

Designer travels

Many a path leads to creativity, as **Jonie Chiu** discovered when she stumbled upon the beauty of Bothos

The Silk Road inspires a great many things. Some people capture Kodak moments of it to tell stories to their family; others document their colourful adventures in a novel. But for Italian designer Luigino Bottos, China's cultural heritage served as a storyboard culminating in the creation of Bothos. "I have a strong connection with the Silk Road," says Bottos. "Not only with the colours, shapes and smells of its different cultures, but also with the fact that it is the road that connects the West to the East."

With over 20 years of experience for a range of Italian fashion houses, Bottos has extensive expertise in leather craftsmanship, covering all aspects of design and production. Dividing his time between Italy and Asia, he hopes to put Hong Kong on the trendsetter map with Bothos – a project that has been brewing in his imagination throughout his explorations into the Far East. "Our concept entails a store, an art gallery, a workshop, and a lounge space – it was created for curious people with a sense of style," explains Bottos. "In particular culturally-aware, urban cool-hunters who seek aesthetics and uniqueness."

Located on Hollywood Road, Bothos is inspiring to say the least: hanging on its walls is artwork from neighbouring Connoisseur and Teresa Coleman art galleries; each trunk and lamp has been




personally collected from Bottos' travels – and they are all available for purchase, even the display case.

Combining inspiration from Bottos' travels with his expertise as a couturier, Bothos products range from leather goods to custom-made jewellery. "Being in store should be a unique experience," adds Bottos, "awakening the curiosity of the customer to look into each item, which will be fashionable for a lifetime. The bags are designed to be 'worn' by the person like an item of couture. I always invite people to wear the bags when they are in the shop." And while the craftsmanship remains very Italian, the designs feature many Eastern-inspired flourishes, like Tibetan beads.

A trip to the Bothos store promises a range of leather beauties, as well as treasures from the designer's travels

Bothos designs do not follow trends. Instead, the brand updates its collections with a different themes. The same concept is applied to sister store Setha Courtesy of Bothos, on Wyndham Street. Eclectic birdcages adorn the ceiling and, as is the case for Bothos, there is an Oriental, artsy ambience to the store. Diverse materials such as ivory, coral, gold and wood are used to produce one-of-a-kind jewellery.

All it takes is a little imagination to think about where the materials were found, and you're on your first steps to your very own journey to the Silk Road... 

www.bothos.com