

The Muslim District, Xi'an | Local storefronts



The Muslim District, Xi'an | Commercial Benefitial storefronts

ENQUIRY 01

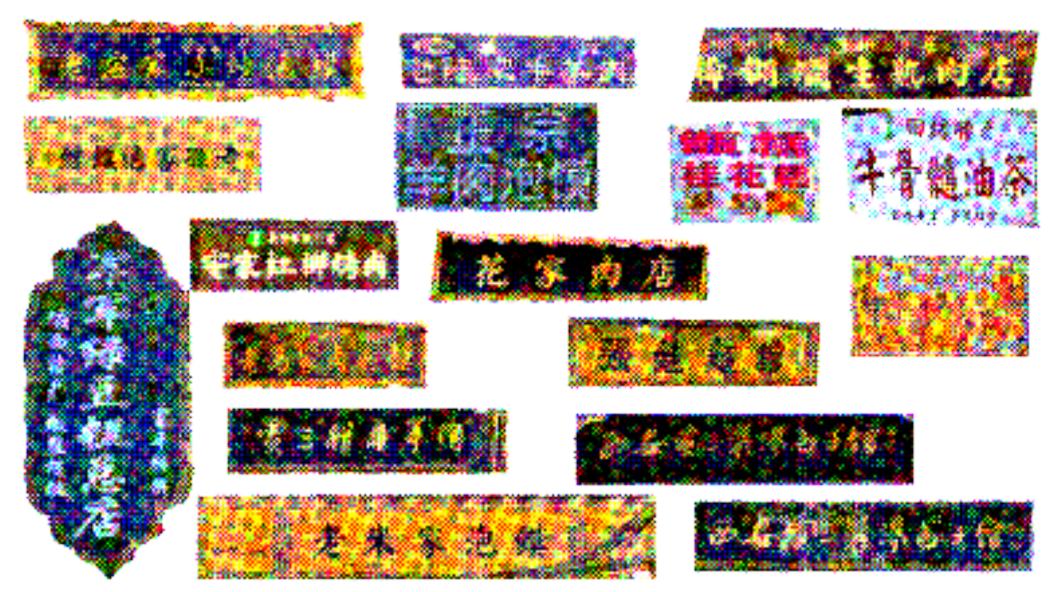
The Muslim District is a street for local food located in the old town of Xi'an city. While it only has a history of about 30 years, it is considered a representative tourist destination for visitors to taste the local food and to experience the culture through it.

From my observations of the Muslim District, I've noticed that over the past decade or so, it has undergone changes influenced by the wave of urban homogenization, which has buried much of the area's local cultural identity. Specifically, there has been an increasing presence of trendy, internet-popular (commercial benefitial) snacks and storefronts occupying this area, which has impacted the original shops and food offerings of the local community. As a result, the district is gradually losing its uniqueness, making it difficult for tourists to truly experience the city's local culture. I believe the situation in the Muslim District reflects a broader phenomenon of homogenization and cultural globalization in many tourist cities.

In this project, I plan to use this area as my case study. My keywords are "urban environment", "local community" and "homogenization". I aim to explore how graphic design can create a system that helps urban culture adapt PESERVING preservation to the waves of homogenization and globalization, finding new ways to showcase its identity (in response to the impact of popular culture).

I've observed that the storefront signs of local shops in the Muslim District shared some common characteristics, distinct from those of the trendy snack shops. However, the standardized and attention-grabbing designs of the trendy shops' signs are gradually overshadowing those of the local community. Therefore, in this project, I plan to design a series of storefront typefaces (in both Chinese characters and English) for the local community, incorporating the unique features of the area's culture and identity. The goal is to help the local community adapt to the inevitable trends of popular culture and homogenization while preserving and reimagining its cultural essence.





Local shops' storefronts



In between

ENQUIRY 01



Non-local shops' storefronts

Accessability ?

Ethnical concerns - I am an outsider of the community, I do not have the position or authority to "solve problems" from the prespective of the community.





ENQUIRY 02



Receipts are often discarded, yet they contain lots of interpretable information. I observed that people have an innate curiosity to peek into such details.

Using "voyeurism" as a theme, I plan to use found receipts in supermarkets as the primary material to explore and reimagine one or more "peeped" personas through graphic design and experimental writing. The production will take the form of a publication (and a website?), serving as both an exploration of the relationship between the observer and the observed, amplifying the human desire to pry.

The target audience is the general public. The publication could be print on thermal paper, in the dimensions of a receipt to use common associations to trigger audience. Additionally, I'm considering using temperature-sensitive coatings on the paper to heighten the voyeuristic experience and create an interactive reading process.



