

Really racy 品味彰顯

A self-confessed bachelor turns to a young, female interior designer to create the home of his fantasies in Happy Valley

一位單身人士要求一位年青女設計師締造其跑馬地夢幻家園



Location:
Happy Valley
Floor area:
900sq-ft
Specifics:
1bed, 2 bath



GETTING A CLEAR understanding of your client's hopes and desires is crucial to a successful working relationship. More so when the client is a young Scottish bachelor and the interior designer, Nicole Cromwell, is female — it has to be a case of Yin meets Yang.

Frustrated by rising rents and the subsequent compromise between cost and facilities, Neil Hosie decided to buy his own place last year and he didn't have to look very long for the perfect bachelor pad. His chosen apartment was the first one he saw; he kept coming back to it for three specific qualities: great views of the racecourse, the right size and, more importantly, the right price.

清楚瞭解客戶對室內設計的希望及要求，是設計師與客戶之間成功合作關係的關鍵，特別是客戶是一位年青的蘇格蘭單身人士，而設計師Nicole Cromwell是一位女性，更加需要工作上的相互配合。

Neil Hosie自去年便開始物色其夢中寓所。受租金不斷上升的困擾，他做出大膽的決定：自置物業。眼看物業市場並不活躍，按揭利率優惠吸引，Neil發現香港物業呎價比倫敦低。

Above and opposite: A dramatic red-gloss floor lamp from the Loure Gallery and a rainbow inspired Paul Smith rug revs up the clean-cut neutral palette

上圖及對頁圖：一盞紅色座地燈注入色彩
木鑲板和磨砂玻璃為中性色調增添質感



His brief to Nicole reflected his personality. Says Neil, "I wanted a very modern boy's paradise: all cream, glass and chrome." He also wanted all the gadgets to fit with this: the plasma TV, wireless Internet access and stereo speakers in every room.

In interpreting Hosie's brief, Nicole knew that she needed first to let in a lot more light. "The previous décor had made the space feel much smaller. So we replaced the windows with larger and simpler frames to let both the light and view flood in," she says.

Structural changes were also made to produce a more open feel. False ceilings were removed or pushed back wherever possible to regain the height. The finished apartment boasts ceilings at different levels and the feel is as close to US-style loft living as Hong Kong gets.

Previously the apartment contained two bedrooms and Neil was keen to have a guest bed, but he didn't want to give up a room. Cromwell removed the wall that separated the second bedroom from the living area and installed rolling doors that can be opened up or closed for privacy. This space is now occupied by Neil's study and sofa bed.

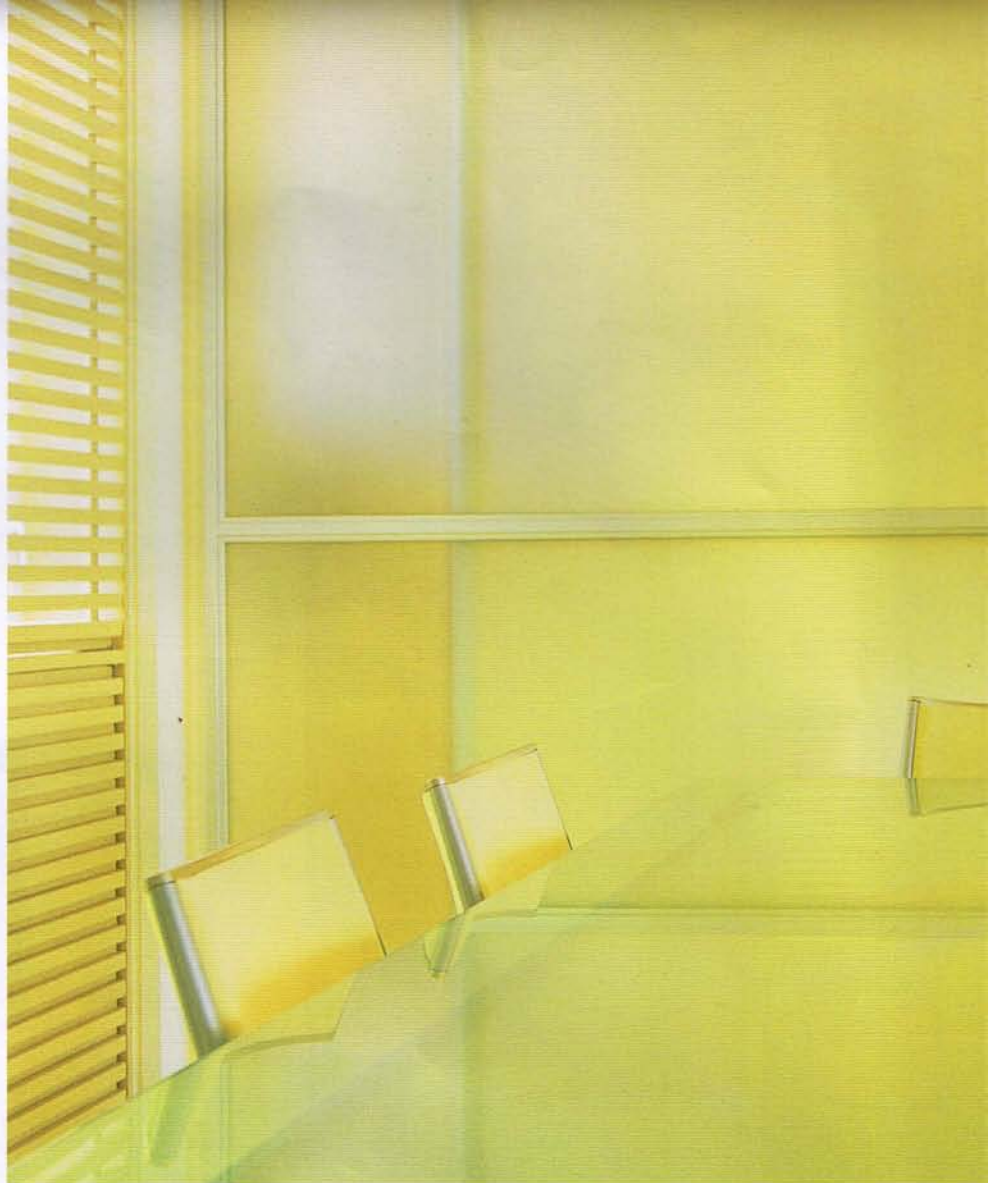
The colour palette is an oasis of calm and neutrality. Crisp and clean, the walls are off-white and the floors of the living space are covered in a sand-coloured epoxy resin that is durable and eases itself into the rest of the décor.

