



ACŪBIEN

EMBLEMATIC • LUXURY • CARIBBEAN • LIFESTYLE

DESIRE
SPECIAL ISSUE

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NOTE FROM EDITOR IN CHIEF

Welcome to this singular and inaugural ACUBIEN digital edition on the theme of "DESIRE". I am acutely excited about this debut issue. It validates our team's commitment to resonate the best and most discerning qualities of Caribbean lifestyles, minds, thoughts, aspirations, ideas and desires.

ACUBIEN is for and about Caribbean people everywhere and for and about our friends and families across the globe. As Caribbean people, we are brazen with opinions; we are striving to take our rightful places of leadership in international arenas of arts, culture, education and business; and we must be unapologetic in

celebrating our beauty, brains, brawn and ambition. These truths are at the heart of ACUBIEN's drive to be a quintessential voice on luxurious and aspirational Caribbean lifestyles.

We are creating and curating original and inspiring articles that will divide opinion, and welcome contributors in and out of the region. We are a resource for your articles and ideas. As Founder and Editor in Chief of ACUBIEN, I am personally inviting you to join this positive Caribbean evolution – share your views and join the conversation. I ask one more thing, share at least one article from this edition with a friend, family or colleague. Help us achieve our

DESIRE of elevating the Caribbean region on to the global map.

ACUBIEN is changing the way we view ourselves, and each other and changing the way the world views the Caribbean.

GUS FRANKLYN-BUTE

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EDITOR'S LETTER

The pursuit of desire forces you to focus on the essence of who you truly are and determine what sacrifices you are willing to make to realize your potential – how badly must you want that something in order to sacrifice for it? That's the thing about desire. It's a fundamental component of so many things we spend our lives chasing in the ultimate pursuit of success and happiness.

Desire gets us into our fair share of uncomfortable walks of shame, arguments with our partners, accusations of egocentricity or business deals gone wrong. Desire is at the core of our motivation and often negates our otherwise sound judgment. Yet, our fundamental sense of accomplishment thrives on it, as does a healthy serving of stamina and f*** off.

Desire teaches, "you can do better" than your unsatisfactory situation and that you may reverse the status quo. To accomplish your goals, one must yearn for that which is out of reach; commit to never accepting "No"; and never settle for less than you truly deserve. Desire is a drug that makes you dream bigger and go harder. It may make you unstoppable – and that is not always a good thing. More than anything, desire

is a tool and a partner in your pursuit of pleasure.

I am a dreamer and so is the ACUBIEN team. The audacity to desire more, greater, different and better is why we are driven to do what we love. It is why we aspire to share an EMBLEMATIC, CARIBBEAN, LUXURY, LIFESTYLE with you. Desires are very personal and we are candid in sharing our thoughts and emotions – good or bad. We are set to introduce you to new ideas and experiences that challenge how we see ourselves and how the world sees us.

The ACUBIEN ethos hinges on a desire to inform and captivate you with content that is authentic, insightful and distinctive. This spirit compels us to open eyes, tune in our ears and expose our hearts to world around us as we work, travel and play.

Phillips Brooks, the American clergyman and civil rights supporter sums it up well when he said, "sad will be the day for any man when he becomes contented with the thoughts he is thinking and the deeds he is doing - where there is not forever beating at the doors of his soul some great desire to do something larger; which he knows he was meant and made to do..."



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FEATURE
.....

LIA GAJADHAR

FILM DIRECTOR | MAKEUP ARTIST | MODEL

Lounging in the lush gardens of a private residence in Barbados, Caribbean, I am hanging with my legitimate bestie, the creative tour-de-force and rising film director, Lia Gajadhar. Our friendship spans two decades, yet we still look so young! It's been a sweltering summer and today is no different. I wanted to catch up with the woman who has been a childhood friend, since I have been living abroad for the last five years. Lia Gajadhar's name is well known across the island: to Bajan's she is a beauty queen, makeup artist and filmmaker. If you ask Lia, she's just a dreamer.

It's now two weeks after the biggest concert of the year in Barbados, #1LOVE, and as the show's creative director and co-producer, Lia sits with ACUBIEN to share her journey, her challenges, successes, and talk about our friendship and why she is just so f* ing cool!



BOLD AND UNAPOLOGETIC

The former Miss Barbados' attention grabbing image gracing the cover page of this ACUBIEN *DESIRE* (Special Issue 2015) is characteristic of the confidence of the woman. The Lia cover reflects her daringness to be associated with the disruptive Caribbean-centric media platform that is ACUBIEN. Over the years our friendship has navigated a myriad of personal and professional situations, from the exhilarating to the most devastating. Along the way, I have seen Lia conquer platforms, dominate stages and believe her to be Barbados' next biggest export. For these and other reasons, Lia is among the few personalities fitting to be featured in this inaugural ACUBIEN digital issue. Lia Gajadhar truly epitomizes *DESIRE*.

Beauty queens are often unfairly labeled. In conservative Caribbean societies where women walk a tightrope between repression and ambition, and where their individual liberties are subjected to the vagaries of misogyny, bigotry, egotism and feminism ideology, the beauty queen remains acutely stereotyped. It's not easy to be taken seriously and on merit when you are beautiful. There are often moral dilemmas to negotiate, played out over cocktails and contracts. When one's objective is to succeed, women may have to

maneuver the thin line between player and pawn.

Quite early in her career, Lia observed the covert business of the world of pageantry. These shows are not just a promenade of grinning beauties measured in flashes of flesh and form. Pageants are a tense mêlée of thorny personalities and the volatile temperament of contestants and their cliques. For a teenage girl travelling away from home for the first time this may be a forbidding rite of passage into the unknown. For Lia, opportunities to represent her homeland, for example, at the "Queen of the World" in Germany, created an appreciation for pageantry as a developmental platform."