ROOM 47

Sunday February 22, 1981. 10:00 a.m. I go into 47. All the beds are unmade: the double bed, the single bed, and the small fold-up bed. The first thing I notice are four pairs of slippers: two pairs for adults, two for children. There is French toast on the table, a balloon hanging from a handle on the chest of drawers. On the right-hand bedside table: a book on legal and fiscal research companies and some Marlboros in the drawer. On the left-hand one: a guide to French hotels and, in the drawer, some Tampax. At night, he wears light cotton green pajamas, and she, a blue flannelette nightie. There's a suitcase on the floor. Inside it I find several plastic bags filled with medications and a book, Venise et ses trésors d'art. On the luggage stand, a second suitcase. It is full. I don't go through it, I just look. I am already bored. In the wardrobe: two pairs of trousers, a manye sweater, a mauve shirt, three pairs of Eminence briefs, red, black, and pale blue. Only the bright-colored slippers cheer up the room. At the foot of the night table, a leather briefcase containing two Swiss passports (they are a married couple living in Geneva; I just note that she is of medium height with dark eyes and brown hair and he of

medium height with blue eyes and brown hair), a sheet of paper with a few typed lines: "Amazing Venice. You dream of it all those years and then one day, you're off to the City of Doges which you think you already know after all you've read and seen and heard. The most striking thing is probably the silence. No sound of cars, motorbikes or anything else. You can hear people talking in the street. There's no dashing around. In fact, that is impossible here: no one can run through these narrow, winding streets, constantly cut off by stairways and bridges. In this city, you either walk or do nothing. It is therefore wise to bring comfortable shoes and a Confortil spray...." Further down, these handicritten words: "Glassware: not bad. Cemetery: fantastic. Gondola ride: worth it."

Monday 23. 9:45 a.m. The bathroom is messier than yesterday. They took a bath. The towels are piled up in the bidet. The cigarette pack is unopened. The book on Venice, taken out of the suitcase, is now set on the bedside table. Next to it, I find four postcards written in French: views of the city. The first is addressed to Mr. and Mrs. D. in Geneva: "Greetings and warm regards. See you soon. The S. family." The second to the G. family in Barcelona: "Everything is very beautiful here. We send you warm regards. See you soon. The S. family." The third to the C. family in Barcelona: "Dear all, Venice is very beautiful. Every corner is a little work of art. Tomorrow, God willing, we go to see the surrounding islands. Hugs. The S. family." Lastly, the fourth one, addressed to the Bs. in Geneva: "Everything is very beautiful here but it would be even more so if we were enjoying it together as a family. See you soon. The S. family." In the wastebasket I find a postcard torn into eight pieces. It is of the same scene as the one addressed to the Bs, and is addressed to these same. Only the text is different. One could read: "Everything is very beautiful here but it would be even more so if we were enjoying it with you. See you soon. The S. family."

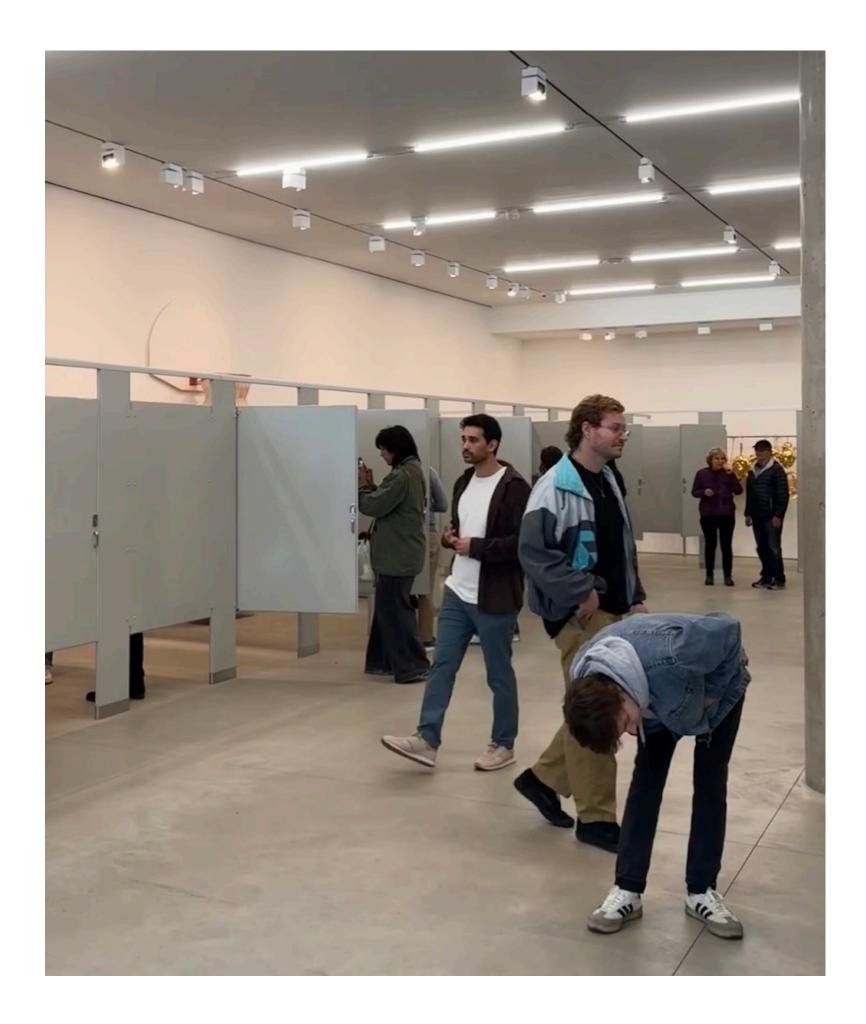
Tuesday 24. 10:30 a.m. They are going to leave. The suitcases are packed. They are set in front of the door. They leave behind the balloon, which is hanging limp, and stale biscuits.

