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"A great architect is not made by way of a brain nearly so much as he is made by way of a cultivated, enriched heart"
Frank Lloyd Wright



大飽眼福

Foodies paradise

Two fast-food outlets in Hong Kong — Buddies Café and iSquare Starbucks — have revealed new, modern aesthetics, designed to be locally relevant

香港新開的兩家快餐連鎖店Buddies Café及iSquare Starbucks，以全新的現代建築美學，迎合本土地道文化

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PHOTOGRAPHY: DICKY LIU AND COURTESY OF BEIGE DESIGN



Easy come, easy go

In Buddies Café, Danny Chan demonstrates how to turn an obstacle into inspiration

Hong Kongers are no strangers to *cha chaan tengs* ('tea houses'), but in Tung Chung, Buddies Café is moving the design goalposts with a new vocabulary defining the eatery's space.

Beige Design's Danny Chan took on and delivered the project within two months, thanks to a simple brief and a smooth rollout of the entire endeavour.

A wealth of experience in fast-food restaurant design helped Chan gain the trust of his client. Working within a constrained timeframe, however, became the guiding light to Chan's approach: "I didn't have the luxury of time to let my thoughts flow, so what I did was collect whatever ideas the site had to offer," he says.

A huge hexagonal column in the middle of the restaurant posed his first challenge, as it took up significant space and effectively split the area into two. Chan, however, took it in his stride. "If you study chemistry, you'd know the term 'hexagon' can refer to chemical bonds. As the name of the restaurant is 'Buddies', I linked these two elements to form the direction of the design," he explains.

The hexagon, thus, became the central design feature of Buddies Café: from mirrors, wooden honeycomb feature walls, ceiling and floors to the cash counter and pendant lights covered in hexagonal wire casing, all are inspired by the geometric form.

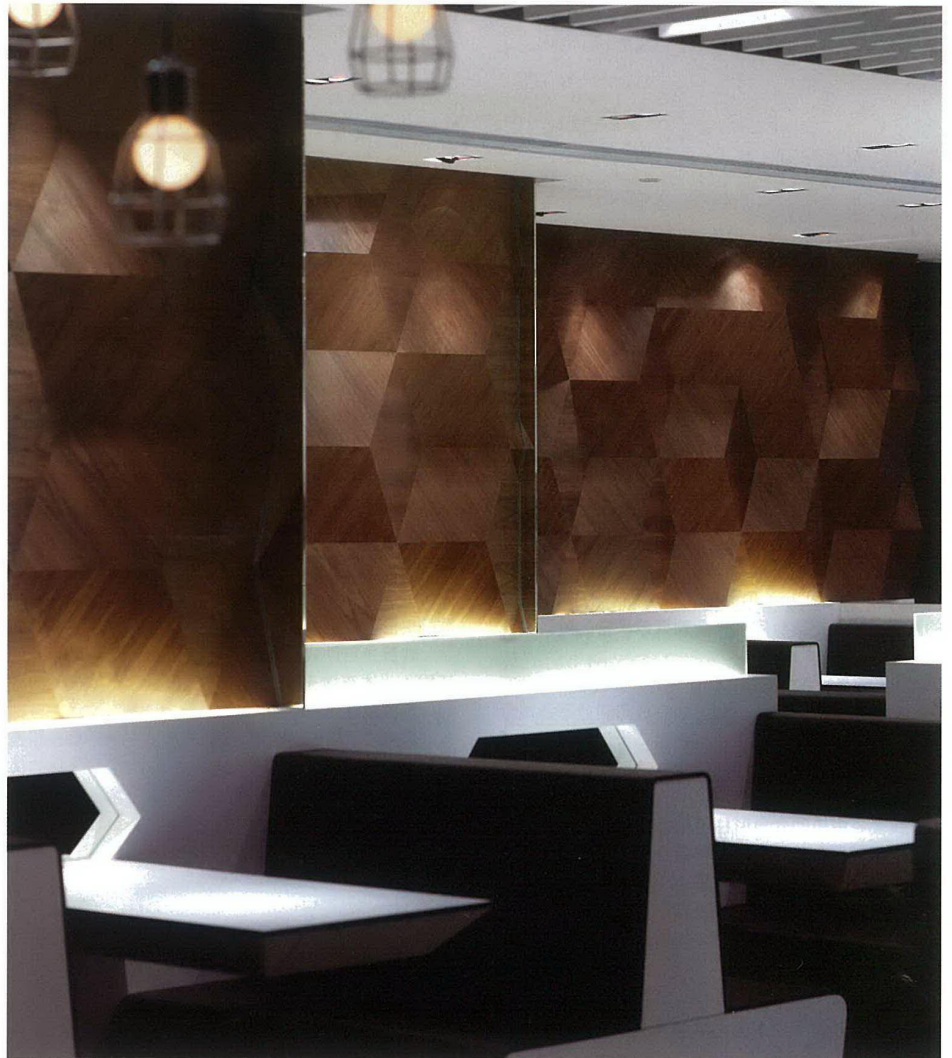
"The client wanted a flexible seating area to cater for more people, so I created honeycomb-shaped tables which can be used individually or in combination to fit smaller or larger groups," Chan says.

