

URBAN OASIS

A one-bedroom flat in the Western District is a peaceful, spacious haven thanks to thoughtful planning and carefully considered materials | 全靠仔細的規劃和物料運用，才能讓這個西區一房單位化身成平靜開揚的避世樂園



BY TAMSIN BRADSHAW PHOTOGRAPHY EDGAR TAPAN STYLING BRIDGET SAUNDERS



PREVIOUS PAGES

The lovely, reclaimed wood dining table; the textured Mandarin stone adds interest on the living room wall

OPPOSITE PAGE

A simple sand-hued sofa contrasts with the graphic rug

THIS PAGE

A brick effect wall gives texture to the dining area, while keeping the colour scheme light

前頁圖

這張再用木餐桌時尚動人；質感豐富的Mandarin石為客廳牆壁加添趣味

對頁圖

簡約的沙色沙發與圖紋地毯成悅目對比

本頁圖

牆身的磚面效果讓飯廳更具質感美態，而同時堅守採用淺色調的原則



Practice makes perfect – as Henning Voss, Christoph Bannerman and Monique McLintock have discovered. Henning and Christoph are investors who have purchased and then leased out or sold various Hong Kong properties over the years, and Monique is an interior designer they have collaborated with on numerous occasions.

This time the trio worked on a 680-sq-ft apartment in the Western District, and, as with previous projects, they decided to stick with a one-bedroom format, “to maintain a spacious and airy feel, which most Hong Kong apartments lack,” says Christoph. The flat’s layout created challenges on this front, however: “It only allowed for either an overly large living room, or for a bedroom almost twice the size of the living room,” says Christoph. The team solved this by creating a 1.5 bedroom space, with the additional room to serve as a study or dressing room, or even a spare room for guests.

To enhance the sense of space and make this layout work, Monique used plenty of sliding doors, creating areas that could be sectioned off in different ways, depending on the way the incoming owners (the flat is up for sale) wanted to use them. Monique advocates using sliding doors instead of swing doors in small homes, as it’s a way of maximising functionality and spatial quality.

今次項目中，Henning Voss、Christoph Bannerman和Monique McLintock真正體驗「熟能生巧」的道理。投資者Henning和Christoph數年來購下及租出不少香港物業，並與室內設計師Monique合作無間。

今次他們的項目是西區這個680平方呎單位，一如以往，他們決定沿用一房策略，正如Christoph指出：「此舉可以營造開揚之感，大部分香港家居都缺乏這點。」然而，空間本身也見局限，Christoph說：「要不只能打造出一個過大的客廳，要不便是創出一個比客廳大兩倍的睡房。」有見及此，他們創造出一個1.5睡房範圍，多出的空間用作書房或衣帽間，又或作客房。



“Just use two or three colours and keep repeating the same materials,” advises Monique



OPPOSITE PAGE
Looking from the study and dressing room into the living room

THIS PAGE
The firespace - from Kitchens + Interiors - is one of Monique's favourite things about the flat; a chair from Tree in a quiet corner

對頁圖
從書房和衣帽間望向客廳

本頁圖
來自Kitchens + Interiors的火爐是Monique其中一樣最愛的物品；Tree座椅給置在家居寧靜一角

Another challenge on this project was the light source. “The windows are furthest away from the door, and so [the corridor] doesn't get natural light. You're trying to make it feel light even though it's not,” explains Monique. To resolve this, she placed mirrors on the left-hand-side wall. “I was trying to steal the natural light and have it bounce off the white walls.”

She also widened the hallway by a few inches. “Those extra six or seven inches seem like nothing, but they really help make a strong first impression,” she says.

Monique also recommends using light colours and sticking to a limited palette when decorating a small space. “Just use two or three colours and keep repeating the same materials,” she advises. It's the approach she adopted on this project: she kept with a neutral, natural colour scheme at the behest of Henning and Christoph.

為增加空間感及讓以上佈局能實際成事，Monique採用大量趟門，開出可以用不同方式間隔的空間，隨未來的屋主（單位正發售中）所想。Monique提倡在小家居採用趟門而非隔門，全因可增加家居實用率和提高空間質素。

另一挑戰便是光源的問題。Monique解釋：「窗戶與門離開最遠，故走廊天然光不足。即使它不夠光，你也要嘗試為它營造光亮的效果。」她為此特別在左面的牆壁加鏡子：「我想偷取自然光再反射在白牆上。」

她也把門廳位置開闊數吋：「這些新增的6或7吋空間看來好像微不足道，但其實足以讓人留下深刻的第一印象。」





OPPOSITE PAGE
The same Mandarin stone lines the back of the glass shower

THIS PAGE
The study benefits from the windows that line one side of the flat; Monique kept it neutral in the bedroom so as to create a feeling of escape

對頁圖
淋浴間後方鋪上相同的Mandarin石材

本頁圖
書房取得家居單邊窗戶的天然光；Monique在睡房沿用中性色調，締造逃離繁囂的情調

“To counter the busy environment, we asked Monique to create a relaxing refuge,” says Henning. “We wanted the future owner ... to feel like they were entering an oasis.”

The designer also worked in plenty of texture; this came in the form of a reclaimed timber table, the use of Mandarin stone on the wall behind the TV and in the bathroom, and natural linens in the bedroom and living area. As a result, the flat has depth and richness, despite the restricted colour palette. The open living, dining and kitchen areas and the clever use of light all combine to create the refuge Henning and Christoph were looking for. “A home should be a place where you recharge your energies, especially in a city like Hong Kong, where stress levels are high,” they say. “It’s important to keep that in mind when choosing materials and appliances.” //

裝飾細小家居時，Monique提議採用天然色彩和只用數種色調：「只用2或3種色彩，及重用同一物料。」她在這項目也用上相同技巧，在Henning和Christoph的指示下沿用中性、自然的色板。「為了抗衡繁忙環境，我們請Monique打造出一個讓人能真正放鬆的世外桃源。」Henning說：「我們希望未來的屋主……能有種置身綠洲的感覺。」

設計師在質感上也下了不少苦工：重用的木桌、電視機後的牆壁和浴室採用的Mandarin石材，還有睡房和客廳的天然亞麻布，成就出一個滿有深度的動人家居，即使用色有限也未有影響成果。開揚的客、飯廳和廚房，再加上巧妙的光線運用，結合起來便打造出一個Henning和Christoph渴求的避世天堂。「家是你可以重注活力的地方，特別當你置身如香港等的壓力之都便更加重要。」他們說：「選擇物料和電器時一定要緊記這點。」 //

