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DULAN SUGAR FACTORY

The sleepy coastal village of Dulan, 20km north of Taitung city, is home to one of Taiwan's most organic artistic communities. In 1997, local aboriginal artists took over an abandoned 1960s sugar factory and turned it into the unlikely stomping ground of artists and musicians. Unlike some of the island's other creative hubs, Dulan has escaped gentrification - the refinery equipment still stands, the café is canteenlike. 'The atmosphere comes from the old building and machinery,' says Rahic Talif (below), a celebrated artist from the Amis tribe and an original tenant (pictured is his installation using washed-up sandals, highlighting the effects of typhoons on Taiwan). Exterior walls are brightly painted and the factory is adorned with driftwood, the preferred medium for aboriginal artists such as Talif, who has a show planned for August. On Saturdays, the café stages raucous live performances. Off Highway 11, Dulan

SPACE INVADERS

A wave of artist-led gentrification has turned some of Taiwan's most run-down buildings into thriving cultural hubs

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS FLOYD WRITERS: JENNIFER CHEN, DAVID FRAZIER