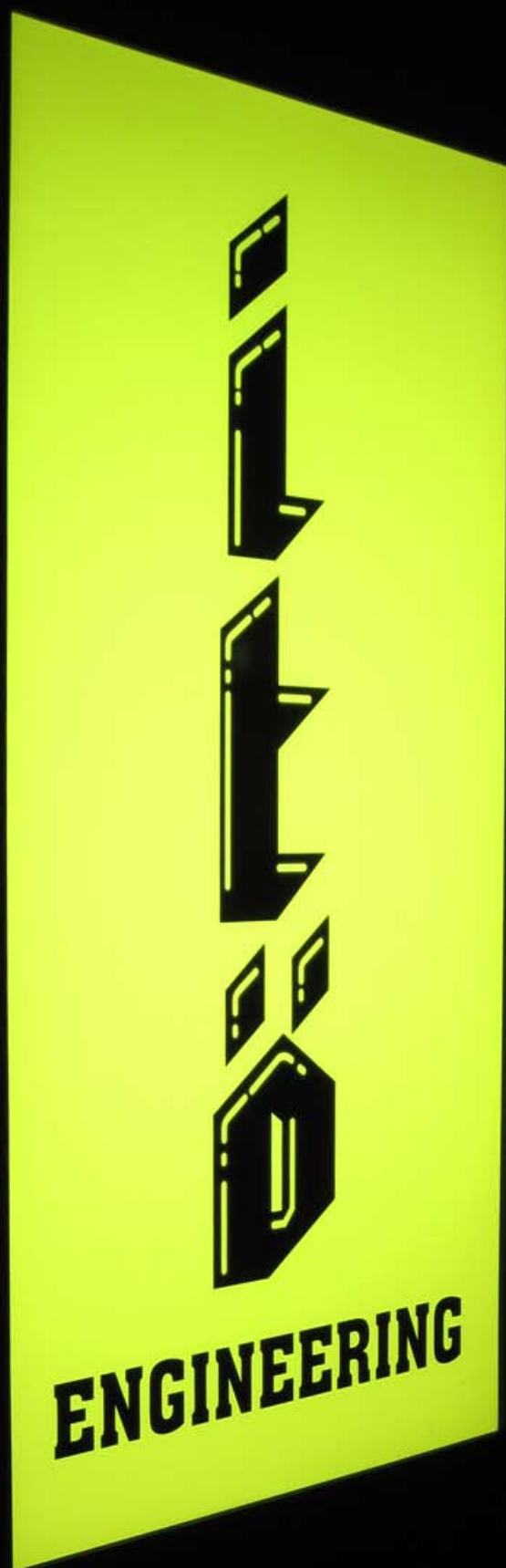


# the tight line

Vol 2



The Tackle Issue



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## The Tight Line Emag Vol 2

