

design tactics

Cochrane Design employs a thoughtful design strategy to a Victorian building in London, transforming it into a timeless, glamorous family home

設計公司 Cochrane Design 細心翻新這個多層居所，將之改造成一個富有永恆美感和迷人魅力的家庭屋

BY JACQUELINE TSANG

PHOTOGRAPHY MARCUS PEEL





What good is having a big home when you barely see half of it? That was exactly what was on this homeowner's mind when he bought three flats in a Victorian building and reconverted them into a house. The home now spans 3,000sq ft, and almost every inch of it is utilised by the homeowner and his family every day, as a home should be.

Like many properties in London, this building lacks lateral space across each floor. When Cochrane Design, the firm commissioned to handle this project, visited the home, the designers decided to embrace one of the house's biggest benefits – its high ceilings. The team worked closely with the client on the renovation, and together they chose to take advantage of the building's height. They cut through the floors, vertically opening up the space and bringing together the different levels.

"The brief was to create an open space that could be utilised on a daily basis," explains Sean Cochrane, creative director of Cochrane Design. "To achieve this with a very tall town house, we integrated the living floors, including a double height section to bring the two levels together. On the top floor, we used the same [method] to integrate the master suite and dressing rooms."

The outcome is stunning. The two levels of the integrated living areas are visually joined by a two-

擁 有一間面積敞大的房子，但你可能只看到居所一半的空間，這有什麼好？這間大屋的屋主當初便是有這樣的想法，因為他在一幢維多利亞時期的建築內買入了3個單位，總面積達到3,000平方呎。不過，別以為空間廣闊便會有很多用不著的空間，屋主和家人在設計師的協助下，把房子三合為一的打造成一個大居所，而且能好好善用室內每吋空間，使居所變成了一個溫暖又實用的家。

在倫敦，這屋子跟很多物業一樣，每一個樓層也很缺乏橫向的空間。當設計公司Cochrane Design接到這個居所的工程時，他們來到單位視察環境，經過細心的考量後，設計師們決定以屋子其中一個最大的優點——高高的樓底——作為工程的基礎。設計團隊跟客人保持緊密的溝通，以聽取客人對翻新工程的要求和需要，而他們也一致認為應好好善用建築物既有的高樓底。他們鑿開了樓層之間的分層結構，以垂直的方式打通了空間，成功把不同的樓層都相連在一起。

「工程的要求是打造出一個開揚的空間，而且要能在日常生活中也可善用到不同的地方。」Cochrane Design創意總監Sean Cochrane解釋說：「為了在這個擁有高天花板的住所中達到以上目標，我們結合了兩個生活樓層，當中包括一個兩層高的部份，能把兩層空間連繫起來。」他續說：「而在最高一層，我們運用了相同的方法，來連起主人套房及衣帽間。」空間的分佈主宰著居所整體的連貫度和流暢度，只要分配得宜，即使是再大的面積也能避免形成一些隔開或封閉了的角落。

previous page:

The double-height bookcase joins together the two living areas in the home; doors open out to a spacious balcony

opposite: Pulp Fiction-inspired artwork gives the dining area a sense of edgy cool

above: The home's cooking area is a bright, airy space

前頁圖：兩層高的書櫃把家中兩個生活空間也相連起來；推開門後便來到寬敞的露台

對頁圖：以電影危險人物為靈感的藝術品為飯廳注入前衛感覺

上圖：居所的煮食區明亮又開揚



storey-high, blue-black bookcase, which the client says is one of his favourite features within the home. "The double-height sections, complemented by the bookcase and rolling library ladder, are both practical and visually stunning," adds Cochrane, and from a design standpoint, it's certainly a furniture piece to be proud of. While the scale of the library is certainly dramatic, the panelled wood cabinet doors are subtle and elegant. The colour scheme is rich and sophisticated, and the simplicity of the attached ladder enhances the bookcase's clean lines.

The double-height bookcase encapsulates the overall look of this home; it, like the rest of the home, is a careful blend of stylish luxury and sensitivity to good design. The client had requested that the home convey a sense of comfort and elegance – a look achieved through the thoughtfully considered use of detail and furniture placement. Bespoke panelling throughout the home speaks to the building's Victorian heritage, while upholstery on the walls and doors heightens the sense of opulence in the space.

