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Alan Chan's ChoiceStanley Wong's Choice



Subconscious Values

Media is an important part of a city's development. Considered a mirror on the current state of affairs in modern society, media leads trends and can affect our values of life subconsciously.

In the early days, Hong Kong was already an international city. Hence, media was developed and spanned newspapers, radio stations and TV channels. Due to the lack of entertainment, reading was a common habit among locals. Before the war, a newspaper could easily be set up with a small capital. The newspaper industry boomed even further with advancements in printing technology. Established in 1925, Overseas Chinese Daily News was the oldest Chinese newspaper in Hong Kong faithfully recording our history. In the 50s and 60s, smaller newspapers appeared. Daily Pictorial and Ming Tang Yat Pao were the first entertainment newspapers to use offset colour printing. Children's Paradise infused social values to young kids though its illustrations and stories. Many Hong Kong people learned about traditions associated with Mid-Autumn and Chinese New Year festivals from the beautiful drawings illustrated by founder Lo Koon-chiu.

In the 70s and 80s, Hong Kong's economy soared. This was the golden era of media. The general public's thirst for knowledge grew. Businesses were also looking for a platform for advertising. This led to the popularity of style magazines in addition to mainstream publications. These magazines witnessed Hong Kong as a melting pot for East and West cultures. Established In 1968, Mingpao Weekly launched a 'Book B' during the 80s which offered high quality content on life, social issues and cultural topics. The weekly was also one of the first publications to report on the Paris Fashion Show, ultimately bringing the latest fashion trends to Hong Kong. Pan Gu and Youth's Weekly published in 1972 inspired a new generation with articles on youth culture including music reviews, book reviews and the arts. City Magazine co-founded by Chan Koon-chung in 1976 was the definitive publication on style, culture and social perspective. The magazine's stunning covers, photography and layout was a favourite among yuppies even to this day and is a symbol of the rising middle class in Hong Kong. Eat and Travel Weekly was both commercial and artistic. The 21st century saw the establishment of fashion and style magazines Milk and Cream by trendsetter Takara Mak. Meanwhile, designers Amber Fu and Raymond Lee published RMM, a magazine on design and culture.

During the 80s, YT and Alan Zie Yongder were instrumental in promoting local media. YT transformed Commercial Radio II into a broadcasting platform for local music. Alan Zie Yongder was then the media mogul who published an excess of 30 magazines, almost one magazine every day of the month. Alan Zie Yongder also introduced overseas publications to Hong Kong including Esquire and Penthouse. His deep passion and enormous team efforts are the likes of which never seen before in Hong Kong.

With the popularisation of the Internet and rise in social media platforms, we are entering a new era of media globalisation and democratisation. Internet has become a playing field for traditional media. On the other hand, we are seeing a surge of internet media and bloggers. Newcomers House News, Initium Media and WeMedia01 are saying 'no' to fast reporting culture and are focusing on in-depth analyses, commentaries and news reporting. Together with the power of social media, these two media have become the news source for today's young generation.

The Children's Paradise

Illustrator Lo Koon Chiu co-founded the biweekly kid's magazine The Children's Paradise in 1953. Lo's idea came from a Japanese kid publication Primary Students. The coloured printed magazine illustrated by chief editor Lo and his two protégés Kwok Lai Ming and Lee Shing Fat contained comics strips of stories that convey important life lessons. It covered Chinese historical and fairy tales, some translated Western works, as well as popular Japanese comics such as Doraemon. The magazine cost 60 cents and was wildly popular among kids whom at the time wished to have the latest issue as a birthday gift. Unfortunately, after 1006 issues over 42 years, the longevous magazine stopped publication in 1994.





"The Children's Paradise was my dreamland. It reminded me my childhood memories as my father brought me to the headquarter of Tse Koo Choy in Thomson Road to redeem gifts, and my mother read the story in the book to me. I liked the illustration in the book, especially the pictures of the Mid-Autumn Festival and Chinese Lunar New Year created by Lo K oon-chiu, an outstanding illustrator, who was the first to introduce Doraemon manga into Hong Kong." — Alan Chan

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City Magazine



City Magazine is the quintessential progressive culture magazine, co-founded by John Chan, Peter Dunn, Joseph Yau and Henry Wu in 1976. The four uses the American alternative culture paper The Village Voice as a blueprint for their prototype. The first issue of City Magazine was printed on tabloid size paper with content themed around news and art. The later revamped version in early 80s, is printed as an oversize magazine and continues to diversify its content, covering fashion, interior design, architecture, visual culture and dining. The hottest local stars were invited to grace the front cover for every issue. In addition to its in-depth interviews and thought-provoking essays, the magazine's edgy layout design and visual elements successfully distinguished itself from other mainstream publications, earning loyal readers from middle-class and cultural elites in Hong Kong. Until today, it remains actively promoting the creative culture in Hong Kong.

