Swiss bathroom culture since 1892
Now that we’ve well and truly entered the final quarter of the year, you could almost hear the sleigh bells ring as they bring in the long-awaited merry-making season. We have all worked hard, so we deserve some quality time to play hard as well.

The autumn/winter transition is the perfect time to look for some home comforts to pamper ourselves, and also to start dressing up the home in preparation to receive relatives and friends for some festive cheers. It’s also a great time to check out the latest gadgetries as manufacturers come up with innovative appliances that turn domestic chores into a bliss. Look out, in particular, for ingenious products that have tapped into artificial intelligence, and add to our joy and comfort.

Withered leaves whipped up by a sharp, cool draught often brings a tinge of sadness to one’s mood, but this is more than compensated for by the wealth of rich, warm autumnal colors of nature. Browse through the plethora of lifestyle stores in town, and you are bound to be greeted by items that appeal to your senses, and lift the seasonal spirit.

We are fortunate to be living in a part of the world that puts on a refreshingly new face with every change of season. It’s, indeed, the most wonderful time of the year!
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UNLIMITED EDITION

You’ve taken care of every detail,
You’ve pursued excellence,
You’ve made all your dreams come true.
And now, your home... is the place you always dreamed about.

Beyond, the new bathroom collection by Roca.
Cosmopolitan design, top performance.

RocaConcepts
1/F, The Hennessy, 256 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2518 2677
www.roca.hk | www.rocaconcept.com
LAUFEN, stands for Swissness, quality and design, offering complete bathroom solutions to the world.

Over 125 years of Swiss Bathroom Culture

At the time of the brand’s establishment in Switzerland in 1892, Laufen was the only sanitary ceramics producer that exclusively manufactures in Europe. Up till now, the brand’s 7 factories are still located in central Europe. Even the acrylic and mineral cast materials for bathtubs are sourced in Poland to ensure quality.

A clientele that spans the globe
With 44 global sales offices demonstrating its wide-spread popularity, Laufen products can be found in many significant buildings worldwide, including Tate Modern art gallery in London, Changi International Airport in Singapore, Olympiastadion sports stadium in Berlin, and Hungerburg Funicular in Innsbruck, Austria.

In Hong Kong, Laufen products are also adopted in notable buildings such as International Commerce Centre (ICC), the tallest skyscraper in Hong Kong, and landmark residence The Lily in Repulse Bay.

A historical brand honoring innovation
Guided by the brand’s motto, ‘to lead on technology, service, and design,’ Laufen effectively excels in all three perspectives. Its strong and efficient global team ensures the products receive the very best customer service and support, no matter the location.

Embracing the simplicity and fluidity of European design while focusing on expressive forms, Laufen has been collaborating with internationally acclaimed designers to create new meanings for the classic material – ceramic. The unique designs crafted by the masters have won the brand multiple prestigious awards, including iF Design Award Gold, Red Dot Design Award, and Design Plus Award.

For over 125 years, Laufen’s time-tested commitment to the finest European-made sanitaryware has never changed. As one of the most internationally recognized luxury fixture brands, it excels on both design and technology, revolutionizing every aspect of your bathroom experience.

The vanguard who recreated ceramics
Ground-breaking innovations often adorned Laufen’s century-old glory. This emphasis on technology, in return, has secured the establishment’s leading position to this very day.

In the 1980s, Laufen’s engineers invented the most efficient high-pressure injection molding technology for ceramic production. This revolutionary breakthrough has brought a radical change to the industry and created lasting impact.

Wafer-thin with a width of 3-5mm and a tight-edge radius of just 1-2mm

Made with high-pressure casting technology, SaphirKeramik can be manufactured on an industrial scale with precision and efficiency. The first SaphirKeramik collection created by Laufen features a basin stretching over 90 cm, but with the advancement of technique, the number has increased to an impressive 120 cm.

This malleable material has allowed designers to express a weightless impression, whether they opt for linear and sharp geometries or sinuous with fluidity. This is also a perfect canvas for the minimalist trend which is overwhelmingly popular in homes.

Toan Nguyen, the designer of Ino Series, commented, “It was a great opportunity to work with a new material, which hardly ever happens. SaphirKeramik is dense and strong yet very fine, its lines very precise. It’s like traditional ceramic in that it’s hygienic and shares the same production process. But, while it’s made of ceramic, it’s also modern, very high-performance. The material is like a fruit with a thin skin: when you unpeel it, there’s a lot of the fruit inside.”

Continuing their persistent perusal on the latest inventions, Laufen successfully created, in 2013, SaphirKeramik, an unprecedented material which changes the design language of sanitaryware worldwide, and was perfected after 5 years of intensive research and development.