"Pageants taught me a lot of myself and also taught me about people - knowledge that continues to help me everyday. Pageantry was my way of seeing the Caribbean and travelling to other parts of the world. I could go from walking in a fashion show in Trinidad to hearing, at the last minute, a Miss Barbados dropped out [of a show] and they wanted me to go take her place".

Over the years I have come

to know the power and strength of Lia Gajadhar. Undoubtedly she has inherited some of her mother's best qualities – a woman widely recognized in Barbados for her leadership in gender affairs. From observing Lia in many settings, I cannot help but wonder if she is conscious of her ability to take command of situations.

Working together on the production of the concert, we raced from one meeting to another with government officials, sponsors and suppliers. On one occasion Lia accompanied me to one of MY meetings. Soon after the introductions, I realized I could have walked out or dropped dead and still would have had a successful negotiation, simply because Lia and her tits were in the room. On leaving, we laughed hysterically. The poor man's eyes were trapped between her perky, natural bosom as he desperately attempted to focus on her face.

In contrast, Lia knows when to scale down the makeup and present herself to suit the satiation. For example, in the business environment in Barbados, meetings with other women may present an entirely different challenge. Yet, this single mom is well informed, approachable and ambitious, and understands the importance of a healthy work life balance, taking time to enjoy her family and her wide circle of friends.

PASSIONATE AND CREATIVE

After representing Barbados in Chicago in 2003, Lia stepped off the pageant circuit to pursue her creative passions, travelling to Toronto, Canada to study makeup artistry. On her return to Barbados, the opportunity to create her own brand was evident. It would not be an easy journey, but nothing would impede her determination to succeed.

“When I first returned from studying, people thought I was insane to charge what I did for my services. Naturally, the place I found work was at weddings, but also commercially.”

The market in Barbados was not for ripe for professional makeup artists. Preferring not to leave the island for more lucrative opportunities, Lia used the situation as a call of action to kick-starting a new venture offering classes to savvy women who were eager to learn expert techniques to enhance their style and image. Over time, Lia built a reputation and her

expertise made her the go to makeup artist for many big stage and film productions. Her clients included Alison Hinds, Machel Montano, Patrice Roberts, Vivica Fox, Universal artist and songwriter Shontelle and Universal Recording artist Vita Chambers.

However, Lia Gajadhar is no workhorse. She finds time to live out her desires. We have always had way too much fun and partied way too hard (allegedly). Our time together is episodic of copious amounts of mindless laughter; epic arguments; and the forging of creative projects. Lia is the visual and I am the narration.

Lia’s beauty is evident. In perceiving the topless cover page, we set out to provoke a discussion. The world isn’t balanced. A man grows wrinkles in his face and this connotes ‘wisdom’. On a woman this signifies fading beauty. A man has sex with a coworker and will be high-fived. A woman will be vilified. Binary positions suggest that a woman may only be sexy and dumb or smart and prudish. Lia Gajadhar refutes both poles.

Naked or clothed she is often that person in the room with the most original concept.





BREAKING THE MOLD

Maybe it is a conceptual eye and the visceral curiosity that led Lia into films. Her work on videos and film sets gave her an appetite for film production and directing. To me, it is her need to blow the mold apart. For years, I have watched Lia calculatingly take on and crush obstacles, which may have been purposefully placed in her path. She truly cannot say no to a good idea and will gladly fill any positions on a production set to be close to the action. One thing is certain, her sights are set on an underdeveloped film and screen market in her homeland, Barbados.

She sees the Caribbean as a largely misunderstood, misrepresented and highly underserved by the film industry.

to the perfect blend of a courageous, caring and a consummate fixer. “I am a dreamer” – words she should get tattooed on her body – “but the issue with this dreamer is that I want to accomplish all my dreams.”

Knowing Lia, I have come to respect the delicate balance it takes to make our friendship work. The attributes I lack, she possesses and together, we seem to have the right combination of respect, support and bossiness to keep it all afloat. There is an honesty about her that is refreshing. Before you know it, you’re caught in the Lia effect and any resistance is futile. I have seen the best of them fall victim to her vast intellect, her magnetic beauty and her engaging personality.

“We don’t watch TV and see ourselves; we see North American narratives and ideals, which is slowly stealing our culture. It’s a new, stealthier colonization. The Caribbean region is a gem of a place – independent countries in such close proximity and living harmoniously is an exception worth celebrating. What’s more damning is that many of us have to leave to pursue our dreams. The creative industry in the Caribbean is the next big thing; it fuels our culture and culture drives tourism.”

There is a genuine power to Lia. The days of Miss Congeniality have made way

Don’t be fooled by the tits... this woman is chasing her desires!

DESIRE

Where The Magic Happens



GUS FRANKLYN-BUTE
Editor in Chief



DESIRE for me is to BE **Where The Magic Happens (#WTMH)**. It is to GO Where The Magic Happens. And when the moment takes, it is to CREATE the Magic, wherever I happen to be.

If desire is about pure longing, wishing or craving, then hand on heart, I am not the best suited to comment. Desire is not lust, hope, or about dreaming, it is a call to action to go experience, to taste, to see, to touch and feel life's countless treasures, without pause or regret.

*Desire is carpe diem –
seizing that moment and
making it count.*

There are moments of silent satisfaction when travelling the globe and touching down in a new country or city, knowing that many Caribbean people would be wondering 'what under the heavens would

make a Caribbean man, who is not a sportsman, politician, or artiste pick himself up and 'go there'? That pleasure is knowing that every new experience transports me ever further away from the constricting taxonomy of 'just being someone from a small island – a tag I have never worn.

