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FEATURE

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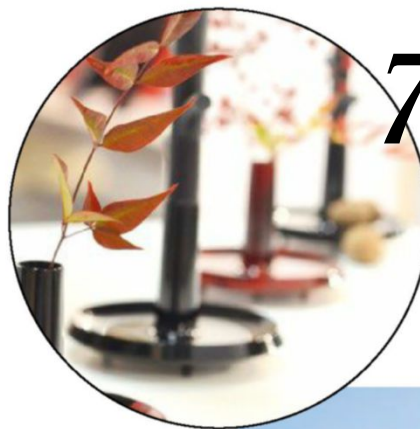
THE ULTIMATE RETREAT

What is it about hotel bedrooms that always leave you feeling pampered and refreshed?

62

LIFE ON THE EDGE

On a recent trip to Turin, Italy, we met with the man who heads the illustrious Pininfarina company, Paolo Pininfarina.



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At HOMI Milan, held at Rho Fieramilano at the end of January, oriental design got some well-deserved attention.

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ECO BREEZE

Get cool without harming mother nature! Also check out the best picks for air conditioners that work hard and smart.

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AROUND THE GLOBE: GREEN ARCHITECTURE

We bring you around the world with three projects that embody living green.

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HOMES



112

WORLD VIEW

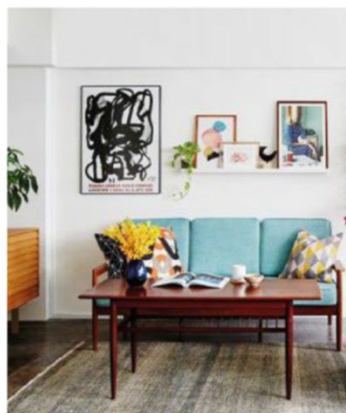
In a distinct nod to globalism, this Barcelona apartment artfully melds contemporary African influences with its bustling Spanish surrounds.



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VERDANT VISION

What ostensibly began as a project to create a simple family home has resulted in a glorious retreat which makes the best of an enviable location.



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Less is more in this Scandinavian-cool bachelor's pad.



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This family home is designed to have spaces unique to each individual, while still maintaining a unified look.



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OUT IN THE OPEN

The neutral palette used in this industrial-style terrace house produces a surprisingly bold look that is anything but dull.

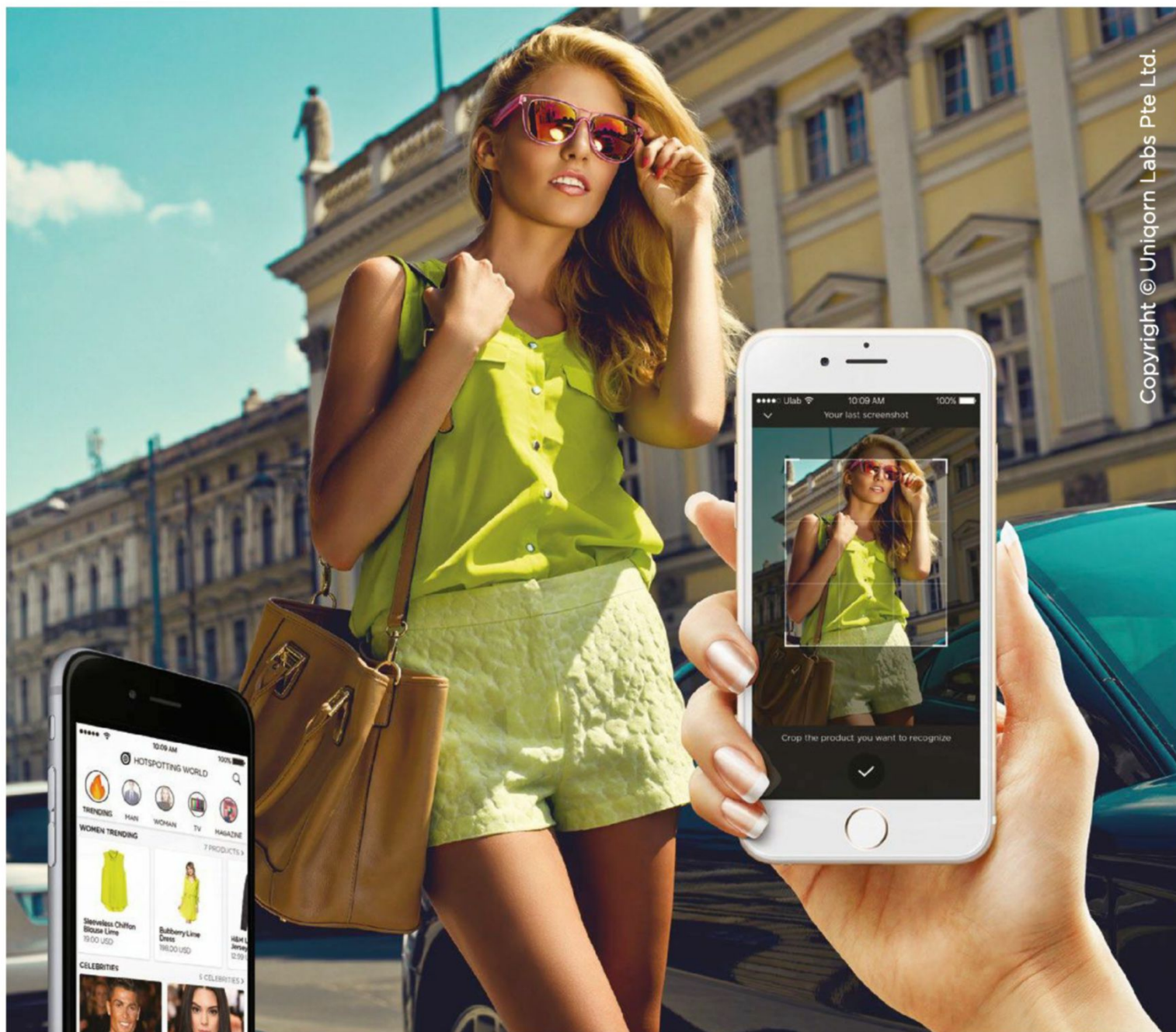


152

OLD SCHOOL CHARM

A personal collection of vintage furniture and memorabilia dictates the style of this flat.

photography VEE CHIN portrait photography WINSTON CHUANG
art direction DON TAN



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Onwards To Greener Pastures

Despite stirrings in certain parts of the world, I don't buy for one second that global warming and climate change is a hoax. After all, the one constant in life is change, and we've only to look at our weather to see change in full force. Thankfully, technology has moved to mitigate the damage we've inflicted upon our beloved mother nature over the centuries, and we're seeing an upsurge in the importance of smart devices that increase energy-efficiency and decrease carbon footprint. This is good news.

In line with greening the world – or, as it were, our world – Selangor has implemented a no-plastic-bag campaign, and I can't be happier! Now's the time to stock up on reusable shopping bags! And because I'm an impulse grocery-shopper, I store three in my car at a time, and use them happily.

At home, we can all do our part to cut down on our carbon footprint; it's as simple as opting to use the fan instead of the air conditioner, or throwing open the windows to enjoy a natural breeze on cooler days. Never buy more groceries than you need, and give that bruised vegetable in the discount section a chance – it'll go to waste otherwise.

Essentially, doing our part means making a conscious effort, but we're sure it'll be well worth it. To this end, check out our features for how to pick eco-friendly appliances for the home, and for sustainable ways to cool yourself over long, sunny Malaysian days – turn to **page 92** and **page 80** respectively.

In the world of design, it's become increasingly evident that upcycling is on the rise. On a recent trip to Milan, I was fortunate enough to meet with some Italian designers who embody this! In this issue, we feature Angela Mensi from 13Ricrea, who 'rescues' industrial leftovers to create beautiful products. Turn to **page 14** for a look at some of their products. We also speak to Paolo Pininfarina, the fourth Pininfarina man to helm the company that's given us around 200 Ferrari designs. The company has recently made strides at the 2016 Geneva Motor Show with their hydrogen fuel cell-powered race car, the H2 Speed. Check out our exclusive interview on **page 62**.

As always, we hope you'll take inspiration from our spread of homes!

Have a great month ahead!

ERRATUM

1. For our March issue, page 85 in the article "The Perfect Bathroom", the photo features tiles from Niro Granite.
2. For our March issue, page 107 in the home "Room to Grow", the correct owners are architect Suherman Sadelan and his wife, both of whom have yet to hit midlife and are yet to be parents.



EMMELYN CINDY MAH
EDITOR



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photo PHILIP VILE



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photo EMMELYN CINDY MAH

Magical playrooms

Circu's 2017 Spring/Summer collection will turn your kids' heads! <https://tinyurl.com/h2elm3x>



photo CIRCU



photo H&M HOME

Cutting it with Yutaka Takahashi

Japanese paper-cutting artist Yutaka Takahashi recently exhibited his beautiful work at Koncent! <https://tinyurl.com/jpt6w7y>

H&D picks: Reed diffusers and candles

Check out our pick of diffusers and candles to scent your home! <https://tinyurl.com/zkr9atu>

Now

Seeing The Light

For most women, juggling the responsibilities of work and family life often comes at the cost of sacrificing personal time and space. So, why not devote February to pampering yourself? For a start, consider this Yoga II lamp from Spanish porcelain brand Lladro. Sculpted by Javier Molina, the inspirational figure at the base of the lamp assumes a yoga position and evokes an atmosphere of peace and serenity.

Placed in the bedroom, this lamp becomes a daily reminder for you to let go of your worries and feel like a human being, instead of a human doing.

The Yoga II lamp is available at Lladro. Visit the Lladro boutique at #04-01 Paragon, Singapore tel: 6738-3900.



OBJECT OF DESIRE

OVM couch table

BIO

Known for its understated and elegant pieces, Italian fashion house Bottega Veneta needs no other identifier than its intrecciato pattern. Launched at the Milan fair last year, the OVM couch table is a perfect representation of this. Its bronze body is skeletal and modest, while the tabletop bears an impeccable resemblance to Bottega Veneta's signature weaved leather pattern.

OVM is an abbreviation for Osanna Visconti di Modrone, the designer who worked on this home collection.



The table is entirely handmade, hence the organic and beautifully imperfect silhouette. It is available in three sizes: couch table, medium and large.



The structure and patterns are made using the lost-wax casting method, which requires molten bronze to be poured into a mould.

TRIVIA

"Bottega Veneta" means Venetian shop in Italian. The luxury brand was founded in 1966, and was one of the few labels whose items did not – and still don't – bear a logo.

Bottega Veneta has a dedicated furniture atelier in Vicenza, in the Veneto region of Italy where it is from. ●

THE OVM COUCH TABLE IS AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER
AT ALL BOTTEGA VENETA STORES.



**THORBEN
LINNEBERG
&
NADINE
KELLER**

**FOUNDERS OF
THE AEROSPRING
GARDEN VERTICAL
AEROPONIC
GARDENING SYSTEM**



The Aerosping Garden vertical aeroponic gardening system, the brainchild of Thorben Linneberg and Nadine Keller, was born from the couple's desire to grow delicious heirloom tomatoes on their balcony. It had a humble starting point — with homemade prototypes that were first made out of PVC pipes, and later, 3D-printed ones — before Thorben and Nadine eventually turned their urban gardening hobby into a business.

What is Aerosping Garden and how does it work?

It's an aeroponic gardening system with a 75-litre bucket base that you fill up with water, and a pump that channels the water to the top through a central pipe in the hexagonal column. The water is showered back, raining down on the roots of plants that are growing within the hollow column. Water is constantly circulating, and you're probably using only about 10 per cent of the water you would use in conventional gardening.

What are the benefits of having one?

You get up to 36 herbs and vegetables on your balcony, on tap! And since you harvest only what you need, the plant

will regenerate new leaves and produce so you can continually harvest it for up to a year, depending on the plant. You can grow anything that can survive in the local temperate climate, as long as it's not a root vegetable. The Aerosping Garden is meant to make a difference in your food budget — while taking up only about 5.4sqf of floor area and using only around RM10.50 worth of electricity, when left running constantly. By growing your own food, you are also actively being more sustainable and reducing your carbon footprint.

How do you see us using it at home?

We'd love to see every balcony have one! It's easy to operate and maintain, and doesn't get your hands dirty. Not only does it save you money, but it improves your health, too, as the produce is harvested fresh and are full of nutrients. It also teaches your children where food comes from. Your kids may eat vegetables they may not have liked before, because they grew it! ●

**ABOVE &
BOTTOM LEFT**
The Aerosping Garden system, founded by Thorben and Nadine, has a modular design that can be easily assembled and allows it to fit into one box for easy transportation.

LEFT
The Aerosping Garden Pro (196cm) and Standard (165cm) houses 36 and 27 plants respectively, which are grown out of "cups" placed into the slots of the columns.



AEROSPRING GARDEN IS AVAILABLE AT
#01-01 THE CLUBHOUSE, 120 SUNSET WAY, SINGAPORE,
TEL: 8112-0067, WWW.AEROSPRINGGARDENS.COM.



ANGELA MENSÌ

THE EPITOME OF UPCYCLING, 13RICREA COLLECTS THE ODDS AND ENDS THAT ARE LEFT OVER AS A RESULT OF VARIOUS INDUSTRIES, AND WITH THE DESIGN KNOW-HOW OF FOUNDER ANGELA MENSÌ, TURNS THEM INTO BEAUTIFUL HOME DECOR PIECES.



13Ricerca embodies upcycling to a T. We're first brought into contact with founder Angela Mensi's works in Piedmont, Italy. The products are attention-grabbing even at a cursory glance; tightly-bound rosettes forming poufs and chairs and large storage drums. They're beautiful, and it's almost impossible to see that these were crafted of materials that were, until the time of their 'rescue', bound for the garbage.

Angela shows us her products, and there's a definite spark of pride in the way she walks us through each item – all inspired by the company's upcycling concept. Each is crafted of materials specially selected for weather-resistant characteristics, and distinct features. "This involves finding a new use for a material that has lost its function," She tells us. "Materials aren't destroyed or disposed of. Instead, they are converted into new, better quality items."

All 13Ricerca's products are crafted in their workshop in the Monferrato countryside in Piedmont. "We can control all the different stages of production, then," She adds. It's not a surprise when you consider Angela's



background of self-taught decorative design, which she began working on in the 1980s. While her initial work had taken place in a Milan workshop, where she is originally from, she eventually came to be interested in industrial waste, and began creating schemes for reusing and upcycling. Today, she collaborates with local companies to reclaim and reuse materials ranging from felt and PVC to sail-boat canvas.

13Ricerca participates in many international trade fairs, and has seen great success at them. Among them: the Salone del Mobile in Milan, Maison & Objet in Paris, HOMI Milan, and the Italian Luxury Design in Dubai. ●



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Zero body

Ever wonder how it is like to slumber in zero gravity? Starpool, in collaboration with Neocogita has designed a revolutionary bed that gives off that precise sensation. Essentially a waterbed, the Zero Body can be transformed at the touch of a button to offer the benefit of a floatation tank, which encourages relaxation for the whole body. Designed by Cristiano Mini, it is a minimalist, upholstered bed which is perfect for spa or home. Available at DynaForce International.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.DYNAFORCEINTL.COM



Big Fun Day

Embracing the Chinese New Year spirit, Bandar Rimbayu brought together family and friends for their Big Fun Day event. As per the event's name, the fun-filled day attracted a large crowd comprising children and adults alike, with an array of activities and performances to entertain them. The highlight of the Big Fun Day was the presence of Astro stars Hui Mei, Nicole, Geraldine, and Danny, who entertained the crowd with live performances.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.RIMBAYU.COM

Positive influences

Gushcloud returns with Influence Asia 2017, an inaugural show that gathers the region's top social media influencers. "We want the Influencers and Content Creators to know and understand that they have a huge responsibility, because many of the younger and future generations of today and tomorrow watch and read a lot of the content they create. Hence, Influence Asia serves as a platform to celebrate individual and group efforts to create strong and positive content," said Ms. Althea Lim, Executive Producer of Influence Asia 2017. The award show will be held on the 8th of April in Kuala Lumpur.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.INFLUENCE-ASIA.COM



The perfect partner

THE PERFECT SIDEKICK IS HARD TO FIND, BUT ELBA'S DESIGNER HOOD AND BUILT-IN GLASS HOB WERE MADE TO COMPLETE YOUR CULINARY EXPERIENCE.



Central to nourishment for the stomach and the soul is the kitchen in your home. It's where home cooks indulge in their inner chefs, crafting gourmet meals for family and friends. That's why it's of utmost importance that the partners in your kitchen are made to fit with your lifestyle, and to endure the years while serving your needs well.

Enter Elba's kitchen fittings, sleek, stylish, and ever-so-helpful for cooking! The Designer hood VENTRINO EH-D9161SL(8K) and Built-In glass hob EGH-E9523G(GR) fit perfectly together in the confines of any space, perfectly complementing one another in terms of form and function. Both feature streamlined aesthetics; clean lines and gleaming black glass that pair well with the modern decor favoured in today's homes.

In terms of functionality, both hood and hob work side by side for an effortless cooking experience. Market standard suction power from the

VENTRINO keeps your kitchen smoke and odour free, while LED bulbs allow for you to see your cooking clearly. An automatic timer control and time delay function enables you to control the hood, switching it off when necessary. It's also easy to maintain, with a stainless steel oil cup that can be cleaned after every cooking session.

The built-in glass hob boasts equally impressive features, with original Italian SABAF burners that provide greater distribution of flame – important, when so much of Asian cooking revolves around having a good flame for stir-frying and such. Two in three of the hob's burners are of a 5.0kW burner rating, while a smaller Semi-Rapid Burner with a 1.75kW burner rating is perfect for

slow cooking or double boiling.

Cook safely with these two beauties, too! The hob is equipped with a safety valve and automatic battery ignition, the former of which prevents gas leakages by cutting off the supply of gas when no flame is detected at ignition. Smart, stylish, and safe, these two are definitely made for each other – and for you! ●



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.ELBA.COM.MY





An ambient bathroom

Give your conventional bathroom a breath of elegance with the Häfele Loox LED Silicon Strip light. It is easy to apply with a peel and stick 3M backing tape, which allows you fit it on or into any furnishings, cabinets, or fixtures in your home. It looks best applied underneath floating sinks to give off a clean and futuristic look. Whether for general lighting, or for task lighting, the Loox LED Silicon Strip Light is available in a variety to colours to fit your home's aesthetic.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.HAFELE.COM.MY

Tiny houses

Follow home seekers across the United States as they look to downsize their homes on Tiny House Hunters season 3, first and exclusive in Asia. This season will see participants checking out three unique, streamlined houses under 600 square feet in each episode, before they decide on the perfect compact space to call home. Tiny House Hunters officially premieres 20th March 2017, Mondays at 9pm.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.HGTV.COM



Red Rooster celebration

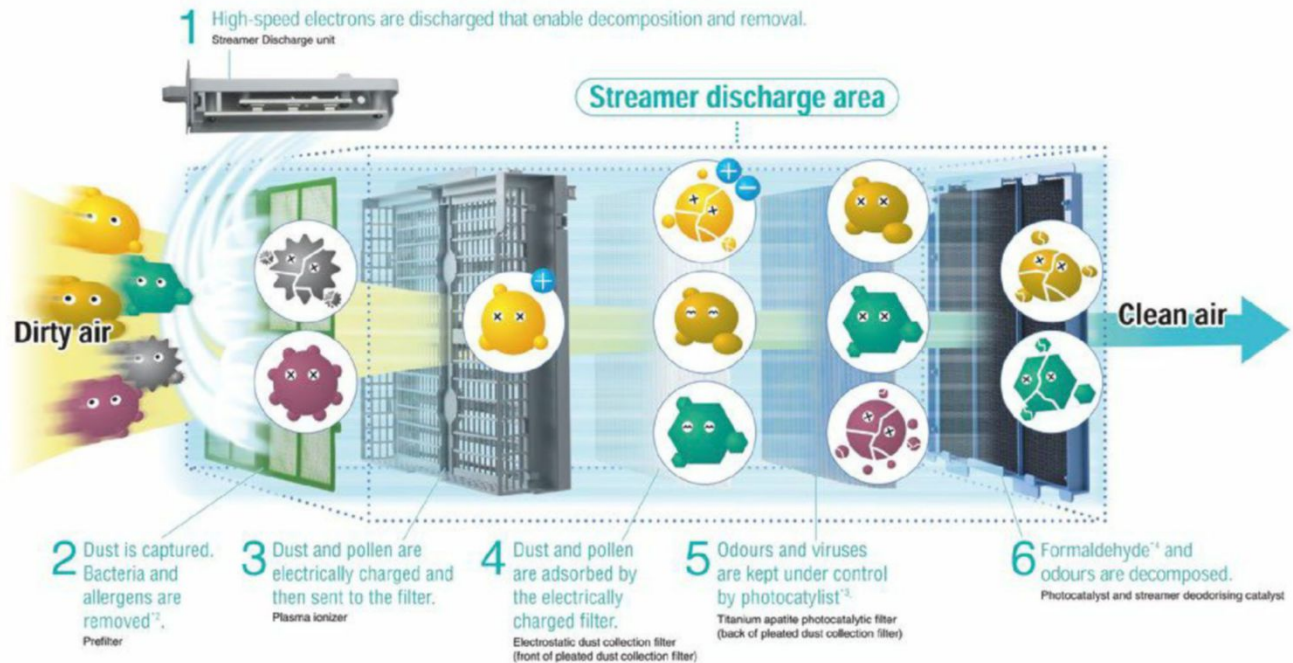
Pantai Sentral Park, with its ability to bring people together, organised their own celebration to welcome the year of The Rooster. Open to property owners and the public, the event, held at the ICE Gallery, saw families and friends alike join in the festivities to finish Lunar New Year celebrations with a bang. "To bring the community together, Pantai Sentral Park aims to promote the idea of spending time together in a complete yet modern township, equipped with facilities and amenities that are essential for everyday living in the 21st century," said Grace Foo, Sales & Marketing Manager of Pantai Sentral Park.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.PANTAICENTRALPARK.COM



Six-layer powerful decomposition and removal configuration



Live well, breathe well

OXYGEN IS LIFE, SO AIR QUALITY SHOULD TOP YOUR PRIORITIES LIST.

Right at the top of human necessity, air is omnipresent and important for sustaining life. That's why it's important to breathe well, and to make sure that the air at home is of a safe and healthy quality.

We've had months of terrible air quality here in Malaysia. At least once a year, the city is draped in a terrible, smoky, and immensely uncomfortable haze, and breathing becomes a chore. While the visual presented by the haze is remarkably mood-dampening, it's important to realise that the air quality is equally disheartening, bringing about sickness and the overwhelming feeling of being stifled and choked.

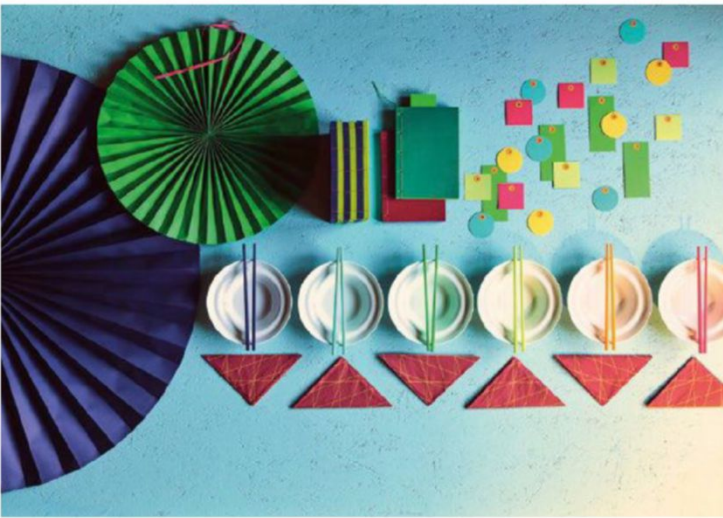
Air quality is important, and Daikin knows this well. That's why the brand has recently launched an advanced-technology air purifier: The Daikin Streamer Air Purifier. To combat the spread of allergens, virus, and bacteria,

the air purifier is designed with six powerful filtration layers that decompose the impurities taken in. Following the decomposition process, the machine releases clean, purified air into the environment. Beyond that, the machine even removes other harmful airborne substances: PM2.5, formaldehyde, and other unpleasant odours.

The portable air purifier is also aimed to improve quality of life for long-suffering asthma patients and those with allergic conditions, making it the perfect companion. After all, better air fosters a better living condition and environment, and gives way to personal and familial wellbeing. ●



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.DAIKIN.COM.MY



Perfect vision

LG Electronics (LG), in collaboration with Dolby Laboratories Inc., announced the LG UP970 Ultra HD Blu-ray player. Touted as the brand's first 4K Blu-ray player with Dolby Vision™ high-dynamic-range (HDR) imaging, the UP970 delivers a stunning and vivid viewing experience that is better than ever. "The LG UP970 Dolby Vision-capable Ultra HD Blu-ray player is an excellent example of our commitment to offering an amazing home HDR viewing experience to our customers," said Brian Kwon, president of the LG Home Entertainment Company.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.LG.COM/MY

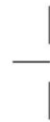


PS, it's 2017

For the fiercely independent and the free thinkers, there's IKEA's PS 2017 collection. The collection, which consists of sofas, stools, tealight holders, storage units, armchairs, valet stands, rugs, and others are designed for convenience. Light and foldable designs make these products easy to move around, meaning they are conducive to the urban lifestyle.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.IKEA.COM.MY



Ready to serve

IPC Shopping Centre, in a bid to serve the community better, will be undergoing a centre-wide facelift and upgrade in 2017. "We care very much about the customer journey of our shoppers. This upgrade will not only include a relocation of the tenants that will remain with us, but also the addition of fresh, attractive new tenants to diversify the mix of our centre's offerings," said Thomas Malmberg, Shopping Centre Director at IKEA Southeast Asia.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.IPC.COM.MY



The Styler

Combining the core technologies of three major home appliances into one compact package, the LG Styler is a revolution in clothing care solutions. Endearing features like Easy Pants Crease Care flawlessly restores pant creases while reducing wrinkles. It even has LG's TrueSteam™ technology that uses steam to gently sanitise clothing, while at the same time eliminating 99 percent of allergens and bacteria, leaving your clothes smelling crisp and clean.



For more information, visit www.lg.com/my

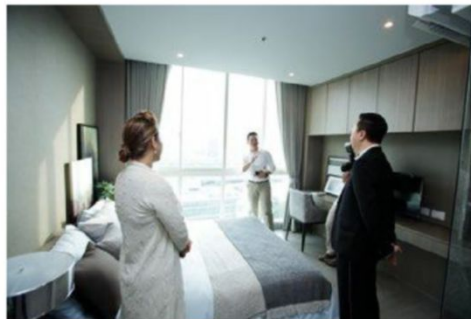


Leading the market

With the launch of their 2017 SUPER UHD TV line-up featuring Nano Cell display line-up, LG is set to lead the market in the global TV industry. Featuring the most advanced technologies and embodying LG's 'less is more' philosophy, the W7 series strips away everything to emphasise the beauty of the screen alone. With a sleek, razor thin profile, the UHD TV line-up will fit perfectly into a home of modern, minimalist aesthetics.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.LG.COM/MY



The Thai property boom

Thailand is set to take the stage as a potential real estate market for foreign investors. Leading the way, Prime International Properties Malaysia and Areeya Property Thailand partnered up to market various Thai properties to Malaysian property investors. "Buying a property abroad is not only a good strategy for diversifying your investment portfolio; it could bring you much more than you can imagine. We believe that Thailand's property market will show average growth of between 5 - 10% a year from 2017-2020, and will benefit Malaysian investors interested in buying overseas properties." said Ms. Nicole Tan, Senior Manager, Business Development and Marketing for Prime International Properties.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.PRIMEPROP.CO



Performance matters

For mobile performance seekers out there, Samsung Malaysia Electronics announced their latest offering in the form of the Galaxy C9 Pro. Fitted with an Octa Core processor, 6GB of RAM, and expandable storage, the C9 Pro delivers stellar performance from social media updates to hard-core gaming. Available in Black, Gold, and Pink Gold, the Galaxy C9 Pro will be available at all Samsung brand stores nationwide.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SAMSUNG.COM



Easy virtual reality

In a bid to make virtual reality easier for consumers to enjoy, Samsung released their latest Gear VR with Controller powered by Oculus. The product expands on Samsung's virtual reality ecosystem and features an ergonomic design that is suited for long hours of VR game play. The latest edition of the Samsung Gear VR is compatible with the Galaxy S7, S7 edge, Note5, S6 edge+, S6, and S6 edge.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SAMSUNG.COM



Mobile entertainment

Samsung Electronics announced their latest Galaxy Tab S3 tablet and Galaxy Book that aim to offer a premium mobile computing experience. Both tablets deliver on Samsung's legacy of innovative technology, including a high resolution 13-megapixel camera, expandable storage, power efficient fast charging, and extraordinary battery life. "Our new tablet portfolio is built with premium technology that delivers a productive and versatile experience to consumers, designed for users at home, work, or on the go." said DJ Koh, President of Mobile Communications Business, Samsung Electronics.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SAMSUNG.COM



Prime real estate

Suntrack Development Sdn Bhd launched its latest residential development, The Riyang, in the neighbourhood of Happy Garden, Kuchai Lama, Kuala Lumpur. The luxury condominium is designed with families in mind, featuring units with a minimum of three bedrooms and four bathrooms, a spacious yard area for laundry needs, and high ceilings for improved ventilation and natural lighting in all rooms. The development is surrounded by Happy Garden's established neighbourhood; from schools, banks and hypermarkets, to infinite dining and leisure facilities, providing much convenience to each member of the family.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.THERIYANG.MY



Curious N.57

Entice the senses with True Grace's Curious No.57 reed diffuser. Handmade in England, the fragrance blends notes of bergamot, rose, patchouli, and vanilla. The natural reeds soak up the fragrance and can fill sizable rooms with a constant warmth and atmosphere. The beautiful bottle also makes for a great decor piece on any display shelf.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.JANINE.COM.MY



Unlimited fun

U Mobile aims to kick-start 2017 with a bang, unveiling a prepaid pack that will satisfy any social media addict. The UNLIMITED POWER Prepaid comes bundled with App-Onz™, which offers unlimited data for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. U Mobile users with the package will never have to worry about running out of data! "UNLIMITED POWER is the real deal with no fine print and customers will enjoy the unlimited data, anytime, anywhere. The product is also in line with our overall approach in giving what we believe our customers really want and need from their data experience." says Jasmine Lee, Chief Marketing Officer of U Mobile.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.U.COM.MY



Organic comfort

Named after the dolphin, which is widely regarded as one of the most graceful sea animals, the Delfino Chair is the embodiment of that trait. Designed by Erberto Carboni, the chair's accompanying footstool invokes a perpetual sense of comfort and luxury. A bonafide timeless classic, the Delfino Chair is sure to add a dash of elegance to any home for years to come. Available from Space Furniture.