Wafer-thin with a width of 3-5mm and a tight-edge radius of just 1-2mm, SaphirKeramik is incredibly robust and sturdy. With game-changing strength, the material could be manipulated to achieve precisely unimaginable forms, and is applicable on washbasins and even sizable bathtubs.
Laufen’s signature collections

It would never have been possible if not for SaphirKeramik. The wall-mounted rectangular washbasins, with widths ranging from 45 to 120 cm, have rounded corners to soften the razor-sharp impression.

The other asymmetric basins show more of a playful character, experimenting with lines and textures. The raised areas contrast with the indentations, and provide dry area for storage and placement.

An eye-catching new addition to the VAL series is a 130 cm free-standing circular bathtub, which resembles the traditional Japanese wooden soaking tubs but is designed with a strong contemporary style.

As an all-inclusive bathroom series, VAL’s elegant design also covers toilet and bidet, making matching your bathroom a breeze.

Before the invention of SaphirKeramik, Toan Nguyen’s previous collaboration with Laufen has already won them a Red Dot Award. With the new material in hand, he has given the classic washbasins a unique reinterpretation which perfectly balances design and practicality, in turn winning the coveted Design Plus Award 2015.

Built upon the classic bowl shape, Ino’s washbasin is soft and streamlined. For an unexpected twist, a seamless shelf extends underneath the basin, and forms a clean and robust surface for bathroom items.

To provide an aesthetically pleasing and functional space for storage, the washbasins could be installed with a drawer or a slender cupboard, finished with ultra-thin panel made from real wood veneer, or mirrored aluminum for a seamless impression. The shape of Ino bathtub almost resembles fluid itself. The gently extending edge is not present solely for aesthetic reasons, but doubles as a subtly integrated headrest to ensure undisturbed relaxation.

While the floor-standing and wall-mounted standalone washbasins are only available in smooth surfaces, the two washbasin bowls and the double washbasin bowl sitting on specially designed cabinets could be ordered with textured exterior. The series is finished with an equally sleek and elegant bathtub, which has an integrated storage tray and is made of Laufen’s high-tech Sentec material.

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Laufen Showroom by Eurobath Collection | G/F, 275 Lockhart Road, WanChai, Hong Kong | 2868 0231/2868 0261 | eurobath@biznetvigator.com

KARTELL BY LAUFEN

From colors to forms, the two esteemed Italian designers Ludovica + Roberto Palomba tested SaphirKeramik’s limits to the fullest extent. Injecting vibrant colors to the angular designs, this series is best known for its intense tangerine palettes which frame the pristine ceramic components, and in turn emphasizes the material’s razor-sharp property.

Taking full advantage of SaphirKeramik’s sturdiness, the series’ rectangular washbasins stretches up to 120 cm in length, and is also available in other widths with shelf arrangements. The comprehensive series also includes two bathtubs, easy-to-clean rimless toilet, and space-saving vanity units.

With one of the most interesting visual combinations in Laufen products, this series is best known for the combination of acrylic and ceramics, which is versatile and adapting to the desired effects.

The most recent update to the series has brought a new range of surprising finishes for added customizability. Ceramics is now available in matte as well as glossy, and could be black, gray, or white in color. Faucets now come in chrome, anthracite, gold, or copper finishes.

Roca Sanitaryware Limited | www.export.laufen.com

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Local apartments often come with compact kitchens. This increasingly common feature often gives rise to difficulties on multiple levels. For example, with the counter fully occupied by the chopping board, there is simply no space for a steaming pot of hot water. Resorting to the dining table for temporary placement simply implies the hassle of running to and fro, not to mention the eventual problem with storage.

However, the lack of space does not necessarily translate into compromises. With a deep understanding of the local culinary landscape, Mia Cucina exerts its best endeavors to craft a kitchen fixture series which uses every available space with utmost functionality. The pleasant surprises hiding in nooks and crannies

At first sight, this kitchen effuses an understated glamour, and presents an unprecedented kitchen arrangement. Its full-height cabinet doors extending to the ceiling hint the impressive storage capacity. When in use, the black swivel pocket doors smoothly recede into the niches to reveal the contrasting light wood shelves and oven. This clever approach does not merely originate from aesthetic concerns, but also to protect the interior from dust and dirt.

Next to the shelf, a slim pull-out drawer is designated for all your bottles, cans, cartons, and boxes. The uncommon vertical structure displays the stored items at one glance, and is easily retrievable without hassle. Subtly concealed under the oven, a multipurpose food preparation counter is a blessing for space-strapped kitchens. Extendable whenever you want, the additional working space adapts to your needs and cooking habits. The counter’s pristine white surface also creates a stunning contrast to the dark components.

