



**1** The sofa, covered in Bernini fabric, was custom made for HK\$37,000 by Simply Sofas (unit 801, Horizon Plaza, 2 Lee Wing Street, Ap Lei Chau, tel: 2523 3672). The magenta cushion are by Designers Guild Idris Avant Garde Designs (shop 133, Pacific Place, Admiralty, tel: 2526 0704). The purple Mongolian lamb cushion (central) was purchased in Britain. The custom-made glass and stainless-steel spiral staircase with triple-glazed treads was designed, built and installed by Brilliant Hope Engineering (BHE), Shun Cheung Industrial Building, 25 Wing Hang Street, Cheung Sha Wan, tel: 2334 4216) for about HK\$178,000.

**2** The compact study was created with space taken from the family bathroom and Charlie's room. The built-in table, designed by architect Ed Bilgram, is made of grey laminate. On the wall is a mini gallery of special family moments, including the Enticknaps' wedding photographs and pictures of the children.

**3** Chakkis, a Jack Russell, sits under a glass table bought from the Harvey Norman store (www.harveynorman.com.au) in Singapore. The chair and lamp are from Philippe Starck's Kartell range and were also bought in Singapore. The painting is by Jane Gray and was bought from her studio in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand.

text Liana Cafolla pictures John Buttlin styling David Roden

## Into the light

With a stunning spiral staircase as its centrepiece, a Pok Fu Lam apartment has left its dark and dingy past behind.

First impressions can be deceiving, as Nia Enticknap discovered after viewing the Pok Fu Lam apartment would-be buyers had shown her.

"It was disgusting," she says. "I told the agent he was

could have had a lot more fun."

They were adventurous

in other ways, however. The existing maid's room and bathroom were left as they were, as was the bedroom and en suite. The new layout places the family's living space in one area while the bedrooms and bathrooms lead off a corridor at the rear.

The biggest building job was the installation of a glass and steel spiral staircase between the living area and the hall, giving access to the roof. The Enticknaps use the outdoor terrace twice a week for friends and as a safe zone for their three young children. The spiral well is also a welcome source of light in a windowless space.

The main living area is rectangular, with large windows along one side, a spacious, open-plan kitchen on the other and a dining niche in the middle. To Enticknap's disappointment, the long kitchen workshop – much easier to live with – had to be cut in two to get it into the apartment.

Enticknap's idea was to create a home that had clever use of space and good storage. "We wanted to create a bright, open-plan feel and something relatively modern," she says.

She worked with architect Ed Bilgram of MAP Architecture & Planning (tel: 2873 2828) and contractor Project One (tel: 2526 3000) to turn the old home into a tumbling den in a whirl of remodelling. The windows were replaced and double-glazed for soundproofing. Enticknap also changed the doors. "I wanted floor-to-ceiling doors to increase the feeling of height," she says. She installed small skirting boards – about one-inch high – for the same reason.

The neutral palette of mainly grey and white was designed to maximise the sense of light and space. "We played safe with the colour scheme," she says. "I think we





▲ The Effeti kitchen was bought from Essentials (shop 4A, Leighton Centre, 77 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay, tel: 2142 1409). The deceptively simple design hides several smart storage options. A wine fridge is neatly installed under the worktop. Beside the sink, a metal roller door allows easy access to a space housing everyday cooking equipment such as a coffee percolator and a toaster.

■ An EcoSmart fireplace (HK\$21,000) from Design Link (11 St Francis Street, Wan Chai, tel: 3113 8728; [www.ecosmartzfire.com](http://www.ecosmartzfire.com)) installed in the living room is fuelled by ethanol, a renewable energy. The fireplace requires no flue or ventilation. Once lit, it quickly heats up the living area.

▲ The super-sized walk-in shower in the master bathroom features a black glass wall that creates a subtle reflection. Installed in the ceiling are four Kohler Water Tiles, which cost HK\$2,200 each and are available from Arnhold Design Boutique (1/F, Dominion Centre, 89 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, tel: 2529 7487).

■ Charlie's colourful room has a loft bed custom-made for HK\$8,000 by Art Deco (23B Queen's Road East, tel: 2834 4203). The bed is accessed by a short ladder to maximise the play area. The patterned rug was bought from IKEA (various locations; [www.ikea.com.hk](http://www.ikea.com.hk)) several years ago.



#### 8 The black-and-white-themed master bedroom successfully marries different patterns. The flock wallpaper behind the bed and the striped fabric blind (which covers a window overlooking the living room) are by Designer's Guild from Avant Garde Design. The bedside lamp base was bought from Peter Jones ([www.peterjones.co.uk](http://www.peterjones.co.uk)) in London. The cushions and lamp cover were made locally with fabric bought in Sheenhen.



Luxuries include an air-filtration system that removes bacteria, dust and other particles, and is controlled from a small panel on the bedroom wall. The living room features an EcoSmart Fire fuelled by ethanol. A black glass panel on the wall behind it reflects the dancing flames.

Now that Enticknap and husband, David, four-year-old Charlie and twin daughters Saffron and Scarlett, aged one, are comfortably installed in their bright, spacious flat, she is itching to start all over again in another place. Next time first impressions will be ignored. "Now that I've done this, I'd take on a pig sty," she says with a smile.

## tried & tested counter revolution

The cylindrical glass cupboard has five revolving shelves, built-in lights and a full-length stainless-steel handle. It provides plenty of storage space for crockery and glassware. It came as part of an Effeti kitchen from Essentials (shop 4A, Leighton Centre, 77 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay, tel: 2142 1409) and is the Enticknaps' favourite design feature in the kitchen. "It's compact, looks good and the revolving shelves make access easy," says Nia Enticknap.

