

SECOND LIFE

Vstudio stages a radical renovation in Kowloon Tong, transforming a company's former staff quarters into an airy duplex for two | 設計工作室Vstudio將九龍塘一間前公司職員宿舍改造成開揚的二人雙層家園



BY ALICE CHAN PHOTOGRAPHY EDGAR TAPAN STYLING BRIDGET SAUNDERS



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The duplex's lower floor is a modern, loft-like space with an open living and dining area

OPPOSITE PAGE

Vanessa replaced the previously bulky staircase with a slimmer, more contemporary one

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The cement floor sets the industrial tone; a small balcony is accessible from the living area

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這個雙層家居的下層是個現代頂樓似的空間，設有開放式客廳和飯廳

對頁圖

Vanessa以一道纖巧時尚的樓梯取代感覺累贅的舊梯

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水泥地板為空間定下工業格調；客廳能通往小巧的陽臺

One of the most important steps to buying a home is to have a vision for the space, regardless of the state it's in at present. It's easier said than done, especially when the present includes something resembling student halls of residence. When the homeowners bought this Kowloon Tong duplex, it was nothing but drab. The space had been divided into four small bedrooms and a kitchen to serve as accommodation for the employees of a company, and the layout made the duplex feel dingy and dark.

The couple knew just the person to make it into a home: their friend, Vanessa Ng of Vstudio. In just under nine months, Vanessa reinvented the duplex from top to bottom, knocking down walls, replacing the bulky staircase with a more streamlined one, and redoing all the wiring and piping.

購置家居其中一個重要步驟便是能想像得到它有潛質變成的模樣，而非只限於眼前之境。然而空談總比行動容易，特別是當眼前所見讓人聯想到學生宿舍，挑戰便隨之而來。屋主買下這間九龍塘雙層大宅時，共有4間小睡房和一個廚房，原本是一個作為某公司員工短暫留宿的地方。單位佈局昏暗無光，了無生氣。

屋主夫婦當下即時想到能勝任把這處空間改造成安樂窩的人選：友人兼來自Vstudio的Vanessa Ng。在短短9個月內，Vanessa將單位徹底改頭換面，拆去牆身、以流線型樓梯取代沉重累贅的舊梯，並重新鋪設所有電線和喉管。



She loves to host dinners; the kitchen is designed so she can interact with guests while preparing dishes



OPPOSITE PAGE

Simple, clean lines feature in the dining and kitchen area. The husband sourced the Gervasoni Gray 24 dining chairs by Paola Navone from the UK

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The easy-to-clean stainless steel kitchen; a pretty wrought iron tray from White Contemporary Homewares

對頁圖

飯廳和廚房均飾以簡潔的線條。丈夫從英國搜羅得出自Paola Navone之手的Gervasoni Gray 24餐椅

本頁圖

清潔簡易的不銹鋼廚房；來自White Contemporary Homewares的漂亮鐵織盤

The present two-bedroom apartment is spacious with two distinct zones. Downstairs, Vanessa created a loft-like space with an open living and dining room that's brighter than before, thanks to the enlarged window panes that allow the homeowners to make the most of natural light. The cement floor sets the industrial feel of the home. "They said they liked this kind of floor, so we built ideas based on that," recalls Vanessa. "And they have a dog, so they didn't want floors that could get scratched."

The ambience is reinforced in the stainless steel kitchen. "I love to cook, so I asked for a kitchen that's easy to clean. Chinese cooking gets greasy with all the oil," says

改造後的2房單位開揚廣闊，並有著兩個各具特色的分區。Vanessa在下層打造出頂樓似的空間，設有開放式客廳和飯廳，並加裝了特大玻璃板讓屋主能善用紛紛湧進屋內的天然光，比以往明亮得多。水泥地板為家居奠下工業情懷。「他們說過很喜歡這種地板，所以我們為二人實現願望。」Vanessa回想道：「屋主養有狗隻，故不考慮容易刮花的地板。」

這種氣氛在不銹鋼廚房內更發揮得淋漓盡致。妻子說：「我熱愛下廚，所以要求一個方便清潔的廚房。中式煮食多含油份，故容易弄得油漬處處。」她也喜愛舉辦晚宴派對，廚房便讓她在準備美食的同時與客人交流，有需要更可以平板夾絲玻璃板將廚房與客廳範圍分隔開來。

OPPOSITE PAGE
The bedroom is decorated in softer, pastel hues

THIS PAGE
The spa-like bathroom complete with a large bespoke tub designed by Vanessa

對頁圖
睡房以柔和淺色裝飾

本頁圖
水療似的浴室設有 Vanessa 設計的特製大浴缸

the wife. She also loves to host dinner parties, and the kitchen is designed so she can interact with guests while preparing dishes, but if need be, close it off from the living and dining area using the mesh wire glass panels.

Meanwhile, the upstairs spaces have a warmer feel that's in keeping with their role as bedrooms and bathrooms. Woods, carpets and pastel colours give these rooms a soft cosiness. The master suite has a large dressing area with his and hers basins, and behind glass panels is the spa-like bathroom with a large mosaic tiled tub that Vanessa designed.

There are numerous stories of how friends working together can spell disaster, but luckily for these three, it was a partnership built on trust. Says the homeowner, "Vanessa's been great. We respect her views, and asked for her opinion on everything we wanted to buy." The designer adds, "They know what they want, which always helps. It's been a pleasant experience." //

與此同時，設有睡房和浴室的上層空間則滲透著溫暖情調。木材、地墊和淺色組合讓房間氣氛舒適宜人。主人套房設有寬大的梳洗空間，配合男女主人各一的洗手盆，而位於玻璃板後、水療似的浴室則置有一個特大馬賽克浴缸，由 Vanessa 親自設計。

因合作而與朋友鬧翻的例子已見怪不怪，但幸運地這三位好朋友的合作完全建基於信任之上。屋主說：「Vanessa 表現很出色。我們尊重她的意見，買任何東西前都必定先問她意見。」設計師補充說：「他們清楚明白自己想要甚麼，這幫助可大。今次的確是場讓人欣慰的體驗。」 //

