



After exploring Taiwan, Steven Wu finally decided to pick up an old hotel in Central District and renovate it into his RedDot Hotel, successfully attracting local and international attention with his creativity.

Following the RedDot Hotel Designer and Manager——Steven Wu

Steven's Creativity Shows Taichung to the World

Written by Edwina Wei Photographed by Peter Wang Reflection Photography

Designer Steven Wu always wants to open his own hotel. After thoroughly exploring a number of cities in Taiwan, he found that everything in Taichung had been created with innovation and advanced thinking. He finally decided to transform an old home in Taichung's Central District with his creativity and unique design to subvert the tradition. Steven's renovated hotel, named RedDot Hotel, won the TID Award for a Commercial Space and ranked 25th among the best hotels in Taiwan by TripAdvisor, but was also highly praised by the website Arch Daily, which exclusively reports on all the latest and best architectural designs around the world. With all this recognition, the hotel has successfully attracted the attention of not only Taiwan but also the whole world.



1. Steven designs everything with a pure heart and infinite creativity.

2. The huge slide created by artist Zhang Jin-feng gives out a strong visual effect that deeply touches its viewers.

Working as a designer for more than ten years, Steven Wu studied at the AA School of Architecture and had stayed in foreign countries for ten years. He has always loved the warmth hidden within architecture and been captivated by old houses and historic relics. After designing for construction companies and his own clients for years, he decided it was time to have a piece all his own and began looking for a hotel where he could fully realize his own vision and design.

Amazing Hotel Surrounded by the Culture and History of Central District and the Charm of Old Buildings

He started looking for a suitable city in Taiwan where he could design his dream hotel. Because of his fondness for old houses, he initially favored Tainan. Later, he looked into Taipei and finally came to explore Taichung, where he was deeply attracted by its charm. "My impression of Taichung is that everything is big and new and it is a very livable place. What I did not know in the past is that Central District is such a charming old town. I fall in love with it after several visits," said Steven. He always wishes to prevent himself from becoming conventional, perceives that Taichung people develop everything with innovation and accept foreign cultures and influences with an

open mind. However, instead of searching houses in the 7th or 8th Reconsolidated Area, Steven looked for his dream house in the old city area and ultimately bought the 35-year-old Galaxy Hotel in Central District. This house may have been long forgotten, but it has witnessed the history and culture of the city's prosperous past.

Later, when he told Taichung locals that he had bought an old hotel in Central District, they would ask, "Why would you buy a hotel there? No one visits there anymore." Nevertheless, once he renovated it into RedDot Hotel, visitors from Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Macau, and other countries all praised it as a charming spot with special characteristics, especially with a theater beside and a night market in front.

Further Development : Central District Will Be Developed in Its Own Unique Way

Having started operations for only a year and a half, the RedDot Hotel has already won many awards from home and abroad. It has been even highly praised by ArchDaily, an international media. Thus, through the RedDot Hotel, Steven Wu shares the beauty of Taichung's Central District with the rest of Taiwan and the world.



1. Steven creates RedDot Hotel, a hybrid interwoven with old and new, classic and modern.
2. The restaurant in industrial style provides exquisite breakfast great for the eyes and the mouth.
3. Emphasizing connection with the community and culture, RedDot Hotel holds artistic exhibitions and art and architecture forums regularly.

Many people have asked Steven why he has not opened more RedDot Hotels throughout Taiwan. He responded, "If I design in other cities, I need to understand these cities and their histories, and that is an overwhelming process. Therefore, instead of designing buildings everywhere that would not be up to my standards, I would rather focus on the further development of a single location." In order to "recreate a city and renovate old houses," he respects the culture and history of each old building as he works on his designs. Having knocked the doors of every old house and visited almost everywhere in Central District, Steven does not plan to limit himself to hotels, either. If an existing house would make a great bookstore, he will design it into a bookstore. He would also try to design something else, like a restaurant, if the street where the structure is located has not already had one.

