



A MID-CENTURY AFFAIR

“Take your pleasure seriously,” said Charles Eames. Belinda and Glen Bath have taken this favourite design quote to heart as they’ve applied the philosophy to their home
Charles Eames曾說：「認真投入能令你快樂的事情。」Belinda和Glen Bath把這句他們最愛的語錄融匯居所之中

BY ANJI CONNELL PHOTOGRAPHY BELINDA BATH

“THERE IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT THIS STYLE - THE WAY THE LIGHT FLOWS THROUGH THE WINDOWS, THE OPEN LAYOUT, AND THE GENEROUSLY SIZED ROOMS”



BLAST FROM THE PAST
Memories from Hong Kong informed this Melbourne condo burst with bright colours.

記憶猶新
屋主對香港的回憶，在這個色彩斑斕的墨爾本公寓隨處可見。

It was purely the architecture and design of this house that attracted die-hard mid-century lovers Belinda and Glen Bath at the outset. "There is something special about this style - the way the light flows through the windows, the open layout, and the generously sized rooms," Belinda says. "But it was the gorgeous frangipani tree in the front of the house that sealed the deal. They always remind me of my lovely grandmother."

A recent move back home to Australia after 12 years in Hong Kong was certainly not without its challenges. "My daughter was starting university in Melbourne, and my son wanted to finish high school there", explains Belinda. "I don't think you can ever underestimate how hard it is for kids (and adults) to repatriate to their hometown after so long away. There are so many things to get used to and making new friendships can be really hard. My husband is still working in Hong Kong, so there are also the challenges of separation and commuting back and forth. Of course, COVID has made things more difficult. We wouldn't change it though as we love being back here with our friends and family," she explains.

熱愛中世紀設計的Belinda和Glen Bath打從一開始便深深愛上這個居所的建築和設計。「這兒的風格非常特別，例如光線從窗戶照進來的方式、開揚的格局、寬敞的房間。」Belinda說：「但大門前那棵漂亮的雞蛋花樹才是促使我們選定這裡的主因，令我常常想起我可愛的外婆。」

在香港居住了12年，他們早前決定搬回澳洲。「我的女兒正在墨爾本讀大學，而兒子也希望在那邊完成高中。」Belinda解釋說：「相隔這麼多年後重返家鄉，對小孩(以及大人)來說絕不容易，需要重新適應很多事物，而且也可能很難結識新朋友。我的丈夫現時仍留港工作，一家人要分隔兩地，而在香港澳洲兩邊往返也是挑戰重重。再加上受到新冠肺炎疫情影响，我們面對更多難題。不過，我們不會後悔，因為我們很喜歡回到這裡，與親人好友團聚。」

可幸的是，他們的居所無須大費周章翻新，只需重新髹油，把酒窖內一間房改作客人套房，以及加裝一道窗以增加室內光線。最後的工程是美化後花園，他們的庭園設計師特別預留一大片空間，滿足他們想要一個大用餐區的需求，而且布置需完美配合居所的整體風格。Belinda指出：「新冠肺炎疫情下，很多工序也要暫停，希望能趕及聖誕前完工。」





ARTSY CORNER
The home serves as a canvas for Belinda's assembly of art, which feeds her creativity while working from home.

藝術角落
簡潔的室內用色更能突顯屋主
的藝術品，為在家工作的Belinda
提供創意與靈感。



Fortunately, the house didn't need a lot of work other than re-painting and converting a room in the cellar to a guest bedroom and bathroom, as well as adding back a window for light. The last project to undertake is the back garden. Their landscapers had detailed a space, fully meeting their brief for a great entertaining area that seamlessly integrates with the style of the house. Says Belinda, "the COVID situation has put plans on hold for the moment, but are hoping to have it completed by Christmas."

Upon entering the home you immediately notice the striking original terrazzo flooring that continues up the original staircase to the main living area on the first floor which is a lovely open plan space with a balcony to front of the house. "The downstairs is the kids' area, and my daughter has a self-contained bedroom and bathroom. The huge rumpus room is our 'party pad,' where the kids can entertain their friends," says Belinda, who adds, "Home is extremely important to me. I feel happiest in a light-filled space with lots of outdoor areas. I found it difficult living in a small high-rise apartment in Hong Kong, as working from home it's vital for me to be in an environment that feeds my creativity and where I have space to hang my artwork. It's also very important that my home feels casual yet inviting, and that works for entertaining, a place where people can feel free to pop in anytime, for coffee, and a chat. Where the kids can invite all their friends over, and we can all hang out together, entertaining, enjoying food, music, dancing. It's how I was brought up, and it's something we could never all do in Hong Kong due to space constraints."

