

Design by London-based Ilse Crawford

Located on Hong Kong's growing art trail in Central, Duddell's welcomes guests for lunch, dinner, all-day snacks and drinks. Serving authentic Cantonese cuisine, vintage cocktails and a hand-selected list of classic wines in a beautiful art space, Duddell's offers an all-rounded cultural experience with a curated programme of talks, performances, screenings and art. Duddell's was founded by hospitality entrepreneur Yenn Wong who has a passion for developing Hong Kong's creative landscape as well as a deep passion for food and wine.

Duddell's interiors are designed by celebrated, London-based Ilse Crawford. Her past work includes Soho House New York, Aesop, Grand Hotel Stockholm, and award-winning Ett Hem brands, which prompted Yenn Wong to commission her to realise *Duddell's*' novel concept. With interiors as noteworthy as the art on its walls, entering *Duddell's* will feel like being welcomed into the eclectic home of a great art collector. 'The city needs something like this; not a private club for the few but a new platform for art to thrive and for anyone interested in discussing or learning about it,' says Wong.

This space is no small retreat, with 10,000 square feet spread over the third and fourth floors above Shanghai Tang's flagship store on a historic lane in Central District. The challenge of separate floors was overcome by interior architects and designers, StudioIlse with a 4x6m silver travertine staircase linking a library, bar and Salon overlooking a 2,000 sq ft outdoor terrace upstairs intentionally planted as a jungle among the concrete jungle, lush, slightly over planted, like someone's garden at home, rather than a manicured landscape, and the main dining area (with three private dining rooms) downstairs. 'We created a dynamic with 'fast-paced' dining downstairs and 'relaxed' lounge spaces during the day. At night it reverses so upstairs is more social,' says Crawford.

The design weaves a sophisticated pairing of natural materials of oak and travertine with smooth concrete and mohair velvet to create an earthy harmonious palette that is carried throughout the different spaces. 'There is a nod to the Hong Kong context with distinctive items and furniture like a vintage dark wood table for tea in the restaurant that appears Chinese, but isn't,' says Crawford. 'I love the ambiguous.' Elsewhere, Crawford has employed statement classics like a Le Corbusier Grand Confort sofa and bespoke designs like the Cartegena chair designed by Crawford (made in China) as a modern interpretation of a classic Ming chair to add to the ambience.

To accommodate a continually evolving arts programme of international contemporary art, Crawford has created two separate environments connected in materiality with silver travertine. The third floor restaurant has warmly painted walls and travertine floor and is dedicated to modern Chinese and 20th Century brush and ink paintings. On the fourth floor Crawford has brought her inventive eye to the game by forming a

silver travertine backdrop for quarterly curated art shows. "The concept had to be fully integrated to work seamlessly," explains Crawford. "Here we worked at every level of design from the design concept, interior architecture, furniture, tableware and graphics to the smallest detail. Everything you touch essentially."

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