"I had mixed feelings toward City Magazine. On one hand, its design is aesthetically pleasing and some of its articles are very stylish; but I hated how I couldn't understand half of its content. I didn't know if the articles were overly profound or it was me being rather unwordly. Only when I had entered my thirties did I realize the depth to the articles required a kind of sophisticated lifestyle to truly appreciate each word." — Alan Chan

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Eat and Travel Weekly

It is well known around the world that Hong Kong is the paradise for gourmands, so it is only suiting for the city to have its own reputable food and dining magazine. Eat and Travel Weekly, managed under Next Digital Ltd. covers the latest trends on food and travelling. The magazine regularly reports the best restaurants in town and does in-depth features on travelling destination around the world. The editorial columns, written by celebrity chefs, restaurateurs and sommeliers, provide recipes and an insider's view of food culture. The stunning layout became a benchmark for magazine graphic design. It is inarguably the ultimate food bible of Hong Kong. With the recent shift from print to digital edition in August 2017, the design of past magazines together with hearty reviews would be remembered, especially the cover shots inspired by Japanese aesthetics.

"I am deeply entangled in a love-hate relationship with Eat and Travel Weekly. It always tantalizes my taste buds while reading. Though a lot of gourmet food is shown in the magazine, you can never keep pace with its recommended food tour. Surprise is occasionally found in the magazine cover which was equally worth savouring!" — Alan Chan





House News/Initium Media



In the late 90s, the uprising of the Internet caused print circulation to dwindle, news companies took to social media for more readers. This leads to a proliferation of independent online news among which The House News and Initium Media stood out.

Founded in 2012, The House News was a pioneering local news site that offered news, blogs and social commentaries. Their articles were shared extensively through Facebook, promoting indirectly many key opinion leaders in the process.

Initium Media, another Hong Kong-based news media, followed the footsteps of New York Times' transition to digital journalism. The news site employs a bewildering array of online resources, making slideshows and video, joining social networks and blogging, using map mashups and mobile interactive interface. Its multimedia reporting on the Burmese election sets the bar of the new wave of online journalism.

"Digital Media provides a democratizing yet unregulated playing field for almost anyone to voice their opinion. This gave rise to news outlets of varied quality and hidden agendas. House News and Initium Media stood out as two responsible media companies who consistently cover social and cultural issues in a fair and progressive attitude. Moreover, in-depth analysis and down-to-earth news topic follow closely and meet the needs of Chinese readers." — Stanley Wong

Mingpao Weekly Book B

In the 80s, Ming Pao Weekly was an entertainment weekly magazine that boasted itself as the latest and exclusive source of entertainment news in Hong Kong. As competitors like Next and Eastweek magazine emerged, chief editor Lung King-cheong decided to revamp and expand the magazine into two books. While Book A continues to cover entertainment news, Book B headed by deputy chief editor Jessica Wong, focuses on lifestyle, cultural, social and artistic contents. Ming Pao Weekly has also developed a more authoritative and innovative journalistic practice by conducting in-depth interviews on social related topics and covering international design events and festivals live for Paris Fashion Week and Milan Design Week. Ming Pao Weekly found the balance between entertainment and taste and successfully rebranded itself. Each cover story is an in-depth feature complemented with high quality text and images. Its coverage and comprehensiveness are rarely seen in other local lifestyle magazines.

"I have collected Mingpao Weekly Book B for years but never thrown any one of the collection away. It is like an encyclopedia, enriching my life and understanding to Hong Kong to develop new ways of thinking."