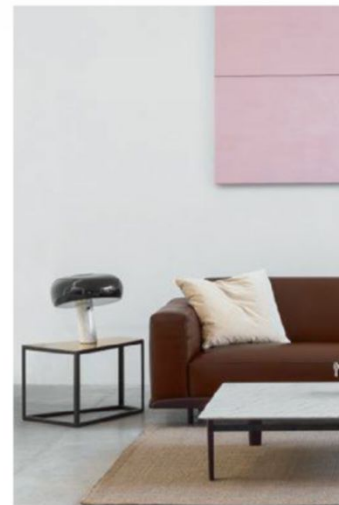


FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SPACEFURNITURE.SG

Pandora's sideboard

A sideboard that is full of surprises, the Pandora sideboard from Wewood comes with a rotatable colour cabinet that can be moved to suit various spaces. It also comes with six drawers of different sizes to meet the most stringent of storage requirements. Made of solid oak and painted with a pop of yellow, the Pandora is a whimsical sideboard for the equally whimsical homeowner. Available from Janine.

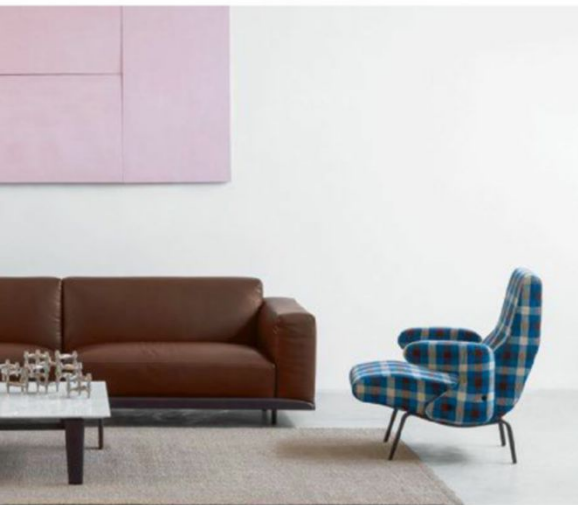
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.JANINE.COM.MY



Nippon cares

Nippon Paint conducted a Children's Expert Roundtable themed "Mitigating Common Indoor Household Risk for Children". Hosted by Paediatricians Dr Amir Hamzah and Associate Professor Dr Jessie Ann, the roundtable session focused on immunology and asthma in regards to indoor environments. "As children spend more time indoors, be it at home or at child care centres, parents need to know common indoor household risks that are present, and also understand the ways to mitigate these risks," said Dr Amir Hamzah, President of the Malaysian Society of Allergy and Immunology, and Clinical Immunologist, Allergist and Paediatrician at Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.NIPPONPAINT.COM.MY



Cord Zero

In time for InnoFest Asia 2017, LG Electronics is showcasing a new generation of CordZero™ premium vacuum cleaners. The CordZero™ line leads the way to class suction power that promotes an exemplary cleaning experience. "With an array of innovative features, the new series enables users to clean their homes more easily and efficiently than ever before," said Song Dae-hyun, president of LG Electronics and Home Appliance & Air Solutions Company.



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT WWW.LG.COM/MY



Major rack

Borne out of the creativity of Singapore designer Nathan Yong, the MAJORDOMO is a refined multi-functional piece which reflects Yong's personal style, which mimics minimal design coupled with Eastern vibes. Meant for the contracted spaces, the MAJORDOMO translates as 'The Butler' which suggests it is constantly at your service. It is also wrought with utility, tripling as a clothes rack, handy footwear stand, and a seat. ●



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SPACEFURNITURE.SG



FROM LEFT

SD 14 timber **door** in white, from RM840, from Siong Door. Bloomingville bamboo **lampshade**, RM1,104; House Doctor tall brass Cubix **lantern**, RM564, and Olsson & Jensen brass **lantern**, RM744, all from Stylodeco. Studio Art embroidered Ricamo pink leather **cushion**, RM4,755, and Elitis Orphee mauve and pink velvet **cushion**, RM285, both from Tatum. Liberty House Hera **cushion** with peacock-feather print, RM327, from Bode. Lynette navy **cushion**, RM285, and The Alpha Classic **blanket**, RM540, both from Maissonne. Elitis Soria printed silk **cushion**, RM264, from Tatum. Large specimen **bottle**, RM243; Luca silver-grey pre-washed linen **throw** with tassles (180cm by 140cm), RM747; silver and natural seagrass **basket**, RM105, and white and natural seagrass **basket**, RM117, all from Maissonne. Dusty pink porcelain **vase**, RM66, from Stylodeco.

FLOWERS

Floral arrangements, prices upon request, from Floral Magic.

ON WALL

Blue Galaxy GSC297 **laminated**, price upon request, from Greenlam. Timorous Beasties Cloud Toile **fabric**, RM771 per metre, and Timorous Beasties Tropical Tropical **fabric**, RM801 per metre, both from Bode.

ALL FLOORING

Roman Zebra Step 06 **resilient vinyl flooring**, price upon request, from Floorempire by Chip Lee Timber.

Other items, stylist's own. ➤





SENSE & SENSUALITY

The seductive appeal and alluring forms of these richly textured homeware make them perfect for a scintillating home setting.



FROM LEFT

Elements copper **vase**, RM156; Var **candle**, RM195; Loop black **vase**, RM117, and large specimen **bottle**, RM243, all from Maissone. Dusty pink porcelain **vase**, RM66, from Stylodeco. Simple Brass Votive **candleholder**, RM45, from Maissone. House Doctor Effect blue **vase**, RM135, from Stylodeco.

FLOWERS

Floral arrangements, prices upon request, from Floral Magic.

ON WALL

Absolute White GSC 108 **lamine**, price upon request, from Greenlam. Villa Nova Hana Collection W545/02 **wallcovering**, RM213 per metre, from Tatum.

[OPPOSITE]

ON SHELF

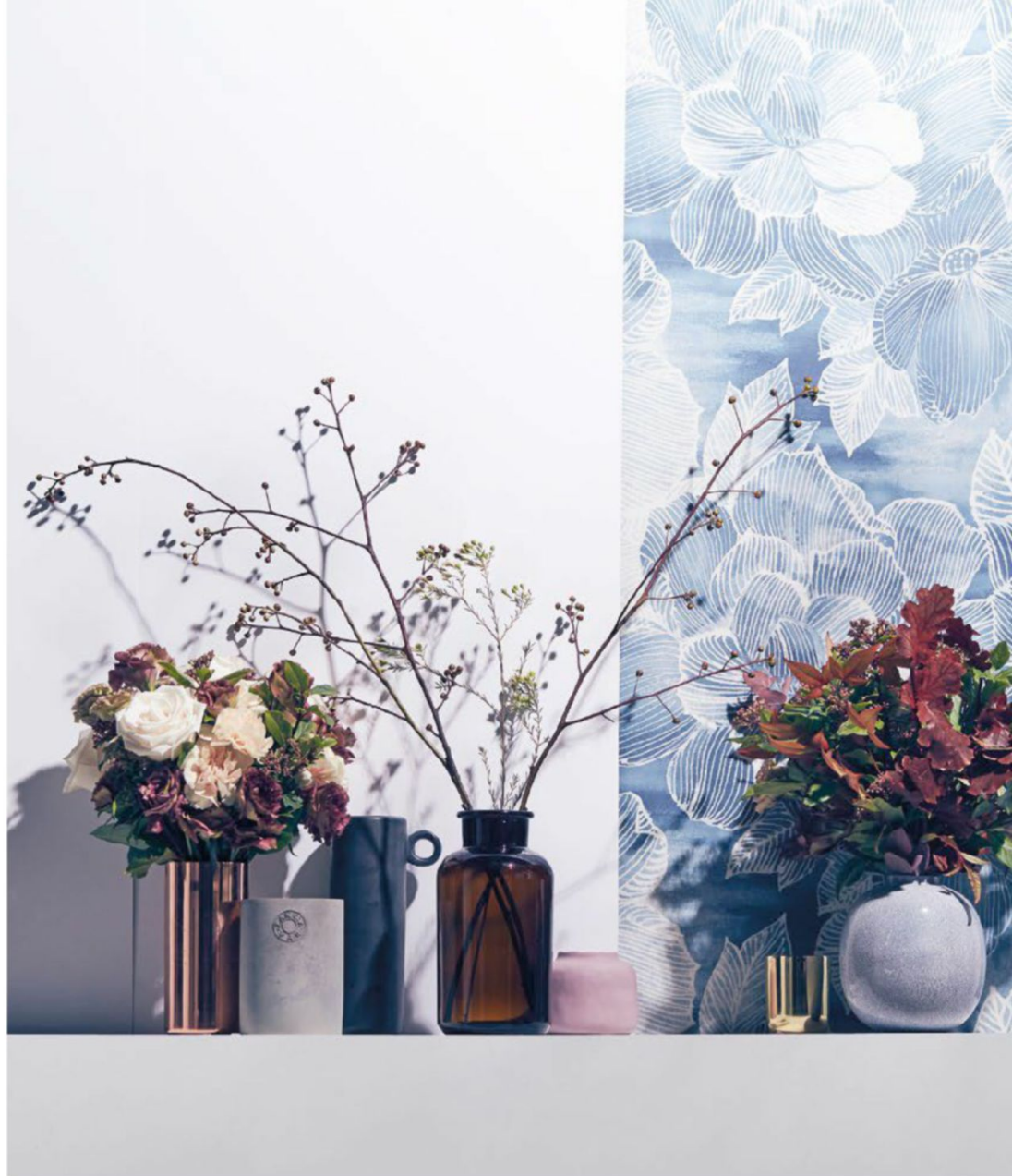
Loop black **vase**, RM117; medium brass and glass **jar**, RM132; small brass and glass **jar**, RM126; Pure Copper **candle** Pomegranate, Sweet Orange + Acai, RM195, and Host **candle**, RM195, all from Maissone. Rattan **mirror** (40 cm), RM255, from Stylodeco. L:A Bruket **hand cream**, RM57; L:A Bruket almond-coconut **lip balm**, RM66, and L:A Bruket cucumber mint **liquid soap**, RM147, all from Maissone.

ON FLOOR

Honolulu mint **cushion** (50cm), RM216, and Abbott gold **lantern**, RM137.85, both from Maissone. Custom **calligraphy print**, price upon request, from Lettereka. Elitis Soria printed silk **cushion**, RM264, from Tatum. Spine **bar stool**, RM6,780, from Danish Design. The Alpha Classic **blanket**, RM540, from Maissone.

ON WALL

Absolute White GSC 108 **lamine**, price upon request, from Greenlam. ▶







FURNITURE

Bird dining **chair**, RM1,632, from Kuhl Home. Taro **dining table**, RM13,440, and Drop **chair**, RM1,770, both from Danish Design.

ON TABLE

Olsson & Jensen champagne **glass**, RM45, and Olsson & Jensen white wine **glass**, RM45, both from Stylodeco. Small Arabian **candleholder**, RM96; medium Arabian **candleholder**, RM117; large Speckle seagrass **serving platter**, RM297, and Speckle seagrass **bowl**, RM105, all from Maissons. Essen **cutlery**, RM600 for a set of 16, from Kuhl Home. House Doctor dark blue **vase** with brass base, RM216; Broste rainbow antique Jenny **box** with brass lid, RM234; House Doctor Effect blue **vase**, RM135, and Broste Copenhagen Ebba stoneware **tealight holder** in moonlight blue, RM36, all from Stylodeco. **Flowers**, prices upon request, from Floral Magic.

ON WALL

Sky Grey GSC 273 **lamine**, price upon request, from Greenlam.

Other items, stylist's own. ●

Prices are converted from SGD at 1SGD = RM3. Prices may vary locally.



BED

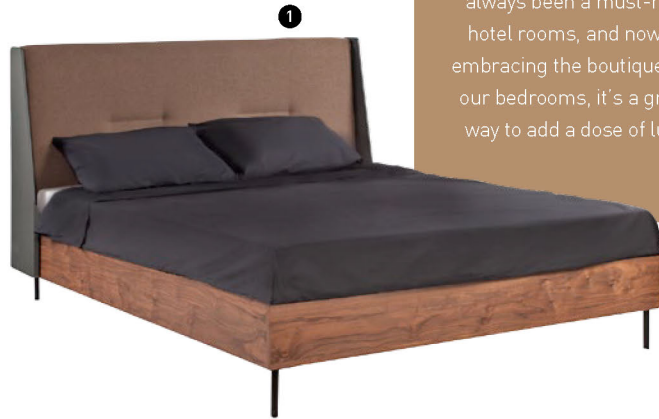
The foundation of your bedtime story; set the scene for a night of peaceful slumber with a statement-making bed. Whether you choose a modern platform style or something more traditional, it should let you end and start the day well. ►

ROOM TO DREAM

Create a sanctuary for your beauty sleep that's not just soothing, but also stylish. Here are some ways to turn your bedroom into the ultimate retreat for rest and relaxation.

TREND WATCH
UPHOLSTERED
HEADBOARDS

Upholstered headboards have always been a must-have in plush hotel rooms, and now that we are embracing the boutique-hotel look in our bedrooms, it's a great and easy way to add a dose of luxe to yours.



1 Linear bed, from RM5,397 for a queen-size bed, from Commune.

2 Lugano storage bed, RM8,280, from Boconcept.

3 Flou Pinch bed, RM32,742, from Xtra.

4 Serenade storage bed, from RM15,630 for a queen-size bed, from King Living.

5 Folks Mission bed, from RM8,988, from Grafunkt.



Poliform Bolton bed, from RM15,555, from Space Furniture.



BEDLINEN

These are the soft touches that make all the difference in a dreamy, beautiful bedroom.

Layer attractive prints and fresh colours in comforting, cocooning textures, and sleep soundly in style. ▶

M&F Milano Blush, from RM359.85 for a single-bed quilt cover, from Bed Bath N' Table.

STYLING WITH PILLOWS

Bed Bath N' Table shares a simple yet effective tip for making your bed look luxurious and inviting:

Place large, square pillows at the top of the bed, as a base to make the bed seem full and fluffy. In front of these, position your sleeping pillows. Finally, add a layer of decorative pillows – whether you choose intricate prints or quilted designs, this will add texture and pattern to your bed.



1 Elitis 6, price upon request, from Tatum.

2 M&F Brennan, from RM419.85 for a single-bed quilt cover, from Bed Bath N' Table.

3 Grand Atelier Suite Collection Gloucester jacquard in navy, price upon request, from Haven Lifestyle.

4 Lucia duvet, from RM1,049.85 for a queen-size cover, from Crate & Barrel.

Bedroom trends in 2017

- 1** A Modern Classic style – solid colours that are elevated with embellishments like embroidery or applique.
- 2** Contrasting solid colours, for example, dark, cool hues such as deep navy or gray against white and ivory.
- 3** Prints in cooler colours such as blue, grey and green.
- 4** Intricate patterns, such as paisleys with fine details, in muted and sophisticated shades.

SELECTING A PILLOW

You spend around a third of your life asleep, so consider these factors when choosing the right pillow.

- **Filling:** Three popular types of fillings are goose down or feather, memory foam, and polyester. A feather pillow retains warmth and is malleable, providing soft comfort. However, the sharp end of feathers can poke through the pillowcase. A memory-foam pillow conforms to your shape and movement, providing support as you need it. The downside is that it tends to be more expensive. A polyester pillow, usually the cheapest, provides good support and holds its shape reasonably well, but is less durable.

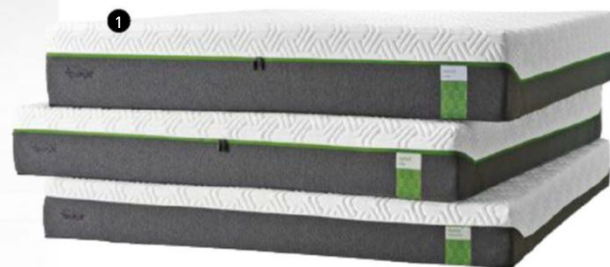
- **Softness:** Regardless of the filling, the way the pillow is stuffed makes a difference in how it feels. If it is stuffed tightly, it makes for a firmer pillow, as compared to a softer pillow with less filling.

- **Sleeping position:** Your slumber habits definitely affect the ideal height and support of the pillow. Back- and stomach-sleepers may want to choose a flatter pillow that helps keep the neck aligned, while side-sleepers may prefer more height to fill the gap under the neck for greater support.



MATTRESS

Not seen, but certainly felt – it works hard behind the scenes. It's got your back, so relax and drift off into a restful slumber.



1 Hybrid set three-mattress stack, from RM11,097 for a single-bed mattress, from Tempur.

2 Magniflex Dolce Vita, from RM14,850, from Grafunkt.

3 Lotus Pegasus, RM11,397, from Lotus Sleep Studio.

4 Coco Mat mattress, price upon request, from Homes To Life.

5 Exquisite mattress, price upon request, from Sealy Posturepedic.



FURNITURE

SELECTING FURNITURE

It might be outdated to buy bedroom furniture in sets these days, especially if you want a more unique and casual look. But before you go about buying the various pieces, here are some things to consider.

- **Size:** Take note of the size and ceiling height of your bedroom, so you know which furniture pieces it can accommodate.

- **Style:** You may adore a particular piece, but try to visualise what it will look like in your bedroom. Picture it in a designated place alongside other furniture to make sure it will blend in. Take into consideration colours and materials, too.

- **Function:** How you use a space will largely determine what sort of furniture you need. Do you want a larger sleeping space (especially if you are sharing a bed)? Do you have a collection of items to store and display? Do you need a reading corner?

No bedroom is complete without the accompanying furniture and accessories, from occasional chairs to mirrors. Surround yourself with not just functional, but beautiful pieces you love, to feel truly at ease in your private space. ➤



1 Sunflower wall mirror, RM1,197, from Crate & Barrel.

2 Brighton leather bench, RM2,097, from Commune

3 Linear 5, RM4,797, from Commune.

4 Conde House Splinter mirror, RM3,750, from Grafunkt.

5 Alexander Lamont gemstone mirror, RM28,500, from Tatum.

6 Herman Miller Nelson platform bench, RM6,327, from Xtra.

7 Fermo double dresser, RM8,685, from Boconcept.

8 Poliform Mad armchair, from RM7,365, from Space Furniture.

9 Imola chair, RM16,935, from Boconcept.



NIGHTSTAND

For keeping all your essentials close and handy, your trusty nightstand is a key component of the bedroom. ▶

B&B Italia Husk nightstand, from RM5,055, from Space Furniture.



1 Fin bedside table, RM1,257, from Scantek.

2 Dawson nightstand, RM2,187, from Crate & Barrel.

3 Mondri Infinite Rocket end table, RM870, from Star Furniture.

4 Crimson nightstand, RM1,197, from Commune.



CUSTOMISING A BEDSIDE TABLE

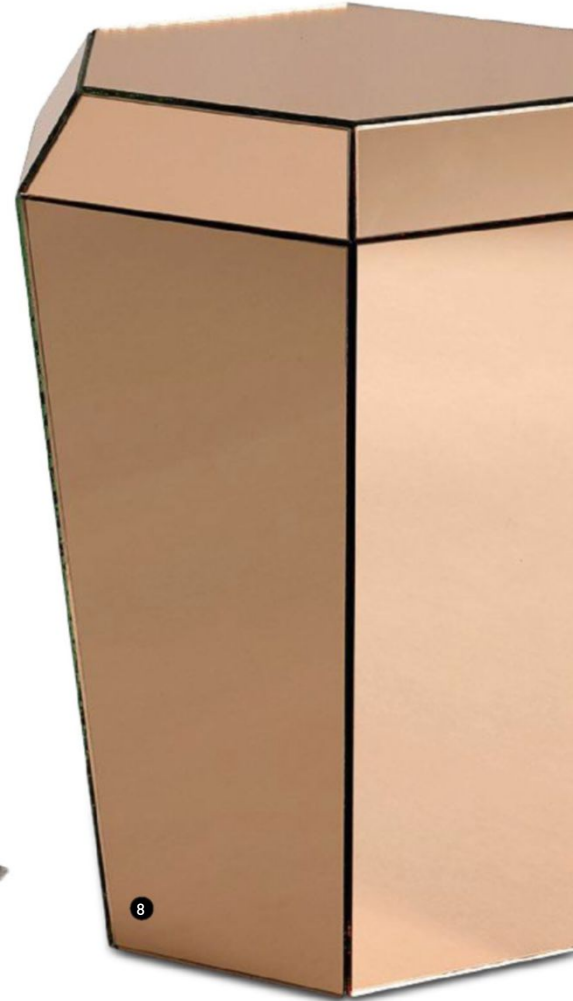
Bespoke design for bedside tables is an increasingly popular choice, especially for more compact spaces. Not only is it tailor-made to fit perfectly, but you'll also have something unique for that personal space. Black N White House highlights what to note when customising yours.

- **Materials:** For a luxurious look, opt for stone, such as marble or quartz. For a contemporary look, or if you want all your bedroom elements to match, go for veneer and laminate — versatile materials that you can use to finish the rest of the carpentry.

- **Dimensions:** The table should not be higher than mattress-height, otherwise you might hit its edges or sharp corners. Keeping it lower and using a sleek design minimises bulk.

- **Area:** If floor area is a concern, you can choose just one bedside table, instead of two. Have a bedroom design that plays up an interesting asymmetrical look!

- **Details:** Thoughtful components to integrate include reading lamps, slots for reading material, power sockets and foot lights for night-time navigation.



5 Classiccon E1057 adjustable table, price upon request, from Space Furniture.

6 Alivar Sirio side table, RM7,017, from Xtra.

7 B&B Italia Fat-Fat table, from RM2,865, from Space Furniture.

8 Diamond table, RM1,335, from Boconcept.

9 Lugano nightstand, RM1,935, from Boconcept.

LIGHTING

Like jewellery for your space, decorative lighting completes the pretty picture, and helps to create the cosy mood you want for winding down. ●

1 Flos Captain Flint floor lamp, RM7,080, from Space Furniture.

2 Moooi Heracleum small suspension lamp, from RM9,255, from Space Furniture.

3 Parachilna Alistair table lamp, RM5,937, from Xtra.

4 Roll And Hill Eclipse wall sconce, RM5,415, from Space Furniture.

5 Wrong London Cloche lamp, RM1,530, from Grafunkt.

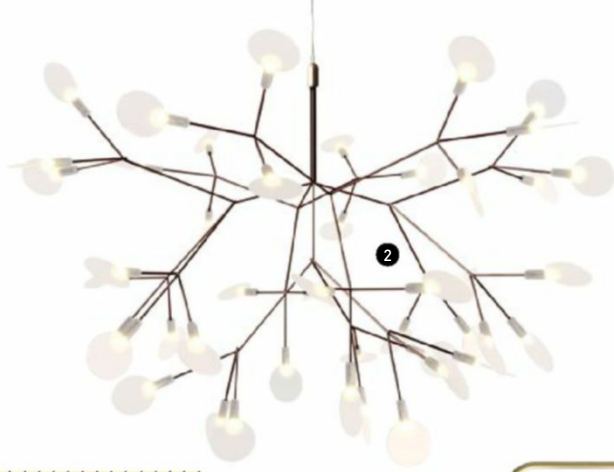
6 Empatia wall/ceiling light, from RM4,092, from Million Lighting.

7 JWD concrete lamp, RM1,170, from Grafunkt.

8 Lean On Me table lamp, RM2,235, from Boconcept.

9 Hoshigame lamp, from RM1,458, from Million Lighting.





PREVENTING LIGHT GLARE

When selecting a bedside lamp, ensure it doesn't have an exposed bulb that produces a glare when you're relaxing in bed. Choose one with a softly diffused shade that is lower than your line of sight, or approximately 40cm to 46cm from the top of the mattress.

LIGHT LAYERING

To produce dynamic interiors with depth, the concept of "light layering", or incorporating a mix of different lighting types, is used. Here are some examples:

Ambient lighting

For the room's overall illumination, choose a warm tone that softens shadows and creates a relaxed mood. Usually in the form of downlights, cove lights and pendant lamps.

Accent lighting

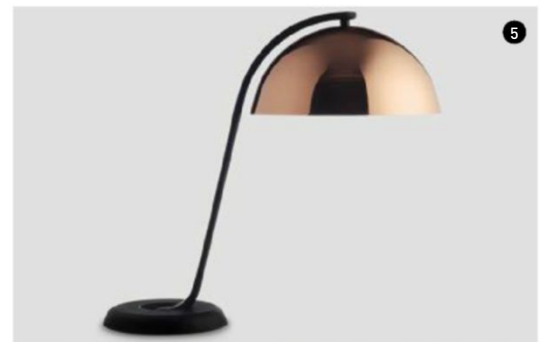
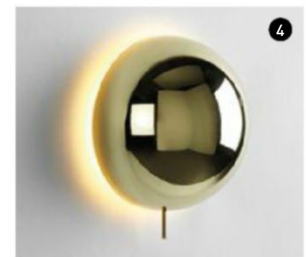
For highlighting certain details and decor, specific directional lights like track lighting or spotlights are used.

Decorative lighting

This is what gives your room that visual flair – chandeliers, attractive fixtures and wall sconces. They are ornamental and should not be too bright.

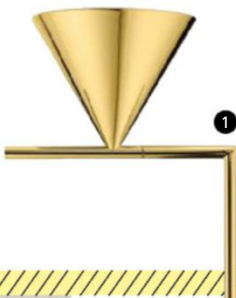
Task lighting

Essential to activities that require clear vision, such as reading in bed and dressing up. Usually in the form of bedside table or floor lamps, as well as desk lamps.



LIGHT TRICKS

Million Lighting shares that you can use upward lighting to create the illusion of a higher ceiling, apart from accentuating ceiling designs. For a comfortably lit ambience, choose fixtures that have warm LED light sources, and dimmable switch functions to control the level of illumination.



Prices are converted from SGD at 1SGD = RM3. Prices may vary locally.



