



The dining room features a collection of Chinese accessories.

hand-made by woodwork specialists.

She has designed a series of motives and patterns inspired by bagua trigrams that unfold elegantly in all the wood screens, the door panels and on the corridors' paneling.

Woodwork specialists have installed the polished panels of ginkgo and fir and created bookcases to display antiques, screens and door panels of great beauty and elegance, according to Carbone.

The color scheme also came from the five elements and combines ideas of simplicity, nature and power to make an environment of harmony and serenity appropriate to entertain guests.

The palette combines white plaster work, some bright gold colors in the corridors, pale and darker woods, and some more muted earth tones for the fabrics and upholstery.

Regarding the furniture selection, Carbone helped the client throughout the process, down to every single detail of design and decoration. All the decorative pieces belong to the client whereas the soft furniture and lighting installation are imported pieces of Italian design.

Carbone emphasized that one of the most basic principles she applies in interior design is a search for simplicity and harmony. "A room should not be bursting with all sorts of common objects. What is important is the proper placement of a few exquisite objects and lights," she said.

This principle also echoes with Wang's appreciation of traditional Chinese aesthetics and philosophy. The secret is to strike a fine balance by combining tradition with contemporary aesthetics.

Wang said: "Carbone has the ability to translate motives from Chinese classics, like harmony, *ying/yang* theory and bagua into a living space for contemporary urban life. Like the gardens in Suzhou, my apartment combines privacy and private enjoyment with urban life."



A corner of the apartment features a panoramic view.



The living room is functional for entertaining guests.

DESIGNER

Rachel Jayne Mackay



For designs, studio looks at the world's big needs

Who is she?

An Australian, Copenhagen-based designer with a background in Visual Communication, Rachel Jayne Mackay has been working for the last five years at Johannes Torpe Studios in evolving the company's focus in multi-level branding for spatial design projects, products and corporate identities.

Tell us about some of your works, and name the one you are most proud of.

Over the years at Johannes Torpe Studios I have been working on a variety of projects; from hotel brand design, to food concepts, to tech start-ups. Most recently my team has been working with one of the world's largest sport brands in creating office brand installations in China. We are also involved in a re-branding of a company in the space industry. I think this has been one of the most exciting projects I have worked on to date and something I am already very proud of.

What are you currently working on?

We have recently begun an ongoing collaboration with Danish paint brand Dyrup, where we are working with them on a project to activate their marketing strategy in Norway. My team is also currently working on branding an exciting product company here in Copenhagen — more to be revealed in the near future!

Describe your design style.

In our studio we work with an interdisciplinary team focus, combining multiple areas of expertise so as to engage in "holistic" design. This means that our design style is not so much of a style, but more of an approach. Our studio's primary focus is in creating experiences through story-telling and building environments for brands — both physically and emotionally. We work with the brand at the core and delve in to the visions, goals and DNA of the companies we work with to create design solutions that fulfill a specific purpose. For example, perhaps an existing brand reaches a point where they no longer feel relevant and need our help in re-defining their

direction and re-imagining their brand touch points. Or perhaps a new brand is looking to enter the market and will come to us for help with creating a cohesive brand presence.

Where are you most creative?

When I am actively exploring the world and talking to inspiring people.

What does your home mean to you?

My life has been divided between living in London, Sydney and Copenhagen, so the idea of a home has never really been a fixed place for me, it is simply wherever I happen to be. I think "home" is a concept that is representative of the human desire to find a sense of place in the world. I like to think of it as something that is ever-changing and adaptive.

What do you collect?

I collect words. I like the idea of always challenging the natural course of the mind and constantly opening up to new ways of looking at things. This is how I keep my mind fresh and creative. Hence I write down observations, contemplations, ideas and new perspectives on a daily basis.

Where would you like to go most in Shanghai?

I have heard great things about the Puli Hotel! But I have never been to Shanghai so I think I would just like to explore the city in general.

What will be the next big design trend?

Our company tries to avoid the notion of trends and instead focused on timelessness, longevity and thinking differently. I think it is more interesting to look at the next big need. Due to the fact that society these days is so technologically focused, I believe people are beginning to desire more emotional connections and experiences that are beyond the physical. This is where I think something like virtual reality is going to be revolutionary.



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