

Restaurant Review: Hunan Old-style Restaurant—Hunan Lao Fan Pu

By Rosy Wu



The long-awaited shopping center in Xili called Cloud City Vankely (Yun Cheng Wan Ke Li) has finally opened to public!!! It is separated into two major sections called Dongli and Xili (east and west sections). Though some of the restaurants had been open already, we recently had the first full look of the new shopping center. Also, because it is newly opened, in order to gain popularity, every restaurant tries to attract customers and create buzz with major discounts. There are many great restaurants concentrated in the shopping centers 4th floor. The most compelling restaurant must be Tan Fish (Roast fish restaurant). When we were there early on a Thursday night, the number of waiting table had reached 183!..So we chose its next-door neighbor, Hunan Old-style Restaurant, Hunan Lao Fan Pu. It stood out right away for its extremely unique and immersive interior which is decorated to resemble old Hunan. We went in to take a closer look and try out the food at this Hunan specialty restaurant! One of the interesting things is that there are open kitchens in the restaurant so you can observe the cooking process on site if you wish! Before ordering, it is good to be aware that Hunanese food tends to be spicy. A lot of stir-fried dishes

will have spice added. But if you do not like to eat spicy food, don't worry! As long as you tell the waiters to put less chili or none at all when ordering, they will accommodate for your taste. The specialty of this restaurant is fish head. However, due to time constraints, we did not order this dish. Those who are interested in this dish should definitely order it, just be aware it can take longer to cook. Also, be careful to avoid small fish bones. The flavor will be worth it, so if you order it just enjoy your time and eat slowly!

Here are the things we decided on:

- 【山里油豆腐】¥32 Oil tofu 【山里土鸡】¥78 Native Mountain Chicken
- 【丝瓜焖蛤蜊】¥42 Stewed clams 【农家炒茄子】¥28 Country-style stir-fried eggplant
- 【铁板大虾】¥56 Iron-plate shrimp 【酱油拌饭】¥22 Rice with soy-sauce

My favorite dishes must be the Native Mountain Chicken and Rice with soy-source. Native Mountain Chicken takes on a very characteristic Chinese style for serving chicken. The chicken is sliced and cooked so that it is slightly crispy. Later, spicy chilies are added for delicious flavor, and some potatoes as well to make the dish rich and filling. Furthermore, the rice with soy-sauce is a good choice for a staple food. In fact, during old times, when people could not afford meat or vegetables, they added soy-sauce to rice for taste. Now, the dish is quite different from that in the old times, but it might remind you of the history.

【Evaluation】

Environment ★★★★★ Taste ★★★★★
Cleanliness ★★★★★ Service ★★★★★ Value ★★★★★



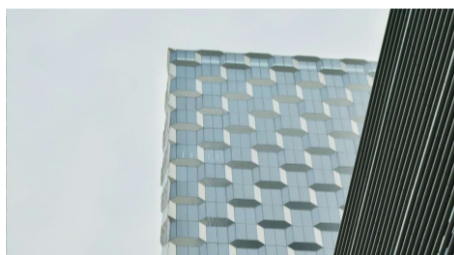
【Wrap-Up】

In general, while plates are large, the portion of each dish is just normal. The size and portion of meat in most dishes was slightly disappointing as well. However, the food tasted great and they offer distinct Chinese dishes that many people from outside of China have maybe never tried. I recommend taking advantage of this new restaurant and experiencing what could be a new taste and ambience of China that is now available within just a few kilometers of campus.

Most Picturesque Places in Shenzhen, Part 2

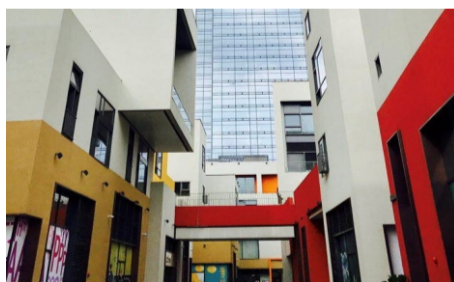
By Dominika Mindekova

The conventional idea about Shenzhen is that it is a new city built from almost nothing in just a few decades. We set out to discover the beauty here, despite its short history. This is part two of two on our series on places most pleasing to the eye and sure to boost your WeChat or Instagram profile. Even in two parts, we could only cover a fraction of the many spots we love.



