



Asia got its first taste of Istanbul design studio Autoban's traditional influences and sleek contemporary approach at 208 Duecento Otto, the Italian restaurant in Hong Kong that's owned by Singaporean entrepreneur Yenn Wong.

This eatery, which opened in 2010, was Autoban's first project outside their native Turkey. The studio put their distinctive stamp on the interiors, making the restaurant Autoban's de facto Hong Kong showroom. Signature raw materials, such as steel and

Above left: the Reedy modular bookcase was inspired by tall, grass-like plants.

Above right: Caglar (left) and Ozdemir's first assignments were interior projects in Istanbul.

Facing page: Autoban used elements from East and West to design 208 Duecento Otto.

polished walnut, were imported for the pillars and floors. The walls are covered with glazed Dutch blue-and-white tiles printed with antique Chinese illustrations. Slatted walnut Slice chairs and birdcage-like Nest lounge chairs fill the two-storey space on Hollywood Road. Also present is Autoban's Holy table, which is reminiscent of an altar and intended to reflect the ceremonial nature of dining together, even in modern times.

Fast forward three busy years and Autoban's Seyhan Ozdemir and Sefer Caglar, along with their team of 35 architects