

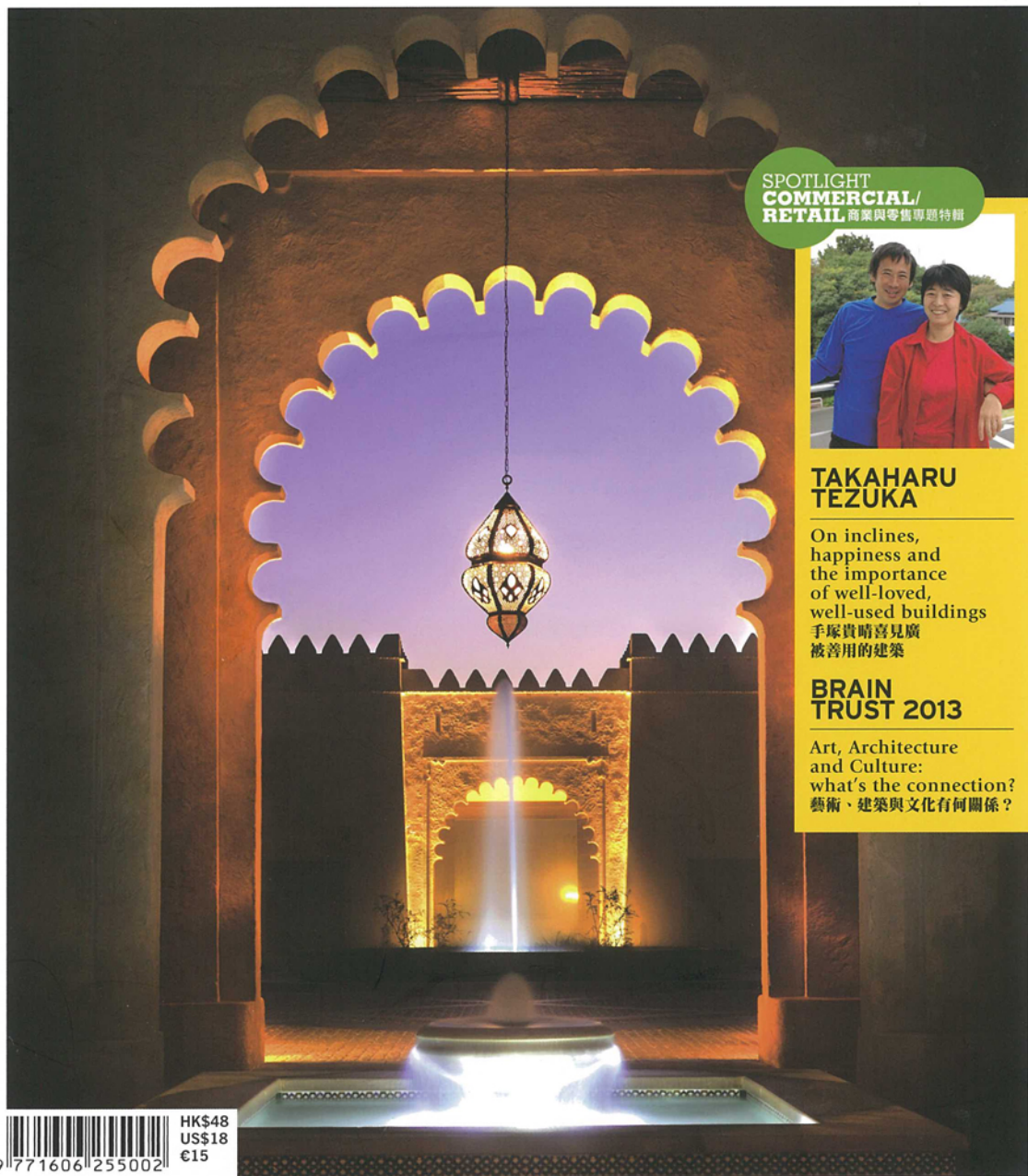
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Art, Architecture  
and Culture:  
what's the connection?  
藝術·建築與文化有何關係?



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All designers relish being presented with a blank canvas to work on — but what if that canvas is also boring and stereotypical? Can such a space provide any inspiration at all? For Hong Kong's Bugs Design Studio, it was a dream project, made even more compelling because the team would, in fact, be designing its own office.

Thus, what was once the bog-standard interiors of a commercial building in the heart of Wanchai is now a space resembling a semi-industrial warehouse in spirit. The starting point for the design, says Bugs founder Denny Tse, was planning the layout — he is a strong believer that when a layout is properly planned according to the programme of the interiors, everything else will fall into place.

