

Western Expansion

西进

Singapore-based architect Soo K. Chan brings his signature tropical aesthetic stateside.

新加坡建筑师 Soo K. Chan 先生将其富有代表性的热带审美带入美国

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(OPPOSITE) Soo K. Chan in the New York showroom for Soori High Line.

【对页】Soo K. Chan 先生身处纽约 Soori High Line 公寓样板间内

Can you bottle a lifestyle? What would it smell like? Those are the vexing questions Soo K. Chan, the principal of Singapore-based SCDA Architects, builder of dazzling skyscrapers and immense cultural venues, is grappling with when he speaks to me over the phone from Milan. “I don’t have a particularly good nose, but my wife does,” he says.

我们可以将生活方式装入瓶中吗？它闻起来会是怎样的味道呢？这些都是 Soo K. Chan 先生在米兰跟我通话时所琢磨的问题。作为新加坡 SCDA 建筑设计事务所的主持建筑师、摩天高楼和大型文化场馆的设计者，Chan 这样说道：“我的嗅觉一般，但是我妻子的嗅觉很敏锐。”

As an East Asian architect, Chan’s name doesn’t ring out in the West in the same way as some of his peers. His relative anonymity can be explained by his Asia-heavy commissions, but a survey of his portfolio affirms that he measures up to regional heavyweights like Tadao Ando, SANAA, and Shigeru Ban. Since starting SCDA in 1995, the Malaysian-born Yale graduate has earned two Royal Institute of British Architects prizes and the President Design Award in Singapore. His work on a range of projects, from high rises to luxury resorts to Singapore’s National Design Centre, has won praise for its palpable human touch. American hotelier Ian Schrager has taken notice of Chan’s hospitality concepts such as the W Seminyak Bali and Park Hyatt Maldives, which celebrated indigenous architecture by eschewing cut-and-paste tropical design, and enlisted him to take the reigns on a clutch of upcoming Edition hotels. The first, located in the southern Chinese beach town Sanya, is slated to be completed this year.

作为一名东亚建筑师，Chan 在西方国家的名气可能不如他的一些同仁们响亮，这与他的作品大多地处亚洲有着相当大的关系。然而，稍微研究一下他的作品集便会发现，Chan 与安藤忠雄、SANAA 和坂茂这样的亚洲重量级建筑师可谓伯

仲之间。1995年成立SCDA建筑设计事务所之后，这位来自马来西亚的耶鲁毕业生先后两次摘得英国皇家建筑师学会（RIBA）所颁发的国际奖项，并荣膺新加坡总统设计奖。他的一系列作品，从高档公寓到度假酒店，再到新加坡国家设计中心，都因彰显了人文关怀而广受好评。他设计的巴厘岛水明漾W酒店和马尔代夫柏悦酒店等项目，摒弃了一成不变的热带东南亚风格，转而极力地推崇本土建筑元素。这样的设计理念引起了美国酒店业大亨Ian Schrager的关注，Chan也因此受邀主持设计多家亟待问世的艾迪逊酒店。其中，坐落于中国南方海滨城市三亚的艾迪逊酒店将于今年率先完工。

Which brings us back to smells: The aroma he and his wife, Ling, are experimenting with is for their lifestyle brand, Soori. (The name is a mashup of Soo and Sri, her Indonesian name.) “Between us we cover a wide spectrum of design,” says Ling, who launched a handbag line called Lloria in 2013. Her role at the company is primarily on the production and sourcing side, but she says, “I’m also quite attuned to the softer aspects of interior design.” That scope is evident in their catalogue, which includes a furniture line by Poliform, a wine bar on the ground floor of SCDA’s headquarters, the Alila Villas Soori hotel in Bali, and now, Soori High Line, a resort-inspired residential building in New York’s Chelsea neighborhood. “Soori is the essence of crafted luxury,” Chan says, adding that it’s tailor-made for the international sybarite who places importance on customization. “It’s for the person who travels and is into design.”