1. The Gem Tower (深圳湾钻石塔; Metro: Line 2, Dengliang Station Exit C then 500m)

The unique looking tower, reminiscent of gemstones, is located near Talent Park (深圳人才公园). It offers the chance to catch the reflections of surrounding buildings and the atmosphere of the business district in Shenzhen.



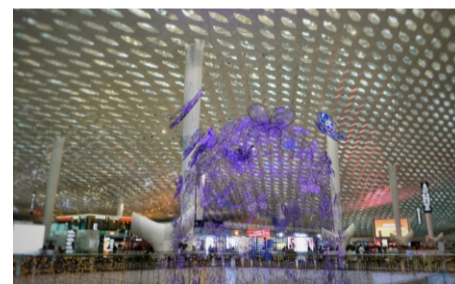
2. UpperHills (深业上城; Metro: Line 3, Lianhuacun Station, Exit C then 1km)

The colorful walls, amazing angles to the buildings and walkways, and skyscrapers in the background make it easy to spend a whole afternoon taking photos. If you get too tired, just stay at the MUJI Hotel. It is one of only three hotels in the world opened by the famous Japanese retailer.



3. Shenzhen Bay Park (深圳湾公园; Metro: Line 9, Shenzhen Bay Park Station, Exit C)

Ideal to stroll or just chill out on the grass under the palm trees while admiring the majestic skyline with the view of the bay area.



4. Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport (深圳宝安机场; Metro: Line 11, Airport Station)

The place where many of our Shenzhen stories started is often overlooked, but its architectural beauty is undeniable. It was designed by Massimiliano Fuksas. Its modern parametric structure gives the right first impression to new arrivals in Shenzhen.



5. Shenzhen Civic Center (市民中心; Metro: Line 4, Children's Palace Station, Exit A2)

With its breathtaking wavy roof representing the wing of mythical bird Dapeng (大鹏), the Civic Center is truly an emblem of Shenzhen. Also, its expansive roof is just simply a great place to take refuge during hot summer days.



6. Design Society (海上世界文化艺术中心; Metro: Line 2, Sea World Station, Exit D then 1 km)

This is another exhibition space that allows you to connect with original design and creativity. The building was designed by architectural studio Maki and Associates, led by Fumihiko Maki. Best of all it is conveniently located on the waterfront right next to SeaWorld.



7. MOCAP - Museum of Contemporary Art & Planning Exhibition (深圳当代艺术与城市规划馆; Metro: Line 4, Children's Palace Station, Exit A2)

While being in the area of Civic Exhibition Center, visit the MOCAP offers a breathtaking interior that allows to take in even more of the modern architecture (bring with you your ID/ passport for entry).



Interviews by Dominika Mindekova, Claudia Fauzi, and Chen Jialu



Another school year has flown by. While many of us may have our heads down focused on books and papers for exam week, this year's graduates are looking forward and facing a bright future.

It's difficult to part with these student leaders who contributed so much to the community. But PKU is sure to be proud of their future accomplishments.

We checked in with several of this year's graduates as the graduation and commencement season has officially begun. Their time at PKU was never easy or without personal struggles, but they have grown from each challenge faced and leave with precious memories.

They shared some of those memories with us, as well as their plans for the future. Much remains uncertain, but their words leave us more confident than ever that great things await.

Deniz Yapis (Turkey), PHBS
"I made lots of precious friends that make me smile every day"

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
Even though it's hard to predict what will happen next month, I can say that I see myself working in Hong Kong or China in the next 5 years. I enjoy living in China and experiencing Chinese culture. I made lots of precious friends that make me smile every day with their endless support. I learned a lot from PHBS and China, I would love to contribute to this beautiful country by implementing what I learned at our school.

