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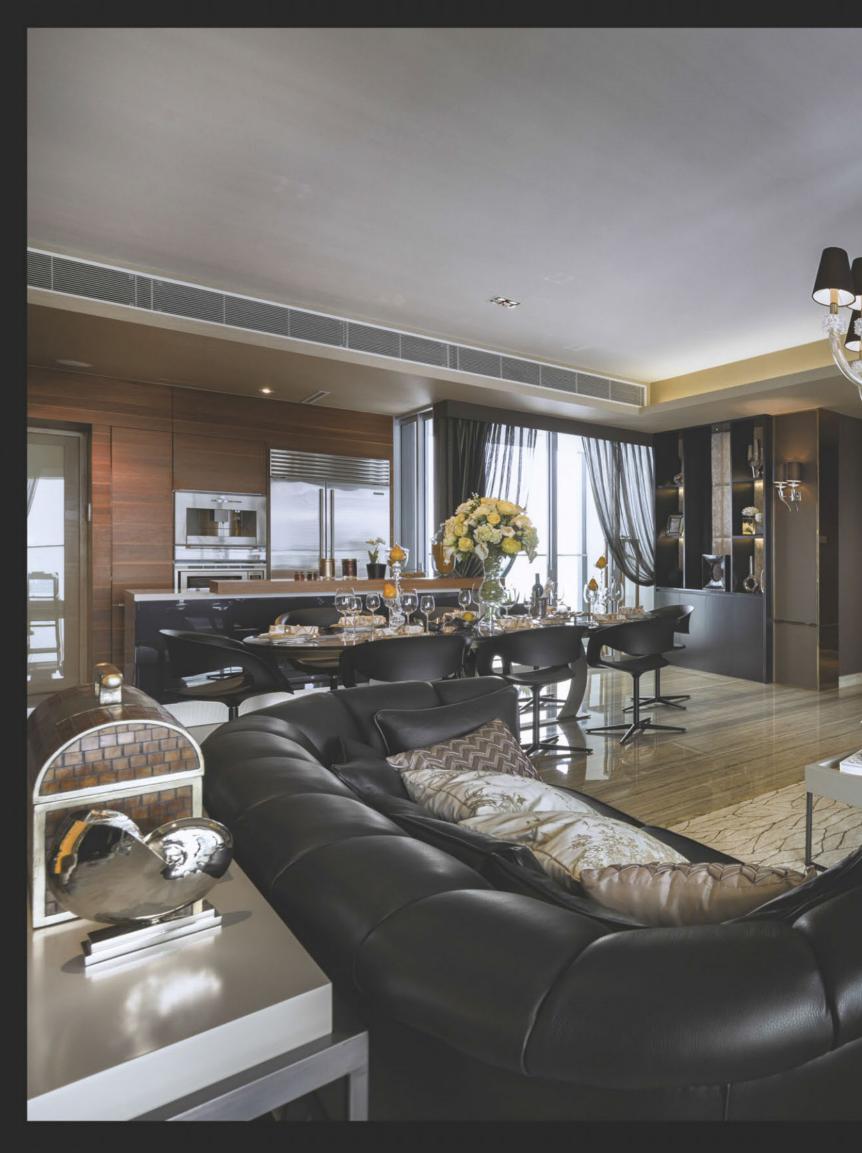














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Illumination

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Accessories

Put vim and vigour into your home with decor finds in on-trend shades

Interviews

Key insights on decor and interior design from Lladró and Prestige Global Designs

Iconoclast

An in-depth look at the nature-inspired architecture of Ma Yansong, founder of MAD Architects

Discover the rich heritage of craftsmanship in Cebu, the furniture capital of the Philippines



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subtle touch of Eastern mystique to your space

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Turn your bedroom into a cosy cocoon with hyggelig elements



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Collection ALCHEMY design Giorgio Soressi





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The Kitchen Society

Gather around.



Bespoke kitchens.



A month has passed and I'm still on a New Year high. Perhaps it's because we capped January with the Lunar New Year celebrations and it's only now that we are finally getting back to our usual routines.

Come to think of it, what does "usual" really mean? With the world becoming more unpredictable by the minute, the collective notion on what's normal is in a flux. That's probably why I find solace in the confines of my own home—a feeling that I'm sure a lot of you share. In this changing world, homes remain a constant. It is the place where we can reveal our true selves, cherish precious time with our loved ones, and feel warm and safe. The concept of the home being a cocoon against the harsh outside world isn't anything new, but it's one that definitely resonates strongly today.

In this issue, we bring together inspiration and insight on how to make your own cocoon even more comfortable. Why not consider adding *hyggelig* elements to your bedroom or incorporating lighting crafted from natural materials to soften a space? We also look at the idea of home in a larger context, as this issue of *Singapore Tatler Homes* focuses on Asia.

Our region is often described as a bright spot in a dark world—a place where things are still on an upward trajectory. This is certainly true for the design industry. Asia is where amazing talent, creative initiatives, and an appreciative audience converge. The rise of groundbreaking Chinese architect Ma Yansong is a good example, as are the progressive design firms here in Singapore whose work have garnered critical acclaim. The following pages profile Asia's colourful design scene—from thriving local craftsmanship in Cebu to beautiful interiors created by Singaporean talent.

Outside these pages, we continue to shine the spotlight on Asian talent with our first signature event, *A Celebration of Design*. I invite you to check out the award-winning projects and the designers behind them on page 145, as well as our continuing coverage on *singaporetatler.com/homes*. Here's to making home—in all its permutations—even more special with the transformative power of good design.

KISSA CASTAÑEDA CONTENT DIRECTOR SINGAPORE TATLER HOMES



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Trained as an architect, Lynn Tan is a contributor for various newspapers, magazines and publications in Singapore and abroad. Writing is an extension of her passion for architecture, interior design and cars. She considers the written language, and built environment, powerful forms of expressions which are interwoven into each and every home story.



KOH BOONWEI

PHOTOGRAPHER

Koh Boonwei credits his father as a key influence for his interest in photography. From learning the techniques of black-and-white photography, he worked his way up as a photographer's assistant, and today, his portfolio boasts shoots from genres as diverse as interiors, fashion and portraits, as well as commercial and editorial photography.



Y-JEAN MUN DELSALLE

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A freelance journalist who has lived in three different continents, Y-Jean Mun Delsalle enjoys meeting inspirational individuals in pursuit of excellence: emerging and established artists, designers and craftsmen and industry movers and shakers. She contributes regularly to regional and international titles, such as Asia Tatler and Forbes.

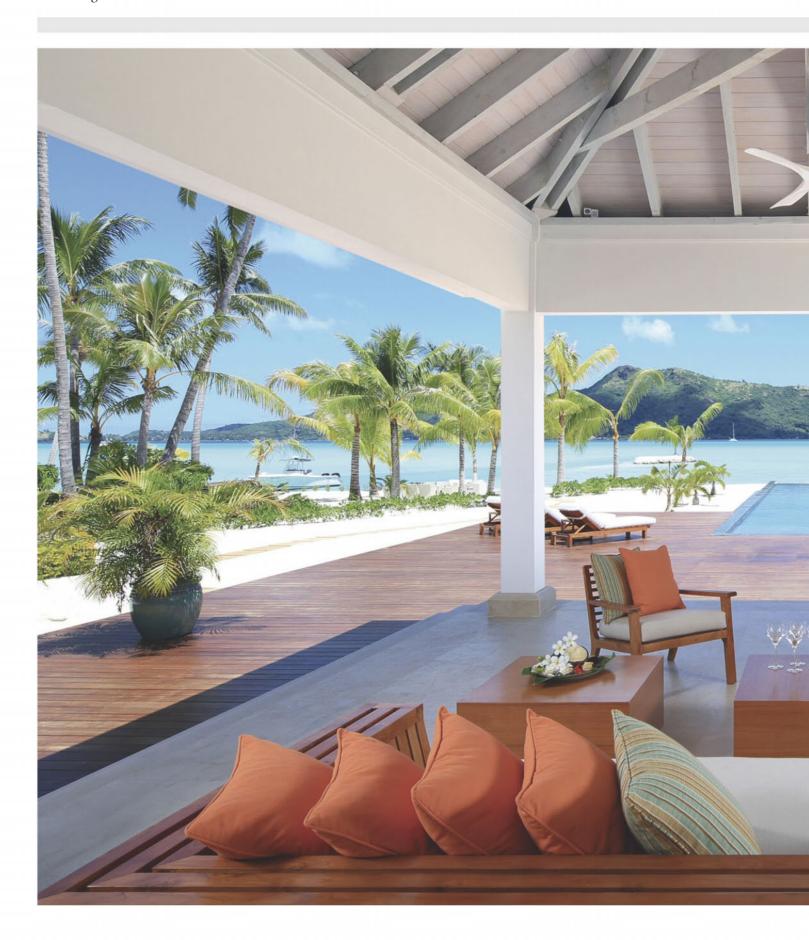


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Brand Story
An in-depth look at the journey of Spanish brand Cosentino





TOP PICK

A Natural Balance

The new Gessi Equilibrio line brings nature into the bathroom. Designed by Maurizio Scutellà, each faucet appears like two stones perfectly balanced, one on top of the other. Inspired by artistphilosopher Marsel Lesko's stone balancing performances, the tap handles are made with stone sourced from Piedmont, northwest Italy. The stones retain their unique natural colours and are shaped into equal sizes for the taps. Choose from 10 types of metal finishings such as chrome, copper or glossy black for the faucet body, then pair it with tap handles made from Marquina black marble, Calacatta white marble or other stones, and rosewood, teak or maple wood finishings. The handle of the Equilibrio tap is interchangeable—swap it with any of the 18 styles available to give your bathroom faucet a brand new look whenever you want.

where The curves of Equilibrio's unusual ovoid shape fits palms and fingers perfectly. Its natural beauty encourages long, luxurious showers or baths.

The Equilibrio's organic form is simple and unobtrusive; it can be paired just as elegantly with a porcelain sink or a matching stone basin. This tap can add a dose of serenity to your bathroom, bringing to mind images of water springing forth from river stones. "A product like this reminds you of nature, the idea of personal wellness and well-being, and the natural equilibrium of the world," says Gessi's commercial director Luigi Leonetti.

Founded in 1992, Italian brand Gessi is known for its streamlined designs that transform the quotidian faucet into a work of art that is both functional and stylish. The brand's bathroom fixtures can be found in luxury residences and boutique hotels such as Armani Hotel Milano in Italy, as well as members-only clubs such as Gravity by Fitness First in Singapore. Popular designs by Gessi include the square-based Quadro tap, the minimalist, rectangular fixtures of the Rettangolo line, and the super skinny Minimo taps for kitchens.

— All Gessi

bathroom fixtures are manufactured in its ecoconscious factory in Milan, Italy

The new Equilibrio taps are already available in Singapore. Price upon request.

WHERE Visit Casa Gessi Singapore at 165 Penang Road, or call 6341 9024.

Geometric Feat

Here's a new made-in-Italy name to know—and it comes with a storied history, too. Potocco began as an artisan workshop that produced chairs back in 1919, long before it was established as a furniture brand in 2015. Apart from its signature sleek seating, other notable products include the Tray coffee tables, which pair marble and lacquered glass with slender metal legs and a lacquered wooden frame.

Find the brand in Singapore at local furniture company, The Beuro. For more information, visit potoccospa.com and thebeuro.com



AUDIOPHILE'S CUBE

French design meets German sound engineering in Aerix Duet, a luxury high-specification sound system comprised of two simple and elegant minimalist cubes. The Duet offers excellent quality immersive 360-degree audio atmosphere, saturating every corner of the room with your favourite music, and is built with dynamic sound wave drivers and double magnetic subwoofers for deep, precise sound. Complete with an integrated CD player, muted light signals for minimal distraction, wireless streaming capabilities and three listening modes, the Aerix Duet is a powerful, discreet and compact all-in-one system that delivers hours of audio pleasure.

For more information, visit www.aerix.co







Celebrity interior designer Kelly Hoppen's latest book House of Hoppen celebrates her fourdecade long career with a photo retrospective of some of her most fabulous projects. The book explores Hoppen's favourite design themes such as "East meets West", "Grid, Flow, Zone" and "Shine, Transparent, Touch, Stay Neutral", and examines how she uses objects, light, mirrors and colours to create moods. It also shows readers how the style maven goes about decorating different rooms in the house. This testimonial from British design icon and author Terence Conran says it all: "Every designer should study this book carefully before they begin their next project. I will!" For more information, visit kellyhoppeninteriors.com





From tech-savvy finds to creative reuses of cargo containers, here are some top picks from Business of Design Week (BoDW) in Hong Kong

Riding Your Case

Designed by Mark Schwartz of Californian company Product Development Technologies (PDT), the Modobag is the first-ever smart, motorised carry-on luggage that allows travellers to get to their destinations three times quicker than it would take them on foot. The Modobag is equipped with a high torque 150-watt electrical motor, telescoping handlebar with



For more information, visit modobag.com



South Korean architecture and design studio Urbantainer is injecting new life to urban spaces by using freight containers like Lego blocks to create interesting, energetic dance clubs such as Club Octagon and shopping malls such as Common Ground in Seoul. "There is a misconception that containers are not stable, or that they are where the homeless live. But with careful space programming, containers can become versatile spaces, and they are much more sustainable as they require fewer resources to build and can be removed and reassembled as needed," says Urbantainer's co-founder and creative director Younjin Jeong. For more information, visit urbantainer.com



The Right Light

Task and ambient lighting meet in the ergonomically designed Sisifo lamp created by Scott Wilson, founder of Chicago studio Minimal for Artemide. Built with a lightweight but stable extruded aluminium head and cylindrical base with adjustable, chrome-plated brass stem, Sisifo comes with a spherical central joint that allows users maximum freedom to adjust the light for both small and large table surfaces. The lamp can be tilted in all directions and brightened or dimmed to provide just the right type of lighting you require—focused and comfortable for work and reading, or warm and relaxing for socialising and enjoying a meal. For more information, visit Artemide at artemide.com



VENTICELLO

DESIGN THE PERFECT LINE

Bathroom Gallery

Bathroom Gallery by Wan Tai & Co Pte Ltd 25 Changi South Avenue 2 Singapore 486594 Tel: +65 6546 5900 Email: sales@bathroomgallery.com.sg



Be inspired by the delicate forms: VILLEROYBOCH.COM/VENTICELLO





VISIT: SINGAPLURAL

Celebrate design in various modes and mediums at the sixth edition of the multifaceted SingaPlural design festival, held from March 7 to 12 at Level 3 of the F1 Pit Building. Organised by Singapore Furniture Industries Council (SFIC) and supported by DesignSingapore Council, International Enterprise (IE) Singapore, Singapore Tourism Board, and SPRING Singapore, and held in conjunction with the International Furniture Fair Singapore (IFFS)/ASEAN Furniture Show and Nook Asia, SingaPlural brings together respected creatives from Singapore, other parts of Asia and the rest of the world for exciting projects, installations, collaborations, talks and retail experiences. For more information, visit singaplural.com

The World Beyond

The planet's largest private residential cruise ship, The World offers 165 residences to avid adventurers seeking to traverse the globe from their own nautical abode. With six restaurants, a nightclub, spa, fitness centre, pool, golf simulator and tennis court on board, there's plenty to keep residents entertained. Studio units, as well as two- and threebedroom residences, are available across the II decks. On the top deck is a stunning 320-sqft, two-bedroom residence with floor-to-ceiling windows offering magnificent views of the horizon. The interiors are decorated with pieces by French designer Christian Liaigre, promising a luxurious cruise. For more information, visit aboardtheworld.com





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Dining at top restaurants abroad just got easier—you don't even have to join a waiting list or endure the hassle of trip planning. Luxury destination club Afini offers its members a chance to see the world sans the headache with a dedicated lifestyle consultant who sees to their every travel need. Membership is at the cost of a one-time initiation fee and an annual renewal fee, and comes with discounted nightly rates at partner hotels and private residences. For more information, visit afini.com

Limited Edition

From beach villas on private islands (owned by the likes of Richard Branson) to winter chalets in Europe, Le Collectionist offers a curated collection of beautifully furnished residences you can rent for your next vacation. With amenities that range from indoor pools and a private beach stretch to a helipad, these homes are the ultraluxurious answer to Airbnb. Each property also comes with a local private concierge and daily housekeeping services. For more information, visit lecollectionist.com





METALLIC MUSHROOMS

At Art Basel Miami, Henge, in collaboration with Yabu Pushelberg, introduced Mushroom Tables—a collection of bold, reflective metallic coffee tables that have a fluid appearance and surprisingly light and organic form. Conceived as a pair of coffee tables in complementary size configurations, the tables are made using an exclusive fusion process which reveals a glamorous champagne gloss finish that will add extra sparkle to your evenings.

For more information, visit henge07.com

Space Encounters

Must-visit shopping destinations to inspire you as you decorate and to help improve your space





ROOM TO VIEW

Molteni&C and Dada are two brands that are as acclaimed for their quality furniture as they are for their wardrobe and kitchen systems. Now, you can view their collections at the more spacious P5 showroom. Previously housed on Purvis Street, P5 has relocated to an 8,100sqft space in Sultan Link. The two brands have recently come under the watch of a new creative director, Vincent Van Duysen, who oversees the retail concept. Apart from Molteni&C and Dada, the P5 showroom lets homeowners view offerings from other leading brands including E15, Louis Poulsen, Flos, Kettal, Oluce and Fiam.

P5 #01-14 Sultan Link, 63 Mohamed Sultan Road Tel: 6337 0050 p5.com.sg



Timothy Oulton's refurbished showroom offers a complete sensory experience. Listen to relaxing music and sip champagne as you browse their store housing the brand's Flambeau Marble candle holders, Regency dining chairs, and Spur Burntwood tables sitting alongside stunning British vintage-inspired furniture, handcrafted using traditional carpentry techniques.

Timothy Oulton at Curio 14C Dempsey Road Tel: 6479 7619 timothyoulton.com



Respected Italian kitchen systems brand Binova has made its home at Mk-tre, a company that aims to push the envelope of kitchen design. Each and every Mk-tre team member has had sufficient experience working with premium kitchen brands—any question will be answered and innovative solutions will be offered in order to help customers create the kitchen of their dreams.

Mk-tre #04-11/12 Apex@Henderson, 201 Henderson Road Tel: 6358 2086 mk-tre.com



Miller and Tom Dixon, XTRA Designs has relocated to an impressive 13,000sqft space. The store is a sight to behold and the comprehensive display includes the recently acquired brand Pol74, which specialises in comfortable sofa beds. It is a place designed for lingering so much so

that there's an adjacent Kith cafe—a cosy

eatery serving excellent food and coffee.