Crafted with meticulous attention to detail, the drawers are spaciously laid out for all the sizes of pots and pans. The multiple divider structure neatly sorts out different items, and the soft-closing mechanics ensures durability and discreetness. Behind the gas hob, the luxurious black glass flashback adds visual interest and amplifies the kitchen space.

Reinterpreting cozy kitchens, Mia Cucina’s latest offering maximizes usability with clever space allocations. Your culinary space’s full potential is realized with the advanced Italian FENIX nanotech material extending from the sleek worktops to the cabinets. Aesthetically, the bold use of dark tones on the matte material breathes life into a clean but powerful design.

The secret in Italian technology

To pursue the ultimate cooking experience, material selection must be carefully considered. The elegantly black kitchen is coated with FENIX nanotech matte materials (NTM) imported from Italy. Bacteria-killing and regenerating from any superficial microscratches with its thermal-reparability, this material maintains your kitchen’s hygiene like no other, and is even fingerprint resistant.

The modern and refined series is a space-efficient and high-functioning addition for any household. For a tactile experience, give Mia Cucina’s Wanchai showroom a visit for demonstrations. From now on until December 31 this year, all Mia Cucina kitchen cabinets enjoy 10% off for purchases of $80,000 or above in net value. It is time to bring home quality kitchen cabinets that form a highly personalized and intimate cooking experience, tailored to all your needs and kitchen specifics.
True to its corporate motto of ‘Make It Wonderful’, Franke aims to bring extraordinary experience to customers with their products. The focus on details is the key, such as the attention to the annealing process and its innovative ‘easy-fix’ installation system.

Swiss sink excels with attention to details

A prominent Swiss product with presence across five continents, Franke’s kitchen equipment has always been celebrated for its quality design with a modern twist. Its success is acknowledged by prestigious design awards, including multiple Red Dot awards and iF Design Awards.

Sinks
Best known for its sinks, Franke’s collection is made of meticulously selected materials to ensure durability, allowing quality to be guaranteed without exception. Even for the classics lines, its stainless steel sinks feature a high-end 304 stainless chrome nickel steel, providing exceptional staining, rust and corrosion resistance, and protection from chipping, crazing, flaking, or breaking.

The stainless steel option has an exquisite interior with high versatility that accommodates different interior styles. The polished finish effuses a natural sheen with reflective quality, while the silk or brushed finish adapt to a subtle, classy atmosphere.

Fragranite, pioneered by Franke, is a remarkably sturdy material. Uniquely invented with 80% of granite content, it is highly resistant to burns, dents, chips, and stains, whilst creating a muted sheen that warms to the touch. Integrated with Sanitized® hygiene function, it could be cleaned effortlessly with lasting protection.

Three installation methods are available for Franke sinks, including inset, flushmount, and undermount, allowing the freedom to choose between enhanced appearance and installing effort. To satisfy different households, bowl number, length and depth are all customizable.

Taps
A bowl, however well designed and installed, will not reach its full potential without an equally outstanding tap. From traditional houses to modern apartments, or any transitional phase in between, Franke is able to provide the fitting piece tying in with the whole surrounding.

The stainless steel taps, effortlessly matching bowls made with the same material, are completely lead-free to secure safe consumption. They do not show limestone residue, while the flexible hose provides pressure and corrosion resistance. The high performance ceramic cartridge ensures durability, and the NEOPERL aerator is integrated with effluent effect and water saving functions, in addition to the withdrawal sprinkler with disposable angle and mode of outlet.

The chrome tap, a slightly more economic alternative, is made of high-quality copper material. The material used is thicker than European standard, providing excellent corrosion resistance. The removable nozzle is designed for disposable angle of outlet. Equipped with the aforementioned hose, ceramic cartridge, and NEOPERL aerator, its performance brings an equally satisfying experience.

Franke Kitchen Systems
franke.com.hk | Official Distributor in Hong Kong & Macau | Alliance Ascent Holdings Limited | 23729901

Franke KUBUS SINK
MEET YOUR PERSONAL STYLE

With antibacterial and stain-resistant Fragranite surface that comes in a range of colors, Franke KUBUS sink is designed to meet any kitchen and personal style. Featured with hidden overflow, straight-line form and minimum corner radius, this undermounted sink gives a modern aesthetic while facilitating cleaning after use.

Find more product details at franke.com.hk
As the kitchen becomes more and more integrated with modern lifestyles, especially in open kitchen configurations, this space is now the hall of socialization, activities, and living. As we spend more time in the kitchen, enlivening its visual appeal is gaining increased attention.

Effective design, by Ora Ïto

Gorenje by Ora Ïto collection is the embodiment of chic urban design and impeccable performance. Distinguished French designer Ora Ïto has arranged strong linear elements and clean corner for the series, with two simple but impactful monochromatic palettes.