Sophie Calle | The Hotel, Room 47





Hugh Hayden | Hughmans



WAITROSE & PARTNERS

Kings Cross 590: 020 7372 5330 www.waitrose.com/kingscross

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18 items BALANCE DUE	£70.79
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CHANGE	0.00

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Please debit my account GBP70.79 TOTAL GBP70.79 Contactless

NO CARDHOLDER VERIFICATION

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How was your visit today? Visit waitrosehaveyoursay com and you could win an e-gift card prize worth £100 - £300 THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT WAITROSE

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WAITROSE & PARTNERS

Kings Cross 590: 020 7372 5330 www.waitrose.com/kingscross

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	WR ESS POINTED CABB	0.95
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	WR ESS ICBRG LETTUCE	0.95
	WR MONKEY NUTS	1.95
	WR PEA SHOOTS	1,50
	WR EXTRA LGE ORANGES	2,40
	NO.1 RED CHOICE TOMS	2,70
	WR ROMAINE LET	1.40
	WR STRAWBERRIES	2,70
	WR ESS CUCUMBER	0.95
	WR ROMAINE LET	1.40
	WR PEA SHOOTS	1.50

myWaitrose card ***********5502

17 items BALANCE DUE

Visa Debit ************ £39,71

CHANGE 0.00

£39.71

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Visa DEBIT ***********9530

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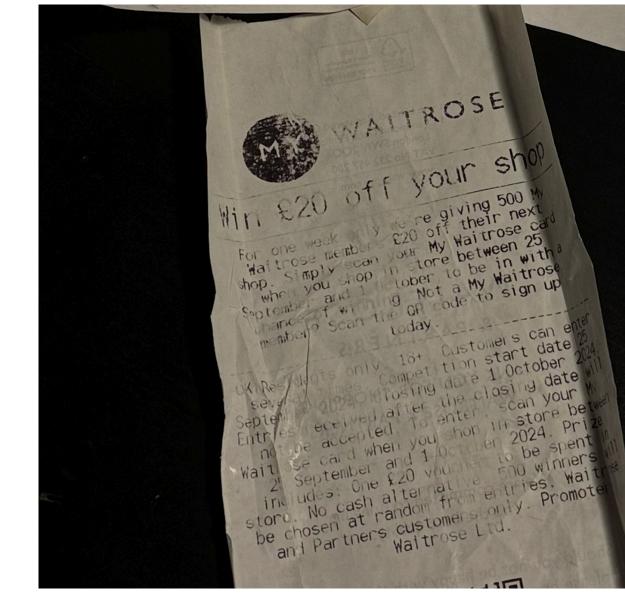
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How was your visit today? Visit waitrosehaveyoursay.com and you could win an e-gift card prize worth £100 - £300

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WAITROSE & PARTNERS

Kings Cross 590: 020 7372 5330 www.waitrose.com/kingscross

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myWaitrose card

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CHANGE	0.00

*** CARDHOLDER COPY ***

24/12/2024 15:30:40

MASTERCARD

CONTACTLESS CP SALE

Please debit my account AMOUNT

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NO CARDHOLDER VERIFICATION

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THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT WAITROSE 15:30 24/12/2024 590 611 4200 227166

December 30, 2024, 3:30 PM

Waitrose, Kinos Cross

It was the day before New Year's Eve, December 30th, and 2025 was on the

In their shopping basket: apples, sweet potatoes, pork ribs, cherry tomatoes, steak, sweet lettuce, roast chicken, pea

than usual, and public transport wasn't Perhaps this person was gathering of the New Year. One could imagine their

The list seemed substantial-perhaps for one, two, three, four, not likely to be a large group of people. A warm evening chicken paired with sweet potatoes, a the tang of Korean kimchi.

