

perspective

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INSPIRING ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

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MULTICOLOURED RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

By layering the three primary colours – red, yellow and blue – Beijing-based People's Architecture Office cooks up a vibrant office for gourmet sweets franchise 21 Cake

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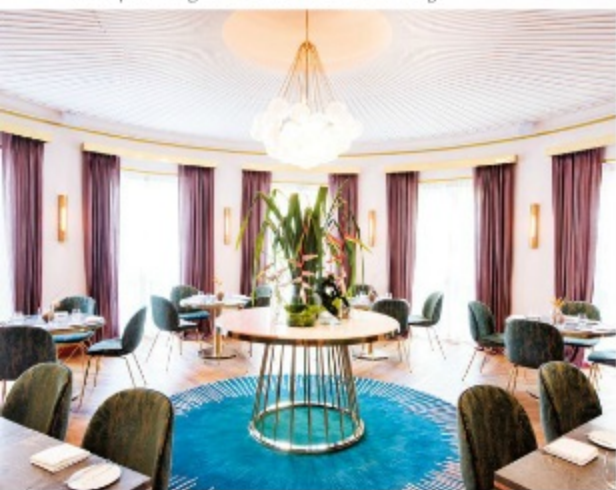
HKS48
US\$18
€15



On the outside of the circular dining room, local artist Messymxsi has created a mural that was inspired by conversations with the chef.

“ The design team envisioned the spaces as domestic dining rooms, each within a similar style but with subtle differences ”

In the circular dining room, the shape of the space is emphasised by radial patterning on the roof and customised rug.



On entering the restaurant, the largest dining room, which seats 26, has a ceiling pattern based on the original floor tile below. “Due to the poor condition of the floor we were unable to use the existing floor, but wanted to keep a reference to the original pattern,” the firm explains. This space also has a sliding glass door and window into the kitchen, where guests can partially watch the preparation of their meals taking place.

In this main dining room, a long communal marble table is surrounded by smaller tables, creating a central focal point. Other features of this room are the custom-made dining chairs and rugs, incorporating complementary colours alongside the marble tables and walls. Takenouchi Webb has also included service stations which feature two different coloured stains of mahogany timber veneer in a geometric pattern, with marble, mirror and brass shelving above.

The second dining room seats 20, and one wall is given to wine display and chilled storage with leather banquette seats along two of the other walls. Large, custom-made mirrors, clad with marble sit above each of the banquettes.

Finally, the circular dining room seats 24 guests and has a central round display table and two curved banquette seats. Further dining tables surround the main one, and the shape of the room is emphasised by the radial patterning of the ceiling and floor, together with a customised rug.

Based on discussions with the chef and incorporating his ideas of food and nature, local artist Messymxsi was commissioned to design a mural for the outer wall of the circular dining room, which becomes a feature wall to the restaurant on entering. ●



PRIVACY AMID THE CROWDS

Interior designer Max Lam at Moderne Design has created a home on The Peak inspired by a gallery aesthetic, with a masterful balance between privacy and conviviality.

TEXT:
Leena Liu
PHOTOGRAPHY:
Courtesy of Moderne Design

The client's extensive collection of contemporary art is showcased against simple white walls, which places emphasis on the artworks.



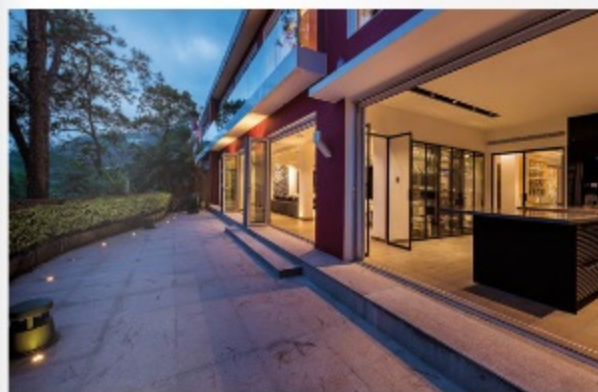
Above
The communal social space includes different zones so that family and friends can be 'alone together'

Right
The addition of solid wood plank injects a warmth into the house, not often seen in Hong Kong

When the client approached interior designer Max Lam from *Moderne Design*, the brief was simultaneously simple, yet complex: he wanted a home which would offer room for each family member with flexible, connected spaces... And something that would also double as a private 'gallery' to showcase his extensive art collection.

The first move was to consider the balance between the family's desire for individual privacy with their love for entertaining friends. In a single-storey home, this had proven tricky – so the obvious solution was to build upwards, effectively doubling the available space by adding another storey to the property.

On the ground floor, Lam created a multi-function room from what was once the master bedroom space, now intended for the hosts to mingle with their guests and as a safe place for kids to play. Airy and extensive, this communal social space features wall-to-wall glass accordion doors which, when fully opened, connects the interiors to the landscaped garden outdoors. Natural light floods the room, while a panoramic view adds to the continuity and fluidity when the doors are fully opened, returning it to a private space when closed.



INTERIORS

From top

The open kitchen connects to different areas in the house, with ample natural light provided by expansive windows and French doors. Folding glass doors stretch along the entire length of the home facing the garden, providing a wide connection to the outdoors when fully opened.

In the new layout, the designer also separated the dining and kitchen areas, while still retaining great connectivity between them via a glass wall, to ensure that both host and guests can retain a dialogue as meals are being prepared and served. Additionally, each separate space has also been extended to accommodate more opportunities for social interaction.

On the upper floor, meanwhile, are the private quarters, comprising bedrooms and bathrooms, as well as a shared lounge/study area where family members can mingle and interact.

Throughout the house, sliding doors are used as means to balance togetherness and privacy – such as between the living room and family communal room, thereby also increasing the diversity of the spaces. Similarly, upstairs in the study room, the glass sliding doors facilitate either interaction or solitude, depending on the user's preference at the time.

To address the homeowner's wish for an art gallery-like aesthetic which would also offer practical use, Lam began by creating a neutral background, painting all the walls white. This heightened the sensation of space and provides a non-intrusive setting for the client's paintings and sculptures. Finishes in wood and tones of black enable the pieces to stand out, and, together with soft overhead lighting, the artworks become the central focal point in whichever space they occupy.

Solid wood plank – a plain, simple and durable material – is used almost everywhere in the project, from living and dining space to individual rooms, to create a warm, welcoming home. The lighting scheme is designed to be both functional and aesthetically pleasing: a contemporary and minimalistic concealed floor design illuminates structural columns as well as the architecture; an old building with intriguing details. In the master bedroom, the RGB colour-changing ceiling lamp creates a romantic atmosphere at night, while an embedded wall system acts as a clean-lined sculpture in each of the kids' rooms. In the dining area, a decorative and reflective chandelier shines above the table as the centrepiece.

Also designed as an integral element to the residence is a home automation system, which provides flexibility for different functions, whether the family is dining, enjoying their home theatre, reading, throwing a party, or retired in their rooms to sleep. ●