

Gimme Shelter

典雅流麗

For a semi-retired couple that divides their time between Hong Kong and Europe, this cliff-top eerie is the spice of life

一對半退休夫婦在香港和歐洲輪換居住，這間春蠶角寓所是他們理想的家外之家



Location:
Chung Hom Kok
Floor area:
2,800sq-ft
Scope:
Three floors
plus rooftop





Top: A low storage cabinet creates a neat room divide
Right: Collectibles are artfully displayed *Left: A swish glass-topped dining table updates the look*
最上圖：低矮貯物櫃成為房間間格物
右圖：以藝術手法展示收藏品
左圖：玻璃面餐桌極富時代感

WHAT WITH THE stunning ocean vistas and beautiful cliff-top setting, you'd be forgiven for feeling slightly envious of the couple who have put down roots in this 2,800sq-ft three-storey house. There is a distinctly laid-back feeling to the place, and it exudes all the warmth and cosiness of a family dwelling.

Although the house is fairly modern — only ten years old — the owners wanted to update the look and give it a style and feel that was all theirs. They enlisted the skills of interior designer Nicole Cromwell before jetting off to Europe for several months.

"I met with the clients in December 2001," says Nicole. "They were planning to go to France in March 2002 and come back in September, so they wanted their new home ready when they got back." This gave Cromwell several months to work with the couple in the planning stages, and then nearly six months to complete the project.

"Before they left, we went over exactly what they wanted and also picked out furnishings and fabrics together — it was very much about meeting their requirements and achieving a



Left and below: Inbuilt lighting is task-specific
Bottom: Area rugs provide definition *Opposite: Glass fronted cabinets are fitted with downlights and mirrored backs*

左圖及下圖：內置式燈光界定照明功能
 右圖及下圖：地毯用作界定空間之用
 對頁圖：玻璃面櫥櫃裝有下射燈及後鏡

modern look that was still cosy," remarks Nicole. "They didn't want anything too minimal."

Hence we see a warm colour scheme of yellow and pale orange in the master bedroom and bold blue fabric alongside neutral walls in the living area. High-gloss flooring was sanded down to achieve a more natural-looking finish, and marble flooring in the entrance adds a touch of elegance whilst defining the area. These elements serve to create an atmosphere that is at once welcoming and calm.

Aside from wanting a modern décor, the homeowners had two other very specific requests. One was to expand the maid's room for



MARBLE FLOORING IN THE ENTRANCE ADDS A TOUCH OF ELEGANCE WHILST DEFINING THE AREA

入口處的雲石地板增添優雅氣派，又起了界定空間的作用



有如此迷人海景及群山環抱的位置，難怪你會對這對夫婦居住的2,800平方呎三層樓房羨慕不已。到這裏後，你立即感到舒適氣氛，它散發出家庭的溫馨和舒適感。

雖然樓房十分現代化——僅十年樓齡——但屋主想令其更符合潮流，並賦予它全屬他們自己的風格和品味。他們在飛往歐洲逗留數月之前，請來室內設計師Nicole Cromwell進行上述工作。

「我於2001年十二月與屋主首次接觸，」Nicole說。「他們計劃於2002年三月去法國，九月返港，因此，他們希望九月回來時，新家已裝修完畢。」這便意味著設計師與屋主在籌備階段能夠共事幾個月，然後有近半年時間完成項目。

「在他們離開前，我們共同研究他們的需求，而且一起挑選傢俬和布藝——我們盡一切努力滿足他們的要求，達致既時尚又舒適的外觀，」Nicole說。「他們不需要過份簡約的設計。」

於是我們在主睡房挑選黃色和淺橙的暖色系，而起居室則是鮮明藍色布藝配中性牆壁。高亮澤地板磨至較天然的暗啞色，而入口處的雲石地板增添優雅氣派，又起了界定空間的作用。這些元素營造怡人的寧靜氣氛。

屋主除了要求時尚裝飾之外，還提出另外兩個非常特別的要求。其一是擴大工人房，給他們的專職家務助理夫婦使用；另一個要





their live-in staff (a couple) and the other was to create a walk-in closet with 'His 'n Hers' storage space for clothing and personal belongings.

