



High alert

Asia awash with methamphetamine

Westboro and the Chinese devotee P32



Contemporary attitudes for West Kowloon museum P38



Retro chic: the shape of things to come (back) P44



South Africa's black vintners P72

HOME

Homing instinct

A Mid-Levels tenant has surrounded himself with cherished collectibles to create an East-meets-West 'nest'.

Text Charmaine Chan / Pictures Jonathan Wong / Styling David Roden

Italians, according to Naples native Stefano Tordiglione, love their homes. "For us it's our nest," he says. "It's where you can be happy, where you can cry."

Having lived in Hong Kong for four years, most of that time in his present 800 sq ft Mid-Levels flat, Tordiglione has created a refuge that reflects his work, travels, values and sense of style. As creative director of Stefano Tordiglione Design, a multidisciplinary interior design and architectural company, he characterises that aesthetic as East meets West, with intuition.

Tordiglione collected items from around the region without having any specific place for them in mind, but with confidence they would somehow add to the setting. Those pieces include a Balinese bowl decorated with snakes, a pair of curvaceous rustic

wicker cabinets from the Philippines and a Chinese opium bed. He also has 19th-century silverware inherited from his grandmother.

In his home, there is the quirky (an Artemide coiled lamp under the coffee table), the arty (a canvas Tordiglione painted inspired by ancient Taoist philosopher Lao Tse), the meaningful (a miniature orange tree that marks his first Lunar New Year in Hong Kong) and the stylish (a Conran table in one of the three bedrooms, used as a dining space).

A self-confessed accumulator, Tordiglione likes to have things on show. "I like to see them all out," he says, referring to the books and magazines that accessorise the living room, where a coffee table holds piles of recent reads.

In the master bedroom, novels and non-fiction tomes are neatly positioned beside



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1 Living room Stefano Tordiglione of Stefano Tordiglione Design (3/F, 37 Staunton Street, Central, tel: 2840 1100) bought the red sofas from Confalone (guides.modernluxury.com/details/confalone) in Rome, Italy. The Expedit shelves were from Ikea (HK\$450 for four-cubicle set; various locations, www.ikea.com.hk). The antique coffee table came from a shop on Hollywood Road that has since closed. The wooden chest cost HK\$1,500 from Old Shanghai (15/F, Horizon Plaza, 2 Lee Wing Street, Ap Lei Chau, tel: 3527 3135). The lamp came from Antonella Petraglia, in Italy (Via Dell'Arancio 45, Rome, tel: 39 66830 7829). The cushions are covered with fabric that cost HK\$280 a metre from The Green Lantern (72 Peel Street, Central, tel: 2526 0277).

2 Dining room corner The Venetian mirror is a family heirloom. The 1950s circular side table was picked up for about HK\$2,500 at a shop on Cat Street.

3 Corridor At the end of the corridor is a framed limited-edition tea towel from the Louise Bourgeois exhibition at the Tate gallery in London (www.tate.org.uk). Under it is a floor lamp that cost HK\$2,500 from Gaya in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (39 Ton That Thiep Street, tel: 84 8914 3769). On the wall is an acrylic-on-canvas painting by Tordiglione called *Life and After UMO* (Unidentified Moving Object). The Chinese lantern (about HK\$2,000) came from Shanghai Tang (various locations; www.shanghaitang.com).

4 Dining room A bedroom was turned into a dining room, featuring a Conran table that cost HK\$11,000 from Lane Crawford Home Store (Pacific Place, Admiralty, tel: 2188 3668). The Indonesian dining chairs cost HK\$600 each from 2nd Chance (2/F, Kin Fat Industrial Centre, 13 Kin Fat Street, Tuen Mun, tel: 2496 1222). A Burmese lacquer container sits beside a photograph by Gianluca Gori bought directly from the artist (tel: 39 33 4348 1929).