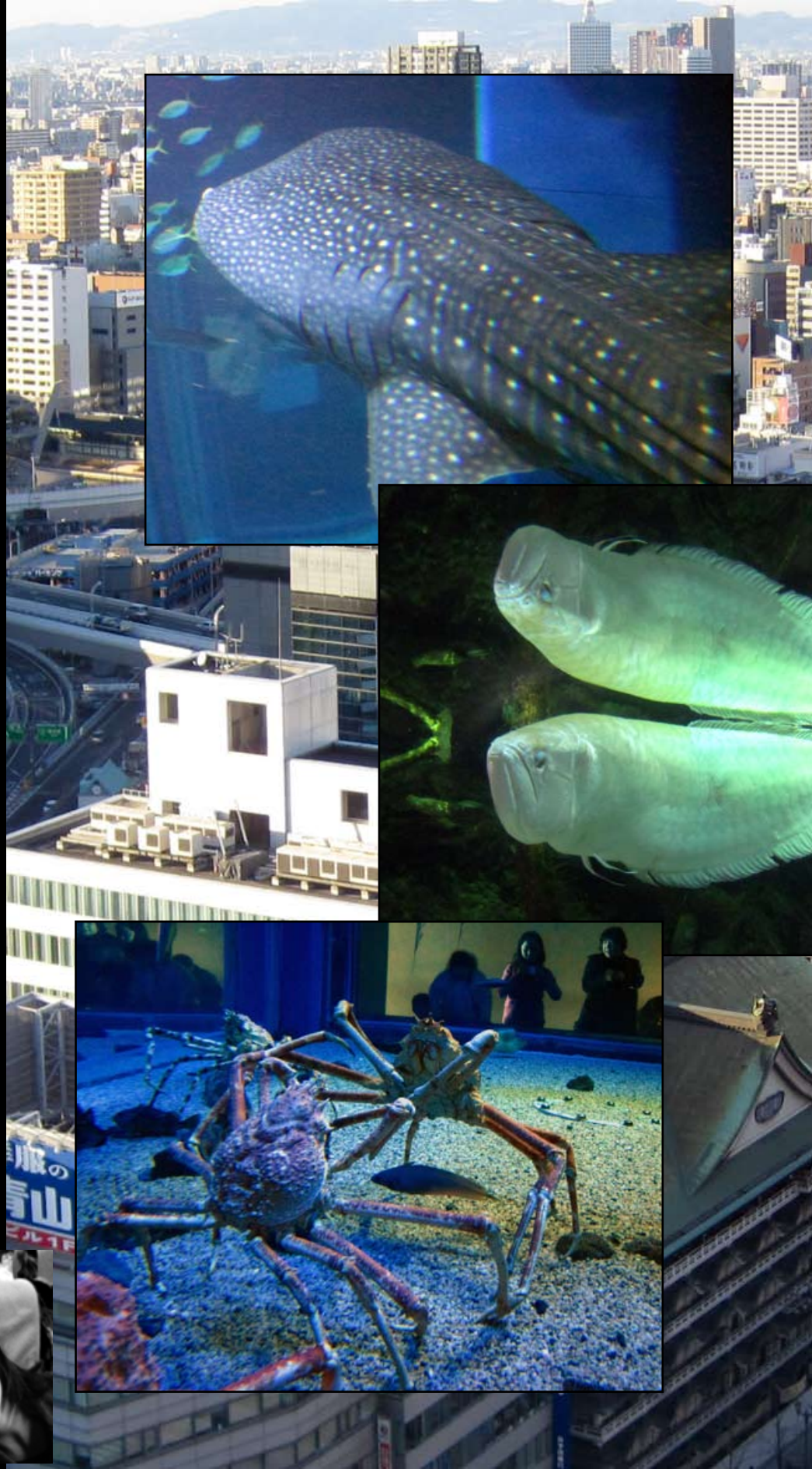
There are plenty of places on my hit list of must do destinations, but I never thought I would be so excited about a trip to Osaka in Japan. OK so it's not a major fishing destination, though there is plenty of fishing available in the region. However, it is close to many of Japan's best known tackle manufacturers and home of one of Japan's major tackle trade shows.

The 0-6 degree temperatures were a bit of a shock to the system, coming from hot Brisbane summer but the vibrant, bustling atmosphere definitely made up for it! We didn't get much time for sight seeing, apart from visiting the Kaiyukan Aquarium, one of the largest in the world. They have an amazing collection of fish from around the planet and if you're there, make sure you check it out.

The tackle on show was amazing with another highlight of the trip being a visit to the Works 2010 topwater lure exhibition. We hope you enjoy this edition.

Cheers

Duncan & Janelle







## About Fish Head

We started Fish Head in 2003 with the intention of creating a store that showcased top quality and innovative tackle. Providing the best information about gear and techniques was another one of our goals, which led to the creation of this Emag

We look forward to serving you either in our store, either face to face or online.

Contact us here

Want to Subscribe?

Vol 1 of the Tight Line is here







The logo for EKAL is displayed in a large, bold, white, stylized font against a dark background. The letters are three-dimensional and appear to be mounted on a wall or a large panel. The background shows a dark, industrial-looking structure with metal beams and a bright light source in the upper left corner.



STELLA

A large digital display is shown, featuring a blue and silver robotic arm. The arm is positioned diagonally across the frame. In the upper right corner of the display, the text "NEW STELLA" is visible in a white, serif font. The display is mounted on a dark wall, and several spotlights are visible above it.

OSAKA 2010 OSAKA 2010 OSAKA 2010 OSAKA 2010

10 OSAKA 2010 OSAKA 2010 OSAKA 2010 OSAKA 2010 OSAKA

For any angler who loves their tackle, a trip to a major tackle show is always a buzz. When it involves travelling to Japan to see all the new gear, it adds a whole new dimension to the excitement. It wasn't, however an auspicious start to our trip when we chose to take the airport bus to our hotel in Namba - downtown Osaka. It turned out we had to hike another half hour to get to our hotel. If we'd taken the train, it would have landed us about 30m from our front door. Both train and bus were listed as going to Namba Station, but one lesson we have learned in Japan is that the major underground stations are sprawled across huge areas and the extremities of the exits can be kilometres away from one another. Heading out of the wrong entrance can put you far away from your intended destination; not fun when you have luggage in tow! Things rapidly improved for us when our we scored an upgrade at the hotel, to a room which had a bed larger than some apartments in Osaka.