In the upper levels of the home, where the second and third floors are joined to form the master suite, decadence is in full swing. Plush double doors open to reveal a room with a double-height vaulted ceiling,

完工後的模樣是屋主和設計師們也稱心滿意的。由兩個樓層合而為一的生活空間，在視覺上是由一個高兩層的藍黑色書櫃所相連，屋主高興地表示這是在整間屋子中最喜愛的設計之一；他評論說：「這個雙層空間，加上高目的大書櫃和櫃前可滑動的梯子，成為了家中既實用又悅目的特別元素。」而從設計角度而言，書櫃也足以成為一件令屋主引以自豪的非凡傢具，它使這個生活空間的裝潢更加精彩。這個「藏書閣」佔用的空間並不少，當然是一個矚目的結構，但書櫃的木櫃門款式卻是低調而優雅，其藍綠色調又帶有豐富和精緻的感覺，而無論是櫃門面、架子還是梯子的線條均以簡單為主，使體形龐大的書櫃也能散發出簡約的美感。

這個兩層高的書櫃就像居所整體裝潢的一個縮影，因為它跟屋內其他部份一樣，糅合了時尚豪華的格調與優良的設計。客人要求設計師為居所營造一種舒適而優雅的氣氛——而為了達到這個要求，設計師們在細節運用和傢具的擺放位置上花盡心思，務求能為這個敞大的空間帶來雅緻又溫馨的感覺。訂製好的背板給應用在全屋多個地方，完美展現了這種建築物的維多利亞風格，而牆壁和門上的襯墊設計又能提升屋子的豐富感，共同為居所締造柔美而舒適的格調。

居所的上層空間由2樓和3樓組成，而這兩個樓層也成為了主人套房的所在地，瀟灑著精緻優美的氣氛。打開了質感豐富的雙扇門後，便來到一個足兩層高的漂亮房間，拱形的天花板上裝設了一盞華麗的水晶吊燈，向四方八面反

opposite: A striking gold-hued mirror adds a touch of glam to this light, feminine space
above left to right: The beautiful moulding on the fireplace is just one of the many luxurious touches in the home; an enviable shoe collection

對頁圖：這塊金色鏡子款式矚目，為柔美的空間添上迷人美感

上圖左至右：壁爐上的漂亮雕工是家中其中一個華美的點綴；可用來存放大量鞋子的儲物間



THE HOMEOWNER SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT HIS HOME BE FULLY FUNCTIONAL, AND NOT JUST A SHOW HOME. "IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN AN AREA OR ROOM FOR A WEEK, YOU NEED TO RETHINK THE SPACE." COCHRANE SAYS



opposite clockwise from top left: The designers reinforced the ceiling to accommodate this punching bag; a UK-inspired corner; the double-height walls in the master bedroom allow for a dramatic headboard; Sean Cochrane

left: The outdoor terrace is the perfect spot for entertaining in warm months

對頁圖順時針方向：設計師加固了天花板，以吊掛這個沙包；以英國風格為設計的空間；主人房內的两層高牆壁能容納這個夢幻的床頭板；設計師Sean Cochrane

左圖：戶外平台在夏天是最理想的用餐點



PHOTOGRAPHY PAUL CRAIG



under which the designers hung a crystal chandelier, rich silk curtains, and positioned a chaise longue in front of an elaborate fireplace for added comfort.

It's not all about aesthetics, however: the homeowner specifically requested that his home also be fully functional. He wanted a beautiful house the entire family could enjoy on a daily basis, and not just a show home. And, agrees Cochrane, it's important to "be brave with your design, but be strategic ... Try to enjoy your entire home. If you haven't been in an area or room for a week, you need to rethink the space."

With function in mind, a significant portion of the project's £450,000 budget was allocated to the home's structural changes, such as cutting through the floors and integrating the spaces. The designers also made sure to conceal the home's supporting steelwork within the ceilings and floors, resulting in an open, uninterrupted space without the obstruction of structural columns.

