

窮奢極侈

qiong2 she1 ji2 chi3

A house on The Peak that was sold to a tycoon for HK\$2.1 billion a few months ago was reported to be the most expensive home in Hong Kong. At 9,000 square feet, the property's square foot price worked out to about HK\$230,000.

Is there a more luxurious home? Yes. This one cost US\$300 million (HK\$2.34 billion) and has only 2,400 square feet, so it is worth HK\$1 million per square foot.

This home is so expensive because it can fly – it's a Boeing 787 private jet. Boeing has sold 15 of them to private buyers, most of them individuals, in recent years.

Such jets are usually fitted with a living room, a dining room and a den, with showers as big as those in five-star hotels. There are also gourmet kitchens complete with induction cooktops, steam convection ovens, chillers, freezers, espresso makers and rice cookers.

Idiom by Lon Yan

The inside of one of these jets – the one sold to China's HNA Group – was on display at a show recently. The plane took two years to design and outfit. The group will take delivery of the jet shortly and would use it for its CEO and for VIP charter trips.

For individuals to own such jets, it can certainly be described as “窮奢極侈” (*qiong2 she1 ji2 chi3*).

“窮” (*qiong2*) means “destitute,” “poor,” but it also means “thoroughly,” “to the extreme,” “exhaustively.” “奢” (*she1*) is “luxurious,” “extravagant,” “excessive,” “inordinate” (無節制的; 過度的; 放縱的), “極” (*ji2*) “extremely,” “very” and “侈” (*chi3*) “wasteful,” “extravagant.” “窮奢極侈” (*qiong2 she1 ji2 chi3*) means “extravagant in the extreme.”

Terms containing the character “奢” (*she1*) include:

奢侈 (*she1 chi3*) – extravagant; wasteful

奢侈品 (*she1 chi3 pin3*) – a luxury; a luxury item; luxury goods

奢華 (*she1 hua2*) – to be indulgent in luxurious and expensive habits

奢望 (*she1 wang4*) – extravagant hopes; wild wishes