Favorite memory from your time in China
My favorite memory in China is watching the baby pandas at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding. It was my first time seeing pandas in real life.

Khadija Lay Lay (Morocco), PHBS
"I have a huge smile on my face now thinking back to all these memories."

Favorite memory from your time in China/PHBS.
From China, I would say the traveling part. I loved getting to see different cities with their unique subcultures and food. Favorite memory from PHBS, submitting my thesis report and getting one step closer to graduation. Also, my first year NY party was so much fun. I have a huge smile on my face now thinking back to all these memories. Getting to live, study and travel around China made me into this upgraded version of myself that I am proud of today.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
Maybe I'll be back here in Shenzhen or somewhere else in China. I would love that for myself.

Daniel Pinto (United States), PHBS
"...possibly still here and hopefully fluent in Chinese"

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
In 5 years, I think I will be back in the USA working with some China-related industry or possibly still here and hopefully fluent in Chinese.

Favorite memory from your time in China/PHBS.
My favorite PHBS memory was the holiday party, getting together with all the classmates and professors to celebrate the New Year.

Nathasya Pricilia Kristianto (Indonesia), STL
"School is important, but enjoying the culture and Shenzhen is also very, very important."

What advice would you have for yourself if you were just arriving at PKUSZ?
I would say to just relax, enjoy the experience and not study too hard that I miss the fact that I am living in China! School is important, but enjoying the culture and Shenzhen is also very very important. And to make as many local and international friends as possible.

What will you miss the most about your campus life at PKUSZ?
I will definitely miss having my close friends living in the same vicinity and the bustling school life around the dorm area. It has been quite a life-changing experience to live as an international student in a dorm with all other students.

刘利楠 Liu Linan, STL
"I realized my law student dream."

What was the most rewarding experience for you at PKUSZ?
The most rewarding experience at PKUSZ for me is that I participated in the Third International Criminal Trial Advocacy Competition in Symbiosis Law School, Pune. I realized my law student dream. It was a great opportunity for me to do case study regarding Rome Statue and commentary. And I have the chance to practice and communicate with students all over the world. During the preparation, we team members study together, have meals together, and write memos together for almost 3 months.

What will you miss the most about your campus life at PKUSZ? Miss the most about your campus life at PKUSZ
That should be our gym. Believe it or not, I was attracted by our gym when I entered Summer Honors Program of STL (a summer camp). Then I made decision to come here to study. PKUSZ has very nice environment of sports or work out.

Gao Cheng, SUPD
"PKUSZ can be impetus for my job, and keep pushing me forward."

Where are you going after graduation?
I am going to do design management related work in a real estate agency. This job matches my major and is very challenging. I hope the experience at PKUSZ can be impetus for my job, and keep pushing me forward.

Where is your favorite place at PKUSZ?
The badminton court. I started playing badminton during the first year at PKUSZ. I didn't like sports before, but I found the fun of sports after that. It is of great joy to sweat on the badminton court.

John Pilon (United States), PHBS
"I will be making a serious effort to continue learning and experiencing as much of China as possible."

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
I would hope to see that I have established myself as a leader and trustworthy ally in the region, with plenty experience not only in business here but also in the various diverse cultures here. I will be making a serious effort to continue learning and experiencing as much of China as possible.



PHBS Team's Success in Sustainable Investing Challenge

By Nathan Faber



On April 12, an investment innovation team from Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School (PHBS) took to the global stage at the finals of the Kellogg-Morgan Stanley Sustainable Investing Challenge in Hong Kong. Since the first competition in 2012, the challenge has quickly become the world's premier graduate student contest for sustainable investing.

Each year, over 100 teams—all from the world's top universities—conceive of an innovative investment instrument that would drive profits and sustainable development. Only 12 of the proposals are selected in the end as finalists.