— Alan Chan





"Mr. Long Jingchang established a lifestyle magazine, Book B, a new branch of Mingpao Weekly. I believe that the one who has read Book B agreed that the content and ideology are different from other magazines. Some people even claimed that they have never thrown away any one of the books. It shows the influence of Book B is beyond comparison. Having joined the production team of the book, I sincerely admired Mr. Long and his partner, Ms. Wong Po Yuk for maintaining their original objects of Book B without any regret." — Stanley Wong

Old Hong Kong Entertainment Newspapers

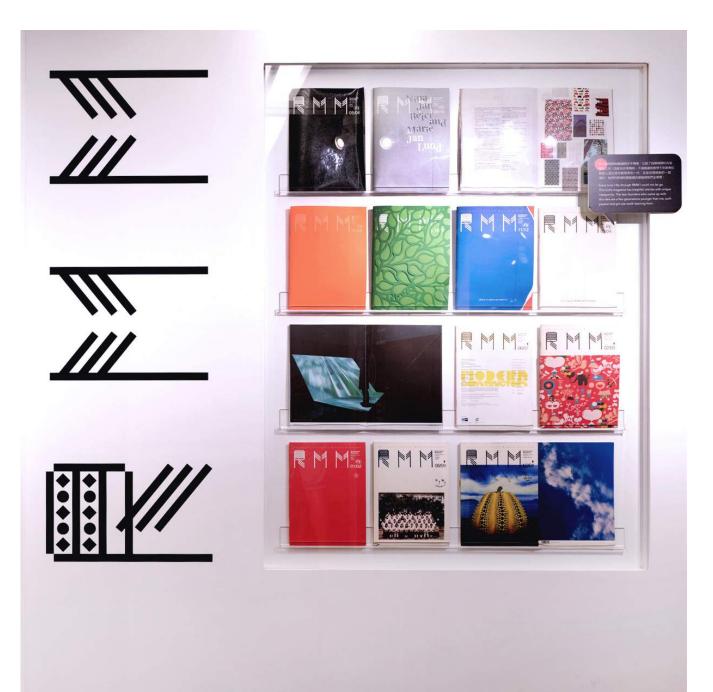


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In the early days, starting a newspaper was rather easy with modest capital. In the 60s, Daily Pictorial was one of the first colour-printed entertainment tabloids. Eye-catching photos of celebrities graced the covers of Ming Tang Yat Pao and Daily Pictorial, providing the public a glimpse into the glamorous life of movie stars and socialites. The newspapers occasionally came with celebrity posters, photos and special supplements, which were sought after by fans. Hung Look Daily News featured erotic serial such as Hot-Tempered Liang's sensuous plot with animated illustration and became quite popular. The tabloid's popularity faded in the 70s as mainstream newspapers such as Ming Pao Daily News increased their coverage on film and television news. Due to the sales competition among the publishing industry in 1995, TV Daily News stopped publishing when its circulation and sales dropped drastically.

Readymade Magazine

Independent design magazine RMM began in 2005 as a project between veteran designer Amber Fu and Raymond Man. Printed on recycled paper, the free magazine had a special theme for each of the 13 issues, denoted by the minimal yet sharp coloured cover. For example, the red cover issue was a China feature while the blue issue highlighted the latest Hong Kong design. The magazine devoted much of its content to promoting innovations from independent artists around the world, from graphic and product design, photography to visual art. The magazine also featured interview pieces with world-renowned creators such as Yayoi Kusama, Yanagi Miwa and Ai Weiwei on their life philosophy. After the print edition was ceased, RMM continues to share design and culture news through different media, including illustration series, online shop and online videos.



Youth's Weekly

"When I was a student in 1960s, I liked singing folk song. Therefore, Youth's Weekly became my spiritual food at that time." — Alan Chan



Founded in 1972 by Roks Lam and Chris Tong, Youth's Weekly was the major source of the latest news in music and culture for youthful audience before the Internet became popular. The content included music critiques, book reviews and essays on arts. Novelist Lilian Lee, TV and radio host Claudia Mo and lyricist Peter Lai, were among the many early well-known contributors. By reading music critiques of Youth's Weekly, teens were introduced to a wave of foreign pop music from around the world. The magazine also accepted reader's submission, giving a platform for youngsters to express themselves. As such, the magazine was a microcosm of local youth culture, recording the literary growth of this generation of young Hongkongers.

