

MINIMAL MAGIC

BY DENWA CHENG PHOTOGRAPHY DANNY CHENG INTERIORS LTD.

Renowned Hong Kong interior designer Danny Cheng has integrated minimalism with a sense of history to create an office space that is rich in substance
香港著名室內設計師Danny Cheng，結合極簡與歷史感，創造內涵豐富的辦公室

The bond shared between individuals and their workspaces can sometimes seem almost predestined. This theory was evident in the story of renowned Hong Kong-based interior designer Danny Cheng, who spent six months searching for an ideal office space until he finally found it – and it was love at first sight.

He searched throughout Central and Sheung Wan for a suitable location, only to come up empty handed. Until one fateful day, a real estate agent's phone call led him to this unit situated in a waterfront commercial building in Wan Chai, which he ultimately made his home.

Cheng reveals that he has worked in interior design for over two decades, and his design style has evolved with age. From the earliest minimalist style to now incorporating his deep love for rich cultural history into his designs, he aims to imbue his creations with more depth and significance.

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他一直在中環和上環尋找合適地點，沒遇上稱心合意的，之後地產經紀一個電話，引領他來到這個位於灣仔海濱一棟商業大廈的單位，如此這般就安頓下來。

他透露從事室內設計廿多年，設計風格也隨著年紀漸長而改變，由最初的極簡風格，到現在將骨子裏一直喜愛的富文化歷史設計結合起來，使設計更有內涵及深度。

室內設計行內人都知道，Danny擅長以對稱佈局處理空間，這個佔地1,800平方呎的辦公室亦不例外。整個空間佈局以猶如悠閒客廳的會客廳為中軸，左右兩邊空間分別是擺放長桌(可供八人圍坐)的會議室，以及Danny的私人工作室。





Industry insiders know that Cheng excels in handling spaces with symmetrical layouts, and this 1,800 square foot office is no exception. The entire area centres around a reception room resembling a casual living room, with a conference room with a long table which can seat eight people on one side, and his private workspace on the other.

“My goal was to make sure that the farthest point of the interior is visible from every spot in the entire space. So, I used wooden folding doors to separate each zone,” Cheng says.

“Opening all the wooden folding doors creates sight lines through various zones, providing a sense of open space and adding layers of beauty.”

The wooden folding doors have been made with solid wood, with exquisitely handcrafted floral patterns on the surfaces, bringing out a sense of cultural and historical warmth.

The red brick wall in the conference room took a lot of time to modify during construction.

“Because I studied interior design in Toronto, the red brick walls in schools bring back countless memories. I didn’t want to lose sight of the original inspiration that spurred me into this career path, so I created the same red brick wall in the conference room,” he says.

“The rendering on the wall actually shows my high school – a corner in one of the covered playgrounds of SKH Bishop Baker Secondary School in Yuen Long, which I designed for my alma mater when I became an interior designer.”

Cheng meticulously selected bricks that displayed varying shades of red to give the appearance of the brick walls of historic buildings. Initially, the labourers laid the bricks with such precision that it seemed too tidy and new. As a result, he opted to begin the process again and ultimately designed a red brick wall that was deliberately flawed, but conveyed a notion of cultural heritage.



Danny說：「在整個空間內，我期望不論身處任何區域，都可以望見室內最遠的位置，因此以木摺門分隔各個區域，當木摺門全部打開，視線可以從不同區域穿透而過，感受視野開揚的空間感和層次美。」木摺門以實木製造，門面飾以手工精緻的花線，帶出有溫度的文化歷史氣韻。

會議室的紅磚牆，在工程進行期間，花上許多時間修整。Danny回憶說：「以前我在多倫多修讀室內設計，學校的紅磚牆帶給我不少回憶。我希望毋忘初心，所以在會議室的牆壁鋪上這堵紅磚牆。牆上那幅設計圖是我就讀的中學——在元朗聖公會白約翰會督中學的有蓋運動場其中一個角落，我成為室內設計師後，為母校設計的。」

Danny為了塑造猶如歷史建築的紅磚牆效果，他親自挑選色澤深淺不一的紅磚，甚至動手和工人一起砌磚。起初工人砌紅磚砌得太工整，沒歲月感覺，他決定推倒重來，最終才塑造出刻意不完美，但有文化歷史感的紅磚牆。

相對會議室的莊重，會客廳營造輕鬆隨意氛圍，擺放舒適梳化、B&O電視機，茶几旁擺放了一個大木碗用以存放Danny愛吃的糖果和朱古力，讓人邊吃邊閒聊，放鬆心情。

牆上其中一幅畫作，以一筆到底的方式繪畫

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In contrast to the solemnity of the conference room, the reception room has a relaxed and casual atmosphere. It features comfortable sofas, a B&O television and a large wooden bowl on the coffee table where Cheng keeps his favourite sweets and chocolates.

Guests can chat and relax while they nibble on snacks. One of the paintings on the wall features a portrait of Jesus painted with one continuous brushstroke. Cheng recounts the tale: "That day, I went with my friend to an auction, and the artist who painted this had a pre-emptive feeling that I would buy this painting, and I really did."

By covering the wall adjacent to the window with black aluminium plates, he has achieved a black frame effect that truly accentuates the beauty of Victoria Harbour, as seen through the panoramic view offered by the window.

To reduce the appearance of seams between the aluminium plates on the wall surface, he opted for three-metre long plates. The plates were too large to fit into the elevator, so the workers had to carry them up the stairs to complete the installation.

His meticulous attention to detail has been a defining characteristic of his work for over 20 years. This was evident in his careful selection of furniture and light fixtures for the reception room. To create a truly captivating space, he chose exquisite pieces from renowned brands such as Cassina for furniture, and Flos and Cappellini for light fixtures.

In his private workspace, simplicity reigns with an L-shaped working desk anchoring the layout. He still uses the same drawing board he has used since founding his interior design firm. Resting on the desk is his favourite Japanese cartoon character from Doraemon, Noby Nobi, lying on his back, bringing back many childhood memories. | |



出耶穌臉容，他開始講故事說：「那天我陪朋友去拍賣會，繪畫這幅畫的藝術家早有預感我會買這幅畫，結果我真的買了。」

窗外盡覽維港景致，Danny在靠牆的牆壁鋪上黑色鋁板，形成黑色相框的效果，把美景「框」起來，讓人欣賞。據說他為了減少鋁板在牆上出現的接駁位，採用長達3米的鋁板，由於鋁板太長，無法進入升降機，運輸工人需要踏樓梯運送。他入行廿多年來一直對細節十分堅持，並精挑細選每件家具和燈具，在這裡用上Cassina出品的家具，以及Flos和Cappellini出品的燈具。

至於Danny的私人工作室，佈局簡潔，置L形工作桌，而由他創立室內設計公司以來一直使用的繪圖板，他現在仍繼續沿用。桌上還有他喜愛的日本卡通人物——大雄躺臥桌上，讓他勾起絲絲童年回憶。| |