再说回气味：Chan和妻子Ling正为他们自己的生活品牌Soori做香味试验（Sri是Ling的印尼名字，Soori这一品牌名称是Soo和Sri两个词的糅合）。2013年，Ling推出手提包品牌Lloria。“我们二人的设计跨越了多个领域。”她说道。虽然Ling主要负责生产和采购，但她表示：“我对室内设计的软性层面也颇为了解。”他们现在拥有与家具品牌Poliform合作的家居系列、SCDA总部办公室底层酒吧、巴厘岛阿丽拉苏里别墅酒店，以及最新的项目——纽约切尔西区的度假式公寓楼Soori High Line。其涉猎范围之广可见一斑。“Soori是奢华工艺的精髓，”Chan强调，这是一个为全世界钟爱私人定制的享乐一族量身定做的品牌。“它是为爱好设计的旅行人士打造的。”

Chan, 54, has long strived to bring a distinctive voice to global design. His style, dubbed “neo-tropical,” speaks with a vernacular that stands out for its holistic sensibility: the blurred lines between indoors and outdoors; a focus on what he calls “the void,” or negative space; the use of water as a pillar of his aesthetic; and a devout conviction that architecture connect to local culture. It’s a perspective he developed while growing up in a complex of traditional clan houses in Penang, Malaysia, a corner of the world notable for its proximity to the sea and rainforest climate.

54岁的Chan多年来一直致力于将不同的元素带入国际设计舞台。他富有地域性的设计被称为“新热带风”，既有浓郁的感性特质，又不失对全局的通盘考量：室内与室外界限的模糊化处理；对他称为“虚无”的负空间的侧重；将水元素作为他的美学支柱；以及对建筑本土化的虔诚信仰。这些理念的形成与

他在马来西亚槟城的成长历程密不可分。生长于传统宗族建筑群中的他，熟知海洋和热带雨林气候对于建筑的影响。

“I remember the sound of the rainwater hitting the hard granite floors,” he says, “the water coming through and momentarily filling up the sunken court before draining away. The smell of the fresh rain evaporating stays with me—that kind of experience, being close to nature, is what I try to bring to the work.” The home’s layout—long, dark, and narrow with a large central courtyard where ancestral shrines were displayed—still informs his creative process today. “Cut-out airwells would allow light, air, and rain inside. The quality of graduated dark and lightness changed throughout the day due to the sun’s direction.”

“我记得雨水敲打大理石地面的声音，”他说，“流水潜入庭院，注满的瞬间顷刻溢出。新雨的味道蒸发到空气中，久久不散。这样的体验，这种与自然的亲密接触，就是我努力带入作品中的情愫。”儿时的家——那微暗的深深窄窄的格局，还有那宽阔的供奉宗祠的中央庭院，至今仍然是他创作的源泉。“镂空的通风井，可以将光、空气和雨水引进室内。一天中，空间的明暗感会随着太阳的挪移而渐变。”

One of the most pronounced references to this form is at Alila Villas. The fluidity of the open-air spaces fosters a natural brightness and offers water views from just about any vantage point on the property, whether it’s a tiered fountain or the Indian Ocean. The 48 villas open to ensuite pools and sequestered courtyards. The location on a working paddy field meant incorporating an irrigation system into the layout. “Bali is a very spiritual place,” he says. “The approach was to create a truly sustainable design in accordance to the century-old rice farming laws that also allows for religious processional routes to temples through the resort.”

阿丽拉别墅便非常好地体现了这些情怀。开放的空间尽情地享受着自然光的哺育；漫步徜徉，处处有水萦绕，映入眼帘的有景观喷泉的层层流水、还有印度洋的荡漾碧波。48套别墅皆通向套间泳池和幽隐庭院。因选址于稻米梯田旁，酒店还包括了一套灌溉系统。“巴厘岛是个充满灵性的地方，”他说。“我们希望通过这种方法去创造真正可持续的设计，即遵循拥有百年历史的稻米耕种之法，又同时保留了通向寺庙的朝圣路线。”

The soft-spoken architect’s momentum coincides with personal growth that only comes with time and experience. “Over the years, Soo has refined his vision; I’ve noticed a clarity and consistency in his design,” Ling says. “He’s developed a confidence in how he works.” The present feels like an inflection point for Chan, both in the evolution of his self-styled label and the beginning of a new chapter in his career. More than two decades after moving to Singapore, Chan is bringing neo-tropical to New York next year with a triumvirate of new residential buildings.