The white theme creates a much-needed visual contrast with a dark surrounding, amplifying spaciousness and immaculate freshness, while the dark theme provides a calming tone and visual consistence, with a hint of modern masculinity.

Top performance, by Gorenje

Ensuring the series' success, the master-crafted appliances are partnered with Gorenje's latest innovative technologies, ranging from its matching fridge-freezer, oven, dishwasher, induction hob, microwave oven, and extractor hood.

The fridge-freezer's MultiFlow 360° ventilation system distributes ionized air through its 14 ventilation slots, maintaining a constant temperature on every shelf and removes odor. With the AdaptTech function to analyze and predict user habits, the fridge could decrease its temperature by 1°C to 2°C before it is opened, ensuring a constant and monitored storage environment.

Not only does the oven provide even heating to achieve the 'crispy on the outside, soft on the inside' magical texture, the Pure Steam and MultiSteam 360° also takes baking to the next level. The former ensures no water droplets are formed to preserve the crunchy texture, while the latter distributes steam evenly.

With the series' advanced hob, Asian cooking is deliciously effortless. The PowerBoost function boasts a concentrated heating which could bring 2 liters of water to boil within 6 minutes, and its TouchControl operation could turn two separate cooking zones into one for sizable cookware.
E-Max Home spans across 150,000 sq. ft. of retail space on the 4th and 5th floor of Kowloon Bay International Trade & Exhibition Centre (KITEC). Specializing in interior design and furniture, it boasts approximately 40 distinguished interior design firms and trusted furniture retailers, all featuring unique styles and services. Among which, Stage Interior and Hei Design is best known for maintaining bilateral communications with clients.

**Stage Design**

Placing communication at the forefront, Stage Interior’s experienced team keeps in touch with clients’ needs and tastes. As its services range from interior design to furniture, all details in the abode could be carefully executed to showcase the homeowner’s personality.

When working on modern homes, Stage Design often injects character through the use of textures and materials. To achieve a chic and urban look, a thin strip of metal could be introduced on a geometric stone wall to add a stroke of boldness. For clients who prefer natural palettes, wooden materials with different textures and colors are artfully mingled to add visual depth. The clever use of space is one of the brand’s strong suits, like concealing storage behind decorative facades.

**Hei Design**

Founded in 2007, Hei Design provides one-stop interior design service, ranging from design and planning, furniture production, construction and renovation. During the first phase, designers will gather critical information on the clients’ taste, lifestyle, and budget, then morphing into a comprehensive design visualized by computer 3D renderings. The brand will then produce its own furniture with robust materials to guarantee quality.

Last year, it established the sideline Hei Design Luxury, which focuses solely on European-themed furnishings. Mastering the opulent style, the brand is able to reproduce a truly European experience through the use of decor to furnish, while balancing it with a touch of modernity.

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Your abode is the canvas of your dream home. Whether you opt for European ambiance or warm minimalism, the unrefined idea must be first polished and rendered by a team of reliable professionals. In E-Max Home, the home décor and furnishing center, a plethora of communicative interior design firms will help you sketch your dream home, while paying full respect to your preferences to the smallest details and elevating the original concept with professional insight.

E-Max Home

| 4F & 5F E-Max, Kowloon Bay International Trade and Exhibition Centre, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong | (852) 2620 3388 | Facebook @emaxhome | www.emaxhk.com/emaxhome

MY STYLE

MY CONCEPT

Your dream living comes true at E-Max Home
Candy for the eyes
A perfect addition for Miele’s kitchen appliances, CM5 continues the simple and yet polished aesthetics which the brand has always adopted. Available in two colors, Obsidian Black and Rose Gold, CM5’s two palettes are designed to smoothly integrate into any existing interior, be it a contemporary kitchen, an elegant dining room, or a practical workspace. While the former palette opts for an understated appearance, the latter boasts a warm metallic sheen which enlivens the space.

With no protruding buttons to obstruct the streamline design, this coffee maker is controlled by the Direct Sensor control panel, which displays bilingual texts in white color and is appreciated for the ease of use.

Miele Black Edition N°1
To unleash the full potential of this remarkable machine, Miele has created its own aromatic coffee blend by sourcing 4 fair-trade, certified organic, and hand-picked Arabica beans from the highlands of South America. Miele Black Edition N°1 is robust with underlying fruity notes which adapts to a wide range of coffee specialties, with or without milk. As its aroma is well-preserved even in the grounded state, this coffee is effortlessly the best companion for CM5.

From now until 4th Feb 2019, purchase of any Miele freestanding coffee machine will get a box of Miele Coffee Black Edition (worth $580) for free. (Delivery must be completed by end of Feb, 2019 to enjoy the offer)
From opulent black and gold finish, nature-infused warm wood cladding, to subdued oriental minimalism, living room appointments speak for the household. As time takes its toll, a makeover would revitalize and give new vigor to this family-centric space.
A fresh look to welcome a new year!

