

BEAUTIFUL INTERIORS • INSPIRED LIVING

HOME

JULY 2015

JOURNAL | 美好家居

THE SMALL HOMES ISSUE

Ingenious ideas
to maximise your
space in style

小家居特刊



HK \$35 / NT \$200



SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

A talented duo have created a functional living space in a small but stylish flat in Central, where they work, play and design their highly original carpets | 兩位才幹兼備的地墊創作人在中環打造出功能豐富的小巧時尚家居，集工作、玩樂和設計於一身

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL PAUL STYLING SORAYA FROISSART PRODUCTION KISSA CASTANEDA





SERENE DWELLING

The living room's neutral palette is brought to life via a painting by Norbert Schwontkowski; carefully chosen vintage pieces, such as a side table by Hans J. Wegner from Casa Capriz, are peppered throughout; homeowners Brad Davis and Janis Provisor

平靜氣氛

客廳的中性色調在Norbert Schwontkowski的油畫下更能油然散放魅力；仔細精選的古董作品散放各處，如出自Hans J. Wegner之手、來自Casa Capriz的邊桌；屋主Brad Davis和Janis Provisor



It's said that size matters – but does it really? Ask the husband-and-wife team Janis Provisor and Brad Davis, the founders of Fort Street Studio, who now live in a compact one-room flat in Hong Kong. Situated in a tranquil back street in Central behind the old police station, their home provides everything they need to be comfortable – and serves as the perfect refuge from the hectic urban lifestyle most people endure in the city. Measuring 750sqft inside, with an additional 495sqft of outdoor space, it did take a bit of getting used to from their previous abode, confesses Janis. "Initially, I wasn't sure I could live in such a small flat, especially after leaving our vast high-ceilinged loft in New York. But I love it now. It's surprising to discover actually how little space you need to live well."

Janis and Brad began working with Chinese artisans back in the early '90s when they previously resided in Hong Kong; they established Fort Street Studio in Hangzhou in 1996. In 2002, they moved back to New York City to develop the business stateside, but returned to Hong Kong in 2014. "We are passionate about this city," explains Brad. "It's the perfect centre for business in the region." Today their luxurious hand-knotted, wild-silk rugs are coveted for their painterly design and art-inspired aesthetics by interior designers and doyennes of good taste around the world.

人常道尺寸重要——事實的確如此？問問成立Fort Street Studio的夫妻檔Brad Davis和Janis Provisor吧。二人的香港家居是個一房小巧寶地，位於中環舊警署後方的寧靜後街，齊備舒適生活的一切所須，是逃離繁忙城市生活的完美天地。室內面積750平方呎再加上額外495平方呎的戶外空間，對比舊居，Janis坦言需要時間適應：「起初我也不肯定自己能否居住在如此細小的單位，特別是那時才剛剛搬離紐約的高樓大房。現在已深深愛上它，你會驚喜發現在小巧空間中享受美好生活的樂趣。」

Janis和Brad於90年代初搬到香港前已開始與中國工藝師合作，並在1996年於杭州成立Fort Street Studio。2002年搬回紐約發展業務，並於2014年重回香港。「我們對這城市充滿熱愛。」Brad解釋說：「她是在這地區發展業務的完美地點。」今天，他們的豪華手織野絲地毯憑其油畫式設計和滿有藝術氣息的風格，深受環球各地的高品味人士和室內設計師垂青。



HAND-PICKED PIECES
An eclectic collection of 1960s German pottery add texture to the clean-lined space; Fornasetti pieces from Lane Crawford are in keeping with the flat's arty personality

精挑細選
不拘一格的60年代德國壺具系列為這線條清晰的空間增添豐富質感；來自連卡佛的Fornasetti飾品與單位的藝術個性相符

Unconventional, arty flats like theirs don't come on the market every day. "I found it through the grapevine," explains Brad. "That's usually the way these things happen with such rare jewels." Janis was still in New York at the time and admits she was somewhat skeptical when Brad called to tell her the news. She recalls, "Ultimately, I put my trust in his good judgment and told him to sign the contract." After moving in, their first task was to open up the two rooms to make the apartment into a larger, lateral space. A curtain was installed to separate the bedroom from the living areas. They then redecorated throughout. "As it's such a small space, we used a neutral palette to make it look big," explains Brad. "We wanted to make the most of the abundant natural light and keep things simple."