The four team members, Gianni De Bruyn, Seohee Choi, Raphael Thomas, and Ann Tseng, understood the difficulty of earning recognition from the judges. Perhaps, their first competitive advantage was how global the team is. Gianni is from Belgium, Seohee is from South Korea, and Raphael and Ann are from America. Not surprisingly, diverse cultural backgrounds and the integration of a wide range of experiences and knowledge elevated their creativity.

Living in China, then, became a second competitive advantage. There is no better place for a project to combine financial innovation and sustainability efforts to make a global impact. As one team member, Gianni De Bruyn, put it, "If you can learn something about China, it makes it much more marketable."

Spark of Inspiration

On January 8, PHBS held the Conference on Sustainable Finance. The international conference gathered leaders of the finance industry, distinguished researchers, and policymakers together for a series of keynote speeches and discussion panels.

The team was eager to understand recent innovations in sustainable finance and knew this was a golden opportunity. Gianni recounted, "One of the speakers was the mayor of Bayannur in Inner Mongolia. He was promoting his city and what they are doing in regards to sustainable finance." After hearing about the city's desire to make sustainable infrastructure and industry advancements, along with their need for additional financial resources, the team saw a great opportunity. "We thought this is what we are looking for," remarked Gianni.

The Perfect Voice: Former Student Safa Saidani is Behind PHBS's International Marketing

By Anabelle Dagenais



Safa Saidani's Chinese name, 沙发 (shā fā), literally means sofa in Chinese. What started as a joke among friends about her Tunisian name sounding like sofa in Chinese eventually sunk in over time. Despite the name, she is far from being a couch potato. The International Marketing Specialist at Peking University HSBC Business School (PHBS) and PHBS alumna sat down with us to go over her role in bringing foreign students to the university.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in finance in France, Safa was determined to embark on a new challenge. She wanted to explore other avenues as part of her master's degree. From both a European and an African perspective, China seemed to be a distant place full of unfamiliar customs and ways of living. Around the time of her decision making, PHBS had come to Europe to promote their relatively new school. Tunisians from Safa's school had also attended classes at PHBS and spoke with satisfaction and enthusiasm about their experience. She took the next step in pursuing her entrepreneurship goals and applied for the management program here.

Safa started her Chinese professional life in marketing for an electronic equipment company. She translated content for sales in international markets. This proved to be a very formative experience. For one, it broadened her understanding of the world. Also, working with her German, Italian, Chinese

and French colleagues gave her a better grasp of different cultures and cross-cultural communication experience. During that time, her favorite project was a crowdfunding campaign where she was in charge of adapting communications for the US and French markets. In the course of her initial upper-academic and professional experiences, it became increasingly clear that international marketing was a great fit for her.

Safa is now part of the international team at PHBS, where she is in charge of marketing to foreign markets. In general, Safa's goal is to increase the number of qualified foreign students and help maintain the first-class reputation of the school. She works to build effective strategies to reach long-term goals and helps the admissions committee in their proceedings.

The Chosen Proposal

The proposal they were developing was a tax equity fund to support a cyclical economy and investment in biomass plants in Bayannur.

Their idea targeted the multi-national companies with especially high revenue which could be treated as taxable income. If an individual or corporation invested in this fund they would receive multiple tax benefits, lowering their taxable income while also providing future returns. Through the investments, the city would get the added funds they need to build carbon-reducing biomass plants.

A tax equity fund was so innovative it had not been done in China before. Gianni explained, "We took that (tax equity) concept and modified it to fit the Chinese market. We used Chinese tax credits, the Chinese legal system, as well as changing some of the provisions in the contracts."

With a total investment size of around 13million USD, the plan would reduce CO2 emissions by 50,000 tons/year, the equivalent of over 11,000 cars being taken off the road. At the same time, the investment would be driving profits. They calculated target returns for the investment at 7%.