With a chain of Christmas and New Year festivities coming soon at the end of the year, it is time to add some European flair to your home for the occasion. Come and explore COLOURLIVING’s 20,000 sq. ft. concept lifestyle store in Wan Chai which is brimming with carefully selected European designer furniture and decorations.

Furniture
Italy’s contemporary furniture brand B&B Italia brings stylishness into every modern home. Its adored Husk series is a play on contrast – a combination of sharp geometry and feathery softness, as well as creating complexity through simple design, as demonstrated through this bed.

The brand’s Harbor armchairs illustrate how a minimal design can bring a powerful visual impact, and the ergonomic details create a truly relaxing sensation. The versatile seating could even be neatly transformed into a coffee table with the placement of a simple wooden tray.

Dining
Created by world-renowned architect Zaha Hadid, Serenity Platter is formed upon the notion of movements. As if wrinkled by a light breeze, this series of centerpieces looks almost fluid with motion, and yet stable and supported.

As Zalto Glass’s signature item, the Bordeaux red wine glass has always been highly regarded by connoisseurs around the world. Whether for young or mature wines, this glass brings out their hidden but unique character and aroma.

Lights
Santa & Cole’s Cesta lamp is handcrafted with cherry wood frame and shade made with opal-shaped glass. The rustic but thoughtful lamp could be placed on a table or rested on the floor, and is dimmable to your liking.

Flos’ IC table light demonstrates a well-calculated balance. Its moon-like blown glass opal diffuser rests gently on a thin metal stand which comes in brushed brass, black, and chrome steel. This lamp emits diffused light and the brightness is also adjustable.

Diffuser
A good fragrance could help you recompense and recall the peace of mind. Rosso Nobile Room Diffuser by Dr. Vranjes begins with soothing flowery notes like orange blossom, violet, and magnolia, and then gradually develops into a sweet fruity tone featuring plums, forest fruits, and berries.

Baobab’s Feathers Touareg Diffuser boasts a mouth-blown glass vessel with a brilliant blue hue and delicate feather design, inspired by revered Maasai warriors in Kenya and Tanzania. The wooden reeds diffuse the reinvigorating scent of mint, jasmine, and musk, which could last up to 6 months.

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COLOURLIVING
333 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai
Opening hours: 10:00-19:00 Daily
T: (852)2295 6263
F: (852)2510 0408

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YOUR ONE-STOP SOLUTION TO WINDOWS AND DOORS

JS Aluminium Window is a specialist in windows and doors as it offers an extensive range of quality products tailored to customers' requirements. The company not only excels in the design, manufacture and distribution of branded home improvement and building products, but also provides seamless all-rounded customer services and after-sales support.

Whether for a commercial or residential project, the company's experienced and professional team is on hand to advise on optimum use of products and materials based on their technical expertise, and come up with designs and styles that maintain a balance between aesthetics and functionality.

The portfolio of premium-quality brands distributed by JS Aluminium Window includes Aliplast Aluminium System from Belgium, Phantom retractable insect screens from Canada, Alulux Security Shutters from Germany, and VMZinc Ornament from France.

Aliplast develops and produces stylish, modern, durable and quality-assured aluminium systems for windows, doors, conservatories, sliding systems and curtain facades. Liven up your working or living space with Aliplast’s exclusive color palette.

Do you want to manipulate your screens with the mere touch of a button? Phantom has the solution! It provides motorized retractable screens which are perfect for both indoor and outdoor living. This screen helps control the indoor microclimate, protect your space from insects, and retain a bit of privacy for you.

Finally, Alulux will guard your place from break-ins with its roller shutter. Intruders are kept out by the rigid shaft connectors in motorized shutter, together with robust roller shutter curtains.

Enquiries 3621 0138
Website www.jswindows.hk
Showroom Flat C, 25/F, Success Industrial Building, 17 Sheung Hei Street, San Po Kong
Frustrated with furniture that lasts only a couple of years before needing to be replaced? Then you should pay a visit to Gankooyaji, the prestigious Japanese hand-made furniture store, which is making its debut in Hong Kong.

Founded by Yasuhiro Ohara in 1971, Gankooyaji (頑固おやじ) translates to “a stubborn father” and refers to the brand’s mission of using only old-growth wood from century-old trees and making furniture by hand. Ohara worked in a chain department store for mass furniture production before starting his own business. He wanted to produce furniture that would last for decades and preserve the traditional craft.

**Wonders of wood**

“Extraordinary traditional craftsmanship of furniture making will eventually be phased out by mechanization,” he predicted. “The traditional skill of woodworking is at risk of dying out despite its high value of preservation. My mission is to safeguard the heritage of woodworking and create high-quality furniture pieces that last for generations and introduce the beauty of Japanese traditional craftsmanship.”

