

# HOME

美好家居

JOURNAL



## THE ECO ISSUE

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# LEAN AND GREEN

Liquid Interiors Ltd proves it's possible to create an eco-friendly home in a small space and on a tight budget

室內設計公司Liquid Interiors Ltd在這個居所工程中證明，有限的預算和空間也能打造出環保的裝潢

BY JACQUELINE TSANG PHOTOGRAPHY EDGAR TAPPA





**Location:**  
Sai Ying Pun

**Floor area:**  
350sq ft (area),  
400sq ft (usable)

**Specifics:**  
1 bed, 1 bath

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To maximize on a space, some of the things furniture can do is being up and tucked away opposite. The large windows and bi-folding glass doors leading out to the balcony let plenty of natural light into the apartment.

**left and right:** On one end of the terrace is the 'hot' garden, where the client would be able to grow his own herbs for organic food. The can collection is positioned above it. The bi-folding glass doors lead to the terrace, which the client would like to use for the same reason.

**below:** The bi-folding glass doors lead to the terrace, which the client would like to use for the same reason.

When a CNN cameraman purchased a flat in Sai Ying Pun, he wanted to know what he could do to make the 400-sq-ft space environmentally sustainable. The eco-conscious New Zealander took this challenge to his friend, designer Rowena Gonzales, who managed to achieve big results with limited funds and an even more limited space.

"My first impression of the flat was that it was way too small," says Gonzales, the co-founder and creative director of green design studio Liquid Interiors Ltd. The previous layout had featured three bedrooms, cramped into the tiny interior, and the spaces had to undergo a complete revamp in order to become the client's eco-friendly bachelor pad.

"We removed all the walls and used a partition wall to separate the living area and the bedroom, and enclosed the top with glass," Gonzales explains. "We placed bi-folding doors [between the interior and exterior] and used the same colour for the outside flooring as we did inside. Finally, we created a dropped ceiling, visually connecting the inside and outside so that it all feels like one big space."

The dropped ceiling is the first thing one notices upon entering the flat, and is also the designer's favourite feature in the home. The client had wanted to reuse as many of the existing materials within the apartment as possible, so Liquid Interiors took the original wood parquet flooring, sanded each plank and fitted them together for the gorgeous ceiling. The process was undeniably labour-intensive, but, as Gonzales points

out, "It was worth it because we were able to create a space that was both functional and beautiful." The client was also able to make the terrace even less of an extension of the floor.

**當** 滿在美國商業電視網(CNN)的攝影師在香

港置業購入了一個單位時，他希望和羅文娜怎樣能在這個400平方呎的空間內打造出可持續的生態環境，業主來自新西蘭，環保意識十分高，他並把對舊屋的期望告之他的設計師好友羅文娜 Gonzales——她屬於

環保有型的成本，在有限的空間內打造出無異的效果，所以，設計師今次又能再度發揮所長，於這個小空間內加入多個綠色元素，設計出精彩的裝潢。

「我初次參觀這個單位時，第一個印象是，這個地方真的好細小。」Gonzales回憶道：她是環保設計工作室 Liquid Interiors Ltd的創辦人及創意總監，這所香港的郵政局有30年歷史，全部費在這個對家狹窄的空間之內。設計師一看到這個單位，便知道必須把屋內的點點全部拆掉，再重新翻新整個單位，才能打造出符合屋主要求的環保單人住所。

「我們將所有牆壁，重新拆建了一塊玻璃牆，再加以玻璃，用來分隔開生活空間與睡眠空間。」Gonzales解釋道：「我們還採用了趟門（裝於室內與室外之間的連接位置），再靠外的地板使用由石製成內的一樣。此外，我們更創建了一個新天花板，在室內上能連接室內和戶外的地方，使之看起來就像一整塊天空。」

屋內的新天花板是在任何訪客踏進屋內時都會立刻察覺到的結構，也是設計師在工程中覺得滿意的設計。屋主一直希望能夠將兩層房所擁有的物料來進行各項工作。而 Liquid Interiors當然明白他的用心，所以採用了那位專賣的碎花地板木條，再給每條木條進行磨砂，讓好幾萬條之碎木碎屑，製成這套奪目的天花板，製作這個設計時，設計師表示其工作十分複雜，而極費手工，但她這樣說：「這個結構能夠為屋頂上的一份獨特而低調，絕對值得花時間來完成它。」

COMMUNICATION WAS KEY WHEN IT CAME TO EXPLORING DESIGN SOLUTIONS THAT WERE ECO-FRIENDLY, AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE. "WE SUGGESTED ALL POSSIBLE SUSTAINABLE DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR THE HOME," SAYS GONZALES



**above:** The final shut down the kitchen could be finished in 10 weeks, but the CH20 campaign has lasted over the year.

**opposite clockwise from top left:** Liquid Interiors is the kitchen island in the project, the gorgeous deep-toned wood island, and the natural wood flooring for the entire apartment, the space created by Gonzales and her team. The natural, healthy living design team placed a fan over the living area as the client asked for the air conditioner as the best possible

**▲** 廚房內的小島是整個公寓的焦點，也是 CH20 計畫的焦點。在一年多的時間內，團隊設計了一個集裝飾與實用於一體的廚房島台，並採用了天然木材作為島台和地板的主要材料。Gonzales 和她的團隊設計了這套設計，並採用了天然木材作為島台和地板的主要材料。這套設計是整個公寓的焦點。

out, "it definitely makes the space very unique and was worth the extra time".

