

BEAUTIFUL INTERIORS • INSPIRED LIVING

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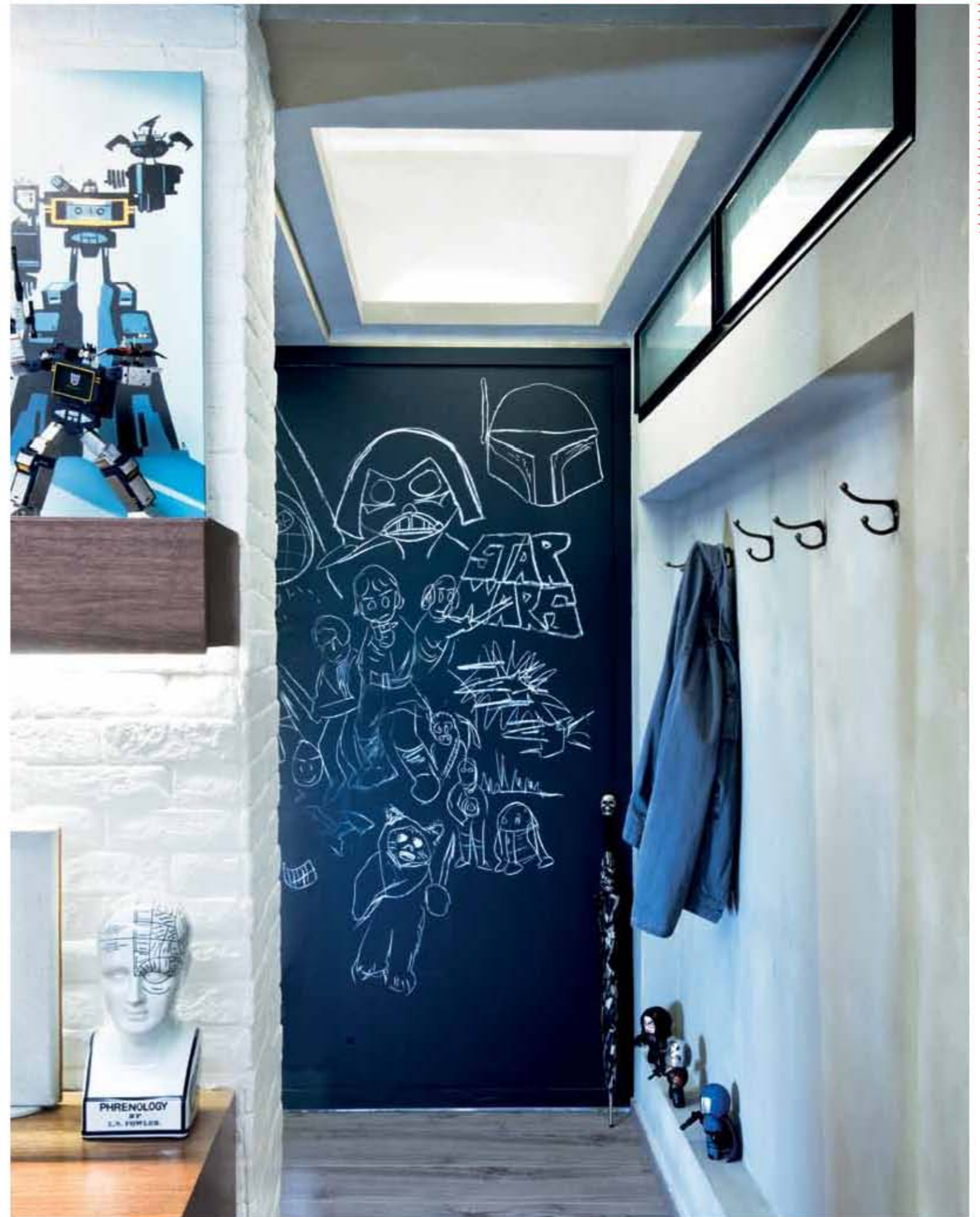
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Kermit the Frog famously sung about how it's not easy being green, but Liquid Interiors' founder and creative director Rowena Gonzales will have you thinking otherwise – only she is talking about the eco kind of green rather than skin colouration. “You don't have to go very high-tech; there is a misconception that if you're going to design an eco home, it'll be expensive and take too long,” says Rowena, who specialises in sustainable interior design. “It doesn't necessarily mean you have to put in solar panels, but little changes here and there will make a real difference in helping you save energy and lower your impact on the environment.”

Indeed, when Rowena's friend, Jonathan Barkey, asked her to design his apartment, she didn't convince him to install any high-tech gadgets in order to reduce his carbon footprint; rather, it was all in the basics of good design. The main thing that the designer set about doing was tearing down walls and opening up the space as much as

科米蛙Kermit the Frog曾大唱環保有何不易，然而Liquid Interiors的創辦人兼創作總監Rowena Gonzales卻能令你另有新看法。「不用走到尖端科技最前線，有種誤解就是以為一個環保家居必定花費甚多、耗時亦長。」專營可持續室內設計的Rowena說道：「這不一定代表你要安裝太陽能板，四周作細微改變已可以打造出極之不同的效果，有助節能和減低對環境的影響。」

故當Rowena友人Jonathan Barkey請她設計家居時，Rowena也沒有說服對方安裝任何高科技裝置減少碳足印，反之，一切從基本的優良設計開始。設計師最著重的是拆去牆壁、盡可能開出更多空間。Jonathan指：「Rowena其中一項最出色的意念就是以落地玻璃窗取代小窗戶。」這些門身能通往陽台小巷，可炮製燒烤供友人品

