飛航天地
Horizon
TURBOJET
2014年8月 AUGUST 2014
情約一生
澳門婚宴大全
WEDDING SPECIAL
MACAU'S LUXURIOUS WEDDING OPTIONS
蜜月勝地
紐西蘭豪華度假酒店
REMOTE BEAUTIES
NEW ZEALAND'S SECLUDED LODGES
新居有價
投資海外物業
HOUSE CALLS
INVEST IN THE BEST OVERSEAS PROPERTY

知微知彰

INSIDE JOB

室內設計師呂錦明認為，遊歷有助擴闊視野，並帶來新靈感。他在訪問中分享了其最新作品和為何鍾情於日本

For interior designer Mathew Lui, there's nothing like travel to broaden the mind – and inform his designs. He talks about his latest projects and his love for all things Japanese

文/Text 郭燕妮/Yenni Kwok

在車水馬龍的九龍旺角，呂錦明在帝京酒店的商務中心安坐於沙發上，有如身處家中那樣自在閒適。這也難怪，他已先後兩次為這間酒店主理室內設計工作，置身其中，自然對一樑一柱都倍感親切。

1990年代初，這位室內設計師首次跟帝京酒店合作，並決定以法國新藝術風格作為主調。2011年，酒店準備耗資數百萬港元進行翻新，再次向他招手。這樣理想的機會，他當然不會拒絕。

在構思如何為酒店換新裝時，他從附近的九廣鐵路車站(即今日的港鐵旺角東站)取得靈感，而該鐵路系統是由港英殖民地政府負責部分興建工程。他說：「基於九廣鐵路的歷史意義及配合客人的要求，我們決定採用英式摩登復古風格為酒店翻新。」

46歲的呂錦明是跨國酒店設計公司Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA) 香港分公司的合夥人，擁有20多年相關工作經驗，早前完成瀋陽茂業JW萬豪酒店的室內設計工作後，現正理首為蘇州吳江太湖艾美酒店，以及由星級建築師Zaha Hadid操刀設計的一間南京酒店進行室內設計。雖然由Hadid設計的項目極具挑戰性，呂錦明的投入程度有增無減，他表示：「那幢大樓佈局有很多弧線，對室內設計工作來說是個很大的考驗。雖然我還未有構思藍圖，但這項工作既具挑戰性，又令人雀躍不已。」

呂錦明經常外遊，每年都會去亞洲各地公幹或與家

Sitting on a sofa in the business centre of a hotel in Hong Kong, Mathew Lui looks comfortably at home. There is one likely reason: the interior designer has an intimate knowledge of every nook and cranny of the Royal Plaza Hotel, located in Kowloon's bustling Mong Kok district. After all, he designed the interiors – not once, but twice.

When he first designed the hotel in the early 1990s, he chose a French art-nouveau design. When the hotel began its multi-million-dollar makeover in 2011, Lui was once again offered the chance – and a blank cheque – to style the hotel's interiors. It was a challenge he simply couldn't resist.

To give the hotel a new look, he took inspiration from the nearby Mong Kok East MTR station, formerly a Kowloon-Canton Railway station that is part of a train system originally built by the British colonial government. "Because of the history of the Kowloon-Canton Railway and the client's requirements, we came up with the modern British retro design," says Lui.

Lui, 46, is a partner in the Hong Kong office of Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA), a multinational hospitality-design firm, and has more than 20 years of career experience under his belt. He recently

室內設計師呂錦明認為，成功的設計不能只講求時尚型格，還必須具備方便實用的功能

"Good projects aren't solely designed to be beautiful or stylish – they need to be user-friendly," says interior designer Mathew Lui

IMAGES: Mathew Lui; Roger Lee

人度假。當中，他最喜歡日本，對其熱愛溢於言表。這位東洋迷認為，日本充滿著有趣的矛盾和對比：「那裡的文化新舊交融，時尚與傳統並存。」他是日本美食和文化的忠實支持者，由壽司以至偵探小說無所不好；夏天常到福岡，冬天愛遊北海道。