It also took longer than usual to source suitable green bathroom fixtures. The selection available in Hong Kong was limited at the time Liquid Interiors was working on the apartment, and many of the options were expensive due to the fact that they were not stocked locally. As such, communication was key when it came to exploring the range of design solutions that were eco-friendly, affordable and accessible to the client.

"We were happy that our client understood the value of an eco-friendly home. However, it was still up to us to explain what could be done within his budget," Gonzales says. "During our proposal, we suggested all the possible sustainable design strategies for the home."

In addition to recycling the flooring for the ceiling feature, Liquid Interiors also required that the contractor recycle as much material as possible during the demolition and construction phases. The team used bamboo, a rapidly renewable material, for the indoor and outdoor flooring, while also making sure that the paint and sealant used in the home were low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

"The client also wanted a place that had an open feeling with lots of natural daylight," says Gonzales,

另一邊向，Liquid Interiors 在找尋合適環保的浴室設備的過程中，所花的時間則比較高，因為他們發現香港的環保浴室設備供應十分有限，而大部份的理想選擇也相當昂貴。主要原因是在這些設備的存貨並不在香港，需從外地運來。所以，當設計師一連為客人找尋各式環保、符合預算和方便採用的設計方案時，他們之間有沒有建立良好溝通便成了工程的關鍵。

「我們很與客人能明白一個環保家居的專業性。不過，我們也必須向他解釋清楚有什麼方案能符合他的預算。」Gonzales 表示：「在我們的計劃書中，我們提出了所有在這個居所中可行的可持續設計策略。」

除了利用本地製造的天然木料之外，Liquid Interiors 也特別要求承建商在拆卸屋內牆紙和建造其他新結構的過程中，盡量循環再利所有物料，不要將高量廢物送往仍有使用價值的製造。設計團隊選擇竹子作為室內室外的地板，因為這種材料能短時間內循環再利，他們同時也確保採用的油漆和密封劑的揮發性有機化合物(VOC)含量極低。

「客人想要一個既有開揚感覺的空間，又能享受大量的自然光。」Gonzales 指出，她完全確保提供優質的居住特色，就是耐氣候多窗戶，使空間充滿明亮和溫暖感。設計團隊進一步加入這些窗戶，於全屋窗戶加裝，再加上防風室內室外的玻璃門和一場玻璃分層牆，能定而會將自然光線和自然通風，使這個面積不大的居所也擁有開揚和清新的感覺。

屋內還可以找到其他綠色元素和設備，例如廚房和浴室內節節省水的水龍頭裝置，以及一部獲得能源標籤的冷





adding that the best part about the space was that there were plenty of windows. The team then maximised on the natural light and ventilation by increasing the window sizes and incorporating operable, bi-folding doors, as well as building the partition wall with the glass top.

Other green features and fixtures include water-saving low-flow fixtures in the bathroom and kitchen and an Energy Star air conditioner inside the home. Outside, there is a herb garden on the terrace for organic food, as well as a rain collector to water the plants without wasting resources. Energy-efficient LED lighting is used both inside and out.

Gonzales also incorporated design-savvy features around the home to make the most out of the small space. For example, the kitchen's built-in drying rack – the designer's “second favourite feature” after the dropped ceiling – is a simple design solution that saves on space and keeps the counter clear when cooking.

“At the end of it all, the 400-sq-ft apartment feels quite open and lofty,” she says. “It is our goal to bring stylish, healthy lifestyles to our client, [and] we wanted to show that having a green and healthy home is very achievable even with a tight budget and limited space.”

氣機。至於在室外露台上設有一個草本小花園，可供採摘製有機食物，而雨水系統則採用雨水收集得來的水作灌溉。屋內外更裝設了符合能源效益的LED燈飾。

Gonzales在屋內不同的地方加入了一些創具設計特色的元素，使小單位也能成為實用寬家的生活空間，例如加裝的嵌入式曬衣架——這是設計師的「第二最愛」，讓狹窄的洗衣位變——設計十分簡單，卻能大大節省空間，讓屋主在洗衣時能保持工作面整齊潔淨。

「最後，這個400平方呎的居所滿載了簡樸和風趣的氛圍。」她指出，「我們的目標是為客人打造時尚而健康的生活方式，而我們也想證明，即使預算和空間不多，也能與設計出一個環保的居所。」◆

#### THE LIST

**Interior designer** 吳靄儀 Liquid Homes Ltd

**General contractor** 吳靄儀 Living Space

**LED lighting** 崑崙 OptiLED

**Bathroom flooring** 凡尚 Vitrice

**Low-VOC paint** 凡尚 Vitrice 藍白漆 Dulux

**Low-flow bathroom fixtures and kitchen faucet**

凡尚 康乃時 浴室及廚房龍頭 崑崙

FOR CONTACT DETAILS SEE DIRECTORY

**opposite:** The large cabinet covered the bed and collected plenty of storage space, enough to hold the client's bicycle, which

he uses as a form of green transportation

**above:** The low partition cabinet separates the bedroom from the living area

**right:** The rainwater collector provides a large amount of water for the herb garden

**below:** The rainwater collector provides a large amount of water for the herb garden

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