To provide definition between rooms, Nicole used various types of flooring. In addition to the living area's sand-coloured floors, local slate flooring welcomes the visitor at the entrance hall and wall-to-wall carpeting softens the feel in the master bedroom.

To add texture, Cromwell turned to a classic wood and glass combo. Beech paneling on the entrance wall to the master bedroom wraps itself around the corner and continues into the bar area. Ideal for bachelor living, the bar has extensive views over the racecourse, which Neil intends to capitalise on with future race nights of his own.

The wood paneling also appears in the bedroom for continuity and this time disguises cleverly designed storage.

The frosted-glass rolling door to the study is replicated at the entrances to



由於Neil本來租住跑馬地寓所，故他仍在該區物色理想物業。「我喜歡跑馬地，那裡的小餐館和酒吧，沒有半山的嘈雜，離淺水灣和赤柱也不遠，」他說。

事實上，Neil很快便找到理想的地方。他選中的寓所是他所看的第一間，他看了其他多間之後，總覺得它們欠缺了甚麼，所以又回到第一間。它俯視跑馬場全景，面積大小適中，更重要的是，價格理想。

Neil的想法是拆空其新寓所並將它重新設計，以反映他的個性。他給Nicole的指示是寓所要反映出其生活方式的典型一面。Neil說，「我需要一個非常現代化的大男孩天堂：全部是忌廉色、玻璃和鍍鉻。」Neil還要求所有裝置必須與每間房的設施吻合——等離子電視、無線互聯網及立體聲揚聲器等。

為了完成Neil的指示，設計師知道她首先必須增強寓所中的天然光線和人造光線。「過去的裝飾令空間顯得很小，因此，我們換上有簡單窗框的大窗子，讓光線和窗外景觀盡量湧入，」Nicole說。

整體結構和設計全部改變，產生一種更加開放的感覺。為了增強光線的流通，假天花拆除或盡可能推後以保持天花的高度，此結構上的變動顯示出不同層面的天花，效果非凡。



Above: A mirrored wall in the entrance reflects the kitchen and increases the feeling of space

