

# HOME

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## *Living Office Concept*

RETRO-CHIC RENO  
RED DOT AWARD  
DESIGN THOUGHTS



# A story of the homegrown interior designer – Ajax Law

*Ajax Law Ling Kit, the award-winning interior designer and one of this year's Ten Outstanding Young Persons, tells his story of an ordinary Hong Kong teenager working hard to achieve his dreams and succeed.* **Text** Nia Tam



Ajax Law Ling Kit

It was 1994. Young Ajax was mulling over his program choices on JUPAS and struggling to decide his future path between his dream to design and the heavy burden of his parents' wishes.

Considering that at the time interior designing was not the most lucrative pursuit, Ajax's parents didn't show a lot of support for their son's dream. "Parents always hope their children will achieve success in life, such as getting a degree and having a well respected job like doctor, lawyer or accountant," says Ajax. "Interior designer seems not to be in this category."

Thus, the High Diploma in Interior Design at Lee Wai Lee Technical Institute, the program he studied at, was just his tenth choice on the list.

## A computer system error

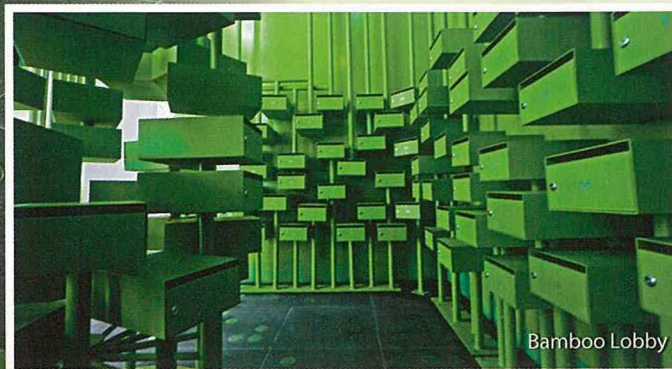
He recalls the memory of his first day in school. "Unlike other classmates who may have worked in the industry or studied art and design before, I had no design experience. When the teacher told us there were only three admission places for us to get into a degree program, I did feel a bit frustrated and daunted," says Ajax.

Luckily, Ajax ranked fifth in the first year and first in the second year of study. As he finished the two-year program, he graduated with distinctions in his diploma and obtained a Bachelor's degree.

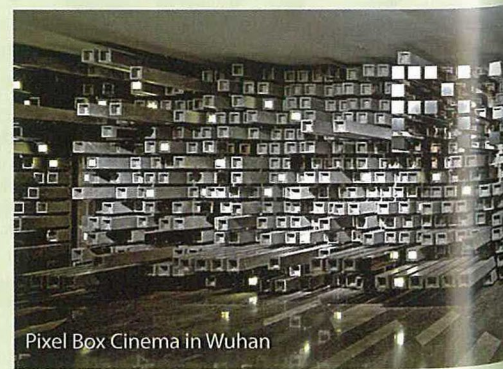
Ajax reminiscently recounts about his teacher opining the reason for why he was admitted even though the school was just his tenth choice: "It was probably a computer error." Taking this as a sign of fate, Ajax now believes he was destined to join the design industry.

## Design with themes

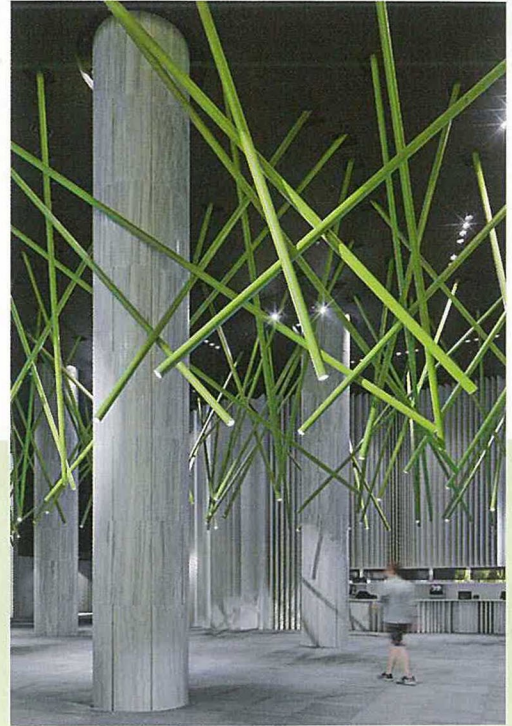
After graduating from Hong Kong Polytechnic University and working for various interior design companies for years, he and his wife decided to establish their own company, One Plus Partnership, back in 2004. With total creative control, Ajax and his design team have pushed themselves to be more progressive and unique, which as resulted in them flourishing with innovative and unique ideas.



Bamboo Lobby



Pixel Box Cinema in Wuhan



“For each project, we design with themes and concepts,” Ajax says as he shares his design philosophies. “After listening to clients’ briefings, we come up with a theme and elaborate our design on it.”

Their very first design is the Bamboo Lobby of a residential project. Drawing inspirations from nature, Ajax created a surrealistic space that welcomes its residents with a sense of imagination.

He made use of over 6,000 pieces of stainless steel panels to create a special reception space in the award-winning Pixel Box Cinema, a multiplex theatre in Wuhan. Treating the basic element of a tiny pixel as the basis of the design, the project seeks to engage the visitors with the effects of motion pictures.

Ajax believes it is valuing creativity that makes his company distinctive and successful. His work is well recognized, having received numerous design awards, and in only ten years time since the company was founded, it has become one of the leaders of the interior design field in Hong Kong.

Ajax has been awarded 130 overseas and 89 Asian awards, including ten INTERIOR DESIGN’s Best of Year Awards, three Gold Key Awards from the USA, nine iF Design Awards and four Red Dot Design Awards, Good Design Awards and JCD Award from Japan, eight TID Awards from Taiwan and winning the UK’s Andrew Martin Interior Design Awards for eight years.

### Be one of Ten Outstanding Young Persons 2014

This year, Ajax has received a great honor by being named as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons (TOYP) – a prestigious recognition of people who excel in professional endeavors and contributions for the community.

“Unlike winning design awards, TOYP is well known among Hongkongers,” Ajax highlights how special this award is to himself. “As they understand what TOYP is, I can bring greater impact to people and set an example to especially those in the industry.”

“People generally think the recognition would be only given to celebrities or tycoons,” says Ajax. “I have proven there are exceptions. As long as you work hard for your dream, ordinary people like me can become one of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons.”