As always the tackle show was big, covering 2 pavilions at the even bigger Intex site. On entering, it was easy to see who was wanting to make a big splash this year. Megabass, Brearden and Daiwa were



## NEW CERTATE 3000

ニュー セルテート 3000

- 自重 280g
- 巻取り長さ 81cm
- ギヤー比 4.8
- 最大ドラグ力 7kg

- 標準巻糸量 [ナイロン] 12lb・200m, 16lb・150m [PE] 1.2号・350m, 2号・250m
- ベアリング数 [ボール] 9個 [ローラー] 1個
- ソルト対応

NEW 4月発売予定

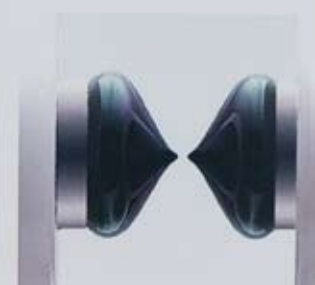
メーカー希望本体価格 ¥38,000



### マグオイルの張力テスト



磁性を持ったマグオイル。磁石に付き垂れない。



磁石を少しずつ近づけるとマグオイル同士が引き寄せ合う。



さらに磁石を近づけるとマグオイルが一体化、上下を遮断する。



マグオイルが完全の橋になる。





Climbing the stairs to the temple of Daiwa



just a few of the companies who went all out to impress the visitors. My coverage here relates to some of the things that caught my eye, it is by no means all there was to see.

To catalogue every makers new releases and other cool stuff would take us several issues of The Tight Line.

## Daiwa

Daiwa was having a particularly big year at this show. A new logo, new Certate, new low profile reel design, new flagship rod carbon and new carbon framed guides. To show it all off they built a gleaming white booth with broad stairs leading up to the presentation area. It gave the impression of visiting a futuristic shrine to fishing tackle!

The big news about the new 2010 Certate reel is the sealed gearbox. Instead of rubber seals which would traditionally be used to keep water out, this reel uses magnetic grease! The grease is attracted to the magnet surrounding the rotor and shaft, making



The Daiwa Z2020

Below: Magforce 3D

Right from top: Ryoga Bay Jigging,  
Z2020, Ryoga 1016







a moving liquid seal to protect the gearbox from contamination. The new rotor design is said to be stronger and lighter than its predecessor as well as having tiny grooves on the inside to help funnel water away from the rotor assembly. The one caveat with this reel is servicing. To service the gearbox, it must go back to Daiwa so it can be pumped full of the special magnetic grease. Daiwa recommends this every 1-3 years depending on the level of use. In terms of smoothness, the new features take the Certate to a whole new level when compared to the previous version.

The Z200 baitcaster got a mixed reaction for its bold styling when pictures were leaked onto the net a few weeks ago. One thing that does become obvious when the reel is placed on a rod is how well it sits in the hand, for such a large capacity reel. It has all the features one would expect from a top of the line baitcaster: The latest super strength gearing, gearbox seals for saltwater use, 6.5kg of drag and a new cast controls. The 3 stage cast control mechanism is the big new feature with this reel. It can be set for long casts, all-round or maximum braking, depending on the situation. According to Daiwa, this effectively does

away with the need for separate reels for different casting applications. Elsewhere in baitcasters, Daiwa released the new smaller Ryoga 1000 to complement last years Ryoga/Pluton reels. Another keenly awaited reel is the ultralight PX68, the replacement for the Pixy reel. This model features a faster gear ratio (6.8) and a super low inertia spool to help with pitching or casting light weights.

Z SVF Carbon debuted with Daiwa this year. This extremely strong and pure carbon cloth is only being used on a single model of very exclusive Ayu rod at this stage. The 9m pole weighs in at an unbelievable 180g!

Not content with adding a new ultralight carbon fibre to their lineup, the Daiwa engineers turned their attention to making new ultralight guides as well. To get an idea of the weight of these, I was shown a stainless frame silicon Fuji guide which weighed 5g. The equivalent size carbon frame guide weighs in at a measly 2g! At present these are only available on one new ultralight Presso trout rod and Branzino Seabass rod but they are sure to be introduced to many more rods in future.