Ohara traveled all over Japan in search of talented traditional craftsmen and invited them to produce extremely high quality furniture for the brand. He insisted that Gankooyaji furniture would be true to the spirit of traditional Japanese craftsmanship – from the selection and processing of wood, to the connection techniques and paint lacquer.

Two of the artisans are Takeshi Katsumi from Shizuoka Prefecture and Toshiro Sakemi from Fukuoka Prefecture. They each have their own distinctive styles. Katsumi, who has more than 50 years’ experience, likes using the light yet tough Japanese chestnut. Sakemi is known for his exquisite carving skills and has received the Prime Minister’s Award from Shinzo Abe, which Ohara said is “the highest honor in Japan.”

The new store in Hong Kong is divided into eight zones that display furniture according to materials and production techniques.

In the Supreme Wood section, customers will find furniture made from Kyushu camphor. The wood exudes a resinous aroma that can serve as a natural mosquito and moth repellent as well as calm one’s mind and senses, making it an excellent choice for study or work desks. The Noble Wood section features furniture made of walnut wood that has retained its original edges for a natural look and feel. Taking pride of place is a chair which took the gold at the Shizuoka Good Design Award in 2014.

An unusual coat made from persimmon juice is the theme for the Kokushibiu Coating zone. “The technique from the pre-Edo period uses kakishibu (persimmon juice) as coating material. The protective coat makes this furniture last for generations,” said Ohara.

Another woodwork masterpiece not to be missed is the iwayado tansu (chest of drawers) made in the Iwate Prefecture. “Tansu is a cabinet for warriors or army generals to store their armor,” said Ohara. “As there are no sliding or mechanical parts, its production requires high level of precision.” The chest is made of the same Japanese zelkova wood that was used to build the Kiyomizu-dera Temple in Kyoto.

The wood is coated with a paint extracted from lacquer tree juice and the chest fitted with gold ornaments made using the Nambu ironware technique.

**Where:** Room 16, 8/F, Kam Hon Industrial Building, 20 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay
Chris Toledo has gone to painstaking lengths to build the home of his dreams. He drew the patterns – based on antiques – for every one of his eight stained glass windows. He shaped delicate scroll railings for his Juliet balconies. He laid nearly 6,000 barrel tiles, one by one, on his rooftop. For the last two years, he’s obsessed over every detail of his 1920s Spanish Mediterranean house.

But Casa California is a masterpiece of illusion. The guest room is the length of a pencil. The stone fountains are no taller than Q-Tips. The fireplace fits in the palm of a hand. The whole house is less than 1.8 meters wide. A life-size version would cost millions – millions Toledo does not have.

So far, this is the closest the 32-year-old has come to owning a house of his own in Los Angeles. Toledo lives with his fiance, Matthew Mathiasen, in a small rented apartment near MacArthur Park. It has two bedrooms, but these days Casa California claims one.

He’s wanted to build something like it since he was eight. That’s when, in a doctor’s waiting room, he picked up a copy of Nutshell News, a magazine for miniaturists. It featured a tiny version of the Gamble House in Pasadena. Toledo knew the place. He’d driven by it with his father, who restored old homes. “I was amazed,” he said. “I didn’t know what it was, but I wanted to do just that.”

When Christmas came, he asked his parents for a kit to make a miniature two-story log cabin. Next came a Victorian, followed by a farmhouse.

At home, Toledo would spend months building each structure, then use money he’d earned from chores to furnish every space. In Yucaipa, where his family often camped, there was a miniature store, where he’d go to buy petite floral sofas, chests of drawers and china cabinets.

His parents, immigrants from Argentina, hoped it was a calling. “We were convinced he’d be an architect,” said his mother, Liliana Eschoyez.

Instead, he grew up to work in fashion, photography and later in his current field, graphic design.

Four years ago, after a long pause, he returned to building the little houses that had brought him such boyhood joy. But this time, kits would no longer be enough. He wanted to create an entire home from scratch.

“It was supposed to be a hobby, until he saw it might be more. Toledo’s plan was to build a two-story, two-bedroom Spanish villa, a vision he’d formed from watching Bob Villa restore a Spanish home on TV and spending hours driving around aging grand estates in Hancock Park and South Pasadena. “I imagined I was a wealthy person in the 1920s … who moved to Los Angeles to build a home for my family. This would be my castle.”

Everything his father taught him about carpentry, painting and metal work came in handy. To build scroll railings, he taught himself to solder bits of brass – beads, wire and charms he sourced online.