MAST That chocolate dessert—Google tells and soft cake-must be a dense, velvety perhaps chosen to honor the New Year have enough.

Whoever this person is, they seem to

This New Year's celebration promises imagine how special the evening will be.

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The supermarket would close earlier than usual, and public E transport wasn't as convenient during this time of year. Perhaps this person was gathering everything they needed to prepare arreal of the New Year. One could imagine their quiet exchement as they planned for the celebration ahead.

The list seemed substantialperhaps for one, two, three, four, not likely to be a large group of people. A warm evening comes to mind, golden lights casting a glow on a round table laden with roast ichicen paired with sweet potatoes, a sizzing steak, and, maybe, spicy pork ribs initued with the heat of Thai chilies and the tang of Korean kimchi.



That chocolate dessert—Google tells me it's made from chocolate ganache and soft cake—must be a dense, velvety indulgence. The cheese, possibly paired with ham, and the mini panettone, perhaps chosen to honor the New Year tradition. A small one, though maybe they aren't too fond of sweets or already have enough.

Whoever this person is, they seem to cherish traditions and the richness of life. Their table is abundant with vegetables, suggesting a focus on health and balance.

This New Year's celebration promises warmth, flavor, and care. One can only imagine how special the evening will be Dross 590: 020 7372 533

www.waitrose.com/kingscross





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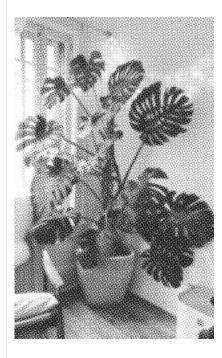
A is an assassin. Just like every passerby on these streets, A carries countless possible stories where they've come from, where they're headed, all concealed in the folds of chance.

That evening, A blended seamlessly with the stylish, slightly tipsy professionals spilling out of Liverpool Street bars, their laughter bright against the dusk. A carried a large leather tote, the kind favored by commuters. No one knew what lay inside. Perhaps a set of tools, perhaps something entirely mundane—a book, a coffee cup, a tangle of headphones.



135 Bishopsgate, EC2M 3YD London Company Number 08721896 VAT: GB 285196271 TIRAMISU' TAKE AWAY PANNA COTTA 125G Pay 1.70 instead of 2.90 Compleanno 2025 UK TRAMEZZINO SALAME FORMAGGIO E 4,40 BORSA RETE MAGENTA Total GBP Vat percent Net (ZERO) 0.00 ZERO RATE 12.42 18.01.2025 20:10:23 #:11510 Op:1150 C:LOCA Served you : S

A wasn't the reclusive type of assassin, the kind who isolates themselves from the world. A had a aroup of friends, meeting them every few weeks to stroll the city streets together. A lived in a small onebedroom apartment, its decor a quiet reflection of A's own demeanornatural, warm, understated, vet tinged with mystery. The space likely faced away from the sun, with a modest window where a thriving monstera stretched its lush, silent vitality toward the light. When not on a job, A seemed no different from any ordinary soul who savored life-sometimes even wearing an expression of childlike wonder.



One of A's secret joys was exploring London's niche supermarkets, each dedicated to the flavors of a particular country. For A, it was like taking a miniature journey: opening a door or descending a flight of stairs to enter another corner of the world. A enjoyed guessing the taste and texture of unfamiliar foods in EATALY, selecting sashimi with care from the chilled cases at Japan Centre, and seeking out odd sauces or rare ingredients in Chinese supermarkets.

At a quarter to eight, A stepped into EATALY. This time, A was shopping for breakfast, though tomorrow's morning would be far from ordinary. At precisely 10am, A would be in E5, inside a crumbling, seventh floor studio building, to eliminate a target. The property was aged, its elevator infamous for its screeching metal doors that groaned as they shut.

On nights like this, A had a habit: buying a sweet treat in advance, a ritual to soothe the mind after the chaos of blood and disorder. It was as if dessert marked a mental switch, pulling A back into the ordinary world from the shadows of the job. (The cleanup, of course, was someone else's task. Despite working together for years, A and this colleague had never met in person.)

A selected a few simple items: tiramisu, panna cotta, a sandwich, and a woven jute grocery bag to carry them in.

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