Home to iconic brands such as Herman

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Offering balance without dominating a room, a side table is ideal for setting lamps or books, as well as displaying objets d'art. Chosen well, it's a piece that can make all the différence



BRISLEY BY MINOTTI

Inject a dose of sophisticated glamour into your living room with the Brisley side table. Made from glossy chrome-plated metal, the design by Rodolfo Dordoni comes in two different models.

From \$4,200, available at Minotti by Marquis Interior



RECIPIO '14 BY B&B ITALIA

Designed by Antonio Citterio, the Recipio '14 small table comes with a tripod frame and lacquered top in the shape of a serving tray—a stylish addition that is versatile enough to fit into any room in your home. From \$1,790, available at Space Furniture





PRUNE SALT BY AKAR DE NISSIM

The Singapore-based brand was inspired by the contrast of salt and pepper—the marble as the former and anthracite oak as the latter—to create this timeless piece. The squircle top lends the solid materials a softer touch. Price upon request, available at Akar De Nissim



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Picture Perfect

An art-filled affair at Lumas Gallery

What's in a picture? A lot, if you ask Alexander Melchers, managing director of Lumas Gallery, which has a portfolio of 1,800 pieces by over 200 artists. Housing a wide range of photographic works in an array of styles, sizes and edition runs, Lumas Gallery is a place for serious and novice art collectors alike. Design lovers gathered at the Paragon boutique where they admired blue-chip names such as Takashi Murakami and Damien Hirst to younger, up-and-coming artists. The intimate cocktail event, cohosted by Singapore Tatler Homes, welcomed architect Peter Tay, Nikki Hunt of Design Intervention as well as Paulina Böhm among others, to peruse the limited edition art photography. The evening featured the journey of Lumas Gallery, detailing how it has revolutionised the art world by helping make art more accessible, affordable and, ultimately, appreciated by a larger audience. 0



















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Comfort Zone

An evening with Tempur

No amount of make-up can make you look as bright-eyed as a night of uninterrupted sleep can. Even then, getting a good night's rest is only possible if your bed—from the pillow to your mattress—is a perfect match for your body and sleep pattern. American bedding company Tempur knows this all too well. Its authority in the global bedding arena was reaffirmed during an engaging reception



at its Sleep Sanctuary at 1 Nassim Road. Friends **CATCH** THAT? of Singapore Tatler Homes who attended the event not only fell in love with the brand's popular range of ergonomic pillows (many left the store with at least one in hand), but also its latest Tempur Hybrid mattresses, of cards which are constructed out as they of NASA-inspired memory foam and micro-coils. During to unfold the evening, chiropractor Richard Kissun delivered







COVERED BY CHONG SEOW WEI







an enriching presentation on posture, while a roving

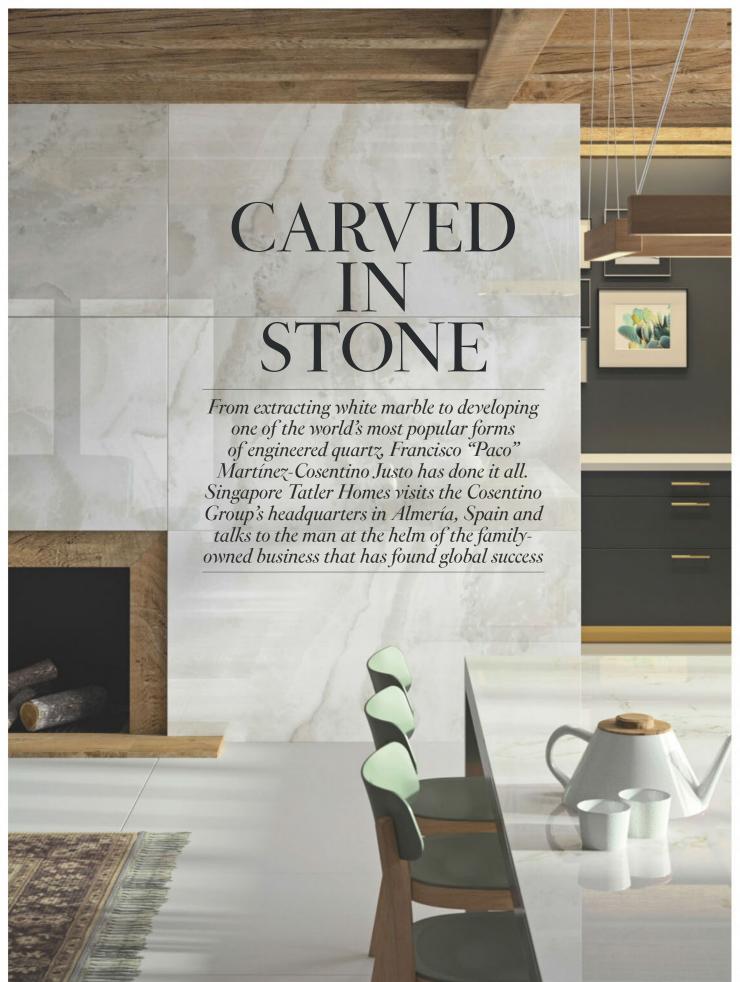
illusionist worked his magic

on the crowd.





The Epitome of Natural Wind.



ooking at Cosentino's sprawling headquarters that spans more than a million square metres, it's hard

to imagine that only a decade ago, this impressive network of production facilities and office buildings didn't exist. Today, the site provides jobs for more than 1,200 employees living in the town of Macael, located in the Spanish province of Almería, and continues a legacy of working with stone for which the community is well known. According to the president and CEO of Cosentino, Francisco Martínez-Cosentino Justo, commonly known as Paco, the journey towards establishing Cosentino's industrial park hasn't been easy.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

In 1940, the first members of the Martínez-Cosentino family started working in a marble quarry in Macael, manufacturing simple products from natural stone. Back then, the town was famed for its production of highquality white marble—Macael marble was a material sought after by renowned architects because of its unique colouration, owing to the distinct composition of natural minerals in the mountains surrounding the area.

Second-generation family members Paco and his brother decided to set up their own marble mining business in 1979. Paco's initial



PACO'S PURSUIT FOR THE IDEAL STONE SURFACE LED TO THE **CREATION OF** SILESTONE IN 1990.

TOP TO BOTTOM

President and CEO of Cosentino, Francisco Martínez-Cosentino Justo; since its launch in 1992. Silestone has been a gamechanger in the design industry

OPPOSITE PAGE

The creamy hues and subtle veins of Dekton's Glacier and Fiord collections make for a sophisticated

attempts ended in failure as he realised that his quarries were not producing quality marble. "It was important to know the mountains and, unfortunately for us, we didn't have good quarries for extracting white Macael marble in the early 1970s," he recalls.

It wasn't until the late 1970s that Paco finally discovered a quarry with a good vein that was producing high-quality Macael marble. However, by then, the amount of quality marble that could be extracted from Macael had dropped sharply—as did market demand for it. This resulted in the closure of many mines, and the community faced an imminent loss of livelihood.

ROCK-SOLID DETERMINATION

While Paco bought over neighbouring plots and increased the size of his existing quarry— Cosentino's current marble quarry in Macael is a combination of five quarries—he also saw an urgent need to search for a new material that would not only be in demand but also be sustainable for the long term. He explains, "My vision was to find a solution for the entire community in Macael so we need not depend on marble anymore. The idea came to me as I was walking through the quarry, watching the men at work. The marble extraction process left a lot of marble remains that were just lying there as waste. That's when I became interested in developing a product that could use these valuable marble bits."

From that point, Paco began investing in research and development into a manufactured stone surface made by fusing stone pieces together with resin. While the initial creation of a manufactured stone surface called Marmolstone didn't meet with much interest from the buying public, Paco's relentless pursuit for the ideal stone surface led to the creation of Silestone in 1990.



THE SILESTONE GENERATION

Following its official launch in 1992, Silestone became a global success as a popular surface material. Comprising more than 90 per cent natural quartz content that is compacted at high pressure with a blend of crystal, glass and polyester resin, Silestone offers the same weight and feel of natural stone with added benefits when used for bathroom counters and kitchen worktops. Advantages include the wide array of unique finishes (polished, suede or volcano) and colours that can be achieved with the material, making it adaptable to any interior style.

At the same time, Silestone creates a hygienic surface with a property known as bacteriostatic protection, owing to a cuttingedge silver technology developed exclusively for Cosentino. With quartz recognised as one of the toughest stones on earth, Silestone's high quartz content also makes the surface as tough and resistant to stains and scratches as it is durable and beautiful to behold.

More than 90 colours are available, making Silestone a prime material choice in various interior applications, such as kitchen worktops, sinks and panels as well as bathroom counters, shower trays, washbasins, wall cladding and flooring. According to Paco, it has also been used for stairs, wall partitions and bar counters. Established designers such as Daniel Libeskind, the Campana brothers and Swedish design studio Form Us With Love have also utilised it for various architectural and homeware projects.



тор то воттом

A kitchen outfitted in Dekton's Tundra: Cosentino's marble quarry in Spain

OPPOSITE PAGE

Long-lasting, hardwearing and luminous. both Silestone and Dekton are key innovations that have been used in countless bathrooms. kitchens and other parts of the home



THE NEXT LAP

The growing demand for Silestone prompted many competitors in the quartz stone industry to offer similar products soon after its release. This prompted Paco to spearhead his next project: developing another new material that would address some of Silestone's limitations. "Silestone was a fantastic product, but I wanted to see how we could improve on it," he explains. "Now, while Silestone is an ideal material for interior usage, it wasn't suitable for outdoor use because of the way the resin in the material reacts when exposed to harsh outdoor conditions. So the aim was to come up with a new formula that would combine rocks and natural minerals without the use of resin. We achieved this with Dekton."

An ultra-compact surface, Dekton is composed of a mixture of raw materials commonly used in the manufacture of porcelain, glass and quartz surfaces, that is combined into a large-format slab (up to 3.2m by 1.44m) through the use of exclusive sinterised particle technology, or TSP. The innovative ultra-compaction process results in a Dekton surface. Not only is it



RESISTANT TO HEAT AND FIRE, DEKTON CAN BE USED OUTDOORS AND INDOORS.

resistant to UV rays, scratches, stains and thermal shock, it also has a very low water-absorption capacity and is available in varying thicknesses of 0.8cm, 1.2cm or 2cm.

More than 22,000 hours of research went into Dekton's development prior to its introduction in 2013, but Paco says there is more untapped potential from this material. "Even after we began producing Dekton, we were discovering new ways of using the ultracompact surface as well as new things we could do to make it even more impressive. It's like bringing up a child and learning new things about him or her every day," he says.





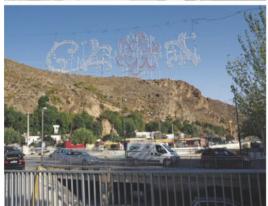






Located 500m above sea level in the Almería region within the autonomous community of Andalusia, Spain, the rustic town of Macael has a laid-back charm. With marble in plentiful supply, most of the town's walkways are paved in the stone material, giving the locale a unique style and appeal. Visitors can also see the world's biggest mortar and pestle, carved entirely out of white and yellow marble. An icon of the region, the mortar measures 3.29m tall and 3m wide,





OPPOSITE PAGE. **CLOCKWISE** FROM TOP LEFT

A contemporary kitchen outfitted with Silestone's quartz series; this calming bathroom is clad in the Aura line; both living areas and study rooms benefit from a hardwearing surface such as Calypso; the handsome finish of Ananke from Dekton

While durability is one of Dekton's core strengths, architects and designers are drawn to it for its design versatility. The Dekton surface can recreate any type of material with highquality detail, such as the intricate looks of marble veins, granite textures and solid colours. In terms of finishes, while Dekton slabs are presented in matte finishes, Cosentino recently launched the Dekton XGloss surfaces, which create a glossy finish through the processes of nano-coating and mechanical polishing.

Resistant to heat, fire and extreme temperature, Dekton can be used outdoors as well as indoors—think exterior facades, floors and floor coverings, swimming pools, gardens, kitchens, bathrooms and furnishings.

BEYOND THE SURFACE

In addition to Silestone and Dekton, Cosentino offers other surface alternatives including Sensa, a range of granite slabs from quarries in Brazil and India which are treated with a layer of chemicals to protect against liquids, oils and sunlight, and come with a 15-year guarantee; Scalea, which includes natural stone products such as basalt, granite, slate, travertine and marble; and the premium Prexury, made from semi-precious stones and other materials, such as retro-style petrified wood and amethyst.

Bringing new forms of surface materials to the world is all in a day's work for 78-yearold Paco, who remains actively involved in the business operations, with daughter Pilar as director of strategic planning, eldest son Eduardo as president and CEO of Cosentino North America, and younger son Francisco Jr as business unit director of Cosentino North America. Although Cosentino now has more than 3,000 employees globally and more than 92 per cent of its sales comes from outside Spain, 13 members from the Cosentino family's third generation remain part of the business. Also interesting is that today, less than one per cent of the company's profits is attributed to Macael marble, which started the family business.

"It's important to enjoy what you dootherwise, there's no reason to do it," Paco says when asked about his philosophy for steering the firm. And what of future trends in stone surfaces? "With more homes designed with integrated spaces, there's a greater need for kitchen surfaces that are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also hygienic and easy to clean and maintain. In this aspect, I believe Cosentino leads the game—and we'll









STYLE

Inspire. Luxurious



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Illumination

Let your home glow with lights made from natural materials

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Accessories

Liven up your rooms with accessories in on-trend hues

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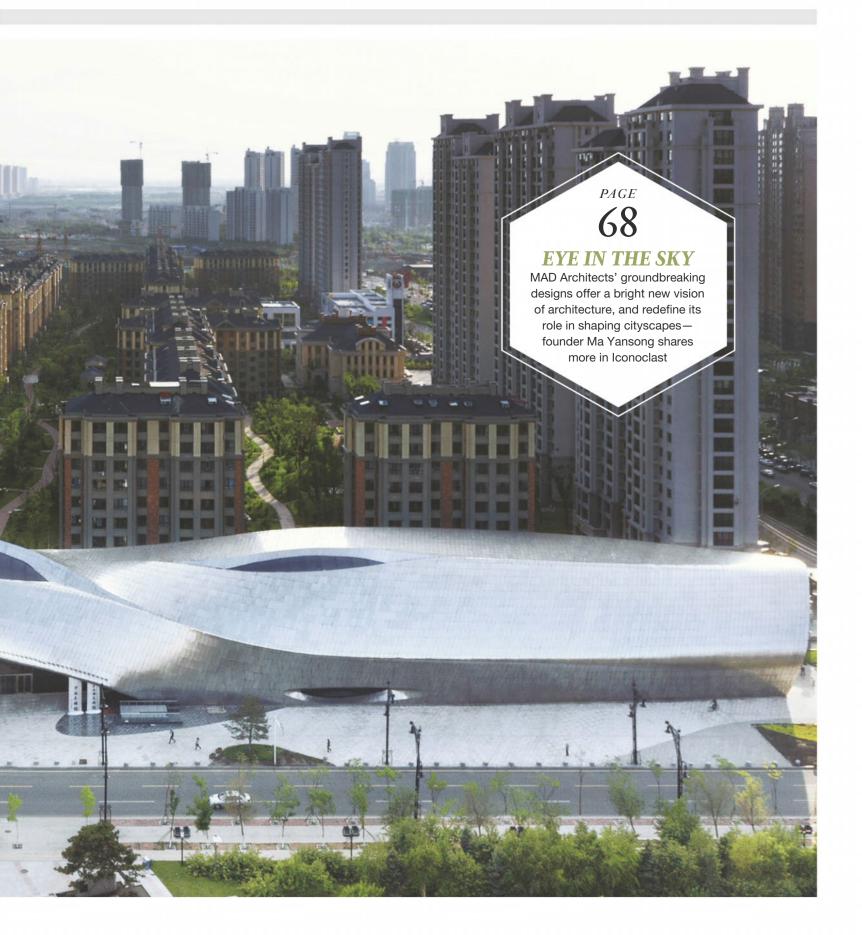
Iconoclast

Ma Yansong of MAD Architects on his revolutionary designs

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Artisan

A closer look at the artisanship and craftsmanship in Cebu





NATURE'S GLOW

Let nature shine with lights made from organic materials such as plant fibre weaves, shells, wood, coconut, bamboo and marble

ring the majesty of Mother Nature into your home—and let there be light. Compared to lights made from synthetic materials such as plastic, those made from natural materials usually require less water and energy to produce, and are therefore better for the environment. Often, the components used to make them are also more easily renewed. Not only are these lighting options more sustainable, they also add interesting textures, warmth and earthy charm to the spaces they illuminate.

Whether you're going for breezy seaside chic or sophisticated minimalism, lights made from natural materials can be used to complement and enhance many design concepts. The brilliance of nacreous mother-of-pearl, polished and carved coconut husks, and beautifully grained woods rendered in wonderful designs transform lighting into a piece that steals the spotlight—an *objet d'art* that fills your home with an enchanting brightness and warmth only nature can bring.



SHINY OAK

Handcrafted from solid oak timber, the Oak Pendant by Melbourne-based designer Ross Gardam showcases the stunning grains and colour gradation of high-quality wood. Accompanied by dimmable 11-watt LED bulbs. a simple black cloth cable and a shadow-line canopy for hanging, the Oak Pendant's smooth, contemporary form is complemented by an intersecting hole that accentuates the body of light emanating from within.



MARBLE MAGIC

Inspired by the stone spice grinder, Tom Dixon's Stone Table Light is carved from white Morwad marble and mounted on top of a tube with a "floating" brass tipped ball-shaped bulb at the top. A classy and elegant choice for a bedside or dresser, the milled marble is cut as thin as possible to give the lamp an almost translucent quality, illuminating the natural veins of the stone.



TWISTED FRAMES

Vito Selma's Twist pendant lamp looks like an optical illusion. Crafted from gmelina wood, Twist consists of 15 overlapping wooden frames that can be configured in a variety of ways for a two-dimensional or three-dimensional appearance. Twist is available in three shapes (square, trapezoid and polygon) and can be easily packaged for delivery.



STYLE ILLUMINATION



COCONUT ZOETROPE

The humble coconut transforms into a magical nightlight, offering the shadow-play effect of a zoetrope. Using jewellers' tools, designers at Skura Design drilled and carved intricate patterns from the hard shell of the coconut. When the light shines from within the hollow of the nut at night, whimsical and wonderful patterns are reflected onto the walls and ceiling.





