

INTERIORS: HONG KONG



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Atelier B designs a classic yet wildly colourful home for a young family

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Neutrals can often be, well, boring. Yet many people play it safe by sticking to a palette of white, cream and beige—often only adding restrained touches of colour through accessories and soft furnishings. Frederic and Catherine Bourquin of Atelier B love working with colour. “We don’t do tone-on-tone,” says Catherine. “There are a lot of people who do it very well in Hong Kong, but it’s not us.”

When it comes to daring hues at home, it’s evident that the Kwongs—the residents of this spacious Kowloon home—aren’t bashful, either. “They’re from Hong Kong but they’ve lived abroad, and they were so open to everything. They are amazing clients!” exclaims Catherine. The residents wanted a completely different look to their formerly drab, beige interiors, and had the design duo reupholster their furnishings in vivid blue, purple and green fabrics.



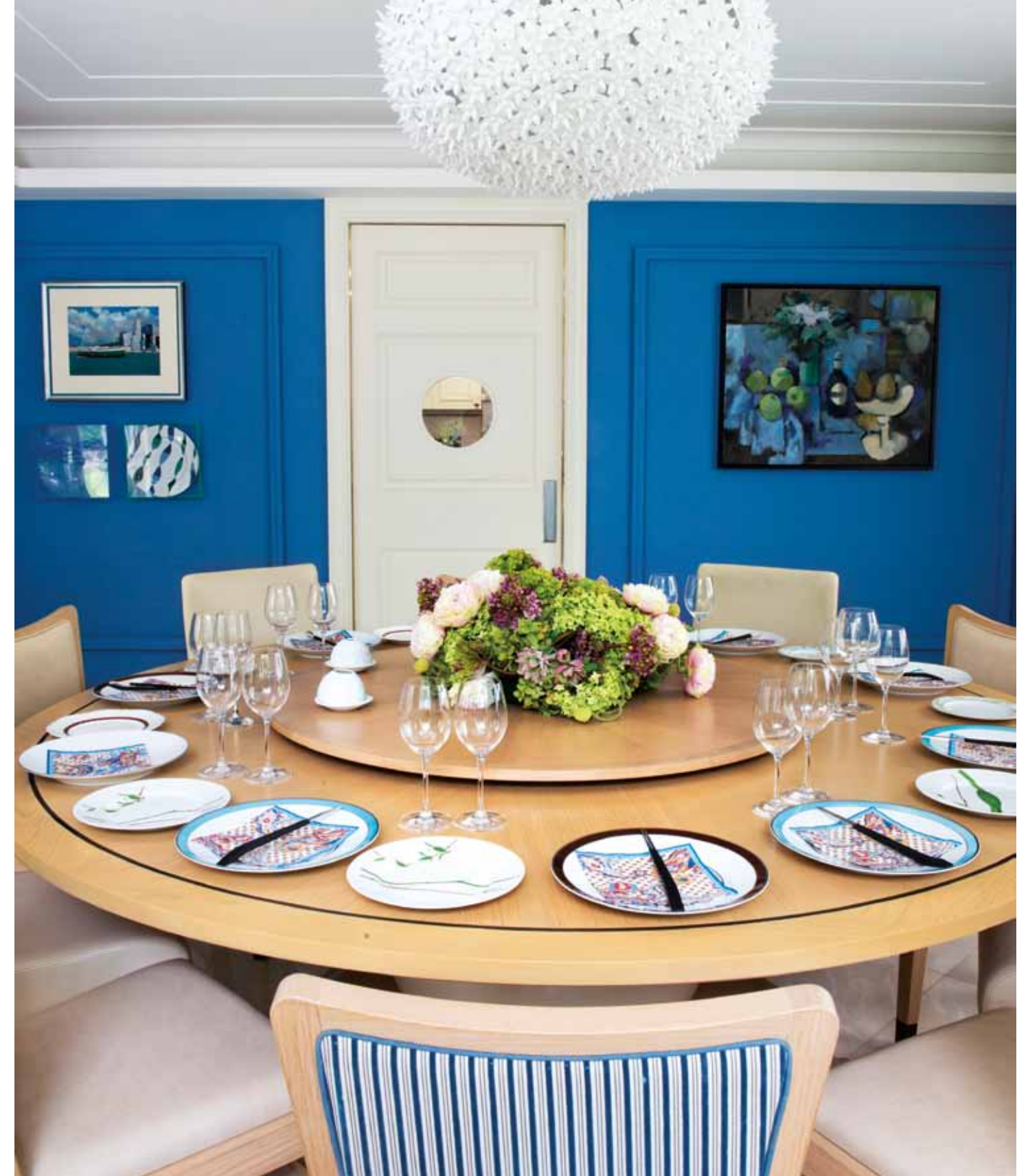
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(Clockwise from top) The stone fireplace in the living room is a rarity in Hong Kong; Atelier B reholstered the furnishings in blue, purple and green fabrics; Dulux’s Tibetan Blue paint was used to bring life into the dining room

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A bird’s eye view of the spacious living room

“Frederic and Catherine met their clients through Wendy Siu, owner of Heather & March, and quickly bonded over their shared love for French dinnerware”



No expense was spared when choosing the finest European fabrics from Alfield Interiors and Avant Garde. Swathes of jewel-toned fabrics were used to give a new lease of life to armchairs, benches and decorative cushions, while walls were given a fresh lick of Dulux paint in Tibetan Blue to tie in the bright tones throughout the home. The vibrant shade was also used as the backdrop of a framed ancestral robe, which Catherine mounted onto the fireplace in the living room.

Frederic and Catherine met their clients through Wendy Siu, owner of Heather & March, and quickly bonded over their shared love for French dinnerware. “The Kwongs are collectors,” says Catherine, speaking of their clients’ vast collection of fine china. To showcase their growing collection, Frederic designed three glass display cases, each housing an impressive collection of Raynaud and Gien porcelain—dishes that were gifted by generous friends and family for the couple’s wedding. The Kwongs’ taste for

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A pretty Kartell light fixture hangs above the dining table



classic elegance extends to their furniture collection, evident in pieces such as a pair of Christian Liaigre side tables and works by David Linley.

For Frederic and Catherine, it was really about helping the family work with what they already had, rather than starting from scratch. Before the designers even set foot in the home, it had been refurbished to a very high standard with grandiose marble bathrooms, solid walnut floors and sparkling crystal chandeliers. Recalls Catherine, “It was just so neutral and

insipid. We really wanted to make it pleasant and—more than anything—to make it a family home.”

The pair has certainly drawn inspiration from international designers Kelly Wearstler and India Mahdavi—both known for their striking palettes and courageous colour choices. “Without help, people are really afraid of putting a lot of colour into their home,” says Catherine. The creative pair has certainly given the Kwong family a push in the right direction in designing a wonderfully colourful home that they can grow into.



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(From top) The children's rooms are set in bright and cheerful tones; a grassy backyard is where the family enjoys alfresco meals

opposite page

Beautiful, violet-hued fabrics fill one bedroom