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THE PEOPLE, WORKS & MILESTONES

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GLIMPSES OF THE FUTURE



JANUARY 2010 / \$6.00





# BRIDGE BETWEEN CULTURES

MALAYSIAN-CHINESE SAN FRANCISCO-BASED DESIGNER JIUN HO TAKES INSPIRATION FROM HIS TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD, INFUSING THEM INTO HIS WORK

TEXT MICHELE KOH PICTURES COURTESY OF JIUN HO

**DESCRIBED BY THE** US media as a “fresh and sophisticated voice in a new global era of design”, Malaysian-born Jiun Ho is known for works that effortlessly meld Eastern and Western elements into a harmonious whole. Jiun moved to the United States at age 18 and by 26 had established Jiun Ho Inc, while the JIUN HO Collection of furniture brought his unique international style into showrooms across the country.

A driving force in Jiun’s life is his passion for world travel. By bringing the delicate details of the exterior landscape to his interior designs, Jiun succeeds in fusing the comfort and luxury of an interior living space with the tranquillity and beauty of its surrounding external environment. He describes his designs as flirtatious, elegant and classic, and his collection has since expanded beyond furniture to include lighting and rug design.

**FACING PAGE** JIUN HO’S DESIGNS COMBINE TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS LIKE DEEP-HUED WOODS WITH CLEAN MODERN LINES

In 2008, Jiun Ho further broadened his design reach with Hotel Renew. A singular vision of sophistication and charm, and a quiet reflection of Hawaii's culture and landscape, Hotel Renew has since become a leading edge destination for Hawaii's tourist market, and was named the 'Best Designer Boutique Hotel in Honolulu' for 2008. In his free time, Jiun is an accomplished cook and collector of works by emerging Chinese artists.

One of Jiun's residential projects was a 158sqm high-floor co-op apartment on California Street in San Francisco. The building was designed in 1927 by Weeks and Day, the architectural and engineering partnership that also designed the Mark Hopkins and Huntington hotels in San Francisco. The building sits atop San Francisco's historic Nob Hill, across the street from Grace Cathedral. And with large windows, high ceilings and generous natural lighting, the apartment unit offers sweeping views of the city and its most famous landmarks, including the Golden Gate Bridge and Coit Tower, and beyond toward Marin County in the North and Berkeley in the East.

One of only three units in the building with a solarium and private terrace, the apartment belongs to a 48-year-old doctor and scientist who works as a biotech executive in the San Francisco Bay Area. The doctor is an avid collector of 20th century and contemporary art, including works by Erich Heckel, Eduardo Chillida, Antoni Tàpies and Adolf Fleischmann, and it was important to him that the interior of his home carried the aesthetic quality to display and complement such fine works.



The doctor wanted to retain as many of the details of the old mould as possible while creating a modern feel for the space. He began the renovation on his own, working with a local construction firm; however, at some point he realised that he couldn't pull it off on his own, so he contacted Jiun whom he had met through a friend to finish the job.

Jiun took a year to complete the project which met the doctor's specifications for a modern interior that would work well with the Spanish Baroque architecture of the building; a space that would display his extensive art collection and also truly reflect his personality as a scientist, a passionate classical piano player, art enthusiast, and world traveller. The most unique feature of this project is the iconic San Francisco bay view, including the Golden Gate Bridge, which can be seen from all rooms as well as the wrap-around terrace.



**FACING PAGE LEFT TO RIGHT**  
BY BRINGING THE DELICATE DETAILS OF THE EXTERIOR LANDSCAPE TO HIS INTERIOR DESIGNS, JIUN SUCCEEDS IN FUSING THE COMFORT AND LUXURY OF AN INTERIOR LIVING SPACE WITH THE TRANQUILITY AND BEAUTY OF ITS SURROUNDING EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT; 20TH CENTURY AND CONTEMPORARY ART, INCLUDING WORKS BY ERICH HECKEL, EDUARDO CHILLIDA AND ADOLF FLEISCHMANN, LINE THE WALLS OF THIS APARTMENT

**THIS PAGE**  
THE SMALL 'FARM TABLE' IN THE LIVING ROOM WAS THE ACTUAL TABLE THE OWNER DID HIS HOMEWORK ON AS A CHILD

THE BUILDING SITS ATOP SAN FRANCISCO'S  
HISTORIC NOB HILL, ACROSS THE STREET FROM  
GRACE CATHEDRAL



JIUN TELLS US THAT HIS INSPIRATION IS DRAWN  
PRIMARILY FROM THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT



So as not to distract from the artwork, very minimal construction additions were included. The kitchen and bathroom are all clad in white marble and grey limestone. The majority of the furniture in the sunroom and living room are custom designs from the JIUN HO Collection. Jiun also used vintage pieces of furniture, dining room lighting from Ingo Maurer, a bed from Poltrona Frau, lighting in the sun room from his own designs for Boyd lighting, Boffi bathroom fixtures, kitchen cabinets from bulthaup, and appliances from Miele and Sub-Zero.

Jiun tells us that his inspiration is drawn primarily from the surrounding environment, where he takes the best, most celebrated elements of the culture and landscape. "With residential spaces, I look at the purpose of each room and how my client hopes to live in the space. I work with their culture and background to find a harmony for the client, giving them a refuge from the chaos of daily life. With an essence of tranquillity as a goal, I pull shapes, form, and colour from the natural environment to create something timeless, sophisticated and balanced within. I hold colour as a precious influence, using it carefully and with purpose. Whether a log cabin or an urban loft, the space will be a serene reflection of its owner's personality." **hc**

**FACING PAGE**  
JIUN HO MAKES SURE THE CLIENT'S  
PERSONALITY COMES THROUGH IN THIS HOME

**THIS PAGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT**  
CAREFUL USE OF COLOUR AND WOOD CREATE A HARMONIOUS  
AND TRANQUIL ENVIRONMENT; ALTHOUGH THE HOMEOWNER HAS  
A DISTINCT PREFERENCE FOR MODERN ART AND DESIGN, HE ALSO  
COLLECTS ANTIQUES AND HAS KEPT FAMILY PIECES

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