



Advanced Audio Blog S1

House Hunting in China: Part 2

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Traditional Chinese

租屋2

一開始，我搵屋 嘅標準就係一個字 - 平！只要平，點都得，慳落嚟嘅錢可以食九大簋，又可以買靚衫！但係我高估左自己嘅忍耐力，當我親眼見到八百蚊一個月嘅平房，唔到十坪，冇洗手間，冇沖涼房，冇廚房，最慘就係，十幾個人共用一個廁所之後，我就默默離開了。我同自己講，你一定可以搵到好樓嘅。終於有一間嚟我公司附近嘅大房，二十坪，有裝修，包傢私，都唔駛一千蚊一個月，我興奮都想即刻簽約，但係有個好心人嗌我唔好租，我返去上網一查，原來呢間屋鬧鬼...

後來我發現，平到幾百蚊嘅樓只有三類，一係就冇雷公咁遠，每日搭地鐵出市區就要個半鐘；一係就溶溶爛爛，爛過爛尾樓；仲有一類就係鬼屋。於是從嗰時開始，我嘅搵屋標準就改做個字 - 近。我將屋租標準定係兩千五以下，位置定係公司附近地鐵兩站之內。於是我前前後後又睇左幾間，都唔鍾意。難得睇中咗一間，結果俾人快我一個鐘頭訂走咗。我恨到咬晒牙。

吸取教訓之後我通宵上網搵屋，半夜發短信同人哋約時間，第二日一早去睇樓。就係以呢種接近瘋狂嘅精神我終於搵到咗一間三十坪嘅大房，嚟正地鐵口，前有食街，後有酒吧街，兩千四蚊一個月，超豪華裝修，雙人大床液晶大電視，而且唔單止有陽臺，仲有吧臺添！今次我一秒鐘都冇猶豫，即刻落訂，過兩個禮拜就可以搬屋啦！

Jyutping

zou1 uk1 ji6

jat1 hoi1 ci2 , ngo5 wan2 uk1 ge3 biu1 zeon2 zau6 hai6 jat1 go3 zi6 - peng4 ! zi2 jiu3 peng4 , dim2 dou1 dak1 , haan1 lok6 lai4 ge3 cin2 ho2 ji5 sik6 gau2 daai6 gwai2 , jau6 ho2 ji5 maai5 leng3 saam1 ! daan6 hai6 ngo5 gou1 gu2 zo2 zi6 gei2 ge3 jan2 noi6 lik6 , dong1 ngo5 can1 ngaan5 gin3 dou2 baat3 baak3 man1 jat1 go3 jyut6 ge3 ping4 fong4 , m4 dou3 sap6 ping4 , mou5 sai2 sau2 gaan1 , mou5 cung1 loeng4 fong2 , mou5 ceoi4 fong2 , zeoi3 caam2 zau6 hai6 , sap6 gei2 go3 jan4 gung6 jung6 jat1 go3 ci3 so2 zi1 hau6 , ngo5 zau6 mak6 mak6 lei4 hoi1 laak3 。 ngo5 tung4 zi6 gei2 gong2 , nei5 jat1 ding6 ho2 ji5 wan2 dou2 hou2 lau2 ge3 。 zung1 jyu1 jau5 jat1 gaan1 hai2 ngo5 gung1 si1 fu6 gan6 ge3 daai6 fong2 , ji6 sap6 ping4 , jau5 zong1 sau1 , baau1 gaa1 si1 , dou1 m4 sai2 jat1 cin1 man1 jat1 go3 jyut6 , ngo5 hing1 fan5 dou3 soeng2 zik1 haak1 cim1 joek3 , daan6 hai6 jau5 go3 hou2 sam1 jan4 aai3 ngo5 m4 hou2 zou1 , ngo5 faan1 heoi3 soeng5 mong5 jat1 caa4 , jyun4 loi4 ni1 gaan1 uk1 naau6 gwai2 ...

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hau6 loi4 ngo5 faat3 jin6 , peng4 dou3 gei2 baak3 man1 ge3 lau4 zi2 jau5 saam1 lei6 , jat1 lei6 zau6 hai6 mou5 lei4 gung1 gam3 jyun5 , mui5 jat6 daap3 dei6 tit3 ceot1 si5 keoi1 zau6 jiu3 go3 bun3 zung1 ; jat1 hai6 zau6 jung4 jung4 laan6 laan6 , laan6 gwo3 laan6 mei5 lau2 ; zung6 jau5 jat1 lei6 zau6 hai6 gwai2 uk1 。 jyu1 si6 cung4 go2 si4 hoi1 ci2 , ngo5 ge3 wan2 uk1 biu1 zeon2 zau6 goi2 zo2 go3 zi6 - kan5 。 ngo5 zoeng1 uk1 zou1 biu1 zeon2 ding6 hai2 loeng5 cin1 ng5 ji5 haa6 , wai6 zi3 ding6 hai2 gung1 si1 fu6 gan6 dei6 tit3 loeng5 zaam6 zi1 noi6 。 jyu1 si6 ngo5 cin4 cin4 hau6 hau6 jau6 tai2 zo2 gei2 gaan1 , dou1 m4 zung1 ji3 。 naan4 dak1 tai2 zung3 zo2 jat1 gaan1 , git3 gwo2 bei2 jan4 faai3 ngo5 jat1 go3 zung1 tau4 deng6 zau2 zo2 。 ngo5 han6 dou3 ngaau5 saai3 ngaa4 。