"The steel structure was a tricky element," admits

射出悅目的閃爍光線；窗邊垂掛著質感柔軟的絲質窗簾，為空間添上一抹高貴的魅力；一個經過精雕細琢的白色壁爐，跟繫上了Farrow & Ball的Mouse's Back灰啡色油漆的牆壁形成鮮明對比，而其前方還擺放了一張休閒椅，組合成一個寫意又舒服的畫面。

不過，這個工程的著眼點不只是美感營造，因為屋主還特別提到實用性——他希望他的家同時是一個多功能的天地。他想要一個可讓全家人每天也舒適地生活的漂亮家園，但不是一個徒具美感的示範單位。Cochrane也表示認同，並指出在勇於創新設計的同時，也一定要有策略地執行。「應盡量享受家中每一個地方。假如你有整個星期也用不著屋內某一個區域或某一個房間，你便是時候重新考慮這個空間的用途了。」

為打造出富功能性的設計，在工程的450,000英磅預算中，有一大部份也應用在改動屋子的結構之上，包括鑿開樓層之間的分隔層，以及融合不同空間的工序。此外，設計師們也確保妥善地把單位的鋼筋水泥隱藏到天花板和地板內，把不悅目的元素統統收到視線範圍之外，盡力打造一個不受柱子或其他結構物阻礙觀瞻的空間，同時能兼備開揚和流暢感。



Cochrane, adding that they ran into their share of problems during the design process. “When adding the lift room we encountered a progressive collapse.” Nevertheless, he and his team made it work.

Meanwhile, almost all the furniture in the house – down to the picture frames – was custom-made for the homeowner to suit his and his family’s every need. In one of the children’s rooms, they created a princess-like “bed in the sky”, complete with space underneath to serve as a play area. Elsewhere, the designer reinforced the ceiling to accommodate a hanging punching bag, so the children can let off some steam.

In the public areas of the home, the client’s penchant for entertaining is evident. Large bespoke glass doors allow sunlight to flow freely into the home, visually connecting the interior to the outer terrace, where the family entertains guests in balmy summer months. The interior design of the home is tech-savvy, too. From the mirror TV in the lounge to the home’s integrated AV system, the designers made sure that their client had everything he wanted in a 21st-century abode.

And it is through Cochrane Design’s thoughtful, strategic design philosophy that the client’s vision for his dream home was realised – the family has a home they can truly enjoy to the fullest. As the ever pragmatic Cochrane points out: “If you’re fortunate enough to live in a large property, then surely you should not occupy only two-thirds of it.”

「鋼筋結構是一個有點複雜的問題。」Cochrane坦言，並表示這是他們在設計過程中要面對的一個重大挑戰。「在加裝升降機房時，我們遇到一些倒塌的情況。」不過，他和他的團隊最後都能妥善地解決了所有問題，能按照計劃完成各個工序。

另一邊廂，家中幾乎所有傢具——甚至包括各個相架——也是在這個工程期間特別訂製的，為的是要迎合屋主和家人在生活中的每個需要。在其中一間小孩睡房內，設計師們製作了一張好像浮在半空中的公主床，而床的下方則是遊戲區，為小孩打造了一個專屬的、可愛的天地。而在另一間小孩房，設計師又加強了天花板的堅固度，好讓他能安全地吊掛一個拳擊沙包，讓活潑好動的孩子們能隨時運動一番。

家中的公用空間同樣可見很多矚目的設計和點綴，而這兒的裝潢更能配合屋主經常招呼朋友回家共聚的喜好。大大的玻璃門讓日光從屋外灑進室內，增添明亮感，同時可在視線把室內和室外的平台相連起來；在微風輕送的夏天，屋主一家最愛與客人們一同走到這個平台享受美食和悠閒時光。室內的設計還有一個重頭戲，就是各式高科技的產品：由休息室內的電視鏡子，到客廳的多功能影音系統，設計師確保這個21世紀的居所能備有各式各樣的現代設備。

在Cochrane Design細心周到和針對性的設計理念之下，屋主心目中的夢幻家園於活現在他眼前——屋主和家人能在這個時尚居所的每吋空間中，真正享受到生活的樂趣。正如Cochrane所言：「假如你運氣好，能居住在一個寬敞的物業內，記得要確保你不止運用到空間面積的三分之二。」❖

opposite: The chaise longue by the fireplace in the master bedroom is the perfect relaxation spot
above left to right: The walk-in closet area is brightly lit thanks to a large window on one end; the luxurious, dark palette continues into the bathroom areas

對頁圖：主人房的壁爐前放有一張舒適的躺椅
上圖左至右：大窗子使衣帽間的光線充足；華麗和深色調的設計延續到浴室