



February 2023

## Theme - Cultural Heritage of Everyday Life

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### Recommended Citation

(2023) "Theme - Cultural Heritage of Everyday Life," *SIGNED: The Magazine of The Hong Kong Design Institute*, 16-17.

Available at: <https://repository.vtc.edu.hk/ive-de-signed/vol28/iss28/7>

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THEME

# CULTURAL HERITAGE OF EVERYDAY LIFE 生活文化遺產

"Cultural heritage: preservation and innovation" will be the theme of SIGNED in these three issues. We will kick off with "the cultural heritage of everyday life", a topic that we are all very familiar with. As this is a wide-reaching discipline, we have decided to focus on four aspects, namely clothing, food, the living space and travelling. We will share new ideas and stories of these topics sourced in Hong Kong and from around the world.

Through our handpicked stories, we hope to present an impression that feels familiar and unfamiliar at the same time. The familiarity, certainly, has originated from the four essential aspects of everyday life mentioned above. The unfamiliarity, on the other hand, can be interpreted as the freshness created by new ideas and experiences made possible by clever design thinking.

Our first feature is about clothing. In Kyoto, Japan, where cultural preservation has always been highly valued, a fashion design company is capitalising on the rich history of Kyoto crafts. By actively communicating and collaborating with seasoned artisans, the company has designed and produced an array of impressively refreshing modern interpretations of traditional clothes, which are highly popular amongst young consumers. This story shows us that traditions are not only the nostalgia of the older generation.

Our second feature is about food. Inspired by Hong Kong's status as a food paradise, two young design graduates opened the design studio "Deep Food". Their mission is to apply design on food – the core of their design endeavours – such that the significance of food can be extend beyond delicacies and fast food to become an inspiration for deep thoughts.

As for the living space aspect, we spoke to two Hong Kong locals who had

preserved a walk-up apartment building and founded a non-profit organisation inside it. Their aim is to strengthen the intellectual and technical exchange between traditional furniture masters of wood and metal work and young contemporary artisans. They hope that young craftsmen can apply new ideas and design to breathe new life into traditional crafts, so that traditions can stay current to stand the test of time.

As for travelling experiences, we will look into a very meaningful living cultural heritage preservation project in Australia. A company has made use of virtual and augmented realities to re-enact the living scenes and culture of Australia's native people. Through this project, the public can experience online the original lives of the First Nation before the continent was colonised by Europeans. For modern people, these aspects form the basics of everyday life. As our society progresses with time, true preservation and innovation of cultural heritage will rely on how to resonate with young people.

When looked on as a total, these stories emphasise that the boundaries between the material and non-material aspects of our lives will continue to be blurred. Something that makes the keen eye and intuitive sense of a designer evermore important as we strive to create the best possible union of form and function in pursuit of a better future for all.

接下來的三期《SIGNED》以文化遺產的傳承和創新為主題，今期首先出場的，是相信大家都會很熟悉的生活文化遺產，而由於它的範圍實在很廣泛，所以我們決定聚焦生活方式的四大基本面向：衣、食、住、行，每個面向為大家帶來來自本地及世界不同國家的新穎例子作分享。

我們希望透過這些例子，呈現一個又一個讓大家既熟悉又陌生的生活印象。熟悉是因為衣食住行都是和大家生活日常息息相關，陌生是因為發現這世上竟然有創作人可以透過設計思維，為這些非常基本的生活文化遺產，帶來嶄新的思維和體驗。

首先衣物方面，在一向注重文化遺產保育的日本京都，有一家時裝設計公司以京都豐盛的手工藝歷史為基礎，主動和一些傳承多年工藝的工匠交流合作，為好些傳統衣物，設計及製作出叫人眼前一亮的現代演繹，更贏得年輕一代的歡心，證明傳統不一定只屬於老一輩。食物方面，素有「飲食天堂」美譽的香港，孕育出兩位讀設計的年輕人，以食物為創作核心開設設計工作室，以「深食」為名稱，希望透過設計，令食物的意義能超越美食和快餐的層面，啟發更多思考的空間。

家居方面，香港有兩位有心人，先是保育活化了一座唐樓，在裏面成立一家非牟利組織，旨在加強傳統家具如木器及金工師傅等，和當代年輕工匠之間的想法和技術交流，再透過後者以創新理念和設計，為傳統工藝注入新生命，使它們得以與時並進、歷久不衰。最後體驗之旅，我們發掘了澳洲一個很有意思的生活文化遺產傳承項目，一家公司透過虛擬實境及擴增實境的技術，重現澳洲原住民的生活場景及生活文化，讓大家有機會在網上體驗未被歐洲殖民前的澳洲原始生活面貌。

其實對於現代人來說，衣食住行都是生活方式的基本，而生活方式的本質，是隨着時代發展而變化，所以對於其文化遺產如何傳承和創新，相信關鍵還在於，是否具備一種呼應年輕一代生活脈搏的時代感，這樣才能有真正意義上的傳承。