

TASTE OF LIFE

精緻生活
品位
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SHEN YUN LEAD DANCER
ELOQUENCE IN ACTION

水墨飄逸恰似詩

MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY

自然之心

WATCHES, WINE, AND LIQUOR

醇美時光

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

激流勇進





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Left: A grand entryway sets a tone for the apartment. Above left: the apartment honors its 1904 Piccadilly roots. Above right: A Louis-XIV-style commode, omolu-mounted and inlaid with tortoiseshell marquetry, anchors the entrance lobby. The piece depicts Commedia dell'Arte figures and fabulous animals.

為了滿足客戶緊迫的工期要求，Luigi先拆除了公寓裏多餘的牆壁和天花板，並從房屋的整體佈局開始著手。臥室需要改建成帶浴室的套間；前廳、客廳和餐廳都要統籌安排；但窗戶的位置卻不能做任何改動，因為作為一座歷史遺產，

這棟大樓始建於1904年，曾是倫敦繁華大道Piccadilly上最高的建築物，必須遵從一系列嚴格的管理要求。

特殊的歷史背景，讓復原公寓內那些精美的藝術設計成為重中之重。「在我遇過的具有同等規模和精細程度的項目中，這個項目的完成速度是最快的。」Luigi搖了搖頭，對我們說道。儘管項目已經交付了一年，但回想起當時那份如坐針氈的緊張和不安，Luigi仍心有餘悸。「就在奧運會開幕的當天，我們交付了鑰匙。」

為了表達對Luigi及其團隊的謝意，業主在項目完成後特為他們舉辦了一場雞尾酒招待會。在今後的日子裏，這樣的聚會在這座面積有7,800平方呎的公寓裏將會經常舉行。「業主們在倫敦時會有非常多的社交活動。」Luigi說，「他們的兒子最近剛剛讀完MBA，他會是最常住在這裏的人。我們根據他們的要求設計了上面一層，那裏更像是一個紳士俱樂部和夜總會的混合體，和家裏其它地方的感覺迥然不同。父母們通常一年會來這裏住三次，一次只有幾星期。然後，就會前往紐約或是孟買。」

In 2011, a South Asian businessman who wanted a home base for his family, all in their 30s or older, fell in love with the Old Park Lane location of a London penthouse apartment. Prior renovations boxed what remained of period architectural details behind faux walls and ceilings but preserved the apartment relatively well. The new homeowners called on Luigi Esposito and his team at Oro Bianco Interior Design, London, to turn the two-storey heritage apartment into a modern, bejewelled grande dame. The clients had just one condition: the apartment must be turn-key ready in time for the 2012 UK Summer Olympics, 11 months away.

To meet the clients' specifications, Esposito tore away the palimpsest of earlier construction and began from the bones. Bedrooms required ensembles, floor plans needed redrawing and window positions demanded preserving to satisfy a strict heritage mandate placed on the building, once the tallest in Piccadilly after it was built in 1904. Furniture needed sourcing and the restoration of exquisite artistic details called for extra attention. "That was the fastest project I have ever done at that scale and that rich in details," Esposito told Taste of Life with a shake of his head. One year after completion, the project still invokes the anxiety of a close call. "Opening day of the Olympics, we delivered the keys."

The family thanked Esposito and his team with a cocktail

PODIUM FINISH

Luigi Esposito of Oro Bianco Interiors transformed a London penthouse into a jewel of a residence in record time.

歷史建築中的現代之風

2011年，一位來自南亞的商人想在英國給自己和家人們安個家。最終這個成員都在30歲以上的家庭，相中了位於英國倫敦Old Park街的一處複式公寓。

Chinese Text by Yun Can English Text by Lauren Williams and Brett Price

業主聘請了倫敦Oro Bianco Interior Design的著名設計師Luigi Esposito來主持裝潢他們的新家。由於之前的公寓主人另修建了一層牆壁和天花板，所以，這所公寓舊有的細節與風貌被保存得相對完好。而擺在Luigi和整個團隊

面前的任務，正是在保留這份奢華和歷史感的基礎上，再添些摩登與現代。業主的具體要求只有一個：在短短11個月之後，也就是趕在2012年倫敦夏季奧運會開幕前完成項目，把公寓鑰匙交到他們手上。



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The c. 1870 secretaire bookcase, in the Hepplewhite manner, commands attention, flanked by Soane couches upholstered by Sabina Fay Baxton. The rich silk velvet upholstery is worked with a medieval embossing technique of dusting the fabric in tarnished metals.



