

a home in motion

Interior decorator Caroline Sarkozy realises her dream of converting a decrepit artist studio into an exquisite family home that perfectly reflects her cosmopolitan background. *HJ* gets a glimpse into her private realm

室內裝飾大師Caroline Sarkozy實現夢想，把一間破舊的藝術工作室改裝成舒適的家庭屋，並反映出她國際化的背景

BY ADRIAN VON MOOS / ZAPAIMAGES.COM PHOTOGRAPHY RETO GUNTLI / ZAPAIMAGES.COM



previous page: the high-ceilinged living room features a brown sofa that Ms Sarkozy inherited from her grandmother and a blue sofa by the French designer Christian Liaigre **clockwise from top left:** a bird's eye view from the gallery overlooking the open-plan living space. Here, the lacquered bronze coffee table was custom-designed by Hubert Le Gall on a Moroccan tribal rug, made of straw and leather; the 60s bronze candle holders on the mantelpiece are by the Danish designer Jens Harald Quistgaard; the interior decorator Caroline Sarkozy in Hervé van der Straeten's Paris home

前頁圖：樓底高高的客廳放置了一張啡色沙發，是Caroline Sarkozy的祖母留給她的，還有一張由法國設計師Christian Liaigre設計的藍色沙發
順時針方向：自樓上向下望，客廳設計開揚。亮漆銅製桌子由Hubert Le Gall特別訂造，放於由稻草和皮革製造的摩洛哥地毯上；壁爐上的60年代銅燭台由丹麥設計師Jens Harald Quistgaard設計；室內裝飾大師身處Hervé van der Straeten的巴黎居所



Once home to a lively arts and literature scene, the legendary Montparnasse district on the left bank of the River Seine is one of the most prestigious areas of Paris. Sumptuously restored villas with private courtyards spread across the densely populated 14th arrondissement, while tree-lined pavements wind along cobblestone lanes that merge into verdant dead ends.

This is where Caroline Sarkozy, head of interior design firm CS Decoration and half-sister to the French president, has been residing since 2005 – a short walk from the beautifully tailored Jardin du Luxembourg and within easy reach of the local market. “I had been looking for a house with a lot of light and ultimately found my dream house, falling in love with its charm and location,” says the charismatic interior decorator, who was educated in the United States.

Her dream home was an artist's studio in a past life – in its new incarnation, it is surrounded by a perfectly trimmed private garden, shaped by the landscape designer May de Lasteyrie. It lends the 250-sq-m home a close-to-nature feel and vividly evokes gauzy visions of pastoral summer reveries. “The immediate surroundings are calm and restful. We wake up to the sound of birds chirping outside our bedroom window,” she says.

位於塞納河左岸的Montparnasse區曾經是眾多優秀藝術品和文學作品的棲身之所，是巴黎其中一個最享負盛名的地方。在這個14世紀的郡之內，人口十分稠密，而且可看到很多經過重新翻新的奢華別墅，大多附設寬敞的私人庭院，是個理想的居住點。郡內四周都是一些鋪滿鵝卵石的行人路，兩旁種滿了翠綠的樹木，而這些通路一直向著遠方的綠野伸延，直至融為一體為止。

而這個優美的地方，其實就是室內設計公司CS Decoration的主管Caroline Sarkozy居住之地。這位才華洋溢的室內裝飾大師是法國總統的妹妹，在美國接受教育，自2005年開始便居於Montparnasse——跟漂亮迷人的Jardin du Luxembourg只有數步之遙，而且距離當地的市場並不遠，地點十分便利。「住進這間大屋之前，我一直在尋找一個滿載明亮格調的住所，而幸運地我最終找到我的夢想居所。我深深愛上這兒的迷人氣息，也很喜愛屋子所在的地點。」設計師滿意地表示道。

她這間理想居所本來是一位藝術家的工作室——但現在已經過徹底翻新，新的模樣比以前更雅緻，而四周的環境卻依然清幽宜人。屋子的外圍是一個修剪得整整齊齊的私人花園，由園藝設計師May de Lasteyrie打造。這個漂亮的花園為面積達250平方米的大屋締造了接近大自然的格調，同時散發出淡淡的夏日田園生活氣息，充滿簡樸魅力與活力。「居所附近的環境非常寧靜及和諧。每天早上，





CAROLINE SARKOZY WANTED TO PRESERVE THE ARTISTIC SPIRIT OF THE ATELIER AND YET APPEAL TO 21ST CENTURY AMENITIES. SHE SAYS, "I WANTED THE FINAL RESULT TO FEEL AS IF MY PROJECT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED DECADES AGO."



When Ms Sarkozy bought the 19th century building, it was in a state close to abandonment. Every single inch had to be redone, from the façade to the roof and the distribution of the spaces she shares with her husband, daughter and son. The much-needed conversion of the decrepit artist studio into a magnificent four-bedroom family home nearly didn't happen, however: the property is situated in an area that is heritage protected as a Monument Historique.

