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ATTITUDE

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The Duck and Rice

LONDON, U.K.
www.theduckandrice.com

Ed Reeve
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Fusão Vencedora

Trata-te de mais um projecto do aclamado restaurateur Alan Yau (nome por detrás de restaurantes tão famosos como o Hakkasan, Yauatcha e Busaba Eathai), que, desta vez, encomendou ao estúdio de arquitectura e design Autoban o desenho do seu mais recente espaço no coração do Soho londrino: The Duck & Rice. O gabinete sediado em Istambul desenvolveu um design contemporâneo e arrojado, fundindo o ambiente típico de um pub inglês, a funcionar no piso térreo, com o exotismo da cozinha chinesa, no restaurante do primeiro piso.

A atractiva fachada em vidro e ferro fundido – exibindo padrões geométricos que encontramos também nas telas de metal que dividem as várias áreas interiores – e a mistura de vidro opaco e transparente, recortado por tiras de alumínio, explica o desejo da equipa Autoban de sugerir um impactante efeito de um vitral moderno. Pretendeu-se jogar com distintas camadas capazes de criar uma dinâmica entre exterior e interior, sendo esta interação acentuada quando, nos meses mais quentes, as janelas do andar superior se abrem ao animado mercado diário que ocupa a Berwick Street. A decoração é quente e naturalmente *cosy*, não estivéssemos afinal num gastropub, neste caso dotado de uma inesperada e elegante influência asiática. Destaque para os grandes azulejos com motivos florais a embelezar as paredes – desenhados e produzidos à medida pelo estúdio (tal como a iluminação e grande parte do mobiliário) – que nos remetem para a tradição da cerâmica na China, recuperando a icónica porcelana em azul e branco, usada pela 1.ª vez na Dinastia Tang.

Victorious Fusion

This is yet another project by the acclaimed restaurateur Alan Yau (the name behind the restaurants as famous as Hakkasan, Yauatcha and Busaba Eathai), who has this time handed over to the architecture and design studio Autoban the design of his latest premises in the heart of London's Soho: The Duck & Rice. The studio based in Istanbul has developed a contemporary and bold design, blending the typical English pub ambience, found on the ground floor, with the exoticism of Chinese cuisine, found in the restaurant on the first floor.

The attractive façade composed of glass and cast iron – displaying geometric designs which are also echoed in the metal screens that partition the different interior areas – and the combination of opaque and transparent glass, patterned with aluminium strips, express the Autoban team's intention of recreating the effect of a modern stained glass window. The idea was to play with different layers capable of creating a dynamic relationship between the interior and exterior, with this interaction being further intensified in warmer months when the windows on the upper floor can be opened up over the lively daily market in Berwick Street. The decoration is warm and naturally *cosy*, after all this is a gastropub which, in this case, has been enhanced by an unexpected and elegant Asian influence. Some of the highlights are the large painted tiles embellishing the walls with their floral motifs – having been bespoke designed and produced by the studio (just like the lighting and most of the furnishings) – which are evocative of the ceramic traditions of China, alluding to the iconic blue and white porcelain which originally emerged in Tang Dynasty.