Are the feet of Caribbean people still tethered to cane fields or only permitted along predetermined paths that lead to spaces of mediocrity or places reserved for the chosen few? Our feet are just as beautiful to don a pair Lanvin's python and Berluti ferro high-tops. Our palettes may equally delight in mauby and fried chicken and world gastronomy like avant-garde Peruvian cuisine. Our eyes are open wide to marvel at the spectacle of a carnival procession in full flow and the wonders of renaissance architecture of northern France or the creative works in Africa's first museum of contemporary art in Ouidah, Benin.

In London, recently, over dinner and drinks with a friend visiting from Barbados, who was heading onto a new vacation experience in Egypt, I was reminded of two things: Caribbean people at home and abroad



are more and more audacious in their travels for work, studies and fun. Yet, most of us are still mind-locked that 'going foreign' for vacation means a trip to Miami or New York City to crash on some friend or family's sweaty sofa, stuff our arteries with junk food, then gleefully return home with bagsful of fake branded clothes and garish discount sneakers. Where is the magic in that? Are there limits to our desires?

Get a map of the world and with

a pen place an X on the location where you currently reside. Close your eyes and draw a circle around the spot. That circle represents the outer boundary of your imagination as traveler. Think about it for a moment.

Of course, that is bullshit. I just made that up. I know nothing about psychology or the like – but it got you thinking.

Cities like, New York, London, Hong Kong, Vienna and Berlin are magnificent destinations and each

holds their unique magic. When ambling through the streets and boulevards of world cities, I focus my gaze beyond the popular tourist destinations in search of where the magic happens. That magic is an evocation of the senses, which create experiences that conjoins and evokes memories of home, of childhood, of the Caribbean, of friends and family – all of which, serves to enrich my life and impels me on towards my greatest desires.

RECOMMENDED:

HONG KONG
STAY:
 LANSON PLACE Boutique Hotel
hongkong.lansonplace.com

SHANGHAI
STAY:
 THE LANGHAM, SHANGHAI, XINTIANDI
langhamhotels.com/en/the-langham/shanghai/

LONDON
DINE, COCKTAILS:
 QUAGLINO'S:
quaglinos-restaurant.co.uk

ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES, BEQUIA
STAY:
 BESEA SHELLS HOLIDAY APARTMENTS
www.seashellsbequia.com

01
Hoi An, Vietnam
 Photo: Gus Franklyn-Bute

02
Hoi An, Vietnam
 Photo: Gus Franklyn-Bute

03
Hotel Penaga, Georgeown, Penang, Malaysia
 Photo: Gus Franklyn-Bute

04
Chancery Lane, London
 Photo: Gus Franklyn-Bute

05
Elgin Street, SoHo, Hong Kong
 Photo: Gus Franklyn-Bute

06
Gus Franklyn-Bute
 Photo: Anesta Broad Photography

CARIBBEAN GASTRONOMY



Ginger scented Scallops: with mixed fruit salsa

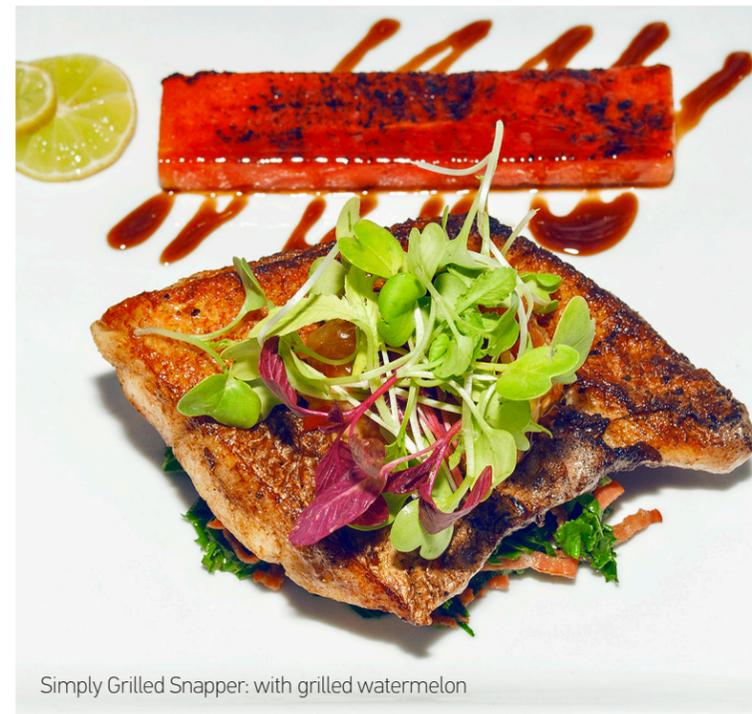


Short Ribs with Ginger glaze: with garlic chive mash and candied vegetables

Lifestyle Editor **ANTHONY BEST** takes us to his homeland, Barbados, and introduces us Pure Ocean's approach to Caribbean gastronomy. This is one for a true foodie's Caribbean bucket list.

The next time you are in the beautiful isle of Barbados you should delight your sense of indulgence and desire for sumptuous Caribbean cuisine by dining at Pure Ocean beachfront restaurant, which offers a distinct culinary experience.

Pure Ocean beachfront restaurant appears to hover on the surface of the Caribbean Sea. Its style is “contemporary Caribbean” and this gastronomic discovery is beautifully nestled on Barbados’ south coast in St. Lawrence Gap in the parish of Christ Church. Diners are caressed by views of the ocean and lush, tropical vegetation. Delicious Bajan flavours are infused into new and exciting dishes that invoke palate profiles that coerce the eyes to devour long before the mouth can savour.



