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# post magazine

Tough  
sell

Why have anarchic street artists such as Evan Roth won the support of conservative luxury brand Cartier?

A look inside Damien Hirst's mind

Mexican drug cartels

Space tourism

Ascending Colombia's glacial peaks



# Industrial revelation

A tight budget didn't scupper an interior designer's plans to create an artsy loft with unusual fixtures and an abundance of charm.

Sometimes a tight budget can spur creativity. As Californian interior designer Candace Campos discovered when she renovated her Sheung Wan home last year, it's possible to transform an apartment inexpensively by using your head, expending a bit of elbow grease, asking lots of questions and finding ways around mistakes.

Good luck also helps. Campos found her loft-like flat a year ago, while strolling around Sheung Wan looking for rentable space. "I saw the big windows and I said to my estate agent, 'Can you find me something like this?'"

It turned out the agent knew the landlord of the apartment, which had recently been vacated. Sensing an opportunity, Campos approached the owner with design ideas, which he liked so much he agreed to

take her as a tenant and share the renovation costs. "I had approached other landlords before with my concepts, made storyboards and said, 'This is what I want to do.' They said, 'No.'"

Campos wanted a bright white "loft" with an art-gallery ambience, which is why she made the most of the exposed pipes in her 750 sq ft space. Not only did she leave the conduits uncovered but she installed more for effect: pipes form curtain rails and substitute clothes poles in the dressing area.

Installing such fixtures allowed her to keep the renovation cost below HK\$60,000, which included the concrete floor, lighting, made-to-order kitchen and bathroom – the previous tenant, a commercial enterprise, had removed the toilet, sink and shower. Her walls were painted gratis, after a quote for

HK\$30,000 almost derailed the project, and she saved on furniture where possible: Campos sourced lockers from Sham Shui Po that are used to stash work paraphernalia, painted regular aluminium lampshades white to complement the interior and built a work desk from a piece of glass and two stools (see *Tried + tested*).

Although scrimping led to some mistakes – for example the collapse of pipes used to hang Campos' clothes – she says she couldn't have afforded the renovation without the contractor chosen by her landlord. "He was the only one who allowed me to stay within budget but he spoke no English," she says. "Throughout the whole process my doorman was my translator."

Campos acknowledges responsibility for some of



**1** A made-to-order dining table (HK\$6,300; from Poly Chance, 271 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, tel: 2802 9819) doubles as a second work space for Candace Campos. The replica Eames chairs (HK\$500 each) were on sale at G.O.D. (various locations: [www.god.com.hk](http://www.god.com.hk)) and the replica Eames armchair cost HK\$600 from Coco Furniture (The 2nd Industrial Park, Zhukeng village, Pingshan, Longgang, Shenzhen, tel: 86 755 8992 9180). The overhead lamps, which Campos painted white, cost HK\$105 each from Ying Kee Hong Electric (Waga Commercial Centre, 99 Wellington Street, Central, tel: 2543 1239). Behind the bench (HK\$2,500), also from Poly Chance, are lockers, which cost HK\$2,000 from Tak Cheong Furniture & Decoration (13 Cheung Sha Wai Road, Sham Shui Po, tel: 2381 0551). The sheer curtains cost HK\$89.90 a pair from Ikea (various locations; [www.ikea.com.hk](http://www.ikea.com.hk)). The black champagne flutes were HK\$1,200 for a set of six from the Lane Crawford Warehouse (25/F, Horizon Plaza, 2 Lee Wing Street, Ap Lei Chau, tel: 2118 3403). The movie lamp was picked up for HK\$1,000 in Sham Shui Po.

**2** The black Phoenix bicycle (HK\$800; Shanghai Phoenix Import and Export, 14/F, Phoenix Building, 1690 Kong Jiang Road, Shanghai, tel: 86 21 6513 6000) may be too big for her to ride but Campos liked it so much she bought it as a home accessory. The small stool (HK\$50) was from Cat Street, Sheung Wan, and the suitcases were from the Rose Bowl Flea Market in Los Angeles, in the United States.