THE ULTIMATE RETREAT

What is it about hotel bedrooms that always leave you feeling pampered and refreshed? It's certainly more than the room service and crisp white sheets. Pay attention to these 10 distinctive, yet sophisticated bedrooms to find out how they've perfected the formula for a plush and restful ambience. ▶



HIDE AND SEEK

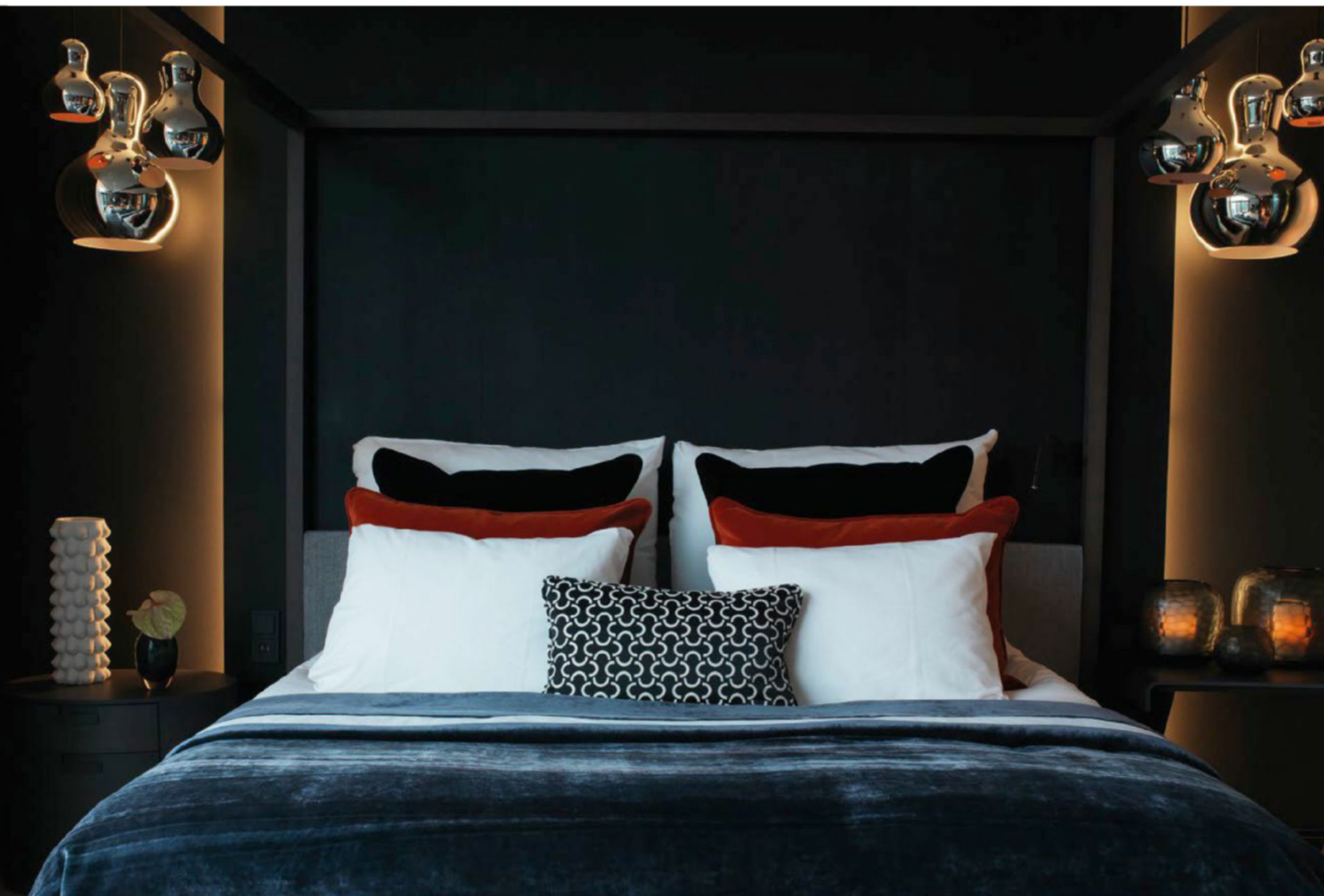
COMO POINT YAMU IN PHUKET, THAILAND

Practicality can be sexy, especially when it comes in the form of peekaboo dividers that allow you to play with patterns and silhouettes. Como Point Yamu features an architectural built-in partition, but intricately carved privacy screens or boho-chic macrame curtains will also work. Either way, they offer easy room demarcations, without compromising natural light.

www.comohotels.com/pointyamu

TIP

Aside from screens, consider using custom-built two-way shelving to partition the space in the bedroom.

**TIP**

Prevent dark colours on the walls from overwhelming the space with metallic finishes and wooden textures.

BLACK BEAUTY**THE THIEF
IN OSLO, NORWAY**

Dark is the way to go, if you want an elegant boudoir that is both restful and dramatic. Black, burgundy or deep blue on large surface areas such as walls and curtains create a sense of intimacy; balance this out by layering with accessories in muted shades of ecru, grey, or dusty pink. Shiny surfaces such as copper or bronze also pair well with this colour palette. ▶

www.thethief.com

SAND AND SEA

BLAKES HOTEL IN KENSINGTON, THE UK

This charming and rustic suite in Blakes Hotel shows that texture is king – it all comes down to how you pull off a white-on-white look. Instead of relying heavily on greenery, get a beach-inspired bedroom with other natural materials, such as mother-of-pearl surfaces, linen fabric, and weathered wooden furniture. The room's gossamer nets and pile of pillows make up a cosy, ethereal ambience.

www.blakeshotels.com

TIP

A monochromatic palette requires careful planning and curation of furniture pieces. Start by piecing together a mood board with textures you desire in the space, so that you have a good idea of the end result.



TIP

While the resort look will always be popular with homeowners, you can opt for a modern interpretation by using furniture with clean lines and untreated finishing.

FLOOR SPACE**COMO SHAMBALA ESTATE
IN UBUD, INDONESIA**

Resorts always fall back on the wood and white combination (and archetypal bedpost curtains), but what makes our island getaways truly special is the luxury of space and close proximity to nature. To achieve a similar look, keep it raw and airy: let your feet touch the hard wooden floors, get full-height windows for unobstructed views, and stick to a simple colour palette – yellow is especially vibrant and warm. ➤

www.comohotels.com/comoshambhalaestate





MODERN NOSTALGIA

COMO THE TREASURY IN PERTH, AUSTRALIA

Some may think wainscoting is old-fashioned, but this classic feature can give your room an elegant feel. Embrace its old-world charm, but prevent things from looking dated by giving ornate embossing a miss and opting for clean lines instead. Similarly, choose sleek furniture in simple forms and luxurious finishes.

www.comohotels.com/thetreasury

TIP

Opt for thick wall panels to make the bedroom feel cosier and less formal.



TIP

If you're on a budget, consider prioritising a well-made headboard. Uncommon materials, such as marble or granite, will anchor the look of the room without the need for excessive ornamentation.

A HEAD START

LES BAINS IN PARIS, FRANCE

The first thing you see when entering a bedroom is the bed, so set the mood right with an eye-catching feature there. Les Bains' sleek marble headboard is the star of the room; it juxtaposes nicely with the unpolished concrete-look walls, and is complemented with minimalist furniture and soft furnishings in simple hues. The modern cornices that frame the room are a nice touch. ▶

www.lesbains-paris.com

WINDOW WORK

AMANGIRI IN UTAH, THE US

A stunning view is your best accessory, so face your bed in the right direction. A small room like this one benefits from cleverly designed furniture, such as this customised, space-saving, three-in-one bed, study and sofa. The sofa, in particular, is a clever addition – a luxurious hotel bedroom will never miss out a bedroom bench.

www.aman.com/resorts/amangiri

TIP

Blessed with a beautiful vista? Frame the scenery with pull-up blinds or ripplefold drapes (pictured), as they will not obstruct the view.



TIP

Achieve a decadent look with plush textures and shiny surfaces. Burnt velvets, used on cushions and drapes, add a sense of European charm and fantasy.

DAPPER DESIGN**SIR SAVIGNY
IN BERLIN, GERMANY**

The medley of styles and textures in this gentlemen's club-inspired bedroom allows for many focal points – there's lots to see and touch. Refined velvet meets masculine leather, while gold-finished steel pops out against an encased piece of mixed media art. Additionally, the crystal chandelier and black subway tiles make for a superb visual pairing.

So take a cue, and experiment with the unexpected. ▶

www.sirsavignyhotel.com





COLOUR IT IN

EL FENN IN MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

Let your room mirror your strong personality with a vivid and statement-making hue on the walls. In contrast, be restrained with the rest of the decor. Go for sharp and clean lines, unfussy ornaments, and metallic features. Heavy curtains to block out the light (let the drapes puddle on the floor for dramatic effect) will provide you with welcome respite after a long day.

www.el-fenn.com

TIP

Go all out and cover the entire room with your favourite colour – just be sure to include smooth and natural textures to balance out the strong hue.



TIP

Choose a visually strong wallcovering before styling your bedroom using accent colours and elements from the design. Visit www.homeanddecor.com.sg for a list of wallcovering providers in town.

GARDEN OF EDEN

L'OTEL IN SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, MEXICO

Imbue your home with a romantic Jane Austen-esque atmosphere using illustrations and motifs of flora and fauna, whether with upholstery or wallcoverings. Vintage-style accessories, such as lamps and ottomans, help accentuate the dreamy mood, while plain white bedding – seen here in L'Otel's garden-themed suite – ensures the room is not overdesigned.

A rose-scented candle is the perfect finishing touch to the theme. ●

www.l-otelgroup.com



BEST DRESSED

A walk-in wardrobe is an inspiring space where you can get organised and ready in the morning. Here's an easy guide to designing one that suits your needs and style.

Photo SPACE FURNITURE

While some may consider devoting space to a walk-in wardrobe a luxury, a new generation of homeowners are seeing value in creating a well-organised and spacious dressing area. Some have even converted rooms into dedicated wardrobe spaces. Taking on increasingly elaborate forms, walk-in wardrobes have earned their place as a necessity among young professionals and the well-heeled.

"My wife and I requested a walk-in wardrobe when we were planning our new home," says business analyst Mike Tan, who resides in a four-room flat with his wife Sharon. "We have an extensive collection of clothes, shoes and bags, so we asked our interior designer to convert the

room next to our master bedroom into a walk-in wardrobe. It's worked out well for us, because it's become a space which we spend a lot of time together in when we're getting dressed. Furthermore, we don't have to argue about who is taking up too much space in the wardrobe as well."

Not only does a walk-in wardrobe serve its primary function of providing ample space for storing garments and accessories, but a well-designed one also becomes an inspirational space. With that in mind, the designers from local award-winning interior firm The I.D. Dept share their top 10 tips on creating a stylish walk-in wardrobe every design-conscious homeowner will be proud of.



6

Know your habits before designing — create a wardrobe that fits your organisational needs. This is important when you are planning the layout of the space.

A fabric mannequin adds a soft and creative touch, while serving as a useful hanger on which you can drape coordinates such as scarves, jewellery and bags.

7

8

For a feminine look, design a dressing table and an open-display cabinet for jewellery and accessories. Choose lighter hues, and style with furnishings such as rugs, to soften the visual effect.

For a masculine look, choose dark colours and textural materials to define the space, while allowing spotlights to draw attention to display shelves showcasing your watches and belts.

9



10

Direct sunlight will cause clothing to fade, so use track lighting instead. Ensure that they are positioned between you and the items, instead of behind or directly above them, to reduce shadows. ▶

1

A good walk-in wardrobe should be inviting and cosy, with lots of storage solutions, and a flexible design to cater to evolving needs. So make a list of all your clothes and accessories and make sure you create space for every item.

2

Use a pendant lamp in the walk-in space to add a definite wow factor.

3

Effective distribution of storage compartments and mirrors help give the illusion of a larger space. Consider where to place a full-length mirror, leaving enough space for you to step back for a good view of your whole outfit.

4

If you have too many things to store, design sleek pull-out cabinets where you can hide clutter, and still have sufficient space for an extensive collection.

5

Don't hide your clothes behind doors, because having a clear view of your clothing, jewellery, bags and shoes allows you to visualise and decide which outfit to wear. Place your accessories in glass cabinets to keep them free from dust.

photo THE I.D. DEPT



WARDROBE SYSTEMS WE LIKE



Poliform Wardrobe Gallery

Space Furniture has partnered with Poliform to launch the Wardrobe Gallery on a dedicated level in the former's showroom. Choose from a selection of accessories such as the Senzafine chest of drawers, and customise to your liking, with new materials, finishes and colours. You can even get personalised advice from a wardrobe specialist on-site.

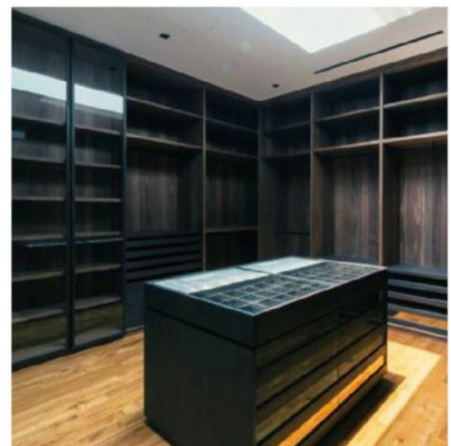
Space Furniture



Raumplus Uno

Sleek and minimalist, the Raumplus Uno wardrobe system can be customised to fit any room size. Designed with an aluminium frame structure with movable brackets that accommodate hanging rods, drawers, shelves, and other accessories, it caters to individuals' preferences. The shelves come in wood and glass, to suit various interior styles!

The Ewins Home, Singapore



Dream Bespoke

Launched in 2013, Dream Bespoke offers wardrobe and shelving systems made using European mechanisms and local expertise in carpentry. Dream, in collaboration with architects and interior designers, provides homeowners with customised service, consultations and storage solutions to meet various demands on aesthetic, functionality, and budget. ●

Dream, Singapore





HOMEDEC returns

HOMEDEC'S FIFTEENTH YEAR
ANNIVERSARY BRINGS GREAT DEALS!



HOMEDEC's 15th Anniversary celebration is set to hit the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from the 28th of April to the 1st of May 2017, and what an exciting time it is! The SALEBRATION features HOMEDEC-exclusive deals, ranging from art and decorative items, bath and sanitaryware, wardrobe and kitchen systems, floor finishes, furniture, appliances, and many more. This instalment of HOMEDEC will also feature premium brands from the home design and interior industry, so don't forget to check them out over the event to find exclusive bargains to jazz up your home.

This year's showhome is indeed an interesting exhibit for all homeowners with young families! The focus: Kids Living and Design, for the parent who places special emphasis on the welfare and being of their children.

New to HOMEDEC this year, the HOMEDEC Marketplace by Kitchen Shop features a centralised zone exhibiting all the top brands, from dining to kitchenware, household essentials, and smart gadgets!

Aspiring chefs and home cooks can enjoy the wonderland of appliances which include world-renowned brands like Brabantia, Joseph Joseph, La Gourmet, Bialetti, and Magimix.

Furthermore, HOMEDEC goes big this year by giving back to visitors! Those who spend a minimum of RM150 stand a chance to take home cash prizes, home products, and vouchers sponsored by exhibitors; those who spend RM1,500 and above in a single receipt stand a chance to take home a 50 gram gold bar worth RM10,000!

Don't forget to visit; we'll see you there.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.HOMEDEC.COM.MY

CHECK OUT THE HOME AND DECOR WEBSITE [HTTP://WWW.HOMEANDDECOR.COM.MY](http://WWW.HOMEANDDECOR.COM.MY) FOR EVENT-EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE! WE'LL BE ON-GROUND WITH OUR PICKS FOR THE BEST DEALS, SHOWHOUSE WALKTHROUGHS, AND MORE!

LEGACY CAST IN STONE

Homeowners may be familiar with Cosentino as an internationally established brand offering premium and innovative stone surfacing materials, but few are aware of its origins or the man behind it. *Home & Decor* travels to Spain to find out more about the inspirational success behind the family-owned company and its humble beginnings.



ABOVE
Natural stone slabs
await treatment at
the warehouse.

RIGHT
Francisco Martinez-
Cosentino Justo,
also known as Paco
by his family.

FAR RIGHT
Macael is home
to the world's
largest pestle and
mortar. The mortar
measures 3.29m tall
and 3m wide, while
the pestle stands
at 4.73m.





LEFT
One of Cosentino's marble quarries situated close to Macael.

BELOW
The impressive production facilities at the Cosentino headquarters.



Justo (fondly referred to as Paco by his family) and his two brothers, to take over and grow the business rapidly in less than 40 years, earning it a spot on the world map. However, the rise to the top didn't come easy for the brothers.

Paco shares that they started with a very small workshop, making marble tombstones and accessories, before saving enough for a bigger factory. But while the quality Macael marble helped establish Cosentino as a brand, the forward-looking brothers knew they had to venture beyond just quarrying and producing the natural stone, in order to expand and remain sustainable when faced with the situation of diminishing marble resources in the region.

PAVING THE WAY

"A drive for survival, and the desire to have a product that was in demand", Paco says, was what spurred him. He had a vision for the local community to not be dependent on the marble for its future, especially if the resource ran out. With this in mind, he created a manufactured stone product from crushing chunks of marble and binding it with resin, but this created a weak stone surface that cracked easily. This failed attempt brought the company to the brink of bankruptcy.

However, Paco pressed on and finally achieved success with Silestone in 1990. By replacing the crushed marble with quartz minerals, he created a stone composite material that was resilient and

Cosentino's story began in the 1940s, when members of the Martinez-Cosentino family first settled in Macael, a Spanish region famous for its production of white marble. The family established their careers around the production of simple marble products.

The allure of Macael marble dates as far back as the fourth century, when it was highly sought after and excavated by the Romans for use as base materials for marble statues. Unique to the location, the marble owes its natural beauty to the surrounding mineral-rich mountains of Andalusia. So, like many others in the community, the Martinez-Cosentino family's livelihood was closely connected to the marble quarries spread across the land.

This foundation led the second-generation owners of Cosentino, Francisco Martinez-Cosentino



stain-resistant. Today, the flagship engineered quartz brand remains a huge success and the go-to material in the kitchen countertop sector. Favoured by superstar architects and designers, its use also extends to a large variety of interior design applications, from panelling and stairs to sinks and shower trays.

Following this achievement, Paco quickly went on to develop other innovative surfacing materials.

"In the quartz industry, there is so much competition, and we wanted to come up with something else that would be unique — and, of course, fill the gaps in applications that Silestone couldn't," he says.

As Silestone is to be used indoors only, Cosentino developed Dekton in 2013, a large-format ultra-compact surfacing material manufactured from a mixture of raw materials. This makes the product ideal for use on facades, as wall cladding, and on high-traffic floor areas.

A CONTINUED SUCCESS

At 66 years old, and still running the business headquartered in Almeria, Spain, Paco can't see himself retiring anytime soon, even with the involvement of his daughter, Pilar, and his two sons, Eduardo and Francisco Jr. Under his direction, the company keeps up with design and lifestyle trends to launch new variations, such as the antibacterial Silestone in 2005, and more recently, Dekton Xgloss, which offers trendy glossy finishes for the original matte material.

Throughout the constant research and development of new products, sustainability towards the environment is taken into account. The water used in manufacturing processes is cleaned and reused as much as possible, and there are recycling bins for the waste materials to be handled responsibly.

What's surprising is that while 70 to 80 trucks leave Cosentino daily with finished slabs to be distributed in over 80 countries, less than 1 per cent of the output stems from marble — the starting point of the family business. This is a testament to Paco's foresight and vision. With a global presence and over 3,500 employees of over 50 nationalities, perhaps the secret of his success boils down to his philosophy and the way he runs the company.

"I don't know if I'm different, but I think it's important that everyone has fun in what they are doing," he smiles. His belief, in addition to the company's innovative and progressive approach, can only ensure its continual success and growth.

WORLD OF STONE

With the plethora of stylish and versatile stone surfacing materials Cosentino offers, there's something for all the built-in features of your home.



DEKTON

For:

- Wall cladding
- High-traffic floor areas
- Outdoor use

What it is:

A large-format ultra-compact surface measuring 320cm by 144cm that is lightweight, with a thickness of up to

only 2cm. It comes in solid colours, stone and wood designs, as well as trendy textured surfaces like concrete and aged metal. Highly resistant and durable, it is ideal for use in architectural applications, as well as seamless interior features, such as kitchen worktops.



SILESTONE

For:

- Countertops
- Panelling

What it is:

An extremely resilient engineered quartz material with 94 per cent natural quartz content. It is scratch- and stain-

resistant, non-porous, low-maintenance, and even has antibacterial properties. Available in both neutral and bold colours, subtle textures, as well as nature-inspired designs. Excellent as a countertop material, fulfilling both form and function.





PREXURY

For:

- Feature walls
- Special details

What it is:

A luxurious series of statement-making materials composed of semi-precious stones and other rare materials, such as petrified wood and crystals. Not just decorative, its hardness and durability allows the slabs to be applied in bathrooms and kitchens, or used as cladding. More care is required in its maintenance. ●



SENSA

For:

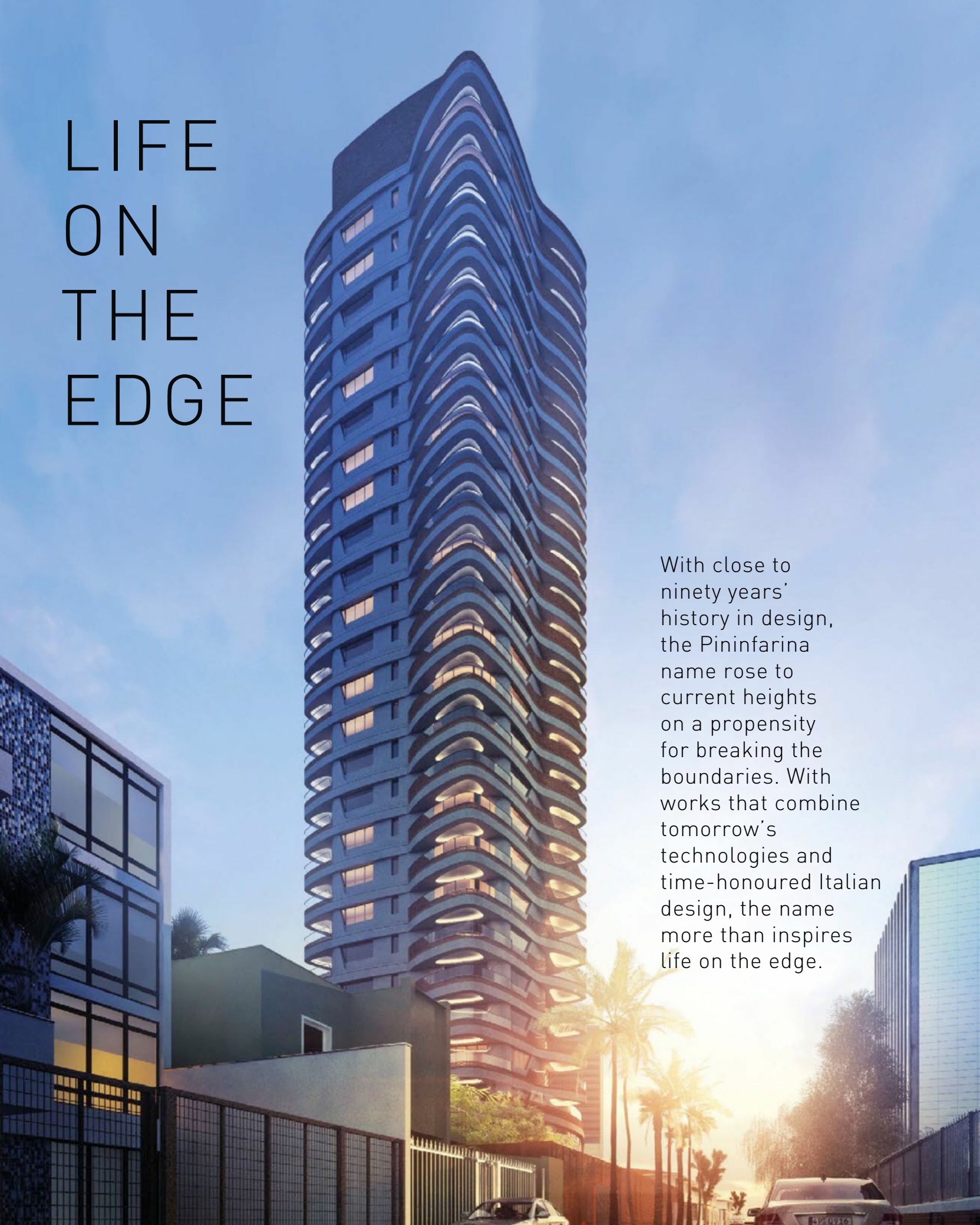
- Counters
- Tabletops
- Backsplashes and decorative features

What it is:

Natural granites with an exclusive

protective treatment that makes them stain-resistant and maintenance-free. The range is NSF International- and Greenguard-certified, so it's safe for contact with food, and non-toxic.





LIFE ON THE EDGE

With close to ninety years' history in design, the Pininfarina name rose to current heights on a propensity for breaking the boundaries. With works that combine tomorrow's technologies and time-honoured Italian design, the name more than inspires life on the edge.



“Our designs are always some kind of compromise between tradition and innovation. Between art and industrial development. Between Italian and International. Between fashion and functional. They are either self-standing, or depend on the market. The paradox is that you can only do things if you don’t care about what is around you, but you also cannot forget what is around you. So you must be curious about the things surrounding you, but not be too much influenced, because sometimes you have to focus on the breakthrough.”

– Paolo Pininfarina

OPPOSITE PAGE

Cyrela by Pininfarina sits in Sao Paolo, Brazil. Elegant curves in tandem with a bold design allows it to stand stark against the skyline as a monument of sleek Italian aesthetics. The building holds a 2016 iF Design Award.

TOP

Paolo Pininfarina is the fourth Pininfarina man to helm the company; here, pictured in the driver’s seat of his grandfather’s Lancia Flaminia.

BELOW

The sleek, measured curves of Pininfarina’s Cyrela speak of elegance and grace.

The Pininfarina museum stands proudly in Cambiano, Turin. The first capital of Italy is where founder Battista “Pinin” Farina’s designs and works first came to be, and where the brand has operated over the course of the past 87 years. From the outside, the museum is an unassuming and minimalist structure, featuring clean lines and a strong silhouette. The inside, however, is a feast for the eyes.

The museum features the key projects of the brand, designs that have shaped the company as it is today. An Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spider catches the eye, a true vision of the mid fifties, gleaming in bright lipstick red. We’re told that it, as well as the custom-tailored Lancia Flaminia beside it, had belonged to the founder himself.

They’re works of art in mint condition, perfectly and carefully restored to stand in pride of place within the walls of history that depict the company’s progress throughout the years. Despite their decades’ old designs, many of the cars are still beautiful to behold, with elegant, neat lines, boldly striking details, and the deliberate, sensual curves we’ve come to associate with the Pininfarina name.

It’s an awe-inspiring sight.

Currently helming the Pininfarina name is the founder’s grandson, Paolo Pininfarina. The fourth Pininfarina man to stand at the head of the company, and the third generation to reach for greater heights, he nonetheless takes the time to show us around the museum. There is excitement and reverent

sentiments in the way he takes us through the years; he is a man proud of his predecessors’ achievements, and at the same time, gunning for greater heights.

“My grandfather liked to talk about the shoulders of the car,” He tells us. It’s true that Pininfarina’s best-beloved designs feature a certain devotion to aesthetics; a well-seasoned fan learns to spot a Pininfarina design from its curves and lines. Beyond design, however, the brand’s tenets for excellence stand on the groundwork laid by Paolo’s predecessors; his grandfather, father, and brother.

“My grandfather was an artist, a genius and a designer. He was also a simple man, but very ambitious, so I like to think about him.” Paolo tells us. It’s evident he’s fond of

Sergio Pininfarina's generation was one of progress and research, with the introduction of new materials. At this time, the world-renowned Ferrari served as the company's main partnership. To date, Pininfarina has designed around 200 cars for Ferrari.



TOP LEFT

The H2 Speed features revolutionary hydrogen fuel cell technology, and was awarded the Best Concept Award at the 2016 Geneva Motor Show.

TOP RIGHT

Pininfarina's Cisitalia 202 continues to be an inspiration to the company's designers.

OPPOSITE PAGE

The concept for Ferrari in Singapore never materialised due to certain restrictions, but Paolo considers it one of the most important milestones of the company. The design took the 2013 iProperty Object of Desire Award.



the man, and holds great respect for him. "He's really one in a million, and he had a talent for finding other talents." The founder of Pininfarina had imparted upon his successors all the values necessary for the growth of an international brand: be intuitive. Always look to the best. Never be satisfied. Keep the bar high. Be consistent and keep quality first. If you're not satisfied, say it, and try again. "I learnt the procedure from my father," Paolo adds, after. "Fortunately, I've lived with him for fifty four years, and worked with him in the company for more than twenty five. I can't tell you how many times I've said, 'He would say this', or 'He would do that'. He taught me the work, and the way to work."

When Battista Pininfarina stepped down in 1961, Sergio was bequeathed with the monumental task of balancing an increasingly progressive automotive industry with the technologies of the day, and making sure it all cohered with the fundamentally Pininfarina aesthetic.

Central to Sergio's work in Pininfarina were his collaborations with Ferrari, which

have spawned around 200 designs to date, with special emphasis placed on creating safer Formula 1 racing cars through the use of engineering and technology. "Ferrari is very important to our history," Paolo tells us. As it stands, the tally for Ferrari designs by the Pininfarina men are led by Sergio himself, with over 100 designs. Founder Battista 'Pinin' chucks in an impressive 40, while Paolo's brother Andrea, who had led the company from 2001 to 2008 designed two. "I've personally designed seven to eight," Paolo tells us.

While the company's collaborations with Ferrari are, indeed, of great importance, it's easy to see that Pininfarina has made strides in works with other huge names throughout the years. Still, the core of the company has stayed the same. "Every day is another day, and every day we start again." Paolo says. "We are always curious to explore new things. Even after 87 years, I can still say that Pininfarina is very young."

A cursory glance around the museum takes us through the ages with ease. The centrepiece of the display is truly a child of

"In terms of architecture, I consider the Ferra, in Singapore, a milestone. The Ferra is the mother of all our towers. It's still just a model, but it is important to us because it is the expression of the Pininfarina design language in the architectural industry, driven by function and with harmonic shapes and sculptures typical of us."