Simply Grilled Snapper: with grilled watermelon

PURE FRESHNESS

Fresh ingredients are at the heart of a menu crafted by the highly awarded, Barbadian executive chef, Henderson Butcher. Pure Ocean may suggest a seafood-only menu, but the selection is diverse. Each plate is a fusion of freshness bursting with clean culinary notes. Many of the ingredients are gathered a few steps away from your table from the well-appointed gardens within the 16 acre Divi Southwinds Beach Resort, home to Pure Ocean beachfront restaurant with its vibrant atmosphere.

Divi Southwinds is part of a group of resorts across the Caribbean, and is the larger of two options in Barbados. The resort is

led by General Manager, Mr Alvin Jemmott, also Chairman of the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.

“We are in the experience business, what we try to do is give you an experience every time”, says Jemmott.

Delivering amazing food requires consistency, passion and balance and Barbados has a strong reputation for great cuisine. It should be no surprise then that I sat down to dine with high expectations. I was not disappointed.

PASSION FOR PERFECTION

Jr Sous Chef, Stephanie Seyers represents Barbados internationally, alongside Executive Chef Butcher, as members of the Barbados National Culinary Team. Sipping skimpy bikinis, I sat with Seyers as she shared her desire and passion and for food and competitive culinary clashes “I love the adrenaline rush in competition. I’ve been in competitions from about the age of 14” chimes the winner of the Barbados Jr Chef Challenge and the winner of the Caribbean Jr Challenge. “I was and still am the youngest to ever compete and win.” Seyers asserts you must have passion to survive the gruesome 12 to 16 hour days



The Wedge Salad: with bacon, diced tomatoes and blue cheese dressing

of competitions.

Jemmott advocates: “It’s not about imposing too much of my own beliefs or opinions, the team has the vision...” so he focuses on providing them with opportunities. “Travelling is rewarding to the team, it allows for personal development and wholesome exposure”. Travelling promotes the creative use of flavours to inspire and propel each dish way beyond ‘island cuisine’. This team of culinary artists present and promote their passion for food with notable clarity and harmony.

Integral to the Pure Ocean line is Head Chef, Henderson Cox who is also held in great esteem for his talent, and along with Seyers, this team is determined to positively contribute to both Pure Ocean Divi’s reputation for great food and Barbados’ tourism landscape. This commitment to excellence is driven by the desire to continually create new symphonies of flavours to satisfy even the most demanding palate. Pure Ocean plans to expand to other Divi Properties in the future.

PURE OCEAN BEACHFRONT DINING

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INTERVIEW

ACUBIEN DESIGNER FOCUS

PETA ODINI

BY ANTHONY BEST

ODINI SUTHERLAND is an island girl with a beckoning reputation for style. She's the artistic director for the soca music titan Skinny Fabulous and in a relatively short career, this menswear fashion designer has excelled at doing what some established names have struggled to achieve: a signature aesthetic. Odini challenges the Caribbean style palette with an unapologetic originality. Her story begins in the picture-perfect and desirable backdrop of the island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and is rooted in a world of bold prints and daring colours.





BEHIND THE TALENT

Odini Sutherland is your typical island girl next door with a melodic accent, cascading dreadlocks, cool friends and a love for carnival. She is disarmingly friendly with a sass that is unmistakably "island". These rudimental characteristics manifest themselves in her points of view, which are fresh with edginess and echo a definitive staying power.

"I used to be a model, which is still funny to me, because I now own no heels and no make up".

Funnier too, because Odini won that contest, in the early 2000s, vying to be the face of a regional lifestyle magazine. We loved her even then and wanted to see her excel. Little did we know that it was not to be in the way we had imagined.

INTERVIEW

Where did your passion for design come from?

"I am not sure. My mom is an accountant, she used to sew when she was younger, but back then I think many persons did, as there was limited access to fashion. She would quickly sew up something to wear to an event. So maybe a little bit from her indirectly. I always drew things, but I can't even remember the exact moment when I felt like this was something I really, really wanted to do seriously", She responds with her usual spontaneity."

Where in SVG can we find the desires of your heart?

"Besides atop the hill where my mother's house is, I would definitely have to say in Bequia, a small island off the main Vincentian island. It is what I imagine heaven would be... (or should be, complete with Mac's Pizza)... When I was a young girl, I think life was pretty good. We had a strong sense of community, which sometimes could be annoying when your mom still finds out all the shenanigans you've been up to (Odini laughs)."



It's not long before she also let's out that she... loves...to party! Especially, at carnival, known as "Vincy Mas".

"Skinny once said that Vincentians don't party normal and I will always love Vincy Mas for that. Our music, especially our power soca, is something special. And I always tell people, you haven't partied until you have partied in Vincy".

(now trading as LIME) and then I realized I really wanted to go and do a degree in fashion. I had a friend who kept saying, well go do it, then finally I plucked up the courage to apply to schools and then it was off to London."

Though many may argue she stands a greater chance at success if she worked in London, she never lets you forget where her heart is truly.

"When I am overseas I feel like I'm adrift and then I get home and things make sense again. Especially when I go up the hill behind our house and I feel like I'm all alone in the entire world, that's a pretty amazing feeling."

MISS INDEPENDENT

It's resoundingly clear that Odini is a free thinker who really follows her heart.

"I was working as a Marketing Executive at Cable & Wireless



INTERVIEW

But no matter where she is based, her voice is being heard through her designs.

"Someone once messaged me after buying a pair of my shorts and said that they made them feel really happy. I think that was one of my best moments. I mean how cool is that?"

