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HOME

MAY 2015

JOURNAL | 美好家居

MAKING IT

A closer look at craftsmanship

細看匠心獨運的工藝

**Creative districts
in Florence and Sydney**

走訪意國澳洲創意區



HOMES | MID-LEVELS | 2,100 SQFT

CULTURE CLUB

Designer Susanna Valerio's inimitable flair
shines through in her worldly Mid-Levels apartment
設計師 Susanna Valerio 在這中半山單位展現天賦

TEXT & PRODUCTION **KISSA CASTAÑEDA** ART DIRECTION **MAY LAU**

PHOTOGRAPHY **EDGAR TAPAN** STYLING **KATIE BAXTER**









ORIENTAL FLAIR

Atop the coffee table from Lane Crawford are pieces Susanna designed for SV Casa; the bronze tabletop accent was moulded based on her feet; she retained arched passageways typical of apartments from this era; the homeowner with her dogs, Casper and Lola

東方魅力

來自連卡佛的咖啡桌上放有 Susanna 為 SV Casa 設計的作品；桌上銅作品以她的腳型為模；她保留單位具年代特色的典型拱型走道；屋主與兩頭愛犬 Casper 和 Lola



Susanna Valerio definitely has it – there’s an easy elegance about the designer that’s evident from the moment you meet her. The creative force behind SV Casa and SV International Design, as well as a former consultant for Lane Crawford, Susanna is well versed in creating, curating and choosing beautiful things. Chic, confident and full of entertaining stories, she is an arbiter of style, and yet she doesn’t take her work, nor herself, too seriously.

Style is second nature to Susanna – seen in the way she dresses and the manner in which she decorates. Her preferences and references, however, aren’t easy to define. It’s certainly worldly, as to be expected of an Italian woman who has lived all over the place, including Cairo and Singapore. And it also shows a strong affinity to quality and craft.

“I’m definitely not a minimalist. I love collecting things,” Susanna says while showing us her enviable collection of minaudières and vintage Astier de Villatte plates. She admits to having boxes of stuff back in Rome, which she considers her “real home, where my collection of 17th- and 18th-century

設計師 Susanna Valerio 平易近人的優雅氣質在你第一眼與她見面時即能感受。作為 SV Casa 和 SV International Design 的幕後創作主力——由她創立的家居品牌和設計顧問公司——兼連卡佛前顧問，Susanna 在創作、策劃和挑選美麗作品方面均非常在行。結集時尚、自信和有趣故事於一身，Susanna 就是風格的權威，然而她不會總以嚴肅不變的態度看待工作與自身。

風格對 Susanna 來說是第二使命——穿衣與裝飾也是如此一氣呵成。她的取向與愛好卻是難以清楚指明。畢竟，這位意大利女子曾在全球多地居住，包括埃及和新加坡，滿有環球風格，對質素和工藝方面也有強硬的堅持。





“IT'S ALWAYS LAST MINUTE WITH ME WHEN IT COMES TO DECORATION. I JUST THOUGHT 'WHITE, BLACK, AND ORANGE' – AND IT WAS SO”

EXOTIC ACCENT

The beaded heads are from Mozambique; the lacquer table from Vietnam is a prototype for Lane Crawford and the plates are from a Tokyo-based artisan she found when she was working at Joyce; the day bed is filled with plush textiles from C&C Milano

異國情調

串珠頭像來自Mozambique；漆桌來自越南，是為連卡佛作的原型，碟鏤自駐東京工藝師，在Joyce工作時找到；沙發鋪上C&C Milano的豐潤布藝

art and furniture with intricate marquetry remains.” Susanna considers the Hong Kong apartment as sort of a holiday home. “I never thought I would stay this long, so it’s always been this way. It was never about bringing stuff from Rome and putting it here,” she says. This mindset is the motivation behind the slightly pared-back but still eclectic space she’s crafted.