A few things required sprucing up first before the Bugs team could add its personal touch — starting with the lavatories, which are located on both sides at the entrance and facing the entire workspace. It was a less than ideal situation, and contradicted everything Tse believes in as a designer. So, the obvious solution was to hide them. "I don't feel comfortable having the washrooms inside the office, because it means a lack of privacy for us," he says. "So I had to do something to remove them from sight."

# The space between

Text: Teresa Chow Photography: Dicky Liu

It takes a certain imagination and flair to transform an ordinary office space into something more than just that, but Bugs Design achieves it by infusing industrial chic into its new studio

Iron bookshelves make a corridor appear longer



Clockwise from above A circular window cut into the wall of Bug's founder Denny Tse's office draws in light directly to his desk • Iron bookshelves at the entrance create a sense of arrival and also double up as the studio's library • Personal items are displayed throughout the office, creating a strong sense of personality

He started searching for a solution that could also be used to create a sense of arrival for the studio and chose to introduce iron bookshelves into the area, which would also serve as the team's library. "The entrance is situated in the middle of the office, which is again not pleasant in my view," Tse explains. "I built bookshelves to separate the workspace from the entrance to create an arrival experience, even though we don't have a traditional reception area."

Another issue Tse needed to look at was his own office space. "The merit of having our studio on the top floor of the building means we enjoy a high ceiling and floods of natural light — but that wasn't the case for where my own office was located," he says.

Although Tse's office also enjoys a comparatively high ceiling, its location at the end of the studio space resulted in a sense of disconnect. "So I opened a window on the wall as a way to connect with my team, while also bringing in light directly to my work desk," he says.

Tse's preference is for clean lines with an emphasis on a white colour palette and a minimalistic aesthetic, but has introduced greenery to create a fresh, natural touch. And as he feels strongly that each individual should bring their own unique approach to a space, he has also encouraged his staff to personalise their own work areas.



The team's collection of posters adds colour and a lively vibe

## 工作之間

撰文：Teresa Chow 攝影：Dicky Liu

要為平凡的辦公室真正注入生命得靠創意和觸覺，而 Bugs Design 便把時尚的工業味道放進他們的新工作室裡

在工作上遇到可以任意發揮、空白一片的空間，所有設計師都會感到雀躍萬分。不過，若果這片空白呆板又沉悶，要怎麼辦？這樣的一個空間真能觸發設計靈感嗎？對香港的 Bugs Design Studio 來說，處理這種空間其實最好不過，而且又是為自己設計新辦公室，所以這個任務又更加耐人尋味。

Bugs Design Studio 搬到灣仔鬧市一幢商業中心，新辦公室本來普通得很，但現在卻散發一種倉庫般的工業味道。Bugs 創辦人 Denny Tse 指設計的出發點是規劃空間佈局，因為他深信只要好好根據需要安排室內的空間，其他一切自自然然便會成事。

在 Bugs 的團隊可以為辦公室添上個性前，他們先要整理好幾件事，首先是廁所。兩個廁所原本在入口的兩邊，對著整個辦公室。這不是個理想的情況，而且與 Denny 作為設計師所相信的一切相悖。所以，最明顯的解決方法就是將之隱藏起來。他說：「洗手間就在辦公室裡，我覺得不是很好，因為這代表我們會沒有私隱。所以，我一定要做點事，讓它們在視線消失。」

為此，Denny 開始想辦法在這樣處理的同時，又可以為工作室塑造出獨特的入口，最後他想到在入口位置放些鐵書架，一舉兩得還可以充當團隊的私家圖書館。他解釋：「入口就在辦公室的正中央，我同樣覺得不好看。我進了書架來分隔辦公室和入口來營造出獨特的抵達體驗，雖然我們並沒有傳統的接待區。」

另一個 Denny 要處理的是他自己的辦公室，他說：「工作室位於大樓頂層的好處，是我們有高樓底和漫淫於天然日光之中。不過，我自己辦公室的位置卻並非如此。」

雖然 Denny 的辦公室相對來說亦享有高樓底，但辦公室位於工作室的盡頭卻有種隔絕的感覺。他說：「所以我在牆上開了個窗，用以連繫我的團隊，同時亦把光線帶進房內直接照射在工作桌上。」

Denny 喜歡辦公室簡約俐落，側重白調和簡約線條，不過亦引入植物來增添清新自然的感覺。而且，他深信每個人都應該把自己獨特的一套帶進空間內，所以他亦鼓勵員工為自己的工作空間添上個人的味道。●