WIDE OPEN

The open plan kitchen and living room is ideal for entertaining, particularly when the screen is pulled down for movie nights

舒適開放

開放式廚房和客廳是款客的理想地點，屏幕拉下來即可一同欣賞電影夜





SINGULAR SHADE
Green (Jonathan's favourite colour) is the predominant hue in this home and can be found in the bar stools, shag carpet and in the bedroom

單一色彩
綠 (Jonathan最喜愛的顏色) 在這家居中佔主導角色，並應用在吧凳、地毯和睡房中

possible. "One of the best ideas that Rowena had was replacing the small windows with floor-to-ceiling glass doors," says Jonathan. These doors lead out to a narrow strip of terrace, where the bachelor often finds himself whipping up a barbecue feast for friends. "It's nice having this space out there. Before, there was just a little steel door that led out to the terrace, it was just a waste really," says the homeowner.

The new glass doors also mean the apartment receives a lot of daylight: "We actually didn't incorporate much lighting into the design because we knew that during the day, there would be sufficient natural light," says Rowena. "The glass also extends the space. When it was all blocked, it made the already long and narrow space feel extra skinny."

嘴。屋主說道：「能擁有這處空間實用叫人興奮。之前只有一小道鐵門能通行至陽台，實在浪費。」

全新的玻璃門亦讓日光源源滲進單位之內。「我們不需在設計上多加燈飾，白日已有充裕的自然光。」Rowena說：「玻璃也能有效延展空間。當它還處於被包圍阻擋的狀態時，原本已經長窄的空間更見狹隘。」

簡單打開屋門已成就出天然的通風系統，雙層玻璃板在冬天時節更能讓你保持溫暖。Rowena也貼心裝上鋁背窗簾，能反射熱力，讓單位內能時刻維持在理想溫度。

“THE SPACE STILL LOOKS INDUSTRIAL, BUT THE WOOD WARMS THINGS UP A BIT”

Natural ventilation also comes easily by simply flinging the doors open, and as the glass panels are double-glazed, they help keep the flat warm during the winter weeks. Rowena also fitted window shades with an aluminium backing that reflect heat, which work to help maintain an ideal climate in the apartment.

To complement Jonathan's wish for “an urban, concrete kind of feeling,” he and Rowena were keen to incorporate something uniquely Hong Kong and recycled. The two settled on shipwood, hand-selecting pieces from a big pile that they found through a supplier in Wan Chai, for the large storage cabinet and main door. Adds Jonathan, “I really like the way the wood looks here. The space still looks industrial, but the wood warms things up a bit.”

Another “must-have” for his bachelor pad was having space for a projector and screen. Says Rowena, “The screen is retractable, and it's nice to not

為配合Jonathan對「城市混凝土格調」的追求，他和Rowena亦致力在家中投入香港獨有的元素和循環物料。最後他們選用灣仔一供應商提供的大堆船木手製精選之作，打造大儲物櫃和大門。Jonathan補充：「木材的效果很悅目。空間看來依然充滿工業情懷，而同時木又能帶來溫暖感。」

另一指定要求便是設置放映機和屏幕。Rowena說：「屏幕採伸縮設計，不用長時間放著大電視。」Jonathan仍然未決定當屏幕收起時、白牆上應放點甚麼，但現在有了他在潛水時拍下的美麗照片，即成悅目選擇。

ECO-CONSCIOUS

Recycled wood warms up the kitchen; the narrow, outdoor terrace lets in natural ventilation

環保之最

循環木令廚房更顯溫暖；窄陽台成了天然的通風系統





NATURAL HABITAT

The large master bedroom has a work desk neatly tucked away to one corner; screens in a birch forest motif conceal the closet and tie in the green theme

窩心一角

大主人房設有工作桌，並收於一角；樺木紋屏風將衣櫃隱藏起來，並貫全屋的微綠色主題



have a huge TV there all the time.” Jonathan is still deciding what to put on the blank wall when the projector screen is rolled up, but for now, the beautiful photos that he takes from his scuba diving expeditions make a nice alternative.

As well as being green in the eco sense of the word, it also applies to the actual colour of the space. It’s not noticeable at first, but as soon as Rowena points out how Jonathan loves this particular colour you begin to see it everywhere: the bar chairs, kitchen utensils and some of the smaller appliances, in the bedroom, and even the large, plush, octopus-shaped cushion is green. “I never knew why until he recently told me it’s because he liked the Hulk when he was a kid,” says Rowena. “I liked anything green and I never had a problem with eating vegetables like a lot of kids did,” admits Jonathan. “It’s probably how my parents brainwashed me into eating greens.” The designer breaks into some light banter and teases his friend over the colour scheme, but admits, “It makes a huge difference when you know there’s meaning behind the green.” //

除了著重環保綠，空間也得加入些實在色彩。第一眼看去或不太明顯，但當Rowena指出Jonathan有多喜歡這種色彩後，你便會自自然然發現原來它一直無處不在：酒吧椅、廚房用具和部分小型電器、睡房，甚至是八爪魚形墊子，全也是綠色。Rowena表示：「直至他最近告訴我兒時最喜歡變形俠醫我才明白原因。」Jonathan坦認：「任何綠色的東西我也喜愛，小時候也不會像其他孩子般抗拒蔬菜。父母大概就是以這種洗腦方式讓我多吃綠色植物。」儘管設計師禁不住開了客人一個玩笑，但她依然相信：「知道綠色背後的意義後，你便會有完全不同的看法。」 //