To make six different types of terracotta and ceramic tiles, he tried nearly 20 methods – including flattening clay on a pasta machine. He ended up hand-painting each tile and laser etching the grout lines. To get precise measurements for his barrel roof, he scrambled onto the rooftop of his two-story apartment building. “If something wasn’t just right,” Toledo said, “I’d tear it down and build the whole thing over again.”

Tools took over the guest-room closet: saw, drill, soldering iron. Shelves filled up with paint cans, spackle pastes and sculpting clay. In one corner, he set up a big laser cutter he bought for HK$3,500 (HK$27,300) on eBay.

To afford everything he needed, he sold some of his clothes and miniature furniture he’d collected since he was a boy. He lived modestly. But the costs added up, into the hundreds, then thousands.

Toledo and Mathiasen long to own a piece of Los Angeles – a real house they can settle into after they marry this autumn. Now they realize that Casa California may be their best bet. “It’s fine art,” said Mathiasen, who works as a fashion sales manager. “It can be worth a lot.”

At first, he didn’t fully understand. He thought of miniatures as toys. Sometimes he’d wander into Toledo’s work space and tinker around in the tiny bathroom. He’d accidentally break the leg off a tub, the faucet off a sink. Toledo would stare at him, dead silent. “He and the cat are the two household members forbidden from entering my studio,” Toledo said.

Every week, the couple hunt for properties. But their maximum price of US$600,000 is pretty much entry-level. So the homes they can afford with the kind of charm Toledo wants are in sketchy neighborhoods or have major problems: water damage, faulty foundations, kitchens and bathrooms that are total gut jobs.

They’re hopeful a collector might shell out as much as US$80,000 for Casa California – which would go a long way toward a down payment. Not on a house of its grandeur – with splendid stained glass and tile, said Toledo. “Maybe a little Spanish bungalow we can fix up over time.”

LOSA NGELES TIMES
Having worked with the English family before, Clifton Leung knew exactly what they wanted when they called on him to design their home at Cherry Crest in Sheung Wan. “They like light colors, modern and clean lines. They also wanted well-structured storage to avoid clutter,” he said.

The major change was the layout – instead of a typical Hong Kong flat layout, Leung changed it to make a dynamic open space.

As his first project with the owners was when they were just a couple, he knew that they liked open-concept living.

“The previous home was an open-concept studio flat,” he said. “To keep the same concept, I created an open living/dining/kitchen space with the island at the center connecting the space.

“It is an island where the whole family can eat, cook and chat together – a large integrated space that the family members can see each other and what is happening even when cooking.

“I think having features that encourage bonding is the key to designing family homes.”

For that, he had to make some major changes to the two-bedroom layout of the flat. “We gutted some walls to make extra room. The color of wood of the existing fixtures was a dark walnut, which made the flat look cramped. The solid wood flooring was wobbly and pretty worn out so we removed everything and built new, modern ones.”

To recognize his vision of a “practical Scandinavian” home, Leung arranged for the kitchen to be brought forward, closer to the living area, and located a guest bathroom in its place.

An extra room was carved out for the second child by creating a smaller and eliminating the shower area.

“For the color tone, as the aim was Cool, calm and collected to create a calm and relaxing family ambience, we kept the colors simple, using a light-toned palette of beige, cream and white and an abundance of natural wood,” said Leung. “This allows the family to keep the look clean and calm or jazz it up as and when they like with colored art and accessories.”

A key feature of Scandinavian design is its natural lighting. To achieve this effect, Leung used glass partitions that invite natural lighting into different rooms.

“For example, having a glass partition between the kitchen and guest bathroom allows the light from the guest bathroom to flood into the kitchen,” he said.

“Natural lighting is not only soothing, but also opens up spaces.”

In order to achieve a minimalistic home, clutter needs to be kept well under control with plenty of storage. Said Leung: “The most challenging aspect to achieve an uncluttered look is probably the large amount of storage spaces in a small apartment. To make the use of storage spaces less claustrophobic and more minimalist looking, we used platforms in bedrooms below the bed. The elevated platform also visually separates the sleeping area from the rest of the room to make it feel like its own separate space.

“Another way is to ensure that cabinets include some open shelving and insert indirect lighting above and below the storage units to make them seem less bulky.”
The kitchen is widely considered the heart of a home, while the bathroom is simply no less important. Let the hearty dinner and the therapeutic shower free you from the fatigue of work.
Catch cabana fever

Fans just couldn’t get enough of Cabana, the high-end interiors magazine by Martina Mondadori Santiago so the Italian tastemaker decided to venture into creating her own lifestyle brand.

Her first collection, which came out early this year, included tableware created in collaboration with big Italian brands such as Laguna B, Richard Ginori and Laboratorio Paravicini.