"Storage was quite a big issue in this home," says Nicole. "The couple had lived in a more spacious, older property in Shek O for many years and had accumulated a lot of personal effects, all of which needed to be housed properly in their new property."

The walk-in closet was built out of a former box room and fitted out with hat racks, shoe racks and every imaginable type of hanging and shelf space. In addition, Cromwell commissioned a built-in wardrobe for the master bedroom to store extra items.

Filing space was provided in the study, and the television room has a specially designed area for wine storage, but cabinetry throughout is surprisingly unobtrusive.

"My clients have a lot of artwork and ornaments," Nicole remarks. "It was important that they all be displayed properly — they needed plenty of space for everything." To achieve this, Nicole had large, glass display cabinets with mirrored backs made for the



Left: Brilliant blue upholstery ties in with the marine view. Below: Outdoor areas combine original tiles with brand new decking. Opposite: Seating, soft furnishings and draperies were custom-made.

左圖：亮麗藍色布藝與海景相呼應。下圖：室外空間。對頁圖：布藝傢俬及窗飾均為訂造。

dining room. Down lights highlight individual pieces and make the most of the collection.

Cromwell designed a lot of the furniture herself and worked with a local contractor to make sure every item — from the wardrobes to the sofa — matched her specifications exactly. "I always check all the initial frames and measurements before they are manufactured to make sure there will be no mistakes," she says.

All the soft furnishings and window treatments were also custom-made to precise specifications. European fabrics complement the overall colour scheme in each room.

• Cromwell chose an aqua fabric to re-upholster



ALL THE SOFT FURNISHINGS AND WINDOW TREATMENTS WERE CUSTOM-MADE TO PRECISE SPECIFICATIONS

一切布藝傢俬和窗飾也都按照精確規格度身訂造



求是設計一個大型櫥櫃，分為「他」和「她」的貯物空間，放置衣物及私人物品。

「貯物是這個家的一大問題，」 Nicole說。「屋主夫婦在石澳一個較大和較舊的物業住了多年，並積累了大量私人物品，這一切都要適當地置於新物業中。」

大型櫥櫃是由原來的衣帽間改裝，內設衣架、鞋架及各種類型的掛架和格架。此外，Cromwell還在主睡房特別設計了一個內置式衣櫃，貯放特別物品。

書房設有存檔空間，電視室有特別設計的貯酒空間，但所有這些櫥櫃都不觸目。

「我的客戶存有大量藝術作品及裝飾品，」 Nicole說。「恰當地展示它們極為重要——它們需要大量空間。」為了達到此目的，Nicole為飯廳設計了大型玻璃陳列櫃，背面裝有鏡，下射燈突出個別展品。

Nicole本人設計了許多傢俬，並與一位本地承包商合作，確保每一件傢俬——由衣櫃以至沙發——都嚴格符合她的規格。「在他們製造之前，我一定會檢查所有框架和量度，確保沒有差錯，」她說。

一切布藝傢俬和窗飾也都按照精確規格度身訂造。Nicole多數挑選不同色調的歐洲布藝，以配襯每間房的整體色系。

Nicole選擇了一種青綠色布料裝飾起居室的沙發，而百葉簾是中性色調，配襯淺褐色牆壁。「在主睡房，我用施德洋行的生絲。這間房由於有淺黃色牆面光線明亮，所以我

- MASTER BEDROOM 1
- BATHROOM 2
- BEDROOM 3
- BATHROOM 4

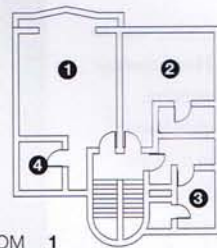
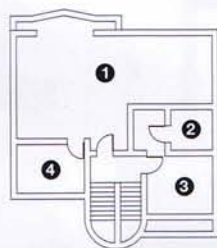
the living room sofas, while the blinds are a neutral hue to match the ecru-coloured walls. "I used raw silks from Cetec in the master bedroom," comments Nicole. "This room is quite bright with pale yellow walls, so we complemented this with orange fabrics to create a warm but not overwhelming look."