– Paolo Pininfarina



Pininfarina Extra was founded in 1986 to consolidate the brand's growing portfolio of design expertise outside the automotive industry. To date, Pininfarina Extra has developed over 600 projects worldwide.



RIGHT
The Forever Pininfarina Aero pen features a bold, timeless design characterised by a unique and charming shape. An Ethergraf tip ensures eternal inkless and graphiteless writing.



BELOW
The Magnat LRZ980 headphones features a unique shape characterised by sculptural and dynamic surfaces. The sleek design has taken home the 2015 Good Design Award.



the modern world: a sleek, sculpted race car. The H2 Speed is Pininfarina's innovative vision of a high performance track car. True to the company's dedication to innovation, it boasts revolutionary hydrogen fuel cell technology, paving the way to renewable automobiles and a greener future for it as a whole. The concept car took home the Best Concept Award at the 2016 Geneva Motor Show – top honours, as it were.

Paolo is big on concept cars. "They [concept cars] often drive future industrial projects," He tells us as we're admiring the H2 Speed. In his own work, the man derives inspiration from the works of his predecessors, many of which include concept cars. That, alongside the continuous process of innovation, is what drives the company forward today. "Innovation contains a certain amount of risk that you have to manage," He tells us candidly. "But there is no future without risk."



By 1986, it had become necessary for the Pininfarina brand to create an extension in which to group all projects unrelated to the automotive industry. The Pininfarina Extra office was designed as a company exercise at the start of the century. "We wanted to design an environment," Paolo says. "Our projects are many environments, integrating pieces of our designs, and eventually others in materials and lighting."

This design discipline is evident in Pininfarina's many architectural designs to date. The company's many milestones range from the Cisitalia 202 race car, to the Ferrari Dino, and beyond the automotive industry, to the Snaidero Ola 20 kitchen. "I think the Snaidero kitchen is a masterpiece," Paolo says. "It's the first time we've made a product that was so popular around the world." It makes sense; even those who hold no love of automobile design can appreciate the sleek, luxurious curves of the Snaidero Ola 20 kitchen. On that front, the Snaidero kitchen successfully opened the market to Pininfarina, allowing them to enter the home in an intimate way.

Unsurprisingly, the current plan for the company where Pininfarina Extra is concerned is to build ties. The company has strong ties with developers across the world. "If we do projects in home design, we can promote the products of companies that make them. We can provide business to the traders and manufacturers of those Italian products, and so, if they can find business in the real estate business, they're happy, and we make more designs,"

ABOVE

Home interiors according to Pininfarina were realised in collaboration with Reflex, Snaidero, and Casalgrande Padana. Here, Pininfarina's designs materialise in a unique, sophisticated, and innovative style befitting our modern aesthetics of choice.

RIGHT

A Miami contemporary home design conceptualised by Pininfarina's designers.



Pininfarina's interiors take on the elegance and structure so often visible in the brand's other designs, whether in the form of automotive or skyscraper.



TOP

A Torino home design concept features elegance in materials and colours that nonetheless stand stark and bold in true Pininfarina fashion.

RIGHT AND OPPOSITE PAGE

The Snaidero Ola 20 kitchen symbolises the 20 year partnership between the brands. The design blends a historical classic from Snaidero with strong contemporary elements, and resulting in an elegant, refined product characterised by precise stylistic features.





Paolo tells us. The goal is to provide a more complete solution to their real estate developers, improving on both the size, as well as the quality of the relationships, both with manufacturers, and with developers.

At home, the company's vast portfolio of automotive works continues to serve as inspiration for the new age of design. Each contribute something to fresh designs, whether it is in a landmark tower, a pen, a packaging solution, a luxury yacht interior, or even a pair of headphones. "The museum is an outstanding warehouse of pieces of timeless design," Paolo says. "It's fundamental for Pininfarina designers to walk through and take inspiration. The bar is there, every time, and there is a level of excellence you have to achieve. Otherwise, we're not consistent."

It's a holistic approach that the company adopts in their projects. Paolo maintains that a car is many things. "You see the exterior, but you live in the interior." In designing an environment, it is much the same. A building may be groundbreaking to look at, but needs to be equally habitable on the inside. Paolo credits his father, Sergio, with having provided the necessary mindset and attitude for achieving this. "My father was everything. He was an artist, a designer, a businessman, and an engineer. But, he'll say he was an engineer because the most difficult thing to do is to graduate as an engineer." He chuckles at this. "The engineer has to balance the need of the customer with the aesthetic." ●


WWW.PININFARINA.COM/EN/HOMEPAGE/HOMEPAGE.HTM



ON THE GROUND AT HOMI MILAN

HOMI Milan returned in January this year with plenty of interior lifestyle solutions. Locally, even while we draw inspiration from time-honoured Italian design, Sarpi Bridge_Oriental Design Week pays homage to Eastern design by putting together HOMI Asia Design. Annamaria Salinari, president of Sarpi Bridge_Oriental Design Week walks us through the exhibition, and what it entails.



A B O V E
Besides an exhibition of Asia's finest products as curated by Sarpi Bridge_Oriental Design Week, HOMI Asia Design also featured live performances and art demonstrations.

B E L O W
President of Sarpi Bridge_Oriental Design Week, Annamaria Salinari.



Tell us about Sarpi Bridge_Oriental Design Week. What inspired it?

Sarpi Bridge_Oriental Design Week was born in 2013, inspired by the desire to create a bridge of opportunity, cultural and economic, between East and West thanks to the design and the art. It is the first oriental fuorisalone of Milan Design Week, unique in Europe. It is not just a design week; it is also a project which creates new collaborations.

Besides serving to bridge East and West, the event also bridges Milan Design Week, which is mostly promotions, and HOMI ASIA DESIGN, which tends towards commercialisation. The future aspiration is to make HOMI ASIA DESIGN the future oriental "Salone del Mobile" in Milan, a landmark and garrison for Asian design.



How did you source the designers and products for HOMI Asia Design?

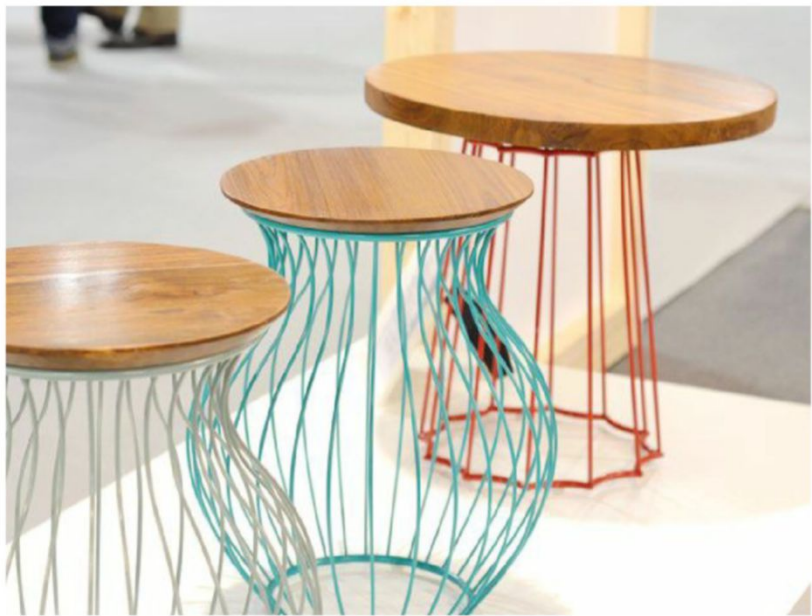
We currently work with designers, design firms, and associations in Asia, particularly in China, Korea, and Japan. Our research and curatorship is continuous throughout the year. For us, it is a source of study. We contact those who are interesting directly, then we promote them through websites and design magazines. We are trying to step up communications and promotions, even towards little-known Eastern countries for design

as they are interesting to study and share about.

We are interested in brand design and designers, but also in Asian design schools and in their students, who are the future.

What do designers gain from their time at HOMI Asia Design?

HOMI ASIA DESIGN is a cultural and economic area of Asian design. It is not just Design; it is also an Identity. There is no difference in the exposure of each brand or designer under HOMI ASIA



ABOVE
Bombay Atelier's "Handi Man" side tables are beautiful, and are inspired by the "Handi pot", a terracotta or metal pot that is used for transporting goods.

OPPOSITE PAGE
Designer Isato Prugger's Bonsai candleholder and vessel are inspired by the word bon-sai, of Japanese origin, which means 'planted in a cup'. The design is presented by Studio 7B.



DESIGN; it is a single exhibition curated by us, that characterises the identity of Asian design and its driving force today in international design. Each brand and designer is there to sell, to create relationships, and collaborations. Schools, associations, and institutions from Asian trades can promote their design culture and their commitment in the international design, drawing inevitably from their tradition. In HOMI ASIA DESIGN there is also the possibility of designers holding meetings to raise awareness of their work.

Furthermore, these designers and their work are further promoted within the design world when accepted for participation in HOMI ASIA DESIGN. We represent a Fuorisalone of Milan Design Week, and are part of the Committee of the Fuorisalone of Milan, and as such, we are serious about our curatorship.



SAVE FOOD FROM THE FRIDGE

"Save food from the fridge" is a series of objects that introduce traditional knowledge of food preservation to keep aliments outside the fridge when it's not needed.

With these designs, people can keep some of their food outside the fridge and by doing it, save taste, save energy, save forgotten knowledge and at the same time enjoy the beauty of vegetables.

For more information: www.savefoodfromthefridge.com
Studio Jihyun David: www.jihyundavid.com



ABOVE
Studio Jihyun David's food saving designs draw inspiration from traditional methods of food preservation.

RIGHT
Sahil & Sarthak's Perfo Seat is a great design for an outdoor or indoor side table cum seat.





ABOVE
HOMI Asia Design features a carefully-curated collection of products that speak of an increasing interest in Asian design.

RIGHT
Sahil & Sarthak's root lamp was designed as part of a collection for a hotel. The gold base draws inspiration from the roots of a plant, and are beautiful to behold.



Was there a lot of positive feedback for HOMI Asia Design?

Yes. The people and the market are intrigued and fascinated by the East, as Oriental design is creative. This creativity has an economic well-being that allows designers to explore with the mind. HOMI Asia Design incorporated products, duly selected for sale, but also cultural pills through video art and artistic live performances.

Do you think Eastern and Western design pieces can cohabitate in the same home?

This is one of our objectives. This can happen if a product is created as a collaboration between East and West, between an oriental designer and a Western craftsman or company, and vice versa. Homi Design Asia could be the fulcrum of this collaboration and the creation of new brands. ●



SINCE 1909
JAPAN



Nikko Series 日光

Nikko Jr.

K12UX [120cm / 48"]

- DC (Direct Current) motor technology
- 2 In 1 (fan with LED light)
- 1/f Yuragi breeze function
- 9 Speed remote control with ON & OFF timer
- 3 Level of brightness control

Nikko K15UW

- 150cm/60"
- Long pipe (323mm)



Nikko K15UW-QEY

- 150cm/60"
- Short pipe (245mm)



KDK FANS (M) SDN BHD (568849-X)

03-7785 5011

www.kdk.com.my

www.facebook.com/kdkmalaysia





LIGHT UP
YOUR LIFE.





Nikko Jr (K12UX)

GREEN REVOLUTION

Established in 1909 as an engineering company in the electrical industry, Japanese brand KDK was responsible for the mass production of the typhoon type of electric fans in Japan back in 1913. Since then, KDK has been catering to a wide clientele and their needs.

Their history in revolutionising fans meant that the brand went from producing differing types of electric fans equipped the most advanced Japanese-made alternating-current (AC) motor of the day, to those of today, which utilise a Direct Current (DC) motor which helps to conserve more energy. To suit today's society, which is highly aware of the importance of being eco-friendly, KDK has come out with several fans to enable users to be as eco-friendly as possible on a daily basis.

The fans at KDK are equipped with a unique 1/f Yuragi function that mimics the gentle breeze that mother nature has to offer. This helps to provide a comforting and relaxing ambiance when there's no breeze outdoors in the patio. It also encourages an uninterrupted, good night's sleep in the bedroom.

Owing to the small size of KDK's DC motors, homeowners with smaller spaces can install compact fans that take up less than half the power required to get an AC motor running. These same homeowners can even conserve up to 40% of energy when the fans are set in ECO mode. Convenient ON and OFF timers and a sleep mode feature ensure that the fans need not run longer than they are needed.





Nikko K15UW-QEY



Nikko (K15UW)

Fans in general consume plenty of energy, and are one of the most important home appliances, used over long hours just after fridges and lights. KDK's fans are perfect for homeowners, especially if going green is a priority. Their range of eco-friendly fans include built-in LCD screen remote controls, nine speed controls, two to eight hour sleep modes, and ON and OFF timers that work through one, to eight hours.

Besides enjoying the cooling breeze generated by the fans, homeowners can also light up their homes, as these fans are also equipped with energy-saving 22W LED lights.

Notably smaller than the rest of the available models, the 120cm 48" three-blade Nikko Jr (K12UX) allows you to adjust the brightness of the lights, from as low as 3lx to a

maximum of 150lx. The lights come in a cool daylight lighting colour. Awarded a five-star MEPS rating, the 150cm 60" five-blade Nikko (K15UW) goes up to a maximum of 200lx in cool daylight, a moderate middle 150lx in cool daylight and warm colour, and a low 3lx in warm lighting. Both Nikko K15UW and K15UW-QEY come in two different rod lengths.

As the leading brand in the industry, KDK Malaysia has been offering premium and high quality products since their establishment fifteen years ago. The brand offers customers an estimate of 100 different models to choose from, each categorised under different types of fans including ceiling, general, ventilating fans, air curtains, and air moving equipment. In 2013, the brand achieved a record sales figure of a whopping 200 million ringgit. ●

For more information www.kdk.com.my



photography JASPER YU

ECO BREEZE

The race to keep cool in this humidity is necessary, and yet, detrimental to the environment. However, a shift in human habits and revolutionary technologies might just turn the tide towards a greener and more eco friendly future.



FANS VS. AIR CONDITIONERS

Around these parts of the globe where heat is ever present and unyielding in some cases, cooling solutions like the fan and air conditioner are ubiquitous, and almost certainly a necessity. Each cooling solution has its merits and drawbacks.

Air Conditioners are the best appliance to combat against the potent heat of South East Asia. Its temperature regulation and ability to create a whole climate is unrivalled. However, there is no escaping the fact that it uses substantially more power than the conventional fan, often times up to ten folds in consumption. In that regard, it is not exactly the most economical option, nor is it the greenest approach to cooling. However, modern technological strides have done much to mitigate that problem, though there are still a ways to go.

Fans are in a completely different ballpark compared to the air conditioner. Simpler in design and function, it has the modest task of moving air around, be it cool or warm. Due to their simple mechanics, fans are inherently more economical to run with usage numbers that air conditioners can never meet. Subpar temperature management and tendency to recirculate warm air, however, means fans too, have a narrow scope of use. Better suited for open spaces that have sufficient air flow, fans ventilate more than they regulate.



photography WONG WEI LIANG



photography ALAN LEE/K STUDIO

KEEP COOL THE ECO WAY

As the heat bores down during hotter months, it may seem like air conditioning is the only way to go. Keep your cool and follow these passive cooling tips before you do!

1. CLOSE THE BLINDS

This may sound like common sense, but with modern interiors designed for natural light to flood in, the blinds are used less often than desired. That raises a problem as up to 30 percent of unwanted heat in the home comes from the windows. The simple act of pulling the blinds or installing some will prevent your home from becoming a greenhouse and saving you an average of 7 percent on your electric bills.



photography WINSTON CHUANG

2. CHEAT SHEETS

Tossing and turning at night? It might be due to your bed linen, which might be unsuited for the climate you are in. Flannel and fleece sheets are comfortable, but they are definitely not made for warm summer nights as they are insulators of heat; you will be making yourself warmer than desired. Go with tried and tested cotton, which breathes easy and cools faster. To take it a step further, choose bamboo sheets to ward off unwanted heat.



photography TAN WEI TE

3. MIND AND BODY

Focus on your body and not the environment, because your house does not care if it is hot or cold. Instead of relying on thermostats, watch your own body temperature and regulate from there. Simple things like sipping on a cold cup of lemon tea to putting a chilled cloth on your neck and wrist will cool down the body, which dampens the need for air conditioning.



photography VEE CHIN

4. EXHAUST AND VENT

Instead of relying on the main cooling appliances, look to the kitchen or bathroom exhaust fans; Put them to good use and let them do their job of drawing rising hot air out and away from the interior of your home. Their effects, if they're left on long enough, will be felt not only in the kitchen or bathroom, but the whole house. They also use smaller motors, thus, utilising less power in comparison to the more potent ceiling fan.



photography DARREN CHANG



5. KITCHEN SEPARATION

If your home allows for it, keep your wet and dry kitchens separate, with the wet kitchen facing or placed outdoors. The wet kitchen is where the major cooking happens, so it's logical to set up where the heat generated would dissipate outward rather than inward, taxing the air conditioner unnecessarily. Alternatively, if finances are in the green, consider an outdoor summer kitchen for weekends where the whole family can spend their time in the green while fresh patties cook on the grill. Quality time well spent and electric consumption saved!

6. PLANT PLANTS

What better way to save nature than nature itself? Plants not only have the ability to make a space feel warm and welcoming, but also have the ability to lower the ambient temperature. Plants rely on photosynthesis to survive, and in that process, they consume water, sunlight, and energy, in this case heat. Dot enough plants around the room and you could lower the ambient temperature by up to 10 degrees.

Alternatively, if finances are in the green, consider an outdoor summer kitchen for weekends where the whole family can spend their time in the green while fresh patties cook on the grill.

photography JASPER YU



photography WONG WEI LIANG



GREEN COOLING CHOICES

Air conditioners can never match fans in terms of energy consumption due to their sheer complexity, and their harder role of cooling air rather than simply moving it. However, there are a growing number of air conditioners that seek to reduce that gap by being smart and eco-friendly. Here are our picks.



BREATHE EASY

The Samsung Triangle Wall-Mount Air Conditioner with Virus Doctor is a product that was built and designed to be efficient from the ground up. With its energy efficient Digital Inverter, it maintains a set temperature without frequently shutting on and off, conserving power. It also features a Single User mode which reduces power while providing adequate cooling for the lone person. Best of all, it comes with the Virus Doctor and Easy Filter systems, which eliminate dust, dangerous airborne contaminants, and allergens, as well as bacteria and viruses. Energy efficient and an excellent air filtration device, this Samsung Air Conditioner is one for the masses.

Available from Samsung



DOUBLE THE COOLING

The LG DUALCOOL air conditioner is the first product to be fitted with the brand's latest energy-efficient Dual Inverter Compressor™, for tremendous energy savings. Verified by world-renowned testing organisation TÜV Rheinland, the DUALCOOL is able to reduce energy consumption by up to 70 percent compared to conventional air conditioning units while providing upwards of 40 percent faster cooling. This advanced compressor technology also allows the DUALCOOL to stay extremely quiet, which is ideal for apartments or homes with toddlers. Adding onto the raft of features is what LG calls their 'Mosquito Away' technology; a special band of ultrasonic frequency to repel mosquitoes, perfect for the homes of South East Asia.

Available from LG.



WIFI CHILL

Samsung introduces 21st century smarts into their cooling experience. Built in WiFi allows users to connect to their Smart Series air conditioners using an app on their smartphones, which negates the need for a conventional remote control. On top of that, one can command the air conditioning unit from anywhere, which means a room can be pre-cooled and turned off remotely after. There is also a bundled D'Light Cool Mode which gives the homeowner access to the room's temperature and humidity readings, so one can adjust the temperature accordingly. Not forgetting energy efficiency, the air conditioners also feature a Smart Saver mode which shuts the inverter and fan off once a fixed temperature is reached.

Available from Samsung



ALL SEEING EYES

The defining feature of the Hitachi RAS-VX13CG Premium Inverter is its ability to 'see' the condition of a room it is installed in. With a pair of Thermo and Image cameras, the aptly named 'Scene Camera Ceiling' intelligently 'sees' the room's heat distribution, level of activity, and occupant presence to smartly control set temperature and air flow direction for optimum cooling and maximum energy efficiency. A bundled feature called 'Air Sleep Ceiling' also strategically targets the ceiling where heat normally accumulates and creates a tornado flow, which softly cocoons occupants with chilly air for faster cooling. Equipped with Hitachi's Vector DC inverter technology with a Smart Vector system, it provides the ultimate cooling experience, but with a marked increase in energy savings.

Available from Hitachi

AROUND THE GLOBE: GREEN ARCHITECTURE

photo BECCY LANE OF POSIMAGE

Green architectural feats don't need to present themselves on large, impressive scales. The ideal can materialise in a three-storey bungalow, a shack, or even a primary school. These architectural wonders are green to the core, from the use of materials to the build and design, which encourage greener habits without compromising on style, comfort, and luxury. Each of these projects, local and abroad, are designed according to the needs of their users



SARAH WIGGLESWORTH ARCHITECTS

Project: Mellor Primary School, United Kingdom

The goal, for Sarah Wigglesworth Architects, was to bring nature even closer to the students of Mellor Primary School. It was extremely crucial for the firm to create a conducive learning environment for the school, which is not just computers and endless days spent toiling behind desks. The school considers learning and playing outdoors extremely important as part of their students' curriculum.

Extension and remodelling works were also required to complement the school's natural surroundings. The Mellor Primary School sports new toilets and a library, an additional classroom with a great view, an extended hall for performances, a raised deck for outdoor lessons, tree canopies, outdoor facilities, and more to accommodate the ever-growing number of students.

The community of parents

and their children play a crucial role in the design of the school's extension project. The students were involved in the design aspects of the habitat wall, which is made from salvaged materials. With the habitat wall, Mellor today could be described as a school that doubles as a habitat for plants with the addition of planting pockets, birds that live in bird boxes designed by the school's caretaker, and bugs. A trellis screens off the area below deck.

Apart from water-saving and low-energy light fittings, locally sourced and natural materials were also used in this award-winning project, which was completed in 2015. These include tyres, straw bale insulation, as well as FSC and FEFC-certified timber.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.SWARCH.CO.UK/

ABOVE
The project has won the RIBA North West Awards 2016 as well as the Judges' Choice and Best Education Project at the Structural Timber Awards 2016.



photos BECCY LANE OF POSIMAGE



photo PETER BENNETTS / PETER BENNETTS STUDIO

AUSTIN MAYNARD ARCHITECTS (formerly Andrew Maynard Architects) Project: Dorman House, Australia

You can bet your mansions that Austin Maynard Architects won't be demolishing any charming old shacks anytime soon. But, they're more than happy to take on extension works - sustainably, while staying true to the existing shack.

During the post-war period, many Australians built their homes in the style of beach shacks. These homes were built 'to weather, go grey, age, and sink back into the landscape, back into the bush.'

In the case of the Dorman House project, clients Kate and Grant had requested that the team provide them with 'a clear and elevated view of the ocean.' Like the team behind Austin Maynard Architects, the homeowners were also not keen on sacrificing the unique characteristics of their beloved shack in order to gain a view.

The homeowners also wanted their new living space to be practical, well-considered, and detailed, as such, necessitating an elevated extension. The team gave them a living space that responds to the seasonal changes and hours of the day, while adding character to the interior with Silvertop Ash hardwood portals and beams.



photo PETER BENNETTS



photo PETER BENNETTS

photo PETER BENNETTS



photo PETER BENNETTS



Accessible through a spiral staircase are the kitchen, dining, and living room, which are supported by a heavy timber structure. The old kitchen was transformed into a second bathroom and laundry area, while the original beach shack was only tidied up and repainted to retain its post-war charm.

The team at Austin Maynard believes there is nothing to be gained by trading Australian heritage, with its unique individualities and social personalities reflected by humble shacks, for mansions and duplicated suburban homes. Even moreso when one considers that it takes more than a decade to repay the carbon debt of a demolished house.

The Dorman House is one-of-a-kind in the midst of its neighbours. The team describes it as a 'finely crafted timber box, independently constructed to hover over an existing beach shack in Lorne, Victoria.' The project was completed in 2015.

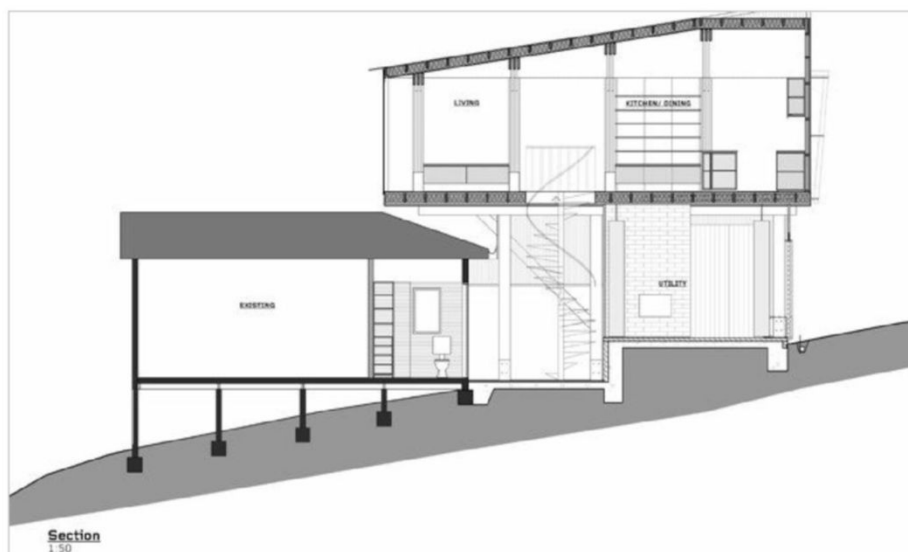


photo AUSTIN MAYNARD ARCHITECTS

CHECK OUT ITS UNIQUE GREEN FEATURES AT, WWW.MAYNARDARCHITECTS.COM/SITE/SPLASH.HTML

NB TROPICS
Project: The Manor, Malaysia



With only three units available, the Manor project comprises three-storey bungalows with stylish aerofoil roofs and eco-friendly features, including beautiful green landscaping, energy-saving solar panels, and large glass panels for natural lighting and ventilation. The bungalows are furnished with a luxurious kitchen, and high quality materials were imported to reflect an exclusive lifestyle at Codrington Avenue on Penang Island.

NB Tropics, a subsidiary company of the New Bob Group had it all well-thought out. These bungalows are equipped with energy and water-saving fittings, which encourage green practices on a daily basis to reduce carbon footprint. Rainwater harvesting for example, takes place on the roof garden located on the second floor. The roof garden provides natural insulation to the rooftop. As a result, it reduces the homeowners' dependence and long-hour usage of home utilities including heaters and air-conditioners.



Homeowners are able to enjoy better air quality in a safe environment; the bungalows are equipped with alarms and CCTV systems

Design-wise, the open-concept bungalows feature unique double-height living rooms, and ultra-modern, streamlined kitchens.

Green certified materials were used to construct the project. Completed in 2013, the project was awarded the first greenRE Platinum project certification in Malaysia. It also received a BCA Green Mark Gold Plus Award from the Singapore Ministry of National Development. ●

📍
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT WWW.NBTROPICS.COM/PROJECTS/THE-MANOR





LEAN & GREEN

Wanting to live greener? Here are some ways to set you on the path.



Maintaining eco friendliness in the home starts with the electric-guzzling appliances and lights that touch every cornerstone of our lives. Air conditioners, refrigerators, fluorescent tubes, incandescent bulbs and dryers are the major parts to look out for. Be sensible in choosing energy efficient choices for each of these fixtures and appliances. These are a few steps you can take to reduce the overall energy consumption and carbon footprint of your appliances.



photography WONG WEI LIANG



ENERGY STAR®

By far the easiest way to determine the energy consumption of an appliance, anything with an ENERGY STAR® label is a mark of high efficiency. To earn the qualification, the manufacturer's appliances are put through various rigorous and stringent tests to meet strict performance guidelines. These series of tests ensures that the appliance is energy saving, yet uncompromising on performance. Often times, ENERGY STAR® certified appliances are up to 30% more efficient than their conventional counterparts. So, the next time you are looking for an appliance upgrade, check for the ENERGY STAR® logo, which is usually presented on the appliance's body work or on the packaging.



photos SHARP



ECO MODE

With increased importance placed on going green, manufacturers have raced to imbue their products with many eco friendly features. It pays to check the product details online, or request brochures which highlight some of these features.

For lighting, take the jump from conventional fluorescent to the increasingly ubiquitous LED. Despite the higher initial cost, LEDs, with their long lifespan and significantly lower power consumption will be a worthy investment for any homeowner. Going eco with LEDs can also be extremely fashionable as showcased by the Ghost



and Concrete Up Light series by SIMES, which uses LEDs for indirect outdoor lighting that creates an industrial, yet luxurious ambiance.

Look for variations of 'eco mode' on certain washing machines, air conditioners, ovens, or dryers which dial back energy consumption while utilising intelligent programming and technology to bring about the same performance. It pays to cross shop and do your due diligence before purchasing an appliance you have to live with for years to come.



