



Interior designer James JJ Acuña often likens his creative efforts to those of a tailor. Much like the precise fit of a made-to-measure suit, he believes interiors should be customised to match the client's needs and lifestyle.

"Tailors choose fabrics and cuts that fit that client—we're happy to look at our projects and working methods in a similar way that people see tailors," says Acuña, who is the founder of his eponymous practice JJ Acuña / Bespoke Studio. "We listen carefully to make sure we understand what our clients want versus what they need, and then we respond appropriately by designing bespoke spaces that fit our client's current habits and aspirational lifestyle."

This thoughtfulness is clearly evident in an apartment located in the Mid-Levels enclave in Hong Kong. The home of Butler Asia co-founder Angues Chan and his wife Genevieve Lam, the sociable newlyweds wanted a living and dining area where they would entertain guests to be made distinct from their private quarters. The well-travelled couple also wanted to incorporate subtle nods to modern architecture, while having a contemporary interior that is both stunning and inviting.

Another key goal was to maximise the magnificent views that the apartment offers. Its elevated position looks out to lush vistas of the rolling green hills, as well as the city skyline. "The home faces the east, so there's beautiful sunlight that comes through in the morning," observes Acuña. "We liked the fact that the existing site was a really well-preserved home; although the original interior looked very dated."

Left to right:

The living room features pendant lights by Brandon Mike, a vintage chair by Pierre Jeanneret and a striking purple rug; an exposed column with gold leaf detailing adds a stylish edge to the home; the dining area is furnished with custom-made velvet chairs and bench seating

Previous spread:

Homeowners Angues Chan and Genevieve Lam; the colour palette of the living room takes inspiration from Tate Dining Room, a restaurant in Hong Kong





This page:
Rattan wall panels add a sense of heritage while separating the study from the social zone of the home; this unique door handle is among the bespoke elements crafted to match the vaulted ceiling

Opposite page:
A pendant lamp from Ladies & Gentlemen Studio and a Roche Bobois dining table are among the elegant pieces hand-picked by the owners; the rattan sliding doors delineate the kitchen from the dining area



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Originally a two-bedroom unit, the walls of one of the rooms were removed to increase the size of the living and dining areas in the 1,100sqft apartment. The studio reconfigured the formerly symmetrical floor plan to create a new foyer, a dining area and a study, and also relocated the kitchen and powder room. Vaulted ceilings, graceful arches and cove lighting create a sense of drama in the social quarter of the home.

Pastel shades and creamy tones contribute to this abode's ethereal look. "We met the homeowners through a restaurant client we've designed a couple of projects for," explains Acuña. "They also really loved a restaurant we designed called Tate Dining Room in Hong Kong, which had a balanced combination of pink, white, beige, and blush elements which we included in our material board for the home as well."

These soft shades are paired beautifully with French-influenced mouldings, trimmings and cornices, which are juxtaposed with timber and rattan panels that reference Asian-style furnishings. "Brass detailings on the flooring, dining banquette, bathroom basin and door handles elevate and frame this ethereal tone-on-tone concept," says Acuña. "All the door handles were made-to-order and sourced by the owners in Europe; my clients like to think of these details as necessary finishing accents—the same way accessories complete a fashionable outfit."

The designer also wanted to honour the graceful bones of the property. He left one of the original columns in the living room bare-faced and finished in gold leaf by French surface-finish artist Elsa Jean de Dieu, in a style inspired by *kintsugi*, the Japanese practice of mending broken pottery with gold lacquer; this handcrafted detail adds a stylish edge to the space.