

# Henry Steiner

Everyone who visits Hong Kong comes across Henry Steiner's work. The designer, who has lived here for 40 years, was responsible for the HSBC hexagon logo, the Hong Kong Jockey club motif and the Standard Chartered-issued bank notes. He talks to MARK GRAHAM

### What kept you here so long?

There is a buzz in Hong Kong. It bustles. It gets on with things. Despite our current anxieties, the buzz is still there. People are safe here. Chinese people don't drink to excess and there is an ingrained respect for property. You don't get pointless vandalism in the subway or the car antennae bent here.

### Any special places?

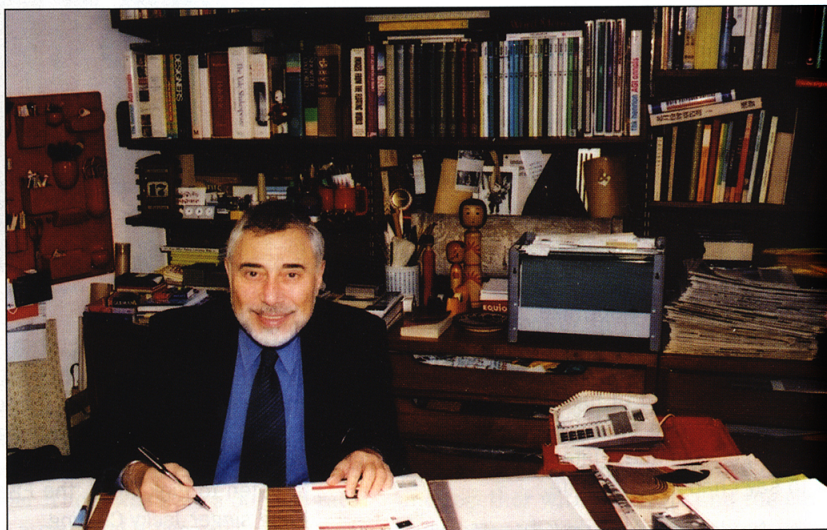
Go to Sai Ying Poon, just west of Sheung Wan, to see a bit of how Hong Kong was in the 1970s. There is an Eastern Street, Western Street, First Street and Second Street from when the Brits tried to bring some order. It is like an aquatic museum with various sea creatures of every kind and incense shops. The smell hits you: I find it redolent and charming. I often think that if I had a blind tourist friend I would take him there.

### How about wining and dining?

Lan Kwai Fong is fun at night – dynamic and it is amazing to see so much activity and funny things. Last time I went there were different people selling those flashing items, magic wands and badges. For food, Michelle's at the Fringe is expensive but extremely dependable, in a very pleasant location. The Spring Deer in Tsim Sha Tsui is also fun and dependable.

### Any other tips?

It is the obvious things in Hong Kong that are so much fun. The Star Ferry is a wonderful ride, similarly the Peak Tram and the Mid-Levels escalator that goes up through the residential areas of Soho. Sometimes tourists have the impression that the escalator goes up to the Peak; you see them standing wondering where they are. The tram of



course is also a stunning ride – it goes past shops, markets, crowds and activities.

Take a walk along Hollywood Road, from one shop to another, but be careful as there are some excellent counterfeits of antiques.

### What feedback do you get?

People think that I get royalties from my designs. I wish! My response is that it is nice to be recognised. It is gratifying that the designs are not getting older, but getting better. They were built to last.

### Any memories of old Hong Kong?

All the girls wore cheong-sams when I arrived. They were quite beautiful. I took the Star Ferry for quite some time and walking behind the cheong-sam was a lovely experience. It is not my field of design – I do branding and graphic design – but in terms of fashion around 1967 the cheong-sam disappeared and was replaced by western ready-to-wear clothing, in particular mini-skirts, high boots and pony tails.

每个来过香港的人都一定见到过 Henry Steiner 的作品。这名在香港生活了四十年了的设计师曾经为汇丰银行香港赛马会设计过标示徽章，并为渣打银行设计钞票。

### 为什么留在香港这么久？

香港有活力，节奏快。即使目前不景气，活力仍在，人们感到安全。中国人饮酒有节制，而且尊重产权，在此很少外国常见的在地铁或私家车涂鸦破坏的事件。

### 你推荐甚么地方？

西环的西营盘，那里还有一些七十年代的踪迹。那里有东街、西街、第一街和第二街，当年英国人试图建立一些街道制度。我很喜欢那里的气味，常想如何有盲人朋友来港，我一定带他去那里。

### 吃喝的地方又如何？

兰桂坊的夜晚很热闹又有活力，还有人售卖各种小东西。吃，可去艺穗会的 Michelle's，那里贵但质量有保证，环境又好。另外尖沙咀的春鹿中餐厅亦不错。

### 其他忠告？

香港很多简单易做的事都很有趣，比如乘天星码头、山顶缆车、及中环行人电梯等等，可以沿途看到商铺、市场、人群和活动。或者在荷李活道走走，但是要小心仿造古董。

### 人们对你的设计如何看？

人们以为我的设计可以收版权费。我都想！我觉得受到承认已经很好了。我最高兴的是我的设计没有变老反而变得更好。

### 对旧香港的回忆？

我刚到时女孩子都穿旗袍，很美。下了天星小轮，走在一片旗袍的后面感觉很好。大约一九六七年左右，旗袍消失了，代之以西式服装，尤其是迷你裙，长靴和马尾。



Distinctive banknotes of Standard Chartered Bank (top) and the HSBC logo. 他所设计的钞票和汇丰银行徽章