FOREST TO SEA

Filipino home furnishings and accessories brand Catalina has an eclectic selection of woven lamps. Using weaves made from wooden vines found in the forests of Cebu, designer Marjol Manato designed Winterwhite-a chandelier created to look like a majestic giant sea coral. "The vines are made into wooden tube beads, and each flowerette is handmade over a period of four days," says Manato.

SPLIT WOOD .

Californian designer and wood craftsman Paul Foeckler's Split Grain light sculptures meld contemporary aesthetics with the raw beauty of unvarnished wood. "The project began with me taking notice of an ordinary piece of firewood and thinking it too beautiful to burn. The exterior texture and shape had such organic appeal that I started experimenting. I found that different splitting techniques followed by sawing the form into slices enhanced the cross sections and revealed even more incredible formations and imperceptible grain patterns," says Foeckler, whose works have an organic, minimalist appeal.



DRUM OF LIGHT

Inspired by Afro-Cuban bongo drums, Vito Selma's elongated Bongo floor lights are perhaps what sound waves from drums might look like when they throb upwards from the source of impact. Made with light abaca rope, wrought iron and electrical fittings, the soft flush of the Bongo is perfect for enlivening unused corners with a touch of tribal chic.







SOUTH AMERICAN SOUL

Addressing the problem of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottle waste and helping socioeconomically disadvantaged rural ethnic groups in South America, Spanish designer Alvaro Catalán de Ocón's PET lamps combine recycled plastic bottles with the weaving traditions and materials of the Guambianos, Eperara-Siapidara and Mapuche people in Colombia and Chile to create unique, durable and environmentally-friendly pendant PET Lamps. Handcrafted using wicker, natural fibres from the Paja Tetera palm tree, wool or cotton, every lamp is different, and each has its own story to tell.





Control the direction of your light source with the futuristic Orbit Spot, a ground-up spotlight made of transparent or black marble. Designed by Paris-based A+A Cooren Design Studio, these ethereal lamps have a changeable centre of gravity, so you can position them at vertical or more oblique angles for soft yet effective illumination.



A+A COOREN DESIGN STUDIO

aplusacooren.com

CATALINA

catalina.ph

DAVID TRUBRIDGE

Light + Form Concepts #01-02, 341 Balestier Road Tel: 6898 2555 light-pro.com

PET LAMP

petlamp.org

ROSS GARDAM

rossgardam.com.au

SKURA DESIGN

skuradesign.com

SPLIT GRAIN

splitgrain.com

TOM DIXON

XTRA Designs 6 Raffles Boulevard, #02-240 Marina Square Tel: 6336 4664 xtra.com.sg

VITO SELMA

vitoselma.com





SCULPTURAL BAMBOO

Versatile and eco-friendly bamboo plywood is what New Zealand designer David Trubridge uses for his lampshades. Forms occurring in nature such as coral, flax, snowflake, sea urchin and the nikau palm tree inform his work. Trubridge offers more than 20 nature-inspired designs that can be mixed and matched to suit any room.

A League of Its Own

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANDREW MARTIN'S *INTERIOR DESIGN REVIEW* MARKS THE 4TH CONSECUTIVE FEATURE OF SINGAPORE-BASED **DESIGN INTERVENTION** IN THE BOOK AND PLACES THE FIRM IN THE RANKS OF THE WORLD'S MOST OUTSTANDING INTERIOR DESIGN FIRMS OF 2016



elmed by Nikki Hunt and Andrea Savage, multiple award-winning studio Design Intervention has acquired a reputation for its exquisite, custom-made designs and attention to detail within meticulously crafted and styled interiors. With the Singapore-based firm's penchant for bold and statement-making style and knack for creating striking vision impact through bespoke interiors, it has garnered international attention for its works, securing projects across residential and commercial sectors in Australia, Japan and Singapore. All this highlights its status as an industry leader in the region.

Design Intervention's latest accolade—a feature in the 20th edition of Andrew Martin's Interior Design Review which highlights works by the world's leading interior designers of 2016—is the latest testament of the high quality level in the firm's projects. With the publication considered to be the "Oscars" of the interior design world, Design Intervention joins the ranks of the world's most notable designers for 2016, such as Greg Natale, Jan Showers, Rob Mills and Kelly Hoppen, whose work graced the front cover of the book's inaugural edition.





"The pages contain the very best examples of classic, eccentric, decadent, minimalist and avantgarde. It is very simply a compilation of the best of every design genre highlighting the current trends in international interior design. What other inspiration could a design-lover need?" says founding partner Nikki Hunt about what some call the definitive "Bible" of the industry.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

Juxtaposing colours and prints without losing their trademark glamour,
Design Intervention has carved out a distinct approach to design, which makes it all the more sought-after

OPPOSITE PAGE From jacquard to velvet, sumptuous materials always figure in the firm's award-winning projects The 20th anniversary of the Interior Design Review marks the fourth consecutive year in which Design Intervention has been featured in the book, reaffirming its standing as a world-class interior design company. The only Singapore-based firm featured in the latest review, Design Intervention joins the prestigious league of the world's top 95 designers who have been selected from a long list of contenders.

For Hunt and Savage, their firm's inclusion in the 2016 edition is more than just a personal accomplishment—it's a testament of how far Asian design has progressed, with an impressive number of up-and-coming Asian designers finding a place alongside their European and American counterparts in the latest book.

Clearly encouraged by the unparallelled quality and innovation that continues to pour out of Asia's creative scene, Design Intervention looks poised to continue the winning streak, representing Singapore on the global landscape of architectural, interior and product design for years to come. ①















Leap Ahead

DRIVE AND A FIRM VISION HAS HELPED THE HELMSMAN OF MK-TRE TAKE CONSIDERABLE STRIDES IN THE DESIGNER KITCHEN INDUSTRY



ot many people can have an indefatigable spirit to soldier on in a competitive field such as the designer kitchen industry. There are the inevitable long hours, and the mental challenges to meet clients' expectations and budgets while delivering high-quality products in short time frames. However, one person rose above all these challenges—Mahmud Karim.

The 43-year-old self-effacing managing director of MK-Tre—a firm specialising in premium Italian designer kitchens Binova—smiles through all the hardships he has endured. It took him 22 years of perseverance and hard work to arrive at a point in his career which he is proud of.

Before forming MK-Tre, Mahmud worked with renowned luxury kitchen brands such as Poggenpohl, Bulthaup, Rational, Hacker, Eggersmann, Effeti Cucine and Schiffini. With an educational grounding in interior design, he has also worked with brands including Tisettanta, Fimes and Interlübke.

With a vision to take kitchen design further, Mahmud became a gamechanger in an industry wrought with rules, regulations and demands. To him, the only "design" we set upon ourselves are the "parameters" in our creative mind. He believes kitchen design is evolutionary and should change with the user's unique lifestyle and habits. Most of his work is focused in Asia, but this welltravelled impresario is often on the move to meet clients, touch and try new materials, and experience the ambiences conveyed in tradeshows around the world.

"At the end of the day, the one thing that you must satisfy is your customer. Your soft skills are essential in delivering the desired hardware," Mahmud opines. Now that's a boss who's definitely people-oriented.

In an interview, the managing director of MK-Tre talks about design trends and his new venture.



What sets MK-Tre apart from other kitchen companies?

People are our greatest asset. We have a dedicated team of individuals with a wide skill set, some of whom have worked with renowned luxury brands for over a decade. At MK-Tre, we go beyond the norm of kitchen design and constantly challenge the boundaries of kitchen concepts. We provide in-depth consultancy and listen closely to our clients in order to create a product that sates their lifestyle and needs. We also believe Binova's awardwinning designs have an edge over our competitors, and its premium Italian finishing and top-notch manufacturing standards will woo customers.

How would you define a "well designed kitchen"?

A well-appointed kitchen is one that is timeless in design, not something that is seasonal in style. It should also be fully functional and engineered to provide features within close reach. Having the right technology is important as it affects and enhances the kitchen's usability.

It also has to be a place that you choose to spend your late nights interacting with your loved ones—whether it's having a meal or just simple meal preparation. A well-designed kitchen lets the user spend hours there without feeling the need to take a breather to leave the space.

TOP TO BOTTOM

The sleek lines and handsome finish of designer kitchen brand, Binova; MK-Tre aims to fuse style with full functionality by leveraging on customisation as well as technology

OPPOSITE PAGEMahmud Karim, managing director of MK-Tre

What has been the most rewarding experience working in this industry for more than a decade?

The process of solving big and complex design issues/constraints in our clients' homes is satisfaction you get on the job. On a business aspect, it is being able to be a big part towards the contribution of turning a small kitchen company into a public-listed market leader in the industry. As mentioned before, people are our assets so the ability to guide and train all those under my leadership and mould them to be efficient professionals is another fulfilling experience.

What are your views on the luxury kitchen scene regionally?

There will be a lot of changes in this volatile region, in particularly Singapore and Malaysia. The top brands will have to innovate and stay competitive but ultimately, it is about the right people working for you to bring your brand into the future.

How do you keep your customers satisfied?

By getting it right from the very early design stages down to the installation. We aim to deliver only the best quality products customised to customers' needs that will last a lifetime.

What do you think is essential to the growth of a company?

Any company would not be successful without good people. Human capital is an asset. Good leaders pass down their knowledge to their subjects so organisations can move ahead and grow. Good leaders should not be stuck doing the same thing year after year. As a leader, one has to grow or upgrade his/her skills in order to stay relevant.

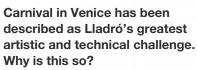
What are your upcoming plans in 2017?

We will redefine the true meaning of luxury as we will be launching another premium European kitchen brand in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during the first quarter of 2017. 19



A PORCELAIN CELEBRATION

Spanish porcelain brand Lladró's latest innovative creation is Carnival in Venice, limited to 100 pieces. Rosa Lladró, the company's president, explains what went into its making



This is the first time we have created such an imposing piece. It's a monumental work, with a creative process that involved five years of research and testing. It took that long to develop because of the many characters that make up the tableau. There are 14 different characters inspired by the [Italian theatre form] commedia dell'arte.

We call the piece the highest level of porcelain because of its complexity—more than 22,000 hours of work by 35 artists and around 450 fragments went into giving life to this creation. The fragments are joined together and painted before entering the kiln. In the firing process, the pieces undergo a reduction in size of around 15 per cent due to water loss. Therefore, succeeding in keeping the right proportions of the pieces, especially of the bridge and the boat, is a great achievement.

Decoratively speaking, new colours were added to Lladró's palette such as the deep red of the Venetian merchant Pantalone's costume and the blue hue of the textured dress on the Lady on the Steps. Another tour de force is the canal water—its foamy effect was achieved with a colour created just for this piece and involved a painstaking process of sponging by hand to remove excess varnish.





INSIGHT INTO INTRICACY Rosa Lladró, president of the company, says that the Carnival in Venice collection is considered the highest level of porcelain—22,000 hours of work by 35 artists went into its creation.

What do you like most about this piece?

I like that the viewer is immersed in the scene—a part of the carnival and the action. You can almost hear the rhythmic sounds of the violin and lute, and the water's soft murmur. The composition conveys the exuberance and atmosphere of the carnival, and there's a lot of action taking place among the characters in the scene.

What is the best part about being president of Lladró?

I work with an amazing group of creative people. A large team of craftsmen contribute to developing Lladró sculptures—with sculptors, painters, ornamentalists, flower artists and master firers, there are always ideas in the air. We often have three generations of a family working for us. Sometimes, they're inspired by their own lives. Discovering the World, for

example, is a piece inspired by a sculptor's young daughter. Then I get to travel and show off these beautiful pieces around the world.

Lladró is often associated with classical styles. How are you addressing modern tastes?

We have always worked within the same porcelain tradition but our styles can be experimental. We've collaborated with the likes of American contemporary artist Gary Baseman as well as British fashion designer Paul Smith for The Guest series. We've also gone into new areas such as jewellery. We have a new audience that speaks a new language, but certain themes are enduring. For instance, we continue to recreate the statue of a mother and child because it's a story that still resonates. 00



Lladró is available at #04-51 Paragaon

The Gold Standard

AN INNOVATOR IN THE WORLD OF BATHROOM SANITARY FITTINGS, **AXOR MANUFAKTUR CUSTOMISATION SERVICE OFFERS** BESPOKE BATHROOM PERSONALISATION, ADAPTED TO MEET INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMER NEEDS AROUND THE GLOBE



pecialising in tailoring taps, shower heads and bathroom accessories, the small yet dedicated team at Axor Manufaktur in Schiltach, Germany, has been customising bespoke sanitary fittings for private customers and global projects since 2002. Aside from the standard range of 15 different finishes, they also coordinate custom engravings directly with customers, making the possibilities of catering to an

individual's vision for a bathroom almost limitless given the range of Axor Manufaktur's offerings. With each piece bevelled and polished by hand to meet the highest standards, the exclusive sanitary fittings have found their home in the master bathrooms of private villas and mansions and, most recently, in a Chinese luxury hotel compound, where the one-of-a-kind fittings had been embellished with Swarovski crystals upon the client's request.



Part of Axor Manufaktur's unique services, adaptation of the fittings' dimensions to comply with the clients' requests has become a key selling point for a range of truly customised bathroom fixtures. Many of Axor and Hansgrohe products can be lengthened or shortened to the required length, allowing the bathroom fittings to be a direct reflection of the customers' taste, need and preference. For custom finishes to taps, the Physical Vapour Deposition Technology, which coats the objects with a custom finish, results in surfaces that are highly resistant against harsh environments, scratches and various cleaning products. Final touches of customisation come in the application of special letterings or logos to the sanitary ware by means of laser technology, adding a personal note to the range of bathroom fittings that are marked with high standard of quality befit of any design-savvy home. (9)



Decked in a luxurious combination of gold and cream, the new studio space of Prestige Global Designs at River Valley Road manages the feat of pairing grandeur with comfort. For that, the studio was recognised at the recent Asia Pacific Property Awards during which it bagged a further five accolades.

Founded by established interior designers Jeremy Tay and Michael Ong, the design practice has collected a string of awards ever since its inception in 2008. Not one to rest on its laurels however, the design practice is determined to bring itself to greater heights in Singapore and beyond.

Singapore Tatler Homes speaks to Tay, the mastermind behind some of the firm's most recognised interior design projects—such as the Prestige Global Designs studio and Dharmawangsa Residence II in Indonesia—to learn more about the practice and its plans for the year.

What does "prestige" mean to you?

Prestige means refinement, finesse and good taste. At Prestige Global Designs, we always seek to improve our work. We look for opportunities to bring our designs to an international platform in our constant pursuit to elevate our designs to a higher level.

Could you tell us about your design philosophy?

We place equal emphasis on form and function. We believe that interiors should be aesthetically appealing to our clients while being functional and suited to their lifestyle. As famed American architect Frank Lloyd Wright said, "Form follows function—that has been misunderstood. Form and function should be one, joined in a spiritual union".

In your opinion, what are the key traits of a good interior designer?

A good interior designer is a creative and resourceful problemsolver; someone who can make things happen, based on the client's unique needs.

What are some of the top trends in luxury homes that you anticipate in 2017?

First is the Contemporary Classic look, which is all about timeless and squarish forms infused with classical details, especially on the walls. It will also feature furniture loosely placed throughout the home, in neutral colours such as dark brown. Another trend to watch is Chinoiserie, an ideal combination of oriental elements and classical decor, featuring colours such as black, gold, turquoise and brown. Finally, the Art Deco style, which features sunburst motifs, glass and mirrors, as well as colours such as gold, black and white. 0



"A GOOD INTERIOR DESIGNER IS A CREATIVE AND RESOURCEFUL PROBLEM-SOLVER."





For more information, call Prestige Global Designs at 6836 6678 or visit prestige-global.com



MAD

Blurring the line between structure and landscape, the nature-inspired architecture of Ma Yansong, founder of Mad Architects, is revolutionising cities across the globe

WORKS



BY Y-JEAN MUN-DELSALLE IMAGES COURTESY OF MAD ARCHITECTS

orget boxy, geometrical and rectilinear designs—Ma Yansong is on a mission to create cities that are more organic, undulating and ultimately more liveable and more human. So futuristic are his megastructures that they could be spaceships right out of science-fiction flicks. Yet they are not mere figments of his imagination. His projects are being built in China—a country witnessing explosive population growth—and increasingly in the West, in cities in search of solutions to high urban density. It's a true testament of his creative prowess that his unconventional soaring edifices are seeing the light of day, even though they trigger massive technical challenges for their builders and engineers as well as increased financial costs for their developers. Take towers for instance. Most are constructed on straight lines simply because they are more efficient and less expensive to build that way. But that's not the Ma way.

A project designer for the late British architect Zaha Hadid in London for a year before founding Beijing-based MAD Architects in 2004, Ma became the first Chinese architect to win an international competition for a foreign landmark project: the Absolute Towers in Mississauga, Canada, composed of twin asymmetrical, spiralling residential high-rise buildings with 360-degree views on each level that have a slightly different appearance from every angle. Every floor and every unit is unique. His very first overseas project finalised in 2012. It proved that China was a burgeoning force in creative architecture and brought international exposure to a Toronto suburb—it's unusual for a privately-developed condominium to help an emerging city form an identity through its architecture, as it's a job usually left to public projects, such as a museum, opera house or city hall.

Prior to Absolute Towers, Ma had never built a tower. However, all that changed thanks to the breakthrough commission.



OPPOSITE PAGE

At 41, an age when many young architects **AND BELOW** have little hope of seeing their imaginative The exterior of the high-rise designs getting further than sinuous Harbin proposals, Ma has overcome barriers to early Opera House success and already built a strong reputation for himself in a competitive industry. He has **ABOVE** 10 completed buildings under his belt and Absolute Towers, is currently working on major structures in considered Asia, Europe and America, with seven under Ma Yansong's construction. China in particular has given breakthrough Ma countless opportunities, providing him commission with his first base as an architect because "everywhere you look, you see problems", he says. Some of his projects could not be built anywhere else but in China—a nation still full of potential—which offers creative licence to its architects, who are encouraged to think big and experiment with cutting-edge designs on high-visibility, large-scale projects, which can be designed and constructed at lightning speed thanks to a top-down system with little transparency and regulatory oversight. This is changing now though, Ma divulges, as architects are taking on more responsibility and consulting with the community—also becoming master planners and policymakers—when previously, they just followed orders.





ONCE YOU HAVE THIS PHILOSOPHY, YOU JUST NEED TO REACT TO DIFFERENT CONDITIONS, THE SIZE, THE LOCATION, BUT THAT'S MORE ABOUT INSTINCT.

