

HOME JOURNAL
TOP 50

Meet the city's best interior designers of 2022-2023

台北頂尖室內設計師名單

PHOTOGRAPHY BY [unreadable]

“Never put your ego over what is essential to a good design”

With decades of experience in interior design across a wide spectrum of disciplines, can you share with us a secret skill that can help make a project successful? There are two secrets that helped me to go through my own design journey. The first one is being genuinely passionate about this profession! As a designer you can't simply switch on and off after your working hours. I believe we must enjoy life deeply and always aspire to better living standards through our design creations. This is why my personal motto is 'Enjoy Life, Enjoy Design'. Especially when it comes to design inspiration, I think creativity becomes a very essential component of a designer's day-to-day living. Even the most ordinary detail could be a wonderful source of inspiration, if you just look at it from a new angle. Everyday life is a constant, wonderful inspiration to me: what I see, what I hear, who I meet.

My second secret, and also the hardest thing in our discipline, is to achieve balance – in the sense of staying true to your own design vision and, yet, keeping a flexible mindset towards the client's and final user's needs by crafting tailor-made and human-centric design outcomes, catering to these specific requirements whilst holding a solid aesthetic value.

縱橫室內設計數十年，要成就出色的設計作品有何秘訣？我的秘訣有兩個。第一個是真誠熱愛設計！作為一位設計師，在公餘時間你也不會停下來，而會盡情享受生活，並時刻希望提升生活質素。因此我的座右銘是「享受生活，享受設計」。對於設計師而言，創意靈感隱藏在生活細節當中。只要換個新角度，最不起眼的物體也可以成為你的靈感來源。我的日常生活——包括我的所見所聞及遇見的人——是豐富的靈感來源。

第二個秘訣，是既要忠於自己的設計理念，同時能夠回應客戶及用戶需要，為他們度身訂製出以人為本的設計方案，在兩者之間拿捏平衡，這也是我們這一行最難做到的一點。

With luxury being the common thread among your many projects, what does the term “luxury” truly mean to you? I tend not to associate “luxury” with astronomical sums of money or lavish objects. I envision “luxury” as a personal sense of refined enjoyment and excellent quality.

I did not grow up with much wealth; however, I was encouraged to appreciate and enjoy the finest things life had to offer since my earliest days. Despite working in the post office, my father always took us to beautiful places like The Peninsula hotel on weekends or special occasions – instead of having a full meal, my dad and mom would enjoy a cup of coffee and order an ice cream for me. To this day,

I still believe in this important lesson, which is to pursue the quality of life, rather than chasing money per se. I like to think that all my works are infused with this very sense of pleasure and enjoyment, which is a direct reflection of my life approach: simple, but refined; practical, yet with an accentuated artistic feel.

你的作品經常予人奢華的感覺。你認為真正的奢華是甚麼？奢華不應以金錢或者奢侈品來衡量，而是一種個人的享受及體驗。我並非在富裕的環境中長大，但父母從小就鼓勵我欣賞生命中一切美好的事物。家父當時雖然在郵局工作，但週末或特別節日都會帶我們到半島酒店等豪華地方——卻不是大吃大喝，而是父母各點一杯咖啡、給我點一杯雪糕。時至今日，我仍然相信優質生活是對質素的追求，而非對金錢本身的迷戀。我把這份對生活質素的追求融入到我的作品之中，打造出簡潔精緻、實用而充滿藝術感的空間。

Design trends you like and hate most? I never particularly liked any specific design trend, as I always felt this would somehow affect and constrain my creativity. I am, however, a fervent advocate of contemporary and clean lines that shape minimal, elegant, and functional designs enriched with subtle hints of my Asian cultural roots. Having said this, and to answer this question, I would say I like all those design approaches that hold the genuine intent of achieving 'good design', meaning an appropriate balance between aesthetics and functionality.

Therefore, my design is not a 'style'. It is about my attitude, my philosophy. I always say that the most critical word in my design philosophy is to be 'appropriate'. But what is appropriate? We should do the right thing at the right time in the right context. Everything should come together. If you do the right thing, but not at the right time, it is wrong. This easily leads to what I dislike the most in design: something that is created only to be aesthetically pleasing and visually charming, without any clear intention of bringing positive impacts and improvements in the built landscape.

你最喜歡和最討厭的設計趨勢？我從來沒有特定喜愛的設計潮流，因為潮流會影響及限制創意。但我偏愛時尚簡潔的線條、優雅實用的設計，並喜歡加入適量的亞洲元素，以彰顯我的文化根源。我喜歡所有致力追求「優質設計」的作品，亦即美觀實用的設計佳作。

因此，我的設計代表我的態度與哲學，而並非一種「風格」。我經常說，我的設計哲學講求一種適當性（appropriate）。怎樣才算適當？我們應該在適當的時候和環境做適當的事，一切自然水到渠成。在不適當的時候，就算你做適當的事，這也是不對的，因為我最不贊成只為追求視覺美感，卻並未能改善空間的設計。



Steve Leung

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Hong Kong-born Steve Leung is an internationally renowned architect and interior and product designer. With over 40 years of design experience under his belt, his work takes inspiration from Asian culture and arts. Leung is renowned in the industry for his unique contemporary style and his passion for giving back to society. In 2022, he was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star (BBS) by the Hong Kong Government for notable contributions to educating young architects and designers and fostering sustainable development. His self-titled company has created top-notch designs for luxury residential projects, hotels and restaurants, elderly homes and more in over 130 cities worldwide.

