

a classical revamp provides fast results in  
this family-based Peak apartment  
以古典風格進行裝修工作，為這間山  
頂寓所提供立竿見影的效果

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traditional flourish





**R**elocating from Vancouver to Hong Kong with two kids and a couple of cats is a brave move but one which this Peak resident has pulled off with aplomb — transforming a whiter than white expat rental into a fully fledged family home — in just five months. And her rule of thumb? “I didn’t know Hong Kong and I didn’t want a long drawn out process, so I worked with a decorator. I didn’t buy anything I didn’t like and I sent a lot of furniture back to Vancouver.”

The result is a cosy but elegant set up — a rare find even in Hong Kong’s oldest colonial apartments. The classical look works despite the blatantly modern surrounds and it comes as some surprise that a traditional revamp can take so well in a slick high rise. Following her agent’s advice and calling in the services of local designer Nicole Cromwell, the resident first insisted on some minor structural surgery. “You can’t replicate a big old rambling house, she muses, but we tried to put in the architectural

detail”. The addition of classical mouldings and window boxes establishes a refreshingly formal feel, while a pair of columns and a strategically lowered ceiling help to define two distinct seating areas within the open plan space.

As Cromwell explains, “Moving from a big house in Toronto was quite a lifestyle change for my clients. It was a question of how best to use the space they had. We didn’t want people sitting on top of each other so we set up two areas. The kids’ rooms are small so we’ve made sure they have a TV space in which to lounge but there’s also a formal seating area for the adults.”

As a result the apartment boasts a familiar lived-in feel, which is furthered by the fact that Cromwell has incorporated many of the clients’ existing pieces into the scheme. A preference for heavy French antiques is evident, as is a slightly zany approach to 19th century art, but happily the resident has been flexible, working with the modern framework rather than



*this page: vivid cushions and rugs  
accent neutral furnishings  
right: luxuriant drapery adds  
an historic feel to the dining area*

本頁圖：鮮艷的墊子和地毯令中性傢具生色  
右圖：豪華帷幔為進餐處增添歷史情懷



against it. Beautifully framed oil paintings are clustered together in low-slung groupings and antiques pieces of furniture have been custom-made to fit the space. As she says, "In some situations you won't find something old that does the job and I don't have a problem with a reproduction if I don't think I can find what I want in an old piece."

The result is a genuine home base, with made-to-measure furnishings, although everything has been set up in accordance with the family's migratory lifestyle. Not only do new pieces of furniture coordinate with existing ones but the scheme will be easy to transfer to a more traditional arrangement of rooms. With plans for a French

townhouse already afoot, the client has also made an effort not to lose her own sense of style in the local bazaars. "I've picked up a few Chinese pieces to reflect our experiences but I've not gone for the whole Asian approach otherwise we'd look nutty when we move," she explains. The few choice pieces collected rely on Cromwell's expert

knowledge of the local market and will make the transition to Europe as and when it is required.

Use of colour is a skill that the resident takes with her on her travels and here in Hong Kong it has manifested itself boldly, due she says, to the tropical environs. Believing that “you can only make a good start with the proper paint-work,” she has exchanged plain white-washed walls for crisp shades of ecru, lemon and blue. The backdrop promotes a warm personal feel in its own right but it is with the soft furnishings that designer and resident have really gone to town. Cromwell is known for her way with fabrics and her attention to detail shines through in a truly jubilant array of textures and trimmings. The look is traditional yet vibrant with distinct areas conforming to disparate colour schemes, each enlivened by a medley of different patterns. Cromwell stipulates that “where

more than three fabrics are in use one has to be repeated” but that aside the resident has been able to indulge her passion for a daring yet harmonious mix.

As in all the best family homes, the soft furnishings have been

chosen with an eye to practicality as well as style, but in creating a kid-proof, cat-proof scheme, Cromwell has refused to compromise. Full-length satin drapes and clean-cut roman blinds prove a winning alternative to flimsy sheers and the children’s rooms speak volumes about their individual personalities whilst co-ordinating perfectly with the traditional look. The whole family has had a say in the design and as a result the apartment achieves the highest accolade; when they open the front door, they all feel good!