ABSOLUTE TOWERS

2012

Like many other up-andcoming suburbs in North America, Mississauga near Toronto in Canada had been seeking a new identity, and this residential project answered the needs of an expanding city, creating a landmark that not only aims for functionality but also evokes emotion and connects residents to their hometown. It is sculptural yet has a human element with a continuous balcony that surrounds the whole building, which rotates by several degrees at different levels in accordance with the surrounding scenery.

OPPOSITE PAGE. **CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT**

UNIC residences; 71 Via Boncompagni; Fake Hills; Nanjing Zendai Himalayas Center

LOOKING WEST

While the past had primarily seen the West exporting its expertise to the East, Ma has been moving in the opposite direction. MAD's first constructed project in Europe after winning an international competition in collaboration with French firm Biecher Architectes was the 6,600-sqm, 50-m high and 13-storey UNIC residences located in the emerging Clichy-Batignolles district of Paris facing the Martin Luther King Park, scheduled to be completed in 2017. Featuring a simple double core structure and bare concrete facade, it blurs the lines between architecture and nature through stepped terraces, which extend the park's green spaces to the building's verticality. With twisting floor plates, each asymmetrical level slightly narrows as the building climbs. While the upper floors showcase panoramic views of the capital and its monuments, UNIC's podium is connected to a public housing project with direct access to the metro and community resources such as a kindergarten, shops and restaurants to encourage human interaction.

Over in Rome, the 20,000-sqm, 28.5-m high 71 Via Boncompagni luxury residences comprises 145 units of varying sizes with balconies on each of the eight floors. Built in the 1970s, the existing modern edifice was a commercial courtyard building attached to an early 20th-century chapel. In this adaptive reuse project introducing vibrant contemporary urban living to Rome's closedoff historical buildings and traditional neighbourhoods, Ma removed all of the original structure's walls, keeping only the floors and columns. Instead of demolishing and reconstructing the entire abandoned building, he retained the concrete structural framework and inserted new metal-and-glass living units, balconies and gardens, proposing a more transparent scheme resembling a bookshelf.

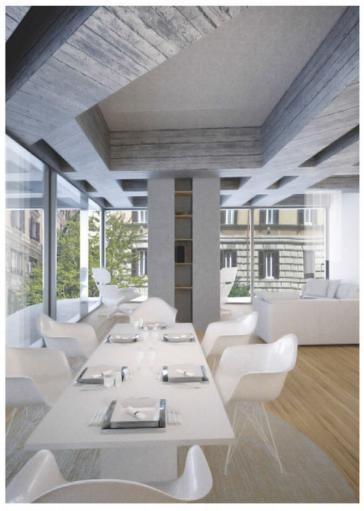
On a smaller scale, Clover House in Okazaki, MAD's first project in Japan, inserts remnants of an old house inside a new building. Recently completed, it is a kindergarten by day, and by night, the house is a living space for the owner's family and the school teachers. Rather than destroying the existing 105-sqm, two-storey house, the original wood structure was incorporated into the new building's design. For instance, the pitched roof creates a dynamic interior and introduces the owner's memories of the building. As the original wood structure is present throughout the main learning area, it serves as a tool to tell students about the building's history and traditions during lessons.

SHANSHUI CITY

In the past few years, Ma's projects have reflected his vision of the "shanshui city", which aims to create a new balance among society, the city and the environment through architecture. He relates, "Shanshui means 'mountain-water', two characters, but in China, it's part of the culture. You can also make a shanshui painting or a shanshui garden. It's the idea of bringing inspiration from nature into the architectural world. We need to enter a new era to make nature and humans more emotionally connected in modern cities. That's a big goal and how to do it, the thinking process, takes years. Once you have this philosophy, you just need to react to different conditions, the size, the location, but that's more about instinct. I'm sensitive to my own instinct, and I can come very quickly to the concept. I don't compare; I don't hesitate. Before, I looked at what other people were doing and how my work was different from theirs. Now I'm more into my own past and my history, and I want to dig deeper and see how to develop myself. It's more about myself; it's a lonelier process."

Ma's monumental projects in China make you feel like you've just stepped inside a Chinese classical landscape painting unsurprising when you consider that he originally aspired to be an artist then a filmmaker. Its lakes, springs, creeks, forests,









ТОР ТО ВОТТОМ

Chaoyang Park Plaza aerial view; Chaoyang Park Plaza lobby interior

valleys and stones are quite literally transplanted into his high-density modern urban architecture. He explains, "Growing up in Beijing, I was influenced by traditional culture: the courtyards, hutongs (narrow streets or alleys), old city and art forms, which I've brought to my practice. In our traditional culture, people have a different view towards nature than in Western culture. We consider humans as part of nature. But in the West, they talk about protecting nature. That's a joke because nature doesn't care; it's humans who need to protect themselves. So it's my instinct to bring this to my practice and to the West."

A project that rethinks the traditional model of buildings in a modern city, injecting nature into contemporary urban architecture so people can share emotions and a sense of belonging, is the 220,000-sqm, 120-m high Chaoyang Park Plaza on the edge of one of Beijing's largest public parks. The office, commercial and residential complex create a dialogue between man-made scenery and natural landscapes. Staggered shaped garden terraces atop two ridged, asymmetrical dark glass towers offer breathtaking views of the city and the valley created by the site's shorter buildings, recalling tall mountain cliffs and river landscapes. Ma notes, "In China, the most important thing is nature, and manmade gardens or temples always work with nature. In the West, when you talk about green buildings, you have buildings that look modern but have better glass or technology. But in the gardens, the experience is so beautiful. It's not only about physical comfort, but the spiritual."





PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

NEW ARCHETYPES

As most development in China's new cities are residential homes, often standardised and inexpensive, Ma is building high-density, affordable housing that is also architecturally innovative. His 492,000-sqm oceanfront Fake Hills apartment complex in the coastal city of Beihai in southern China consists of a high-rise and groundscraper shaped like hills, all with ocean views. The continuous platform along the rooftop provides residents with gardens, tennis courts and swimming pools, while openings in the edifice allow sea breezes to pass through.

He says, "Because of China's large population, we have to answer the question of how to make high-density housing. Big buildings are a condition we have to work with—there's no choice. The population today is 30 times more than that of old Beijing. If everyone has a courtyard, there'd be no Beijing. China uses highrises as a symbol of modernity and power, but there's also a real need. To design in high-density cities, first you have to have a sense of community, and nature and human scale are important. In Fake Hills, since it's oceanfront, I decided to bring the mountain—this region has many mountains, very similar in shape. So although we're making a large community—4,000 families in one building—we're also making a new cityscape and people feel like they're living in a mountain because they have terraces on the roof and open spaces."

MAD's projects in the pipeline include the Quanzhou Convention Centre in Nanjing, the China Philharmonic Hall in Beijing and two mixed-use high-rises in Izmir, Turkey. Ma describes the future of architecture, "Luxury now is nature, when you have a balcony or small garden. Nature is also a social device—in front of nature, everyone is more equal and it brings people together. Few people realise sustainability is actually about humans themselves and how they'll live in the future. When people talk about the environment, it's a starting point of this transformation from modern times to more nature and humanity. In the modern city, many things were controlled by other priorities, like the economy and politics. But when humanity and spiritual demands become the bigger priority, the whole world will change." 6



ORDOS MUSEUM

Floating atop a sand dune-like plaza, the space-age metal container art museum appears to have landed in the Gobi Desert in Inner Mongolia from another planet. The interior is like an airy cave linked to a canyon that creates a void between the galleries and exhibition hall, which is at times flooded in natural light from the skylights and at other times mysteriously plunged in shadow.



CHINA WOOD SCULPTURE MUSEUM

The 13,000-sqm museum in Harbin housing wood sculptures and paintings portraying the ice and snow of the regional scenery is encircled by a Chinese-style neighbourhood. Its polished steel plate exterior blurs the lines between solid and liquid mirrors the surroundings and changing light, while referencing native landscapes.



HARBIN OPERA HOUSE

2015

Located amidst Harbin's riverside wetlands, the opera house was created in response to the northern Chinese city's untamed wilderness and extreme climate. Looking as if it were sculpted by wind and water, the building's curvilinear facade composed of smooth white aluminium panels that blend in with the landscapes of its surroundings.



PHOENIX ISLAND

2013

Located at the heart of Sanya in Hainan Province, this is where the Olympic torch tour had begun in 2008. A man-made island spanning 1,250m by 350m, it represents the future of Sanya as a major tourism and resorts city. It's composed of a seven-star hotel, five apartment buildings, shopping streets, a yachting clubhouse and a harbour for international passenger liners.

Restored Grandeur

A TIMEWORN BUNGALOW GETS A NEW LEASE OF LIFE, THROUGH A DRAMATIC TRANSFORMATION LED BY INTERIOR DESIGN FIRM THE PLUSH





ith its elegant rows of floor-to-ceiling windows, this two-storey bungalow at Tanglin Hill looks spacious and grand; a world away from how it used to look three years ago. Its transformation is even more remarkable considering that it was achieved without extensive changes to the aged building's original architecture.

Completed in October 2016, this 15,000 sqft bungalow was refurbished by interior design firm The Plush, as an A&A (Additions and Alteration works) project. The client wished to rent out the bungalow and wanted to get the most out of their renovation budget by preserving its original architecture, while improving the building layout and design.

"The homeowners wanted to improve the outdated look of the house, however, they were unsure of what to do to make it better without having to resort to major structural change," shares Evelina Hu, director of The Plush. "They met several other designers and architects but were not satisfied with their proposed designs."

Two years after their first consultation, they turned to The Plush for help. By rejuvenating the building facade and some savvy space planning, Hu and the chief designer of The Plush, Alvin Felipe, were determined to meet all of the client's requirements.



A GRAND ENTRANCE

To impress potential tenants, the project focused on improving the look of the bungalow's front-facing entrance and, subsequently, the overall impression that the 35,000 sqft estate would give residents and guests. This was achieved through what Hu calls a "modern classic" look; a timeless and stately style that will stand the test of time, compared to the building's previous design. "We wanted the entrance and entry area to create an amazing impact while keeping most of the original

architecture intact," she says.

The home had initially appeared dark and gloomy due to its outmoded layout. The building's covered walkway and single-storey foyer blocked out much of the natural light and had also affected the ventilation within the residence.

So the project's biggest alterations involved countering these features while expanding the foyer and living area, to improve ventilation and daylighting, as well as the overall appearance of the property.

TOP TO BOTTOM

Focus was given to the property's front-facing section and living room, to create a stately entrance and entryway

OPPOSITE PAGE

Before and after shots of the property. The covered walkway was removed to improve the building's lighting and ventilation The heavy foyer roof was removed to raise the ceiling height and make the home's entry area more spacious and airy. "The whole home immediately became so much brighter and lighter," says Hu.

The new floor-to-ceiling windows were another significant change. The original windows were replaced with rectangular casement and picture windows as well as a matching main door. These instantly modernised the appearance of the building and improved its air circulation and daylighting. Other decorative details on the exterior were kept to the minimum, to let the modern, uplifting design speak for itself. The pool was similarly streamlined, to match the linear lines of the bungalow exterior.

The design firm also made simple changes to the building layout. The living room was expanded to twice its original height, to create a grander and more inviting space. Existing columns within the building were hidden, to help improve its layout. To add to the property's classic concept, its interiors featured an array of marbles and tiles from Italy. The colour scheme consisted of earthy, neutral hues, imparting a look that is refined and timeless.

These efforts paid off—the property appears fresh yet timeless, and the client was pleased with the final result. Admiring the fruits of their labour, Hu says, "My favourite section of this residence is its front angle, as well as the view of the property from the swimming pool." 19











Designer Vito Selma is one of the young creative forces helping to push Filipino design forward: brother and sister duo Dean and Laelany Pasquet of La Galuche are helping to shape the future of their family business



The beauty of handcrafted pieces are in the imperfections

rom its modest beginnings in the 1940s as a hub for rattan porch furniture and antique reproductions, the Cebuano furniture industry has come a long way. Today, Cebuano brands are not only attracting the attention of celebrity interior designers and international luxury brands, they are also making big impressions at prestigious trade fairs such as Maison & Objet.

When placed in the hands of Cebu's creative designers and their capable craftsmen, treasures from the seas (such as shells and molluscs) and the land (such as abaca, coconut, rattan, wood, bamboo and animal skins) are transformed into exquisite furniture and home decor.

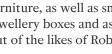
THE NEXT GENERATION

Vito Selma is a prime example of how Cebu's furniture industry has evolved. He spent much of his childhood around his parents' traditional furniture-making business. As a young adult, Selma left Cebu to study design in San Francisco and Milan, then returned home to help his family rebrand their business with a new aesthetic that is more streamlined and functional, with strong Japanese and Scandinavian influences.

With Selma, everything is considered and transformative—a chair can be reconfigured as a night light, while lamps inspired by woodblock puzzles can be reassembled for variations in form. "Cebuano furniture is special because of the craftwork, which has become an integral part of the design," he explains. "A lot of things are made by hand, and this can be seen in the details."

Like Selma, brother-and-sister duo Dean and Laelany Pasquet belong to the new generation that has stepped up to improve the family business. La Galuche was founded by the siblings' father, Jean Marc Pasquet, a French gemmologist who met and married their Cebuano mother when he went to the island to source red and black coral in the 1980s. The brand specialises in marquetry using exotic skins, particularly galuchat—the highly prized skin of rays, first used for samurai sword hilts in 15th-century Japan before becoming fashionable in France in the 17th century.

The brand's limited edition Art Deco-style furniture, as well as smaller items such as jewellery boxes and ashtrays, have made fans out of the likes of Robicara, John Lyle, Cravt,



STYLE ARTISAN

Ralph Lauren and Hermès. "There aren't too many people skilled with galuchat. There is a barangay [neighbourhood] in Cebu called Mambaling where most galuchat craftsmen come from, and that's where we find our workers," says Dean, who employs three generations of Mambaling craftsmen in the La Galuche factory. "Only eight skins can be laid in a day, and it takes an average of two to three months to complete a single item."

Laelany adds, "Besides galuchat, we work with wood, tobacco leaf, snake and goat-skin parchment—the challenge is combining the different materials in a single design."

FROM OTHER SHORES

As a young student in a convent school, Joan Wang of Catalina recalls watching the nuns make shell accessories to assist in their livelihood. "Shell craft is a big part of Cebuano culture," says Wang, who began designing jewellery before transitioning to home furnishings in 1997. "More than 7,000 islands make up the Philippines, so we have access to an abundance of shells."

Wang started with four craftsmen but now has a team of 160 who focus on lighting made from shells and woven raffia, rattan, pandan and abaca. She adds, "The harvesting of native plant materials for the handloom is how many local farmers make their living, so the industry really helps the community."

Carlo Cordaro, the Italian CEO of Atelier-A, relocated from Rome to Cebu more than 20 years ago so he could be closer to the materials he uses to fashion his contemporary Asian furniture designs. "I select my woods, leathers and palm husks as a tailor selects his fabric," says the economist-turned-designer, who was one of the eight designers of Movement 8, a 1999 government initiative aimed at increasing the presence of Filipino design on the world stage.

A LEGACY OF NATURAL CRAFT

"In the 1960s, big American brands such as Baker and Maitland-Smith manufactured their rattan furniture or antique reproductions in Cebu," explains Cordaro. "Then local brands such as Dedon and Murillo, which made mostly outdoor furniture, came onto the scene. Over the past six years, as luxury





ABOVE

The undulating and mesmerising curves of a Vito Selma piece

OPPOSITE PAGE

Labour-intensive processes, such as prepping shagreen, results in perfectly imperfect pieces

tourism increased and local tastes became more sophisticated, Cebu designers developed a sleeker, more contemporary style. The business model is shifting from mass-market to high-end bespoke."

No stranger to global success, Cordaro's fellow Movement 8 designer Kenneth Cobonpue counts Queen Sofia of Spain, Queen Rania of Jordan and actor Brad Pitt among his clients. "As a boy, I built most of my own toys with the help of the craftsmen and artisans who surrounded me," recalls Cobonpue. "It was an incredibly happy time, and I wanted the expression of creativity from my childhood to last forever, so I decided to make it my life's work."







Cobonpue frequently teaches at a design school in Manila and strongly believes in nurturing young talent. At his factory in Cebu, he runs an apprenticeship programme where senior craftsmen spend a year training novice carpenters and weavers. "In other countries, furniture-makers treat their work like a job—but Cebuanos love to do something new, to challenge themselves, to innovate," he explains. "My workers all design and make their own chairs. What makes Cebu furniture so unique is the skill level of the craftspeople, and their attitude towards what they do." 19

INSIDE THE TRADE

The bounty of natural materials in the Philippines offer a great starting point for designers



ABACA

Also known as Manila hemp, abaca comes from the leaf sheath surrounding the trunk of the abaca, a plant native to the Philippines.



RATTAN

This climbing vine is abundant, especially in southern Philippines. A more sustainable source than wood, it can be dyed to obtain the desired colour.



RAFFIA

Locally called buri, raffia originates from the young shoot of the buri palm. It is usually handwoven and used to make hats, mats as well as string.



COCONUT

Most parts of the coconut plant-from the roots, to the husk-are used to make furniture, while fibres from the coconut palm are often employed in weaving.



GIANT BAMBOO

This fast-growing plant is available throughout the country. Four- to six-yearold bamboos are the most durable-and therefore ideal for furniture-making.



SHELLS

The most commonly used variants include capiz and cabebe shells as well as mother-of-pearl, found on the inner shell of oysters and molluscs.



GALUCHAT

Also known as shagreen, this is a type of rawhide leather made from the skins of sharks and rays. It has a luxuriant sheen, and a somewhat rough and hardy texture.