LEFT
Ghost by
SIMES.

ABOVE
Cementi
by SIMES.
Available at
Lightcraft.



JUST RIGHT

'The bigger they are, the harder they fall' and that applies to appliances as well; the bigger they are, the more energy they consume. Make it a priority to consider the size your family and the requirements of the general household. A small family of three might only require an equivalently-sized washer, dryer and refrigerator for example. This is important as you want to make sure your family uses just the right amount of energy without being excessively wasteful. Our market is ripe with choices, so make sure you pick the right one.





photos LG



IN WITH THE NEW

There is no easy way of doing this, but if your decades-old fridge is giving you the warm shoulder while still guzzling electricity, it is time to let it move on to greener pastures. Green Technology evolves dramatically year on year, and the easiest way to embrace eco-friendliness is to upgrade to the latest and greatest to reap the full benefits of it. Innovations like Bosch's EcoSilence Drive™, featured in their latest i-DOS washers, are a good example. The machine's state of the art, unique brushless design minimises heat and wear. As a result, it not only makes the washer more powerful and durable, but also extremely energy efficient with a certified Class A rating.

That said you do need to pay caution when disposing of your old appliances. Check with your district or state directory for recycling centres or professional disposal services that can process e-waste safely so as to not add to the redundant waste dumps that deteriorate the state of the environment.

ABOVE
The inverter V technology in LG's air conditioners ensures maximum performance with less energy consumption.

BELOW
Bosch iDOS washing machine with EcoSilence Drive™



USE LESS, PAY LESS

Often times, even unconscious actions can lead to increased energy consumption. Ask yourself how many times you have opened the fridge door only to stare blankly at its contents for a few minutes. It's a small action, but one that makes the compressor work harder to push out the warm air seeping in; repeat daily and it will account for up to 7% of your home's energy consumption. The same goes with other appliances like the air conditioner and washer. The general rule of thumb is to think twice before using an appliance, whether you really need it, because the more you do, the more you cut down on unnecessary electrical wastage.





photos PANASONIC



MAINTENANCE IS KEY

You might come home happy with the purchase of an ENERGY STAR rated appliance, but leave it be for years without maintenance and it will stop working to its fullest efficiency potential. It's important to do an annual check up of each of your appliances and read through the owner's manual to look up the recommended maintenance period. Special attention should be paid to appliances like washers and refrigerators, as these are used the most on a daily basis, so more frequent maintenance is required.



photos SAMSUNG

RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVE

With Malaysia's suitably tropical climate, you can go the extra mile by installing solar panels on the roof of your home to supplant the electrical needs of your household. Do note that this is not for the faint of heart, as the initial investment in the solar arrays can be too high for most. However, if you do decide to take the dive, it will be an investment that pays back in the long run with annual energy savings in the thousands. Do look out for additional incentives provided by local governments or municipal authorities regarding switching to solar energy, which might help make the investment more palatable. ●



CURATED DESIGNS



These designers and shop owners are purveyors of handcrafted products with distinct cultural influences, available through carefully curated shops and websites that set to inspire homeowners.



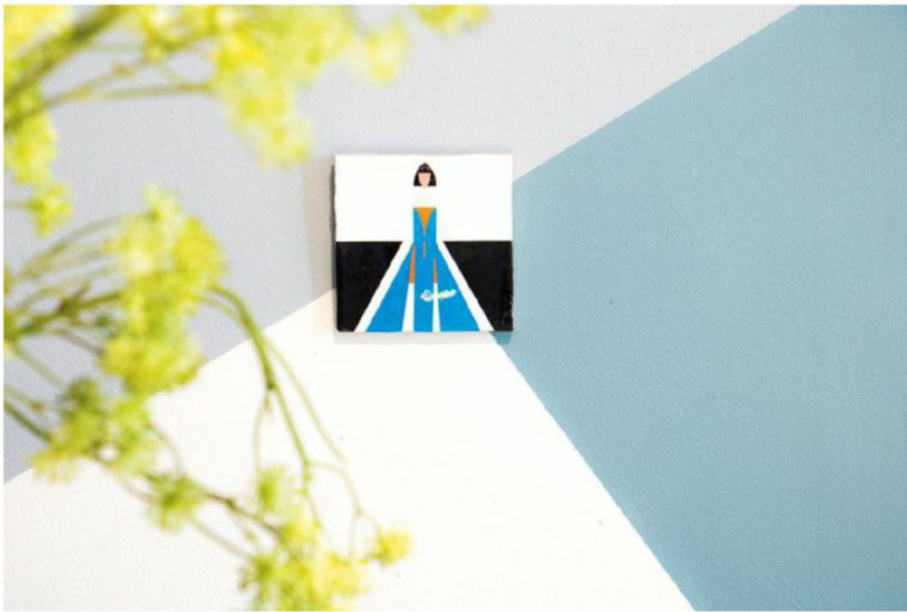
FOUNDERS: MARGA VAN OERS AND JUDITH BEEK

The Dutch traditionally collect tiles with beautiful illustrations on them. Amsterdam-based StoryTiles produces handmade ceramic tiles which come in varying designs and sizes. These range from mini, small, to medium, which is the size equivalent to the original Dutch Tile of the Netherlands. Each piece of the StoryTiles Artist Collaboration Collection reflects a different story, sense of humour, wit, and whimsical design style, from watercolour to paper cuttings. These are the works of Marga Van Oers and other Dutch artists including Piet Paris, Chris Van Eeden, Lieselot Moed, and Geertje Aalders. StoryTiles, too, has a story of its own; it all began when Marga received a box filled with Old Dutch tiles from her grandmother.

LEFT
Sky High and
The Sky Is A
Limit from the
Blurred Lines
Collection.

RIGHT
Who's the
Boss of
the Artist
Collaboration
Collection,
designed by
Lieselot Moed.





"The special thing about StoryTiles are the memories that are recalled while looking at the StoryTiles. Everybody recognises their own story in the miniature art work," says Marga Van Oers, founder of StoryTiles.

TYPES OF TILES:

Perfect as housewarming gifts, there are several types of tiles for you to choose from, including StoryTiles, Mini Tiles, Tableaux, and the new Bath&Kitchen tiles, a wide range of solid-coloured tiles.

"It makes people happy. The little jokes incorporated into the tiles always put a smile on your face. That's fantastic!" says Judith Beek, founder of Story Tiles.

Marga's favourite: "I have a special place for my very first design, named Walking the Goat. The story is about Klauzinus, a goat with a typical Dutch name who refuses to walk beside a boy. It makes me laugh every time I look at this tile which has a place in my home, thinking about the goat doing only the things he wants to do."

COLLECTIONS:

The Artist Collaboration Collection, Old Dutch Collection, Modern Collection (The Search, The Diving Spectacle and Just Like You), Museum Collection (Rijksmuseum Collection Van Gogh Collection) and The Spring 2017 Collection. You can also personalise your StoryTiles by adding your name to it.

"It's all about making your own interior story. You can start an interior tile project with your very own mix of StoryTiles designs and combine them with the new Bath&Kitchen tiles," says Marga.

SHOPPING TIP:

If you're not sure your friends and family will like the tiles as gifts, you can also opt for artwork etched onto sustainable birch wood under the StoryWood tab. Once you've chosen your gift, don't forget to add a finishing touch by choosing one of their StoryCards to go with the item!

BE INSPIRED:

You can decorate your home with these unique tiles in more ways than one. These tiles can be featured on your wall, arranged according to your preference.

StoryTiles ships worldwide. Now you can practice the Dutch tradition of owning or gifting personalised tiles to your loved ones.

TOP
The Show Stopper
by Piet Paris,
from the Artist
Collaboration
Collection.

BOTTOM
In the Wild, A
Day at the Pool,
Romance at
sunset by Chris
van Eeden,
from the Artist
Collaboration
Collection.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.STORYTILES.
NL/EN



FOUNDER: KELLIE SHEARWOOD

HER STORY:

Australian-born Kellie Shearwood developed her passion for travelling and learning about the different cultures through family trips within Australia and overseas. She first discovered the wonders of Africa early in her travel career, when she took time off to spend six months travelling from Nigeria to Zimbabwe. Her final travel job was as a Product Manager for a luxury tour operator, Abercrombie & Kent. She describes it as the highlight of her career. "I experienced stays at some of Africa's most incredible safari lodges," says Kellie, who developed a strong appreciation for African interior design, art, and crafts after. After 16 years in the travel industry, Kellie eventually established her business, Safari Fusion in 2009. She has since been working full-time to bring contemporary and colourful African crafts to both fellow Australians and to the world. "After all these years, I am still amazed and excited when I unpack a box of new crafts for the very first time," says Kellie, who also adds, "Craft is a way of life for many Africans. It enables them to earn a living and support their family."

TOP LEFT
Totem Basket
and Bamileke
Feather
Headdresses.

TOP RIGHT
Tikar Bangle.

BELOW
Mogwane
Walking Stick



TOP
Swazi Basket.

BELOW
LEFT AND
RIGHT
Swazi Vessel.

Ethiopian
Coptic Cross.



THESE ARE KELLIE'S FAVOURITES.

1. Bamileke Feather Headdress

"This is our signature piece, and was one of the first things I sourced when starting Safari Fusion. I discovered them on my travels in safari lodges and wanted one for my own home. I love the texture of the features, and the colours are so vibrant."

2. Swazi Vessel & Swazi Basket

"The skill and talent of Swaziland's women weavers is just amazing! The baskets they create are mixed media art pieces, geometric designs created from reclaimed waste fabric, dyed lutindzi grass, and sisal fibres."

3. Mogwane Walking Stick

"These decorative walking sticks are carved for us by Petrus, a gifted woodcrafter residing in South Africa's rural Limpopo region. I am very proud to say we were his first international customers."

4. Ethiopian Coptic Cross

"I have been collecting these crosses on my Africa travels, and introduced them to our store a couple of years ago. They are really popular at the moment; as soon as a shipment arrives; they are out the door to their new homes."

5. Tikar Bangle

"Another favourite piece from my own collection! I would buy one in a new colour on each trip. They are a great conversation piece as the doughnut shape always catches the eye."

Collections: Woven & Stitched, featuring traditional weaving techniques passed on from one generation to the other. Look out for vessels, urns, trinket boxes, Tripoliona chairs, Totem baskets, Mogwane walking sticks and more!

- Safari-esque, inspired by Safaris in Africa. You can find stools, maps, headdress, fertility dolls, quirky animal figurines with glass beads, Nguni wire heads and many more.

- Cape Eclectic, inspired by eclectic styling and collectors. This collection features handcrafted homeware and other crafts including Wired Lace platters, Langazela cushions, crochet cacti and many more.

Decorating tips from the founder: "Select pieces that speak to you, whether it is the colour, shape, design, or the texture of the piece. Start small with pieces like a Tikar Bangle or Ethiopian Coptic Cross, and group them with two or four of your own pieces to create a vignette on a table or shelf. If you are looking for a statement wall piece, then start with a Bamileke Feather Headdress. Mount it over a fireplace, over your bed, or create a grouping with three or five headdresses in various sizes and colours."

Be Inspired: Each collection has its own lookbook. Be sure to check them out on the Safari Fusion website! Also look out for the "Safari Inspirations" tab where the products sold are categorised based on types.

VISIT WWW.SAFARIFUSION.COM.AU
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? ADD
ITEMS INTO YOUR SAFARI TRUNK TODAY

"I love the look of this traditional safari style, but when you travel through Africa, you appreciate that Africans have a love of colour and geometric design," says Kellie. The Bamileke Feather Headdress is one of the first few things she sourced when she first started Safari Fusion. It is also currently one of her best-sellers to date.



FOUNDERS: PRODUCT DESIGNERS AND CURATORS TAIWANESE BORN SHARON JO-YUN HUNG, AND BRITISH-JAPANESE CHRIS YOSHIRO GREEN.

THEIR STORY

"Our original concept was to curate craft-based products from all across the world. Sourcing products personally and locally from the point of origin was crucial, but the Japan-Taiwan speciality had not come (to the UK) about yet," says Chris, who met Sharon during their foundation degrees at Chelsea College of Art. Thereafter, they coincidentally continued their studies together at Central Saint Martins in Product Design.

The duo's last projects at Central Saint Martins, involving the Taiwanese aboriginal culture and wooden tableware for restaurants led to their serendipitous collaboration. It quite possibly also partly defined what Native & Co is about today. It was during this time spent living with the native tribes of Taiwan that Sharon and Chris managed to learn about the tribes' craft specialties, textile weaving, and woodcarving.

Soon after the project, the keen observers realised there was an absence of Taiwanese craft and design outside the country of origin. This inspired them to introduce exclusively sourced and well-curated homeware products for the UK. These are traditional crafts from Taiwan and Japan

which are also redesigned to suit contemporary lifestyles. Each product in Native & Co is carefully chosen based on aesthetics and the way it is made. Sharon and Chris's aim is also to make each product available in two price ranges.

"We work with very small and often family-run businesses that specialise in one particular product in Taiwan. Be that leather ware, canvas ware, or bamboo woodworking, they are experts in their field. We spend most of our time going door-to-door and town-to-town to build relationships with the makers. Whereas in Japan, the humble makers are more familiar with foreign trading and are more approachable. Japan is much more organised for product sourcing and is simpler to work with," says Chris.

"Native & Co has stuck as our name because we believe it is important for us to be a London-based shop first, and not a Japanese shop that happens to be in London. It is essential for us to be both approachable and relatable without being intimidatingly exotic and oriental," explains Chris. Native & Co became the only shop in London/UK to specialise in both Japanese and Taiwanese products.



TOP
Oak Serving tray, Iga Ceramic tea cup, Bicycle bells, Whale knife (Sperm Whale), Whale knife (Rorqual Whale), and other products including Alumite kettle.

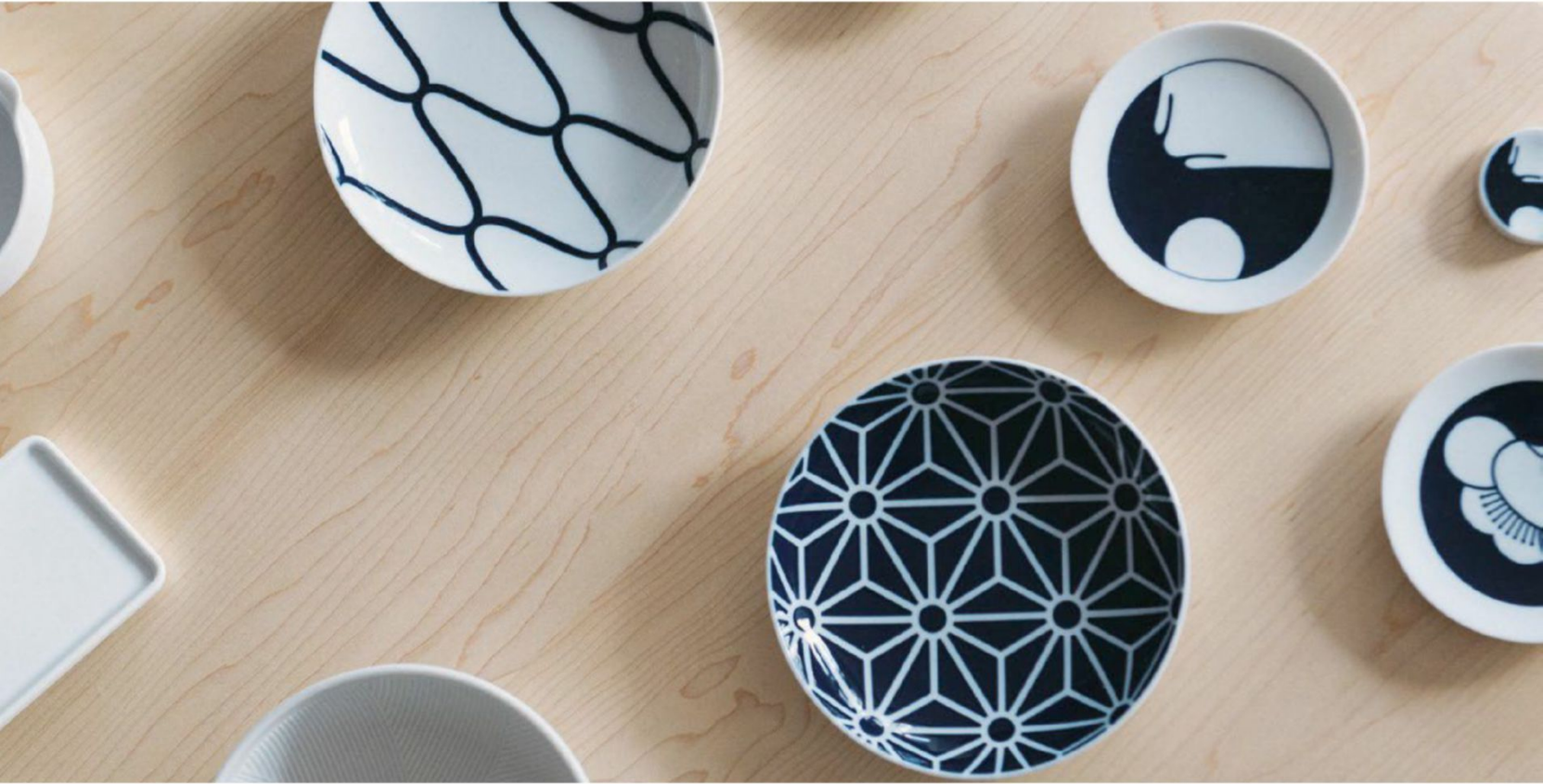
BELOW PICTURED FROM RIGHT
Lacquered Maple bowl (M), Lacquered Maple bowl with plate, Harimi Dustpan Black

Ceramic teapot with side handle (Round), and more from the Winter Collection 2015-2016.

RIGHT
Handbound using Japanese Hemp Palm Shuru and sewn together with copper wire and linen thread, this sturdy and durable indoor Japanese Palm broom with handle gently changes shape over time.



“Japanese and Taiwanese tableware are designed and made with purity in mind. The materials are used in an honest and natural fashion,” says Chris Yoshiro Green.



WHAT NATIVE & CO IS ABOUT:

The carefully curated lifestyle products here stay true to their native origins, namely Japan and Taiwan. The duo source for hard-to-find, handcrafted products ranging from tableware and kitchenware to textiles and accessories from small suppliers and local craftsmen. Each piece celebrates the natural beauty of raw materials and their distinct, simple, quiet, and pure designs which are discrete in nature, with plenty of subtle details and well thought-out touches. The collections available range from dining, kitchen and bathroom accessories like bath ladles and more, to cushions and throws, to bags and stationery, all of which are designed to complement an interior without dominating it. The well-

curated shop is given a personal touch by its founders. They have seen to every aspect of Native & Co, from graphic design and photography to the shop's interiors. Chris has also personally crafted pieces of furniture for the shop.

DECORATING TIPS:

“We like homeware pieces which are simple and pure which blend in with the rest of your interiors, so our tip is to not go for anything too bold, as these tend to attract too much attention and can make your interior unbalanced. Keep it simple and pure so it will blend in and last a lifetime,” says Chris.



Visit www.nativeandco.com for more information.

ABOVE
Latest Collection:
Arita Porcelain
Collection. This
stackable collection
includes a sesame
mortar with
pestle and lid, a
ginger grater, a
lemon squeezer,
a ladle stand, and
multi-functional
canisters which
help to keep your
kitchen tidy. There
is also a range of
ceramic tableware
featuring traditional
Japanese motifs
under this
collection. Using
a 400-year-old
porcelain-crafting
technique, the
design of this
collection is best
described as
contemporary.



"These traditional techniques are labor intensive and require highly-skilled hands. They cannot be acquired from school or workshops; rather, they are passed down from one generation to the other within a family," says Leah Singh.



FOUNDER: LEAH SINGH

HER STORY:

Leah Singh has two homes. She was born and raised in Delhi, India, but moved to Parsons, New York, where her father's family lived to further her studies in Industrial Design. Leah moved back to Delhi where she was exposed to many design histories and current design trends that inspired her to establish her own brand. The brand reflects who she is and the experiences she has gained. She tries to incorporate her learnings and the things she's seen. Today, Leah works with artisans to produce textiles made using traditional techniques including embroidery, weaving, and printing,

which she describes as "unique and rare with a rich history in them." She strives to keep the dying crafts and techniques alive by creating a new market and appreciation for them. She does this by incorporating these textiles into her beautiful creations, namely home products and clutches, and introducing them to the United States. Leah spends her summer and winter breaks in New York. She loves the energy, diversity, art, and design there.



For more information, visit www.leahsingh.com/

DISCOVERY:

"When I went visiting craft flea markets, I found these beautiful products made using traditional techniques, but they were typically ethnic, and the colours and designs felt outdated. I felt that there was a huge potential to use these techniques to create modern objects by changing the designs, colours, and the product categories," says the designer. The designs on the textiles are also significant to the culture in India.

LEAH'S FAVOURITES:

1. "I love the retro, surf feel of the Bar Technicolour pillow." Leah says.
2. The light airy pattern and colours of the Gramercy Multi Rug reminds me of summer.
3. The Palm Springs Emerald pillow is another of Leah's favourites. She points to the colour combination and the simple abstraction of the leaf pattern.

What's next, Leah? "I am currently exploring non-textile traditional crafts and techniques (stone and metal work) in India, and hope to add those to the line in 2017. You can expect bedding and table-top items from textiles to hard goods soon.

Stay tuned and look out for more on our blog. ●





Expert series
with
**CHEF
FANNY GOH**
part 6 of 6



PROFILE

A Chef Instructor at Cilantro Culinary Academy, Chef Fanny draws inspiration from popular chefs like Anna Olson and Jamie Oliver, whose culinary skills lie in comfort cuisine with a twist of the unexpected. She's a specialist in Hot Cooking for Western, Chinese, and Asian cuisine. Passionate about her work and about sharing her knowledge of the culinary world, she's popular amongst her students at Cilantro, with whom she happily navigates the wonders of cuisine.



SEAFOOD BISQUE

Of French origin, bisque refers to highly-seasoned seafood soup, made with the shells of crustaceans, which are packed with robust flavour. In general, bisque is the solution for shellfish that is not of a good enough quality for selling, and is made by cooking this shellfish twice; once, by sautéing to deepen the flavours, and then once more by simmering with aromatics and wine.

While many modern chefs have come to refer to soups utilising fruit, vegetables, or fungi as bisque, it is incorrectly done; a traditional bisque must contain seafood, whether prawn, lobster, crayfish, or crab.

Locally, many of us have come into contact with some version or another of bisque, most commonly the much-beloved Hokkien prawn noodles sold in hawker centres nationwide.

Traditionally, the stock is a combination of pork bones and prawn shells, which are simmered over several hours, and then blended and strained for that thick, delicious consistency we know and love.

Because there's nothing more comforting than a bowl of soul-food (or bisque) on rainy days, Chef Fanny recommends this recipe for cold weather. It's fairly easy to make, and can be prepared in thirty minutes with proper prep and all the ingredients laid out for accessibility.

Chef Fanny's recipe includes mussels, prawns, and squid for texture and flavour, while some tomato paste provides a tangy and zesty aftertaste to the soup once it is done cooking. Spices and white wine give it a distinct flavour, perfect for warming up with after a long, cold day!



ASK THE CHEF

Q: What kind of mark are you hoping to leave in our culinary industry as a chef?

A: I hope that the students I've taught will be outstanding, and be able to deliver using the skills they've honed at Cilantro. It's also important to me that they will be useful, adaptable, and competitive as chefs in the industry.



Ingredients

FOR SEAFOOD BISQUE

- 250g prawn shells and heads, rinsed
- 50g butter
- 50g onion, sliced
- 50g tomato paste
- 20g flour
- 1 litre water
- 75ml white wine
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- 1/3 tsp paprika
- 200ml cream

FOR SEAFOOD TOPPING

- 100g prawns, cubed
- 100g squid, cut into rings
- 6 New Zealand green shelled mussels, removed from shells
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 15ml olive oil
- 15g garlic, minced
- 20ml white wine

Method

1. Sauté prawn shells and heads in butter until fragrant. Add onion and continue to sauté.
2. Add tomato paste and stir to combine, then toss in flour to thicken.
3. Add water and wine and bring to a simmer. Cook for thirty minutes, then season with salt, pepper, and paprika.
4. Strain the bisque through a fine-meshed sieve to remove prawn shells.
5. Prepare seafood topping while the bisque is simmering. Lightly marinate prawn cubes, squid, and mussels with salt and pepper.
6. Sauté garlic in olive oil until fragrant and golden brown. Add in marinated seafood and continue to sauté.
7. Flambe with white wine, then cook for a minute or two.
8. Serve bisque drizzled with cream, topped with sautéed seafood.



CLEANING SEAFOOD

1. These days, fresh seafood is readily available in upscale grocery stores, but it's still important to clean them properly before the cooking process. If your shellfish comes in neat little packs, check the label to see if they have already been washed and are ready-to-cook, then have at it!
2. To make bisque, your prawns need to be shelled. Give the shells and heads a quick rinse with cold water before using, to remove any foreign impurities. Devein your prawns by gently tugging the black threads along their backs out, using the tip of a small paring knife to nudge it out if necessary.
3. Squids are covered in thin, sometimes purple-tinted film. Check to see if your squids have already been skinned. To skin your squid, lay it down on a cutting board and slice down its back with a sharp knife. Gently nudge the skin up with your fingertips and peel it off. If you're careful, it will come off in large, neat pieces! When washing the squid tentacles, be careful with the ink sac, as bursting it carelessly can ruin some clothing and kitchen linens. Wash off with water.
4. Most of the mussels that are available in the marketplace today have already been checked and cleaned, but you'll want to give the shells a quick once-over if you're serving your mussels in them. Use a toothbrush to give them a quick clean.
5. This recipe calls for straining the shells out after simmering, but some other recipes call to blend the shells to a fine paste to add texture and flavour to the bisque. Experiment with them to find the texture and flavour you like! ●

Traditionally, the stock is a combination of pork bones and prawn shells, which are simmered over several hours, and then blended and strained for that thick, delicious consistency we know and love.



It's a wash

GIVE YOUR LAUNDRY THE CARE IT DESERVES. FROM DELICATES, TO CLOTHING, TO BEDDING, AND TO FABRIC ACCESSORIES, MAKE SURE YOUR BELONGINGS GET THE RIGHT WASH!

Those who spend hours cooking at home understand the need for perfectly clean towels and linens, especially in the kitchen. Whether dishcloth, cheesecloth, tablecloth, or cleaning rag, a clean kitchen towel is one that contributes to healthy kitchen practices. And when there are far too many to wash by hand, one can only turn to the trusty washing machine and hope it does its job.

Electrolux's UltimateCare™ front load washers feature an UltraMix™ system, which premixes detergent and water to deliver a deeper clean, and 31% less colour fading after 52 washes. With this machine, you'll be able to do a load with 75% less energy, and 44% reduced washing time, so you can keep your kitchen linens clean, and in tip-top condition for longer.

Away from the kitchen, and for

delicate clothing like wools and knits, Electrolux's washers and washer dryers stand up to the task with equal fervour. Members of the premium Woolmark Apparel Care program, the washers and washer dryers carry the Woolmark Apparel Care logo, and have been tested to demonstrate that they do not shrink wool products in wash cycles. This means you can do your laundry without worrying about coming up with a ball of unravelled wool after!

These machines include a Jetspray Wash System, which increases water circulation around your laundry for the perfect results each time. A Leaf Lifter and Lily Drum both come together to ensure gentle tumbling, as well as a cleaner wash and aftercare for delicate clothing. Worry-free laundry is no longer a dream.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.ELECTROLUX.COM.MY



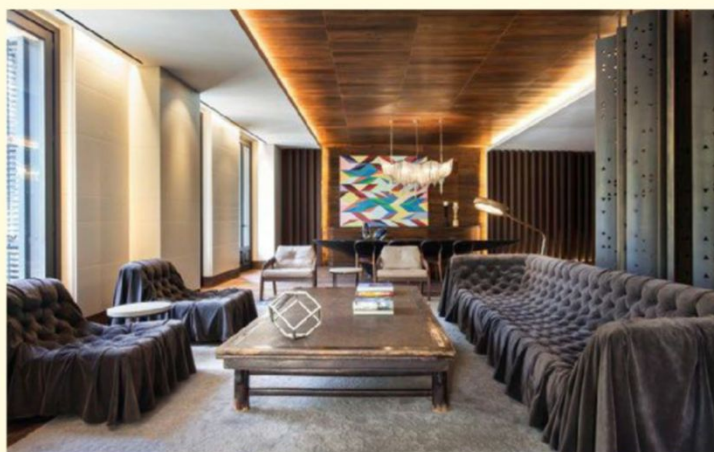
ABOVE
The living space serves as a familial retreat as well as entertainment hub, where rich wood tones blended with bespoke brass screens form an Afro-contemporary backdrop to luxurious furnishings.

OPPOSITE
The open-plan living and dining areas seamlessly connect the communal spaces. The owner's strategically placed art pieces add a strong sense of personality.