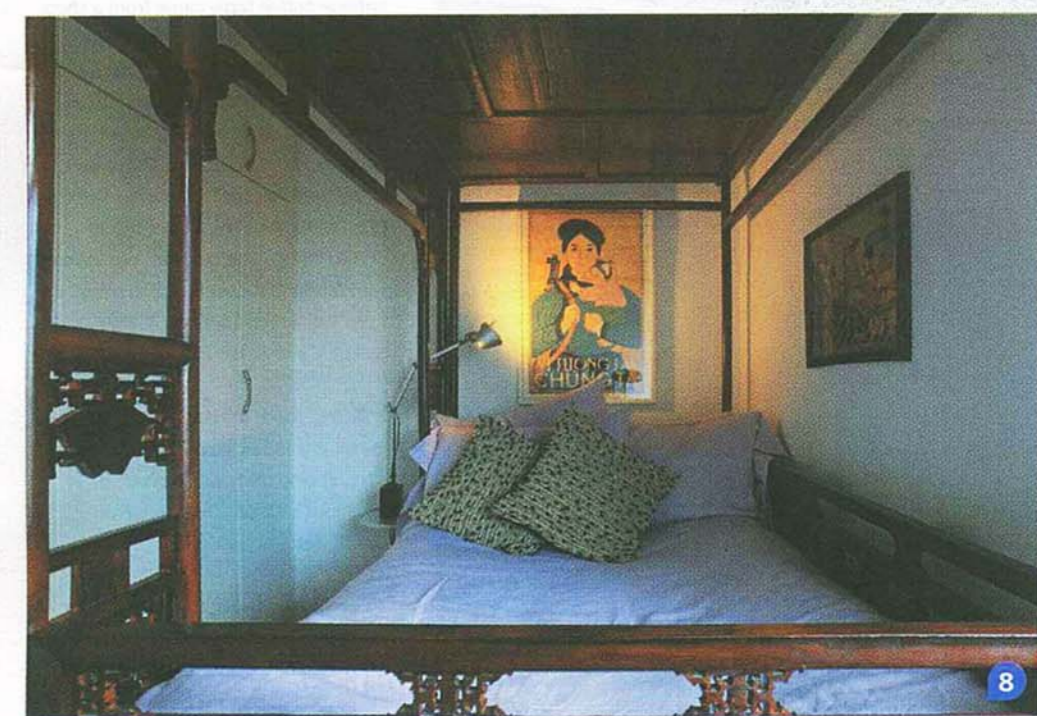
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5 Bedroom Two 19th-century red-lacquer Chinese medicine cabinets are used as bedside tables. They cost HK\$12,000 for two from Wonder Dragon (54a Hollywood Road, Central, tel: 2526 8863). The bedside lamps were HK\$5,200 each from Artemide (1/F, Ruttonjee Centre, 11 Duddell Street, Central, tel: 2523 0333). The artwork on the left, by Indonesian artist Ugo Untoro (ugountoro.com), was bought at the Hong Kong International Art Fair. The framed tea towel came from the Bourgeois exhibition at the Tate.

6 Living room wall Two Gilbert & George posters (from an exhibition at London's White Cube Gallery; www.whitecube.com) sit on wicker cabinets (HK\$1,500 each) from the Philippines that were bought from 2nd Chance. The pink lacquer vase cost HK\$1,200 from Gaya.

7 Spare room desk A 50s lamp (about HK\$1,000) from Mooishop (25 Haven Street, Causeway Bay, tel: 2882 1384) sits on a desk (HK\$8,500), which came from Marquis Fine Home (16/F, Horizon Plaza, tel: 2552 3890). The printed leather box cost HK\$600 from 2nd Chance.

8 Spare room Behind the antique bed (HK\$20,000 from The Green Lantern) is an original Vietnamese propaganda poster bought for US\$180 from Lotus in Ho Chi Minh City (25 Dong Khoi, tel: 84 8 824 8977). The Tolomeo lamp illuminating the poster came from Artemide and cost HK\$6,600.

and behind the bed. "Only travel has its own section," he says, pointing to the low bookshelves in the lounge.

Has he ever felt the need to go minimalist? "They're all little children," he says, recoiling from the thought of paring back his possessions, and confessing to enjoying walking around the rooms just looking at the objects.

Much was collected to complement the only sticks of furniture Tordiglione and his partner had upon moving into the apartment: two bright red sofas. Little by little came the bits and pieces that gave meaning to the 1970s flat, which they liked because of its charm and "good energy."

Because they do not own the flat, the couple left the walls and rooms as they were, although Tordiglione has mapped out what he would change were he ever to buy the apartment.

"I like to do residential because I love to do layouts," he says. "When people buy apartments here they find they have these small rooms, which make no sense because one room becomes a closet. I make things more Western."

So how would he transform his nest? "The kitchen would become the bathroom," he says, pointing to the space it would inhabit by the entrance. "Then we would take everything down and have an open kitchen-living area and eventually two bedrooms."

Still, he says, he is content with his rented space, which benefits from ever-changing cityscape views and is "cosy and comfortable." For his work, Tordiglione says, he deals with luxury, including shops, restaurants and brands. He points to the plant in the corner of the living room and says, "Look how many fruits there are on this orange tree ... This is private luxury."



TRIED + TESTED

Changing focus The Tolomeo Decentrata suspension lamp (HK\$5,800; from Artemide, 1/F, Ruttonjee Centre, 11 Duddell Street, Central, tel: 2523 0333) can be kept high above the dining table for dispersed light or used low for focused illumination.