

HONG KONG TATLER

# HOMIES

*The insider's guide to luxurious living*

THE CAPTAIN  
UNMATCHED  
ELEGANCE

EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW  
AN UTTERLY UNIQUE  
DEVELOPMENT

5



Greatness Writes Its Own History



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雲滿  
Le Cap

The Peak of the Peak, Kau To Shan

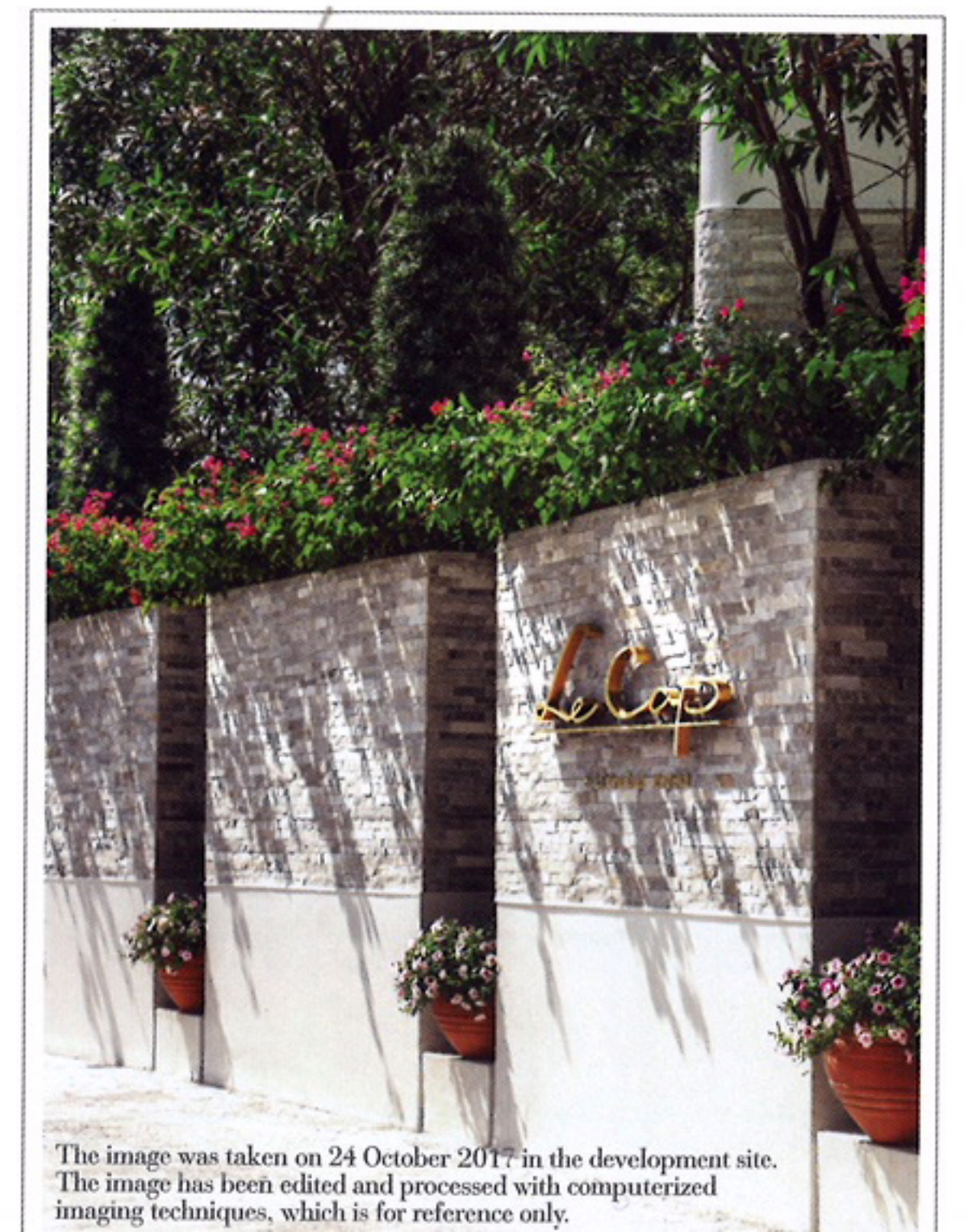
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**ALL IN THE DETAILS**

The apartment residences at Le Cap feature curved architecture and bas-relief works by French artist Michèle Létang. Opposite page: a Lalique chandelier and fresh flowers offer an inviting welcome



# HAND-SCULPTED AND TIMELESS

*Le Cap— at the peak of legendary Kau To Shan, an exclusive and prestigious address— is an unmatched residential gem. Envisioned and brought to life by award-winning French interior designer Pierre-Yves Rochon, this modern Art Deco development is surrounded by natural beauty and lush greenery, with magnificent views of Pat Sin Leng and Tolo Harbour. Sought-after dream residences for the chosen few, Le Cap offers six-star luxury with all the comforts of home*





**NATURAL BEAUTY**  
Views of a breathtaking sunrise from one of residences in Le Cap.

First glimpsed through an enticing wrought-iron gate, Le Cap is a highly individual development in Hong Kong's unspoilt Kau To Shan area. While within convenient reach of the bustling city, this serene, wooded spot is utterly unique in Hong Kong. Standing on the peak of Kau To Shan, Le Cap enjoys breathtaking views of its verdant slopes, Tolo Harbour and the azure ocean.

Beyond Le Cap's elegant gate winds a wide landscaped path fringed with Mediterranean plants—cypress trees, bougainvillea and aromatic lavender. Flanking this are its 1930s modernist-inspired buildings with carved, curved corners. Sculpted from the landscape, these curvilinear buildings are unique in Hong Kong whose architecture is typically hard-edged.