SPACES

Decorate. Luxurious



82

Living

Outfit your space with modern Chinese-inspired decor pieces

88

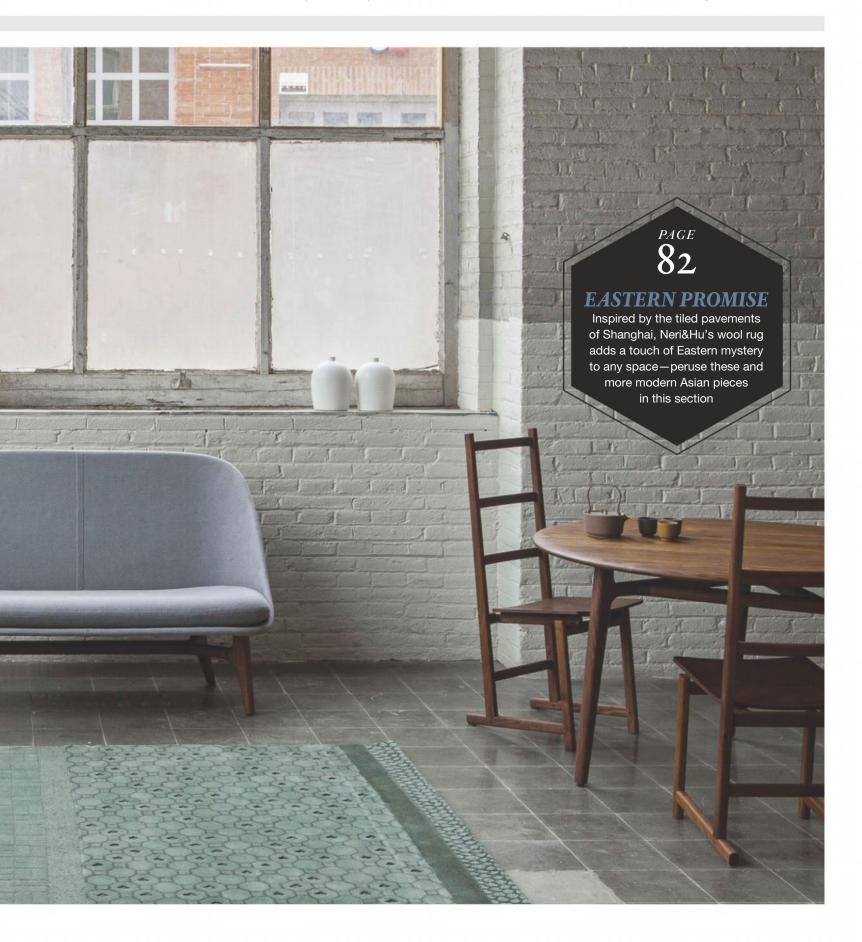
Kitchen

Five easy steps to creating a chic and functional kitchen

92

Bedroom

Infuse *hygge* into your bedroom and make it a cosy cocoon



ORIENT EXPRESS

Embark on an Eastern romance with Chineseinspired pieces that add mystique to your living room





hen one thinks of Chinese-inspired interiors, austere rosewood and cold jade often come to mind.
But this isn't

always the case. Put a new spin on an Easternstyle living room by minimising clutter and selecting pieces that have distinct Chinese touches, yet are thoroughly modern.

"Start with loose furniture and art, and choose pieces that speak to you and will make your home unique," suggests Ed Ong, creative director of Dwell Interior Design.

He also stresses the importance of picking the right materials: "Opt for solid wood over cheaper finishes so your furniture ages gracefully and takes on its own character over time."

EASTERN INCLINATION

Made from fibreglass soaked in epoxy resin, Moooi's black Non Random lights by Dutch designer Bertjan Pot look like many things—coils, yarn, soap bubbles, a pomelo hanging from a tree, mesh domes or lanterns. No matter what they look like to you, there's something undeniably Eastern and mysterious about these lamps.

Jiang Qiong Er, the Chinese-born, Paristrained creative director of luxury lifestyle brand Shang Xia, believes that less is more. "Chinese interiors are founded on the principles of harmony with nature. In a modern Chinese concept, craftsmanship should be functional and applicable to modern life. Nature can be reinterpreted with earthy colours such as black, white and beige," she says. Pamela Ting, founder of Singapore-based

furniture brand Scene Shang, suggests incorporating interesting forms. "Traditional Asian designs express beauty through symmetry and geometry. Extract that essence into simple yet expressive shapes like the circle or the hexagon, which are commonly found in Chinese gardens," she suggests. Her partner, Jessica Wong, emphasises the art of subtlety. "Focus on classic designs with the right amount of intricacy—in particular, Ming Dynasty styles, which have clean lines and are not overly ornate," she says. "If you choose something with just right amount of oriental detail, it will never go out of style."





MODERN MARRIAGE

Offering a contemporary take on the traditional Chinese marriage cabinet, Scottish designer Gavin Robertson uses fine white ripple sycamore and Macassar ebony to create a cabinet with distilled Asian aesthetics. Constructed with hand-cut dovetail joints and custom-made drop-down handles, this satiny-sheened cabinet is ideal as a stylish and discreet media storage system.



ORIENTAL EMBRACE

Influenced by Art Deco chinoiserie and with a splash of retro sleekness, Baxter's Mio sofa fires up the imagination, bringing to mind scenes from the iconic Wong Kar Wai film In the Mood for Love. Constructed with a pine and poplar frame sitting on turned and satin-finished brass feet, and upholstered in soft leather, Mio's slim, slender silhouette is as graceful and alluring as actress Maggie Cheung in her tailor-made cheongsams.

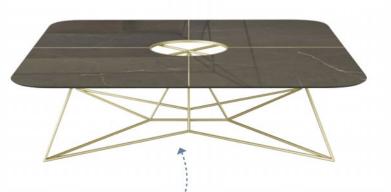


TABLE TALK •

For an unconventional set-up with an Eastern twist, combine two models of sleek tables from Hangzhou-based Mario Tsai: the Valley coffee table (above), and two or three lightweight portable Basket side tables, which can be moved around and rearranged to suit the occasion. Explaining the rationale behind the Basket table, Tsai says, "People tend to use both hands to move a coffee table, which is inconvenient when they're holding a coffee cup or book, so this table addresses that problem."



PRESENT PROGRESSIVE

You don't need to fill your living room with antique pieces, but a few well-selected items with an antiquated look can add intrigue to the scheme. Scene Shang's hexagonal wooden Liu mirrors (right) and Antique Gate Bench are two examples of such designs. The latter can be used as a console for displaying potted plants, or as a seat for guests when they remove their shoes.







HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT

Comprising four black walnut-framed folding panels with bamboo latticework, the Twilight Bamboo Marquetry Folding Screen by Shanghai-headquartered Shang Xia evokes the mysteries of dynastic China. Bamboo strips of varying densities are used for the lattices, diffusing light in different ways, and producing shifting shades and shadows as the sun charts its course through the day.



ODE TO BAMBOO

With its regal form and bold green-and-white design, the Labyrinth Chair, designed by Studio Job for Moooi, beckons modern-day emperors and empresses looking for an eye-catching, avant-garde armchair. A hint of ancient China comes through in the pattern on the fabric, which mimics fretwork often found in traditional Chinese bamboo furniture.

"FOCUS ON CLASSIC DESIGNS WITH THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF INTRICACY—IN PARTICULAR, MING DYNASTY STYLES, WHICH HAVE CLEAN LINES AND ARE NOT OVERLY ORNATE."



ON THE STREET

Inspired by the patterns of tiles on the streets of Shanghai, Neri&Hu's Jie collection is the brand's debut project with wellknown Spanish carpet brand Nanimarquina. The character of the 100 per cent handtufted new wool rugs in blue or celadon green bears the essence of the Chinese ideogram "jie", which means street or intersection. The designers profess that it is the dynamism of lively streets that they hope to convey in their design.



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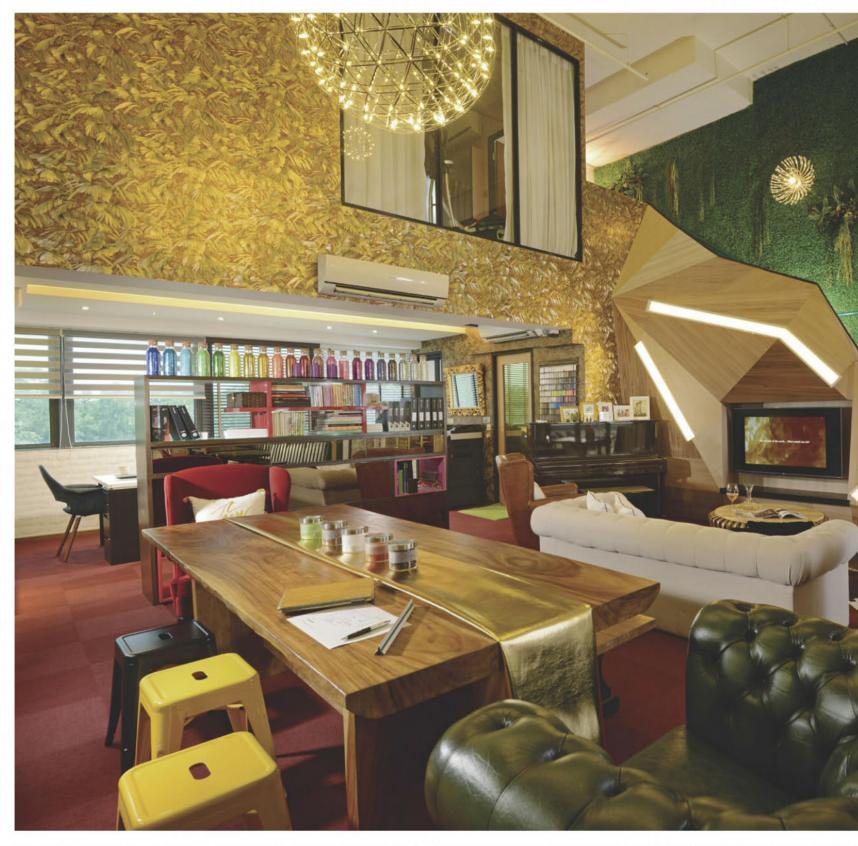
SCENE SHANG

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SHANG XIA

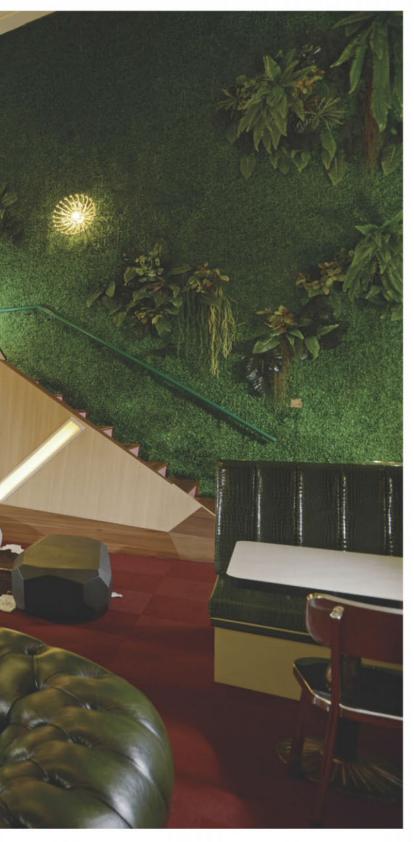
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JOSEPH LIM IMAGES COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE BRANDS OPENING IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHED BY

hether you're an avid cook or someone who just enjoys eating, there's no denying the value of a beautiful kitchen. Aside from a place to cook up a storm, the heart of the home has become the default gathering place in most cases occupying a bigger

square footage to accommodate an eat-in area, a living space and a large cooking theatre. For those refashioning their kitchen or building one from scratch, we've culled expert insight on how to create a chic kitchen in five easy steps.

THINK OF THE LAYOUT

If space allows, an island kitchen is the ideal layout to go for. Compared to the galley style, island kitchens allow for the "ability to interact with guests while cooking in a fluid, big space", says Bong Yee Chein, head of product at Miele. Joey Piyong, marketing manager at BSH Home Appliances, which distributes Gaggenau, agrees. "The island kitchen is timeless in style as well as purposeful. It allows easy movement as you do your prep work while mingling." Nikki Hunt, co-founder of Design Intervention, suggests looking at how a kitchen will be used. "Will it be used by a single cook? Will the user hold large parties? These are the kinds of questions to ask when considering layout and the kind of kitchen to pursue."

PICK THE MATERIALS

Once you have decided on the layout, the next step is determining the materials—from surfaces and backsplashes down to the flooring. According to Ed Ong, designer and founder of The Kitchen Society, this step is important as the right foundation directly relates to a kitchen's longevity. Practicality is key. "A musthave feature in the kitchen is a tempered glass backsplash for the wall behind the cooking zone, where the hob and hood are located. This allows for easy cleaning," he shares. The worktop is another key area to invest in. "Well-selected materials for worktops make a huge difference. I personally like quartz because it's non-porous, hygienic, rigorous, and can be cut to fit any odd-shaped space," adds Ong.

LEFT TO RIGHT

Miele's ArtLine kitchen seamlessly integrates appliances into kitchen cabinets; De Dietrich's cooking system is space-saving and multifunctional

ENSURE SEAMLESSNESS

Once you've chosen the key surfaces, decide on the cabinetry and appliances. "Cabinets are the 'face' of your kitchen," says Ong. "I suggest going with laminated door panels for cost-effectiveness and variety of textures and colours to choose from. For a high-gloss, luxurious effect, choose acrylic door panels while melamine is good for the insides of the cabinet as it's scratchresistant and colour-fast." One must also look at the seamless integration of appliances, especially as openplan kitchens have become de rigueur. "There needs to be perfect integration of appliances into the cabinets," says Bong. "At Miele, we design appliances that are so sleek and unobtrusive that when you walk into a kitchen you'll see that the devices blend into the walls."





FOCUS ON THE DETAILS

Homeowners must also be mindful of the smaller details. From the type of fixtures down to the accessories, all these touchpoints enhance—or detract-from the ergonomics as well as ambience of a kitchen. A simple example is the type of sink to go for. "I highly recommend under-counter mounted sinks as it allows for liquids and debris on the countertop to be hand-swept without any obstruction," shares Ong. The power of good lighting must also be harnessed. "Never underestimate the importance of good lighting in a kitchen. Functional, task and mood lighting all need to be carefully considered so that the kitchen can allow the home cook to work, entertain and mingle," says Hunt. Don't overlook the details when it comes to appliances, either. "At De Dietrich, some of our pieces are embellished with metallic strips and copper that complement the interior," says Angeline Yeo, marketing manager at Brandt Asia.

FUTURE PROOF YOUR SPACE

While timeless styles always reign, it does not mean you have to stick with generic looks. According to Ong, the "cafe style", which mixes industrial and eclectic touches, is gaining popularity. You can achieve this by creating "plenty of open shelving to access equipment and cutlery, an open wall space for displaying artworks, and a strong use of colours and patterns on the walls and backsplash." Aesthetics is not the only way to personalise a space. Take a closer look at technological innovations to determine what suits your needs and lifestyle. "Simple features such as an instant boiling tap to dispense water for the avid cook or an integrated kitchen scale for the home baker can make a distinct difference," stresses Hunt. All leading kitchen brands, including De Dietrich, Gaggenau and Miele, always place emphasis on the role of technology in simplifying cooking and living. "Zoneless induction hobs allow you to cook several pots simultaneously, so it's handy for homeowners who wish to whip up a feast," says Piyong.





ТОР ТО ВОТТОМ

Gaggeneau's combi-steam oven not only has an array of cooking functions, it is also space-saving; a sleek galley kitchen designed by The Kitchen Society



These new generation tools are the ultimate sous chef—all you need to do is pick your companion

EASY DOES IT

"We constantly study to ensure our devices help you cook better," shares Angeline Yeo, marketing manager at Brandt Asia. The De Dietrich DOP1597 Multifunction Plus Pyroclean Oven is a good example it comes with the brand's patented intelligent cooking system as well as full-touch Tactillium control panel. dedietrich.com

ACCURACY GUARANTEED

"On social media, we've noticed that more home cooks enjoy the sous vide method," shares Joey Piyong, marketing manager at BSH Home Appliances. "Our sous vide products have features to help create a perfect dish, such as greater accuracy in temperature control to get tender, perfectly-cooked steak. gaggenau.com

MULTI-PURPOSE MAVEN

Smaller kitchen spaces require multipurpose appliances, something that Miele addresses. "We have a fleet of products that offer combination functions in one device, moisture-plus function for optimum roasting and a wireless food probe to ensure everything is cooked right," says Bong Yee Chein, head of product at Miele. miele.com

HIDE AND SEEK

Valcucine's latest contraption—the Genius Loci line—validates the quest for a modern kitchen that respects our past but integrates state-of-the-art features. Genius Loci's rigorous and sleek aesthetic is able to conceal more objects by reducing the thickness of the worktop and carcasses. The interplay of old-school features with modern design is the trend du jour-copper trim on the drawer's fascia and handicraft embellishments such as wood-carved inlays, or a choice of marble or stone-up the ante in the Italian kitchen design industry. Valcucine's patented V-Motion kit, which features smart opening and closing of drawers and doors that respond to the slightest touch, makes kitchen work light and breezy.

Even Valcucine's rivals are stalwarts that stay up to the game. Riding on the farm-totable wave, the linear aesthetic of Varenna's Arthena kitchen accommodates inconspicuous nooks, and holds medium and LED lighting for herbs and miniature vegetables to grow. There are also sophisticated details such as Canaletto walnut doors and black elm, chamfered Fossena stone blaze and moka anodised doors that hold fume-reflecting glass.







DESIGN INTERVENTION

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GAGGENAU

BSH HOME APPLIANCES 11 Bishan Street 21 Level 4 Tel: 6356 1080

LA GALERIE DE DIETRICH

65 Ubi Road 1 #02-70 Oxley BizHub Tel: 6508 4600 dedietrich-asia.com

MIELE

163 Penang Road #04-03 Winsland House II Tel: 6735 1191 miele.sg

THE KITCHEN SOCIETY

11 Kim Yam Road Tel: 6733 0808 thekitchensociety.com

VALCUCINE

ROBERTO DESIGN 182 Clemenceau Avenue #01-01/02 Tel: 6278 9118 valcucine.com robertodesignsea.com

VARENNA

SPACE FURNITURE 77 Bencoolen Street Tel: 6415 0000 spacefurniture.com.sg



he bedroom is where we spend almost onethird of our time, so it makes sense to craft a relaxing sanctuary where we can retreat to for rest, a snuggle with our loved ones and some deep, rejuvenating slumber. Alongside the growth of the hygge phenomenon-a Danish word and concept that connotes cosiness, which was on Oxford English Dictionary's shortlist for 2016's Word of the Year—creating a cocooning ambience in the bedroom just makes sense.

Get inspired by the philosophy of awardwinning British designer Ilse Crawford, who helped popularise the concept of hygge by infusing space with humanising elements. She is always concerned with the "six inches around you", making sure to add organic touches that perpetuate a feeling of warmth as opposed to achieiving a contrived look.

"When designing a bedroom, the two main factors to consider are light and sound," says architect Marc Webb of Takenouchi Webb. "Effective blackout blinds or curtains are essential as is the minimisation of external sound. It is also useful to consider how the mood of the space can be altered through lighting," he says.

Chloe Elkerton of Singapore interior design studio E & A Interiors likes to use a calming and therapeutic colour palette combined with natural layered textures. "Consider a grass cloth wallpaper and surround yourself with one or two natural objects that you love. Use natural finishes such as wood and choose eco-friendly fabrics for soft furnishings and rugs," she says.