*opposite: a clustered group of paintings keeps the corner of the lounge intimate and cosy*  
*above: East meets West in the hallway*  
*left: added architectural details include classical mouldings and a pair of columns*  
對頁圖：一組油畫令休息室的一角溫馨舒適  
上圖：門廳體現中西合璧的特色  
左圖：新增添的建築細節包括古典風景線和一對圓柱

# 從

溫哥華來到香港重新安家，帶著兩個孩子和兩隻貓，算是一個勇敢之舉，但這位山頂寓所的住戶卻以無比信心在短短五個月中完成這件繁複的工作——把一間外國人租住的白色單位變成一個完美無瑕的家。她的竅門？「我不瞭解香港，我不想把裝修時間拖得很長，所以和一位裝飾師共同工作。不喜歡的東西一件也不會去買，還把許多傢具運回溫哥華。」

成果是一個舒適而優美的佈局——即使在香港最古老的殖民地寓所中也屬少見。儘管周圍環境時尚，但古典風貌帶出意想不到的效果，令人驚訝的是，在如此時尚的摩天大樓中，竟然會出現一個傳統風格的家。聽取其物業代理的意見，並聘請本地設計師Nicole Cromwell負責設計，最初屋主堅持做一些建築結構上的變動，並且增加建築細節。在加添了古典風景線和窗飾箱後，予人清新和有條理的感覺，而一對圓柱和低垂的天花，在開放式空間中界定兩個明顯的閒坐處。

Cromwell解釋道，「對我的客戶來說，從溫哥華的大屋遷來，是

生活方式上的極大改變。這是一個如何善用空間的問題。我們不要人們疊著坐，所以設置了兩個閒坐處。孩子的房間小，所以為他們安排了電視空間，另有一個專為成人設的正式閒坐處。」

於是寓所散發親切怡人的氣氛，當設計師在設計中結合了客戶的許多現有物件後，這種氣氛更加濃厚。顯然，客戶偏愛重實的法國古董和十九世紀藝術品，幸好她很靈活，採用現代款式框架，而不反對它。鑲以漂亮框架的油畫形成一組，低低地掛在一起，仿古傢具都是訂造的，以配襯此空間。正如她說，「在某些場合，你找不到營造氣氛的古董傢具，訂造仿古傢具不成問題，如果我找不到心中想要的古董傢具，我就會訂造一件。」

結果是一個真正的家，有量度準確的傢具擺設，但最重要的是一切都按照這家人的移居生活方式而安排。新傢具不僅能與原有的傢具互相配襯，甚至連設計方案本身也可以方便地改動，把房間做出較傳統的安排。屋主心目中早有一個法國城市住宅的計劃，但她又竭力做到保留其個人風



格。「我挑選了幾件中國傢具以反映我們的經歷，但我沒有全部採用亞洲影響，否則當我們遷移時會顯得很古怪，」她解釋道。少數幾件精選傢具是按照Cromwell對本地市場做出的專業意見而選購，必要時可以轉運至歐洲。

運用色彩是屋主掌握的一門技巧，在香港，她認為熱帶環境就需要鮮明的顏色。由於她相信「用適當的漆油才能把粉飾工作做好」，所以她把素淨的白色灰水牆變成淡褐色、檸檬色和藍色。背景顏色本身便提供一種溫馨的個人情調，而那些布藝傢具擺設才是人們的注目焦點。Cromwell素以其用布料的手法著稱，她設計的細節裝飾在一系列華美穗飾中漂亮地顯現出來。效果是傳統中見華麗，每一個色系都通過不同的圖案生動地烘托出來。Cromwell解釋說「使用三種以上的布料後，就得重複用其中一種」，但屋主能夠完美地將它們進行鮮明和諧調的配搭。

正像所有最佳家居一樣，這裏的布藝傢具都是首先考慮到實用和時尚的特性才挑選的，但是在制訂如何防止孩子和貓兒的破壞計劃時，Cromwell堅決不妥協。全長色丁帷幔和簡潔羅馬簾是薄紗窗簾的另類選擇；兒童房的佈置反映了他們的個性，但也與傳統格調諧調一致。全家人都對設計做出貢獻，才使寓所獲得最高嘉獎。當他們一打開前門，心情何等舒暢！

HJ

**opposite: natural wood and cool blue make for rustic French styling**

**top: the prime specification for this room was denim!**

**left: cool cottons combine with opulent silk rugs and fine carving**

對頁圖：天然木和素冷藍營造質樸法國風情  
最上圖：這間房的主要特色是斜紋布  
左圖：素冷的棉布與豐潤的絲氈和精美雕刻相映襯