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Left and below: Brazilian Mahogany gleams in this hand-crafted Linley table, further enhanced by unimore, Amboyna, American Walnut and other exotic woods.



reception in their honour. It was the first of many parties in the 4-bedroom, 7,800 square foot flat with a spectacular view of London's skyline. "The clients have a very active social life while in London," Esposito says. "The son, a recent MBA graduate, is there most often and we designed the top floor specifically to his requirements. It's a mix between a gentlemen's club and a nightclub, very different than the rest of the home. The parents stay there about three times per year, a couple of weeks at a time before heading off to New York or Mumbai, India."

It's a whirlwind, jet-set lifestyle. Which is why the mother of the household requested that this dwelling's lobby, drawing room, dining room, and living room perform double duty: grand entertaining space when interior French doors are open, but a "proper family home where they can relax together" day to day.

"Classical proportions, historic windows, doors and balconies make a strong design statement," Esposito points out, a statement the family welcomed. But they didn't want it to feel old-fashioned. New and old provide balance. There is a 30,000 piece mosaic of semi-precious stone inlaid into marble in the master bathroom, an 18-person dining table intricately crafted from exotic woods, and hand-painted glass panels by Gorman Studios of Vancouver in the main corridor. Antiques are the main characters of each social room. "We were always trying to select something very exotic, very beautiful and unique and then bring a new design to comfortably sit next to it, bring character and soul to that historical building but make it present-day."

If interior design were an Olympic sport, Oro Bianco would have enjoyed a podium finish. We're not sure which we would enjoy more: the Olympic Games or two weeks in that home on Old Park Lane.

作為一個典型的商務人士之家，女主人提出了特別的設計要求。公寓的門廳、客廳、餐廳和起居室在這裏聯手演繹出第二種功用，那就是在打開那些法式落地玻璃門之後，這些房間會連成一體，成為一個盛大的宴會廳。而當自家人住在這裏時，一切又會回歸到日常生活的樣子。望著窗外那美麗又壯觀的天際線，倫敦市古樸又精緻的輪廓正清晰地安放在那裏，等待著日後絡繹不絕的客人們前來觀賞。

「古典的均衡感、充滿歷史感的門窗和陽台，這些都讓這所公寓帶有了強烈風格。」Luigi說，業主們非常喜歡公寓原本的風格，但同時又不想讓它看上去像個老古董，這種新與舊之間的平衡，正是設計工作要解決的核心問題。

如今這座公寓裏，你可以找到各式

各樣關於古典與現代巧妙融合的驚喜範例。主臥室的浴室裏，大理石上鑲嵌著3萬件半寶石組成的精美圖案；餐廳裏，用充滿異國情調的木材雕琢出的能容納18人的大餐桌；在主過道的兩側，則裝飾著溫哥華Gorman工作室出品的手繪玻璃牆板；還有那些在社交空間中作為絕對主角的古董們。「我們一直試著選一些具有異國風情，精美又獨特的物件，然後再拿一個新設計和這些物件舒服地擺放在一起。我們凸顯出這座歷史建築的性格和靈魂，但又要讓它有現代感。」

我們相信，如果倫敦奧運會的比賽項目中有室內設計，那在開幕當天交付鑰匙的Oro Bianco Interior Design一定有機會登上領獎臺。當然，如果獎品是能在Old Park Lane的這所公寓裏住上兩週，那就更完美了。

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The Pietra Dura floor is laid with over 30,000 pieces of semi-precious stones such as amethyst, carnelian, lapis lazuli and mother-of-pearl. The Oro Bianco vanity, fabricated with Brazilian Mahogany, is inspired by traditional French furniture.





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The upstairs, a blend of high-tech and ancient, features a retractable ceiling and Persian décor. Gorman Studios of Vancouver contributed reverse glass painted panels.



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Above: Master bedroom: Blue silk covers the head and foot-board of a Rosewood Simonetto's bed. Neaumont and Fletcher bespoke blue silk drapes, threaded in silver and Swarovski crystals, finish the windows.

Left and below: Chinoiserie exquisitely styled by Gorman Studios of Vancouver grace the walls of the main lobby.

