

## Literati Artspace

For centuries, Chinese craftsmanship had been passed on from generation to generation through apprenticeship. Nevertheless, since the turn of last century, Chinese traditional craftsmanship has gradually lost its adept legacy due to numerous wars and the impact of western lifestyle. The founder of the Literati Artspace wishes to create a place for contemporary literati, in order to let designers, design students and those engaging in the design-related field to have a taste of modern literati lifestyle. Through the Literati Artspace, the founder hopes to promote and reinvigorate the Chinese traditional culture and craftsmanship, as well as to explore the different lifestyles between ancient and contemporary literati.

Under the authoritative Imperial examination system in ancient China, scholars tended to have higher social status, and therefore, the literati's preferences and taste determine different dynasties' aesthetic inclination of arts and its spiritual value. Compare to the literati, the social status of ancient Chinese craftsmen were much lower, but ironically, they had to play the role of "designers" and factory labours of the modern world. In recent years, people's lifestyles have been changing drastically. Designers need to liaise frequently with customers and factories, thus a space for designers, their counterparts and customers to interact is particularly important for the growth and improvement of the related design spectrum. The more customers demand, the better the designers improve. The founder desires to provide such an arena as a linkage for friends who share the same interest in contemporary Chinese culture.

So what exactly is the Literati Artspace? As the Chinese name of the founder "森" indicates, it is combined by three "木", which means wood, representing books, tea and wood sculpture. The place is ideal for friends to chit chat, read, savour tea and experiment woodcarving art. We will also hold various exhibitions and wood sculpture workshops in hopes to gather designers of different fields to start a trend in contemporary Chinese designs.