Lighting also plays an important part in the interior design, but again, the effect is very subtle. Down lights were placed in the beams, and spotlights focus on the paintings in the living room. Lights were also placed behind the curtains, giving them a soft glow.

Even out on the terrace, which juts out over the cliff, large plants and an eye-catching bamboo planter are lit up at night. Offering amazing sea views, the terrace is a haven for relaxation and entertaining.

"We kept the original tile flooring out here but added in some decking to extend the dining room," Nicole remarks. "The homeowners were keen that this area be designed with entertaining in mind, so we added a sandstone wall and lion-head fountain to give the area more character."

Originally the terrace had unattractive



- TV ROOM 1
- STUDY 2
- BEDROOM 3
- BATHROOM 4

Below: An inbuilt desk in the study frees up space for stargazing. Opposite: The light-filled bedroom is decked out in sunshine hues, including orange sheers from Cetec.

下圖：書房中的一張內置式書桌提供貯物空間。對面圖：睡房飾以陽光色彩，包括橙紅色沙發。

concrete blocks as its protective surround, but Cromwell was quick to dispense of these. Instead she had clear glass fitted all the way round to make the most of the stunning backdrop.

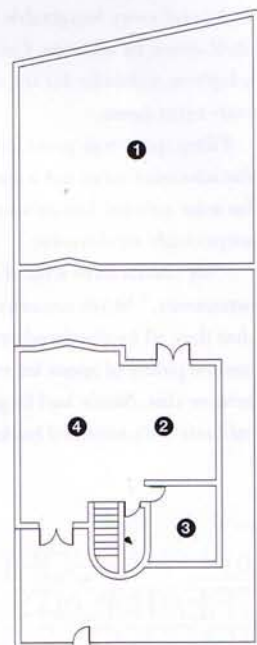
"When the couple moved back in September, there were still a few items of furniture to purchase — things they wanted to get on their return to Hong Kong," Nicole comments. "But overall, they really loved the style."

It isn't difficult to see why. With a tranquil and spacious interior, an expansive rooftop and the all-important terrace from which to take in the scenery, this home is a retiree's dream.

— Alice Hales

LIGHTING ALSO PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE INTERIOR DESIGN BUT AGAIN THE EFFECT IS VERY SUBTLE

在室內設計中，燈光也起重要作用，但效果再次顯得含蓄



- TERRACE 1
- DINING 2
- KITCHEN 3
- LIVING 4



們用橙色布料配襯，注入暖意。」

在室內設計中，燈光也起了非常重要的作用，下射燈裝在屋樑中，起居室的射燈集中照在繪畫上。有的燈飾裝在窗簾後面，散發柔和光線。

即使在戶外平台上，大型植物和引人注目的竹花盆在晚間也有燈光照亮。平台提供迷人海景壯觀，是休息和消閒的理想場所。

「我們保留原有的地磚，只是增加了地面以延伸至飯廳，」Nicole說。「屋主非常希望這個地方能起宴客作用，因此，我們增加了一面沙石牆和獅頭噴泉，令它更富獨特個性。」

平台本來有不甚雅觀的水泥保護板，但Nicole毫不猶豫將它去除。代之而起的是透明玻璃，可以將外面迷人的背景盡收眼底。

「當屋主夫婦九月返港時，尚有少數傢俬需要添置——他們希望回香港後再買，」Nicole說。「總的來說，他們非常喜愛這種風格。」很難說是甚麼原因。這個家擁有寬敞的室內空間、大型屋頂花園及可以觀望景色的平台，完全稱得上是退休人士的夢中家園。

