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Residential Club House – 1,500 msq University Town, Guangzhou, China

iaoguwei Island in Guangzhou's Panyu District is now perhaps best known for being a hub of education. Ten universities have campuses in the area, and as such the island has come to be known as University Town.

The latest addition to the landscape here is University Garden Club House, University Town, Guangzhou, China(大學小築住客會所一中國廣 州大學城), which also features a 16,000-square foot residential clubhouse spanning three levels with a sweeping rotunda space connecting the ground and first floors. A fusion of traditional Chinese and modern materials, the prominent textures — clay brick, slick mirror, stainless steel — evoke a unique sensation of both contemporary and Asian charm. Among the facilities in the clubhouse are a mini-cinema, a billiards room, a table tennis room, fitness centre, a children's room, a yoga studio and a painting room.

Hong Kong-based Else Design, which has a broad portfolio in China and Southeast Asia and wealth of experience in attempting to marry modern space demands with a communityoriented living environments, designed the clubhouse. It was suggested to the client that if the original architectural design - which placed the dominating staircase at the entrance lobby - was relocated to the central rotunda it would create a centripetal spatial arrangement that would take advantage of the 270-degree view of the surrounding scenery through the structure's rounded glazed façade. The metallic sculptural chandelier above the stairs becomes the project's second focal point for its constantly changing reflections, whose images come from both artificial and natural surroundings.