kap1 ceoi2 gaau3 fan3 zi1 hau6 ngo5 tung1 siu1 soeng5 mong5 wan2 uk1 , bun3 je6 faat3 dyun2 seon3 tung4 jan4 dei6 joek3 si4 gaan3 , dai6 ji6 jat6 jat1 zou2 heoi3 tai2 lau2 。 zau6 hai6 ji5 ni1 zung2 zip3 gan6 fung1 kong4 ge3 zing1 san4 ngo5 zung1 jyu1 wan2 dou2 zo2 jat1 gaan1 saam1 sap6 ping4 ge3 daai6 fong2 , hai2 zeng3 dei6 tit3 hau2 , cin4 jau5 sik6 gaai1 , hau6 jau5 zau2 baa1 gaai1 , loeng5 cin1 sei3 man1 jat1 go3 jyut6 , ciu1 hou4 waa4 zong1 sau1 , soeng1 jan4 daai6 cong4 , jik6 zing1 daai6 din6 si6 , ji4 ce2 m4 daan1 zi2 jau5 joeng4 toi2 , zung6 jau5 baa1 toi2 tim1 ! gam1 ci3 ngo5 jat1 miu5 zung1 dou1 mou5 jau4 jyu6 , zik1 haak1 lok6 deng6 , gwo3 loeng5 go3 lai5 baai3 zau6 ho2 ji5 bun1 uk1 laak3 !

English

At first, my only standard for renting an apartment was that it only had to be cheap! Nothing but cheap! The money I saved from rent, I could use to buy delicious food to eat. Or I could buy more designer clothes! But I had overestimated my tolerance when I saw the bungalow was less than ten square meters, with neither a washroom, bathroom, or kitchen. The worst thing was that about ten more people were using one toilet. Having to pay eight hundred dollars per month, I silently walked away from the place.

"You can find a better house!" I kept telling myself. Eventually, I found a big apartment next to my office that was twenty square meters with decent interior decoration, including the furniture, for less than one thousand dollars per month. I was so excited that I wanted to sign the contract immediately; but there was a good-natured man asking me not to rent the apartment. I went back home and searched on the Internet, only to find out that the house was haunted...

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Later, I figured something out. The very low rent apartments can be defined by three categories. The first category is far from the city center, and you need to take the subway for over an hour and a half to get to the city. The second category is really old buildings with everything inside the room rotting away. The third category is a haunted house.

From that time on, I changed my standards for renting an apartment to nearby, below twenty-five hundred dollars per month, and within two subway stations from my office.

I looked up some apartments late at night online, but I wasn't satisfied with the choices. Actually, I found one house that was really suitable by the end of the day, but someone had already booked it one hour earlier before me. That really drove me crazy.

After learning this lesson, I found an apartment online overnight, sending a message to the landlord at midnight to confirm the time that I could get a walk-through of the apartment and then go there immediately the next morning.

With this crazy method, I eventually found a thirty square-meter apartment next to the subway station. There are plenty of restaurants in the front and bars located on the back street. There was a luxuriously decorated room with a double bed, big TV, a balcony, and even a mini bar! That only cost me twenty-four hundred dollars a month. I did not hesitate for one second to pay the deposit. I can move in two weeks from now!

Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
猶豫	jau4 jyu6	to hesitate
洗手間	sai2 sau2 gaan1	washroom
沖涼房	cung1 loeng4 fong4	bathroom
廚房	cyu4 fong2	kitchen
廁所	ci3 so2	toilet
上網	soeng5 mong5	surfing the net
瘋狂	fung1 kwong4	crazy
陽台	joeng4 toi4	balcony
鬼屋	gwai2 uk1	haunted house

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

唔好再猶豫了，一有機會就捉住佢。	m4 hou2 zoi3 jau4 jyu6 le6 , jat1 jau5 gei1 wui6 zau6 zuk1 zyu6 keoi5。	Don't hesitate; seize the first opportunity that comes along!
洗手間係邊？ 我喺沖涼房訓著左。	sai2 sau2 gaan1 hai6 bin1? ngo5 hai2 cung1 loeng4 fong4 fan3 zoek6 zo2。	Where is the washroom? I fell asleep in the bathroom.
我喺廚房入面。	ngo5 hai2 cyu4 fong2 jap6 min6。	I am inside the kitchen.
佢要去廁所。 我嘅興趣係上網。	keoi5 jiu3 heoi3 ci3 so2。 ngo5 ge3 hing3 ceoi3 hai6 soeng5 mong5。	He wants to go to the toilet. My hobby is surfing the net.
你快讓我瘋狂了！	nei5 faai3 joeng6 ngo5 fung1 kwong4 liu5!	You almost drove me crazy!
我喜歡在陽台看日落。	ngo5 hei2 fun1 zoi6 joeng4 toi4 hon3 jat6 lok6。	I like watching the sunset from the balcony.
我唔鍾意入鬼屋玩，俾錢買難受。	ngo5 ng4 zung1 ji3 jap6 gwai2 uk1 waan2 bei2 cin2 maai5 naan6 sau6。	I don't like going to haunted houses, it's like paying to suffer.

Cultural Insight

Dealing with the Landlords

Renting an apartment in Hong Kong in general, you are paying two months of rent-one for deposit. The landlord is not a person whom you get along with, but it doesn't matter if he is not always gossiping with you. In fact, if the landlord wants to increase rent, the law provides for it to be made one month earlier; if you do not want to live there, you can look for another apartment first and bargain with him when you have found somewhere to live. That makes you not be so passive and faze.

房東

在香港租房子一般租金都是壓一付一，房東一般都是不太好說話的，但是沒有關係，最重要的是不要老煩著你就可以了，其實如果房東要加租的，法律規定了要提早一個月提出，如果你不想住了，你可以先找好房子，再和房東議價，那就不用那麼被動，也不用狼狽了。