

BEAUTIFUL INTERIORS • INSPIRED LIVING

# HOME

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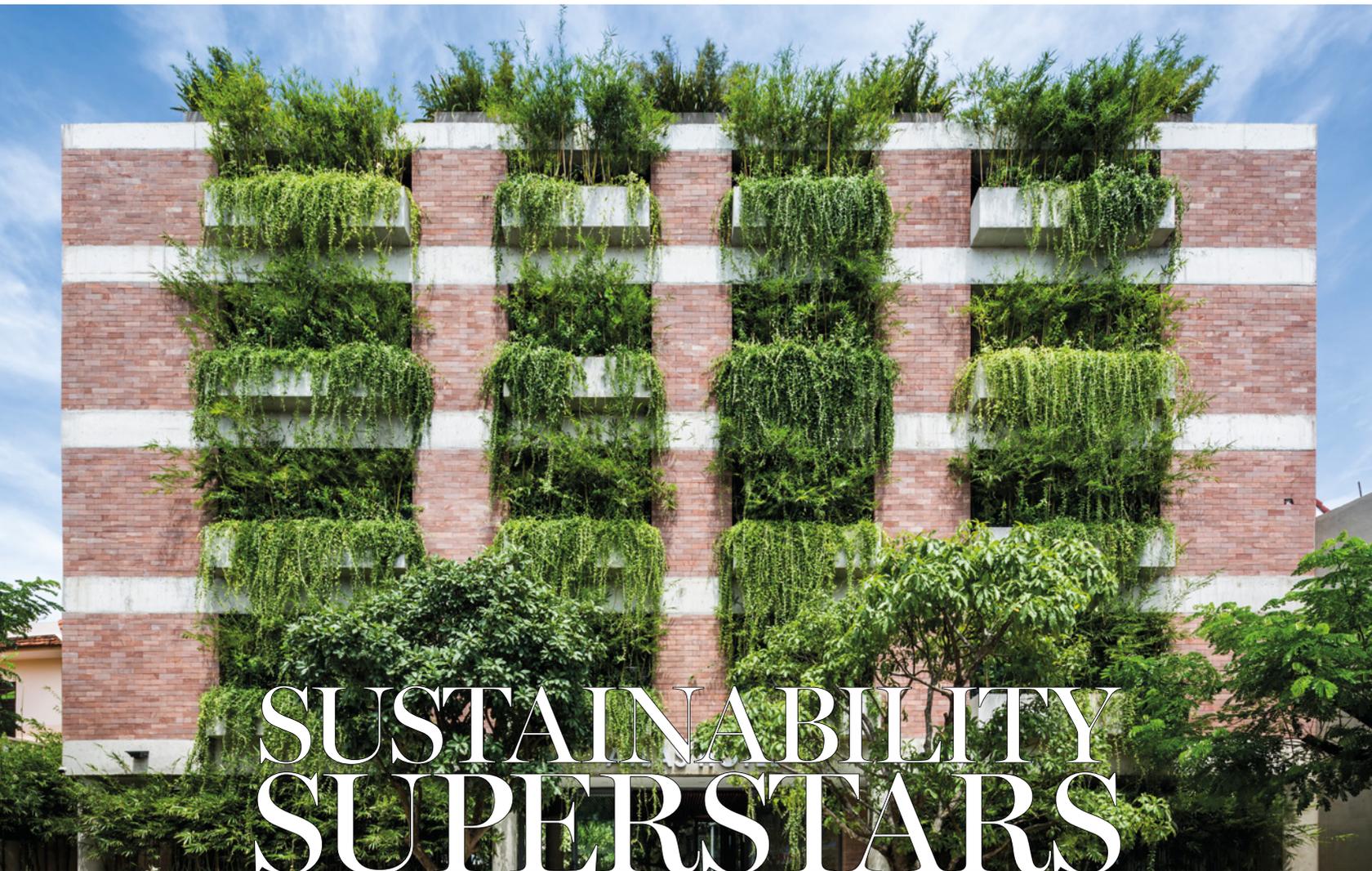
## ECO HARMONY



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# SUSTAINABILITY SUPERSTARS

We speak to three warriors in architecture and design to uncover their ecological creations and concepts | 我們跟三大建築及設計勇士談到環保創作與概念

BY MERCEDES HUTTON, LEANNE MIRANDILLA AND EMILY LEUNG





**FIRM FOUNDATIONS**  
Liquid Interiors' latest project, a luxurious flat in Tsim Sha Tsui, demonstrates how eco-friendly materials can result in stunning interiors; founder Rowena Gonzales.

**穩健基礎**  
Liquid Interiors的最新項目為尖沙咀Grand Austin的豪華單位，展現環保物料怎能融入美麗的室內裝潢；創辦人Rowena Gonzales。

**MATERIAL GIRL**

For Rowena Gonzales, founder and principal designer at Hong Kong-based eco-conscious interior design studio Liquid Interiors, in order to have environmentally-friendly interiors, from the outset you need to consider the materials that make up your home. "Some people think that just adding an air purifier will solve everything, but it doesn't," she explains. "Whether you're just moving in or doing a small renovation, it's worth taking a look at the paints, glues, finishes and flooring you use. Natural materials are good for the environment, because you're not putting all these toxins in the air." By helping the environment, you're also helping yourself, as fewer toxins means cleaner air. Rowena suggests staying away from PVC and other plastics, and considering the use of FSC-certified or PEFC-certified flooring or formaldehyde-free woods. This might involve some extra work – such as explaining your specifications to your contractors and sourcing the right materials – but it will pay off in the long run. Other small yet effective changes you can make to your home include using appliances such as water purifiers, heat pumps and energy-efficient light bulbs. "Water purifiers aren't only good for removing the chlorine and other chemicals from water, you also don't have to use as much soap because removing extra minerals softens the water," Rowena explains. "And a heat pump can save you 80 per cent of your water heating bill." //

對香港環保室內設計工作室Liquid Interiors的創辦人兼主席Rowena Gonzales來說，要達成環保室內裝潢，需要從頭想起——家居用料。「有些人以為添置空氣清新機便可解決問題，事實不然。」她解釋：「剛搬家也好、進行小型裝修也好，也應該看看你使用的油漆、黏著劑、潤飾和地板。天然物料對環境有益，不把毒性物料帶進空氣。」要保育環境，你也得出一分力選用更少有毒物料，成就清新空氣。Rowena建議避用PVC及其他塑料，可轉而考慮獲FSC或PEFC驗證的地板或不含甲醛的木材。雖或帶來額外工序——跟承建商解釋你的尺寸大小和物色合適物料——但長遠來說絕對值得。其他小型而有效的改變，包括選用清水過濾器、熱泵和節能燈泡。「清水過濾器不但能除去氯和其他化學物質，更可減少使用肥皂，因除去額外礦物後，水質自會柔化。」Rowena解釋：「熱泵能助你節省80%熱水費。」 //