

Dariel™ Studio

Thinking by making

The blue Penthouse

Design Company: Dariel Studio

Designer: Thomas DARIEL

Designer Assistant: Justine Frenoux

Project manager: Hata CHEN

Area : 400 m²

Completion Time: March, 2013



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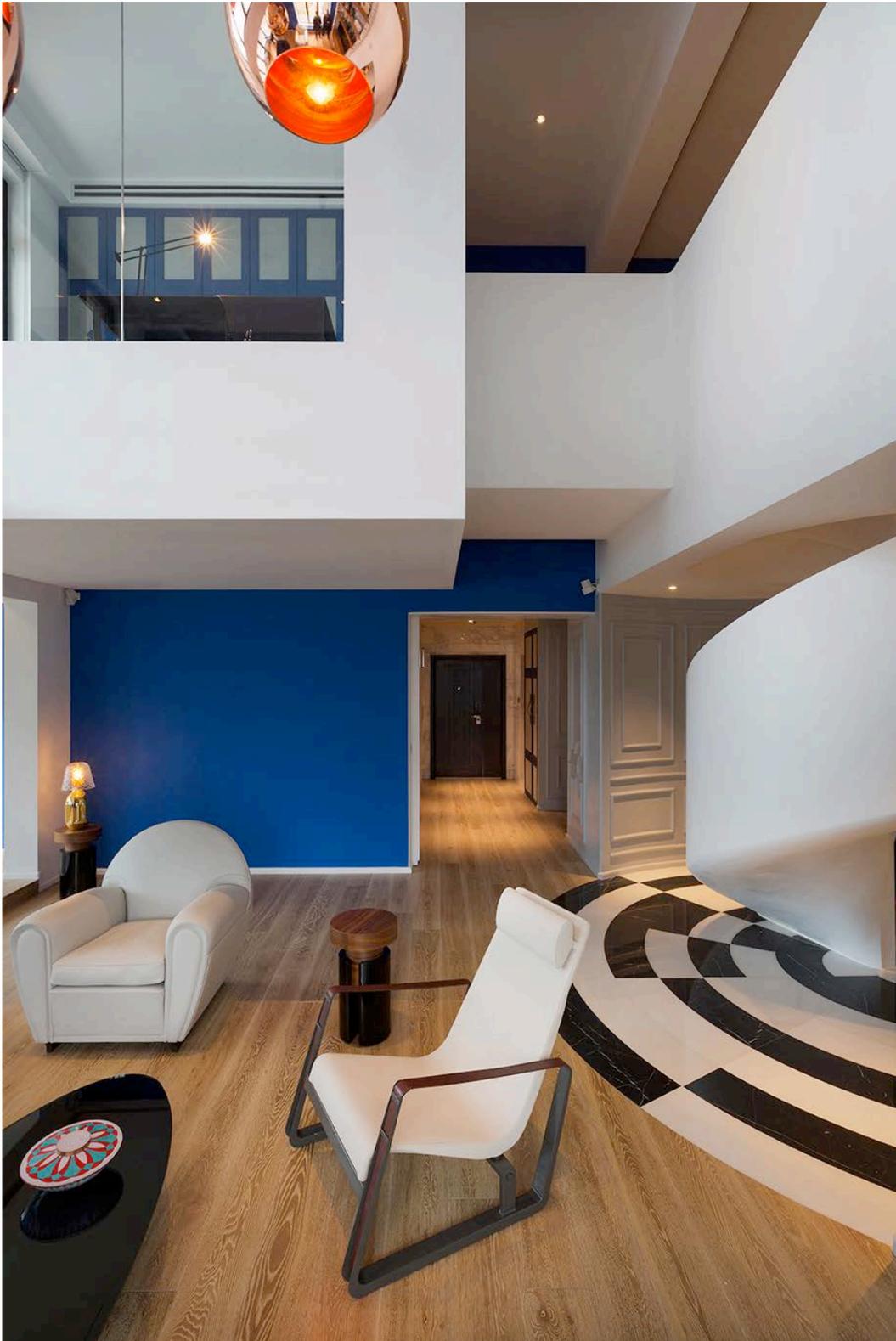
Crafting a functional yet attractive and unique home for a family is a tall order for any interior designer. Thomas Dariel took up the challenge. After several months of renovation and a complete face-lift, he drastically transformed the existing space into a spacious, modern and sophisticated penthouse.



To begin, the designer wanted to break the original basic volumes and open things up more. In the living room, a huge void has been created that gives a very architectural and contemporary feeling while maximizing daylight exposure through large bay windows. The former balcony has also been integrated to the indoor part to increase the sensation of volume and enable more space for leisure. Looking up, a suspended cube has been designed to host the client's office. Consistent with the architectural shapes, wink to the original meaning of the word penthouse (from the latin *appendere* - to be suspended), the cube also holds a strong meaning. The client, while working there, is at the same time overlooking his home and his family.

