

bangkok 101

august 2010
100 baht

SHOPHOUSES – 4 x 8m
Photography by Peter Nitsch



I on 1:
CHERIE HAUSLER

Metrobeat:
NAPA ON 26

Very Thai:
**NICKNAMES &
NAMECARDS**

Daytrip:
KOH SI CHANG

Upcountry Escape:
SAM ROI YOT

Making Merit:
AFECT

shopper scene

As clichés go, “shop till you drop” could have been written after a demanding spending spree in Bangkok’s sweltering heat. And while we’re dispensing mindless platitudes: there’s something for everyone in this town, however peculiar your peccadilloes may be. For locals, conspicuous consumption in one of the myriad swish mega-malls is the name of the face-gaining game, while foreigners often prefer to dig for buried treasure at the bustling street markets. Whatever your angle, stamina is a must, especially when it comes to pressing sticky flesh with the perspiring masses at the sweltering city-sized jumble sale that is Chatuchak Weekend Market. So brush up on your bargaining patter, arm yourself with Nancy Chandler’s invaluable shopping map - and prepare for sheer retail overload.

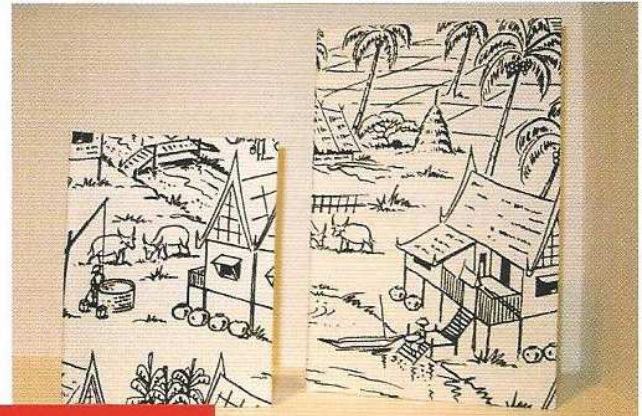


UNIQUE BOUTIQUE



KHOMAPASTR

Silk may be synonymous with Thai textiles, but at Khomapastr it's all about durable, comfortable and cheaper cotton. This has been the case ever since its founder, his Royal Highness Prince Bovoradej, worked out how to screen-print traditional Thai designs onto the natural fibre back in 1948. Most famous of its designs – many of which were adapted from books on classical Thai motifs housed at Bangkok’s National Museum – is the “Lai Pa Kiao”, or gold hand print, a complex design that was traditionally used for garments worn by the Royal Family. This Khomapastr signature has appeared in Thai theatre productions, and pops up left, right and centre in many well-to-do Thai homes, including the Royal Family’s Vimanek Mansion. And it remains a best-seller to this day at their three shops, one down in Hua Hin, where Khomapastr was founded, the other two in Bangkok, appearing on everything from cushion covers and head pillows to homeware items. But this design classic isn't all they sell. Over the past 60 years, Khomapastr has created over 1,000 designs, ranging from twists on Thai motifs, literary characters and mythological creatures, to pastoral depictions of Siamese lifestyles. There are also lots of nattier European-style plant, animal, fruit and graphic designs available, some modern and Laura-Ashley like, others clearly channelling English textile hero William Morris. This may seem a bit odd to those used to seeing textile shops here packed with staunchly homespun silks, but makes perfect sense in the context of Hua Hin, a beach resort town that took on a breezy European elan back in the late 19th century. Don't see a pattern you like among Khomapastr's clothes, accessories and homeware range? Fortunately, all fabrics are available by the metre.



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www.khomapastrfabrics.com
PRICE B250&360/yard