Every object in the flat has its own story to tell. One of their beautiful Fort Street Studio carpets in a cool hue creates the canvas for their carefully chosen mid-20th-century furniture – a period they adore. A vintage 1960s Plycraft lounge chair and ottoman covered in Jim Thompson fabric takes

非凡的藝術氣息家居在市場上極為罕見。「我也是從別處打聽到這單位。」Brad表示：「珍貴的事物往往也得經過一番努力才能發現吧。」Janis那時候仍身處紐約，並承認當Brad在電話上跟她提到這單位時，不禁抱有懷疑態度。她回想說：「最後我也相信他的判斷，並著他簽約。」遷進後的首要任務就是打通兩間房間，開出更闊廣的地方，並裝設窗簾分隔睡房和生活範圍，之後便重新翻新各處。Brad解釋：「這兒面積不大，故選用中性色彩組合增強空間感。我們想盡量善用天然光，並維持簡約。」

單位每物背後均隱含著故事。其中一張美麗的Fort Street Studio冷色地墊便為他們精選的20世紀中傢具提供完美背景——這也是他們鍾愛的時期。一張古董60年代Plycraft休閒椅和腳凳覆上



STEP OUTSIDE

The bedroom looks onto the bright outdoors, and glass doors seamlessly bring the outside in; homeowner Janis Provisor by the terrace, which is adorned with greenery and a plush rug from Fort Street Studio

戶外氣息

睡房望向光明的戶外環境，玻璃門將室內景色完美無縫地引進家中；屋主Janis Provisor在陽台留影，空間以綠色景致裝飾，並放有一張厚實的Fort Street Studio地毯

centre stage. "It's the poor man's Eames," quips Brad with a laugh. This has been paired with a quirky round 1950s Danish tea trolley, which complements another vintage wooden table by Hans J. Wegner acquired at Casa Capriz in Hong Kong.

Presiding over all of these carefully curated pieces is an edgy oil-on-canvas painting by German artist Norbert Schwontkowski. "We were interested in his work for years," says Janis. "When we first bought the painting, we didn't even have a roof over our heads at that stage in our lives – but our world had become richer because we owned a piece of his art." Other artworks in the flat are a late Qing dynasty calligraphy work by Zheng Xie, a 1940s Indian lithograph and some remarkable photographs that Brad has taken of graffiti he discovered in Hong Kong. "I am intrigued by the whimsy of this street art," states Brad. "So apart from exhibiting them in our flat, the photos will also become part of my design collection I plan to publish in Hong Kong." In addition, their eclectic collection of 1960s German pottery enriches the space. "I'm obsessed with the colours, shapes and textures of these ceramics," says Brad. "They are a constant source of inspiration."

Jim Thompson布藝，盡佔焦點位置。Brad笑言：「它是窮人人家的Eames。」然後再搭配約來自50年代的丹麥茶餐手推車，以及在香港Casa Capriz購得、出自Hans J. Wegner之手的古董木桌。

除了一系列精心擺設的作品外，焦點還是落在出自德國藝術家Norbert Schwontkowski之手的前衛油畫作品。「多年來一直留意他的畫作。」Janis指：「買它的時候連瓦遮頭也沒有，但自從擁有他的作品後，我們整個世界也頓時變得富有起來。」其他藝術品包括清朝末年鄭燮的書法、40年代印度印刷畫和Brad在香港街頭拍下的塗鴉照。Brad說：「這種另類奇特的街頭藝術叫我著迷。除了



OUTDOOR FLAIR

Spanning the length of the entire apartment is an outdoor area that offers the homeowners a quiet space to reflect and create; the brass planter is from Deem and lotus bowls are by Jia Inc from Lane Crawford

