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What Else? 建築與設計之間

Top to bottom, inside and out, Else provides total design

從內至外打造渾然一體的設計 | Text : Elizabeth Kerr | Photo : Else Design |

Since 2008, Hong Kong-based Else Design has been providing master planning, architectural and interior design services across Southeast Asia, and prides itself on its distinct results — on both quality and design creativity fronts. The young company works from a collaborative studio on commercial and residential architecture and interiors. Square Foot chats with Else's design director, Edgar Chan.

Profile

Can you tell me a little about yourself and Else Design?

I did my interior design study at Polytechnic University and Bachelor of Architecture and Environmental Design in UWA, Australia. After working in Australia, I returned to Hong Kong in 2002 and joined the DCM office [here], where my main duties were in design and project management on both architecture and interior projects. I designed and managed residential, commercial and retail projects; you may be familiar with the Louis Vuitton stores in China and Hong Kong. I've done almost a dozen LV stores.

Else was founded as an "interactive cluster" with a group of new generation designers, which aims to cultivate innovative designs for our clients. We start projects by brainstorming over the client's brief which generates a formula: possibilities + choices + creativeness.

Philosophy

Else does architecture and interiors. Why? Do they work best when they're planned together?

That's partially related to my training background, and the Skeleton-Skin relationship of architecture and interiors. It is always beneficial to have architecture and interiors designed by one designer. Imagine, when we design the building spaces, we have all the interior elements in mind. We look at the project inside and out, resulting in thoroughly designed spaces, which cater aspects of spatial quality, style and ambiance in both. As a real example we designed a villa and planned a family breakfast area on the east side of the building with a garden and reflective pond and leafy trees. This cultivates an interior breakfast space with natural morning sun, breeze and sounds of nature.

自2008年以來，總部設於香港的Else Design已在東南亞地區提供項目整體規劃、建築及室內設計服務，無論是在質量還是創意方面，她們都為卓越的成績而感到驕傲。其業務範疇覆蓋商業及住宅建築及室內裝潢工程。

簡介

可否告訴我們有關您及Else Design更多的資料？

我曾於香港理工大學修讀室內設計，之後便在澳洲的西澳大學獲得建築與環境設計的學士學位。於澳洲工作了數年並於2002年回港，並加入了DCM負責建築和室內裝潢的設計及項目管理。我曾經負責的包括了住宅、商業及零售業的設計項目。相信您對中國及香港的Louis Vuitton專門店很熟識吧，其中有十多家都是由我負責設計的。

Else Design是一個集思廣益的群體，由新一代的年輕設計師們組成，旨在為客戶帶來別具一格的創新設計。我們與客戶一同從可行性、選擇性及創新性三方面廣開思路，群策群力。

理念

Else Design為何同時從事建築及室內設計？這兩方面如何協調呢？

這也許與我的背景有關，當然，建築與室內設計本來就是「相互連繫」的。由一位設計師身兼建築及室內設計兩職的優點頗多。試

Do you have anyone you consider an influence on your work?

There are lots of works by different architects and interior designers I like. They all influence my design output, [but it] depends on the project nature. I like to expose myself to different design styles and languages. This cultivates creativity.

Past Projects

Have you had to work on any particularly challenging or interesting projects? What were they and what made them stand out?

There is a private villa project we did recently in China both for architecture and interiors that was 45,000 square feet. The brief was to merge the functions of private villa, art gallery, guest entertainment area and private offices into a 3-storey lakeside complex. The owner is an enthusiastic Chinese painting collector. Instinctively we started the architectural design with a linear axial art gallery as the spine with different functional boxes attached.

The architecturally framed lakeside surroundings coexisting with the art creates shifting scenery, both live and still. Inside and out, the spatial experiences are sequential, pictorial and rhythmical, with solid and void architectural elements interacting with the axial gallery to different extents.

With the careful manipulation of forms and spaces with the surroundings, the final outcome casts a unifying yet constantly changing spatial experience with architecture and interiors as a whole.



Trends

What do you see as emerging trends in architecture and interiors?

Personally, I don't see a vivid trend emerging in the field nowadays. However, as designers, we have to anchor our design ideas to the particular culture, site characteristics and the client's needs on different projects. This will generate designs with distinctive character, and from my perspective that should be the main methodology that designers pursue.

Wish List

What's on your list of things you want to design in the future? Where do you see Else in 5 years?

We would like to continue to design projects with innovations and forward-looking perspectives, both for interiors and architecture. In five years' time I greatly hope that we can have much more interesting projects in our portfolio, which further demonstrate our design values and beliefs. 🏠

info

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想下，當您在設計一處建築空間時，腦中已充斥 室內裝飾元素。對於每個項目，我們都會結合建築外觀和內部設計，使得設計渾然天成，烘托出空間品質及營造特有的風格和氛圍。舉例說，我們設計了一棟別墅並特別設計一個設有池塘與樹木的花園，讓整個家庭的成員可一起享用早餐，並享受清晨的陽光及大自然的生活環境。

有誰的設計曾影響過您麼？

我欣賞的建築師和室內設計師之作品數量很多。他們都影響著我的設計理念，但是設計主要也是取決於項目性質。我樂意去接觸不同的設計風格和語言，因為這能培養我的創意思維。

項目作品

您覺得眾多項目之中，那個是別具挑戰性或是有趣的嗎？這些作品的特點與過人之處是什麼呢？

近期，我們在中國建造了一棟面積45,000平方尺的別墅，建築和室內設計都由我們負責。屋主的理想是將別墅揉合不同的元素、性質及需要於一身，包括私人別墅、藝術畫廊、招待及娛樂賓客和私人辦公室，巧妙地融入那坐落於湖畔的三層高別墅之中。屋主本身是一位中國畫收藏家，我們便想到以線性軸向藝術畫廊為建築設計的主題，並加入其它不同功能的設施。

建構的湖畔跟藝術品相映生輝，動靜相宜。由裡至外的連綿空間感、畫像及節奏感，實體建築與藝術畫廊遙相呼應。經過精密的空間設計和環境規劃，我們改變了原有的空間體驗，使得內外空間渾然一體。

潮流趨勢

建築和室內設計的趨勢將是什麼呢？

個人而言，至今我還沒有看見任何新的趨勢。然而，不作為設計師的我們，必須要掌握不同文化背景的設計理念，以及了解項目本身的建構特質，同時清楚明白客戶的需求。這樣便能創造出優秀及富有特色的設計。從我的角度來看，這應是設計師要追求的方向。

理想

在未來您想設計什麼樣的作品？五年後的Else Design會有什麼樣的發展？

我們將繼續致力於室內設計和建築設計，著重創新和前瞻性方面的發展。在今後的五年裡，我希望能承接更多有趣的工程，從而進一步展示我們的設計價值觀及信念。 🏠