呂錦明很欣賞講究細節的日本設計。他說：「以日本溫泉度假酒店為例，大多建於山水之間，跟大自然融為一體，它們的存在不會破壞當中的和諧。你根本分不清楚溫泉四周的環境是否經過人工修飾。」

他自己估計，曾到日本工作和度假有30至40次，如今倒變成一道難題。他笑著說：「在日本，已很難再找到一個我未去過的旅遊目的地。」而他的大部分旅遊書也都變得無用武之地。

幸好，呂錦明任職的設計公司HBA同事來自世界各地，包括美國、英國、澳洲及其他亞洲和歐洲國家。當他打算去日本、南韓或其他不太熟悉的國家旅遊，往往有同事能提供一些地道的遊覽資料。

多年來，因工作或旅遊曾到訪不少國家，但呂錦明堅持一個原則——周六和周日不會外出公幹。周末是家庭日，他會陪伴妻子和12歲兒子。呂錦明的上司Michael Bedner（HBA主席兼聯合創辦人）讚他學會，必須在工作和家庭中取得平衡。他說：「Bedner曾提及家庭是生命中最重要的，一定要安排充足時間陪伴家人。」他和妻兒都喜歡到泰國和馬來西亞的度假村享受假期。

呂錦明除了在香港負責多個設計項目，其作品還遍及中國內地、日本、台灣、泰國、越南和菲律賓。他自小就喜愛藝術，投身室內設計業全因渴望「做一些講求邏輯思維的工作」。

遊歷愈廣，眼界愈闊，呂錦明的設計工作也從中得益。在不同國家觀察客人的行為和喜好，可以了解他們與周遭環境的關係，對啟發創作思維極有幫助。

他表示：「舉例來說，我到內地時，會在下榻的酒店吃晚餐或午餐，我發現當地人喜歡在寬敞的大廳用餐，還留意到酒店餐廳何時最繁忙、哪些菜式最受歡迎。」呂錦明會注意每個細節，由宴會廳的佈局、菜式和當地人的習慣都細心觀察。這樣，日後到內地城市為餐廳進行室內設計，便更為得心應手。如果早餐時段客人特別多，午餐和晚餐時間並非客滿，他會建議餐廳靈活運用屏風，隨時隱藏或開放部分空間。呂錦明指出：「餐廳空位太多，客人或會懷疑那裡的水準；而事實上，可能只是剛巧那個時段客人不多。」

這位設計師還分享了他的一些心得。他說：「好的空間設計不僅講求美觀，或是追求時髦，還要方便實用。如果沒有人願意使用，那根本稱不上是水準之作。」

細看設計優雅的帝京酒店，雖然每天都有不少客人進進出出，但到處依然瀰漫著靜謐舒適的感覺。毋庸置疑，呂錦明的設計成功體現了他的理念。

繼1990年代為當時新開業的旺角帝京酒店進行室內設計，呂錦明於2011年再度負起重新設計酒店內部裝潢(上圖)的責任

Having worked on the original 1990s design of the Royal Plaza Hotel in Mong Kok, Lui oversaw the 2011 redesign of its interiors (above)

completed a project for the JW Marriott Hotel Shenyang and is working on the interior of the Le Méridien Suzhou, Wujiang Taihu as well as a Nanjing hotel designed by renowned architect Zaha Hadid. Despite the challenges of Hadid's project, Lui is brimming with enthusiasm. "The architecture has a lot of curves, so it is challenging to design the interior," he says. "I don't know yet how I can do it but I find it both challenging and exciting."

A seasoned traveller, Lui enjoys making numerous trips around Asia every year, for work and family holidays. But it is Japan – with its many curious contradictions – that gets the most praise.

"You can have the new and the old, the trendy and the traditional," he says. From sushi to Japanese detective novels, Lui is an avid consumer of the cuisine and culture. Fukuoka is his favourite summer destination while Hokkaido is his choice in winter.

