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When this Canadian homeowner gave *carte blanche* to the designer of her new home, the result was western functionality spiced up with an elegant Chinese aesthetic

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the living and dining area enjoys
oriental embellishments

客廳及飯廳一隅裝飾著東方色彩的裝飾中

a citizen of the True North, when the owner of this luxurious flat in sub-tropical Hong Kong opened the door to her new home she was delighted.

The relocation had been at super short notice but this savvy homeowner made a smart decision, immediately picking up the telephone to contact local interior designer, Nicole Cromwell. Within days, she was jet-setting her way to Hong Kong with an interior design magazine in one hand, and the designer's contact details in the other. "She could only stay here a couple of days," recalls Cromwell, "as she had to return to Canada to tie up loose ends."

Cromwell then had one month to ready the new home for the family. When asked whether or not the time restriction made this task an arduous one, she replies, "our

long distance telephone sessions were quite detailed, so I had a clear idea of what my client was looking for. By the time she arrived, I already had everything ready — fabrics, layout, finishings — all she had to do was pick what she liked best. She said she would bring nothing with her, it was a bit of a rush job, but do-able."

The result is a beautiful home, which combines Chinese style and Western functionality. Cromwell was instructed to respect feng shui and other philosophies of the Chinese culture. "The homeowner anticipated dinner parties with many locals as guests," reveals Cromwell. "And she didn't want to offend anyone."

Reflecting sheer elegance, diaphanous window treatments accent the bay of soaring windows in the living area, with the abundance of natural light intensifying the



clockwise from top left: cheongsam cushions in blue & Chinese royalty add colour to the space; blue and white porcelain perfects the look; Chinese silk screens and calligraphy promote the Eastern emphasis
opposite: red slip covers grace the crown of white dining chairs

鐘錶與絲綢等上座禮器，從中國皇朝顏色製造的墊子為空間增添色彩；藍白瓷的瓷盤令居室更具姿彩；中國絲綢屏風和中國書法畫注入東方色彩
對頁圖：紅色可拆卸棉套裝飾白色餐椅



the western style kitchen commands functionality,
the Chinese style wok makes great food
below left: an Oriental carpet provides balance for a dynastic robe
below right: old and new hardwood pieces exist in harmony

西方風格廚房極富實用性，中國煎釀能炮製美食
左下圖：一張中國式的地氈與襖袍互相輝映
右下圖：新與舊的實木製品和諧相處



main theme of white. The sofa and dining chairs are white with a dark wood finish. Says Cromwell, "Dark wood furniture can swamp a room, so it's important to keep the walls pale." Colours and fabrics have been layered on top with the use of rugs, artwork and other accessories. The white sofa is dressed in cheongsam cushions in noble green and gold, and striking red slipcovers grace the crowns of each white dining chair.

Due to the unequivocal requests of her client, and the time factor, Cromwell decided to custom design most of the furniture. "We knew that dark wood would feel heavy,

so we were very meticulous when choosing fabrics and colours for the rooms," says the designer. As a result, warm tones — notable in neutral stone flooring, sand coloured walls and vanilla upholstery — give a feeling of spaciousness to the ensemble.

In each bedroom, a majestic Orient-inspired bed awaits its weary master. Improvising the traditional texture and curves of a Chinese-style sedan, these beds boast a dark wood finish and intricate carving. Crisp white silk curtains in the master bedroom stop just short of the floor and are bordered with embroidered Chinese motifs.

Reflecting the personality of the owner, Cromwell filled the flat with feminine touches such as hand-painted tea sets, Chinese silk screens and delicate artwork. "This is the interpretation I received from my client," says Cromwell. "I think she wanted something warm and traditional instead of starkly modern." Chinese calligraphy designs echo the overall theme.

Traditional Chinese style is very dark, as the Chinese are not great fans of natural light, but this western interpretation works wonderfully for the Canadian residents. The result: a home with a lived-in feel rather than a showpiece.