Once the necessary permissions were granted, one of the first challenges Caroline Sarkozy faced was to preserve the artistic spirit of the atelier and yet appeal to 21st century amenities. She says, "I wanted the final result to feel as if my project had been accomplished decades ago rather than to convey the image of a brand new house." Equally fundamental to her approach was the restoration of the intensity of the natural light source – Ms Sarkozy achieved this by taking full advantage of the excellent placement of the house. Ateliers generally face north, allowing beautifully filtered daylight deep into

當我們醒來的時候，睡房的窗前都會傳來悅耳的小鳥叫聲。」女屋主高興地說道。

當Caroline Sarkozy買下這個建於19世紀的物業時，它的狀態可形容為殘破不堪，就像被丟空了一段非常長的時間般。屋內每一吋地方也需重新裝修整理，由建築面到天台均無一倖免，而且空間的分佈亦需重新規劃，為丈夫、女兒、兒子及自己打造出最合適的生活空間。從建築而言，把這個破舊的前藝術家工作室改造成一間華麗的4房家庭大屋，絕對是理智而正確的決定，只是這個改建當初幾乎實行不了，因為物業所在的地區，早被列為當地的歷史古蹟。

後來經過一輪申請手續後，工程終獲得批准，於是各項翻新工序隨即展開。而裝飾大師第一個需面對的挑戰，就是如何保留工作室既有的藝術美感，又能同時迎合現今21世紀的家居設備。她表示：「我希望居所完成翻新後的模樣，不會令人覺得這是一間簇新的屋子，而是一個在多年前已完成裝修的家居。」此外，她為這間居所構思的裝潢意念中，還有一個很重要的條件，就是要進一步增加室內的自然光源，好好運用屋子優良的地點。工作室大多面北而建，而且在兩面的建築和天台均會採用大型的玻璃窗

opposite: the living room with its huge glass façade features a 19th-century armchair from London

above left to right: the eye-catching painting is by the German artist Peter Zimmermann; the staircase leading up to the second floor is made of stained oak. Caroline Sarkozy designed the patinated iron balustrade

對頁圖：客廳的大型玻璃牆前擺放著19世紀的倫敦扶手椅

上圖左至右：奪目的畫作出自德國藝術家Peter Zimmermann之手；通往2樓的樓梯由著色橡木打造而成，鐵欄杆是Caroline Sarkozy親自設計



the building, generously supported by the massive glass panels on both the front façade and roof.

Ensuring adequate exposure to natural light proved difficult in a set of bedrooms and bathrooms at the back of the house – the designer had cooperated with architect Jacques Danan to create two additional floors in this area, where all access to natural light was blocked. “We resolved this problem by creating traditional windows on the side of the house and smaller skylights in the bathrooms,” she explains.

Connoisseurship is one thing, decorating a house top to bottom is quite another. The fully-fledged professional elaborates: “The constant in my work is the attention to details, details are the expression of luxury, luxury to have time to determine and develop details.” Her new home fostered her imagination to such an extent as to perfectly articulate this design philosophy. Sticking strictly to her principles, Caroline Sarkozy gave the interiors a twist that features her hallmarks of mixing periods, injecting bold colours and adding a distinctly personal touch. Letting her gaze wander through the room, she muses, “The house is a reflection of my life, bearing testimony to all my travels across the world.”

The interior designer’s vision was to integrate into the home a range of culturally valued objects that would transport visitors into an emotional world ruled by the owner’s past. Two 19th-century armchairs from her London life, for example, seem perfectly content to sit on

打造，使經過折射後的悅目光線能照遍屋內，大大提升空間的明亮感。

不過，要確保設於屋子後方位置的數間睡房和浴室也擁有足夠的日光照射，並不是一件容易的事——因為 Caroline Sarkozy 跟建築師 Jacques Danan 合作，在這個部份加建了兩個樓層，雖然實用空間增加了，但同時把大量自然光阻擋住，令房間整體的採光度也顯著減低。由於明亮感是屋主其中一個最重視的條件，她想出補救這個問題的好方法。「我們在大屋側邊打造了多個傳統的窗子，而浴室的天花亦加裝了小型天窗。」她解釋說。

藝術鑑賞是一回事，把居所由地下至天台重新裝飾過又是另一回事。這位經驗豐富而且創意滿盈的裝飾專家指出：「我工作中不變的規條就是對細節的講究和著重，細節是豪華的呈現，而豪華需要時間來營造和顯現細節。」她的新居工程讓她能把天賦的創意盡情發揮，完美配合她的設計哲學。Caroline Sarkozy 謹守自己的理念，為新居的室內裝潢改頭換面，把她獨特的設計風格注入其中，例如糅合來自不同時期的設計，再加入奪目的色彩和滿載個人特色的物品，使整間居所也別具設計師的風采。