"I'm always worried I'm not doing enough. I can't do everything that needs to be done by myself. And that needs to be rectified." – **her statement sounds like a pep talk you give yourself before doing something big** – "... I don't think I've found that yet. It's all very one-sided right now" – a realization that right now, Odini is so committed to fashion.

The scenario begs the question: Does a Caribbean designer need a global audience to be successful?

"I don't think it is a necessity, but I think it would help. The region is fairly small, and if you're developing a niche product, which is where I believe I find myself this makes your target market even smaller. So I think a wider net has to be cast for long term success".

A small market is not the only obstacle to a designer in the Caribbean, Odini adds, commenting on the mindset of most persons in the region.



We have been completely seduced by mass-market goods and more so, super fast and super cheap fashion. It is hard for the average Caribbean citizen to see the value of spending say EC\$300 (US\$110) on a well constructed locally/regionally made pair of trousers as opposed to a EC\$50 (US\$19) pair that will begin to deteriorate after the 3rd or 4th wash. Changing this mindset is a long and laborious task and it's up to us designers to make sure that when we are charging these prices, that our products can withstand the test of time.

Odini makes it her business to know the business of fashion and her markets. After all, she has modelled, worked in public relations and is now a designer.

"I knew [Caribbean] designers. I had worked with them in my capacity as model and

PR person at Image Modelling Agency. But, I couldn't say where you could purchase their clothing. I don't know what their production process was. People came to fashion shows, but back then I think it was purely to watch, not many people even came with the notion to buy something."

"Today, however, I think the industry is being rebuilt and there is a fresh drive to keep our Caribbean designers relevant. I think that a lot more business training is needed, I know I could

use a lot more guidance in that aspect, as well as in efficient production practices. But I think we are in a place of steady growth now and the only way is up!"

I was really mesmerized by this young entrepreneur in control of her business. This Caribbean girl is destined to be an international brand



before long. And in response to any concerns over her love of carnivals and partying too hard when not working, Odini quickly sets the record straight.

"If I'm in Trinidad, I will probably be watching a movie, whether at the cinema or on Netflix. When I'm home, I could be anywhere: the beach, a street corner, a beach bar or in my bed sleeping (more laughter)".

After all Odini Sutherland is just a regular woman with a truly unique perspective and desires.

Odini Sutherland | Photo: Errol John Photography | @erroljohnpd | www.erroljohn.com

Sweet and Sour Shanghai

by **MORITZ CHEUNG**

Lifestyle Editor | Asia Bureau, Hong Kong



There are countless misunderstandings about traveling in China. Online media, blogs and forums are littered with stories, both fact and fiction, about this immense and complex country. Nonetheless, the finest way to experience this Peoples' Republic is to take a personal journey with one's eyes wide open and with a burning desire for adventure.

On a recent trip to Shanghai, I was captivated by the possibilities of the city and touched by the world vision

China displays through this municipality.

Shanghai is China's largest city, home to 24 million people. As the country's fastest growing metropolis, it is sometimes referred to as the Paris of China, in part due to its French colonial past.

Located on the coast of the East China Sea, Shanghai is divided by the Huangpu River into east and west districts. On the east bank is Pudong ('dong' means 'east' in mandarin), which in recent times has grown in

significance evidenced by prolific and explosive growth of new and glimmering skyscrapers. The western bank is Puxi ('xi' mean 'west'), the historical heart of Shanghai, which is lined with facades that echo a deep colonial legacy.

When I first visited Shanghai I was ten years old. The city then was a dusty, urban sprawl reminiscent of modern day Wuhan – an industrial borough, which is pregnant with new building development programs that make the city resemble a gigantic construction site.

The Shanghai of my youth was crammed with 'illegal' housing structures, typical of many Chinese cities. I recall too, congested streets with grown-ups in pajamas crisscrossing busy intersections and kids assembled in back lanes and alleyways playing games. To me, the capital was dull and uninteresting prior to hosting the World Expo 2010 under mantra 'Better City – Better Life'. Shanghai World Expo showcased China's capabilities for large-scale, world-class events, taking the city in a new direction of bright lights and alluring excitement.

On a typically humid day in August this year, my colleagues and I arrived in this international city, touching down at a small terminal at Pudong International Airport. My expectations were for a grander airport, the likes of Beijing Capital International Airport. Our exit through customs was pleasingly swift as we glided past staff and officials who seemed to rarely ask questions of arriving visitors.





Pudong International Airport is located at the edge of Shanghai, a 45 minute taxi ride that exports you from the dimness of 'out of town' into a futuristic city centre lined with confidently bold and vibrant towers. The night's skyline sparkles and dances with neon lights. The aroma of wealth and money linger in the air. If you are in a hurry to get to central Shanghai jump on the world's first high-speed magnetic train, which takes a swift ten minutes to reach the heart of the city where millions of Chinese and global citizens decamp in pursuit of their desire for personal and commercial success.

Shanghai is effervescent and dynamic and for all its hustle and bustle one may expect locals to be preoccupied and aloof. Yet, I was charmed by the friendliness of Shanghai's residents. I was pleasantly surprised by the city's accessibility, and the ease, for

example, to indulge in a delicious noodle soup at bargain prices directly in the shadows of five star hotels (US\$3 – US\$5 for a rice noodle soup with wontons).

Additionally, there are many fine dining restaurants. In the former French concession, one may dine from the menus of star chef at prices of around US\$25 – US\$30 for a wholesome meal, including a glass of quality wine. These menus would command a pricier tag in Hong Kong from around US\$ 40 per person.

