

Story behind the work in Victoria Prison

Tokyo trip

4-11 Oct 2010

We, selected 7 Hong Kong designers, were invited by Ambassadors of Design to have an very “loose” schedule exchange. Except the design institute visit, everyone could plan their own routine to visit wherever they want to get inspiration for the show in Victoria Prison.

I made my trip to prison in Tokyo.

域多利監獄作品
背後的故事

東京遊

2010年10月- 11日

我們七個設計師應香港設計大使之邀，前往東京進行了一次自由行程的交流計劃。除了已安排的設計學院的探訪，我們可以自由安排自己的交流行程。然後將交流成果變成放在域多利監獄展示的作品。

我選了東京的監獄。

From the observation of Japanese daily life, whatever they treat themselves, others or object, it shows product's character: neat, practical, high quality but never overdone, they made everything in well order. It inspires me, for the culture sake, we should start creation from our life.

從日本人的日常生活中，可見他們對別人和自己，對物件，都要求井井有條，與他們現代的產品設計的特色：簡約，實用，有品質但不華麗，有一脈相通之處。可見文化的培育還是應從生活做起。



We visited the Slow Café, rooftop farm, and the DIY experiment house, there is a lot of green life possibilities could be happened in the city.

I transfer “slow” concept into the work by slowing down the video and object selection, also abundant handmade production in sewing and installation.

從“慢食咖啡館”、屋頂農莊到自建的實驗房屋，我看到很多城市綠色生活的可能性。也使起我在作品中放入“慢”的元素。例如：風景的選取，很慢速的錄像，觀眾要很有耐性才能欣賞到全部；還有，從縫製到裝置，都有大量的手工製作。



Another side of the city, student image is very popular in different advertisement and billboard.

城市的另一景觀，學生裝的影像在不同的廣告中出現。



They are all school uniform, but for different purpose, the above one is from school uniform shop, the bottom two are from sex shop in Shibuya.

我在城市中遊時，無意中發現這間校服。他和我在渋谷性商店里所看到的校服有本質上的分別。





Japanese young designer Kei Wada took me to sex shop when I decided to dress up like a Japanese school girl for the shooting. With his translation, I was not only able to buy this uniform which was most popular, 99% as same as one of the famous school, but also asked many questions about the detail of the uniform, eg, “which kind of sock is most popular now”, and “which type of shoes should be come up with”.

當我決定變身成為一個日本中學生時，日本的年青設計師和田溪帶我去性商店，並充當翻譯。我買下了這件最流行的，99% 高仿真的日本名校的校服，其間，我問許多關於校服誘惑的流行指數，例如現在流行那種襪子配襯，還有指定的校鞋的款式。



The sex shop in Japan is legal, open to public but full of privacy, which inspires me to set up the installation in this way.

日本的性商店合法，開放而又私隱，這種個人道德和公眾道德之間的自然調節，引至我作了這種的裝置方法。



In Ikejiri Institute of Design, I found where is their humanity of design from: whatever how convenient of the internet is and how busy of they are, they treasure every Tuesday brunch gathering for the idea and information exchange.

在參觀 Ikejiri設計學院時，我發現他們在設計中對人性關注的來源：無論網絡的世界有多便利，無論每個人有多忙，他們都會定期參加星期二的午餐聚會，交流意見。

In Ikejiri Institute of Design, I met city bike tour organizer, Kiyota Naohiro, who inspired me the core element in this project: bike riding.

I called him “life designer”

He showed me “Tall Bike workshop”, but I preferred to ride on their “wide bike”.

在此，我還遇到單車城市組織者清田直博先生，結果騎單車成為這個計劃的主題之一，呈現另一種的生活態度，

我稱他是生活設計師。

他亦邀請我參觀“高單車製作坊”，結果我還是選擇坐在這部很寬的單車上。



Tall bike workshop tutor: Tomita Toshihiko
高單車製作坊導師：冨田敏彦

My Japanese bike supporter: Kiyota Naohiro not only helping to shoot the video around the present prison, but also showing me the way to the prisoner's product shop which narrows the gap between the prison and residential area, demos a harmony relationship with the neighbour community.

作為我的特別顧問，清田先生不單幫我選購單車，拍片，還帶我去看這個囚獄製作店。可見日本政府透過囚獄製作店將這個新式的監獄和民居的共處關係拉近，建立一個和諧社區，亦給囚獄將來更生的一個心理機會。





I started my bike trip from the prisoner product shop and ride around the wall of the prison (Fuchu Prison). Tried to do it once in Hong Kong, but pulling instead riding all the time. Bicycle riding is a sport activity rather than transportation tool in Hong Kong.

我從監獄商店開始旅程，繞了監獄(府中市監獄)外牆一圈。回來香港後也繞著域多利一個圈，不過只能推著，因為單車在香港只是列休閒運動而非交通工具。



Tokyo is bike friendly city, I even parked my bike in the hotel room and carried it back to Hong Kong without extra charge.



東京是便利單車人士的城市，我甚至可以將單車泊在自已的房間，帶回香港時，航空公司亦沒有要求附加費。



Another Prison:

I went to shopping mall (Sunshine 60) was erected over the site of former prison, Sugamo Prison. Whatever model and real building, it still looked like a prison. I was wondering in the shopping mall, these texts caught my eyes and inspired me to think about the “convenience life”. I changed a bit and put the slogan on the floor of my work.



另一個監獄

去日本前，知道有間舊監獄(巢鴨拘置所)的原址，現在是六十層的商場(Sunshine 60)。現場看到了，無是模型和真實建築，都和監獄很像。在里面逛的時候，這些字令我深思了很久：甚麼是“便利的生活”。結果把這些字改動了一點放在作品的地上。



Every Life, Every Fun

We hope that the goods and services we provide will make your day a better and brighter one. More than just convenience. Let's go to Famima!!



I put “better” and “brighter” twice there, reminding there is still something “more than just convenience” .

It also inspiring me to make school uniform which could be put on in 1 second and to be young student for a while. This convenience product is similar to those shopping malls and convenience shops which are flooding in Hong Kong now.

我將“better”和“brighter”做了兩次，希望大家在“convenience (方便)”之餘可以想多一些。香港人學得最快就是“方便快捷”以致超市，便利店林立，所以我做了最方便快捷變成學生的方法：校服假領，也來趁一番熱鬧。





Back to Hong Kong, I invited the housewife sewers from Hong Kong Women Workers' Association to make the accessories of school uniform which I could put on for shooting inside and outside the former Victoria Prison.

Process of school uniform making:
Taking off the fabric from broken umbrella, washing, drying, tailoring and sewing.

我回到香港後，邀請香港勞工婦女協會的車衣女工幫忙仿製校服配件，我穿著並在前香港域多利監獄里外拍攝。

校服製作過程：拆，洗，曬，裁，縫。