踏進漂亮的居所，你會立時被原裝水磨石地板所迷倒，走上樓梯，便來到設於一樓的主客廳，設計開揚，並附設一個俯瞰正門的露台。Belinda表示：「樓下是孩子的專用區域。我女兒有獨立的睡房和浴室，而寬敞的娛樂室是我們的派對場地，孩子們會在此跟好友共聚。家對我來說極為重要，能生活在一個附設大量戶外空間的明亮家園，是最幸福的事。居於香港狹小又沒有花園的高樓大廈單位確是困難，畢竟，我常在家工作，需要一個能引發創意的環境，以及充裕空間來擺放我的藝術作品。」

「家園應具備舒適格調，同時又能隨時招呼親朋光臨歡聚，讓人感覺賓至如歸。我一直希望孩子們能邀請朋友回家玩樂，一起享用美食、聽音樂和跳舞。我就是在這樣的環境中長大，但我們不可能在香港擁有這種生活。」

Belinda在家中各處擺放了她喜愛的東西，以及一些別具意義和載有滿滿回憶的物品。「我最喜歡那個以我公司的印章和標誌來制作的霓虹

“MY FAVORITE THING IS THE NEON SIGN OF MY BUSINESS
CHOP AND LOGO THAT I HAD MADE BY NEON MASTER
WU CHI-KAI BEFORE I LEFT”



GLOWING PERSONALITY
A neon sign of Belinda's business chop and logo by neon Master Wu Chi-kai serves as a striking focal point in the dining room.

霓虹魅力
以Belinda公司的印章和標誌制作的霓虹燈裝置由霓虹燈設計師胡智楷打造，是飯廳的焦點所在。



Belinda has filled her home with things she loves with objects that have meaning and hold memories. "My favorite thing is the neon sign of my business chop and logo that I had made by neon Master Wu Chi-kai before I left. It's totally old school and made from glass - you can hear the gasses inside hum when you turn it on. The actual process of getting this made was probably more memorable than the sign itself." This now takes pride of place in the new kitchen area and is always a talking point.

One thing Belinda relishes about her family's new locale is finally living with four seasons again. "In winter, ours a favourite place is the front balcony where we will often have drinks while watching the sunset. It is quite elevated, plus we have a gorgeous view from there. In summer, we live in the back garden."

However, Hong Kong will always hold a special place in Belinda's heart. "I miss the buzz and the culture, the friendships formed and memories made. I spent so much time

燈裝置，是我離港前委託霓虹燈設計師胡智楷訂造的，由玻璃製成，款式非常懷舊，每次亮著時都會聽到嗡嗡聲。而整個訂製過程大概比這個霓虹燈成品更令我難忘。」霓虹燈現成為新廚房的焦點，每每吸引客人們駐足欣賞。

搬進這個新家園後，Belinda最享受的是終能感受到一年四季的變化。「在冬天，我們最愛在露台一邊喝東西，一邊賞日落，又能眺望漂亮的風景。到了夏天，我們又會常常留在後花園。」



SLEEPING BEAUTY
Exuberant colours add an extra layer of warmth and cheerfulness to the bedrooms.

完美入夢
大膽而活潑的用色為睡房增添一抹溫暖感以及愉悅氣氛。



hitting the streets, photographing, and peeling away the layers of Hong Kong. You always had the sense that you were only scratching the surface with so much more to explore."

One of Belinda's favourite pastimes (when not in lockdown or isolating), is reacquainting herself with Melbourne (when possible with her camera) and its many offerings. "So much has changed since I have been away and certain areas of Melbourne have become cool again - there are new eateries to try, new shops and neighborhoods to explore. Street art, vintage, and furniture stores are on my hit list at the moment. My favourite place to eat is Chin Chin, where I will often meet up with friends, sit at the bar, solve all the world's problems, and then wander the laneways afterward." //

雖然Belinda已返回澳洲，但香港將會一直留在她的心坎裡。「我會很懷念那兒的繁華、文化、友誼和回憶。我花了無數時光走遍大街小巷，到處拍攝，逐層揭開香港的精彩之處，但總是有發掘不完的驚喜。」

Belinda在閒時(當然不包括封城或隔離期間)最喜歡帶著相機細味墨爾本的面貌。「回來後才發現這裡的變化很大，有些地區變得更多姿多彩了——新餐廳和新店鋪林立，還有滿滿的社區特色。我已想好要去參觀哪些街頭藝術、懷舊事物和傢具店了。我最愛到Chin Chin用餐，跟好友坐在吧台暢談世界大事，然後再到處走走，漫步人生路。」 //