DRAPED FOR DREAMS

Complete darkness helps the body to produce melatonin—the hormone that regulates your sleep and awakening cycles. Keep your bedroom appropriately dark with blackout curtains or blinds at night, but add a sheer day curtain or blind underneath to filter out the strong sunshine during the day. The Curtain Boutique carries eco-friendly GreenGuard certified fabrics that are free from harmful chemicals and volatile organic compounds, so you can breathe easier, and have sweeter dreams as you sleep.



"CONSIDER A GRASS CLOTH WALLPAPER AND SURROUND YOURSELF WITH ONE OR TWO NATURAL OBJECTS"



TOP TO BOTTOM

Shades of ecru and cream invite relaxation in this project by E & A Interiors; Tom Dixon's Base floor light and Lee Broom's Frosted Crystal Bulb lamp add a stylish sheen

OPPOSITE PAGE

Frette's Chine Spring/Summer 2017 collection is like a decadent embrace



To create the right ambience, pair overhead lighting with bedside lamps, floor lamps or sconces. Bedside table lamps with dimmers are a good idea as you can lower the brightness for night reading or to create a romantic atmosphere. For a touch of boudoir glamour, weave in some shimmer with Tom Dixon's Base wall and floor light, and Lee Broom's Frosted Crystal Bulb table lamp for a chic reading light.



A HEALTHY FRAME

"Your bed is one of the most important furniture purchases you will ever make. So invest in a good quality bed and mattress," says Elkerton. When choosing a bed frame, opt for warm organic finishes such as wood or leather for a cosy and grounded feel. Also consider if you'll be doing work or reading in bed or just sleeping. For those who like bedtime reading, the Bretagne bed from Poltrona Frau is ideal. Crafted from poplar and beech, wrapped in the brand's Pelle Frau leather and accented with gun-metal feet, this model has a high bedframe with a rounded headrest that allows you to sit up comfortably with a book in bed.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Tai Ping's luxurious carpets made from wool and silk; The Rug Maker's Tropicals collection (Bark,

above and Mottled, right) takes inspiration nature rendered in painterly styles

SOFT LANDING

Your feet should feel warm when starting the day. Rather than stepping out of bed and onto a cold hard floor, place a plush rug underneath to ensure a spring in your step. Infuse a splash of colour with The Rug Maker's Tropicals collection - made in collaboration with design collective OutofStock—which features vibrant, nature-inspired designs, or introduce a hint of opulence with Tai Ping's range of eco-friendly carpets made of high-quality natural wool and silk.



ROUNDING UP

Use well-selected loose furniture to help create a soothing, sophisticated and functional bedroom. Rounded or smooth-edged pieces like Normann Copenhagen's Circus pouf in light pink add a little colour while still giving the space a gentle, calming feel. Introduce a stylish yet practical piece such as the Bak Valet Stand with mirror by Frag.





LEFT TO RIGHT

Bak Valet Stand with mirror by Frag; Normann Copenhagen's Circus pouf in light pink



FRAG

THE BEURO 315 Outram Road #03-09/10 Tan Boon Liat Building Tel: 6222 4500 frag.it/en

FRETTE

Takashimaya Level B1 Tel: 6738 1111 frette.com

LEE BROOM

leebroom.com

NORMANN **COPENHAGEN**

normann-copenhagen.

POLTRONA FRAU

poltronafrau.com

TAI PING

houseoftaiping.com

THE CURTAIN **BOUTIQUE**

81 Ubi Avenue 4 #01-17 UB. One Tel: 6846 1128 tcb.com.sg

THE RUG COMPANY

therugcompany.com

THE RUG MAKER

1092 Lower Delta Road #07-01 Tel: 6270 2823 therugmaker.com.sg

TOM DIXON

XTRA DESIGNS #02-240 Marina Square Tel: 6336 4664 xtra.com.sg

ZARA HOME

zarahome.com

LEFT TO RIGHT

Made from reversible mixed silk, the special edition Monsoon collection gives a new take on the ikat print; A fluffy throw from Zara Home; Cushions from Bloomingville and The Rug Company keep the bed extra cosy

FEEL-GOOD BEDDING

If sleep is the greatest luxury, then you need to make sure your bedding reflects it. Highquality bed linens from the likes of Italian brand Frette offers sheets fashioned from soft fabrics such as mixed silk, which will surely help you sink into slumber. To make your bed even more like a cocoon, add some fluffy throws or introduce energy via playful cushion covers.



的 1885年 1



SANCTUARIES

Interiors . Luxurious



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The Hubers' family abode is a
dynamic space for four

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Opposites Attract
This award-winning bungalow is the epitome of modern oriental

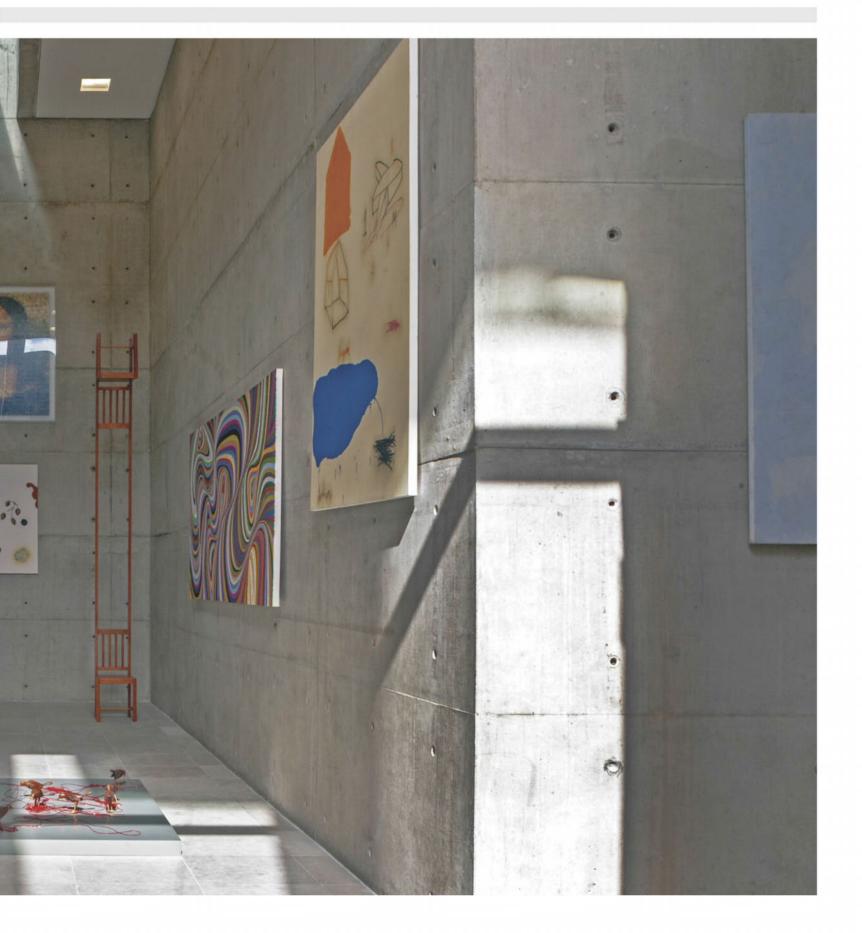
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Elegant simplicity reigns in this Scandinavian-inspired home

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Art Of Curation
This Beirut home's minimalist shell is a canvas for treasured artworks



HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

THE HUBERS FEEL A DEEP SENSE OF BELONGING IN THEIR NEW HOME—AND IT'S WHERE THEY WANT TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN





BY LYNN TAN STYLING KHAIRUL ALI PHOTOGRAPHY BOONWEI/BEEBOX





fter dating long-distance,
Andre and Belinda Huber
shared his bachelor pad
in Balestier when she
moved to Singapore from
Australia. As the family
grew, however, they needed
more space—especially for their two young
children, Hayley, aged three, and Ashley, two.

The couple confined their search for a new home to the neighbourhood where Andre grew up, which is less than a kilometre from the primary school they plan on enrolling the girls in. "We settled on a semi-detached property along Goldhill Avenue, and decided we would renovate it so that the interior would better suit our lifestyle and reflect our personalities," says Belinda, director of online children's fashion retailer Baby Style Icon.

Bu Shukun was an obvious candidate to execute the interior design of the new Huber residence. "We met Bu at a mutual friend's party and, being friends, we felt that he understood what we wanted," recalls Andre. Bu, who was named one of *Singapore Tatler Homes*' 50 Most Influential in Singapore Design in 2016, holds a master's degree in architecture,

and is the design director of Architology Interiors and A-Collective Architects.

The first storey of the property was reconceptualised as an open plan with different zones, mainly the living, dining and kitchen areas. "I liked this place because of its high ceilings and the abundance of natural light, so I wanted to keep it bright and airy," explains Andre. Bu's solution was to open up the living and dining areas by installing bifold doors all around, to create a visual and psychological extension of space that connects the indoors and outdoors.

The original brick wall between the two houses was revealed during construction—and Bu turned it into a design opportunity. "I stained it in a deeper shade, similar to burnt ochre, and used it as a backdrop to link up the house vertically, like a spine," Bu explains. This is echoed by a white brick wall on the opposite side of the living room, suggesting a dialogue. The raw, unfinished surfaces of the brick walls provide a contrast to the smooth marble flooring of the living room.

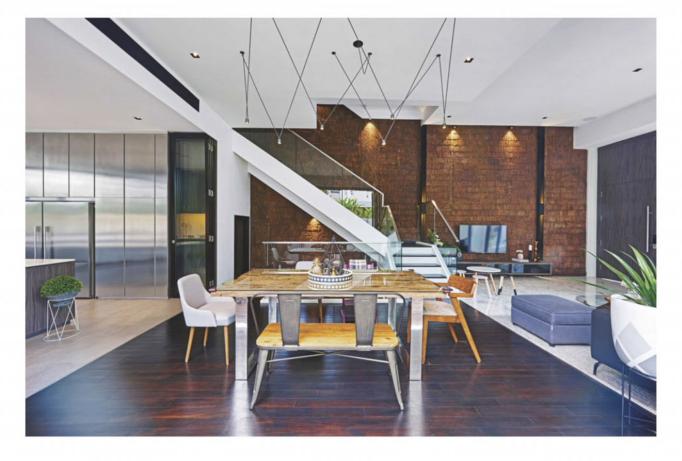
The dining room feels like a seamless extension of the living room. The change in flooring material—from white marble

BELOW

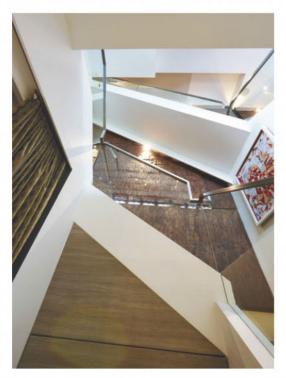
Different types of flooring separate one zone from another seamlessly

OPPOSITE PAGE

The dining area dominates the first floor, which also houses the living room and kitchen area in an open plan concept







TOP TO BOTTOM

Past these stairs, the airy and lightfilled atmosphere of the first floor is replaced with a cosy warmth in the basement; the entertainment room opens out to the deck and barbecue area

OPPOSITE PAGE

Andre's favourite hangout space, the entertainment room has a sleek vibe with a leather sofa and deep hues



to dark wood—orchestrates the transition without requiring a physical boundary. The rustic wooden dining table takes its cue from the exposed brick walls, juxtaposed against mirror-finish steel supports below, a smooth glass top and the sleek pendant lamps above.

As executive director of Huber's Butchery, cooking is Andre's passion—and it comes as no surprise that meat is almost always on the menu. Naturally, Andre was particular about the kitchen layout and design. "The original kitchen was no more than a narrow strip of space with the utility room, toilet and wet kitchen lined up alongside," recalls Bu. "In line with the open concept, we removed the wall dividing the kitchen and dining areas, and widened the kitchen while allowing adequate space for the service areas, which are concealed behind stainless steel panels."

Andre adds, "The open-concept kitchen works for me because I can chat with Belinda, keep an eye on the children or interact with my dinner guests while I cook."

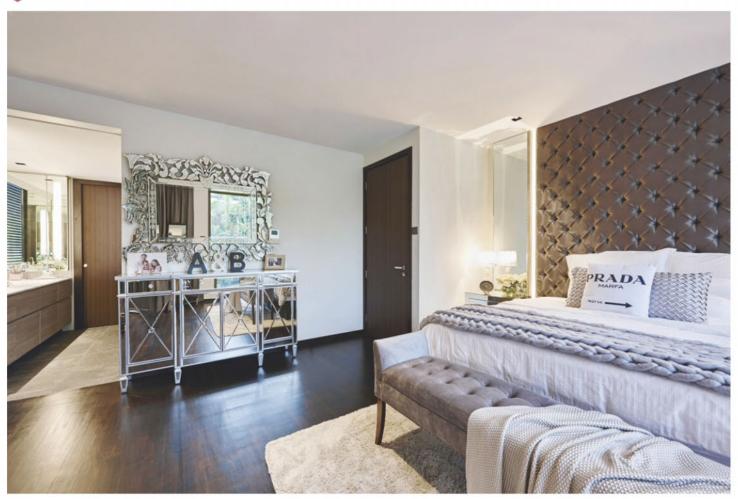
The result is a stylishly chic and laid-back ambience in the kitchen that permeates throughout the rest of the first storey, where the Hubers spend most of their time as a family. "There is very good cross-ventilation, and the natural breeze flowing through the house makes it very enjoyable and relaxing for the whole family," says Belinda.



"There is very good cross-ventilation, and the natural breeze flowing through the house makes it very enjoyable and relaxing for the whole family"



(SANCTUARIES SINGAPORE





Andre's favourite space within the home is the entertainment area in the basement, which he refers to endearingly as his "man cave". It is equipped with a home theatre system, pantry, bar and wine fridge, and opens out onto an outdoor deck-all the necessary ingredients for a great evening of barbecue, football and drinks. The colour palette, comprising various tones of brown, imbues the entertainment area with a slightly more masculine character while still being family-oriented. An external staircase provides direct access from the car porch on the first storey to the basement deck without having to walk through the interior—an extremely practical feature during parties.

Hayley and Ashley share a bedroom on the second storey, beside which is a baby-care room that was converted from an existing study. When the girls are older, Andre and Belinda have plans to turn the baby-care room into a walk-in wardrobe, so they've asked Bu to install a connecting door to the adjacent master bathroom, which will link up to the master bedroom in future.



TYPE OF HOME

Landed

SIZE OF PROPERTY

3,228sqft

SIZE OF BUILT-UP AREA

4,874sqft

FAMILY MEMBERS

4

NAME OF INTERIOR DESIGNER

Bu Shukun, Design Director, Architology Interiors

TIME TAKEN

3 months

The master bedroom exudes a contemporary modern feel, with French Victorian elements that reflect the couple's aesthetic preferences. A tufted headboard and mirror-finish bedside tables are complemented by woodgrain veneer wardrobe doors, while a set of free-standing cabinets in matching mirror-finish with a wall-hung mirror above conjures imagery of an armoire from a bygone era.

Belinda confesses that she used to always look forward to her next holiday but since moving into their new home at the end of 2015, things have changed: "I now look forward to coming home after a holiday."

This speaks volumes about how a home that has been purposefully crafted with the homeowners in mind—a philosophy that underlies every Architology Interiors project—can help nurture relationships and strengthen family bonds. Andre sums it up nicely: "I am blessed to have grown up in a good environment—and I want the same for my children." •



OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM

The master bedroom oozes Victorian charm with luxurious textures and intricate details; the spacious bathroom with rain shower proffers an invigorating start to the day

LEFT

The children's bedroom is light-filled and cosy, with plenty of storage and shelving for toys

OPPOSITES ATTRACT

AWARD-WINNING FIRM DESIGN INTERVENTION REVITALISES AN OLD BUNGALOW WITH A MODERN TAKE ON CHINOISERIE STYLE









LEFT TO RIGHT From the graphic patterns that adorn the ceiling and curtains to the oriental-style furnishings, every detail was picked with the intention of brightening and livening up this bungalow: the streamlined central glass staircase is a respite from the medley of colours that characterises the home

t the International Property Awards in December 2016, this two-storey bungalow by Singapore-based Design Intervention beat other Asia-Pacific projects to win Best Interior Design in the Private Residence category and it's no surprise why. It took over a year and a half for the firm to overhaul this 8,000sqft bungalow, transforming it into a lively home for a doctor, a businessman and their young children. In order to bring in more light, Design Intervention demolished the dark-framed folding doors and dated glass blocks. The firm used bright colours and introduced airy spaces with large expanses of windows to infuse the space with a light sense of cheerfulness.

"The client had rather strict feng shui requirements, both for colour and layout, so we incorporated their requirements into our schemes," recalls Nikki Hunt, founding partner of Design Intervention. "With four young kids in the family, storage was a priority for them, so we included multiple storage spaces throughout the house, taking advantage of all the old columns and corners of the old structure. Every element of this home was carefully considered, from the patterns on the ceilings and floor to the crisp architectural mouldings and bespoke furnishings, rugs and lighting pieces. We wanted to ensure a thoroughly cohesive look that would be fresh and glamorous."



DESIGN CHALLENGES

In addition to integrating the vast collection of paintings and family heirlooms into the space, one of the other challenges Design Intervention faced was the low-hanging structural beams. These beams—found in the foyer, living room and family lounge area on the second floor—interfered with the design concept, as the team had wanted to maximise the ceiling volume. To solve this, Hunt introduced a series of elaborate patterns, such as octagonal features, to put the ceilings in harmony with the overall style the firm had in mind.

Even in spaces without the presence of awkward beams, ceiling features were incorporated. Referring to the guest room, Hunt says, "We adapted the octagonal shapes for the ceiling alcove and rug. We didn't simply use a regular octagonal shape, but rather, an elongated octagon to better suit the proportions of the room."

The team enlarged many of the windows to bring in more natural light; this also opens up the home to views of the greenery outside. A newly configured layout that takes feng shui principles into account helps to enhance visual flow and improve circulation. For instance, the foyer leads directly to the living room and the staircase. Bedrooms of family members are located on the second floor, while the guest room is located on the first floor, so guests can move about with privacy during their sojourns.

