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FAMILY TIES

Alexander Wong brings new meaning to the life of luxury with a richly layered design for this Jiangsu province home | 建築師Alexander Wong 將豪華和層次豐富的設計新意義源源注入這個江蘇省家居之中

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BY TAMSIN BRADSHAW PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF ALEXANDER WONG ARCHITECTS



BUCKLE UP

The canopy chairs hark back to traditional carriage forms, symbolising the horse and master; circular motifs in this double-height living space recall luxury brands and saddlery

昔日氣派

附頂罩的座椅有如傳統馬車的外形，象徵著馬與主人間的關係；渾圓基調在這雙層高生活空間中引入豪華品牌和馬具的氣質

There is much more to this glamorous Jiangsu province home than meets the eye. On the surface, it's a luxurious home in elegant shades of white and gold, with accents in a rich, deep red. "Our objective was to create a super-luxurious lifestyle," says Alexander Wong, founder of Alexander Wong Architects. The firm was commissioned to design the 5,000-sq-ft family home, with its four bedrooms, karaoke room, pool room and gym.

For Alexander, however, there's much more to it than that. The architect is never content with just creating something that looks good – each of his designs has layer upon layer of meaning, and this home – dubbed White Windsor – is no exception.

Alexander began the design process by looking at Lee Broom's Gold Room at Lancaster House hotel during London's 2012 Summer Olympics. "He understands

這個華麗的江蘇省豪宅遠比肉眼看到的更精彩。表面上，它是個白、金色的優雅大宅，並以深紅色點綴。Alexander Wong Architects創辦人Alexander Wong表示：「我們的想法便是創出超豪華生活態度。」公司獲委託設計這個達5,000平方呎的家庭屋，內建四間睡房、卡拉OK房、桌球室和健身室。

然而對Alexander來說，意義遠不絕於此。他從來不只滿足於打造悅目的設計——每項作品均鋪有層層意義——這間White Windsor物業也絕無例外。

Alexander開展工程時，參考了倫敦2012年夏季奧林匹克運動會上Lee Broom位於Lancaster House酒店的Gold Room。「他明白英國的社會階層系統。」Alexander指：「你在中國不會見到這樣完善精密的社會金字塔，所以我們要先看看人們怎樣把自己區分。」

LUSH LIVING
Shades of red give the karaoke room a plush, passionate feel; a games room with pool table; even the gym is packed with symbols

豪華生活
不同深淺的紅色為卡拉OK房引入無窮熱情；遊戲室放有桌球檯；即使是健身室也象徵處處

the social caste system in England,” says Alexander. “In China, you don’t actually have a very sophisticated social pyramid, so we started looking at how people differentiate themselves.”

For Alexander and his team, this involved an in-depth analysis of luxury brands like Hermès, Burberry and Gucci. “We realised that a lot of their histories are quite similar,” says the designer. “They started out with carriages and horse-related products. The horse is related to the landed gentry ... there’s this knowledge that if you’re connected to the horse, you’re attached to the upper echelons of society.”

Alexander brought this symbolism into the Jiangsu home via ponyskin rugs and buckle-like elements. Meanwhile, canopy chairs create a carriage-like effect. Recurrent circular motifs also give a nod to luxury brands: “The ‘O’ is from Dior,” says Alexander of the screens that divide various areas within the home.

This screen also has another layer of meaning. “The screen is also a gate – like the gated community,” says Alexander.

對Alexander和其團隊來說，是次項目牽涉深入的豪華品牌分析研究，如Hermès、Burberry和Gucci。「它們的歷史其實也頗相似。」這位設計師表示：「一開始同樣帶來馬車和與馬有關的產品。馬兒儼如上流社會的代名詞.....如你與馬有著不可分割的關係，那便與上流社會有著一定聯繫。」

Alexander透過馬皮地毯和類似帶鉤的元素將這種象徵意義帶入家中。同時，帶罩的扶手椅也打造出馬車似的效果。重覆的環形基調也向多個豪華品牌致敬。Alexander談到分隔不同空間的分隔屏時表示：「『O』字便來自Dior。」

“The screen is also a gate - like the gated community”





In some ways, it's all rather "tongue in cheek," as Alexander says, but there are darker implications. The "gate" effect and gilded birdcage elements speak of exclusivity, but they also demonstrate that such a life can be a bit of a prison. "You can't leave - it's like Hotel California. It can be very lonely," says Alexander. "But you have to understand this is the price you have to pay if you want this sort of life."

In Alexander's world, everything has deeper meaning, and this even goes for the use of colour in the Jiangsu home. "Red may seem like a typical choice for a luxury Chinese home," he points out, "but to us, red is the colour of bloodlines, the colour of family life."

The power of family is also represented through fertility symbols - the art inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe's work, and the recessed ceiling elements. "Biology is very profound - you go through the doorway and you reach eternity," says Alexander.

"We wanted to create this house so that on the surface it's beautiful, but then there's another layer that's both humorous and critical," he says. "To me, design is a journey."

And with Alexander, that journey is never dull - it's a rollercoaster ride that reveals surprising new twists and turns at every corner. //

屏板也帶來另一層意義。他說：「有如柵欄，像個劃分起來的社區。」

某程度來說，正如Alexander所言，這一切也帶點「諷刺」，而同時有著更陰暗的寓意。「柵欄」效果和鍍金鳥籠帶有獨享氣派，但也表現出生活其實也像困在監獄中一樣。Alexander說：「就像Hotel California般不能離開，非常寂寞。要過這種生活就要明白付出的代價。」

在Alexander的世界裡，每事每物也有著深層意義，用色也一樣。「紅色或許是中式豪宅常用的選擇。」他指出：「但對我們來說，它代表著一個家族的血統。」

家庭的力量也透過繁殖象徵表現出來——受Georgia O'Keeffe作品啟發的藝術品和嵌壁式天花元素。Alexander說：「生物學意義深遠，走過門廊便能通往永生。」

他續指：「我們希望打造出一間外觀美麗的大宅，但同時有著幽默和具批判性的另一面。對我來說，設計就是一趟旅程。」

有了Alexander，每趟設計旅程便不再孤寂，反之就像一場驚險的過山車歷程，每個角落也帶來新意義和驚喜。 //

GOOD AS GOLD

White and gold in the master bedroom, which features a Moooi horse - Alexander and his team had this painted gold; the indulgent master bathroom; a luxurious dressing room next to the master bedroom

金色魅力

金白色的主人房帶來Moooi馬，Alexander和團隊將之鑲成金色；主人房浴室；主人房旁設有豪華的衣帽間