WORLD VIEW

In a distinct nod to globalism, this Barcelona apartment artfully melds contemporary African influences with its bustling Spanish surrounds.



In a stylish avenue known as Passeig de Gracia in Barcelona, Spain, the look is luxurious and the architecture, arresting. In one of its buildings, this expansive second floor apartment that looks out to Gaudi's iconic Casa Mila perfectly mirrors that vibe. Its interiors are a fluid expression of rich earthy tones and distinctive lines, conveying a picture of understated luxury.

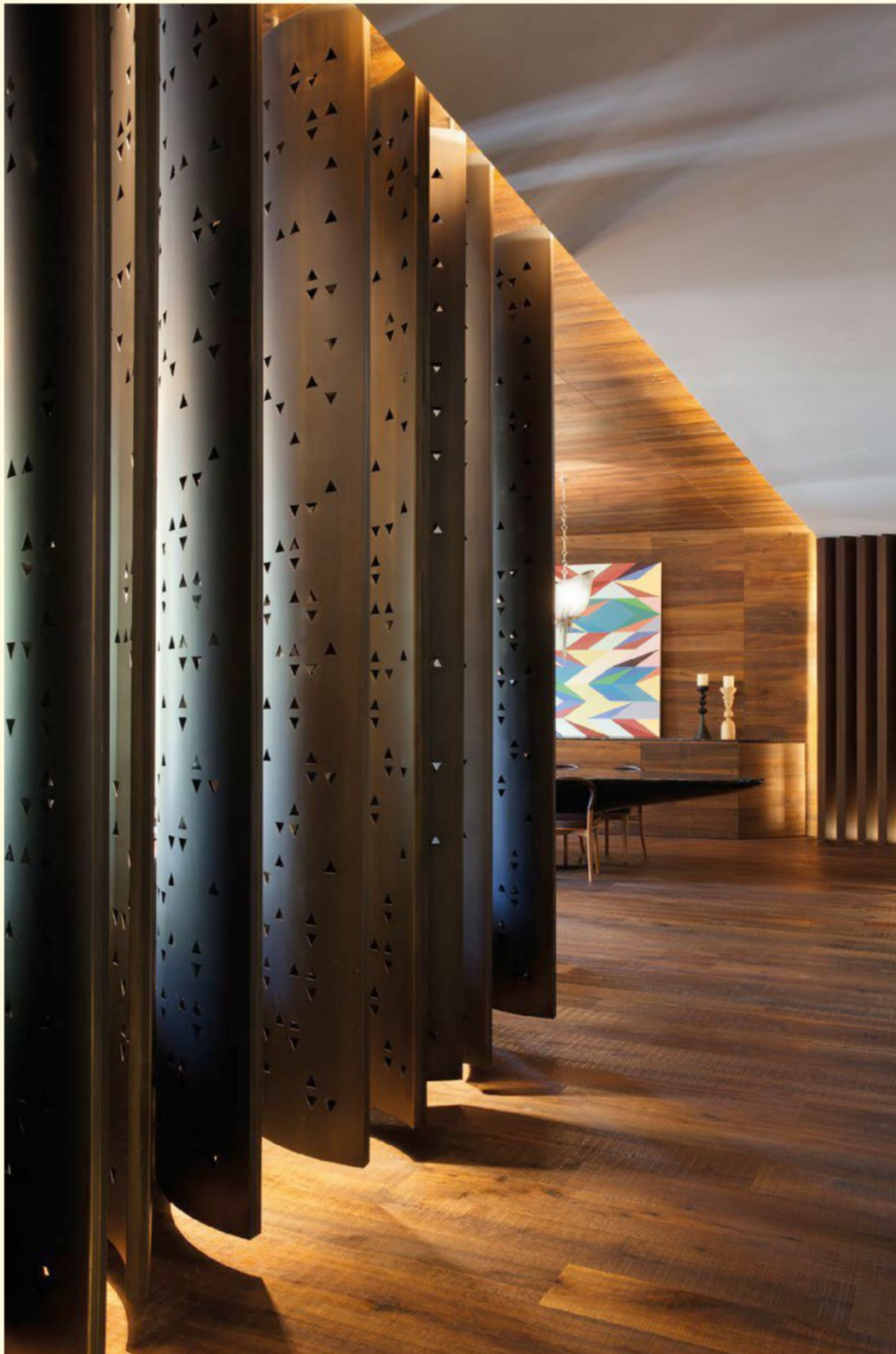
While the exteriors are authentically Barcelonian, the interiors hold hints of the owner's West African origins. "The apartment has a feel that combines contemporary designs with a blend of African influences" says Mark Rielly, ARRCC partner and the

project leader who oversaw the apartment's design. The entrance area features unique brass screens with triangular perforated cut-outs inspired by African beading, while a tropical-themed timber ceiling feature flows dramatically across the living and dining areas to visually marry the large, open-plan space.

"Curated pieces of artwork from the owner's private collection introduce strong colours to the blend of raw wood, metallic, suede and high gloss surfaces," adds Mark, "to create a distinct global style." ➤

WHERE TO GO

ARRCC, www.arrcc.com



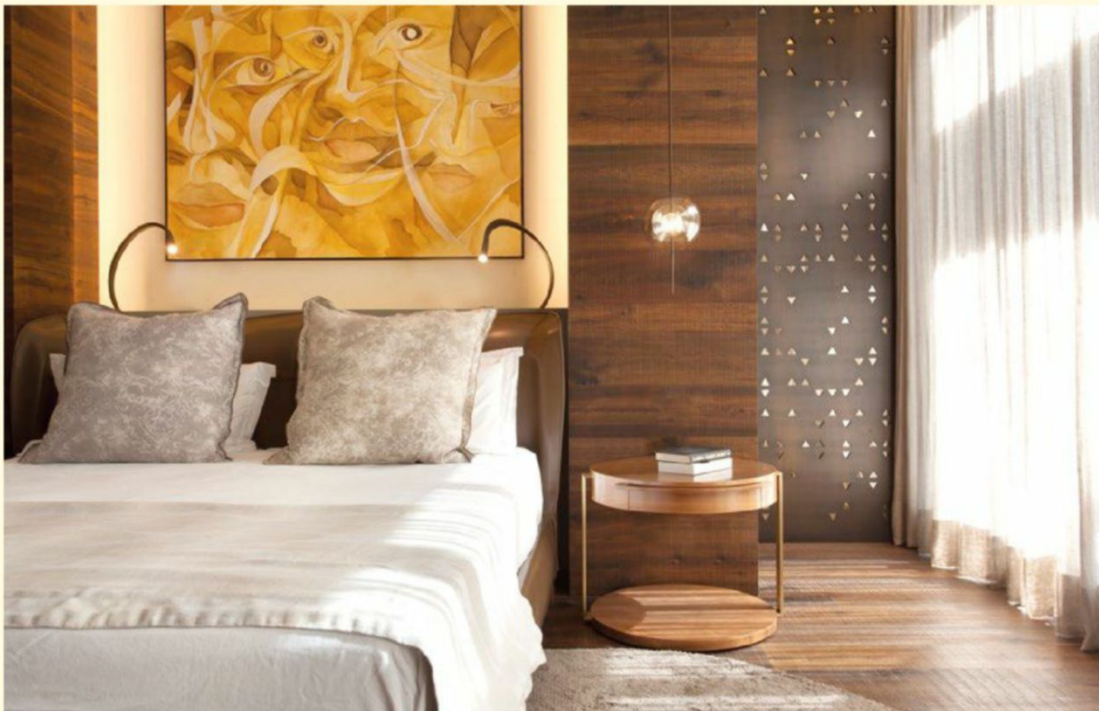
LEFT
 Separating the entrance and living spaces are a row of custom-made polished brass screens, designed with intricate triangular perforations inspired by African beadwork.

**[OPPOSITE]
 ABOVE**
 The organic form of the custom-made carbon fibre dining table is matched with the flowy jellyfish-inspired chandelier above. A vibrant painting above the sideboard injects energy into the space.

BELOW
 The main bedroom continues the refined and distinctly woody mood. Suede and leather textures are matched with soft cream window drapes and delicate bedside lights. ➤



An eclectic display of the owner's artworks creates unique conversation pieces throughout the home.





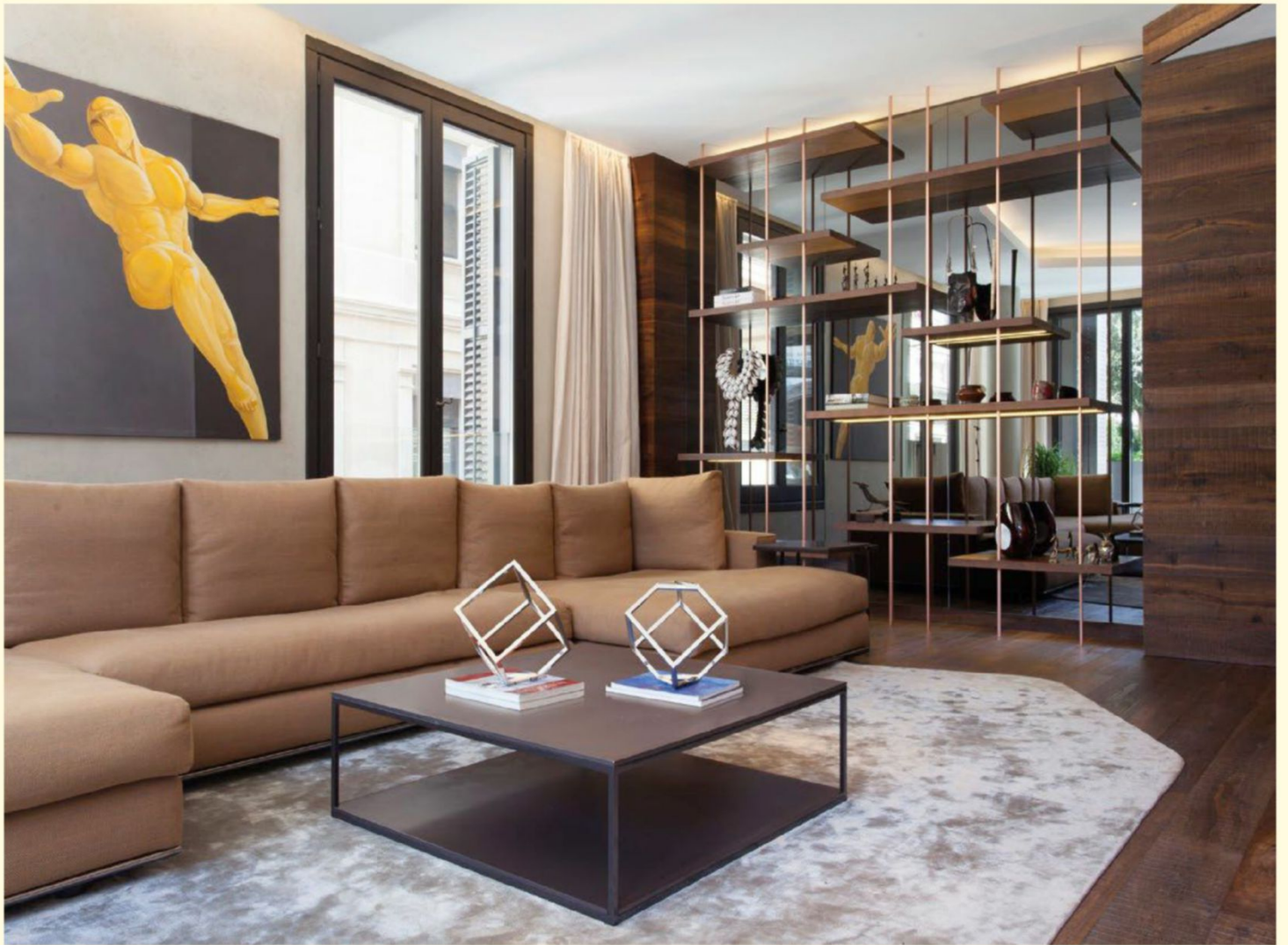
ABOVE
The apartment's French doors open out to the famous curves of Casa Milà by renowned architect Antoni Gaudí. Its fluid form is complemented with the sinuous wood sculpture nearby.

ABOVE RIGHT
The family lounge boasts plush chocolate-toned furnishings, a feature fire place and TV wall panel. It opens up to a large landscaped terrace garden beyond.

RIGHT
A double-height vertical garden wall creates a verdant setting – perfect for entertaining in the roof garden, while providing privacy from neighbours.

OPPOSITE
Mirror cladding behind open shelves in the TV lounge visually extend the space. Furniture and accessories are kept to a chic minimum so as not to detract from the clean lines and neutral tones. ●





VERDANT VISION

What ostensibly began as a project to create a simple family home has resulted in a glorious retreat which makes the best of an enviable location.

WHO

A multi-generational family

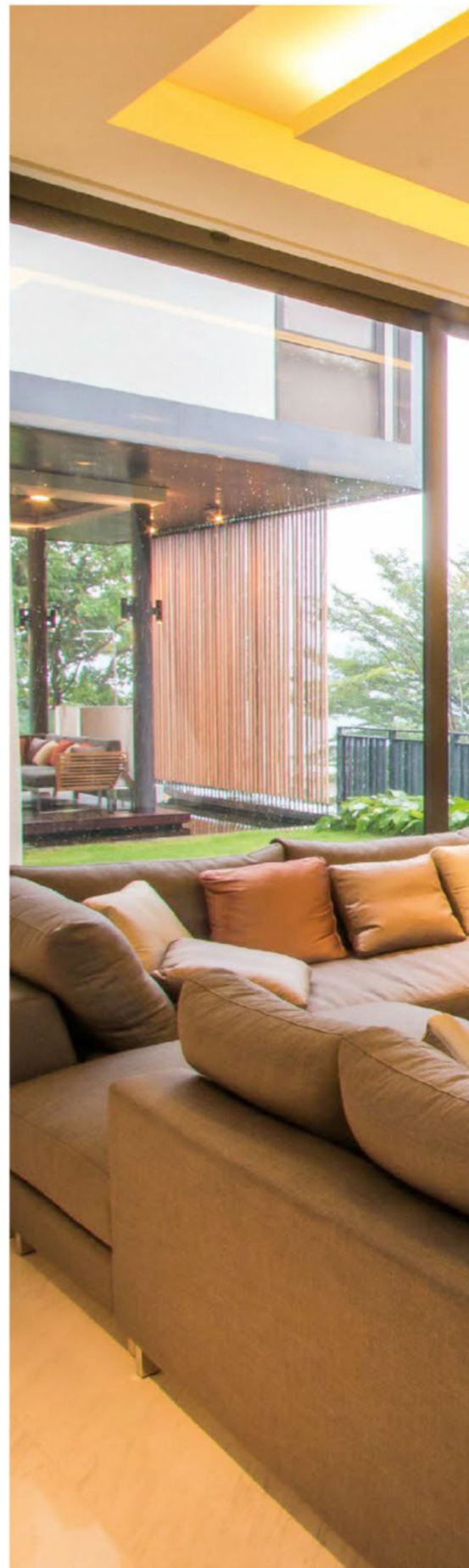
HOME

A bungalow in Country Heights

SIZE

13,000 sqf

RIGHT
Architect Melvyn Kanny convinced his clients to omit the need for curtains to retain the space's openness and to emphasise the connection to the external environment. ▶







In the Klang Valley, if you have the wherewithal and the right architect, it's still possible to live in a home amongst lush greenery, with the convenience of the city practically at your doorstep. Country Heights Damansara is a neighborhood offering the best of both worlds, and Melvyn Kanny, founder and principal of MJ Kanny Architect, was in the unique position to design not one, but two homes in this desirable neighbourhood. Events unfolded rather serendipitously; after Kanny finished a bungalow in the area, the results were so outstanding that the neighbour of his previous client approached him to work with them on their new house. He happily agreed to take on the project, being

well versed with the site. The project also gave him the opportunity to design the new house to complement his existing client's house, whilst respecting its privacy.

As Kanny was familiar with the terrain, he looked to the site to inspire the ultimate design of the house. Perched on top of a hill in Country Heights Damansara, the site commands an amazing view of the neighbouring undulating hills, glimpses of Mont Kiara and Desa Park City in the distance. Because of its lofty location, the immediate views are of the canopy of trees, and Melvyn capitalised on this by designing full height glass doors that can slide away, thus creating a feeling of being amongst the tree ►

ABOVE

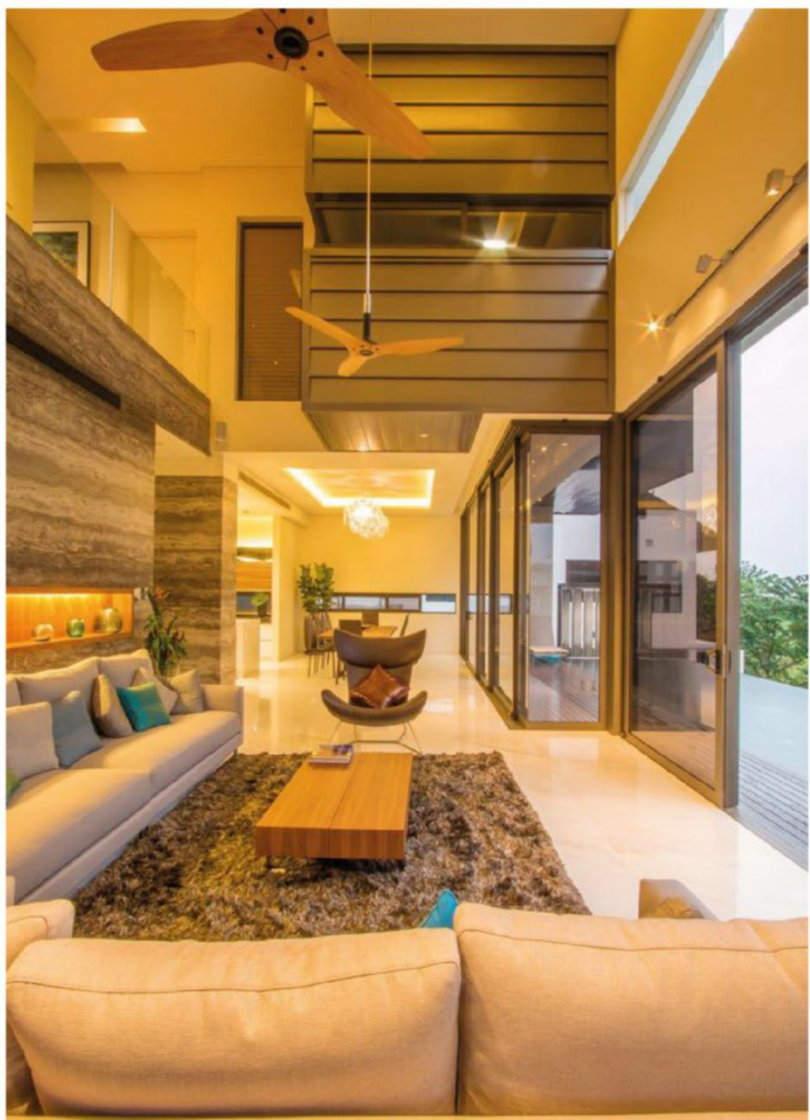
The focal point of the house is the lap pool that straddles the length of the living and dining room, with forested hills and the canopy of trees in the background.

OPPOSITE

The house sits on a hilltop, so the breeze flowing up the hill is cooled by the pool as it enters the space.

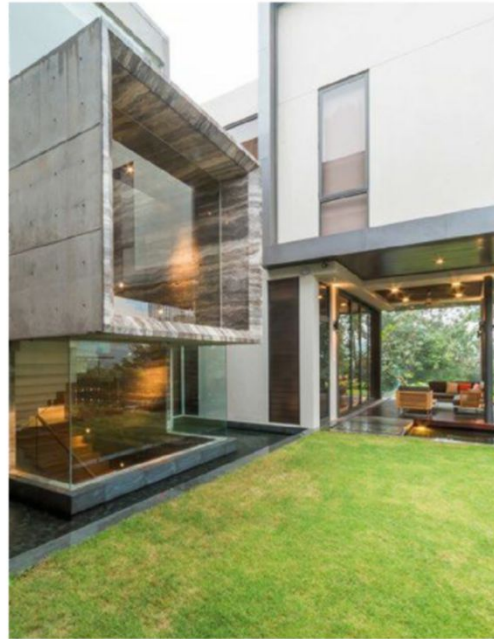
BELOW

To afford the homeowners a view of the surrounding canopy of trees, Kanny designed full height glass doors that can slide away.

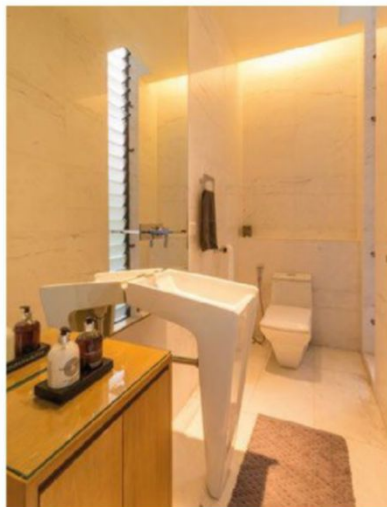




BELOW
AND LEFT
The owners
requested a
three-bedroom
house for
themselves, their
two teenage
children, and their
elderly parents.
To ensure the
parents' privacy
and ease of
access, Kanny
housed them on
the lower level,
complete with
their own kitchen,
living room, and
garden.



RIGHT
All measures
were taken to
blur out the
lines between
the outdoors
and the indoors,
as evident in this
bathroom, which
features stones
and greenery.





canopies! "This became the inspiration behind the overall concept, the capturing of views. Almost like a camera capturing certain views, a series of portals were created, focusing the views from a certain space and cutting off unwanted views or noise, for example, from the nearby NKVE highway. The natural slope of the site also inspired the building form, which steps down from the road level. These steps were subtly emphasised in the cascading roof form," says Melvyn. "A metal decked roof with a stepped profile was specifically designed to reflect the building stepped form and its natural surroundings. The metal cladding is wrapped around the walls to create privacy from the side neighbors, as well as offering some protection from the sun. The cladding also penetrated the interior spaces to create an illusion of seamless between the outdoors and indoors."

The owners' requirements were a three-bedroom house for themselves and their two teenage children, with enough room to accommodate their elderly parents who live with them. To ensure the parents had privacy, Melvyn

housed them on the lower level, complete with their own kitchen, living room, and garden. For interacting with the rest of the family, there is easy access to the upper levels through a centrally located lift near the upper living quarters, made possible by the sloping terrain.

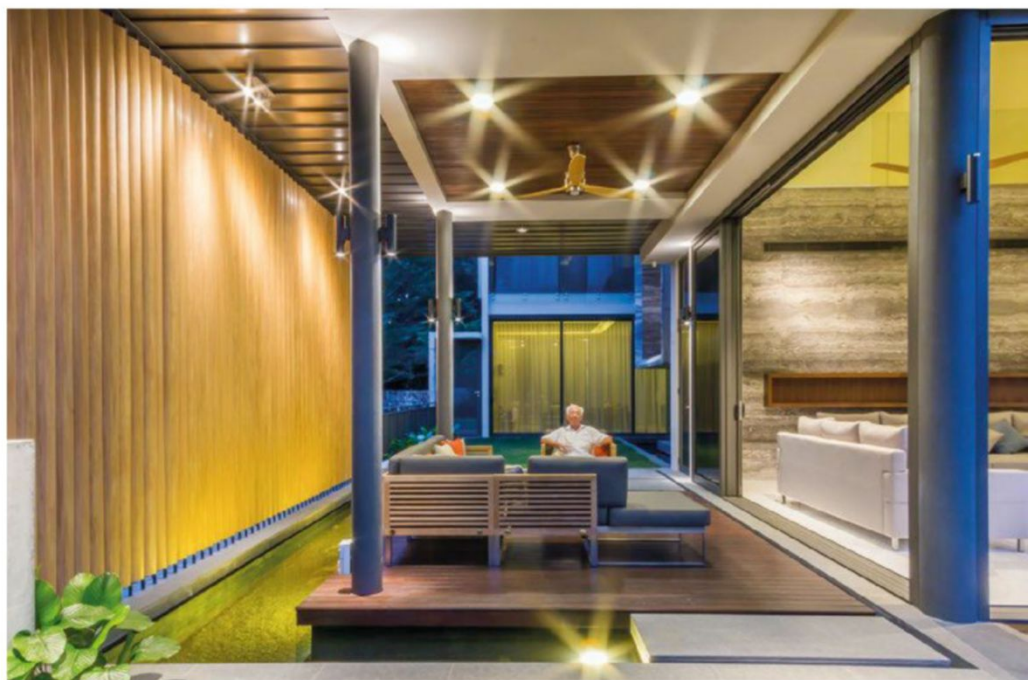
While the overall architecture of the house is deliberately understated to allow the lush surroundings to take the spotlight, the focal point of the house is the lap pool that straddles the length of the living and dining room with forested hills and the canopy of trees in the background. Because the house sits on a hilltop, the breeze flowing up the hill is cooled down by the pool as it enters the space, so large sliding door panels were created to allow this to happen, negating the need for frequent air-conditioning.

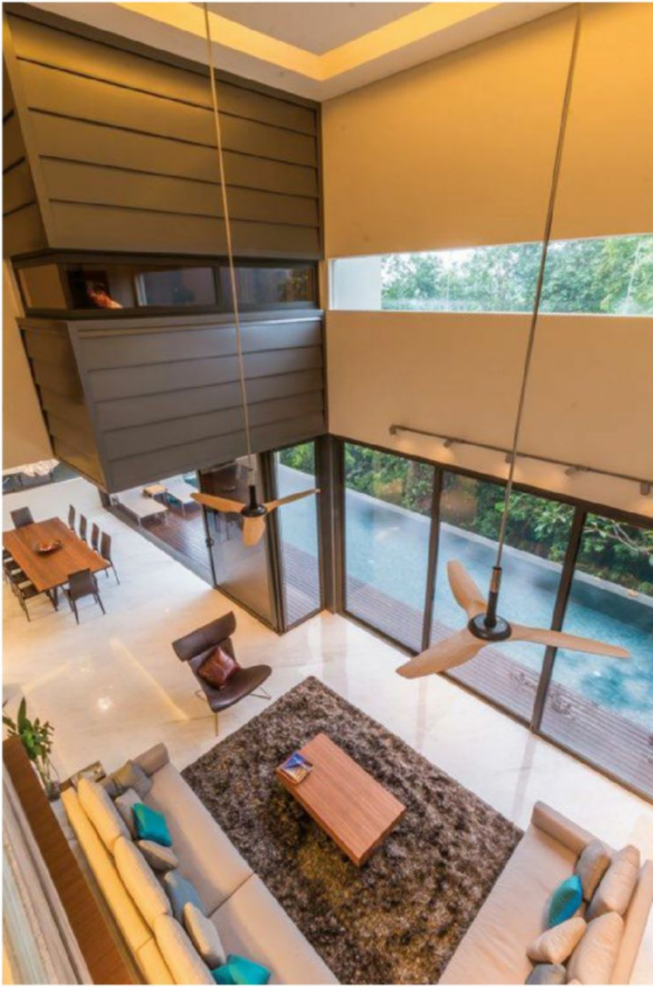
"All measures were taken to blur out the lines between the interior spaces to the pool and view beyond. Even though the dining room was facing the morning sun, I managed to convince my client to omit the need for curtains in order to keep the openness, and to emphasis the connection to the external environment," enthuses Melvyn. Now, the ample space of ►



ABOVE
The openness of the space brings light and ample breeze in through living and dining spaces, and the kitchen.

OPPOSITE PAGE
The owners did not specifically request a green house, but Kanny's design philosophy has always been to create houses that are sustainable. Many passive environmentally-friendly elements were incorporated, including a 'safari' styled roof, and water features that provide natural cooling.





the living room opens up to the dining room and kitchen, to allow free flow of breeze into the house, while the high double volume of the ceiling allows the air to flow up to the upper levels and be discharged through the windows of the upper floors.

The staircase was also given particular importance, as the vertical movement between the floors is celebrated with travertine-clad walls and a single piece of glass panel that blurs the building envelope with the garden below. The indoor living spaces flow seamlessly to the outdoor terrace and patios, which is where the owners spend most of their evenings enjoying the cool evening breeze and the twinkling of lights of the distant city.

Although the owners did not specifically request a green house, Kanny's design philosophy has always been to create houses that are environmentally sustainable, and as such, many passive environmentally-friendly elements were incorporated. The sun orientation and the accompanying heat is controlled by introducing a 'safari' styled roof. This is achieved by covering the flat concrete with a metal decked roof to create an umbrella effect. Sun-shade louvers were integrated with the facades and the roof to increase shade, while the western and eastern elevations are mostly clad in metal portals that create a second skin which keeps the sun from heating up the building.