这位语气温和的建筑师在眉宇之间流露出只有时间和经历才能孕育出的气质。

“这些年来，Chan 慢慢地塑造出他的愿景；我在他的作品中观察到了一种清晰

感和一贯性，” Ling 说道，“他对自己的工作越来越自信。”当下对于 Chan 来说似乎是一个转折点；他自成一派的设计风格在不断演化，事业的新篇章亦悄然掀开。移居新加坡二十年后，Chan 明年将通过三个新建住宅楼，把他的新热带风带到纽约。

There's 515 29th Street, a condo along the High Line, which features a wavy facade with glass fins that resemble a rippling ocean. A vast exterior “art wall” will display rotating installations for strolling-by visitors.

位于纽约高线公园旁边的 29 街 515 号公寓楼，外墙的波浪形玻璃肋幕墙犹如碧波荡漾的海洋。一面巨型外立“艺术墙”将为驻足的行人展示循环装置艺术。

Across the street, the 31-unit Soori High Line doesn't evoke water through its design, it utilizes the real thing—16 of the apartments are outfitted with stunning lap pools that are integrated into the living areas. A year-round heating system allows each one to function through winter, even the edge that is exposed to the elements. Their purpose, however, has a more significant meaning than simply providing a place to take a swim. It traces back to Chan's childhood. “I don't think of a pool as a pool,” he says. “It's a water body that's interlocked into the space. It brings a piece of nature and a sense of tranquility into the house.”

街对面，拥有 31 间套房的 Soori High Line（公寓楼）则将水的设计概念真实地运用于空间中。16 间公寓配备有豪华的健身泳池，并与起居空间融为一体。全年运行的加热系统确保所有泳池在冬天也可以正常使用，即使是暴露边缘区域也不例外。其实，这些泳池具有远比游泳更深层的意义。这可以溯源到 Chan 的童年。“泳池不仅是泳池，”他说，“它是被定格在空间里的水。它将自然的气息和安宁的氛围带入到居住空间中。”

Lastly, there's 118 East 59th Street, whose glassy, stacked-box exterior echos a slightly disheveled tower of cassette tapes, two blocks north of Midtown's Billionaire's Row. He was commissioned by Chinese developer Euro Properties Group, who like Chan, will be making its New York debut. “We share many of the same design philosophies,” says chief executive Neo Que Yau. “Soo puts such care into the intricacies of geometry, materials, and color schemes.”

最后，在东 59 街 118 号、中城区“亿万富豪街”向北两个街区的位置，建有一座外观为堆叠玻璃、形如错列堆砌的老式卡带的高档公寓楼。这是 Chan 受中国开发商 Euro Properties 集团邀请所设计的项目。他们和 Chan 一样，将通过此项目首次露面纽约。“我们有很多相同的设计理念，”总裁 Neo Que Yau 说，“Chan 将很多心思放在处理几何图形、材料和配色上。”

There's little doubt Chan will bring a fresh voice to the U.S. But will it translate? “One of the riches of New York is that it's a city of many voices and styles,” says Deborah Burke, the Manhattan-based architect and newly appointed dean at the Yale School of Architecture. “Soo Chan's building on the High Line will be a wonderful and elegant part of the city's incredibly built chorus.”

Chan 毫无疑问会给美国设计界带来新的声音。但是，它能够被无误地翻译吗？“纽约的财富之一就是它包罗万象，”曼哈顿建筑师、耶鲁建筑学院新一任院长 Deborah Burke 说道，“Chan 在纽约高线公园的项目将成为这个城市无与伦比的建筑群中美妙的一部分。”

If all goes according to plan, it will have a new olfactory aspect, too. “Translating what’s in your mind is difficult,” Chan says. “Much harder than designing a container.” As for lifestyle and its scent: Malaysian rainwater apparently hits all the right notes.

如果一切顺利，那么它还将有一个嗅觉元素。“将脑中的思绪翻译出来是一件很难的事情，” Chan 说道。“它比设计容器要难得多。”至于生活方式和气味的营造：很明显，马来西亚的雨水最是完美。

(THIS PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM) A suite at Bali’s Alila Villas Soori. One KL, a residential building in Malaysia. (OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) The exterior of One KL. Singapore’s Twenty One Angullia Park condo. An apartment at Soori High Line in New York.

（本页从上至下）巴厘岛 Alila Villas Soori 别墅酒店。马来西亚住宅楼 One KL。（对页，左上起，顺时针）One KL 外景。新加坡 21 Angullia Park 公寓。纽约 Soori High Line 公寓。