

# Best of both worlds for Governor

GOVERNMENT House is to take on an East-West look in the latest step in Governor Mr Chris Patten's plans to bring a new style to his colonial residence.

The Trade Development Council will this week unveil plans to renovate the two areas of Government House that every visitor sees - its spacious entrance hall and long access corridor to the ballroom.

"We're thinking of something that blends together East and West and so shows Hongkong at its best," said senior publicity manager Mr Howard Coates yesterday.

The re-styling will involve fresh lights, wall and floor decorations, as well as a new showcase of the best of Hongkong design by the front door.

It was triggered by the Governor's revelation in the *Sunday Morning Post* of his desire to open Government House up to the public and stage concerts and discos

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within its grounds. "We came up with the idea as it seemed a natural fit with his plans," said Mr Coates.

Local designers have already been lined up to draw up plans for the refit, which will have to be conducted to a tight timetable, alongside other renovations already underway.

The Trade Development Council is expected to foot part of the bill. "It's a very good project which will both save money and put the front lobby to work for Hongkong," said the Governor's spokesman, Mr Mike Hanson.

The re-style revelations came as Mrs Lavender Patten yesterday celebrated her 48th birthday with a small party organised by the private office staff at Government House.

The family later spent the afternoon at Fanling Lodge before Mrs Patten departed for London last night, accompanying eldest daughter Kate on her journey back to take up a course in Spanish and Latin American studies at Newcastle University.

Meanwhile Government House yesterday confirmed that local New China News Agency Director Mr Zhou Nan met Mr Patten shortly after his return from London last week.

But the encounter, at a dinner between the Patten family and Mr and Mrs Zhou last Wednesday night, is being described as a purely family affair. "As far as I know there was no discussion of the airport or other political issues," said Mr Hanson.

The meeting was Mr Zhou's second with Mr Patten since he took up the Governorship.