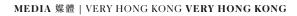
"Youth's Weekly in 70s took the culture and music line. It was the spiritual food of teenagers at that time and enlightened their thoughts in culture." — Stanley Wong

YT Kingdom of Local Radio Broadcasting

Breaking out as the first Commercial Radio DJ at the age of 16 for the breakfast show Morning Friends, YT was known for her impressive eloquence and quick-witted comebacks. In the 70s, YT joined Susie Wong, Ruth Chen, Chan Siu Po and Paul Chung to form the hottest 13-DJ group "6 Pairs and A Half". In the 80s YT became General Manager of Commercial Radio Hong Kong and was promoted to be Deputy Chairman in 2014. YT was an avid promoter of Cantonese songs by restructuring the CR2 programmes through "321 Take Flight" and establishing the Ultimate Song Chart Awards Presentation. Every week YT recapped the latest Cantopop songs and helped reshape the music industry scene. In 2008, YT set up Skyhigh Creative Partners to support and nurture young creative talents. In 2015, YT retired and left Commercial Radio. Many in the cultural scene lamented that it was the end of an era.



"Winnie Yu Tsang, a reporter from Commercial Radio Hong Kong, played a major role at CR2 promoting local music and brought about revolutionary changes to the Hong Kong music industry. Her creativity, vision and contribution to the local music scene have made her an admirable and important figure." — Stanley Wong



Alan Zie Yongder Yongder Hall

Polymath Zie Yongder's publishing career remains a legend in the industry till this day. The idea of publishing came to him one day when he saw the fictional magazine Elegance in the TV soap opera A House is Not A Home. This inspired him to publish a magazine using the same name on his own. He single-handedly finished the photography, design and editorial work in only one week. The debut issue featured the actress Liza Wang from the TV soap opera on its cover. He soon founded the publishing company Yongder Hall. In the late 80s, he partnered with jewellery tycoon Maximilian Ma and published the experimental art magazine Artention. Each issue would invite celebrities to reinterpret famous paintings around the world. At his peak, he published 32 magazines every month, ranging from adult to high culture magazines. He also brought many foreign magazines to the Hong Kong market, including the Chinese edition of Esquire, Penthouse and Marie Claire.



"Alan Zie Yongder has transformed from an 'advertising fanatic' to a 'publishing fanatic'. At its peak, his brand, Yongder Hall has published over thirty magazines per month, which was on average a magazine per day published. It can be imagined how highly efficient and flexible the team was. I am convinced there never was and never will be such a passionate team."

— Stanley Wong

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Milk

Milk is one of the many projects by fashion influencer Takara Mak. Founded in 2001, the fashion magazine has since become one of the major sources of fashion and trend news in Hong Kong. Not only as the main promoter behind fashion brands such as Stussy and The Bathing Ape, it is regarded as a trendsetter catering to youth subculture, Milk aims to provide a publishing alternative for which the contemporary movements in art and design, street and pop culture could be shared and celebrated. With a strong admiration for Japanese approach to magazine creation and referencing urban street publications from London, Los Angeles and New York, Milk feature distinctive design and editorial angles in both content and layout.



"Having worked as a columnist for Milk for two years, the magazine's role in my life resembles that of a girlfriend. We meet every week, and entangle with each other in our dreams every night. At that time, I had to finish an article every week. The moment I finish the article; I need to start working on the next. Although the process was sometimes anxious and stressful, the results were always rewarding, just like the sense of fulfilment you would get in a romantic relationship with someone." — Alan Chan



Overseas Chinese Daily News



First launched in 1925, Overseas Chinese Daily News (OCDN) was the longest standing Chinese newspaper in Hong Kong. It had a huge influence on the development of Hong Kong and South China news industry and remained as an important historical asset for research. Formerly a newspaper specialised in commerce news, it was published by The Association of Commerce for Chinese Expatriate in Hong Kong and subsequently renamed to OCDN after entrepreneur Shum Wai-yau acquired the newspaper. The newspaper soon grew in popularity and became the largest newspaper in post-war Hong Kong, heralding a modern news industry. OCDN was also one of the few official gazettes recognised by the government, thus was regarded as an important news source in the commercial sector. OCDN contributed to the development of local news industry when Shum's heir Shum Choi Sang together with The Kung Sheung Daily News, Sing Tao Daily and South China Morning Post facilitated the establishment of Newspaper Society of Hong Kong in 1954.

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Cream

Cream was founded in 2002 by trendsetter Takara Mak, who also spearheaded Milk. Cream is a subculture magazine about fashion, design, culture and everything in between. It served a niche audience and was only sold in specific bookstores. Cream was a conceptual magazine from its content to editorial design. Every issue was itself a design object made with a strong intention to evoke a mindful retrospection of urban lifestyle, bringing its reader surprises. Indeed, from the start, Cream was created as an alternative of the commercial-oriented and ad-heavy Milk, the magazine is much more selfaware and contemplative about trend and culture.