Top: Rolling doors open up the study to the living area

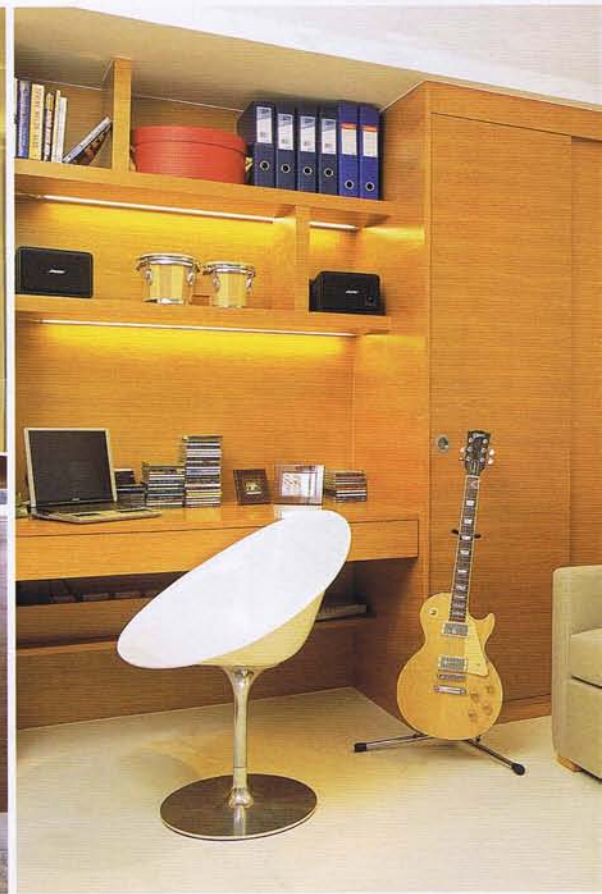
Opposite: The bar area, study (home to Neil's Gibson guitar) and bachelor-friendly kitchen

上圖：入口處的鑲鏡牆反射出廚房，增加空間開闊感

最上圖：拉門打開後是書房，然後通向起居室

對頁

圖：酒吧、書房放著Neil的獲獎Gibson吉他







both bathrooms, and Nicole has also cleverly covered one wall of the entrance area with mirrors that reflect the kitchen, thus widening the space.

The look is further boosted by a number of designer (shopping) items: the dining table was bought at the Louvre Gallery, the pendant light that bathes it is from Flos, a Paul Smith rainbow-inspired rug adds a splash of colour, and a dramatic red floor lamp, also from Louvre Gallery, spikes towards the ceiling.

Both bathrooms have been freshly kitted out with Philippe Starck fixtures and freestanding basins, plus lashings of dark-wood and Italian mosaic tiles.

There is little doubt that Nicole has created the perfect space for Neil. He enthuses, "It is the best flat I've seen in Hong Kong and it belongs to me! Nicole couldn't have matched the design to my taste any better."

— Claire Lamb

寓所本來有兩間睡房。而Neil非常希望有一張客床，但又不想放棄一間睡房。於是Nicole拆除隔開第二間睡房與起居處之間的牆，用拉門取代牆壁，可以拉開或關上提供私隱。這個空間現在用來做Neil的書房，並放有一張沙發床。

整間寓所沉浸在一片寧靜的中性色調中。牆壁清新簡潔，呈米白色，起居室的地板覆以非常耐用的沙色環氧樹脂，極容易溶合在其他部份的裝飾中。

Nicole選用不同地板材料，用來界定寓所中的不同部份。除了起居室的沙色地板材料之外，入口門廳採用本地產石板，而睡房則鋪以地氈，令整體效果更見柔和。

為了增添質感，Nicole充份利用木及玻璃。入口處牆壁上的櫟木鑲板延續至睡房及酒吧處。非常適合單身人士的生活，由酒吧可以觀賞跑馬場全景，Neil決定今後盡量利用這一優勢，享受他自己的跑馬夜。

木鑲板繼續出現在睡房裡，這次是用來巧妙地掩飾貯物組合。通向書房的磨砂玻璃拉門，同樣用於通往浴室的入口，Nicole巧妙地將入口處的一面牆覆以鑲飾，它們反射出廚房，開闊了對該空間的視野。

Nicole對客房及主睡房的浴室均採取果斷措施。兩台浴缸均拆除以增加空間，只有主浴室安裝了一個大型花灑屏。兩間浴室均安裝Philippe Starck裝置及獨立洗手盆，深棕色木用來增添陽剛氣息。浴室牆壁飾以意大利拼花瓷磚，購自律敦治中心的Design Gallery，並延續了中性主題。

寓所擁有大量時款物件—餐桌購自Louvre Gallery，上方的吊燈由Flos提供，一張Paul Smith彩虹地氈為一室增添一抹色彩，一盞同樣來自Louvre Gallery的富戲劇性紅色座地燈，將光線射向天花。

為了營造Neil希望獲得的效果，Nicole親自設計了大量細節裝飾及傢俬，並且請本地藝匠將其意念付諸實現。

毫無疑問，Nicole成功地為Neil創造了完美的生活空間。他深情地說，「寓所是完美無瑕的。農曆新年後我回香港，第一次進入裝修後的寓所，令我欣喜若狂。它是在香港見到的最漂亮寓所，它屬於我！Nicole竭盡全力將設計融入我的品味中。」

Above: The dining room table is from the Louvre Gallery and the pendant lighting from Flos. Opposite: Wood paneling cleverly conceals additional storage.

上圖：餐桌購自Louvre Gallery，吊燈購自Flos。對頁圖：木鑲板巧妙地掩飾貯物組合。