## The PX68

Left from top: Luvias with new RCS spool and coloured cork knob, New Daiwa vector logo on the PX68, Daiwa AGS carbon frame guide







Design house Bape (Bathing Ape) has collaborated with Daiwa to produce this wild looking range of rods, reels, lures and clothes. Look out for the Bape bowler hat, the craziest piece of fishing clothing ever invented

## Shimano

The flagship spin reel in the Shimano stable got a makeover this year. The new Stella has a larger main gear and smaller offset from the pinion, a better supported pinion gear and tighter tolerances around the main shaft. All this makes for a smoother stronger gearbox. Stella reels have always had a reputation for being just about the smoothest reel available and this one is definitely no different.

The Shimano Engetsu Is a new lightweight spin reel which is aimed at sea bream in Japan. This model is ideally suited to anglers chasing big fish on light tackle. The little 3000 size reel puts out a maximum of 10kg drag, but only weighs a meagre 235g with its mixture of C14 carbon and magnesium body parts. It also sports one of the nicest ball knobs I've seen in a long time.

Other new stuff to come out for Shimano this year include the new Scorpion 1000, the lightweight baitcaster which compliments the Alderbaran/Core 50 size reel which came out last year. The new Calcutta Conquest 100DC also made its debut









Main: the new Stella

Clockwise from top right: Bluefin tuna stickbait, Sephia stand, Calcutta 100DC, Engetsu 3000, Stella Accessories, Scorpion 1000







at this show. This little baitcaster is sure to please barrel style baitcast enthusiasts everywhere with its proven Digital Control casting brake system. There were also a couple of new lures released by Shimano at the show. The Bluefin Tuna limited lures have stunning pearl shell finish wings and there is a range of new Sephia squid jig with a UV finish, making them glow like a beacon in the depths.

## Yamaria

The guys at Yamaria were most excited to explain their new Yamashita Live squid jig with a 'warm jacket' cloth covering. This new cloth material on the jigs retains the ambient air temperature while in the water. The significance of this is that a live baitfish also maintains its body temperature just above that of the surrounding water. All it takes is a difference of 0.2-0.8 degrees to mimic the temperature of baitfish. Obviously, you're asking "does it work?". Well they did have a short DVD of squid swimming past other jigs to grab the Live one, so I for one will be lining up to try one upon their release in April.







## Evergreen

Evergreen is a company whose tackle has only been seen outside of its native Japan in relatively small amounts. Their Littlemax blades have been one of the most popular lures on the Australian bass comp scene and their swim baits have developed a cult following among switched on barra fishos. Beyond that not so much has reached our shores. Among enthusiast chat forums however, their rods are held in extraordinarily high regard as some of the finest rods on the planet. A swag of new rods were released by Evergreen at the show, some of the standouts for me were 'The Stingray Shake' a 6'3" river and light impoundment rod, the 'Torque Master Crank' a 6'6" crankbait stick and the monster 'Wild Stallion Valiant' 7'7" barra rod.





# BASS LURE

## 2010 NEW RELEASE



Evergreen

The "Stringray Shake"

TKLC 631 / MHX 6.3" 1/4 - 3/4oz. Lures



EVERGREEN

SQUIDLAW

EVERGREEN  
EVERGREEN INTERNATIONAL

EVERGREEN  
EVERGREEN INTERNATIONAL

POSTERON SQUIDLAW





## Megabass

Yuki Ito and the Megabass team have never been backward in coming forward when it comes to putting out some pretty radical designs and this year was no different. One thing that really caught my eye was a cool topwater lure paddle steamer type wheels on the side! The new Carrozzeria rods feature some beautiful artworks on a range of rods from standard Destroyers to Tomahawks and Hedgehogs. The Racing Condition series of rods feature a stripped back ultralight fitting and stealth black colouration to match.









Instead of releasing a catalogue at this years show, Megabass issued a Calender with all their new releases including the super light Racing Condition 256, a spin reel which has had every part lightened, drilled out or in the case of the bail, removed altogether! A full catalogue will be available later in the year in digital format







The Megabass Stand













# Jackall

There were a few new interesting things from Jackall this year. As usual their stand was pretty impressive with a large demonstration tank full of bass set up in the middle of their display. There were a number of new products, including a new series of spin rods, the Tranpo, all painted bright orange and the Living Roller a soft shad with an inverted bib.







## Ripple Fisher

The most anticipated release from these guys in a while has been their new Ultimo stickbait rods. There are two rods, both 7'9". One is rated to PE 8 and 160g cast weight while the other is a proper PE10 rod with a maximum cast weight of 210g. Both rods had light springy tip sections for working stick and swim baits as well as plenty of grunt through the butt to fight big GT's.