As with any growing city on a path to modernity, there are sour characteristics to Shanghai, indeed to China. The obsession with wealth and the ravenous appetite of Chinese consumers, which western brands continue to exploit, has an ugly peculiarity. Restrictions and censorship imposed by the Chinese government on use of the internet is an inconvenience for the billions of Chinese connecting to the world

01

Chaotic Shanghai

Photo: gags9999 / Foter.com / CC BY

02

Moritz Cheung

Photo: Moritz Cheung

03

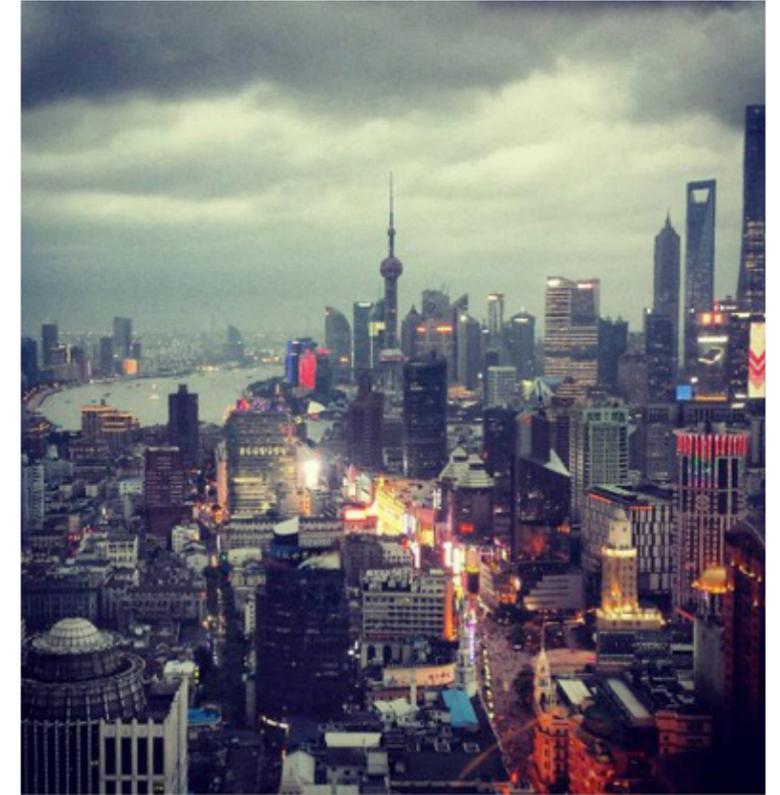
Shanghai Model City

Photo: : IvanWalsh.com / Foter.com / CC BY

04

Sweet and sour shanghai

Photo: : Moritz Cheung



beyond its border. This makes doing business a challenge, particularly as Shanghai continues to be a strong competitor to other financial centres posturing for lead positions in Asia.

For busy, time poor travellers, these restrictions may offer an opportunity to put down the smartphones and take a break from the obsession with social media and rolling news.

Banking and manufacturing shape metropolitan Shanghai's character and activities by day. At night, the city takes on an added dimension as the homeless become more visible, emerging under the constellation of luminosities, sometimes to wash their clothes in the fountain of a luxurious hotel. The chasm between rich and poor seems to be growing wider with every inch of new building that ascends Shanghai's light polluting sky.

A personal desire to visit China must be on every

discerning travellers top 10 list of countries. As you plan and prepare to fulfill your personal ambition to truly fathom China, you will face the most common problem for travellers: so little time with so very much to explore and experience. My advice is to set your heart on truly appreciating this wonderfully engaging country. Relish the uniqueness and politeness of the Chinese people. Delve into the vast, picturesque and diverse country where there are more English speakers than in the United States. Learn from the wisdom, tradition and cultural richness that imbues China's ancient sophistication and, which continues to influence its march to modernity. Disembark with an eagerness to paint your own canvas and this will connect you to a country not defined by hearsay and secondhand accounts, and instead to a sweet and sour China, Where The Magic Happens.



THE PERSISTENCE OF
MEMORIES





How do we see and prove time? Can we even begin to grasp the true magnitude of time without contemplating the reality of our own demise? The passage of time presents a seductive theory. Casually, we measure it by the changing of seasons, the +1 to ages and counting of grey hairs – heaven forbid finding one in places we rather not mention.

Time creates space for our dreams and desires; captures our memories; and suspends our nostalgia. Time lends us moments to harvest our vision and purpose. Yet, one simple truth remains constant: we can never rewind or fast forward time, for it is all an illusion. It is, and humorously too, the one precious thing of which we never have enough – and how can that be? If time had an inventor, they should have definitely made more of it.

Spending an afternoon drifting through the hallowed aisles of my dear friend's Sophie's vintage store, I realized that while time is illusive, it resounds loudly, beckoning us forward, were we only to pay attention. The memories of lives lived, families made and broken, things dreamt and achieved, all came rushing to me. At that moment, I realized that time is many things and different to each person, but what we all shared is having a place where our memories reside.

For hours Sophie and I combed the racks of her store, being transported seamlessly through the ages with the help of relics and keepsakes of lives past. Each new discovery was like unrolling a scroll that held the knowledge and wisdom inscribed by someone that

once passed this way. The unfolding of my thoughts showed me that we possess an energy and power to carry forward the legacy of others and rework memories of the past, even if writing history is not our enduring purpose.

Vintage retail is booming and is a desirable way to engage with the world around us – an otherwise stylish means of wiling away an afternoon as a fashion voyager. It is a way of life to many people. Vintage style has a charm that is rooted in the past and a power that evokes nostalgia, which simultaneously elongates the life of consumables. There is too a quiet peace that is derived from extending the memory of things once valued, once treasured, first bought and sold – some talk of sustainable lifestyles. And so, as we browsed pass a rack furs, I couldn't help but indulge, realizing that somehow, it does feel better when it's "vintage".

