

Newly opened

Be Zure



Zure to be sure Head to the Friendship Store for handmade homeware

Be Zure is local interior designer Catherine Chen's first venture and sells sumptuous but affordable bedding and homeware. While the Friendship Store might not be everyone's first port of call for classy items, everything in Be Zure is handmade, from the highest quality linen to cotton and silk. Chic table cloths made from 100 per cent linen cost 580RMB, while embroidered cushions cost from 89RMB. However the real standout pieces are the cushions (699RMB) and throws (899RMB) made from old, hand-embroidered Guizhou fabric with raw silk. Be Zure also provides custom-made services, and the fact that Chen visits Muxiyuan fabric market three times a week is clear from the quality of the materials. A personalised 800-thread four-piece duvet set will set you back 1,800RMB, including a

are also available, as well as beautiful sarongs in cotton and silk with Chinese buttons (239RMB). If you're looking for garish, brightly coloured Chinese silk for your homeware then be warned - Be Zure isn't for you.

Be Zure Second Floor, Beijing Friendship Store, 17 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang district (138 0139 2706). Open 9.30am-8.30pm daily. 朝阳区建外大街17号友谊商场二层



Beijing Postcards



Picture perfect Select your favourite shots from over 50 years of photography

Ten years ago, two self-confessed nerds started collecting photographs of China from the 1890s to the 1940s, a collection which is now on sale on Nanluoguxiang. Danes Simon Rom Gjerøe and Lars Ulrik Thom bought many of these historic snapshots at auctions but, incredibly, some were also acquired from the descendants of Danish missionaries who used to live in the city. It's fascinating to see images of Dashilan and Tiananmen as they used to be. Other photos depict old family portraits and quotidian street scenes, such as a man proudly standing by his bicycle and old men smoking their pipes.

Gjerøe and Thom are both passionate and knowledgeable about their collection, and are more than happy to give quick history lessons about each snap. What they seem

most delighted by is the Chinese reaction to their collection. Local visitors who constantly mill in and out clearly delight in the nostalgia. The postcards cost a mere 5RMB and the calendars are 50RMB, while larger prints range from 100RMB to 200RMB with a frame. They also have some beautiful antique maps on display, including a Johnson's Atlas from 1864 that's going for 1,000RMB. Their website is as interactive as the shop, and helpfully details the stories behind each picture. In September they will also begin giving a series of lectures at Garden Books, starting with the visual evolution of Tiananmen.

Beijing Postcards 85-1 Nanluoguxiang, Dongcheng district (135 0109 8794; www.beijing-postcards.com). Open 10am-9pm daily. 东城区南锣鼓巷85-1号