Le Cap offers a multisensory experience: boundless views of blue skies and green slopes meld with the garden's fragrant smells.

Commissioned by premium property developer Wing Tai, Le Cap was designed by internationally renowned French architect and interior designer Pierre-Yves Rochon. Wing Tai has long been impressed by his interiors at Paris's Art Deco Hotel George V and by his subtle refurbishment of its rooms and public areas.

Le Cap embodies Wing Tai's philosophy of sculpting the environment artistically. It reflects its goal of selecting a stunning, unique location, blending architecture with its surroundings and capitalising on views of the landscape. On first



witnessing the site, Rochon was smitten by its natural beauty, which reminded him of the unspoilt landscape of Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat in the South of France, hence the name of Wing Tai's new project. "Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat was my inspiration. It also has an extraordinary view of the sea, nature..." he enthuses. "I was very impressed when I saw Kau To Shan and its amazing vistas. Le Cap would be a very nice place to live in."

Wing Tai's collaboration with the Paris-based designer perfectly illustrates their shared commitment to craftsmanship and detail. At Le Cap, architecture and landscape blend seamlessly. The facades of its 29 houses and 40 apartments are partially constructed from hand-laid bricks made of marble, limestone and quartzite. Echoing the paths' paving, the buildings' brickwork seems to emerge organically from the earth.

Eminent landscape architect Jean Mus, who is based in Grasse, France's perfume-producing centre on the French Riviera, oversaw Le Cap's landscaping. Mus is renowned for his gardens in the South of France, and his involvement at Le Cap lends greater authenticity to the French inspiration behind its landscaping.

The similarity between the climate of Hong Kong and of the South of France allows the Mediterranean plants and trees here to flourish. They were chosen for their textures, reminiscent of the delicate vegetation on the Côte d'Azur, their lively colours—the hot pinks of camellias, the chalky cream of jasmine—while the trees cast dappled shadows. The landscaping is conceived as a street reminiscent of the South of France.

"The buildings' design draws on the 1920s and 1930s modernist architecture of the French Riviera," says Rochon. The area then was synonymous with a luxurious lifestyle,



**RESTFUL SPACES**  
From top: Le Cap's Clubhouse opens to a relaxing swimming pool; the common rooms of the Clubhouse designed by Pierre-Yves Rochon

he points out. Indeed, in the prewar years, the world's intelligentsia and beau monde gathered at its chic resorts.

Le Cap's architecture represents a subtle fusion of two periods as well as the transition between them. "The 1930s bridged the more classic Art Deco period and uncompromisingly contemporary modernism," explains Rochon. "Le Cap is inspired by the transition between these periods." Indeed, while Le Cap's buildings exhibit many modernist traits, from its pared-down facades to its flat roof terraces, they also nod to the Deco period with their softly rounded contours and bas-relief murals picturing water lilies or a Provencal landscape, the latter finely crafted by distinguished French decorative artist Michèle Létang. By seamlessly blending these styles,





Rochon has dreamt up a unique aesthetic that avoids being a pastiche of Deco or of modernism and is timeless and serene.

The accomplished craftsmanship at Le Cap is partly due to Rochon's collaborations with highly proficient artists and craftspeople, including also Eric Renaud, who has created highly refined trompe l'oeil brickwork in some interiors. That said, the vision behind Le Cap is ultimately Rochon's. He has masterminded the project from start to finish, hence its cohesive aesthetic.

Rochon is also passionate about 1930s Parisian interiors, and elegant mirrors in this style decorate parts of Le Cap. One of its major features is its high-ceilinged Clubhouse,

fronted by a mosaic-lined swimming pool concealed by a wall incorporating sculptures of silvery fish and a cascading waterfall—a space both social and private. This sense of privacy is one of Le Cap's key assets, says Rochon: "The Clubhouse is at its heart. Here everyone can relax, meet friends, swim and exercise in private. It's a focal point, located at the very centre of the project."

For Rochon, privacy doesn't simply mean a secluded space, although this is one aspect of it. In fact, the ambience he has created is that of a French *hôtel particulier*, he elaborates. Within Le Cap there are layers of privacy: "The houses have soaring, decorative 1930s-inspired glass and black metal doors



which lead to a lobby with a Parisian feel, then to a private staircase and garden. This privacy within privacy is itself a luxury."

Indeed, for Rochon the concepts of privacy and luxury are intimately linked. He also equates luxury with space and spectacular views. "At Le Cap, the seaview houses measure around 3,300sqft and have gardens," says Rochon. "The houses have a private lift, beautiful staircase and spacious bedrooms. This is true luxury."

Ultimately, Wing Tai's success rests on its collaborations with such internationally renowned architects and designers as Rochon. This accords with its overarching philosophy—"We don't just build, we craft"

—and with Wing Tai's aim to connect its end users with the world's most creative talents. Its reputation is built, too, on its flair for providing added value in Hong Kong's property market where spectacular sites on this compact land mass—notably Le Cap's unique position in Kau To Shan—are a prized commodity. Surrounded by outstandingly beautiful scenery, Le Cap embodies Wing Tai's aim to bring the surrounding environment into its buildings and maximise their views onto the landscape. ①

More information on Le Cap can be found on its website at [www.lecap.com.hk/en](http://www.lecap.com.hk/en)

**ARTIST'S ESCAPE**  
Steps leading up to one of Le Cap's detached three-storey houses, with a sculpture by Marie-Madeleine Gautier. Opposite page: a view of the swimming pool surrounded by Jean Mus' landscaped gardens