Lui admires the detail-oriented emphasis of Japanese designs. "Take for an instance, how an *onsen* – a Japanese hot spring – resort is built," he says. "It is built around nature, without destroying Mother Nature. You can't tell whether the surrounding environment was purposefully built or modified, or it has been like that all along."

Lui estimates he has visited the country between 30 and 40 times, for work and for leisure, and this poses another challenge for him. "I have difficulties finding a new destination," says the designer, with a laugh. Most of his guidebooks have now become obsolete.

Luckily, HBA has employees hailing from all around the world, from places such as the United States, Britain, Australia, and various Asian and European nations. Whether he needs to travel to Japan, South Korea or countries he's less familiar with, the chances are high that Lui has a colleague who can provide some insider knowledge.

Work and wanderlust have taken Lui to various new countries, but he maintains one strict rule regarding travel – he refuses to travel for work on Saturdays and Sundays. Weekends are reserved for spending time with his wife and their 12-year-old son. The advice on work-life balance came from his own boss: Michael Bedner, Co-founder and Chairman of HBA. "He said that family is the most important thing in our life and we have to make sure we spend enough time with them," says Lui, whose family enjoys holidaying at resorts in Thailand and Malaysia.

The designer – whose projects span his hometown of Hong Kong to Mainland China, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines – says that as a child he always displayed an affinity for the arts. His decision to pursue interior design came from a desire to do "something that requires logical thinking".

As he travels far and wide, his experiences naturally influence his work. Observing customers in different countries displaying different behaviour or preferences in relation to their environment ultimately informs his design process. "For example, when I went to China, I usually had dinner or lunch at the hotel where I stayed," says Lui. "I could see Mainland Chinese people loved big dining halls and I could also see when the restaurant was the busiest, what food people liked."

Attention to every last detail, from the banquet hall's layout to the cuisine and customs, gives an idea of the design needs of local restaurants in Mainland Chinese cities. If the restaurants are only busy during breakfast, but not so crowded at lunch and dinner, Lui suggests that partitions could be cleverly employed to allow the restaurant to conceal – and open up – spaces. "If customers see nobody is in a restaurant, they may think it is not a good one, when in fact it is just not crowded during that time of the day," Lui observes.

The designer parts with some words of wisdom. "Good projects aren't solely designed to be beautiful or stylish – they need to also be user-friendly," says Lui. "If nobody uses it, then it is not good enough."

Looking around the elegantly designed Royal Plaza Hotel, which is permeated by an aura of calmness despite the frequent coming and going of guests, it's safe to say that Lui's design succeeds in mirroring his philosophy.

呂錦明旅遊必備品
MATHEW LUI'S ESSENTIAL TRAVEL ITEMS

徠卡輕便相機
「它不單輕巧易攜、外型醒目時髦，圖像素質也很好。拍攝實景模擬房間更可使用其廣角鏡。」

Leica compact camera
"Not just handy, light and smart-looking, this small camera also produces sharp pictures. Its wide-angle lens is great for taking photos of mock-up rooms."

東野圭吾的推理小說
「不用工作的時候，我喜歡看推理小說；閱讀能夠助我紓緩工作壓力。」

Keigo Higashino's detective novels
"I like reading detective novels in my downtime. They help me forget any stress I'm experiencing with a project."

Nike x Undercover Gyakusou 運動服
「我在東京原宿的 Nike 專門店買了多款由 Undercover 主腦高橋盾設計的運動服。高橋本人熱愛跑步，完全明白什麼布料和剪裁能夠織製出舒適又時髦的運動裝。」

Nike x Undercover Gyakusou apparel
"I bought my sports jerseys, which are designed by Jun Takahashi – the brainchild behind the Undercover label – at a Nike store in Tokyo's Harajuku district. A keen runner himself, the designer knows how best to use specific fabrics and details to achieve comfort and style."