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Dariel also wanted to modify the way the spaces related to one another. To match this requirement, the staircase has been designed and relocated to be at the center of the apartment. Masterpiece in itself, the staircase is opening, connecting and leading to all rooms. It is the core of the space structure, the heart of the design. To highlight this concept, the staircase has been placed over a black and white marble pattern, a very graphic and contemporary stage that contrasts with the classic moldings-ornamented wooden panels all around. Staircase, flooring and walls have been conceived as circular shapes to further a smooth flow and to bring harmony.



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The clients indeed said they wanted a home that had a sense of repose. Set on the top floor of a residential tower, the apartment resides in a safe and abstract realm, secure from the noise and grit of the city below it. Dariel wanted its design to be a reflection of this. Its spaces flowing into one another, repetition and symmetry of the French molding running throughout the apartment, hidden doors designed to remain unseen not to trouble the space's rhythm, blue color chosen for its relaxing and soothing quality, etc. All are essential elements that instill a sense of calm and gracefulness.

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The master plan of the penthouse features traditional functions: kitchen, living room, dining room, bedrooms, study and bathrooms. Yet all have been given specific care to release style, character and identity. The dining room sets the standard of the apartment. While elegant wooden panels in a warm blue-grey tone are covering the entire space, Dariel played with very graphic shapes on ceiling and walls to balance the classical setting with contemporary lines. In the center of the room, the very peculiar geometric B&B dining table, circled by comfortable and rather traditional-looking chairs by Philippe Hurel, answers the same idea. Behind the customized bar counter where the family gathers for breakfast, again a functional yet stylish element, the space features a glass-paneled wine cellar that reflects the living room while allowing a look at the client's wine collection. Inside the cellar, the organic-shaped shelves have been inspired by boats and by the appearance of their hull's wood skeleton.

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While the first floor resumes the public functions of the apartment, the second floor accommodates more private and intimate ones. In the master bedroom, the bathroom has been fully integrated to the space. A conventional master bath, isolated from the living area by plain walls, would have obstructed natural light and decrease the surface. Instead, Dariel designed a vitrine-like bathroom, glassed in on two sides. While he aimed to preserve the transparency and the open feeling in the space, the glass partitions are still tinted on the bedroom side. If one taking its bath can have a plain view on the master bedroom, watch TV or further enjoy the skylights behind the windows, one in the bedroom can only guess what is happening in the bathroom. Dariel has also played with the glass-mirror-reflection elements in the dressing room. True art pieces, each doors of this very confidential area have been designed with two layers, one of glass with engraved lines, and below, one of mirror reflecting the glass pattern.

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What strokes in the realization of this penthouse is the tremendous amount of details. The space is elaborated and sophisticated, featuring an utterly designed environment where ceilings, walls, storages, furniture have been customized to serve the design purpose. Cabinets, wardrobes and chest drawers, produced by hand, have been inspired by old luggage. As steamer trunks, they are finished with leather and linen and appeal the strong traveling spirit of their owners. In the kids' bedrooms, wallpapers, specifically designed by Dariel Studio's team for the project, bring culture, playfulness and poetry. Throughout the space, AC grills are elegant stainless steel plates with engraved letters clamoring quotes that have been placed here to answer the client's desire to learn French.

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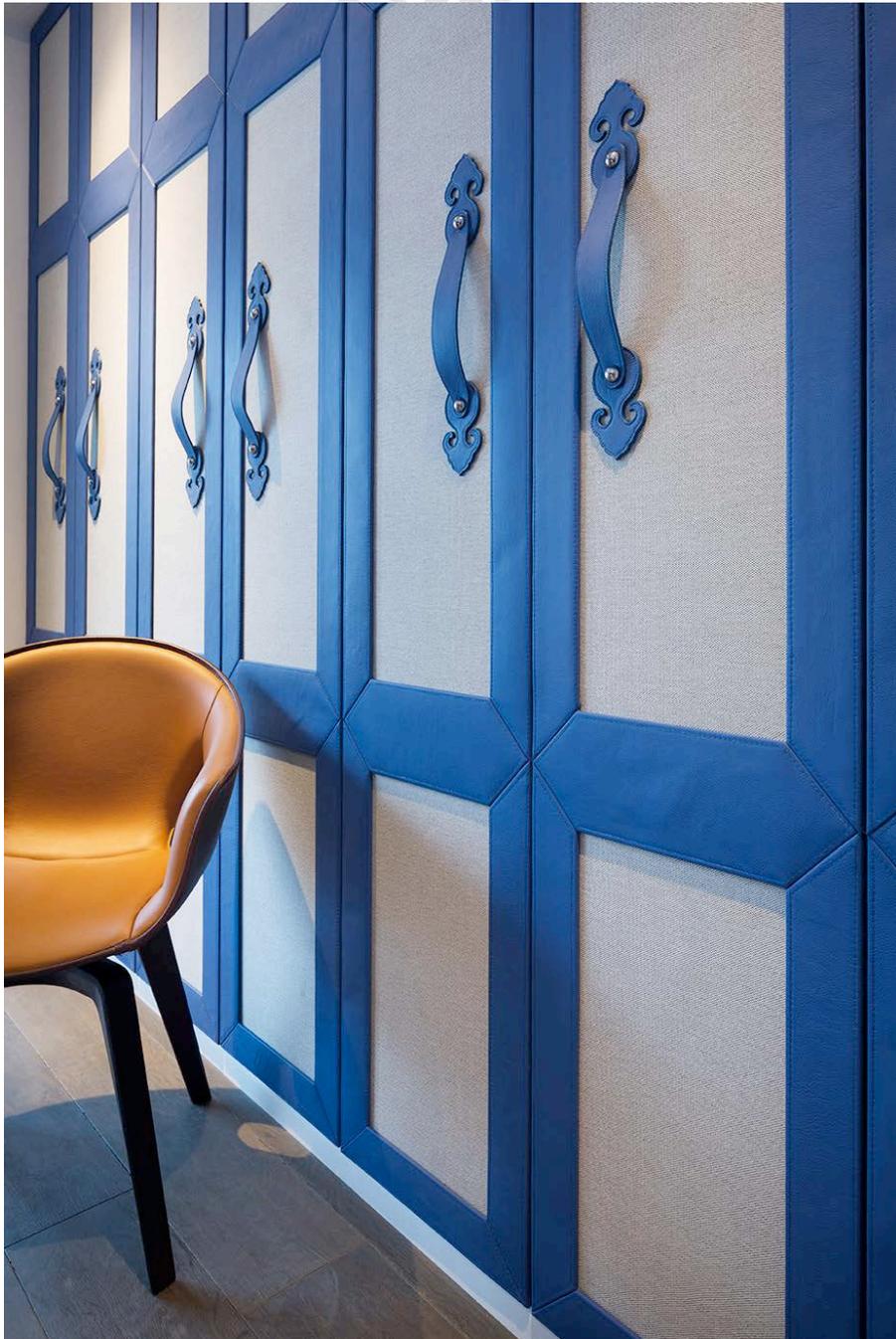
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Strong concept and vision, attention to the smallest details, furniture and lighting signed by the best designers, quality equipment and high technology, all elements that makes this penthouse a small paradise to live in.