The team reached out to professors at PHBS and STL for their expertise on several key points. Gianni said they received unbelievable support. PHBS Dean Wen Hai and Professor Chia-Shang J. even helped arrange a trip to Bayannur so the team could get the information on the local context they needed. In addition, they also received guidance from Professor Chang Y. Ha and Professor Srinivasan Selvam, who acted as advisors and industry experts.

While in Bayannur, the team met with the mayor, city planners, and municipal officials to discuss developments in their proposal. The interest and cooperation they received amazed them. "I thought we would be lucky for a 20-minute conversation," said Gianni. "But he (the mayor) spent more than 2 hours with us." He expressed great appreciation for the opportunity: "We got to see how negotiations happen..We got to know the Chinese business model a lot better. It is valuable knowledge." The details and understanding of the local context they received from the trip went into refining their prospectus for the final round of the competition in April.

The team was proud to be selected as finalists. Unfortunately, their trip to Hong Kong to compete for the top prize did not end in triumph. Gianni did not rule out that someone may implement the tax equity fund they outlined in the near future. But, even if the biomass plants do not come to life, the experience itself was rewarding. "What we've learned through this competition in regards to finance in China... I don't think we could have gotten it from a textbook," he said. "What we learned in the classroom, we were able to apply that."

Full version of this article originally published online at thenanyan.com

Nanyan On the Road: Sights and Bites of Chaoshan

By Luo Jiechunyi

The Chaoshan area, also known as Teochew, encompasses Chaozhou and two other cities, Shantou and Jieyang. Although the Chaoshan area lies within Guangdong, Teochew people speak their own dialect, which is neither Cantonese nor Hakka. Even more, the Chaoshan area also has a unique style of cuisine. Despite these incredibly unique characteristics, within China the Chaoshan people are most famous for their strong business culture. Many of the earliest entrepreneurs of Shenzhen were migrants from Chaozhao. And today, some of China's most famous business leaders are also from the area.

Little Park

Shantou is a special economic zone and an important port city in China. All tourist attractions condense in a zone that starts from a place named Little Park (小公园 / Xiaogongyuan) and then expands around the whole old community. As the cultural and commercial center of the old community, Little Park is well-known for traditional arcade buildings and all kinds of local snacks. At a corner, before you set foot in Little Park, there's an old man selling chaogaoguo (炒糕粿) and haolao (蚝烙) in a place named Laopai chaoguohaolao (老牌炒糕蚝烙). The main ingredient of chaogaoguo (炒糕粿) is rice milk, which is steamed layer by layer into a cubic shape. After being fried with eggs, vegetables, and special sauces, it becomes crispy and chewy. Haolao 蚝烙 is also a specialty in Chaoshan area that is made of oysters, sweet potato powder and eggs. One crucial tip about finding authentic local cuisine in the Chaoshan area is that one should never underestimate a shabby restaurant—Laopai chaoguohaolao (老牌炒糕蚝烙) is one of those places. Overcome your initial hesitation and you will be rewarded with a tasty experience.



(top right: Fried Oyster Pancake; bottom left: Chaogaoguo made from rice milk) ▲

After entering Little Park, there are two snacks which should be on your must-try list. One is Xiaogongyuan danda (小公园蛋挞) which sells egg tarts, the other is Laomagong zongzi (老妈宫粽球) that specializes in glutinous rice with filling (粽子 / zongzi). The egg tart shop is an easy find, as it's located on the main street and always has a long line of people waiting for the tasty treat. However, the zongzi place might require some effort to find. That's part of the "food adventure" you get by wandering through charming alleys! Even if you are feeling full, keep on fighting and find some more space for the famous tofu pudding. A Shantou local and friend of mine highly recommends a place called Guangchang laopai douhuatiantang (广场老牌豆花甜汤) that is a well-known for this dessert. As a local, she tells me that she and her father can't pass this shop without getting the pudding, so don't forget to try it.