ТОР ТО ВОТТОМ

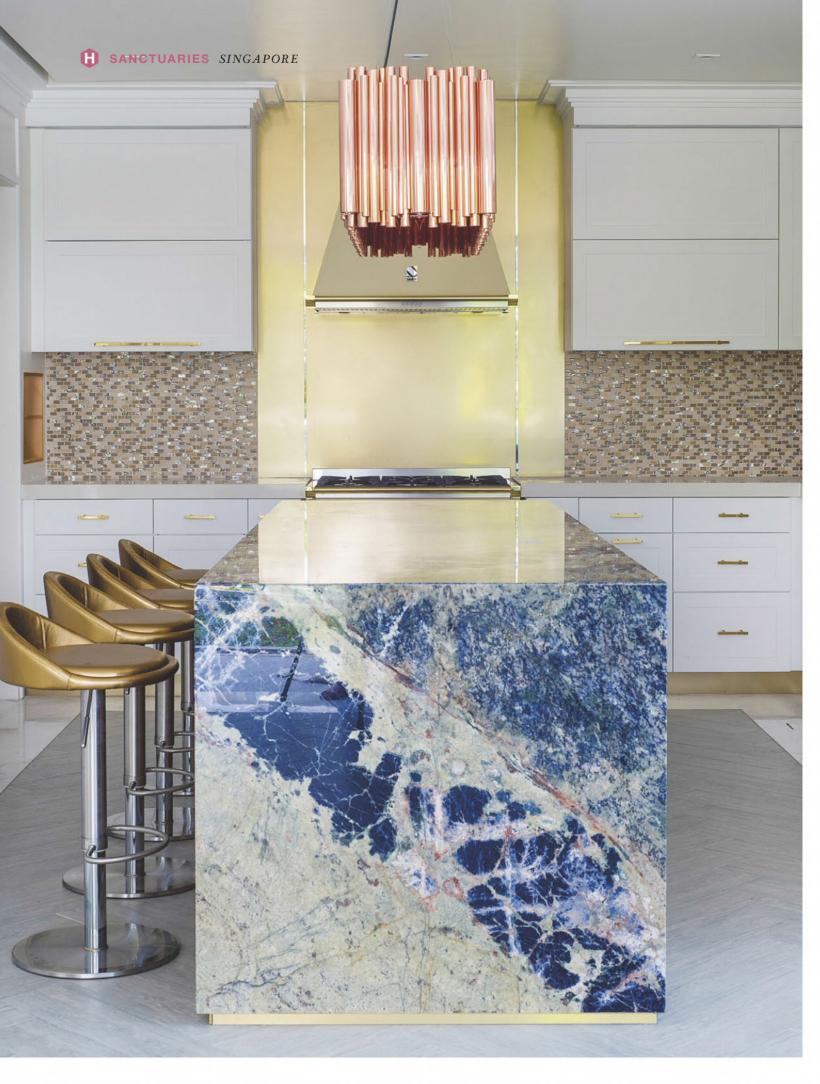
A cosy corner houses the vibrant dining area, which looks out to greenery; ceiling details feature in many of the rooms, adding a subtle and stylish visual element

OPPOSITE PAGE

Although the owner had strict feng shui principles in terms of colour and layout, this did not limit the imagination of Design Intervention as seen in this whimsical space







II 2 singapore tatler homes



"A newly configured layout that takes feng shui principles into account helps to enhance visual flow and improve circulation"

COLOUR PLAY

While the first-floor walls are primarily white, the team used bright colours for the bedrooms on the second floor. A dusty-pink hue was used for the master suite—this shade enhances the vaulted ceiling, with architectural mouldings inspired by Chinese fretwork.

The master study, with its patterned wallpaper and vibrantly coloured furniture, invigorates the senses and certainly puts its user in a good mood. The same goes for the family lounge, the guest room, and the girls' and boys' bedrooms, with their uplifting shades of blue, green, pink and lavender. These vibrant hues, used on the walls, furniture and accessories, work with the luxurious marbles, metallic finishes and mirror surfaces to infuse new life into every space in the house.

Besides using colour to create a modern chinoiserie-inspired ambience, the design team also introduced botanical and Chinese motifs and symbols. "We chose a chinoiserie theme as it allowed us to integrate the client's extensive art and antiques collection into a modern, glamorous aesthetic," says Hunt. "The French word 'chinoiserie' means 'in the Chinese taste'. It's often mistakenly assumed that the style originated in China when it's actually a trend that began in Europe in the 17th century."

EASTERN TOUCHES

OPPOSITE PAGE

The kitchen island

is swathed in a stunning sodalite

blue marble

surface and

complemented by hints of glimmer

from the cabinet

handles, the bar

LEFT TO RIGHT

A rhapsody of

colour, material and exquisite

furnishing set this

bathroom apart

stools and lighting







LEFT TO RIGHT

Green, salmon pink and mustard are peppered throughout the home in various ways; the botanical patterned sofa anchors the family room



TYPE OF HOUSE

Bungalow

BUILT-UP AREA

8,000sqft

DESIGNER

Design Intervention

NO OF RESIDENTS

8

TIME TAKEN

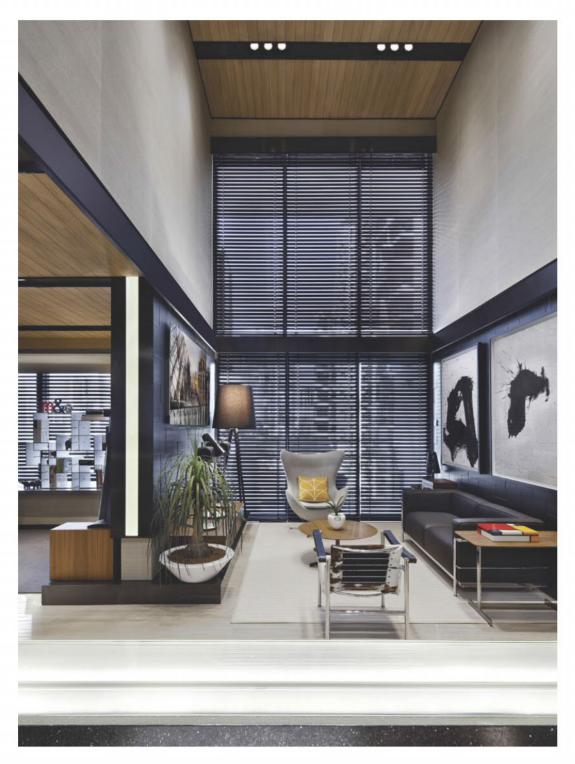
19 months

Traditional paintings and antiques stand alongside custom-made furniture pieces such as a contemporary silver-and-gold console in the living room. Design Intervention customised a host of loose furniture items and soft furnishings to make everything come together in a chic and refined way. A round table with Chinese-inspired motifs takes centre stage in the foyer. Eastern elements such as the pussy willow-inspired rug in the living room, botanical-patterned sofa in the family lounge, and wallcovering in the attic subtly enhance the Asian character of the space. Simple details such as the patterns on the floor bring balance and modernity to the heavier antique designs that are dotted throughout the home.

Another unique feature is the three-storey central staircase, with its bold, black interior mouldings that help anchor the varied colours and shapes around it. "The staircase creates a streamlined framework to balance the rich colours in the client's art pieces," says Hunt. The result is a harmonious blend of yin and yang, East and West. @







NORTHERN CHARM

METAPHOR STUDIO BRINGS HARMONY TO THIS TWO-STOREY DUPLEX AND INFUSES IT WITH A SCANDINAVIAN CHARACTER





or some time now, the love affair with Scandinavian- and industrial-style interiors in Singapore has been going strong. These minimalist concepts appeal to many for whom the home is a reflection of individual style and personality. However, for this young couple who holidays in Scandinavia frequently, it's about bringing shared memories and their love of the region into the home.

They roped in Stephen Goh and Angela Tantry, founders of Metaphor Studio, to spearhead the design and construction of their two-storey loft duplex. "The challenges the space presented included translating the trendy industrial look into a luxe Scandinavian 'barn' setting and fine-tuning the design profile, proportions and details to complement the owners' deep appreciation for Scandinavian fine furniture and design," says Goh.

There's much to love about this apartment. For one, upon entering the home, the space expands in volume dramatically. Facing the kitchen is a double-volume space with impressive double-height windows. This sense of space within the home does wonders for the mind and soul. On the other hand, it could mean privacy and, in some apartments, heat issues.

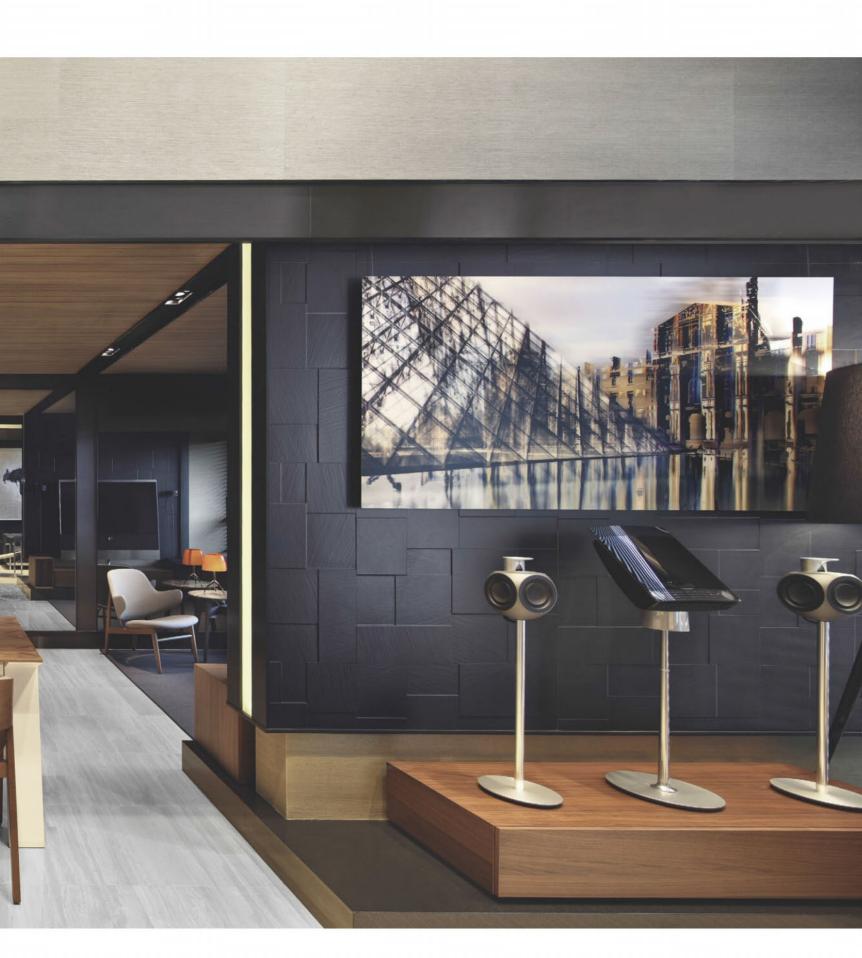
LEFT TO RIGHT

State-of-the-art products from Loewe and Bang & Olufsen fill the home: furnished with a plush sofa and sleek armchairs, the living room is where the owners entertain guests and enjoy music

PREVIOUS PAGE

Soaring ceilings are a defining character of this home: various surfaces are clad in complementing colours and textures









DESIGN CHALLENGES

That happened to be the case with this home. Harsh afternoon light would flood through the double-height windows into the living area. As a result, the four-bedroom apartment bore too much heat and glare almost every day. The kitchen, however, was not lit well enough. As with most interior design work, there were several practical matters to tackle. At 2,925sqft, the apartment is not short of floor space. However, the owners felt that the bedrooms were too small, making movement and spatial flow constricted.

Providing the required storage while addressing these issues were challenges the designers and their team enjoyed. "We created generous storage compartments along the circulatory spaces such as the corridors and beside the stairway. They stretch horizontally with the use of a single material from the ground to the upper floor," Tantry says.

Not wanting to rush the process, the couple allocated much more time for their new home, as compared to the design and renovation of their previous home that was done by another design firm. Goh and Tantry spent more than three months working on the design concept. Going over and refining all finishes and design elements, they left no stone unturned for every inch of the apartment. The construction took more than four months to complete,

ABOVE

Metaphor Studio planned a lighting strategy that works with the interior design while imbuing layers of interest into this space

OPPOSITE PAGE

The dining table for four is placed just outside the kitchen. The couple purchased most of their furniture from furnishing stores such as Dream and XTRA

bringing the design and construction duration for this home to a total of eight months.

MATERIAL MATTERS

The team used the same finish, saw-cut elm wood laminates, on the walls and low ceiling in the dining and cosy corners for a warm, intimate atmosphere. These laminates contrast against the dark finishes, such as the charcoal grey interlocking slate tiles, in the double-volume living area. "We used tiles to reduce the amount of reflection from the existing polished marble flooring. It's one of the strategies to cope with the glare issue from the large windows," says Goh. "They also give the opportunity to highlight the loft space."

This attention to the material mix is what gives the home its sensuous and comfortable feel. The design team steered away from reflective or glossy materials such as mirror, glass and steel to temper glare issues. To emphasise rigour and order, they proposed window blinds in black.

ELEMENTS OF STYLE

The palette of finishes serves as a bold backdrop to the couple's furniture pieces, many of which were sourced from designer furniture stores like XTRA and Dream. Mid-century modern icons such as the Eames lounge chair and the Egg chair by

(H) SANCTUARIES SINGAPORE

Arne Jacobsen furnish spaces, from the living area to the bedrooms. "They showed us all the furniture and light fixtures, as well as their preferred audio system, seen on their frequent holidays in Europe. We then weaved their likes into their desired interior style. It turned out to be the perfect match," says Tantry.

Furniture pieces are kept in neutral, muted colours. The couple also chose to have pops of colour introduced through items such as cushions and other small accessories. That way, they will enjoy the longevity of the design concept with the freedom to change things in small ways. The bedrooms feel open, spacious and cosy. At the same time, they also provide

the storage space necessary to keep the home free from clutter. Following the design team's recommendations on the styles of artworks that will add to the interior, the couple opted for bold calligraphy pieces that complement the broad, black strokes throughout the home.

The result is an apartment that exudes a strong sense of harmony through the careful application of colours, lines as well as textures. Marble, wood-like laminates and fabrics are some finishes that help ensure that the home is easy to maintain for busy professionals like this couple. These materials also channel a distinct air of modern luxury—and more. 0







LEFT

From the shared spaces to the master bedroom, the consistent use of sawcut woodgrain laminates defines the home's mood of calm

THIS PAGE

Open shelves and a ledge above the bedhead are built-in spaces for personalising the master bedroom with art, books and keepsakes









\$\mathbf{\text{1}} \text{ SANCTUARIES } BRAZIL







THIS PAGE

The design firm paired concrete with glass to give the facade and building interiors a strikingly modernist look

OPPOSITE PAGE

Works by local artists add chic talking points to the lounge area his house corresponds to the ambitions and life project of a young heir and collector. The site, exhaustively searched, is located in Curitiba, Paraná, beside Brazil's Graciosa Country Club, the most exclusive club with the city's most centrally located golf course. Its particularities—dimensions, format, legislation and neighbourhood—shaped and conditioned several design decisions. The idea of a house for large parties and receptions was also central in the project development.

Entirely built with reinforced concrete, the house is a vision of alternative powerful architecture—the building has a volume that commands attention but it is without the conventional stylistic concessions.





Design challenges came in the form of the relatively small 12,916sqft lot, and the triangular shape with one side in an arch. A narrow strip of maintenance sheds of the golf course along a high wall would only allow the desired views from the second floor of the house. The vertical guideline of the project came from the relationship between the difficulties presented by the lot, together with the most important requirement of the client: to make the most out of the views of the golf course. As a result, the main areas of the house were located from the second floor of the building and above. The house consists of five floors—the ground floor and four more. On the ground and the first floors are accesses, the patio and car shelter, services, staff apartment and facilities, and an independent entrance from the same square that accesses the house and the gallery for the private collection.

The gallery space was not included in the initial scope of the project. The main idea was to install the artworks among the different spaces of the residence. However, due to the sprawling space in the first floor and the presence of many large-scale art pieces in the collection, the designers proposed creating a gallery, an idea that quickly grew on the client.

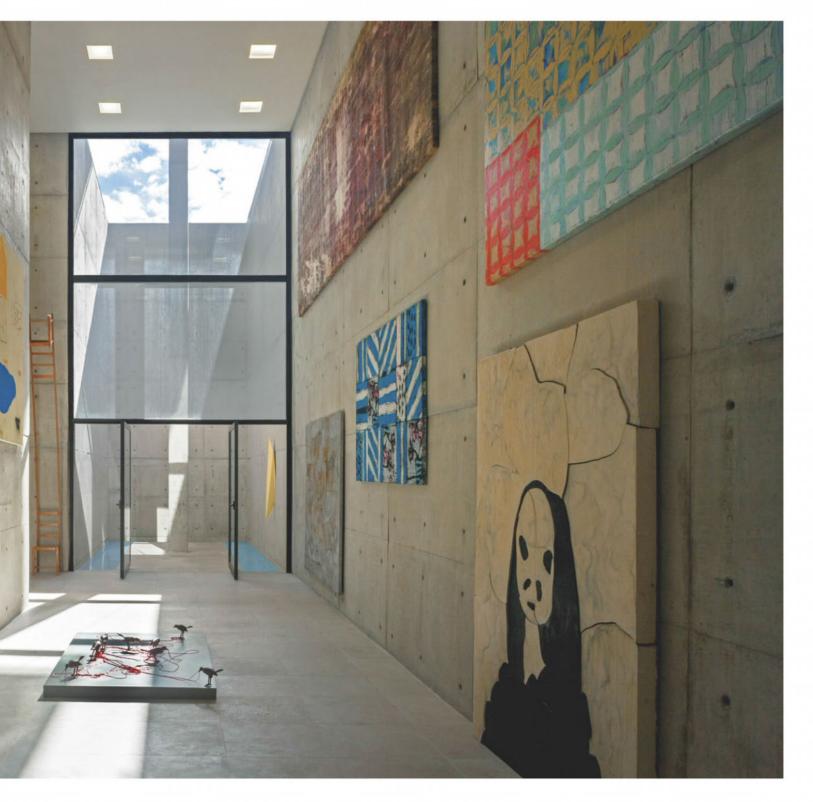
The exhibition space was installed in a "T" shape plan with double-height ceiling, with one leg of the "T" reserved for a garden between walls, planned for sculpture exhibitions, a water mirror and water garden. Directly above this gallery is a roof garden in a glass box. Two floors above ground, it is accessible from the floor of the rooms and from the main hall.

TOP TO BOTTOM

The copious amount of space on the residence's first floor provides an ideal, gallerylike setting to showcase the owner's largest art pieces



This residence features plenty of reception areas, as well as spacious and well-equipped amenities for the owner's frequent soirees



(1) SANCTUARIES BRAZIL



"The most important requirement of the client: to make the most out of the views of the golf course"



The homeowner started building his contemporary art collection 20 years ago, which was also the time when the owner assigned the design firm to work on his first apartment. It started with a series of local artists from the 1980s, and gradually grew to include both local and internationally acclaimed artists. Today, it is a reference to local museums as well as prominent Brazilian artists.