## Seven Seas

While not exhibiting at the show, we caught up with Motoki Banno from Seven Seas during our visit. Most exciting was a new prototype GT stickbait rod and a several tuna/ light GT rods. These should ready around April and like all Seven Seas custom rods, they'll be available with any style or colour of binding you wish. We also caught a sneak peak at a new prototype carbon fibre fighting belt!





## Vagabond

Vagabond is a company that specialises in retro style bass fishing tackle. Beautiful handmade lures, pistol grip rods and upgrade parts for Abu Ambassadeurs make for a very cool display. Not satisfied to have set the style bar high already, they employed a DJ to make sure their stand was really pumping!

## Gan Craft

This company is another small boutique company that is not often seen outside of Japan. They make a stunning range of big swimbaits as well as some very distinctive rods. The 'Killers' range of rods have become something of a cult item among enthusiast bass anglers. Gan Craft squid jigs are also becoming quite sought after. The new Uo-jya jigs with their ultra realistic fish styling will be at the top of many egi anglers wish list.







Above: If you want to tart up a traditional Abu Ambassadeur, this is the place to look

Below: Vagabond Handles and a selection of swimbaits







HIGH POTENTIAL ORIGINAL LURES.  
**GAN CRAFT.**







Gan Craft

## Nature Boys

Nature boys have been known among travelling anglers for the heavy duty rod carriers they make. This year they presented a new PR knot tool to join PE braid to heavy leaders. This one has adjustable weights to allow one tool to be used on a variety of lines. This variation on the bobbin theme sees the line travel down the centre of the tool before being fed back and around the barrel. It's compact and looks like it is built to last forever.



Tiemco was displaying a number of new lures, but the Groggy was a stand out. I don't know what it does, but I want one anyway!





Clockwise from top right: The Abu Revo Elite 1B is just one of several new Revos this year. Carbon Fibre Lip Gripper from Studio Ocean Mark. Fishing Multi tool and compact fish grippers from Tiemco.











# Eating in Osaka

It is often said that one of the best things about travel is the food. Now it's no secret that the Japanese take their cuisine pretty seriously so we were looking forward to some culinary adventures during our stay.

I'm generally happy to eat all kinds of foods from top restaurants to cheap snacks, but one thing that struck me was the abundance of street stalls despite the temperatures not getting much above freezing for most of the time. One of my favourite foods, and an Osaka speciality was the Takoyaki or 'Tako balls' which is a dumpling made of batter and diced octopus, topped with seaweed, dried bonito shavings and mayonnaise. This is one of many great snack foods sold by street vendors all over the city.

Okonomiyaki is another favourite popular food around the region. Essentially it is a savoury pancake flavoured with ingredients such as squid, octopus and pork, and then topped with noodles, Japanese style worstershire sauce and mayonnaise. It is then finished with shavings of dried seaweed and bonito. The one pictured here is the 'works' version or Hiroshima style, where several layers of okonomiyaki are stacked together (each one with a different flavour, plus a layer of beef strips, cabbage, a fried egg and more noodles. Everyone gets a plate, a spatula that looks more like a shovel and then everyone digs in to which ever section takes your fancy!



Local anglers Kozo Okubo and Yoshitaka Tsurusaki consider how best to tackle a monster size Okonomiyaki







Eel and sea urchin, ready  
for frying on the hot rocks







A selection of dishes which included smoked octopus and horse mackerel, fish roe, sea cucumber and flatfish, tuna, amberjack and prawn sashimi



Rocks heated by burners underneath so you can cook your own octopus, eel, and vegetables









**WORKS**

Japanese Topwater Lure  
Exhibition



**American Bass** lures have played a big part in the lure fishing culture in Japan over the years, influencing most of the designs we see today. Currently, large scale Japanese manufacturers are at the forefront of lure design, with action and finishes which often defy belief. Despite this, there are a growing number of Japanese anglers turning away from modern hi-tech tackle. Instead they are going back to the simple pleasures that come from fishing with handcrafted topwater lures, most of which are heavily influenced by the American designs of the past. The lures range from simple and functional, to completely outrageous shapes and designs with stunning paint jobs to match. While they are built to fish, many get no further than a collectors display cabinet. The topwater obsession goes further than just lures too. Pistol gripped glass rods and retro barrel baitcasters are standard issue for these enthusiast anglers.









The Works 2010 exhibition featured 55 lure makers and over 1000 lures all lovingly handcrafted and painted. The venue was the Pangea Community Cafe, in the suburbs of Osaka. The building was an ex warehouse, full of atmosphere and near impossible to find without good directions!

Right centre: This selection of hockey mask designs were inspired by Friday 13th Movies!































Pangea Cafe













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