她的視線散落在家中不同的地方，一邊回想，一邊說道：「這間屋反映著我的生活，而且標記著我到世界各地旅遊的回憶。」為居所加入具有個人情感的東西，便能打造出一個真正屬於自己和家人的安樂窩，滿屋都是舒適和溫暖的格調。

室內設計師當初的規劃是要給居所注入多種具有文化價值的元素，讓每位來訪的客人也能走進一個由情感建構的世界，探索屋主的過去。兩張來自19世紀的扶手椅是她在倫敦生活時的傢具之一，現給放於一張由摩洛哥部

opposite
clockwise from
top left: the teak table and chairs were a find at Thonet; the bathtub is a classic reproduction of vintage clawfoot tubs; the master bedroom with its sloping roof is characterised by built-in wardrobes designed by Caroline Sarkozy
above: the light-flooded dining section accommodates industrial metal chairs from the '50s that flank a table by Jacques Leguenec. the 40s pendant lamp is by Finnish designer Paavo Tynell

對頁圖：柚木桌椅購自 Thonet；這個浴缸是經典蟹腳浴缸的複製款式；主人房的天花板稍稍傾斜，這兒設有由 Caroline Sarkozy 設計的入牆式衣櫃
上圖：明亮的飯廳放有50年代的金屬椅子，餐桌則是 Jacques Leguenec 的作品。來自1940年代的燈飾是芬蘭設計師 Paavo Tynell 的創作



a Moroccan tribal rug. The beautifully preserved dining table was manufactured in Philadelphia in the early 19th century – a gift from Caroline Sarkozy's stepfather, who inherited the piece from his great-great-grandfather, once Governor of North Carolina. Meanwhile, antique Turkish cushions draped in velvet embroidered covers spruce up the brown sofa that Ms Sarkozy took over from her French grandmother. "I grew up with this sofa. When I was small, my grandmother did not allow me to sit on it in case my hands were dirty. Now, the sofa serves my comfort needs," she smiles.

The house may seem perfectly finished to the unblemished eye of the outsider entering her home, but to Caroline Sarkozy, her interior venture is never to be completed, never closed. On the contrary, it opens onto the unknown, taking on a succession of forms that vary as the confessed cosmopolitan encounters new and different objects and artists on her extensive travels to the remote corners of the world. Caroline Sarkozy's masterpiece therefore suggests a constant, ever-changing performance, realised through her ability to create a space in perpetual movement. "A house is not static," she says. "I believe the house has a soul. It sort of speaks to you. In order to attain a sense of timelessness, it needs to continually grow."

族製作的地毯上，這兩樣看似截然不同的東西，放在一起後竟然出奇地相襯。保存良好的餐桌款式十分優美，於19世紀早期在費城出產；這件歷史悠久的傢具是Caroline Sarkozy其中一件家傳之寶——其後父繼承自他的曾曾祖父（曾出任北卡羅來納州州長），再傳給她。此外，數個來自土耳其的古雅墊子飾有絲絨繡花套，放在一張由Caroline Sarkozy的法籍祖母留給她的啡色沙發之中，共譜出一個悅目的畫面。「這張沙發陪伴我成長。在我很小的時候，如果我雙手不乾淨，我的祖母就不准我坐到沙發上。直到今天，這張沙發也為我提供無比舒適的感覺。」她微笑說。

即使你是對室內裝潢沒有深入研究的「外行人」，當你看到Caroline Sarkozy的家居陳設後也定必讚不絕口，認為各個空間也給裝飾得完美無瑕；不過，對於這位設計師屋主來說，她的裝飾工程不會有完結的一天。相反，這個居所有如一個未知的世界，呈現著不同形式的東西，因為這位國際化的裝飾大師在她前往世界各個角落旅行時，遇上各式各樣新奇的設計，都會把它們帶回來，作為家居的點綴品，使她的居所能集合多個時期和國家的設計，成功塑造別樹一格的裝潢。因此，Caroline Sarkozy這個傑作就像一個不斷轉變的展品，在她的才華打造下，成為一個無止境的流動空間。「一間屋是不會靜止不變的。」她表示：「我相信每間屋都有靈魂，能跟你說話。為締造出不受時間限制的永恆感覺，屋子需要不停作出改變。」❖

opposite: Caroline Sarkozy inherited the miniature armchairs from her American grandmother
above: the beds in the children's room are empire army beds that Caroline Sarkozy bought at the Parisian flea market and had upholstered in antique linens

對頁圖：小巧扶手椅是Caroline Sarkozy的美國祖母留給她的
上圖：小孩子的睡床是Caroline Sarkozy購自一個巴黎跳蚤市場，再襯上雅緻的亞麻布