The pool and water features that surround the living spaces act as a heat sink, also providing evaporative cooling by capturing the winds sweeping up the hill and cooling it down before it enters the house. Ample double volume spaces also encourage natural ventilation and discourage the use of air conditioning. Finally, the home is equipped with standard green features such as rainwater harvesting tanks, low voltage DC water-heaters, inverter air-conditioning units, and LED lighting. The end result is a livable and lovable home which surpasses the initial brief and is just as "green" as the picturesque tree canopy surrounding it. ●





OUT IN THE OPEN

The neutral palette used in this industrial-style terrace house produces a surprisingly bold look that is anything but dull.

WHO

A couple in their 40s, their mothers, and six-year-old son

HOME

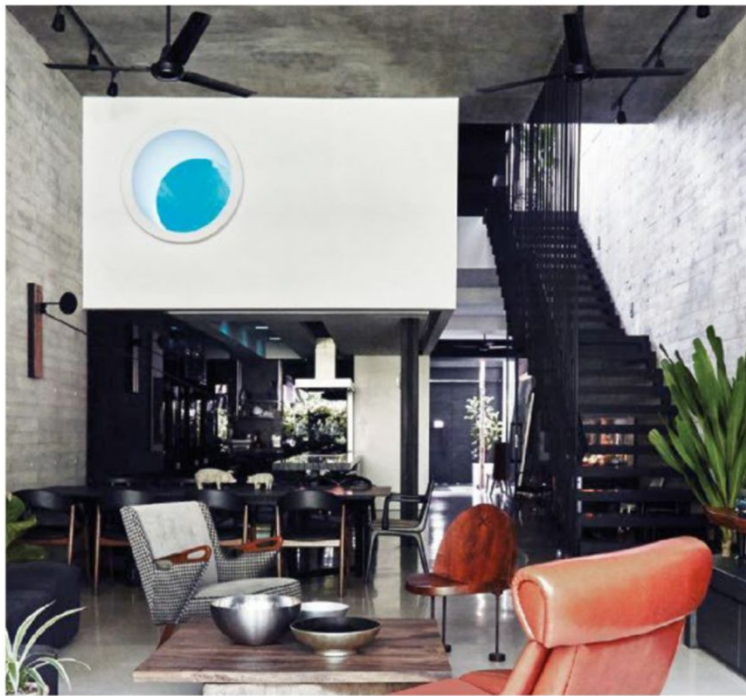
A three-and-a-half-storey intermediate terrace

SIZE

2,260sqf (land),
4,800sqf (built-up)

LEFT
The concrete screed ceiling and timber board-formed concrete walls, paired with the epoxy terrazzo flooring on the first level, create the perfect backdrop for displaying designer furniture pieces such as the B&B Italia sofa from Space Furniture. ➤

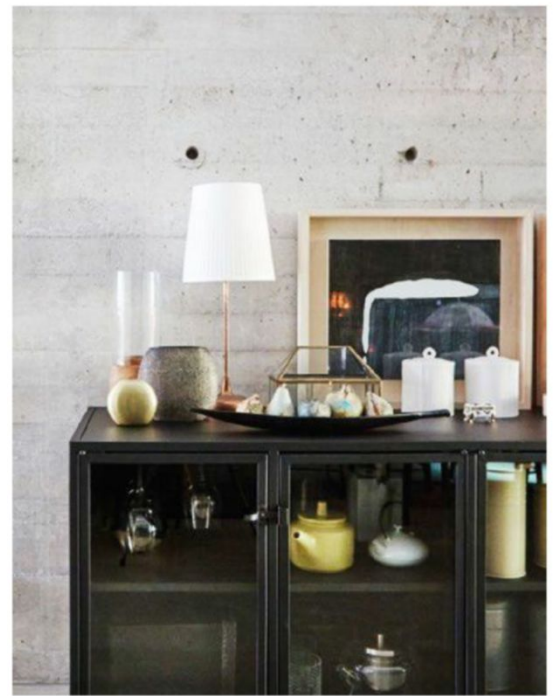




OPPOSITE
Gwen customised a matte black tabletop for her dining table, using EDL's Fenix NTM (which is fingerprint-, scratch-, water- and mould-resistant). The Counterbalance wall light by Luceplan was purchased during the couple's trip to Denmark.

ABOVE
The spaces in the house are visually interconnected to allow easy engagement between the family members.

ABOVE RIGHT
The understated nature of the homeowner's homeware collection complements the straight lines running throughout the home's design.



How many homeowners can proudly declare that their house is in fact the Building of the Year? Architecturally trained husband-and-wife duo (and business partners of Formwerkz — an award-winning architecture firm in Singapore) Berlin Lee and Gwen Tan are the proud owners of one. The multi-generational terrace house, which they designed, was awarded the accolade at the Singapore Institute of Architects' Architectural Design Awards last year and was commended for its clever use of space despite the narrow site it sits on. Gwen shares with us the design process of the approximately RM4.5 million renovation (not including the furnishings).

What was your strategy when it came to tackling the west-facing front?

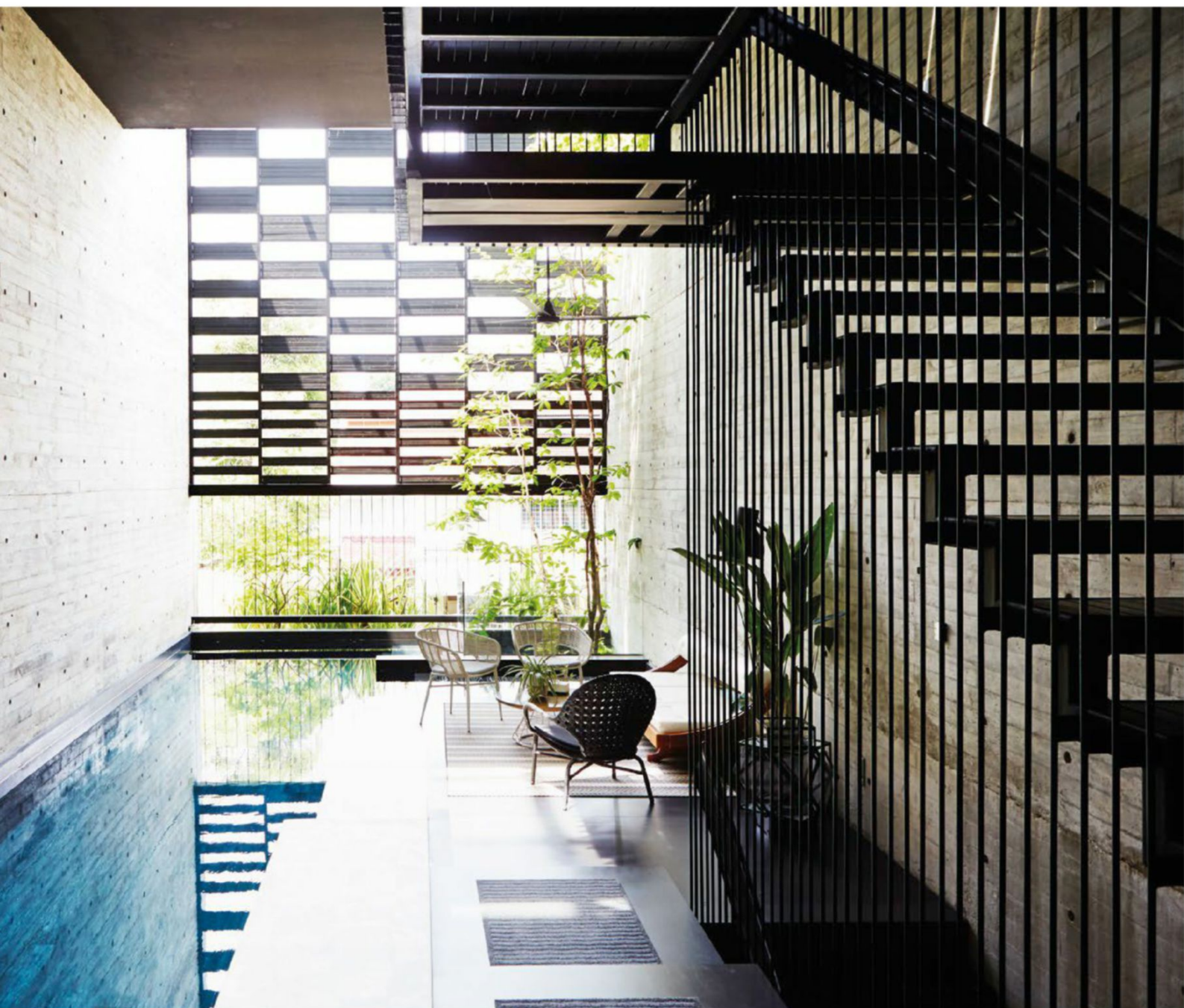
A typical strategy is to have lots of sun shading, or the curtains down all the time, but we didn't want any of that because we really love the outdoors, natural ventilation and daylight. Therefore, we designed the rooms to face the east; this opens them up to good views of the park behind. On ►



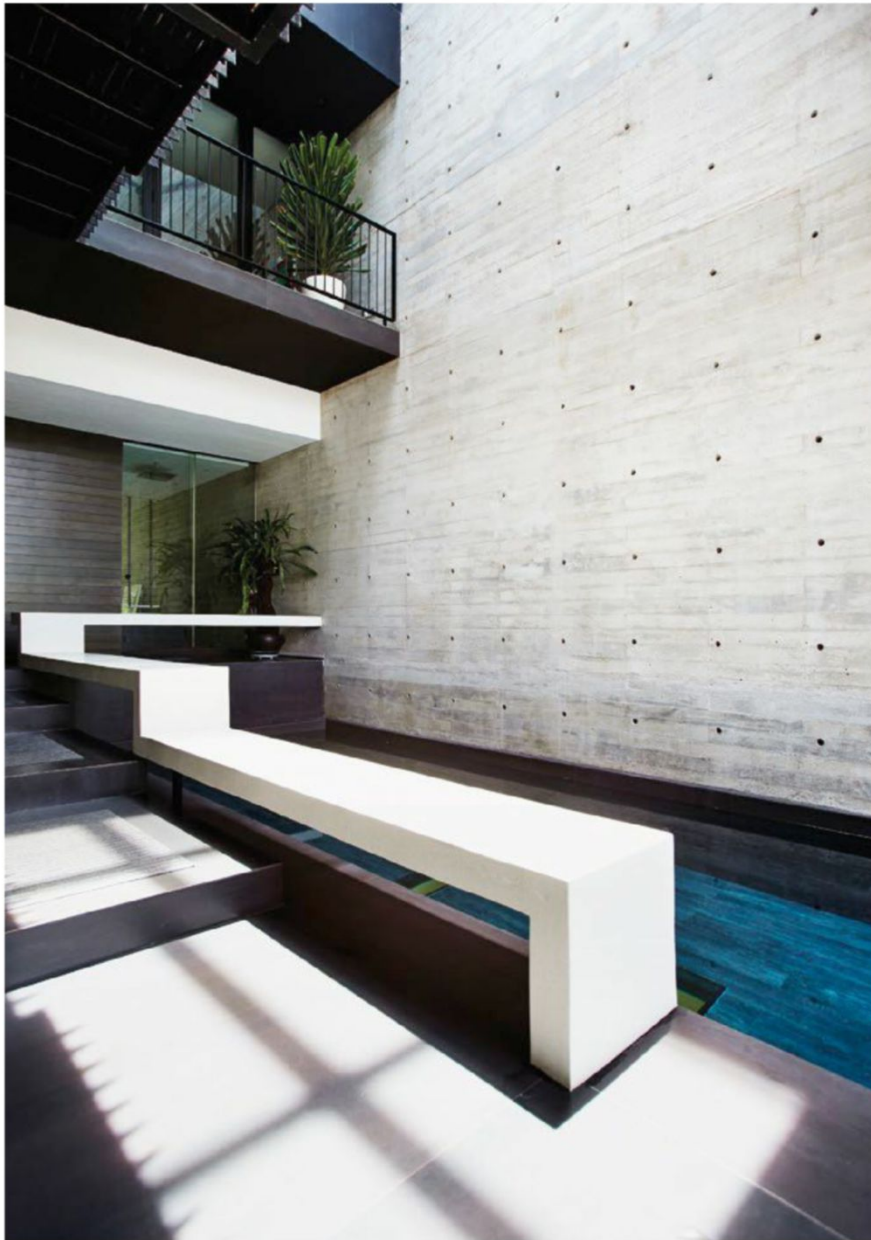
LEFT
The towering
Pink Mempat
tree (*Cratoxylum
formosum*), known
colloquially as the
Singapore Sakura,
provides shade
above the entrance
to the house on the
first floor.

RIGHT
The home is
completely naturally
ventilated, without
any glass windows
on the facade. ▶









WHAT IS BOARD-FORMED CONCRETE?

Board-formed concrete is made through a process of patterning concrete that results in a woodgrain finish. This technique is used to soften the look of exposed concrete and is especially well-suited for external facade finishes.

the facade, we used ash wood screens to help regulate the sunlight entering the house. At different times of the day, shadows are cast on the walls, creating beautiful patterns.

Tell us about the style adopted for the interiors.

We were very inspired by the design of a house we had just completed for a client, which utilised timber board-formed concrete to achieve an industrial look. The material weathers well, which is important, considering that our house is exposed to external elements. We used it to create the structural walls of our home, and this provides a canvas where we can then include loose pieces of furniture to give the interiors colour and a personal touch.

For the staircase, we chose to use black powder-coated steel beams to complement the look. They don't just serve an aesthetic purpose, but also work as railings, barriers and stiffening elements to the whole structure.

How did you achieve your open-concept master bedroom?

I wanted my room to have a view of both sides of the house so that I can enjoy views of the pool and the park at the same time, so I designed the bathroom to be in front of the pool. This opens up the space and there is no need to enter the shower area via the room, especially after a swim. To keep the colour scheme in the room consistent with the rest of the home, we chose large pieces of Black Metal tiles from GF+A. ►

OPPOSITE
Gwen and Berlin appreciate the ash wood used on the stair treads for how pronounced its grains are despite being stained black.

ABOVE
The clean lines of the architectural form give the industrial-style interiors a refined look.



ABOVE LEFT
Ash veneer is used throughout for the wardrobe doors and dresser in the master bedroom, to give a uniform and sleek finish.

ABOVE
Natural light illuminates the interior of the master bedroom, with windows that span the entire length of the east-facing facade.

OPPOSITE
The open-concept bathroom has views of both sides of the house, with blinds that can be closed for privacy.



How did you address the needs of both your mother and mother-in-law?

We wanted the home to be a place where we could stay connected to each other while still being able to find private areas of our own. My mum helps to take care of my son, and throughout the day, she's busy in the kitchen on the first floor. My mother-in-law, on the other hand, prefers to stay upstairs, so we designed an apartment on the top floor for her. That space is filled with the facilities she needs so she doesn't have to make multiple trips across the different levels of the home.

Tell us an interesting experience you've had since moving into the house.

When we first moved in, I noticed people walking stealthily in the park, peering through binoculars, and thought to myself, "what are they peeping at?". I later

realised they were actually birdwatching!

We get many species of birds here because the trees bear a particular fruit that many of them love. We've seen parrots, woodpeckers, kingfishers, golden orioles and many others. Recently, there were even hornbills playing at the balcony of my son's room!

As an architect, how do you feel about designing your own home?

Berlin likes to joke that it's too stressful and we shouldn't do it ourselves next time *(laughs)*. Overall, it's satisfying, but also a constant work in progress because there are things we like to fine-tune. It's also about managing expectations and paying attention to what's most important to us, just to make sure we stay on track throughout the process. ●

PERSONAL TOUCH

Less is more in this Scandinavian-cool bachelor's pad.

WHO

A bachelor in his 40s

HOME

3-bedroom flat

SIZE

818sqf

RIGHT
Potted plants and flowers are an integral part of the homeowner's decorative style. They are strategically placed in corners and on tables to "freshen up" the space and complement the wood accents and raw cement. ▶







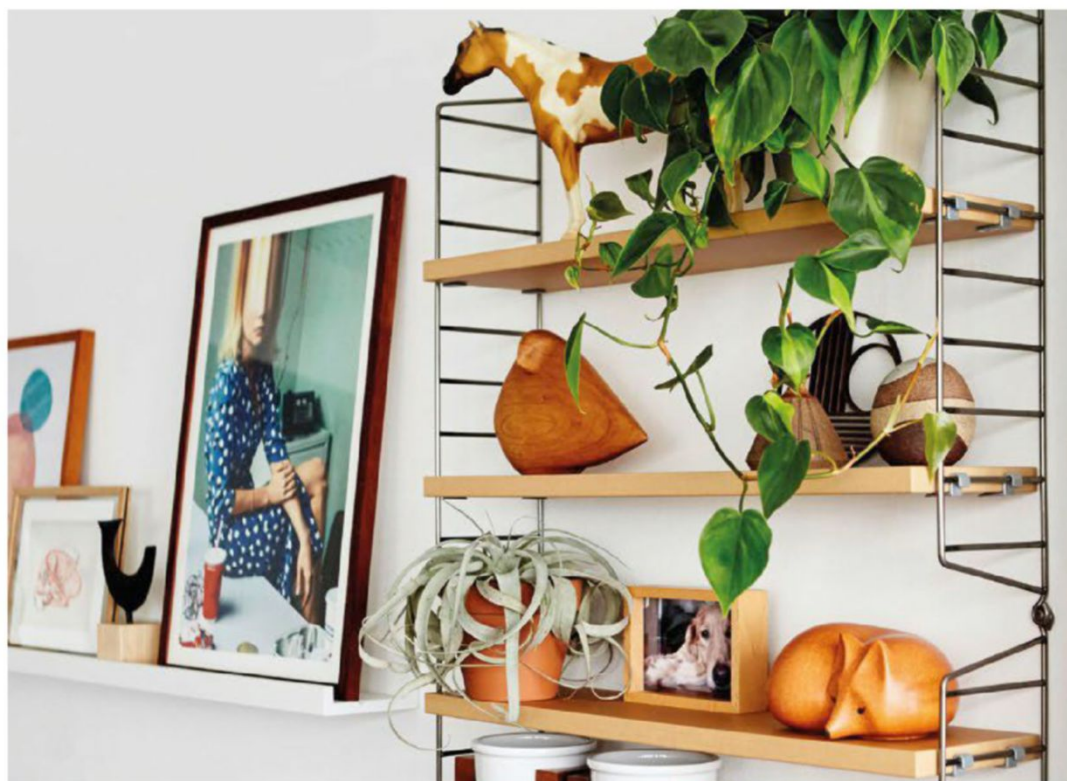
ABOVE
Koh Kuan Eng was in the creative industry for 20 years before becoming a social worker.

ABOVE, LEFT
The flooring is an expanse of cement – a raw look that evokes a sense of nostalgia for the homeowner.

OPPOSITE
Framed pictures of leaves echo the greenery in the living room. The leafy works are from photographer Francis Ooi, who snapped the pictures during his jogs on nature trails.



Four years ago, Koh Kuan Eng left his stable job as a creative director of an advertising firm to be a social worker. The 49-year-old bachelor was in the creative industry for two decades before he made the big switch. "I am four to five times poorer, but 10 times happier," he smiles. Inspired to do something "more meaningful in life", Kuan Eng also went on to write and illustrate *My First Set of Dialect Books*, in a bid to preserve our linguistic heritage. Given his recent conviction, it was no surprise then that he wanted a "pared down" look for his new home – one that is cosy, intimate and devoid of distractions like a TV. It's the first home he has owned, and he sees it as a permanent abode. So he poured in some RM99,000 for the renovations and RM120,000 for the furnishings to create a modish yet personable space. ➤





ABOVE
The original dining space has been turned into a designated study area comprising a simple yet modern round table and chairs. Behind the row of white panels lies ample storage space.

(OPPOSITE) TOP
The homeowner's precious collection of sketchbooks detailing his travel experiences.

BOTTOM
Shelves are decked with whimsical collectibles from travels, and the walls are decorated with framed nostalgic or kooky images bought online.

You have a creative eye, as evident from your taste in furniture and wall art. Why did you still get an interior designer?

I got an interior designer to advise me on the flooring, laminates and the best ways to conceal wires and piping. I also needed expert advice when it came to hacking the walls. The interior designer's job was to remove what was redundant or unnecessary so that I could have a "blank canvas" for the furnishings. My design background has helped me to understand colours, textures and lines, and choose furniture and art pieces that sit right in the context of the room.

What's your style?

I go for things that resonate with me. I love retro but want to keep things in my home clean-lined as well, so I went for Scandinavian furniture like

the chairs you see in my living room and dining areas. They are actually handcrafted 50s Danish furniture.

Your three-room flat feels spacious and airy. How did you organise the space?

I had one of the bedrooms removed and its walls knocked down to open up the space. It is now a dining area where I entertain friends. The original wardrobe now stands as a storage space.

How did you choose the artworks for your wall?

Again, I just go for things that resonate with me – pieces that I pick up from my travels, online and also from friends. The framed pictures of the leaves are photography works by an ex-colleague, Francis Ooi. They are part of his *What I See When I Run* series, which is a collection of photographs and illustrations of different specimens of leaves he took at nature reserves in Singapore. ➤



Why cement for the flooring?

It evokes a sense of nostalgia for me. It reminds me of my childhood days whiling away at my grandmother's home. Cement feels cool under the feet and is also a breeze to manage and clean. I also like how its "raw" and "bare" look provides me with a blank canvas to work with. I littered the place with lush potted plants and flowers, for example – the green shades complement the cement and wooden accents of the interior very nicely.

What does a home mean to you?

It's a sanctuary. I did away with the TV as it's too much of a distraction. In my bedroom, besides my bed, a bedside table and a lamp are the other things I have. I've deliberately kept it that way as I believe it is a space where the body rests after a hard day's work and, hence, should be kept clutter-free. ●



R I G H T
Strictly a space for rest and sleep, the bedroom is kept minimalist with just a bed, table and lamp at the side.

(O P P O S I T E)
T O P
The kitchen is kept basic and functional, as the homeowner hardly cooks at home.

B O T T O M
The homeowner deliberately kept the bathroom and toilet divided into two separate spaces – another nostalgic feature carried over from his grandmother's home.



FAMILY FRIENDLY

This capacious family home is designed to have spaces unique to each individual, while still maintaining a unified look that is stately, elegant and absolutely alluring.

WHO

A couple,
their two sons, and
daughter-in-law

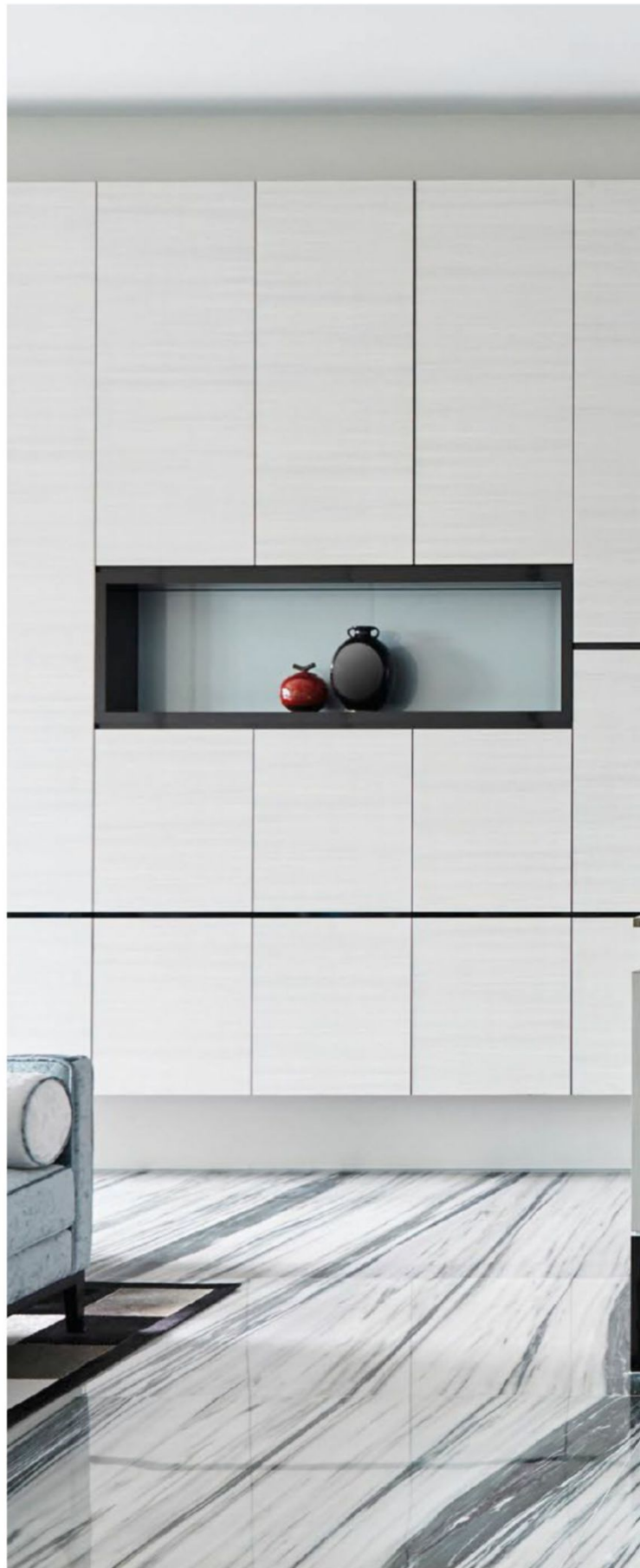
HOME

Three-storey
semi-detached house

SIZE

4,500sqf

RIGHT
The family home features an extensive use of different types of marble as flooring, a big change from its prior look that incorporated timber flooring. ➤







LEFT
Among furniture customised by the designer are these statement-making high-back armchairs in the lounge on the ground floor.

ABOVE
The living area is tastefully furnished with an assortment of bespoke furniture, for a comfortable and luxurious space to hold family gatherings.

(OPPOSITE)
LEFT
Concealed doors and cabinet panels are part of the aesthetics of the modern classic interior, resulting in a seamless look.

RIGHT
The design makes use of clean-cut linear forms and details, as seen in the dry kitchen built-in cabinetry that is done up in contrasting neutral shades of cream and beige, and stark black.

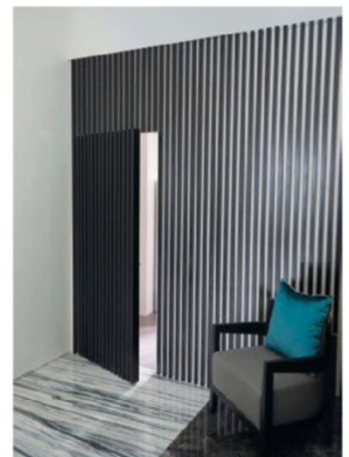


For a dwelling in which the Tay family feel truly at home, an extensive overhaul with structural alterations to the facade and interiors was involved. The work took over a year and was overseen by Adrian Heng of Ottimo Spazi, and the result is a luxurious modern classic, hotel-inspired look.

"The idea was to instil a feel of living in a plush hotel suite," says Adrian. He designed the three-storey house based on a colour theme of contrasting dark tones and shades of white, with pops of colour.

Each family member decided on the details for their respective areas of the house, says the designer, allowing for personalisation of their private space.

On the second floor, the younger son's room features a bold and fun colour palette of teal and bright yellow, and a study area with an 





eye-catching staggered geometric design. In comparison, the master suite has a more grown-up and restful look, with a sophisticated beige and bronze theme. Occupying almost the entire third floor is the elder son and daughter-in-law's space – a monochromatic open-concept setting that includes a concealed walk-in wardrobe.

Despite each having a comfortable, private sanctuary, Adrian ensured that the home still has a consistent look throughout, unified by the choice of materials and decorating style. Seen around the rooms are lots of stone finishes in the flooring and counters, feature walls with plush panelling, and clean-cut built-in structures. To up the luxe factor and soften the spaces, numerous area rugs, from cowhide to tufted, patterned ones, are included.





ABOVE

The bedroom of the younger son has a playful look, featuring a colour palette based on complementary teal and yellow colours. A dark wood-tone laminate in the built-in structures offsets the vibrant colours perfectly.

(OPPOSITE)

TOP LEFT
In the master suite on the second floor, the mood is elegant and sophisticated with mellowed neutrals and a hint of subtle colour. Opulent textures in the furniture upholstery, headboard panelling and bedding further add to the hotel suite look.

TOP RIGHT
The walk-in wardrobe appears to be dramatically long, thanks to its sleek design and mirror that visually doubles its length.

BOTTOM
Bathrooms are beautifully decked out in stone tiles with attractive textures and soothing colours.



Another unique feature of the home is the loose furniture items. From the marble-and-steel coffee table to the high-back accent chairs upholstered in velvet-look fabric, all were customised and made locally. Adrian even had fabrics specially imported from different parts of Europe to accentuate the overall design.