Nicole Cormwell can be contacted on: tel 2521 9299

clockwise from left: Chinese bird cages are very popular with old Chinese men, though this simulation cage adds a feminine touch; traditional white orchids accent classic blue and white crockery; Chinese silk and cobalt blue are marks of the Orient; in ancient China, butterfly motifs were allowed only for the king's favourite concubines

opposite: white silk bedding and curtains complement dark wood furniture

照時針方向由左開始：中國鳥籠是中國老人的至愛，但此款仿製鳥籠卻非常女性化；傳統白色配以古典的藍白瓷器；中國絲和鈷藍色是東方的標誌；在古代中國，只有皇帝的愛妃才有資格用蝴蝶圖案
對頁圖：白色絲綢羅襪與窗簾配襯深色木床





這位加拿大屋主全權委任設計師裝飾其新居。 結果是有西方實用性的優雅中國風格

這間豪華寓所的主人是加拿大人。當她打開門走進新居時，禁不住心花怒放。

調動工作的通知很突然，準備時間非常短；但是這位精明的屋主做出明智的決定，拿起電話聯絡香港的室內設計師Nicole Cromwell，不出幾天，這位加拿大屋主一手拿著室內設計雜誌，一手拿著設計師合約細節飛抵香港。「她只能在香港逗留兩天，」Cromwell憶述道。「因為她必須回加拿大處理未解決的問題。」

當時，Cromwell只有一個月為這個加拿大家庭準備新居。當問到是否因為時間限制而令此項目相當艱巨時，她回答道，「我和客戶之間的長途電話會議非常詳細，所以我知道客戶需要甚麼。她到香港時，我已經準備就緒——布藝、設計圖樣、潤飾——她只須挑選自己最喜歡的就行了。她說她不會帶任何東西來港，時間太緊迫。」

結果是一個美麗的家，擁有漂亮的中國風格和西方的實用性。Cromwell學會尊重風水和其他文化的其他哲學，她透露客戶希望在家裏舉行晚宴派對，廣邀城中人士為嘉賓，她不想觸犯任何人。

在起居空間，半透明窗飾配高聳的窗門，映現出一派優雅格調；大量天然光線增強白色主題。沙發和餐椅全為白色，略帶深色木潤飾。「深色木傢俱能侵蝕一個房間，

所以令牆壁保持淺色調是非常重要的。於是顏色和布料層疊出現，再配以地毯、藝術作品和其他配飾的使用。白色沙發飾以高貴的綠色和金色墊子，而醒目的紅色可折卸椅套，令每張白色餐椅更見優美。

由於客戶的直率要求，再加上時間元素，Cromwell決定訂造大多數傢具。「我們知道深色木料會令人感到沉悶，故我們為房間選擇布料和顏色時加倍小心，」設計師說。結果，牆壁和裝飾布藝上出現的暖色調，如中性石或沙的顏色，令人感到房間特別寬敞。

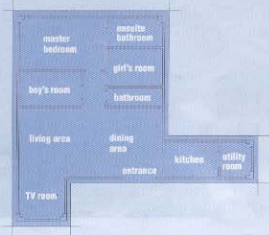
在每一間睡房裏，都有一張華美的東方風格睡床運換其絳橙的主人。這些睡床有中國風格日間用床的傳統造型及深色木潤飾。主睡房的白色中國絲窗簾齊地垂向地面，底邊飾以繡花東方圖案。

為了反映女主人的個性，Cromwell令寓所沉浸在柔美格調中，如托盤上有飾以東方圖案的茶具，中國絲質屏風和精細的藝術作品等。「這是我從我的客戶那裏得到的解釋，」Cromwell說。「我認為她想要一些較為溫馨和傳統的東西，而不是冷冰冰的時髦設計。」中國書法畫與整個主題相呼應。

傳統中國風格的基調是黑沉沉的，因為中國人不受天然光線，但是這個為加拿大家庭所做的中國風格的西方演繹，效果非常出色；一個適宜居住的家，絕非一間示範單位。

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*above: a bed covered in golden silk for a little princess
 opposite left: the little prince prefers pet pandas
 opposite right: silk curtains are bordered with silk brocade*
 上圖：為小公主而設的華美絲床
 對頁左圖：小王子對小熊貓情有獨鍾
 對頁右圖：絲質窗簾的底邊飾以繡花東方圖案