She also produced exclusive collections for Moda Operandi. Her latest, her fourth for the online luxury retailer, goes beyond the table into the bedroom, with rich throws and bedding covers. There are also complementary robes and hosting-appropriate pajamas.

All dressed up in scent

Christian Dior once said: “A drop of perfume and you are dressed in Dior.” Now you can cloak yourself and your home in Dior as the fashion house has launched Maison Christian Dior – a comprehensive collection of 20 scents, candles, soaps and scented silk scarves. The ambitious collection is the brainchild of Francois Demachy, master perfumer with the house since 2006.

The candles (HK$600) are crafted by French wax manufacturer Perron Rigot and housed in Limoges porcelain while the soaps (HK$290) are made in France at the Savonnerie de Haute-Provence. Each candle can burn for 70 hours. There are eight fragrances available for the candles and three for the soaps, with more to follow.

An item unique to the collection is the silk scarf (HK$1,650) – inspired by Dior’s designer and muse Mitzah Bricard, who always wore a scarf tied to her wrist. The collection of 10 scarves are made to be tied on the wrist, neck or hair for a discreet perfume trail.
For centuries, designers have devoted their heart and soul to creating the ultimate luxury abodes, marking their inimitable styles with the innovative use of color, texture, space and more. For a glimpse of the latest offerings, read on and be fascinated.
Yuen Long
family units

The project, on Ma Wang Road in Yuen Long, was developed jointly with the MTR Corporation (0066) and offers 720 apartments. More than half are two-bedroom flats.

The apartments at Sol City are sized between 322 sq ft and 690 sq ft and the prices are being fixed in reference to deals in the neighborhood.

Some units have covered balconies with metal framed balustrades. The entrance lobbies feature walls and floors of natural stone.

In the living room and bedrooms, the floors and skirting are of engineered timber. Bathrooms are finished with porcelain tiles.

To display ornaments, or even personal mementos, a multi-layered rack is provided in the living room. A glass sliding door allows access to the balcony at the edge of the living room.

The kitchen walls and flooring are also finished with porcelain tiles.

The designer of the show flat has combined cooler hues with warm shades in the interiors. The whole apartment has been decorated in gray.

In the master bedroom, there are timber mirror cabinets and wooden vanity counters with natural stone countertop. The space in the apartment is limited, but the décor makes it appear spacious.

In the kitchen, the homeowner is made to feel at ease with advanced appliances such as built-in refrigerator, steam oven, microwave, stainless steel sink, storage, and cookware.

Located close to the Long Ping Station on MTR West Rail line, the project also provides 57 car parking spaces.

Chinachem Group’s new project in Yuen Long, Sol City opened a show flat last Monday. Sol City makes use of one of the units, Room H 28th floor block 3, as a blueprint to display a three-bedroom flat of 690 square feet.

In the dining room, there is an oak table that can sit four people. There is also a movable side table placed in front of the sofa.

Unit for sale

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<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Sol City</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
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The mock-up unit mainly features subdued shades and its interiors are embellished with dark green fabric ornaments, plaid carpets as well as a houndstooth pattern dining table and chairs.

In the living room, a decoration crafted with white gold ceramic chips and a painting draw the eyes immediately.

The master bedroom has a dark green striped wall. There is also a small balcony, which allows residents to enjoy the view outdoors and let in natural light.

One East Coast, a residential project by Kowloon Development (0034) in Yau Tong, has opened two show flats, including a 391 square foot two-bedroom unit in Flat D, 28/F, Tower 1A.

The spacious open kitchen is L-shaped, with cabinets and solid countertops. Shelves above the kitchen countertops can be used to stock crystal wine glasses and high-grade tableware.

The other show flat is a 264 sq ft one-bedroom unit in Flat C, 28/F, Tower 1A, designed under the theme, “The Fairy Queen.”

The living room features simple colors and the walls have a light gray wood grain and beige carved surface. This is matched with light-colored marble patterns. There are also some rose-gold-hued furniture and decorations. The pink-orange sofa is eye-catching.

The designer has dismantled the guest room wall and created a study room, where a classically elegant desk and some imitation antique pieces have been placed.

The bedroom has been connected to the living room by removing its walls and door to create more space and introduce extra daylight. The colors and design of the bedroom are similar to that of the living room. The bedroom is still spacious despite the wardrobe, a vanity, and a desk.

About 75 percent of units provide one bedroom only, while 14 percent are two-bedroom flats. The rest are studios.

These flats will be put on sale batch by batch and the project will be completed on September 30, 2019, the developer says.

Unit for sale

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</table>
Laufen
Laufen Showroom by Eurobath Collection | G/F, 275 Lockhart Road, WanChai, Hong Kong
2868 0231/2868 0261
eurobath@biznetvigator.com

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www.roca.hk

Colourliving
www.colourliving.com

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