(From right to left: egg tarts, tofu pudding, haishihua (sweet soup), Chaoshan beef hotpot) ▲

Shantou University

Besides Little Park, the Shantou University (STU) area is well worth your time. STU is a comprehensive university co-founded by Li Ka-shing, Hong Kong's richest man. Li Kai-shing comes from the Chaoshan area. The campus has a lot of stylish architecture and a large reservoir. If you want to see the modern scene of Shantou after experiencing the traditional atmosphere in the old town, STU is definitely a good choice! Moreover, before you leave Shantou and head to Chaozhou, don't forget to stop at the first store of the now famous chain beef hotpot restaurant, Shantou Bahelhaiji 汕头八合里海记. Located near the bus station, it is an ideal pit stop to fill your belly with warm beef hotpot before boarding the bus and heading to the next stop.

Chaozhou

Compared to Shantou, Chaozhou is a city that has a stronger cultural presence. Iconic cultural landmarks, such as the Guangji Bridge, Kaiyuan Temple and Memorial Archway Street all lie close to each other in the old town. It is better to visit Kaiyuan Temple during daytime and enjoy the light show on Guangji Bridge at night time. The Kaiyuan Temple has a history of more than a millennium while Guangji Bridge is one of China's four ancient bridges with around 800 years of history. Both embody the traditional architectural style of Chaoshan and are must-sees. Between the bridge and the temple, there is the Memorial Archway Street. This is an extraordinarily long street composed of more than twenty memorial archways, each representing the rise and fall of an ancient family. Along the street you can find many stands, restaurants, and shops selling local specialties and souvenirs.



If you consider yourself a foodie, the Memorial Archway Street is going to be heaven for your belly. You'll eat so much that when you leave, it will appear you are carrying a food baby. In order to taste as much of the local cuisine as possible, my advice is to invite several friends to travel with you and share the food. There are so many delicious snacks on the street it's impossible to describe them all here. I will list at least a few of them so you get the feel of this foodie heaven.

First, I would like to recommend xianshuiguo (咸水糰), which is rice patties with salted turnip. The salted turnips in it bring rich flavors to your taste buds. Another two rice-based snacks are steamed rice rolls changfen (肠粉) and marinated pork offcuts with rice noodle lushuiguozhi (卤水粿汁). Both of them have a unique flavor that you can only find in Chaoshan. Next, I would like to suggest trying zhuchanguomi (猪肠糯米), which is pork intestines with sticky rice inside. Although it has a strong smell, it opens up a new world for those who like trying new things. Same with beef offcuts niuza (牛杂), whose soup further enhances the inherent flavor of the meats. After all these snacks, you might want to have some dessert. There are two options for you. One is almond tea or sesame tea, the other is a flaky, mooncake-like pastry. For the pastry, the most famous brand is hurongquan (胡荣泉), which boasts a one-hundred year history.



(From right to left: rice patties with salted turnip, rice roll, marinated pork offcut with rice noodles, beef offcut soup) ▲

Treasures from the Sea

Because Chaoshan borders the sea, raw seafood is also something that you don't want to miss. There are two restaurants I want to mention: one is in Shantou and the other is in Chaozhou. The one in Shantou is named fuyuan yinshi (富苑饮食), which appears on a famous food documentary "A Bite of China". Their signature dish is marinated raw crab. After being marinated with a special sauce, the crab remains fresh and tender. If the crab is not to your taste, you can try raw fish and raw shrimp at Guantang yuanweiyusheng (官塘原味鱼生) in Chaozhou. You will learn a really unique way of eating sashimi. The waiter will dip sashimi with homemade sauces and then add various toppings including onions, garlic, peanuts and so on. What's more, they recommend you eat it in one bite, so that you can taste various textures and flavors at the same time.



(From right to left: sticky rice stuffed pork intestine, shrimp sashimi, fish sashimi, marinated raw crab) ▲

Now you have a basic understanding of the food and cultural atmosphere in Chaoshan. You can start planning your trip accordingly. It is always a pleasure to get away from the hustle and bustle for peace and tranquility in a small town, isn't it?