



# top of the game

David Hotson and Ghislaine Vinãs transform an unusual Manhattan penthouse into a fun romp of a home  
建築師David Hotson和 Ghislaine Vinãs將這個不平凡的曼哈頓頂樓單位，改造成喧鬧有趣的家居

BY IAN PHILLIPS

PHOTOGRAPHY ERIC LAIGNEL/TRIPOD AGENCY



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The Lower Manhattan apartment boasts a soaring 14-m-high living room a rarity in the city

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The stark, white walls contrast with pops of bright colour and tongue-in-cheek touches, such as the Horse Lamp designed by Front for Moooi

## OPPOSITE PAGE

The mezzanine office sits above the open-plan kitchen. The orange armchairs are from ABC Carpet & Home

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這個曼哈頓下城區單位擁有一個城內罕見的14米高客廳

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單位的純白色牆壁與鮮色配搭，再加上如Front為Moooi設計的Horse Lamp調劑擺設，另類矚目

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中層辦公室建在開放式廚房之上。橙色扶手椅來自ABC Carpet & Home

Ghislaine Vinās speaks with certain understatement when she asserts that this is "not your normal home." Indeed, this four-bedroom apartment – on which she collaborated with architect David Hotson – is anything but ordinary. It is filled with a masterful interplay of intricate volumes and a wonderful sense of whimsy. Among other things, it features a 14-m-high living room, a 25-m-long slide and a 1,500-sq-ft terrace. There is also a swing, a climbing wall installed on one of the structural columns and impressive 360-degree views of New York.

Located in Lower Manhattan, the 6,600-sq-ft space occupies the top four floors of a 21-storey tower constructed between 1894 and 1896. The building was converted

Ghislaine Vinās滿有保留地重申「絕不是普通家居」。她與建築師David Hotson合力打造這個4房單位，成果與別不同，充斥著容量深度與另類格調的出色配合。家居建有一個樓底高14米的客廳、一道25米長的滑梯和一個1,500平方呎的陽臺。這兒還設鞦韆、安裝在其中一根結構柱的攀登牆，坐擁360度醉人的紐約美景。

這個6,600平方呎的單位位於曼哈頓下城區，位佔一幢建於1894至1896年間的21層大樓頂4層。大廈於2002年改造成公寓，這兒卻是最後一個出售的單位。這與空間的複雜性不無關係。單位屋頂線條傾斜不直，再加上拱形窗，叫人難以駕馭。空間未有裝設空氣調節，上層也沒有家用供水供應，僅建有一個細小的廚房和浴室。

It is filled with a masterful interplay of intricate volumes and a wonderful sense of whimsy



**THIS PAGE**

A KAWS figurine sits atop a Lladro Metropolis sculpture; glass panels allow views through the space as you go up and down the stairs

**OPPOSITE PAGE**

Tim Fishlock's *What's Watt?* chandelier celebrates the humble incandescent bulb. Ghislaine created the plate intallation

**本頁圖**

KAWS模型設置在Lladro Metropolis之上；玻璃通道一目了然

**對頁圖**

Tim Fishlock的*What's Watt?*吊燈向白熱燈泡作低調致敬。碟子擺設由Ghislaine打造



into condominiums in 2002, but this unit was the last to sell. No doubt its complexity had something to do with it. With its sloping rooflines and arched windows, it is quite atypical. There was no air-conditioning, no domestic water on the upper level and just a tiny kitchen and bathroom.

The current owners visited it by mistake. "It was advertised as a finished space," they remember. Still, they were not only undaunted by its challenges, but also actually excited by the possibilities of having so much vertical space – a rarity in New York. None of the space, however, was open, so there was no sense of the dizzying height. One of David's most strategic design decisions was to create a four-storey volume at one end, criss-crossed by a series of glass platforms and bridges that allow vertigo-inducing views up to the eaves and down to the living room.

現任屋主也是歪打正著才到訪這單位。他們回憶說：「廣告形容它建設完備。」然而，他們未被眼前挑戰嚇退，反而興奮能在紐約打造出稀有的直立式家居，創造無限可能。這裡的空間絕不開揚寬敞，失卻高度感。David其中一項策略性設計便是在後部分打造出4層高的體積，再以一系列玻璃平臺和橋樑與之縱橫交錯，將屋外令人望而生畏的感覺帶進客廳。

客人堅決要求現代風格。「大廈外層飾有銅飛簷和赤陶磚塊，還有些蛋和箭的基調。」他們解釋說：「與一些超簡約而現代的元素結合起來，必定趣味無窮。」David志力創造出一個難忘的空間體驗，但它卻同時叫人混淆。「你要走進前門才能真正明白這個單位。」他續說：「當你努力猜透它時，卻會有種令人迷失方的交錯模糊感。空間把你佔有，而非你佔有它。」牆身角度多樣，你有很多方式在這兒活動（如透過梯子從客廳走到辦公室），如此一來便可以不同角度體驗同一地方。就連Ghislaine本人最初也大表困惑：「真是絞盡腦汁。」





**OPPOSITE PAGE**  
The Mah Jong sofas are designed by Hans Hopfer for Roche Bobois. The fibreglass sculpture is by Jon-Paul Kaiser