**3** One of the few pieces of furniture Campos brought to Hong Kong from California was the side table, which she picked up at the Rose Bowl Flea Market. The couch cost HK\$7,000 from Good Quality Interiors (26/F, Horizon Plaza, tel: 2501 0905), the hanging bulb was HK\$31 from Sei Wai Electric (23 Peel Street, Central, tel: 2544 7500) and the antlers were sourced through [www.bigantlers.com](http://www.bigantlers.com), a company based in Wyoming, the US. Campos mapped out the positions of her photos on her computer before hanging them on the wall. The largest image is by Robin Ewing ([www.robinewing.com](http://www.robinewing.com)).



Text Charmaine Chan  
 Pictures John Butlin  
 Styling David Roden

the blunders, including one concerning one of the two items on which she splurged: the large dining table and the Chesterfield couch.

"The first time around the table was too small for the space," says Campos. "But that was fine because I sold it on AsiaXpat.com and made money on it."

"Then the second one didn't fit in the stairwell so it had to come through the window." Because the retailer who built the table had made an error in measuring the staircase, he paid for a crane to hoist it into the first-floor pad.

Having visited Hong Kong many times for business before moving here last year, Campos, a trained graphic designer, knew where to find many items. She was also comfortable when it came to sourcing goods online: from a United States company she >>





bought naturally shed antlers that form striking home accessories and she had a factory in Shenzhen make a small neon sign that reads *maison* ("home").

"I never even went to visit the factory," Campos says about her neon interior "tattoo". "I contacted 10 companies and [went with] whoever responded first."

Another "prop", a black Phoenix bicycle reminiscent of old Hong Kong, is testament to Campos' determination

to acquire her desired look. "All the delivery guys ride this bike," she says. "I had a friend write a note for me in Chinese asking where they got their bike."

The renovation, which took six weeks, gave Campos a simple but beautiful home and studio.

"I've always wanted to live in an industrial-style space," she says. "I wanted big lamps, a big table and this couch. *This is what I wanted.*"

**4** Hanging above the bed (bought through AsiaXpat.com) is a photo Campos sourced through Flickr ([www.flickr.com/photos/yellowbird/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/yellowbird/)). The replica Tulip side table cost HK\$2,900 from Marc James Design (16/F, Horizon Plaza, tel: 2189 7476) and the armchair was HK\$2,200 from Good Quality Interiors. The Lack shelves were HK\$99 each from Ikea; the furry throw (HK\$300) came from PITC Fur Design (unit 1402, 51 Wing Hong Street, Lai Chi Kok, tel: 2763 0350) and the neon "maison" sign cost HK\$250 (plus HK\$585 shipping) from EETO (620 JiaAn Road, JiaDing, Shanghai, tel: 86 21 6926 0030).

**5** Matching the flooring in the flat are concrete walls in the small but functional bathroom, which the previous tenant had stripped bare. The toilet (HK\$678), basin (HK\$567), mirror cabinet (HK\$358), fold-down coat hooks (HK\$80 each) and soap dispenser (HK\$120), all came from He Hsin Long Building Material International (234 Lockhart Road, tel: 2598 6803).

**6** To the right of the bed is a nook, which Campos transformed into an open wardrobe and work space. The iron pipes on which she hangs her clothes cost HK\$5 a linear foot from Kam Sing Hardware (101A Wellington Street, tel: 2542 1051) and the parallel towel holders were HK\$50 each from He Hsin Long Building Material International. The tall mirror was HK\$800 from King Cheung Mirror & Glass Engineering (6 Tai Wo Street, Wan Chai, tel: 2808 0838). The metal chair (HK\$1,500) came from Chen Mi Ji (4 Sun Street, Wan Chai, tel: 2549 8800).

**7** The kitchen cupboards and countertop cost HK\$23,000 in total from Kitchen Design (2/F, 315 Lockhart Road, tel: 2572 5727). The typist's table (HK\$420) came from Tak Cheong Furniture & Decoration and the stainless-steel Mossby shelves cost HK\$239 each from Ikea.

## Tried + tested

**A touch of glass** Tabletops and legs can come in all shapes and sizes, and be made of a variety of materials. To complement her arty, industrial-look home-cum-studio, Candace Campos of Candace Collective (tel: 6706 7921; [www.candacecampos.com](http://www.candacecampos.com)) put a piece of glass (HK\$400 for 55cm by 190cm; from King Cheung Mirror & Glass Engineering, 6 Tai Wo Street, Wan Chai, tel: 2808 0838) on top of two stools (HK\$100 each; from Cat Street, Sheung Wan) to create a work desk that's cheap but chic.