Sophie and I laughed and laughed loud for long, for like Alice in Wonderland, we were lost in a meandering maze of collective

memories. The desirable treasures inside "Booth and Elm" took us on excursions through the years and that afternoon we lived a thousand lives, plus one.

Maybe, more accurately, we gave new life and a new purpose to things trendily deemed vintage, sending them on new journey in our age. It's funny how time holds memories of things we promised never to forget, and the more we reminisce the greater their value increases with every reflection. It then that time ceases to be illusion.

Memories, relics and keepsakes are effigies that give value and meaning to our lives. Time itself will continue to fade and fold into a nebulous distance. While we may never have enough, it is the pursuit of our desires that compels us to value how and with whom we spend our time, the places we visit but once in our lives, and how much we are willing to sacrifice to attain the very things, we too will leave behind. Perhaps, fashion isn't worth having unless it too will become vintage.



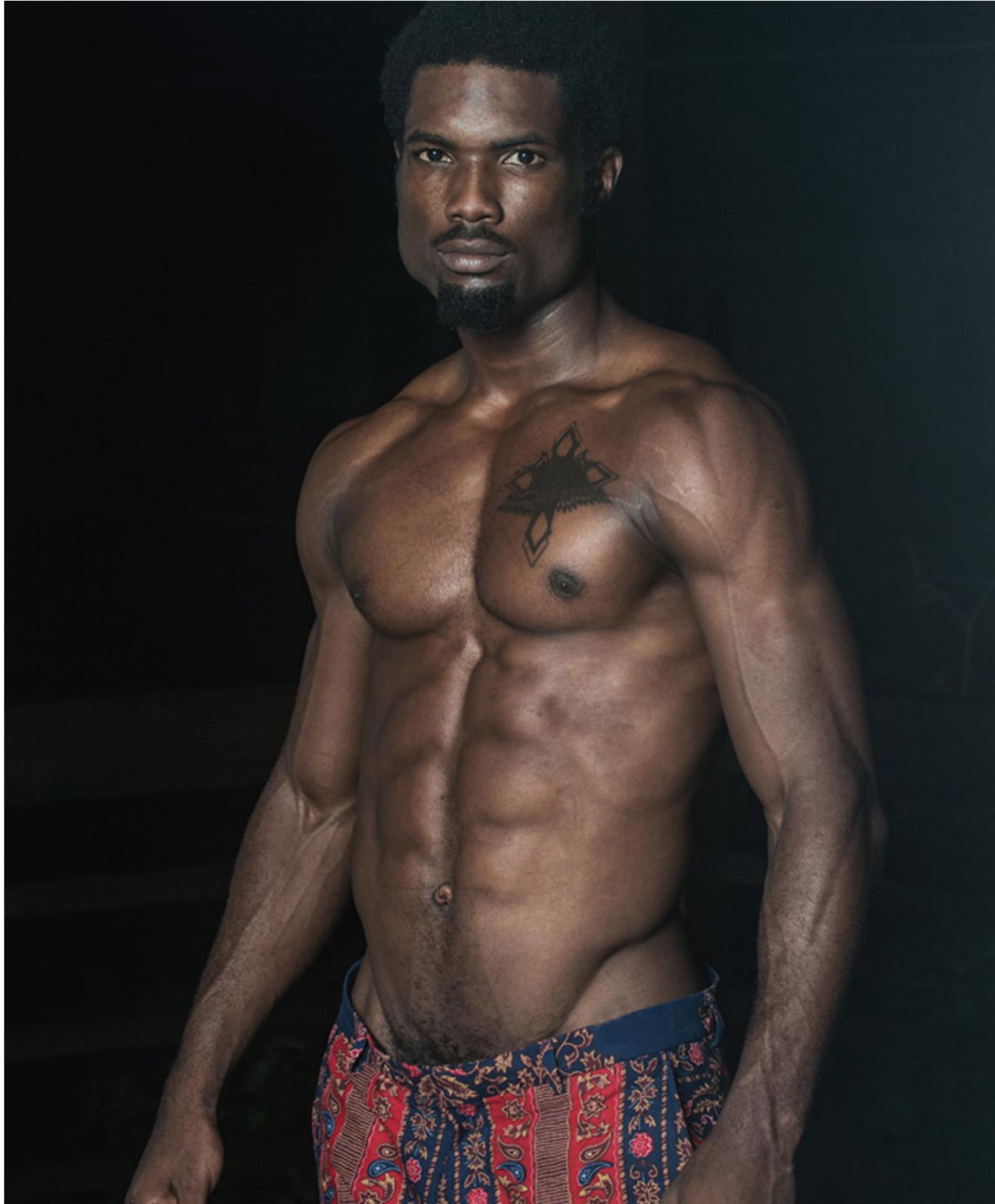
CARIBBEAN DESIRE

IN ANY LANGUAGE

Adrian Richards is a fine art and fashion photographer with an impulsive nature, an inquisitive mind and an eclectic charisma. Having dabbled in painting, drawing and sculpture from an early age, photography became his main genre in 2007. A passionate adventurer and globetrotter, Caribbean-based Richards has garnered numerous awards for his photography in his home country of Barbados and is regularly published throughout the Caribbean region and internationally. Richard delights in surrounding himself with beauty in all forms – from the classical to the disturbing. At all times, he sets out to evoke an emotional response from his work. Naturally, it was to Richards that ACUBIEN turned to present an alternative construal of DESIRE from within the Caribbean, beyond the blessings of sand, sea and sunshine. Richards presents a Caribbean Desire, which is understood in any language.

