

Meet the Minds – One Plus Partnership

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As co-directors of Hong Kong-based interior design practice **One Plus Partnership**, Ajax Law and Virginia Lung are known for their inventive and wholly unique cinema designs that embrace the wonder of the movie-going experience. Here, Law and Lung discuss their striking and bold aesthetic, their paths into design, and how they remain innovative.

Did you always know you wanted to be a designer?

Virginia Lung: I was only interested in drawing when I was a kid. Until secondary school, I had to attend an art and design lesson and one of the assignments was to design a home utensil. This was the first time that I learned something about design, and I gradually built interest in it. Other than this experience, I was thinking that drawing and design were correlated when it came to choosing my major in university, so I ended up choosing design as my major.

Ajax Law: I'm a person who can't stand boredom. I always wanted to change the interior of my room to feel refreshed. Not only me, but my family also thought that I had potential in interior design by that time. I was interested in assembling the machines that I would break down things and [bring] them back together, studying the details. Adding that I was good at drawing, these all helped to shape my path toward interior design.

What are some of your first memories of design?

VL: It can be traced back to the art and design lesson I had in secondary school. At that time, the students were asked to create a sculpture based on a theme about the future of Hong Kong after returning to Chinese sovereignty. I created an art piece that is about the size of a basketball. It is separated in gold and red colors to represent Hong Kong and China. It was very memorable because it was featured in the *South China Morning Post* later on.

AL: Before my degree, I had never studied art and I had no experience in design at all. I recalled the first memory about design was a paper foam assignment during my diploma study. Every student had to make a sculpture with foam boards to present the design elements we had just learned. Surprisingly, the tutor was very impressed with the first model I made. He even used it as an example to explain what design language is to other students.

Did where you grew up influence your career path?

VL: I grew up in Hong Kong, and we were always being told that we can never put in practice the things we learned at school. We were being constrained to follow the usual practice, even in the workplace. It made me question whether I can get out of the box, and it is this mentality that helps me to come up with new and groundbreaking design.

AL: I'm not from a very wealthy family so I always remember to work hard and strive for the best.

Give us a bit of your background: college, first jobs, early lessons learned?

VL: I went to Sacred Heart Canossian College in Hong Kong. My first job was in Singapore working on school renovations. I went to many schools and found their designs were spacious, even having a similar size with Hong Kong's schools. And their schools also had better resources. In secondary three, I had to design an A1 size folder in art [class], and I remember I drew an asymmetrical design with paint on some areas while leaving others blank. Some classmates said my design was weird, but the tutor was encouraging. She told the whole class that she appreciated my design and thought that it was stylish. And because of this experience, I started to know that I should insist on my own values and beliefs no matter what others say.



Ajax Law and Virginia Lung



Photos: Recent Projects