

# KOWLOON WALLED CITY: A CINEMATIC JOURNEY

MOVIE SET EXHIBITION

九龍城寨  
圓城

TWILIGHT OF THE WARRIORS:  
WALLED IN



## EXHIBITION ROOM 1

### THE FLOWER BOARD AT THE ENTRANCE; THE WALLED CITY KAIFONG ASSOCIATION

A flower board is a large decorative display used in traditional religious festivals, grand openings and inauguration ceremonies. During Yu Lan Festival, a deities shed, effigies of the Ghost King and a bamboo shed theatre will be erected. Residents of the Kowloon Walled City burnt paper offerings in the streets to pray for peace and safety during Yu Lan Festival.

In the film "Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In", a pivotal turning point takes place during Yu Lan Festival. Shortly after King, the villain, seized control of the Walled City, he exploits the occasion and throws his weight about, tyrannising residents openly. The four heroes of the Walled City, namely CHAN Lok-kwan, Shin, Twelfth Masters and AV, return to the place that was once their shelter and pledge to protect their home from the impending peril.



## EXHIBITION ROOM 2

### GROCERY STORE

A shabby place at first glance but these stores were like a "treasure trove" to the residents of the Walled City. These stores were only several square feet in size, with shelves stacked high up to the ceiling and packed with everyday goods such as comics, glass bottled soft drinks, milk candies and preserved fruits, which are part of the childhood memory of many people. These stores also served as social hubs where residents gathered to chat and exchange gossip. An iconic scene from "Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In" takes place in a grocery store where the protagonist CHAN Lok-kwan buys a packet of chocolate beans in the shape of a pair of spectacles, which he uses it as a disguise during the fight for his fellow workers against the bullies.

### BONE-SETTING CLINIC

Bone-setting clinics provide folk medicine for injuries and have a very long history in Hong Kong. They were especially common in the Walled City. During those days, many factory workers and coolies worked in harsh conditions and suffered from various injuries. They all resorted to treatments at these clinics. AV, one of the characters in "Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In", runs a bone-setting clinic in the Walled City under Cyclone's wing. Cyclone has been suffering from a severe illness and AV helps him conceal the truth from others, in the hope that his mentor to whom he is deeply indebted can live out the rest of his days in peace.



## EXHIBITION ROOM 3 FISH BALL FACTORY

In “Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In”, the protagonist CHAN Lok-kwan flees to the Walled City, where he takes his first job in a fish ball factory, an important food production industry there. These factories used inexpensive fish to make springy and bouncy fish balls, which were very popular among the locals and were even exported overseas. At that time, most of these factories were unlicensed and operated round the clock, embodying the unique survival tactics in the Walled City and the underground economy there.

In the film, CHAN meets a little girl, a fellow worker in the factory who shows him genuine care. He tastes kindness and develops sense of belongings for the first time after years of being rootless, and ultimately decides to settle there.



## EXHIBITION ROOM 4 DENTAL CLINIC

Unlicensed dental clinics are commonly found in the Walled City. There were over 150 of them in their heyday. Though poorly equipped, these clinics were the only option available to many low-income patients. Even those living outside the Walled City were attracted to the dental care there.

The story of “Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In” is set in the mid-1980s when businesses in the Walled City had moved out one after another and the entire area was in its twilight years. The only exception was the dental clinics, which continued to provide affordable dental services to people beyond the enclave and were among the businesses that still thrived in the final days of the Walled City.

## EXHIBITION ROOM 5

# ROOFTOP OF LIGHT AND SHADOW IN THE WALLED CITY

The rooftops of Kowloon Walled City formed a labyrinthine network. In these cramped yet vibrant spaces, residents hung their washing, enjoyed the cool air and had small talks, while children chased and played with each other. Some even lounged on bamboo chairs, gazing at the city lights beyond the enclave.

The most unique view from the rooftops, however, was the low-flying planes. Residents were all used to the planes flying low over the rooftops with deafening noises.

In "Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In", these rooftops become the stage of the final life-and-death battle between the four Walled City heroes and the villainous King.



## EXHIBITION ROOM 6

# NARROW ALLEYS AND HIDDEN STREETS

Kowloon Walled City was a self-sustaining enclave. Its narrow alleys were teemed with small businesses such as tailor shops, cobbler's kiosks, appliance repair shops, and plastic molding workshops. Craftsmen earned their living with their skills and family-run operations hummed day and night. In their packed, narrow dwellings, residents carved out lives for themselves.

By day, vendors hawked goods and children played around; by night, the aroma of hearty meals filled the humble food stalls and overflowed into the warmly lit alleys.

"Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In" vividly recreates the chaos and disorder of the Walled City in the 80s while reflecting the Hong Kong spirit — no matter how difficult the situation is, people strive to survive and fight against all odds.

## EXHIBITION ROOM 7 BARBER SHOP

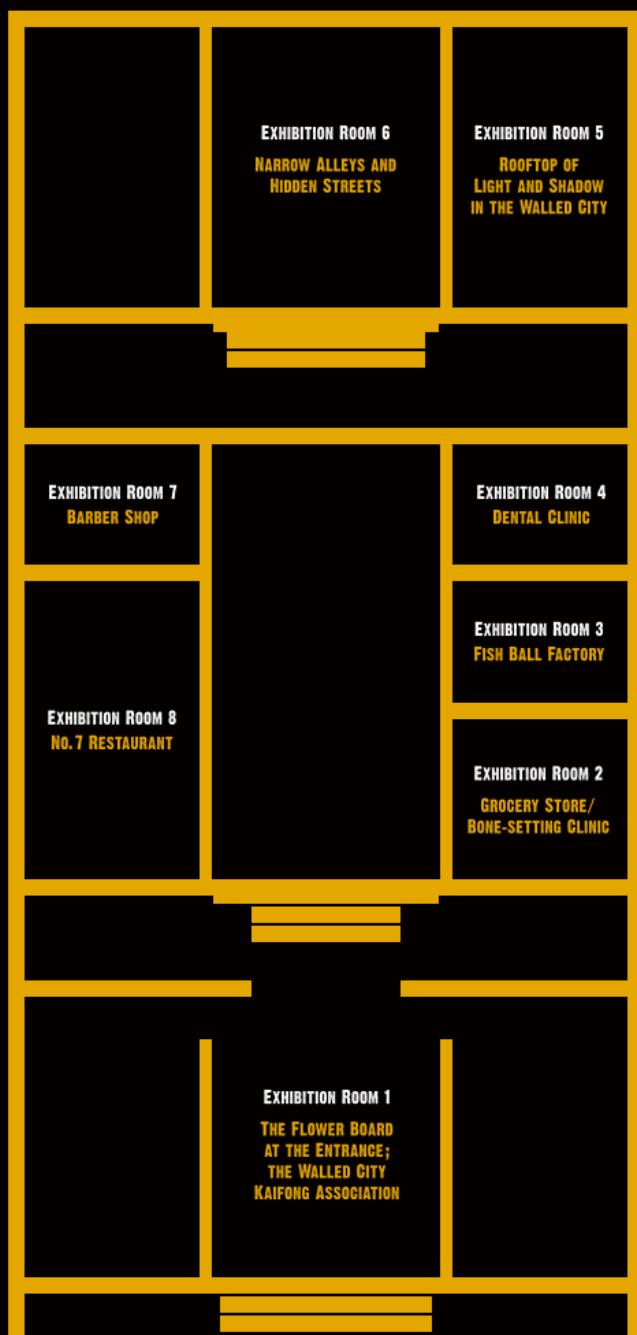
In “Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In”, the protagonist Cyclone, though a martial arts master, chooses to live discreetly in this barber shop. The space has not only been his source of livelihood but also serves as the base for the Walled City Peacekeeping Committee. Bearing the responsibility of maintaining order in the enclave, Cyclone specialises in resolving issues and mediating disputes in the neighbourhood. The barber shop is also where CHAN Lok-kwan, upon entering the Walled City, crosses paths with Cyclone. The most pivotal scene in the film also unfolds at this place — as Cyclone shaves CHAN's beard, their casual chat rekindles old memories of Cyclone, and brings about CHAN's resolve to stay in the Walled City and become a member of the enclave.



## EXHIBITION ROOM 8 NO. 7 RESTAURANT

In “Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In”, No. 7 Restaurant is named after its owner Double Blade (whose Chinese name means “seven”), a brother of Cyclone. Humble in appearance, the restaurant is the everyday canteen for residents of the Walled City. It is renowned for its iconic Roasted Pork Rice — the roasted pork with its layers of fat and lean meat, served with a fried egg and steaming rice, offering an unforgettable taste for both the residents and the protagonist, CHAN Lok-kwan.

When CHAN first arrives at the Walled City, Cyclone houses him at No. 7 Restaurant to help him settle. The buzzing restaurant is like a small community centre where residents gather and chat over meals. As the story unfolds, the restaurant also bears witness to several important moments in the film. Yet, despite the changes in the outside world, the aroma of Roasted Pork Rice always lingers at No. 7 Restaurant, solacing the drifters in the Walled City with a sense of warmth and belonging.



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