Instagram  adriannr

WUNSCH * DÉsir * ΕΠΙΘΥΜΙΑ * 欲求 * ANVI * DESEO * ЖЕΛΑΗΙΕ * 慾望 * DESEJO * ÖNSKAN * VERLANGEN * DESIDERIO * AWYDD





1

Patek Philippe Timepiece

When you want the world to know you've made it you wear a Rolex. When you know you've made it you wear Patek Philippe. Such is the legacy of these extraordinarily well-made timepieces the creators remind us that 'you never own a Patek Philippe, you take care of it for the next generation'.

Patek Philippe, Rose Gold - Men - Calatrava
Copyright: Patek Philippe



2

The Maltese Falcon

Nothing says opulence and success like a yacht. The Maltese Falcon built by Perini Navi in Tuzla, Turkey is a 289ft beauty steeped in sophistication and adventure, taking luxury to the next level.

The Maltese Falcon
Copyright © SY Maltese Falcon 2015



4

MINI 5-DOOR HATCH, with a nice Backside

Even for non-automotive enthusiasts, there is something about the MINI that produces an emotional response - even a moist patch. The new MINI 5-door hatch adheres to the MINI's iconic design, and introduces with hi-tech tools and additional space. And now with 5 doors, climbing in and out of this orgasmic piece of motor engineering is bound to make any car enthusiast feel like a rock star.

MINI 5-DOOR HATCH
Copyright: BMW Group



3

Gili Lankanfushi, Maldives

"Gili Lankanfushi™, Maldives is an intimate coral island in a sparkling lagoon, with jetties threading across the water out to spacious villa accommodations. Set on the private island of Lankanfushi in the North Malé Atoll it is the ultimate in luxury and it is no surprise that Gil Lankanfushi has won the 2016 Conde Nast Johansens Spa Awards for Excellence in the Best New Comer category - Africa, Indian Ocean and Middle East."

The Private Reserve - Island view
Copyright © 2015 HPL Hotels & Resorts



5

Sustainable Living

Home maybe where the Wi-Fi connects automatically, but sustainable living is an option we should all aspire. The opportunity to inhabit a space with all of the comfort of contemporary living, yet lower the impact on our planet is a desire to which we should all commit. Now, if we can get one of these on the island of Dominica...made of Bamboo and Glass, life would indeed be sublime.

The Edelweiss House, Ottawa, Ontario
Copyright: Ecohome, ecohome.net



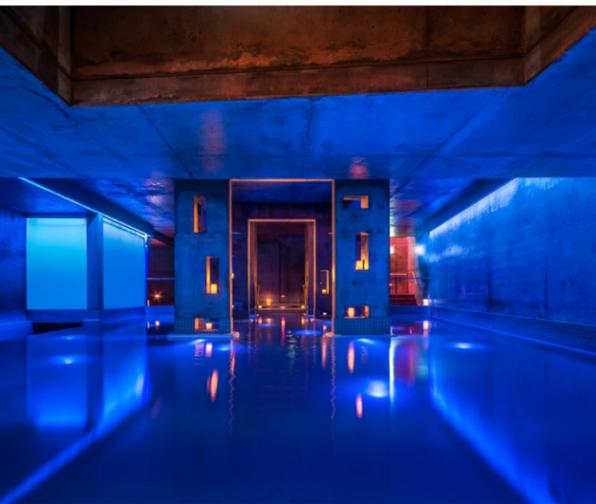
6

Frauscher 1414 Demon Motor Yacht

As a superyacht builder based in the Upper Austria, Frauscher has been building luxury and powerful yacht since 1927. The latest design, the Frauscher 1414 Demon is set to be launched in January 2016 at the Düsseldorf boat show. The generous living space of 13.9 metres is perfect for a family

weekend trip around the Caribbean Sea. The Frauscher 1414 Demon will be their largest motor yacht yet to be designed.

Frauscher 1414 Demon Motor Yacht
Photo credit: Frauscher Boats



7

'Le Nordic', Chelsea, Quebec

There may be small victories that mean just as much as the most lavish gesture and, if you want to shower him, her or yourself in proverbial riches, a visit to 'Le Nordic', the largest spa in North America is highly recommended. Prepare to feel as though you are literally being bathed in luxury. Located in Chelsea, Quebec, you will be amazed at the opulence and indulgence of this extremely well appointed spa. For a truly exhilarating experience a winter visit is a must!

Le Nordic spa, Chelsea, Quebec
Copyright © 2011, Auberge et spa Le Nordik Inc

8

Savile Row: Gieves & Hawkes – Bespoke Suit

The home of bespoke clothing that is

styled, cut and tailored to suit your individual taste and desire is Savile Row, London. Gieves & Hawkes has served every Sovereign of the UK since George III. Current clients include Heads of State, world business leaders, performing artists and noteworthy gentlemen from all over the world. The suits are made in workrooms beneath the shop at No.1 Savile Row, London.



9



Diamonds

Nothing says luxury like diamond, and only one company is called De Beers. Drawing on diamond mastery since 1888, De Beers Jewellery is skillfully designed to showcase outstanding beauty, reflecting the diamond as the ultimate miracle of nature. The creation of exquisite diamond jewellery, from selecting the world's finest diamonds to impeccable craftsmanship and sophisticated designs, is the De Beers difference.

Model Iman wearing a De Beers diamond necklace
Photograph: Reuters

10

Private Island

When the world has over stated it's welcome and you want to let go and walk away from it all, why not set sail to that privately own island. In today's market ownership is 'quite doable' at price starting at around US\$1.7 million. Our destination of choice is the British Virgin Islands and the real estate we have in mind is Buck Island.

Buck Island, BVI, Caribbean
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