It’s not just about the possessions, however. The charming apartment is a treasure in itself, a place Susanna stumbled into by chance. “I was living on the first floor and I looked up and saw my neighbour’s flat. I was amazed that it was sold as the building was owned by one family,” she recalls. After a quick search online, she discovered the next unit at the top of the walk-up was also for sale. It

Susanna展示小飾件和古董Astier de Villatte碟子系列時表示：「我絕非簡約主義者，最愛收集東西。」她坦言仍有數箱物件留在羅馬，並視之為「真正的家，我的17和18世紀鑲嵌工藝藝術和傢具收藏均一一保留。」香港單位則算是Susanna的度假屋：「沒想過會在此逗留這麼久，所以也沒考慮把東西從羅馬運到此。」如此態度取向便是這單調而滿有個性的單位背後原因。



IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT POSSESSIONS, HOWEVER.
THE CHARMING APARTMENT IS A TREASURE IN ITSELF.

ALL ABOUT GROUPING

A gallery wall of family photographs line the hallway to the kitchen; her bedroom is rendered in a neutral palette, accented by a bold grouping of mirrors and a parchment desk and table from Lane Crawford

完美組合

藝術擺放有家庭照，點綴通往廚房的走廊；睡房抹上中性色彩，並以組合鏡，以及連卡佛的桌和椅裝飾

took a year and a half of convincing the owners to sell it to her, but when Susanna finally got it there was a lovely surprise – a spacious rooftop that was perfect for entertaining.

The flat required renovation and Susanna kept the shell decidedly streamlined as a canvas for various interior experiments. The current incarnation is dominated by dark hues with a pop of orange and hints of Eastern design. "It's always last-minute with me when it comes to decoration. I just thought 'White, black and orange' – and it was so."

Susanna's fascination with unique pieces and their careful placement catches the eye, from a dramatic sconce made by a friend in the Philippines to the elegant textiles from her favourite brand C&C Milano. Random pieces somehow also make the cut, such as an upholstered armchair that's been with

然而，財物不是關鍵一切。這魅力家居本身已是珍貴所在——Susanna偶然與它遇上：「當時我住在一樓，往上看便見到鄰人的家。大廈屬一家族所有，這出售單位的確叫我好奇。」網上資料搜查後，便發展樓上隔壁也作出售。結果花了一年半時間才能說服擁有人把單位轉售予她，Susanna也隨即發現當中隱含的驚喜——開揚的天台正好用來款客。

單位急需翻新，Susanna決定保持流線型外殼，作為不同室內試驗的背景。現時家居以深色作主導，並加上數抹橙調和東方設計魅力。「裝飾對我來說總是最後一分鐘的決定。想到『白、黑和橙』後，便落實行動。」







THE THICK OF IT

Her flat has a spacious rooftop that looks into a quintessential Hong Kong skyline; entertaining and tablescaping is a passion of Susanna's - she makes full use of the space for open-air parties

重點所在

單位的開揚天台望向平靜香港市景；款客和裝飾餐桌是 Susanna 的熱愛，她善用空間舉行開放式派對

her for over 20 years. "I don't like it so much. It's just the only thing I haven't gotten rid of," she confesses with nonchalance. In fact, a lot of it boils down to chance and feeling – from her spur-of-the-moment buys to how she approaches designing for SV Casa. "There's nothing as satisfying as seeing your object of desire come to life," she says of spending time experimenting in the factory. I suppose that's also how Susanna approaches her home – always creating and tweaking, bringing her vision to life. //

Susanna對獨特作品的著迷與仔細將之擺放的方式，在家居各處均可體現，如友人在菲律賓製作的矚目壁式燭台、她喜愛品牌C&C Milano的優雅布藝。看似隨心的作品也偶爾入圍，如伴她超過二十載的襯墊扶手椅。她冷冷的說：「我不太喜歡它，只是唯一一件還未丟棄的物品。」畢竟最後也以機遇和情感作抉擇——由她即興購下的物品以至怎樣為SV Casa設計方面可見一斑。在工廠視察參與的她表示：「看到心儀作品活現眼前實在叫人滿足不已。」我想這大概也是Susanna打造家居的取向——創作不斷、持續創新，直至心想的能真確呈現。//