

LOW DOWN JET SET

BY ANDREW MYERS

SHANGHAI FOR HIGHER

The citadel of China's modern economy is a posh playground, too

While there were no billionaires in China in 2000 and only 15 a little more than a year ago, the current count is 66 according to the latest *Forbes* list and 106 according to the Shanghai-based *Hurun Report*, either earning China the number two slot for total number of billionaires (the U.S. ranks first at 415).

With a population of 20 million plus, more skyscrapers than Manhattan, and an economy growing at 12 percent (much higher than China's as a whole), Shanghai is the source of much of this money, the mainland's undisputed economic engine that might, within several years, reclaim its pre-1949 status as the financial capital of the East. Which means that in the coming year, Tai-Pans may well find themselves doing deals in Pudong or bar hopping down the Bund.

Where to stay? What to read and buy? Whom to trust? Fear not, *Masters of the Universe*, *The Men's Book* has your back.

HAPPY TO ACCOMMODATE The world-famous Bund, the banking and business center of colonial Shanghai, is a 52-building smorgasbord of architectural styles best seen from Pudong, Shanghai's 21st-century banking and biz center on the opposite bank.

The ne plus ultra of Bund views is from the Pudong Shangri-La hotel. Comprised of an Art-Deco-influenced river building that opened in 1998 and 36-floor tower that opened in 2005, both have the five-star luxury and not-a-detail-missed service for which the hotel family is famed. For example, should Mr. Big wish to bypass Shanghai traffic upon his arrival at Pudong's international airport, a Shangri-La rep can escort him to the Maglev, the world's first commercial, magnetically levitated high-speed train. Traveling 19 miles at a top clip



EAST MEETS WEST: Geometry and bold color illustrate Shanghai's particular take on Art Deco, a "power style" in the 1920s and '30s.

of 311 miles per hour, on a journey lasting seven minutes and 20 seconds and ending at the Longyang Road station, Mr. Big is then delivered to a waiting Rolls Royce and ferried the short distance to the Shangri-La (luggage can either be carried by other hotel personnel aboard the train, or arrive later by limousine).

Further separating the Shangri-La from its luxe competitors is pride of place: It's directly on the water, with uninterrupted city panoramas. Equally important, the rooms and restaurants also enjoy an ideal perspective: high enough for picture-perfect vistas, not so high that the Bund's scale is lost or hidden in seasonal mists, low clouds or, gulp, pollution. From RMB 2250 (approximately \$300), 011.86.21.6882.8888 or www.shangri-la.com

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR An MBA from Houston who moved to Shanghai in 1995, Spencer Dodington speaks fluent Mandarin and Shanghaiese, studied architecture at Shanghai's Tongji University, and, through his company Luxury Concierge China (which he founded with Belgian business partner Jonathan Hasson in 2005), leads custom tours throughout the city.

Interested in which particular French Concession or International Settlement villa once housed which English, American, French or Japanese Tai-Pan? Which Green Gang or Red Gang godfather (the heads of Shanghai's two strongest criminal organizations pre-1949) lived where?

SHANGHAI BANG: 1. A vaulted ceiling in an historical building. 2. The Mission Bar at the private dining and leisure club Yongfoo Elite. 3. The restaurant Jade on 36, designed by Adam Tihany, sits atop the Pudong Shangri-La.



Or a building-by-building tour of the Bund or Pudong? Dodington's The Man. 011.86.1368.167.9980 or www.luxuryconciergechina.com.

WHAT'S SUITABLE? Founded in Hong Kong by namesake W.W. Chan, W.W. Chan & Sons is nonetheless stitched securely into Shanghai's great pre-1949 tailoring tradition. W.W. was born near Shanghai, learned his trade in Shanghai and graduated with honors from the Shanghai Cutting and Tailoring College. In 1950, he moved to Hong Kong, set up an atelier, made the first uniforms for Cathay Pacific Airline's pilots, then in 1957 opened W.W. Chan in Kowloon. In 1982, W.W. retired and his son, Peter, took up the golden shears, bringing the family full circle with the opening of the Shanghai shop in 2002. With advanced warning, i.e., an appointment via phone, fax or email, W.W. Chan can cut a suit in three days, a finger-numbing feat when the following checklist is considered: Each suit is entirely handmade. All suits require a minimum of 35 hours of labor. There are a minimum of four visits. Visit 1: measurements are taken and a paper pattern is drafted; Visit 2: the shell—pieces of the suit basted

together with white thread (think of it as a blueprint of what the suit will become)—is tried on, evaluated and modified. Post-fitting, the suit is taken apart completely to incorporate drafting and cutting changes; Visit 3: the jacket's lining is in and an interlining of canvas, cotton, felt or horsehair is sewn onto and/or between layers of the material itself (to give the suit its distinctive shape and to promote durability), and the trousers are almost complete; Visit 4: the suit is ready for its closeup, but small modifications are still possible. From approximately \$1,000, www.wwchan.com.

TOP SHOPS So you want to evoke the interiors of Tai-Pans of old? The city's abundance of Art Deco buildings was once matched by just under two hundred local furniture designers and manufacturers who produced a unique Shanghaiese Art-Deco style that is increasingly appreciated by contemporary Chinese, American and European collectors.

Some not-to-miss shops specializing in vintage Shanghai Deco furniture and decorative arts? Check out Shanghai Art Deco owned by well-known Shanghai artist Ding Yi (building 7, #50 Moganshan Road, 011.86.21.6277.8927) and Number D Atelier Depot (also at #50 Moganshan Road, 011.86.21.6266.2109). Both have the advantage of being in the heart of Shanghai's contemporary art gallery scene.

EAT, DRINK AND BE A wealth of Tai-Pan-worthy fare can be found in the former financial, political and residential palaces of Shanghai's erstwhile elite, many updated with strikingly modern interiors. Take Jean Georges—Jean-Georges Vongerichten's only signature restaurant outside New York, Bar Rouge, or Lounge 18, where bankers hold their most important meetings, all located on the Bund, Yongfoo Elite, a members' club (but open to *Men's Book* readers, natch) in the former British consulate; Face Bar, which along with several restaurants occupies a former mansion belonging to a British dog track owner; Kathleen's 5, on the roof of the Shanghai Art Museum, which was once the Shanghai Jockey Club; and Hamilton House, a brasserie on the ground floor of one of Shanghai's finest Art Deco towers.

ON THE HORIZON The big fall event for Tai-Pans far and wide is the Shanghai Fine Jewellery and Art Fair, October 12-19, an opportunity to see ancient and contemporary Chinese fine and decorative art, as well as European art and jewelry, under one roof. www.sjfaf.com. ■

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