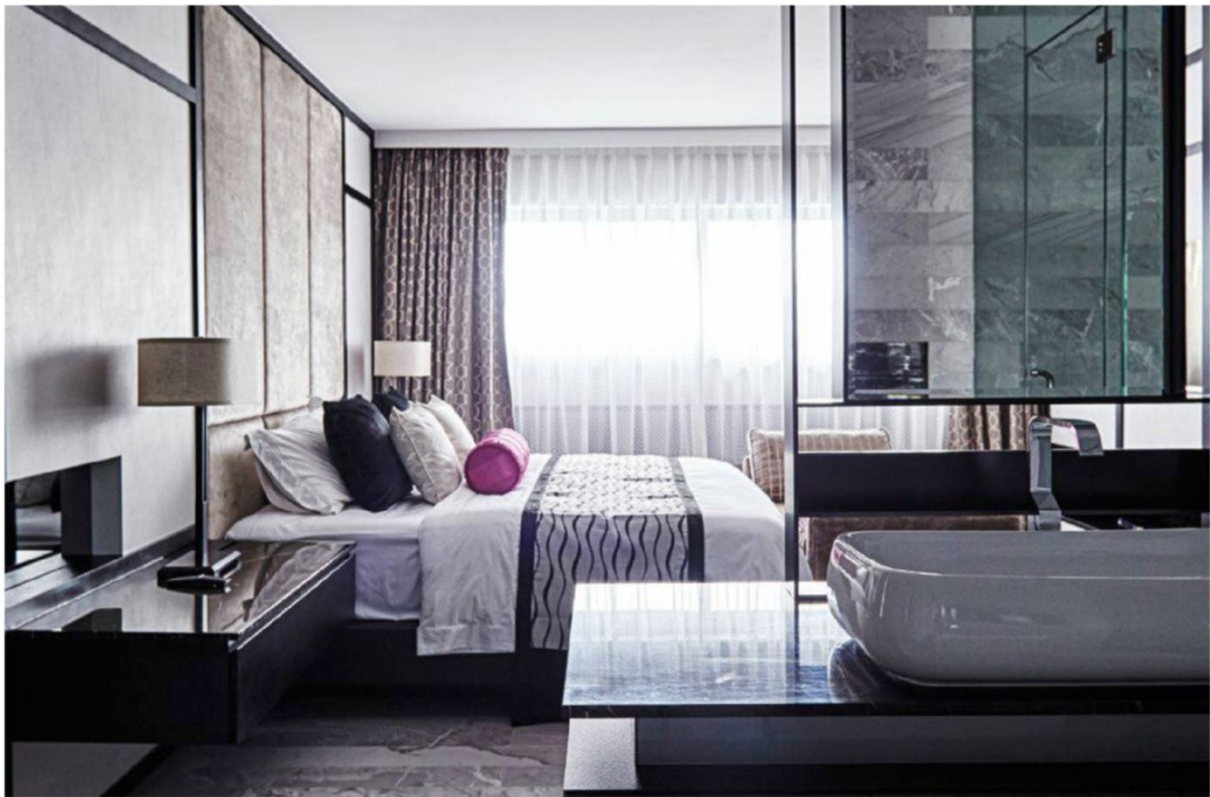
This attention to detail adds a sense of sophistication and character, turning the home into an inviting abode with stunning style and timeless appeal. ➤



ABOVE
The elder son and daughter-in-law's room occupies almost the whole of the top floor, and has an open-concept design.

LEFT
A concealed spacious walk-in wardrobe provides lots of storage space for bags and accessories, as well. Its design incorporates soft lighting and mirrored finishes, for an ambient dressing area.

OPPOSITE
Open sleeping and bathing areas make the room look and feel like a hotel suite. Contemporary details are mixed with plush soft furnishings to complete the modern luxe look. ●







OLD - SCHOOL CHARM

A personal collection of vintage furniture and memorabilia dictated the style of this flat.

WHO

A couple in their 40s

HOME

A Five Room Flat

SIZE

1,300sqf

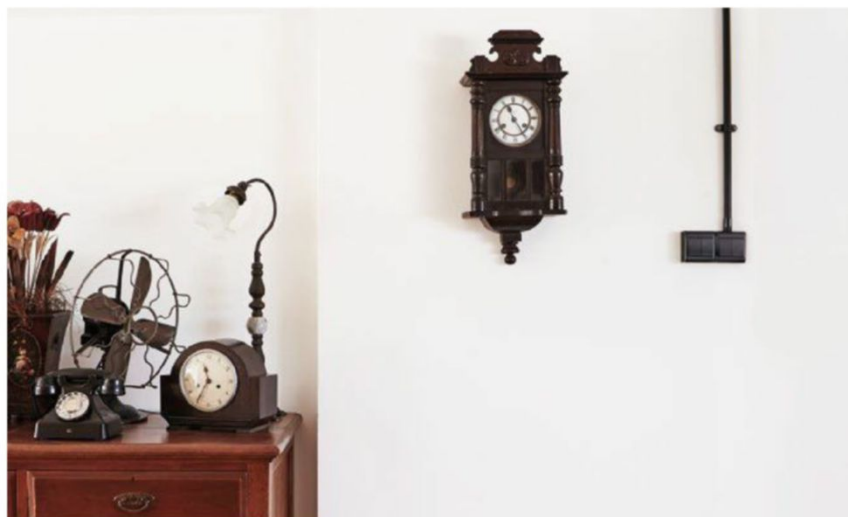
LEFT
The elaborate
Victorian-style
leather sofa
and armchair
are a contrast
to the simple
mid-century
armchair. ➤



ABOVE
Overt embellishment
meets austerity in
the living room.

RIGHT
Antiques small and
big amassed over the
years take pride of
place on a sideboard.

OPPOSITE
A commanding
buffet laid out with
pretty tea-time
accoutrements
counters the
industrial vibe of
the brick wall and
exposed wiring.



To the owners of this five-room flat, vintage style is not just an on-trend phase but also something they embrace wholeheartedly. Their collection of antique furniture and memorabilia has been waiting in the background for years before they bought and renovated this home. The Scientist who designed their home is familiar with integrating vintage elements into a modern shell, but this couple wanted to go the distance.

The interior designers' main role was to achieve the modern-vintage style without the home resembling a bric-a-brac shop. The budget of RM180,00 enabled them to wipe clean the slate and present the flat as a spare white space with a

honey-toned herringbone parquet floor. The back-to-basics style extends to the ceiling (which is devoid of L-boxes and false ceilings) and concrete base kitchen.

Vintage light fixtures, many with glass shades, came from the owners' frequent retro scouting jaunts, and black electrical pipes, which end in old-fashioned switch plates, highlight them.

The only area with embellishment is in the living room, where a faux mottled brick wall forms a feature. This is not too far from the balcony (this "walled" balcony is typical of point block flats from the mid-70s), which has floor to wall ornate tiles. While the glazed ceramic and porcelain tiles



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Mix-and-match pairings and a variety of materials bring an eclecticism to the elegant industrial backdrop.

of the 70s were glossy and textured, these modern incarnations are matt and flat. They bring a strong geometric pattern to counter the dark-wood vintage furniture and a touch of modernity.

The kitchen is another throwback to the past when kitchen cabinets were cast in poured concrete and affixed with wooden doors. This style of construction meant the couple could only have bottom cabinets, which they feel are sufficient for their needs. The kitchen walls have square powder-blue tiles laid diagonally, while the floor is tiled black-and-white mosaic style. ➤

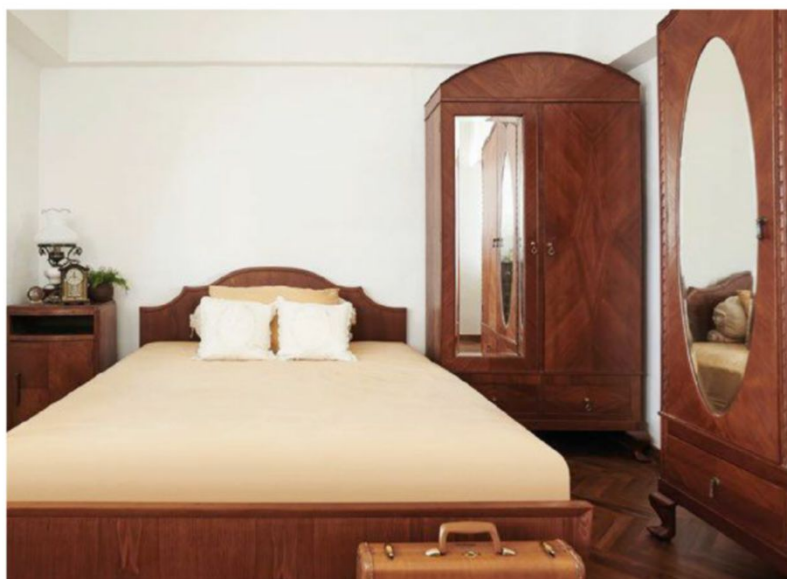


ABOVE
The retro lines of the utilitarian plastic stacking chair complement the antique wood furniture.

TOP RIGHT
Daylight streams into the "classroom", which is large enough for six students. Original architectural drawings from Mobler.



RIGHT
In keeping with the period look, there are no built-ins in the flat apart from the kitchen. Clothing is stored in two antique armoires. Pot and plant is from Galanga Living.



RIGHT
Copper piping cleverly matches the wood wall cabinet and mirror. Stainless steel or PVC would have jarred with the vintage styling of the space. Basin top accessories are from Galanga Living.

BELOW
The kitchen is true to the period style – from the colour of the wall tiles to the ceramic knobs and, of course, the concrete base.

OPPOSITE
The foyer has mosaic-look ceramic tiles to demarcate it from the parquet flooring in the rest of the flat. Pot and plant is from Galanga Living.

As home tutors with no children of their own, the owners could free up two bedrooms to serve as classrooms. The old-school (pun intended) styling of the home befits the sparse “classroom” furnished with simple wooden desks, moulded plastic chairs and a whiteboard.

“Many of our students comment that our home is unique, and some feel that it has a Peranakan feel,” offers one the owners.

The other owner is keen to indulge her taste of the vintage and flex her design aesthetics: “Vintage stuff has this timeless appeal, which can somehow can be juxtaposed with any other style. I find this versatility very unique and one of a kind,” she says. ●



photo THE SCIENTIST



TOP FINISH

Laminates are affordable and durable, and although not totally impervious to wear and tear, they are quite easy to maintain.



photography WONG WEI LIANG design BOX.ID STUDIO



For stubborn stains, such as ink, use a nail polish remover. Gently rub a cotton ball or clean cloth soaked with nail polish remover on the stain for up to two minutes. Rinse thoroughly with warm water and wipe dry.

- Treat difficult stains (such as coffee or tea marks) with baking soda paste (3:1 ratio of baking soda and water). Spread on the stain, very lightly scrub for 10 to 20 strokes, and let sit for three to five minutes before wiping away. Although baking soda is low-abrasive, excessive scrubbing can damage the surface, especially if it has a glossy finish.
- Wipe up spills immediately. The longer it sits, the more likely it is to stain.

DON'T

- Place hot cookware or dishes directly on the laminate countertop. Extreme heat can cause cracking or blistering. Always use a trivet or insulated hot pad to protect your countertop.
- Use your countertop as a chopping board. Knife cuts can go through the colour layer and expose the underlay, which cannot be repaired.
- Use cleaners containing alkali, acid or sodium hypochlorite, which can etch, corrode and discolour the laminate surface. These include oven cleaners, chlorine bleach, rust removers, drain cleaners, tub and tile cleaners, and lime scale removers. ●

Laminates have become more popular than ever, be it for countertops or cabinetry. And for good reason – they come in many natural-looking designs that resemble wood, stone and concrete, as well as interesting patterns, textures and colours. Furthermore, laminates have a relatively low price range. However, like every hardworking surface in the home, they require routine cleaning and care. Here are some dos and don'ts to keep them looking lovely.

DO

- Use a soft damp cloth for daily cleaning. Adding diluted mild detergent or vinegar can also remove most stains and grease. Be sure to completely rinse off any soap residue with warm water to prevent permanent residue stains, and dry thoroughly after.

HOW TO FIX SCRATCHES

- For small, shallow scratches, apply furniture paste wax to hide the marks. First, clean the surface thoroughly, then use a soft cloth to spread the wax lightly across the rest of the countertop, including the sections unaffected by scratches (to keep a consistent appearance on the surface). Let it sit for a couple of minutes, then buff the entire surface using another clean cloth.
- For deeper scratches, it may be best to use laminate filler. Check with your laminate supplier if there is a specially made one, and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

COMPOSTING MADE EASY

Are you an urban gardener? Would you like to save money while fighting global warming? Do you want to reduce the amount of waste you generate? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, then composting might just be for you.



WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Put simply, it is a low-cost, natural method of transforming your household waste into rich fertiliser. Contrary to belief, you don't need a lot to start composting. In fact, if you have a garden, you can even dig a hole, bury your kitchen scraps and you are on your way. However, in our high-rise, high-density conditions, in order to avoid the wrath of our neighbours by attracting pests and vermin, it is best to keep our eco-experiments to a compost bin.

EASY COMPOSTING

While you can easily buy a compost bin for a few hundreds dollars, it is cheaper to make your own. All you need is a large plastic

container with a lid. The size of the item depends on the amount of household waste you generate and the amount of compost you want to produce. Next, drill small holes into the side and bottom of the container to allow air in and moisture out. (If excess water is not drained out, the contents will turn wet and stinky, thus slowing down the composting process.) Line the bin with shredded cardboard and newspaper to hold in the contents. Fill your bin with some soil, followed by your household waste. Sit back and relax. Your compost should generate heat as the microorganisms get to work. In three to six months' time, you will have a rich, dark, crumbly soil ready for use! ●

What to compost

- Dry leaves
- Paper products
- Straw, hay
- Sawdust
- Kitchen scraps – for example coffee grounds, fruit pits, vegetables, eggshells
- Tea bags

What not to compost

- Meat and bones
- Fats and oils
- Dairy products
- Faeces
- Charcoal
- Wood ashes
- Treated wood products

Q & A

YOUR RENO &
DECOR QUESTIONS
ANSWERED

I informed the management at my condo that I was experiencing a leak in my ceiling and they notified the upper-floor neighbour. He was advised to replace his water supply pipes in his master bathroom. However, a month after he replaced the pipes, the leak still remains. What should I do?

You should inform your neighbour that the leak has not stopped. "Your neighbour should engage a licensed plumber to investigate the source of water leakage, so as to identify the origin before doing any repairs," advises Doreen Low from water-leak specialist Global Technical. Leak detection work is important because

without locating the source, the repair cost will be high due to unnecessary hacking to find the leak. Specialist equipment can be used to detect leakage in walls or false ceilings non-destructively.

According to Doreen, common sources of leakage include sewage pipes (under the purview of your condo management), air-con condensate pipes and basin discharge.

While you're at it, give the ceiling moulding a good clean, too. If you don't own a duster, use a dry mop, but cover the mop head with a microfibre cloth or an old T-shirt.



design JOEY KHU

My home is dim and needs some large mirrors, but they can look clinical.

Any suggestions?

Nothing beats mirrors for their ability to brighten up a space, but if you find regular mirrors "cold", try tinted ones.

This trending material provides subtle hues and warmth and can create a special ambience. Keep in mind that dark tinted mirrors don't reflect as much light as a normal mirror, says Mark Yong of PIU Design. Other options would be gold-tint mirrors, bronze-tint mirrors, and untinted antique-finished mirrors. Mark recommends the last option if light reflection is a priority, as it is clear like a regular mirror, but "tarnished or with mercury run-offs".

Don't limit mirrors to walls; you can apply them to tabletops, cabinet fronts and even ceilings. ▴

Does using aromatherapy burners in an air-conditioned room cause mould to build up in the coils of the air-con unit?

Yes, says a spokesman for LG Electronics Singapore. As your essential oils diffuse, oil particles in the air get absorbed into the air-conditioner where, over time, they accumulate dust. "The air-con blowers will also get wet from condensation and the moisture becomes a catalyst for mould growth," says the spokesman. "This is the perfect condition for mould to multiply quickly, especially during periods when the air-con is turned off and the temperature rises in the room. This causes jelly-like substances to form that will clog up the fan coil and reduce wind flow, leading to further clogging of the water pipe that results in water dripping."

Engage an air-con specialist to conduct a chemical cleaning, which will remove accumulation from every part of the unit, including the filter and evaporator. Expect the entire fan coil to be removed for dismantling, cleaning and disinfecting.



design LIFE INTERIOR DESIGN photography VEE CHIN



design FREE SPACE INTENT photography DARREN CHANG

I would like to start growing herbs in my apartment, but my window don't have ledges. Where can I place my herbs so they get the right amount of sunlight?

Cynthea Lam of Super Farmers grows basil, mint and spring onion inside her home, near a window that receives two hours of the east-facing sun, and they are thriving. She says it's important they find a spot with at least two to four hours of filtered sunlight (which comes through a shade).

When caring for herbs, consider her 'Big Four' tips:

Transplant herbs; do not leave them in their original pots as "the roots may have become overcrowded and are seeking for new space to grow. With every root fighting for nutrients, the plant will turn yellow or wilt".

As soon as possible, transplant the herbs to a bigger pot (with drainage holes) using good soil.

Next, watering. "There is a science to watering. Try to coincide with the plant's time to make food once it receives sunlight. So, either wake up at dawn to water your plants, or water them the night before," she says. Overwatering causes roots to rot, and water twice a day if hot or windy conditions dry up the soil.

All plants need to be fed nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, as normal soil does not provide enough of these resources. There are chemical and organic fertilisers available, but Cynthea goes all-organic by using her three-year-old's urine. "He still pees into a potty, so I collect his urine, which is sterile when freshly collected, and dilute it with 10 parts of water. This is one of the most balanced fertilisers Mother Earth has to offer," she says.

Lastly, pinch your herbs. "My favourite quote is 'pinch to grow an inch'," shares Cynthea. "This is especially true for growing herbs, because we want more of those beautiful leaves for cooking. Pinching (also known as topping) encourages the plant to double its growth by developing new growth at the pinched site and keeps the plant bushy."

You can also pinch off the flowers to flavour honey or tea. Pinch 10 to 15cm off the top of each stem and no more than one third of the plant in total, using shears or your fingernails.

Herbs that are easy to grow in our local climate are basil, mint, Indian borage, spring onion, coriander, curry, and pandan. ●

Oven king

An oven meant for the kitchen king of the family, the Häfele Iconic Built-In oven with a steam feature embodies the best hits of modern appliance technology. With a full touch screen display, the oven's 10 heating functions along with 53 preset cooking programs are available right at your fingertips. The Iconic oven's Aqualytic cleaning system also ensures that cleaning and maintenance is kept to a minimum.

Available from Häfele



365+ degrees of food saving

With its unassuming facade, the IKEA 365+ food container looks like any of its conventional counterparts, but excels in functionality. With a removable grid in the bottom, the container allows liquid and condensation to accumulate beneath the food, keeping it fresh for longer. It is microwave safe, and the transparent top lid ensures you can keep an eye on what is inside.

Available from IKEA

Iconic hob

A triumph of sleek modern design, the Häfele Iconic induction hob is not just all form and no function. With 9 power levels along with a booster function, it makes cooking a stylish and speedy affair. An easy slider sensor control panel also ensures that it is straightforward and easy to use. An added child lock also safeguards the young ones from toying around with it and injuring themselves.

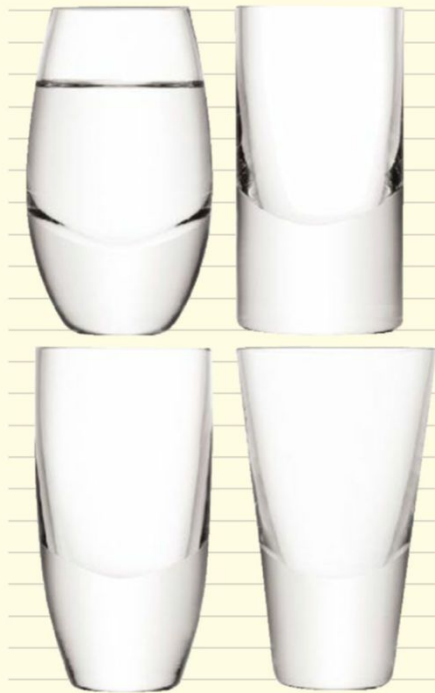
Available from Häfele



Affordable art

IKEA's BEHAGA series of bowls, plates and napkins aim to not only be a vessel for your food, but also for your soul. Dubbed 'affordable art', it can either be used for dining purposes or displayed as a decor piece. Imbued with a modern and playful pattern inspired by the world of fashion and nature, the BEHAGA series aims to make your dining experience one of creative expression.

Available from IKEA



LULU cups

This one is for the vodka aficionados who appreciate their drinks presented in glassware of utmost quality. Mouth-blown from a single piece of molten glass with impeccable precision, LULU Vodka glasses are a stylish addition to any party. Luxuriously gift-boxed in sets of four, the glasses come in four different distinct designs.

Available from Gudang

Botanic wonder

Even after 30 years, the Portmerion Botanic Garden Classic Dinnerware Collection is still growing in popularity. Imbued with 30 floral motifs with new designs and shapes introduced each year, the collection is a bonafide classic worldwide. Consisting of dinnerware, cookware, gifts, and accessories, this timeless collection is one that is perfect for passing down through the generations.

Available from Janine



SETTING UP

HOME AUTOMATION

For decades, home automation (or smart home systems) was a fantasy, as portrayed in Hollywood science-fiction movies. And while it became more popular from the mid-2000s in the US, it started to catch on locally only in the last couple of years.

Hotels and commercial buildings were the first to adopt automation, to save on electrical bills (for example, switching on and off air-conditioning and lights) and for the purpose of security. But, now, the uses of smart home systems extend to lifestyle and caretaking needs.

HOW IT WORKS

With the help of sensors installed that monitor the environment, users can set instructions for automation through a controller device. For example, the curtains can be drawn automatically when a light sensor detects strong sunlight, or a security camera can snap a picture when a motion sensor detects someone entering your home.

You can customise the automation system for every scenario – including programming schedules, such as keeping the curtains drawn till 7am on weekdays and 10am on weekends. In most cases, you can also remotely control your devices.

ASK BEFORE YOU BUY

Home automation is a relatively new concept here. High-end developments and landed properties were one of the first to embrace it, but with costs decreasing significantly in recent years, more homeowners have started to explore such systems.

Depending on what and the extent of it that you wish to automate, the cost can range from RM2,400 to tens of thousands of dollars. Some home automation systems can be linked to your gadgets and electrical appliances, such as your air-con or surveillance camera but, first, check if they are compatible. There are several home automation companies locally that can help you achieve a convenient and comfortable smart home. ●

WHERE TO GO

■ Somfy

A specialist in motorised curtains and blinds.
www.somfy.com.sg



■ Lutron

Systems for integrated lighting controls.
www.lutron.com/asia



■ Zipato

Offering complete home automation solutions, from IP cameras and lighting to smoke and fire detection.
www.zipato.com.sg



■ Mation

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IKEA Cheras

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Kuala Lumpur
tel: +603-7952 7575

IKEA Damansara

2 Jalan PJU7/2
Mutia Damansara
Petaling Jaya
tel: +603-7952 7575

Interfal

No 45 & 47
Jalan SS18/1B
Subang Jaya.
tel: +603-5638 9213

Janine

S112 Bangsar
Shopping Centre
Kuala Lumpur
tel: +603-2094 9530

J & J Chesters Malaysia Sdn Bhd

Block B-0-1, Megan Avenue
1, 189 Jalan Tun Razak
Kuala Lumpur
tel: +603-2166 4121

Johnson Suisse

www.johnsonsuisse.com.my

KDK

3rd Floor,
No 15 Jalan Tandang
Petaling Jaya
tel: +603-7785 5011

Kimgres Marketing Sdn Bhd

Lot 5, Jalan Kilang/
Jalan 217
Petaling Jaya
tel: +603-7783-9811

Kitch

11, Jalan Dato Abu Bakar,
16/1, 46350, Petaling Jaya
tel: +6018-599 8233

Kitchenaid

tel: +603-7877-5216

Legrand

Lot 1888, Jalan KPB7,
Kawasan Perindustrian
Balakong, Selangor
tel: +603-8962 3333

LG

tel: 1800-822-822
www.lg.com

Lightcraft

98 Jalan Sungai Besi,
Kuala Lumpur
tel: +603-9222 2413

Ligne Roset

S3 Pamper Floor
Starhill Gallery
Kuala Lumpur
tel: +603-2710-3388

Linds Furniture

162 Jalan Maarof
Kuala Lumpur
tel: +603-2094 6055

Living Avenue

S 032 2nd Floor, Mid Valley
Megamall, Lingkaran Syed
Putra, Mid Valley City, 59200
Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah
Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
tel: +60 3-2282 1513

Lorenzo

For store listing, go to
www.lorenzo-international.com

LUMINARC - DKSH LUMINARC Sdn Bhd

B-11-01, The Ascent,
Paradigm, No. 1, Jalan SS
7/26A, Kelana Jaya, 47301
Petaling Jaya,
Selangor Darul Ehsan,
Malaysia

Miele

Menara Kencana Petroleum
Solaris Dutamas
Kuala Lumpur
tel: +603-6205 3899

Murobond Paints Sdn Bhd

No. 18, Jalan PJS 11/18,
Bandar Sunway 46150,
Selangor.
Tel: +603-5633 7299.
info@murobondpaints.com
www.murobond.com
Facebook: Murobond
Malaysia.

NestNordic.com

No.G2-G4, Oval Tower
Damansara, Jalan
Damansara, 60000 KL
tel: 03-7733 7605
www.nestnordic.com

Nippon Paint

tel: 1800-88-2663
www.nipponpaint.com.my

Niro Ceramic (M) Sdn Bhd

Lot 2, Persiaran Sultan
Section 15
Petaling Jaya
tel: +603-5033-9333

Noritake

T104, BSC
285, Jalan Maarof,
Bukit Bandaraya, 59000
Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah
Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
tel: -603-2093 6177

Panasonic

Lot 10, Jalan 13/2
Petaling Jaya
tel: +603-7953 7600

Pensonic

tel: 1800-881-770
www.pensonic.com

Robinsons

The Gardens Mall
Kuala Lumpur
tel: +603-2089 1188

Rozel

For store listing, go to www.
rozel.com.my

Samsung

Suite E-09-01,
Level 9 East Wing
ICON Jalan Tun Razak
Kuala Lumpur
tel: +603-2165 0000

Sharp

No 1A Persiaran Kuala
Langat Section 27
Shah Alam
tel: +603-5102 5311

Signature Kitchen

Lot 24 Jalan Teknologi
Taman Sains Selangor 1
Kota Damansara
tel: +603-6286 7000

Space Furniture

3-12 The Intermark Mall
Kuala Lumpur
tel: +603-2166 2212

Stadler Form-Blue Orange Resources Sdn Bhd

Storage Systems
15-2-3, Megan Corporate
Park, Block B, Jalan 1/125E,
Taman Desa Petaling,
Kuala Lumpur
tel: +603-9057 7933

Studio At 216 Sdn Bhd

The Gardens L2 Unit S216,
Lingkaran Syed Putra,
59200 KL
tel: 03-2201 1798
www.studio216.co

Teka

tel: +603-7620 1600

Tekni

60, Jalan Universiti, PJS 12,
46200 Petaling Jaya
tel: +603-7931 2289

Terracotta Tiles

15 Jalan Pendidik U1/31
Hicom Glenmarie
Shah Alam
tel: +603-5569 4799

Toshiba

tel: +603-5565 8000
www.toshiba.com.my

White Horse Ceramic

tel: 1800-88-1880
www.whitehorse.com.my

White Room

www.whiteroom.asia

Vanguard Interiors

D1-G/M Jalan Selaman 1
Dataran Palma,
Ampang, Selangor
tel: +603-4270 3933

Visionary Solutions Sdn Bhd

A-G-08 Block Allamanda,
10 Boulevard, Lebuhraya
Sprint, PJU 6A, 47400,
Petaling Jaya
tel: +603-7710 5877

Vluz Concept (M) Sdn Bhd

40, Desa Sri Hartamas,
Jalan 28/70A,
Kuala Lumpur,
tel: +603-2300 1665



photography VEE CHIN

BELOW
Note the tall headboard with leather upholstery which adds a dash of grandeur to the room.

HEADBOARD

AN APPROPRIATE HEADBOARD WILL CHANGE NOT ONLY THE FEEL OF THE BED, BUT ALSO THAT OF THE WHOLE ROOM IN GENERAL.

The primary benefit of a headboard lies in its style and aesthetic. A headboard eliminates the need for a complete bed frame, which means you've plenty of choices that do not break the wallet. It is also a boon, particularly for taller individuals who have a tendency to extend their legs beyond the foot board, which can cause discomfort.

Headboards are also generally designed to be thinner, modular, easily movable, and less bulky. This translates to a minimal use of floor space, perfect for those with cramped bedrooms where space is a luxury. This space saving design also has the beneficial effect of making a room seem bigger than it really is.

Comfort is also one of the benefits that come with a headboard, as most are crafted of soft materials, providing the bed's occupants with additional padding. That means it makes the perfect backrest for your usual reading before bed, while serving as a nice buffer zone between your head and the wall.

Mature markets ensure a wide variety of headboards for homeowners to choose from. These include headboards of different materials, stitching, shapes, sizes, and patterns. From a sophisticated upholstered piece to one carved of reclaimed wood, there is always a headboard style to match the aesthetic of your bedroom. ●



photography VEE CHIN



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