

## As one door closes, another opens – but for quite a different crowd



As one old-school hotel, The Ritz-Carlton, closed its doors on Friday night, hip new serviced apartments opened in Sheung Wan. The party for Alex Bent and Dinesh Nihalchand's third Kush property - called 222, which is their address on Hollywood Road - proved to be the event of the night for the young social crowd. Held across the street from 222, they transformed the Mr Beans Cafe into a nightclub almost as stylish as their apartments.

"We want them to be edgy and also sexy without being cheesy," Bent said in describing the sleek 650 sq ft rentals. The two owners certainly spared no expense for the launch bash. Every guest was given a Kush bathrobe. As the night wore on, some

folk, like Carat Jewellery's Scott Thompson, adopted the Hugh Hefner look and wore it for show.

Another guy who had a good time was designer Johnny Wong (pictured with partner Miho Hirabayashi). His firm, Fak3, created the hip living quarters. "It's easy to create a 'wow' factor, but to make something that actually works, that's harder," Wong said. Although he designs trendy Hong Kong hot spots, these days the eccentric stylist is rarely in one. "That's because I moved to Shenzhen about six months ago. This is the first party I've gone to in a long time. You'd be surprised how many interesting places there are up there now."