Highlighting Central District through Diverse and Balanced Development

Unfortunately, what a single person can do is limited. Steven Wu thinks that developing a balanced and brilliant Central District requires taking more aspects into consideration. DRF Gooddot Village includes young people with knowledge and education similar to those of the Happen Coworking Space. Miyahara Eye Hospital I and II have been built in

Central District, as have the Fantasy Story Central District Settlement, other small businesses by young entrepreneurs, and stores that embody culture and creativity. Steven believes that "Central District will only get better in the future," appreciating that a district cannot be rejuvenated overnight. Three to five or even ten years may be necessary for changes to gradually evolve. Steven is especially optimistic about the plans that the current city government has for the revival of Central District.

Emphasizing "the more localized, the more internationalized" and a "connection with community and culture," Steven's RedDot Hotel not only conducts cultural discourse and expresses architectural heritage but also emphasizes integration and interaction with the surrounding community and an additional connection with the arts. Therefore, the hotel regularly holds artistic exhibitions, as well as art and architecture forums. After RedDot Hotel, Sabao Bistro, which has been planned for in the past year, will open in March or April of this year. This bistro specializes in gua bao, a Taiwanese stuffed steamed sandwich that is popular in both London and New York, as well as CYS beers from Taipei. By so doing, Steven has not only established the "trendiest hotel on earth," but will also have the "trendiest bistro on earth" soon. It is also highly anticipated that another hotel of Steven will open at the end of 2016. Steven has innovated and renovated this Nanya Dance Club by retaining all

RedDot Hotel Add : No.206, Minzu Rd., Central Dist., Taichung City, Taiwan Tel : +886-4-2229-9333 www.reddot-hotel.com

its unique historic characteristics. This architecture will definitely become an attraction in Central District, too.

Fantasy Story Green Ray, A Small Settlement of Culture and Creativity from the Renovation of Old Dormitories

Having discovered many wonderful old buildings in Taichung, Steven finds the Fantasy Story Green Ray quite intriguing in many old house renovation cases because the appearance of the original buildings. They cultivate young entrepreneurs with an incubation center and renovate old house into several small stores for them.

Founded by General Manager Zhong Jun-yan and Deputy General Manager He Zhong-yi, who have 20 years of experience in construction, Fantasy Story was established in a nearly-50-year-old house on Lane 117, Zongxing St. Originally, it was built for renting, but the rent for the whole building and the cost for old house renovation were not affordable for common people. Therefore, to change their strategy, Fantasy Story realized its rich experience in construction and renovated the old house into several characteristic stores for individual micro-entrepreneurs. This was

how Fantasy Story I was established. Afterwards, Fantasy Story renovated the hold houses nearby one after another, establishing Store No.2, 3, 5, 8, and 9, forming a small settlement of culture and creativity in alleys.

Green Ray on Zongxing First Lane is Fantasy Story's renovation of 12 old dormitories previously owned by the Taiwan Water Corporation. This renovation continues to express the four major themes of Fantasy Story: green awakening, memory continuation, passion for creation, and synergy of dreams. Furthermore, it maintains the spirit of the original architecture with a variety of themes related to art, humanism, creativity, etc. in order to attract more young micro-entrepreneurs. Currently, there are nearly 18 culture and creativity of stores, café shops, fusion restaurants, studios, and performance and exhibition spaces in Green Ray.

The Green Ray Incubation Center turns Fantasy Story into more than just a store subletting agency, but a company that helps young entrepreneurs to further develop more mature business models. Furthermore, Fantasy Story matches funds and talents so that its micro-entrepreneurs cannot only realize their dreams, but also have the competence to survive. 🏠

Twelve old dormitories of the Taiwan Water Corporation were renovated, while maintaining the original façade of these buildings. The architecture creates a tranquil atmosphere with a nostalgic and retro touch.



Fantasy Story Green Ray Add : No.2-26, Zhongxing 1st Ln., West Dist., Taichung City, Taiwan Tel : +886-4-2301-6717