**THIS PAGE**  
The digital wallpaper mural is by DFC and David Franco, and manufactured by Flavor Paper

**對頁面**  
Mah Jong沙發由Hans Hopfer為Roche Bobois設計。玻璃纖維出自Jon-Paul Kaiser之手

**本頁面**  
這張數碼牆飾由DFC和David Franco設計，並由Flavor Paper製作

Stylistically, the clients requested something resolutely contemporary. "The outside of the building has copper cornices and terracotta tiles, and some egg-and-dart motifs," they explain. "We thought it would be fun to contrast that with something super, super-minimal and modern." More than anything, David was determined to create a breathtaking spatial experience. It is also deliberately confusing. "You can't really understand the apartment until you walk through the front door," he maintains. "You have all these somewhat disorienting, intersecting glimpses that escape your efforts at comprehending them. The space possesses you, you don't possess it." Walls are set at angles and there are various ways of moving through the apartment (you can, for example, access the office from the living room via a ladder). As you do so, you are treated to different visions of the same space. Ghislaine herself was originally flummoxed. "It's such a mind warp," she says.

Her aim, however, was very clear: to turn this bravura architectural masterpiece into a home. Even so, she insisted on having a stark white backdrop. "It's almost like putting clean sheets on a bed," she opines. She also felt it would be the perfect canvas for her trademark pops of bright colour – she is a particular fan of greens and oranges (even the underside of the white dining table was painted tangerine). She incorporated hot pink and vibrant blue into one of the bathrooms, and egg-yolk-yellow into another. The clients, meanwhile, requested a few softer hues. The wife asked for Prada green, the husband wanted the living room to be cream.

但她的目標非常明確：把這個大膽的建築傑作打造成家園。儘管如此，她還是堅持採用純白背景：「像在睡床鋪上潔淨床單一樣。」她也認為白色可為多抹鮮艷色彩充當完美畫布——她特別喜愛綠和橙色（白餐桌底部更印上橘子色）。她在其中一間浴室用上鮮粉紅和藍色，另一間則用上蛋黃黃色。客人亦同時要求使用數種柔和色澤：妻子要求Prada綠，丈夫則希望擁有奶白色的客廳。

David坦認自己不會挑選如此色彩。「我迷戀極白。」他說：「還想用非常淺淡的色調。」Ghislaine亦表示：「David的作品都很純淨，而我就喜歡把東西弄糟。」但這種矛盾卻成就出叫人振奮的效果。David指「我們對焦點的不同看法和對比，絕對是今次項目的成功要因之一。」



**THIS PAGE**  
The 1,500-sq-ft terrace offers stunning views of Manhattan. The building's ornate exterior provides a sharp contrast to the apartment's contemporary interior architecture.

**本頁圖**  
1,500平方呎的陽臺飽覽醉人的曼哈頓景色。大廈外牆裝飾與單位的現代室內設計建築形成奪目對比。

David readily admits they are not tones he would have chosen himself. "I was so enamored with the spare, severe, white volumes. I was envisioning a very pale palette," he recounts. "David's work is incredibly pure," concedes Ghislaine. "I'm all about messing things up." Still, it was a tension that proved extremely exhilarating. As David notes, "that contradiction and the contest for attention between us was one of the really successful things about the project."

One thing they did have in common was the desire to introduce lots of quirky, tongue-in-cheek touches. And many of the most fun ideas actually came from the clients – including the stainless steel slide, which was inspired both by Carsten Höller's *Test Site* (2006) installation at London's Tate Modern, and *Wallace and Gromit*. It was fabricated in Germany, hoisted onto the balcony with a crane, and welded and polished in situ. "It's not just a toy. You use it to get down from the second floor really quickly," enthuses Ghislaine. That said, it does engender the occasional scary moment. "Every so often, somebody will completely freak out in a good way," quips the husband. "It's blood-curdling because it acts like a big gramophone amplifier. The first time it happened was with Ghislaine. It was horrifying. Then, we realised she was still alive!" //

二人唯一的共通點便是同樣渴望帶來大量破格、諷刺的點綴。而很多有趣的意念均來自客人，包括不銹鋼滑梯，靈感源自Carsten Höller位於倫敦Tate Modern的*Test Site* (2006)裝置作品，和*Wallace and Gromit*。產品於德國組裝，以起重機吊起至陽臺，並就地焊接和刷亮。Ghislaine興奮指出：「它不僅是玩具，很快便把你滑到2樓。」的確，滑梯不時引發驚人時刻。屋主丈夫說：「大家都又驚又喜。它像留聲機擴音器一樣，讓人血脈沸騰。Ghislaine是首個有如此經歷的住家，真的嚇人！幸好她無恙！」 //

## GET THE LOOK

"David's work is incredibly pure. I'm all about messing things up"



## LOUNGE LIZARD

Paola Lenti's outdoor Float lounge is perfect for terraces. Find it at ViA. [www.viahk.biz](http://www.viahk.biz)



## HORSE AROUND

The Horse Lamp by Front for Moooi is super-fun. [www.moooi.com](http://www.moooi.com)



## CITY SLICKER

Lladró's Metropolis is made for the uber-urban home. [www.lladro.com](http://www.lladro.com)



## TOY STORY

The whimsical Everland digital wallpaper was designed by DFC and David Franco for Flavor Paper. [www.flavorpaper.com](http://www.flavorpaper.com)