



Yip started to look for a house back when her vintage collection grew and she had nowhere to store the items. Her first property on Xinhua Road was furnished with most of her collection and she described it as very “art deco.”

“I love to mix Chinese antiques with contemporary art. The clean lines of antique furniture and white walls create a neutral background for dramatic works of art,” Yip said.

Each piece of furniture and artwork is dear to her and reminds Yip of different stories, friends and experiences.

Her bedroom features paintings by her artist friend Ann Niu. They evoke feelings such as indulgence and sentiment. The pieces are also a reflection of Niu’s candid and dynamic personality, with expressive, fluid brush strokes blending to form a profusion of colors and passion.

In the dining area, “The Eyes,” a painting by Tang Haiwen, has a power that draws you in.

“Whenever I look at it,” Yip said. “I feel very much connected. This painting instantly moved me when I saw it the very first time.”

There’s a daring element to Yip’s art choices. Other pieces are by Korean artist Seung Pyo-Hong and Elaine Navas.

Part of the home’s aura originates from the homeowner’s eclectic combination of styles. She displays artifacts and knick-knacks in ways most would probably never think of. This mix of rustic, ethnic, modern, personal and iconic comes across as completely natural and makes for an engaging home.



- 1
- 2
- 3
1. A painting by Elaine Navas is hung on a wall in the living room.
2. Yip loves to mix Chinese antiques with contemporary artwork and interesting decor pieces.
3. The floor-to-ceiling windows look out to the outdoor garden.

ASK THE OWNER

- Q: What’s the best thing about living in Shanghai?
A: Walking and cycling around the former French Concession
- Q: Describe your home in three words.
A: Small, cozy, airy
- Q: How do you unwind?
A: Listening to music and looking at the greenery
- Q: Where do you spend most of the time at home?
A: Living room
- Q: What’s the view outside your window?
A: Garden
- Q: How do you scent your home?
A: Incense sticks and fresh flowers
- Q: What’s your favorite object at home?
A: Tang Haiwen’s painting in the dining area and a portrait of me created by Ann Niu

DESIGNER
Fabio Mazzeo



Dark of night inspires creativity in architect

Who is he?

Fabio Mazzeo is the chairman and design director of Exclusiva Design, an Italian architectural and luxury interior design company. Although based in Rome, Mazzeo travels frequently on business to follow the company’s various projects. This often brings him to Exclusiva’s division in Shanghai.

Describe your design style.

I do not identify with a specific style, but the signature of my work is the sartorial approach with which we take care of the projects, committing every time to create something unique. I count on two different perceptual apparatuses — sight and sound. I try to accomplish results that may be within the expectations of customers and solve their needs. In wider terms, I think style should be contemporary and belong to its time, the architect should be like a scientist, constantly working on the construction of memory.

Please tell us about some of your works and the one you are most proud of.

The work I’m most proud of is definitely and always the next one.

We work on such different projects: we built deco penthouses in central Paris, designed villas on private islands in Doha and made the futuristic interiors of Gazprom Neft’s Business Center “Energy” in St Petersburg.

For the “Energy” project we balanced function and aesthetics in a process of constant “movement.” We wanted to evoke emotions and generate “energy” in a workspace that I believe — besides being easily usable and highly functional — must also be comfortable and stylish to help trigger virtuous processes of efficiency. Thus we included many artworks inspired by the client’s world. We played with lights and fragments and shipped hundreds of handmade workstations, together with countless other items straight from Italy.

Greek philosopher Zeno of Elea, born ca. 490 BC, said: “The world can be represented as a big circle within which human kind lives. Many are those who reach the limits of this enclosure, but only some — the most foolish — jump over it.”

Well, it is owing to their existence that the enclosure encompassing mankind expands to include new territories. I’m always eager to see what the future brings.

Where are you most creative?

My place is the dark, the night. In the evening I am stormed by ideas and intuitions. The images that come together in my mind during the day can condense into concrete ideas.

What does your home mean to you?

My home is the place to fix ideas, listen to myself and lower the noise that distracts from what I should focus on.

Where would you like to go most in Shanghai?

Visit Rockbund Art Museum, one of the very first private museums in Shanghai. RAM is part of the Rockbund Urban development project which now hosts several art organizations like Christies and the ART021 contemporary art fair and private galleries.

Are you currently working on any project?

As a design director I follow and manage the work of the teams involved in the projects, from large master plans to luxury Russian apartment interiors, from unique Swiss chalets to a stunning Club House of about 6,000 square meters in Chengdu.

Exclusiva has recently won an international competition

If you’d like us to feature your home, email yangdi@shanghai-daily.com