Even the window in front of the cafeteria-style kitchen's roast meat area is hexagonal. "It was originally a rectangular glass window; I changed it in order to create a sense of cohesiveness," says the designer.

Once the physical challenges of the design were overcome, Chan's next task was to create a modern, youthful interior without losing the lively, communal feel of a traditional *cha chaan teng*. Colours selected were white, brown and black, and he created cleverly-concealed storage space under booths and tables – common practice in local tea houses.

Chan's one regret was that the budget did not stretch to accommodate a lighting consultancy. "I believe the lighting effects, especially those along the feature walls, could have been better," he says.

Regardless, Buddies Café stands as testament to his determination to find inspiration where others might only see obstacles.



Above A lighting scheme can have significant effects on the overall impression of the interior, the designer believes
Below A hexagonal column was a source of inspiration for Danny Chan in designing Buddies Café **Opposite page** Honeycomb-shaped table arrangements, a feature wall and the pendant lights covered in hexagonal wire casing are some of the more playful elements Chan introduced





設計速成法

Danny Chan將Buddies Café格局上的缺憾巧妙化成創作的靈感

香港人無一不認識茶餐廳文化，但是位於東涌的 Buddies Café就為本地的茶餐廳貫注全新的演繹方法。

由Beige Design的Danny Chan親自操刀，在短短的兩個月內便把設計完成，全賴直截了當的設計委託及發展順暢的設計過程。

Danny具豐富的連鎖式快餐店的设计經驗，因此客戶也對他有十足的信心。短速的完成時間並不造成限制，反而是設計的明燈指引。他說：「沒有充裕的時間反而令我思路更清晰，我決定就地取材，讓快餐店的格局成為我的指引。」

快餐店中央的六角形柱是Danny要面對的第一個設計挑戰。巨型的柱子把快餐店分成兩邊，Danny便充分利用了這個特點。他解釋：「要是你有讀過化學科的話，會明白六角形其實是指一化學鍵。既然快餐店叫Buddies（好朋友），我便結合這兩個元素成為我的空間主題。」

