

/shop•house/: 100 OLD SHOPS AND TOWNHOMES, 100 WAYS TO SEE TAIWAN

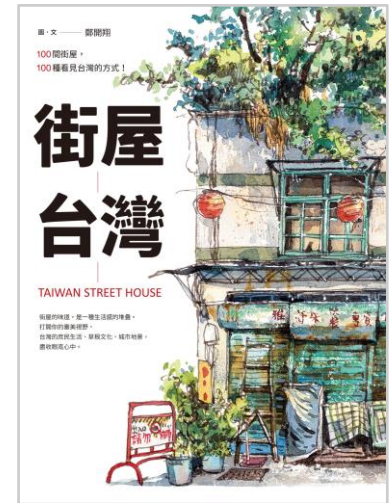
街屋台灣：100 間街屋，100 種看見台灣的方式！

Author and watercolorist Cheng Kai-Hsiang travels around Taiwan, painting over one hundred old street-facing shops and townhomes and learning their stories.

The Taiwanese townhome, like the *machiya* that once defined traditional downtown quarters in Japan, is a street-facing edifice that puts passersby and inhabitants in immediate proximity to one another. Once a popular venue for shops, some have also been transformed into modern homes. Enamored of their style and atmosphere, painter Cheng Kai-Hsiang tells their stories in ink and image.

With his quick-setup painting kit at his side, Cheng travels the whole of Taiwan to lay eyes on townhomes in many different cities. His brush captures the many eccentricities and delightful details of their architecture, including their signs, wares, and windows. Each of the one hundred paintings in the final book is accompanied by a detailed record of where the building is, when it was painted, and what else might be known about it.

Cheng's meticulous record-keeping and eye for captivating detail make this beautiful book of interest to both the casual tourist and the historian. He presents the Taiwanese townhome so vividly that readers can almost feel the air and hear the downtown sounds around them as they look through the grand windows of these icons of grassroots Taiwanese culture.



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Cheng Kai-Hsiang 鄭開翔

Cheng Kai-Hsiang is a painter of the urban instant. The first-ever professional artist to depict Taiwanese townhome culture in ink and image, his brush captures urban architecture as moments in human time. He has traveled and painted throughout Taiwan, as well as in Osaka, Xiamen, and Singapore.

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By Cheng Kai-Hsiang

Translated by Mary King Bradley

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