國際著名建築師、室內及產品設計師梁志天，擁有超過40年設計經驗，憑藉出色的時尚設計及其不斷回饋社會的專業精神，多年來在行內享負盛名。他更於2022年獲頒授銅紫荊星章，表揚他對培育年輕建築及設計師，以及對設計行業的莫大貢獻。他所創立的梁志天設計集團有限公司足跡遍及全球超過130多個城市，作品涵蓋頂級豪宅、酒店餐飲、長者空間等多個設計範疇，是全球首屈一指的設計專家。



One piece of advice for young interior designers of what NOT to do? Apart from a genuine passion for our profession, I believe it is very important for young designers to always be open-minded and responsive towards clients' expectations and the requirements of the final users.

A piece of advice I would definitely give to any professional working in our industry, for the young and for the experienced, is never put your ego over what is essential to a "good design". We should always remember how our design solutions can be a powerful tool to improve our living standards and bring a positive influence in our daily lives. Interior design, unlike pure art, is all about creating beautiful and functional spaces to serve specific purposes, be that a residential, hospitality, or working space. In a broader sense, design can definitely be seen as a very effective way to tackle today's social and environmental issues for the greatest good of our community.

年輕設計師在創作時應避免甚麼？能夠給他們一個建議嗎？作為年輕設計師，除了要對設計充滿熱誠，也要保持開放的心態，以回應客戶期望和需要。無論是初晉或資深設計師，都要提防把自我看得比優質設計更重要。我們要時刻緊記，室內設計能夠改善及影響生活。無論是住宅、酒店或辦公室設計，都比純藝術更能真切地為用戶帶來優美實用的生活空間。從宏觀的角度而言，設計絕對能夠有效改善現今社會及環境問題，為大眾創建更好的生活環境。



“A designer should never start his creative process without a logical understanding of the project as a whole”

For readers who may not be familiar with your work, can you tell us how you got into interior design, and what you did before becoming an interior designer? When I was a child, I loved drawing and playing with Lego. In both cases, I built dreamy houses and imaginary spaces, and I knew I wanted to dedicate my life to art and creativity. Little did I know at that time that I would embark on an exciting career in the interior design discipline for over 20 years.

Now I am the Chief Creative Officer (CCO) at SLD, overseeing all design projects (interiors and products) spanning from Mainland China to Hong Kong and overseas; I also carefully monitor market and trend analysis so as to develop new creative styles and directions. Our projects span a wide range, including show flats, sales offices, club houses, luxury residential, serviced apartments, hotels and restaurants, office spaces, homes for the aged, and product design. I also guide our talented teams to move forward, break boundaries, and keep exploring new ideas. It is very important for me to lead our designers to achieve successful design executions and design-related research and development.

你是如何進入室內設計行業，以及你成為室內設計師之前曾從事過什麼行業嗎？小時候，我喜歡透過畫畫及LEGO積木創作我理想中的房子及空間，發現自己對藝術及創作充滿興趣，只是當時我還未知識自己長大後，會從事室內設計超過20年。

現在身為SLD首席創意總監，我負責帶領國內、香港及海外的室內及產品設計項目，監察市場及分析潮流，以探索嶄新的設計風格和方向。我們負責的項目包括示範單位、銷售辦事處、會所、豪宅、服務式公寓、酒店、餐廳、寫字樓、長者家園及產品設計。我同時亦要帶領團隊不斷創新突破、發掘全新創意點子。對我而言，帶領團隊成功完成項目及設計相關的研究和發展十分重要。

How do you usually kick-start the design process of a project? Every project is unique in its own style, and we always strive to deliver exceptional work with

aligned values. We carefully evaluate the client's brief through SLD's 'good design' lens, which needs to be human-centred, harmoniously blending aesthetics and functionality to serve people by enhancing their quality of living.

We then analyse the client's brief and meticulously consider the project's positioning, geographical location, target users, and the specific space's features. As I learned from Steve, a designer should never start his creative process without a logical understanding of the project as a whole. Constant attention to detail is another key, from the scheme design to the development, and from production to material sourcing, furnishing, and construction supervision.

一般而言，你如何展開一個設計項目的創作過程？每個項目都有它的獨特之處，而我們的作品均建基於SLD對於「優質設計」的理念，也就是以人為本、美學與功能兼備，並能幫助客戶提升生活質素的设计作品。

下一步，我們會分析客戶需要，找出每個項目的定位、地理位置、對象及空間特性等。我在Steve身上學習到設計師在開始創作前，應先理性分析每個項目，同時要留意每個細節，由設計、施工、物料選擇、裝潢到工程監督，每一步都非常重要。

With projects spread throughout the world, how do you keep a sense of place for each design project? Despite different geographical locations, we always try our best to keep a consistent design approach to all our projects, ensuring that SLD's core DNA of clean lines, collected aesthetics, and contemporary visuals are successfully embodied in our portfolio.

