's streets offer an amazing range of shopping. Find excellent rattan and Chinese furniture shops along Queen's Road East which will happily arrange for shipping home. Spring Garden Lane offers a more local experience, connecting nearby wet and dry markets; visit to see some of Hong Kong's more unusual produce.

## OVO Home

GF 16 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai

Custom furniture in bamboo, Manchurian ash, zebrano and more

# ADMIRALTY

Visit for Pacific Place, one of Hong Kong's most popular malls for top to bottom international designers, whilst Lane Crawford department store has great personal shopping and cosmetic concierge services.



## Sonjia

2 Sun Street, Wan Chai

Classy couture from Korean/English designer Sonjia Norman



# Hidden Hong Kong

By Peter Jackson

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For most, Hong Kong conjures visions of skyscrapers, waves of suits rushing from meeting to meeting and general commercial chaos. However, there is a quieter side to the metropolis; the older, more traditionally Chinese quarter of Wan Chai, that offers a temporary escape from the imposing world of steel and glass.

”



STREET LIFE: Everyday family living in the colourful side streets of Wan Chai.



One of the first parts of Hong Kong to be developed, Wan Chai is densely populated and characterized by crumbling urban decay alongside its own fair share of relentless modernity that is so prevalent in the other parts of the city. It gives visitors just a small taste of how the city used to be, decades before the bankers flocked there. An old red light district during the Vietnam War, the quarter now attracts a different breed of tourist, the market lovers and bargain hunters.

Turn off Queen's Road East, stroll down Wan Chai Road and then pocket the map and get lost amongst the many narrow alleys that branch off all around you. Another world of hawker stands and street shopping exists beneath the old high-rises; stalls selling Chinese medicines, jewellery and other trinkets sit alongside vibrant wet markets where live eels are seized and placed into plastic bags ready for the customer to take home and braise. I remember seeing one woman pick out a fish that the fishmonger promptly gutted and filleted,

only for her to walk away with just the head and tail. Nothing is wasted in these streets and many exhilarating hours can be spent wandering around them.

Another unique street-stall shopping experience can be found on Tai Yuen Street, where a multitude of toys await new homes. Old and second-hand, brand plastic new, cheap or expensive, there's something here for kids of all ages. The streets around Tai Yuen are also home to many restaurants serving classic Cantonese fare which is always an opportunity for daring visitors to try some unusual menu offerings. Just bear in mind the old Cantonese saying: "Any animal, whose back faces sky, can be eaten".

Wan Chai should definitely be on the itinerary of those looking for something a little more real, gritty and Chinese during their Hong Kong stay, and will certainly reward with glimpses of local life that has changed little as the surrounding city has boomed beyond recognition.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Drying fish in Wan  
Chai's side streets; bamboo stems to make furniture;  
hustle and bustle in downtown Wan Chai.



Hong Kong Chic (USD 25) by Edition Didier Millet offers one of the best guides to luxury living in Hong Kong. For more information and stockists details, visit [www.edmbooks.com](http://www.edmbooks.com) and [www.thechiccollection.com](http://www.thechiccollection.com), ISBN: 981-4155-86-1.