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The studio

Dariel Studio is a multi-award winning interior design company founded in Shanghai in 2006 by French Designer **Thomas Dariel**. Since its establishment, *Dariel Studio* has completed over 60 projects of the highest quality in the main areas of design: hospitality, commercial and residential.

Dariel Studio manages to reach originality and creativity while also performing in project management, a double focus that led the company to be recognized and honored for its ability to lead projects from concept up to execution.

Dariel Studio's tailor-made approach focusing on clients needs has allowed the company to create a large portfolio of clients - private, entrepreneurs, luxury brands and big corporations - Chinese as International.

The studio counts today a team of 25 professionals coming from various countries and backgrounds driven by the same passion for design.

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By confronting heritage and cutting-edge innovations, playing with sensations, mixing opposites and incorporating French design expertise with Eastern cultural influence.

Dariel Studio aims to transform reality into a **five-sense emotional experience**.

In its search of new forms, *Dariel Studio's* open approach unfolds new perspectives and possibilities within the process of "making" while constantly observing rules and clients' demanding standards. Through this way of creating interiors, a new language occurs on each project, driven by a passion for turning upside down traditional codes and clichés.

Boldness, elegance, youthfulness, expertise, innovation and an in-depth understanding of clients' identity and expectations allow the studio to ensure the highest quality design.

IDEA Design Lab

From 2013, *Dariel Studio* is going on with larger-scale projects and takes one step ahead with the launch of new initiatives and learning programmes aiming to enlarge and boost the designers' perspectives on major millennium challenges.

IDEA Design Lab is the flagship initiative.

IDEA Design Lab is an action-oriented platform assembling smart ideas and talented people to create innovative designs for the future. It is an incubator for innovation gathering the Best Chinese Universities, scientists, engineers and leaders in the fields of Design and Architecture.

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Awards & Nominations

2013: - *H.D.F Luxurious Projects Asia Awards 2013*

Silver Award Winner of the Top Luxury Hotel Design for "Blossom Hill Boutique Hotel"

- *Perspective's 40 Under 40 Recognition 2013:*

Selected as one of the Top 40 Young Design Talent under 40

- *Top 100 Soft Decoration Award:*

Top 10 prize for "Blossom Hill Boutique Hotel"

- *AD 100 CHINA 2013:*

Selected as one of the Top 100 Talents in Architecture and Design

2012: - *Andrew Martin Interior Design Awards:*

The Best Internationally

- *The 10th Modern Decoration International Media Award:*

Outstanding designer of the year

Best Hotel Space Design of the year for "Blossom Hill Boutique Hotel"

- *Jintang Prize China Interior Design Award 2012:*

Top 10 Hotel Design of the year for "Blossom Hill Boutique Hotel"

Good Hotel Design of the year for "GTAS"

Good Office Design of the year for "Dunmai Office"

Honor Mentioned for Best Marketing and Development (Dariel Studio)

2011: - *Jintang Prize China Interior Design Award 2011:*

Restaurant Design of the year for "Yucca"

- *International Arch of Europe Award (IAE) - Gold category*

2010: - *The 8th Modern Decoration International Media Awards:*

Best Young Designer of the Year

Best Office Space Design of the Year for "Imagine China"

More info

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