

Sibling Success: The Power of 2

By ALEXIS SWERDLOFF
Published: July 4, 2012

THE Weinsteins, the Ronsons, the Seignys: the cultural skyline of New York City has long been carved by power siblings. In a city where it’s tough enough for a single person to climb the ladder, brothers and sisters who make a shared name for themselves stand out like rarefied creatures.

Is it their DNA, their upbringing, a fierce rivalry or familial love? Whatever the reason, they continue to fascinate. Meet the latest batch of sisters and brothers who are reshaping the city’s music, fashion, architecture and arts scenes.

Chris and Dominic Leong

Architects

FOR the architects Chris and Dominic Leong, the question wasn’t if they would partner, but when. After all, Chris, 35, and Dominic, 33, built their first project together, a treehouse in the Napa Valley, when they were 6 and 4. “We worked with our dad, doing projects on our house every summer,” Dominic said.

So after graduating with architecture degrees (Princeton for Chris, Columbia for Dominic) and working at prestigious firms (SHoP for Chris, Bernard Tschumi for Dominic), the brothers struck out on their own in 2009 and formed [Leong Leong](#).

The firm, based in Chinatown, is known for playful and modern designs that use simple materials to invert notions of space. It’s a favorite of avant-garde fashion designers like Phillip Lim, who commissioned Leong Leong to design his boutiques in Los Angeles, Hong Kong and Seoul, all of which are clad in the firm’s trademark pillowy concrete tiles. This last spring, they designed the 3.1 Phillip Lim headquarters in SoHo.

Their work can also be seen in New York at the Opening Ceremony store at the Ace Hotel, where they designed clever fiberboard and steel-pipe shelves to display Proenza Schouler dresses and Criterion Collection DVDs. Current projects include the exhibition space for “Graphic Design: Now in Production” on Governors Island; the stage set for Andrew Ondrejcek’s coming play “Feast,” part of the Incubator Arts Project at St. Mark’s Church; and the third issue of White Zinfandel, a journal they helped start last year that melds art, architecture and food.

“After architecture, food is our second passion,” Dominic said, noting a key difference between the two brothers. “Chris is obsessed with cooking, and I’m obsessed with eating his cooking.”

New York’s Power Siblings Make Names for Themselves

◀ 1 of 5 ▶



Chris, left, and Dominic Leong in the office of their firm, [Leong Leong](#).

The firm, based in Chinatown, is known for playful and modern designs that use simple materials to invert notions of space. It’s a favorite of avant-garde fashion designers like Phillip Lim, who commissioned Leong Leong to design his boutiques in Los Angeles, Hong Kong and Seoul, all of which are clad in the firm’s trademark pillowy concrete tiles. This last spring, they designed the 3.1 Phillip Lim headquarters in SoHo.

Credit: Yana Paskova for The New York Times

RELATED
· [Article: Sibling Success: The Power of 2](#)