



Surrounded by pieces from his new South America-inspired furniture collection, stylistmaker Jiun Ho welcomes guests to his SoMa gallery, Jiun Ho de Jia, a former 1920s factory turned global exhibit of art, sculpture, and design.

HOUSE OF PLENTY

Jiun Ho plays the worldly host at his new art and design gallery in SoMa.

by BRYAN ANTHONY
photography by
ETHAN KAPLAN

“Everyone’s heard of the House of Chanel,” says the energetic Malaysian-born-and-raised tastemaker Jiun Ho, who aimed to evoke that personal feeling at his new SoMa gallery, Jiun Ho de Jia. Chinese for the House of Jiun Ho, the space is a testament to the designer’s emphasis on the role of home and honors the Asian tradition of hospitality by offering a multisensory experience for guests.

The former 1920s factory on Folsom Street was reimagined with gusto to house Ho’s namesake furniture line, a collection of international art, a fully equipped kitchen, and even a well-stocked bar. Carpeting was torn out to uncover the original wood floors, drywall was removed to reveal poured concrete walls, and a claustrophobic second floor was leveled to expose ceiling beams. “I find beauty in the nicks and scrapes of the past,” says Ho. “I wanted to celebrate the building’s history, not hide it.” The loft-like space now mixes a raw urban sensibility with elegant refinement. An asymmetrical tailored sofa and rough-hewn lounge chair from the designer’s latest collection rest on shipping pallets, while Sandra Jordan’s luxurious alpaca fabrics hang next to graphic 18-foot tapestries by street artist Zio Ziegler.

An interior designer who arrived here in 1997 to work for the international hospitality firm Bent Severin & Associates, Ho has traversed the globe in search of inspiration for hotels and restaurants. Not surprisingly, he has developed an enduring love of travel—upon celebrating his 40th birthday this year, Ho reached his longtime goal of visiting more than 100 countries.

Along the way, he has expanded his professional repertoire to include lighting and photography, and these skills have informed his furniture designs. His latest offering, the Jiun Ho IV Collection, composed of 13 pieces now on display in the gallery’s front showroom, echoes traces of South America—the salt flats of Bolivia and the ruins of Machu Picchu. It seems the more time Ho spends away from home, the more his gallery becomes an exhibit of the world. // *Jiun Ho de Jia (SoMa)*, JIUNHODEJIA.COM X



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