

A man with dark hair, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt, is seated at a dark wooden table. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. His hands are clasped on the table. Behind him is a wall made of vertical wooden slats. To the left, a large, light-colored Buddha statue is visible. The overall lighting is soft and even.

JIUN HO

profile by jeremy joven

* asterisk sf | design

Jiun Ho is no ordinary designer. His works are rooted deeply with the influence of his cultural background and blended with the perfect balance of old and new.

Ho moved to the U.S. from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, at age 18 in pursuit of a degree in design. After his education at Chicago's International Academy of Design, Ho began working with a firm that, ironically, led him back to Malaysia. He soon realized that sitting in a cubicle designing cubicles was not his calling, so he ventured on to new opportunities, working on hotel projects all over the world. This gave him the chance to immerse himself in countless cultures, perfect five languages, and create his own signature style of fusing the old with the new.

Ho's love for travel, food and fine wine inspired him to create Jiun Ho de Jia, his showroom gallery that seamlessly blends art, cuisine, design and "the experience of living" from around the world. On a visit to his new showroom in SoMa, the expansive showcase of personally curated and designed furnishings by Jiun Ho floored us. From the floating garden at the entry to the rounded, hand-carved wooden sculptures at the back, each design exhibits the perfect mix of masculine and feminine accents, different cultures and varying origins depending on the craftsman he chooses from his travels.

His original approach to design is simply breathtaking. Take, for example, the cocoon-like, cowhide-backed chairs; the copper-forged tree stump tables; the innovative kitchen designs; and his unique eye for art from all over the globe, each emanating impeccable taste. His goal at

age 39 is to have traveled to 100 countries by age 40. With just six left, Ho is set to reach his goal, simultaneously immersing himself in international inspiration that will only enhance the talented designer's creativity and appeal. Having been a jet-setter for many years now, Ho would be, one might assume of a man as well traveled and connected as he is, arrogant. Much to our surprise, Jiun Ho is one of the nicest, most humble designers we've had the pleasure to meet. He probably loves San Francisco more than you do.

You may never afford the one-of-a-kind pieces of Jiun Ho, but that doesn't mean you can't admire immense talent, especially from a man so gracious.

For more information on the work of Jiun Ho, visit jiunho.com, or scan the barcode below to preview more photos from his showroom in SF: Jiun Ho de Jia.

