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## Cheery and bold in red and gold



**1 Utama's oval concourse has been transformed into the 'Summer Palace', complete with a two-storey pavilion. — SAMUEL ONG/The Star**

CELEBRATIONS to usher in the Year of the Ox may be muted this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic and movement control order, but auspicious vibes can still be felt around the Klang Valley.

Despite the drop in the number of visitors, many malls have taken on the task of sprucing up their premises with splendid decorations in a bid to liven up this Chinese New Year.

Striking red and opulent gold feature in abundance within each theme chosen by mall operators as the colours symbolise prosperity.

Each mall has on display its own unique vision of the festivities for visitors to feast their eyes on.

Visitors to 1 Utama will find the entire oval concourse on the lower ground transformed into Beijing's grand Summer Palace, complete with a two-storey Excessive Pavilion as the centrepiece, which also doubles as a gallery where visitors can view paintings of "Four Legendary Beauties".

To reach the pavilion, visitors will pass the oriental gardens and cross a golden bridge over an actual water lily pond, which promises the traveller wealth as two guardian lion statues flank the bridge to offer feng shui protection.

Circling the pavilion is a long corridor decked out with an awe-inspiring golden roof, which is embellished with colourful pillared beams and ceilings depicting meaningful idioms and stories from "Four Great Classic Novels".

The mall has also built a mystical moon gate and a bamboo garden is featured at its centre court concourse.

Bangsar Shopping Centre has opted for a classy approach to this year's decorations with flowers as the main theme.

Beginning from the entrance, the decorations draw visitors in with a variation of flowers leading to the centre atrium that opens up to an arrangement of lanterns.

The positioning of peonies, carnations and gerbera daisies around the complex represents a new start for the new year and provides cheer in difficult times.

The copious amounts of cherry blossoms, which are a harbinger of spring in particular, are a meaningful symbol of renewed hope to see the end of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Berjaya Times Square's "Glorious Spring Time" at ground floor central celebrates the new year with a festive spirit of spring and a canopy of red prosperity lanterns as a symbol of brightness and wealth.

In the spirit of keeping traditions alive in the new normal, Fahrenheit88 is ushering in the Year of the Ox with "A Blessed Moo Year" in shades of red and pink cherry blossoms that also symbolise longevity, spring and the renewal of life.

Accompanying the installations scattered inside and outside the mall are three cow statues dressed in traditional cheongsam.

Once the MCO is lifted, the Moo Moo Market on Level 2 will feature Midorie, a soil-less plant-technology vendor; and BeLokal, a marketplace selling local artisan products.

Suria KLCC has turned all shades of red as it prepares to welcome the Year of the Ox.

The centre court has been transformed into a stunning Chinese garden decorated with beautiful red lanterns and cherry blossom trees.

"Amid the ongoing MCO 2.0, Suria KLCC is not sparing any effort to enliven the atmosphere in a manner befitting Chinese New Year," said Suria KLCC chief executive officer Andrew Brien.

“The Year of the Ox will be marked with exuberance at Suria KLCC, be it through the physical transformation of the mall, as well as exciting online CNY activities to keep our shoppers engaged during the MCO as we usher in yet another auspicious year, ” he added.

This year, Suria KLCC will be focusing on the country’s frontliners and donating RM15,000 worth of food to those on duty at Hospital Sungai Buloh.

Meanwhile, Setia City Mall has created an atmosphere of a Malaysian lunar new year with traditional Chinese kampung-style shops decorated with murals, lanterns and cherry blossom trees.

In the centre stands a rotating Chinese Southern Lion head, towering 30ft with a scroll to welcome the new year.

There are also a Fortune Sticks Corner and a wishing well for abundance and good luck for the year ahead as well as fiery red firecrackers adding to the fanfare.

Sunway Malls is taking the bull by its horns with a Happy “Niu” Year celebration. Niu is ox in Mandarin.

Sunway Group hopes that given the strong, diligent and dependable nature of the ox in the Chinese zodiac, the new year will bring prosperity, strength and success to take on the year ahead.

In Sunway Pyramid, bold and auspicious gold ancient towns at the LG2 orange concourse dotted with tangerine trees and red lanterns brighten up the atmosphere, while a golden ox statue at the front welcomes shoppers to the town.

Visitors at the main atrium of Sunway Velocity Mall can witness a cascade of gold coins descending from a skylight, which symbolises wealth, before being greeted by a galloping ox at the centre of the town that is turning the harvests and houses gold.

Elsewhere, Sunway Putra Mall has decked out the mall with a colourful bamboo garden, which leads to a 24-foot pagoda and a six-foot-high handcrafted golden ox sculpture. “Though the festivities may be scaled down this year, may we continue to remember the importance of togetherness, familial love and caring for each other in these times — together, we are stronger, ” said Sunway Malls & Theme Parks chief executive officer HC Chan.

To assist others during the festive season, Sunway Malls’ “Niu” Hope Charity Drive has been put in place to help the B40 communities and those affected by the recent floods.

The Curve is welcoming the Year of the Ox with a trip down memory lane with its nostalgic “Treasures of Yesteryears” theme.

A feature of the centre court’s Chinese New Year decor is the traditional lantern-lit bridge inspired by heritage lane “Kwai Chai Hong”.

The Curve senior general manager Jazzmi Kamarudin said the decorations were inspired by the iconic scenes of 1960s Chinatown in Kuala Lumpur.

“It is reminiscent of a time when people would flock to Chinatown to usher in the lunar new year.

“Patrons can enjoy the nostalgia-themed experience, complete with artistic street murals, cherry blossoms and bamboo plants as part of the decor.

“We hope the vibrant decor, which extends to The Street, will help remind people that there will be brighter days ahead.

Last but not least, KL East Mall, Sime Darby Property’s first wholly-owned shopping centre, is ushering its first lunar new year with a campaign themed “Celebrate Streams of Fortune”.

Its main atrium has been transformed into a mesmerising Chinese oriental aquarium with two larger than life majestic peacock fish, measuring 27ft, greeting shoppers with blessings of good luck and fortune.

The bold yet unique decorations represent the mall’s wish for 2021, which is to grant shoppers great strength, success and good health.

Sime Darby Property Group managing director Datuk Azmir Merican said, “Despite the MCO, it is essential to keep up with the festive decoration tradition that Malaysian shopping centres observe, to lift the festive spirit and spread joy and hope to all shoppers.”



**Suria KLCC’s Chinese garden sits quaintly in the centre court.**

(Source: <https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2021/02/02/cheery-and-bold-in-red-and-gold>)