毫無疑問，六角形便成了Buddies Café的設計主調，從壁鏡、木製蜂巢形特色牆、天花及地板，以至

收銀櫃及以六角形金屬線包裹著的電燈，統統以六角幾何圖案組成。

Danny說：「客戶要求靈活的座位安排，能隨時改動，好讓更多的顧客同時享用。於是我便把餐桌設計成蜂巢形，可照顧三數個或一大班顧客的需要。」

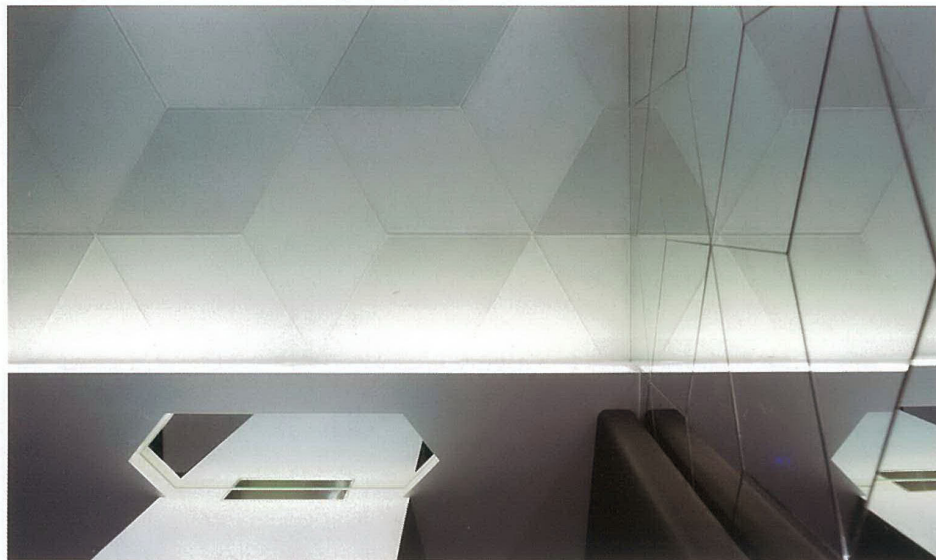
就算是自助式的燒味部，窗子也是六角形的，他續說：「本來這是一隻長方形的窗子，為了統一的原故，都改裝成六角形。」

當解決了格局上的阻礙後，Danny的下一個任務是為快餐店創造活力的室內氣氛，同時保留茶餐廳的傳統特色。於是，他透過簡單的黑白啡三色去達成這個目標，再在卡位的桌子上加設常見於茶餐廳內貯存餐具的抽屜。

可是，Danny認為唯一美中不足之處，是礙於資金有限，未能為項目聘請燈光顧問，他說：「我認為那幾組特色牆如果有更恰當的燈光配合，定能營造更佳的視覺效果。」

別人視作難題，Danny卻能夠轉化成設計靈感，聰明的做法值得讚賞。

Below An off-white colour scheme creates a youthful ambience for the restaurant **Top** Hexagons are the core design feature of the restaurant, used in elements from the ceiling to the floors, as well as feature walls and the cash counter



Go toward the light 光合作用

Using a clever lighting strategy in its newest outlets in the UK, Pizza Express has refreshed its look with a minimum of fuss

英國連鎖薄餅店Pizza Express最近為兩間新店引入新燈光設計系統，以合符經濟效益的方針，達成理想的燈光效果

Commissioned by Pizza Express UK, Mindseye Lighting has begun a review of the restaurant chain's lighting strategy in its outlets, beginning in Solihull and Gloucester Quays.

With a new zoning strategy within the restaurants, including fast dining at the restaurant entrance, a 'family zone' overlooking the Pizzaiola and a 'couples zone' in the quieter areas, the new concept was to create different pools of light with varying intensity for the different zones.

All this was achieved using existing light fittings, but with different reflectors and lenses — and only using two lamp types.

The remainder of the scheme focused on accentuating feature areas — the wine and glass displays and banquette seat lighting — to create additional atmosphere and interest in the surroundings.

Mindseye Lighting最近受英國Pizza Express薄餅店的委託，為索利哈爾及格洛斯特碼頭的兩間新開張的連鎖餐廳負責燈光設計。

新的分區格局把餐廳劃分為三大區域，快餐部設於入口處；面向薄餅烹焗區，是專門供一家大小共聚的地方。至於兩口子可以到情侶廳，環境較為安靜。燈光明暗視乎不同分區的需要來配合。

設計師沿用現成的燈光組合，把不同的反光片及鏡片放在限定的兩種燈具內，便能製造理想的效果。

為了突出陳設酒及酒杯，以及宴會廳的區域，設計師更刻意加強四周的燈光氣氛。

FITTINGS USED WERE:

Lucent Prospot — track-mounted spotlight with various reflectors

High-output linear LED strips — for shelf lighting and Pizzaiola counter details

Linear fluorescent batten, warm white lamp — for window treatments and banquette seating up-lighting

選用的燈光系統

透光系統Prospot：

用於配合不同反光片的路軌射燈

高輸出功能條狀節能LED芯片：

用於櫃子及薄餅烹焗區

條狀電池螢光管及暖白燈：用於窗子及宴會廳

Mindseye Lighting was commissioned by Pizza Express to review their lighting strategy and initially enhance the look and feel of the restaurants

