



THE PHOTO STORY

High Kong

“ In 2009, I was working in Tokyo as a graphic artist. I had graduated from university in France, and wanted to keep travelling in Asia. While I was in Japan, I heard many good things about Hong Kong and how futuristic it looked, so I decided to

go witness it for myself. I was impressed from first sight, and grew fonder the more I saw of it.

The Vertical Horizon project came naturally. In 2011, as I was exploring different districts of Hong Kong, I took many photos and among them a few were shot with a ‘vertical horizon’ angle. I gathered these shots together, and the idea of making a larger series came up. Hong Kong being such a vertical city, I was sure

I could find more of these angles.

This is a relentlessly growing city. These kinds of shots emphasise the large scale of the structures around us, which stand in humbling contrast to our own little being. ”

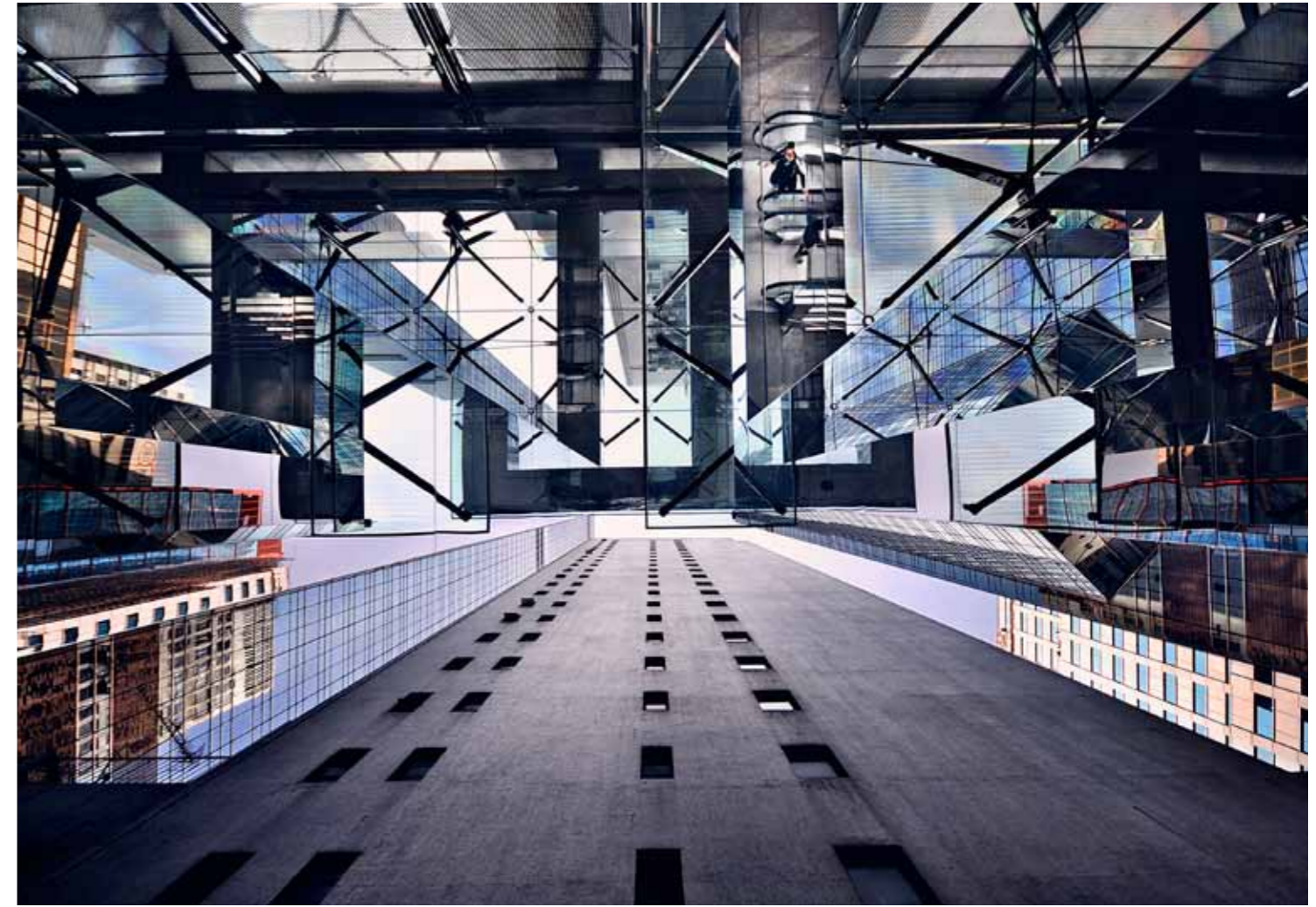


ROMAIN JACQUET-LAGRÈZE'S book *Vertical Horizon* (£22; Asia One) can be ordered via his website at rjl-art.com.

‘In Hong Kong, 70 per cent of the territory is composed of mountains and land unsuitable for construction, so buildings have to pack in one next to another. This photo is shot in the district of Quarry Bay, in a narrow alley between some old-style residential buildings, and a taller and newer one on the left.’ →



'On the Kowloon side, Canton Road is a shopping paradise for many tourists, as well as their temporary home, thanks to its plentiful selection of hotels. The China Hong Kong City complex, pictured here, is probably trying to attract people who have a crush for gold.'



'Central is the business district of Hong Kong, and the real estate is so scarce that most of the towers have been built on reclaimed land. This tower is called The Center, and at 346m it's the fifth-tallest skyscraper in Hong Kong. At its base, a myriad of mirrors create a maze of reflections.'



'This traditional shopping centre has a very different atmosphere to the modern ones that look the same everywhere in the world. It has a roller coaster on the top floor. Unfortunately it's not running, probably for safety reasons.'



'Temple Street Market welcomes tourists every day and night from all over the world, like the flags that are hung above the crossing with Nanking Street. There's all kinds of bargains here, from electronic goods to counterfeit fashions.'



'Fuk Wa Street is in Sham Shui Po, at the north end of Kowloon. It's one of the oldest residential districts of Hong Kong, characterised by its comparatively low-rise architecture, with a lot of markets and shops at street level.'



'This residential building in the New Territories has a unique style of architecture. I don't have a specific way to select buildings – I simply look up as much as possible, and when I see a pattern that catches my attention, I shoot.'