

A dose of design

Combine the traditional with the ultra modern with our design favourites.

Your first robot friend

From Mitsubishi Heavy Industries comes the future of home robots – Wakamaru. It has face and voice recognition software. It responds to familiar sounds and “learns life rhythms.” In fact the power to converse comes – almost – naturally. Wakamaru can monitor your apartment and remind you of your engagements. www.wakamaru.net

A+ Teach it to play Mahjong

A- Not yet available in Hong Kong, so you'll need to jump on a plane to Japan



Under cover

Protect your most prized CDs with these cool cases from Gumption. Their primitive patterns and fun-loving figures are inspired by the folkloric designs of India's Naga people. Perfect for a music lover who wants to shed those rigid plastic boxes for a decidedly softer touch. www.gumptionstyle.net



A Sets the groove in motion before the tune even starts



Be the photo expert

When you're ready to start taking professional quality pictures, Canon's EOS 350D camera will allow you to pick up SLR digital photography first time. At HK\$7,980, the eight-megapixel CMOS sensor and DIGIC II high-resolution imaging processor gives optimal performance in a compact body. Once you've invested in a professional quality camera, you can learn the skills to go with it at Canon's digital camera school. Basic digital SLR courses start at HK\$450. Email digital_school@chk.canon.com.hk

A+ Now you can even talk like you know what you're doing

Rest assured

Just off Bangkok's Sathorn Road is the newly opened Metropolitan Hotel, the city's latest chic retreat. It's an exceptional example of design bravado, having been transformed from a nondescript YMCA building into a hip new establishment. From the moment you arrive, the Asian minimalist interiors set a stylish tone. The elegant design extends to the two in-house restaurants, Glow and Cy'an. Call +662 625 3333 for reservation details.

A+ Surround yourself with the design spirit



Design in the bag

Actually, a Louis Vuitton bag to be precise. Asia has had a love affair with the LV brand for years. Perhaps that's why LV's design guru, Marc Jacobs, teamed up with one of Japan's most prestigious designers, Takashi Murakami, to produce a new range of bags with flash and style.

A Image is almost everything