However, I never want to limit myself when it comes to brainstorming new ideas during the first briefing stages that kick off a project. Travelling is a great source of inspiration: experiencing different cultures is extremely important. Staying curious and humble is also equally important to keep your mind open and responsive.

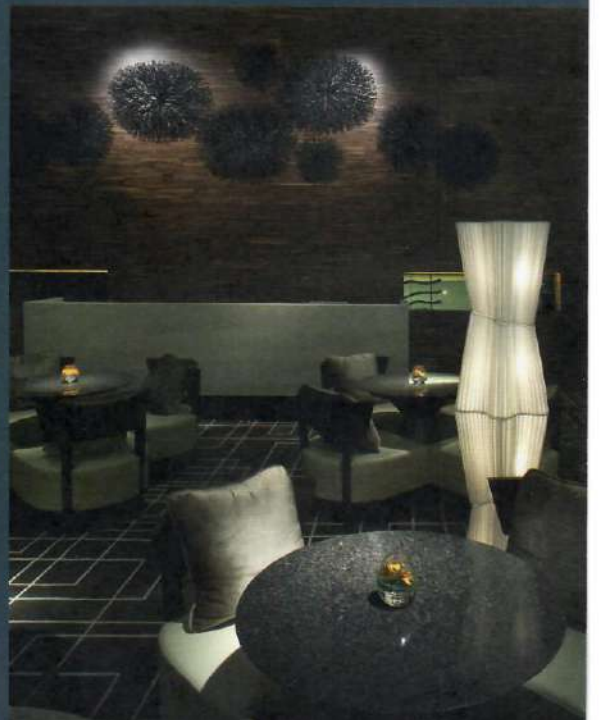
Chong Chiu Fung

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With over 30 years of solid experience in interior design, Chong Chiu Fung, Chief Creative Officer of Steve Leung Design Group Ltd. (SLD), is in charge of all design projects of the company in the Mainland, Hong Kong China and overseas. Leading and supervising the teams on design, research and development works. Many of his prominent projects are awarded internationally, including FX International Interior Design Awards, iF Design Awards, International Interior Design Awards, Gold Key Awards and Perspective Awards.

Steve Leung Design Group Ltd (SLD) 首席創意總監莊超峰擁有超過30年室內設計經驗，帶領公司於國內、香港及海外的設計項目，負責監督團隊的設計、研究及發展工作。被選擇的設計項目屢獲多個國際獎項，包括FX International Interior Design Awards、iF Design Award、International Interior Design Awards、Gold Key Awards及Perspective Awards。





你主理的設計項目遍佈全球，你是如何確保每個項目的當地特色？無論項目位於甚麼地方，我們都會盡量保持統一設計方向，確保每個項目都能貫徹SLD的品牌DNA——簡潔線條、含蓄和時尚美。感覺如此，當係有新意念時，我不喜歡自我設限，即是創作靈感的來源，感受不同文化對創意有很大幫助。另外，保存一位謙卑和好奇心，對保持開放態度同樣重要。

Design trends you like and hate most? Design trends are like different musical tastes. When you are a kid, you may like pop and catchy songs; then, you might feel more connected to rock and roll in your teenage years. In your twenties, you might want to explore new tunes like classical music and jazz. When you are fully developed, you realize you can enjoy music from all genres. This is exactly how I feel about design now: I enjoy different trends, and I like to play with all of them, getting inspired to create my own design, which is personal and joyful.

你最喜歡和最討厭的設計趨勢？設計潮流就像音樂口味。小時候你可能喜歡流行音樂、易上口的歌曲；青少年時期你可能喜歡搖滾樂；二十多歲時你可能探索經典音樂及爵士樂。長大後你會發現，你能夠欣賞所有類型的音樂。這就是我對設計的感受：我喜歡不同設計潮流，喜歡被啟發，並應用到我的設計作品之中。

Do you have a secret skill when designing a successful interior design project? I am a strong believer that each good designer should know how to draw properly. I have always preferred hand-drawing rather than using an iPad or PC. Drawing is the only way I feel undisturbed and at ease when planting my ideas. It also enables me to analyze the design process step by step, and have constant inner dialogues with myself, and ultimately approve or disapprove the final outcome. I always advise younger designers to enjoy and master the skills of hand-drawing. Another crucial skill is good listening. Designers need to listen properly to clients, contractors, suppliers, and your own teammates to achieve good and practical solutions and legit design outcomes.

成功的室內設計有沒有秘訣？我深信好的設計師應懂得如何畫圖。我喜歡手繪圖多於電腦繪圖。唯有繪圖能讓我進入心流狀態，完全不受外界打擾，亦能讓我更清楚地一步步分析設計過程，與自己進行對話，從而得出解決方案。所以我經常鼓勵年青設計師掌握手繪圖技巧。另一必要條件是聆聽。設計師需要用心聆聽客戶、承建商、供應商及同事的意見，以成就最佳及最實用的設計方案。