往外發展

足足有整個單位般長的戶外空間為屋主提供一個寧靜空間反思和創作；銅盆來自Deem，蓮花小碗來自品家家居，於連卡佛有售

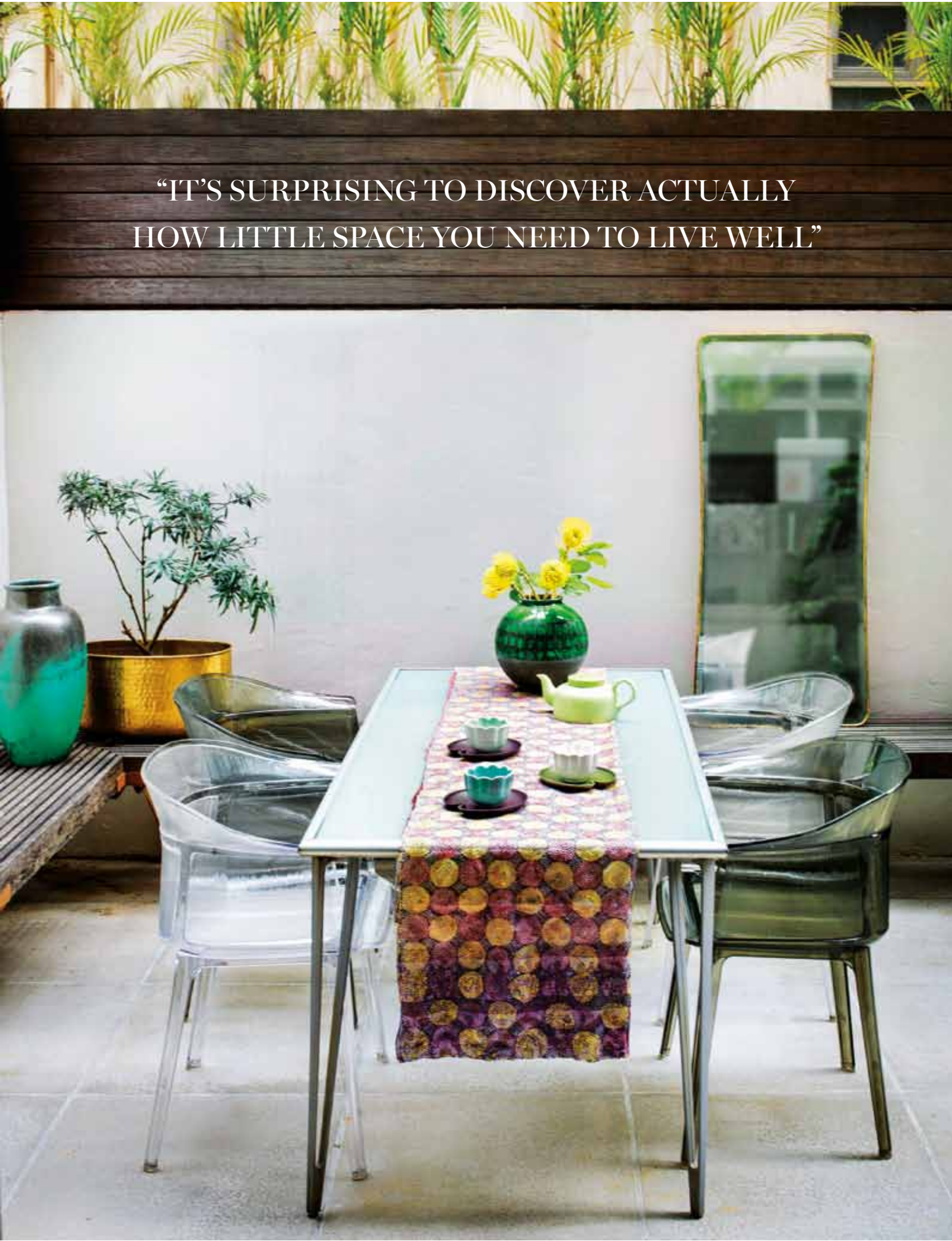
The colourful outdoor area is indeed a bonus – the large sliding glass doors open up to make the flat feel more spacious and airy. "Apart from entertaining and enjoying meals alfresco, we often sit and work in our small garden when it's not too hot," says Janis. A practical kitchen, bathroom and ample storage space makes the flat even more functional, while the comfortable bedroom also doubles as a workspace. Everything has been perfectly considered down to the last millimetre.

Living in a small space clearly has its constraints, but in no way does it restrict the creative process of this talented duo. New designs are constantly being added to their range while bespoke rugs can be designed to order. "We have created a very distinct personality with our wild-silk rugs," says Janis. "But we always continue to think outside the box and explore innovative decorative designs that provide our customers with truly original carpets, which are art forms in their own right." //

在家展示外，還計劃將之融我在香港推出的設計系列中。」德國60年代陶瓷珍藏系列同時也在點綴家居四處。「非常喜愛它們的色彩、形狀和質感。」Brad表示：「是引發靈感的泉源。」

彩色繽紛的戶外空間更加是畫龍點睛所在——大片趟門玻璃讓單位感覺更開揚輕盈。Janis指：「除了款客和享受戶外用餐，天氣不炎熱時，我們常會在小花園工作。」實用的廚房、浴室和充裕的儲物空間令單位更實用，而舒適的睡房則能兼作工作室。每事每物也經仔細思量。

生活在細小空間雖有限制，但卻無阻這對創作伴侶的發揮。新設計不斷推出，並帶來訂造設計地毯。「我們以野絲地毯打造出別具特色個性的款式。」Janis表示：「但我們仍會不停跳出框框，探索裝飾設計技巧，為顧客帶來百分百原創產品，並不失藝術品味。」 //



“IT’S SURPRISING TO DISCOVER ACTUALLY
HOW LITTLE SPACE YOU NEED TO LIVE WELL”