The approximately 18,836sqft house was designed for the couple and their two daughters. Apart from the vehicle access, the ground floor houses a large square that is partially covered by the massive glass box and gives access to the main lobby and to the private art gallery. The three upper floors can be accessed in three different ways: by lift or ramps to the main areas, and by stairs to the service areas.

Moving up two floors from the main lobby on the ground floor, one arrives at the level where the rooms are. Magenta woodwork

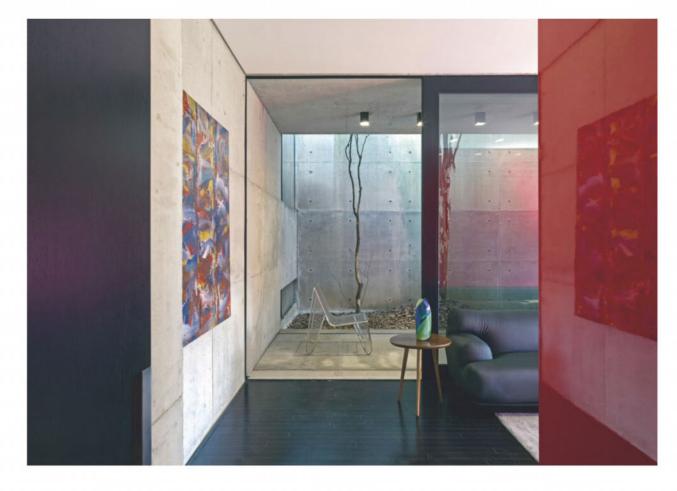
BELOW

A painting by Brazilian artist Geraldo Leão overlooks another recreation space for family and social activities

OPPOSITE PAGE

Full wall windows in the bedrooms and bathrooms offer plenty of natural light and stunning views of the golf course dominates the space with 26 metres of window that offer the first views of the golf course and access to the secret garden. The latter contains three species of Pau-Ferro (Caesalpinia Ferrea), a native tree from the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. This floor is dedicated to the daughters' rooms and the guest room, as well as the home's daily-use rooms, such as the main kitchen, which is connected to the other two kitchens by a freight elevator. There is a further fourth kitchen for staff use.

The third floor contains the larger spaces and is the floor dedicated to bigger family gatherings and large receptions. It is also the floor with the double-height glass box, which runs transversally through the large concrete block, looking over the golf course at one end and facing the city skyline at the other. This floor also houses the master suite, with access to the secret garden which has an external staircase leading to the rooftop swimming pool, and the side terrace with views of the golf course.





I 3 2 SINGAPORE TATLER HOMES



The fourth floor accommodates social and family activities for daytime use, such as the deck and swimming pool, lounge and bar, all of which offer broad views of the golf course, plus the sauna and kitchen with barbecue grill for casual lunches. The pool is covered in glass mosaic from an original drawing by the artist Paolo Ridolfi. It was executed, disassembled and boxed in São Paulo, and brought to Curitiba for its final installation. The internal space, in the mezzanine between the two voids of the glass box, houses a table for a DJ and a dance floor.

The plastic language adopted emphasises the volume of solid blocks made out of reinforced concrete in this work of addition and subtraction of masses, where the circulation tunnels of the ramps and the vertical circulation volumes of the stairs rip the main body of the building, causing the facades to be represented by the circulations that run through the building.

The front facade, more volumetric and sculptural, has few openings as opposed to the glass box, aerial and transparent, which covers the triple-height entrance square. This is where two stainless steel doors are—one to access the house and the other to access the private gallery—with the background of a 12-metre high U-glass cladding.

The rear facade, more extroverted and permeable, is volumetrically more stirred, conditioned by the shape and proportions of the site and by the urban legislation. It includes several openings and terraces for better integration with the landscape.

The furniture, a mix of pieces by top designers including Le Corbusier brought from the homeowner's previous houses and a collection of Brazilian copyrighted modernist and contemporary furniture created by leading architects and designers of the 20th century and the present generation, completes the picture. Together with the spectacular nature views and the impressive art collection, it makes this home perfect for entertaining. ①



LOCATION

Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil

TYPE OF HOME

Landed

BUILT-UP AREA

18,836sqft

PROPERTY SIZE

12,916sqft

ARCHITECT

Marcos Bertoldi Arquitetos







he Lebanese interior designer Claude Missir and his wife Randa used to live in a duplex close to the presidential palace to the south of Beirut. It had numerous advantages. It was close to the schools of their three children, as well as to his parents. There was also a garden. "It's a very quiet, sought-after area," notes Claude.

It was, however, far from his office in the city centre and Claude spent far too much time in traffic jams. "There were periods when he wouldn't see the kids at all. By the time he got back in the evening, they were in bed," recalls Randa.

So, when the couple heard about the development of a new luxury high-rise in the Achrafieh district in the east of Beirut, they jumped at the chance of living in a more conveniently located home. The building is just a stone's throw from the Sursock Museum, which is housed in a stately mansion dating

from 1912, and just a few minutes' walk from the ABC shopping mall. It also has unusually high ceilings that stretch to four metres and sweeping views of the sea. "When people come for the first time, they're always surprised to see the Mediterranean Sea because we're only on the fourth floor," says Randa.

Native to the city, Claude aspired to be an interior designer since childhood. His father had a construction firm and from around the age of seven, Claude would regularly accompany him to building sites. He went on to study at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts and founded his own practice soon after graduation. Today, he has close to 30 employees and an international portfolio. His projects include the boutique O Monot Hotel and many restaurants in Beirut, a 63-metre boat, apartments in Paris, a 6,000-sqm villa in Jordan and a private resort in Jeddah.

TOP TO BOTTOM

Homeowners Claude and Randa Missir surrounded by a Dan Colen painting and an Antony Gormley sculpture; a Günther Förg art piece anchors the dining area

OPPOSITE PAGE

An Established & Sons carbon fibre table is surrounded by a selection of Poul Kjaerholm chairs











His style is quite resolutely pared-down. He lists among his aesthetic inspirations masters of minimalism such as Tadao Ando and John Pawson, and always strives for great purity in his interiors. "I like simplicity and to limit the use of materials. It creates spaces that are freer and more restful," he asserts.

His own 6,675-sqft apartment is a perfect case in point. All the electric sockets are carefully hidden, as are the air-conditioning vents. There are also no visible radiators. Instead, Claude opted for under-floor heating. Throughout, the walls were simply painted white ("I prefer to hang art on them rather than have any form of decoration," he says) and the same parquet runs throughout the whole apartment.

The latter turned out to be a bit of a logistical nightmare. Each plank measures 15 metres in length, which meant they were too large to fit into a container. Instead, they had to be shipped from Denmark in a special boat, then craned into the apartment through the windows. Once inside, they wouldn't bend around some of the corners. So, Claude had to demolish sections of walls in order to get them into the hallways and bedrooms.

Together, he and Randa had been putting together an impressive collection of art and furniture for around eight years. Previously, however, they had lived with little of it. It simply sat in storage. While designing the apartment, Claude had no preconceived ideas of where any of it would go. When the

TOP TO BOTTOM

Touches of red are peppered throughout, such as this dropshaped fibreglass sculpture by Sterling Ruby; the eat-in kitchen perpetuates the uncluttered interior direction

OPPOSITE PAGE

A collage by Sterling Ruby leads guests into the living area decorated by a vintage DS600 sofa by Ueli Berger and a PK80 daybed by Poul Kjaerholm









The combination of white custommade marble sink and Douglas fir flooring in the master bathroom mirrors the rest of the home; David Dubois' Intersection Mirror and an arm sculpture made from epoxy and resin add visual interest in the powder room



The master bedroom is a microcosm of the rest of the home, featuring work by Günther Förg, a PK31 sofa by Poul Kjaerholm and a mesmerising lamp by Jos Devriendt











construction work was finished, he brought the 100-or-so pieces to the flat and started to place them in the manner of a jigsaw puzzle. "The first day was catastrophic," he remembers. "Certain things just wouldn't go. I said, 'Let's not panic! We don't necessarily have to integrate every single piece we like'." Instead, they edited them down and sent about half back into storage.

Among those that did make the cut are sculptures by Antony Gormley, Roni Horn and Tony Cragg, and paintings by the likes of Rudolf Stingel, Rob Pruitt, Dan Colen and Günther Förg. Both Claude and Randa concur about their favourite work of artthe LED lightbox sculpture by Doug Aitken, which spells out the word "FREE". Claude claims it perfectly fits in with his philosophy of life. "I've never had any associates, I've never been salaried. I've always been independent," he declares.

The carefully curated furnishings, meanwhile, are a happy mix. Among them are classic vintage pieces, such as the sculptural black De Sede sofa, a pair of Ib Kofod-Larsen armchairs in the family room and several designs by Poul Kjaerholm, whom Claude is a big fan of. "He's really fascinating. There's only what's necessary in his creations and the proportions are simply fantastic," he says.

table by Terence Woodgate and John Barnard, and limited-edition stools by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec. The Douglas fir table in the sitting room, custom-designed by Claude himself, is very much the focal point of the apartment. It serves as a bar when friends come for drinks. The couple's daughter Sacha likes to listen to music there and it's where all three children regularly do their homework. It was Randa who insisted on integrating

Contemporary items include the dining

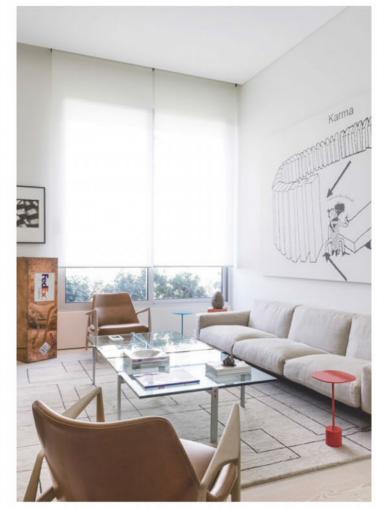
a few splashes of bright red, which come by way of a Nanna Ditzel "Oda" armchair and ottoman, and a drop-shaped fibreglass sculpture by Sterling Ruby. Now that the apartment is complete, she has but one regret—that they couldn't find a place for one of their most treasured possessions, a vintage sofa designed by Brazilian modernist Sergio Rodrigues. She says, "We tried everywherein the bedroom, in the sitting room, even in the lift lobby—but it just wouldn't fit. So now, we want to redecorate our chalet in the mountains to find a spot for it there." •

RIGHT

Anchored by a neutral-hued Flexform sofa and vintage armchairs, the family room has a sedate feel: quirky art pieces like Walead Beshty's FedEx sculpture liven up the space

OPPOSITE PAGE

Fun elements characterise the bar area—from the bright Greta painting by Rob Pruitt to the pendant lighing by Olafur Eliasson down to the glassware by Alya Tannous and resin dishes by Zaha Hadid







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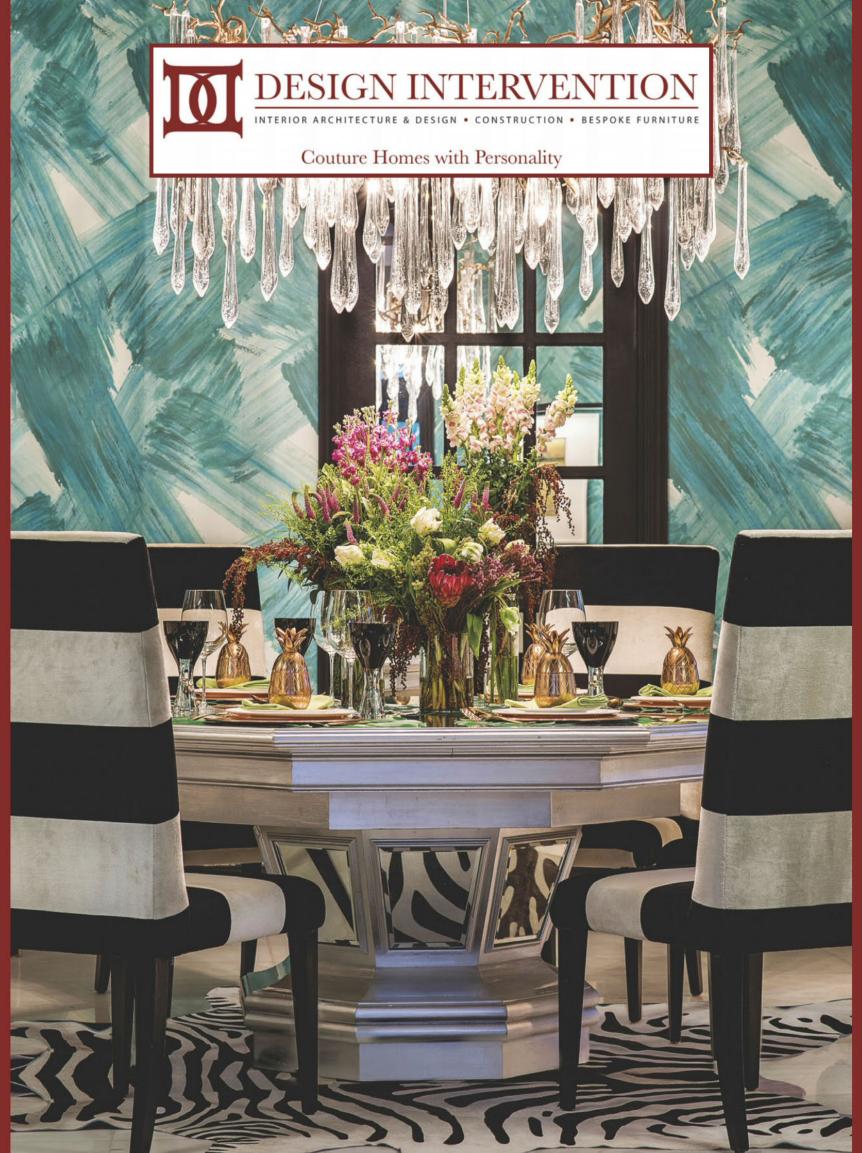
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BEST ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

EDMUND NG ARCHITECTS

Featured in the April 2016 issue, Edmund Ng's family home is an unconventional, purpose-built residence with a gallery space designed to house the Ngs' art collection. Deliberately altering the sense of space, the architect accentuated the linearity of the layout and emphasised design details to showcase the beauty of selected materials.

Thanks to his simple yet sophisticated design approach and clever spatial solutions, the home feels airy and open despite its modest size. Taking advantage of the lateral space, Ng has enhanced the sense of depth and volume by allowing the interiors to flow into one another, rather than dividing them with walls and doors. His wife's extensive art collection is housed in a large, vault-like basement gallery. Above it is a secret hatch, accessible from a car porch above, which is used when she needs to lower large canvases into the gallery space.



TYPE OF HOME

Landed

PROPERTY SIZE

10.000saft

BUILT-UP AREA

4,500sqft

RESIDENTS

3

BUILDING AND INTERIOR DESIGNER

Edmund Ng, Edmung Ng Architects edmundngarchitects. com

TIME TAKEN

15 months



LLADRÓ CONGRATULATES THE AWARDEES OF singapore tatler homes' a celebration of design









BEST BESPOKE PROJECT

DESIGN INTERVENTION

One of the most popular features in the February 2016 issue was the home of Design Intervention's partner and design director, Andrea Savage. Vibrant and vivacious, like the Eurasian designer herself, the home is a reflection of Savage's diverse cultural background. The former model brings a mix of history, textures and colours into a setting that is both stylishly eclectic and graceful.

Concealed in a stately colonial structure in Mount Faber, the interiors are a surprisingly upbeat contrast to the building's restrained exterior. Here, vibrant pops of colour, quirky furnishings, items old and new, the flamboyant and the understated are wonderfully mixed into the concept. Savage's creative flair is present throughout, with a sense of symmetry and restraint guiding bold pieces to create a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere.



TYPE OF HOME

Mansionette apartment

PROPERTY SIZE

2,500sqft

RESIDENTS

3

INTERIOR DESIGN

Andrea Savage, Design Intervention designintervention.

com.sg

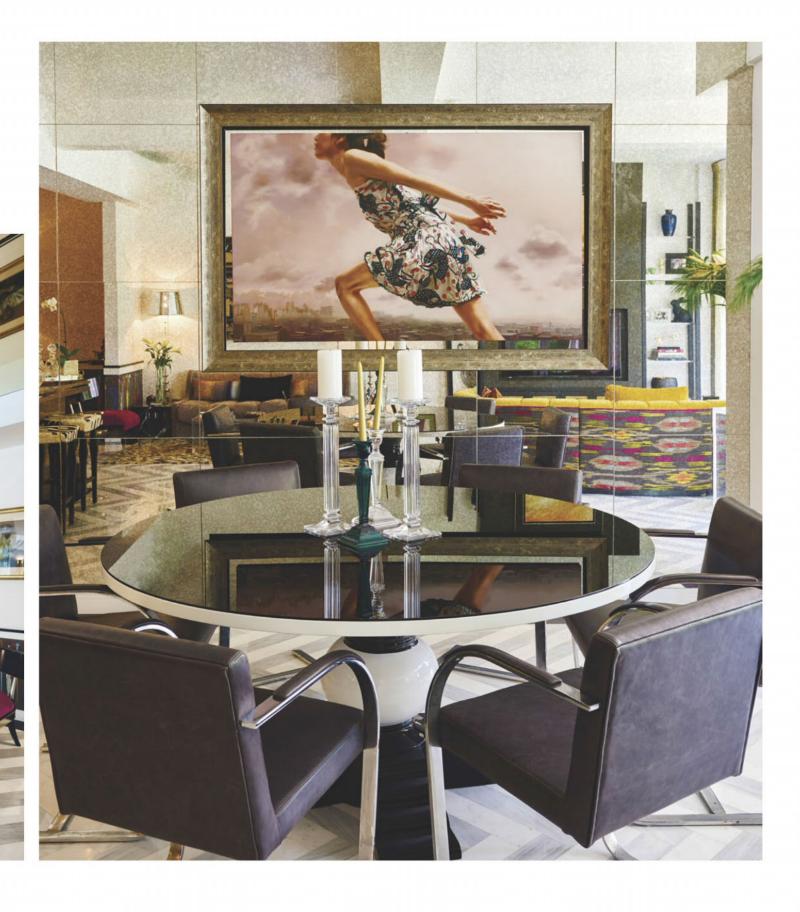
TIME TAKEN

6 months



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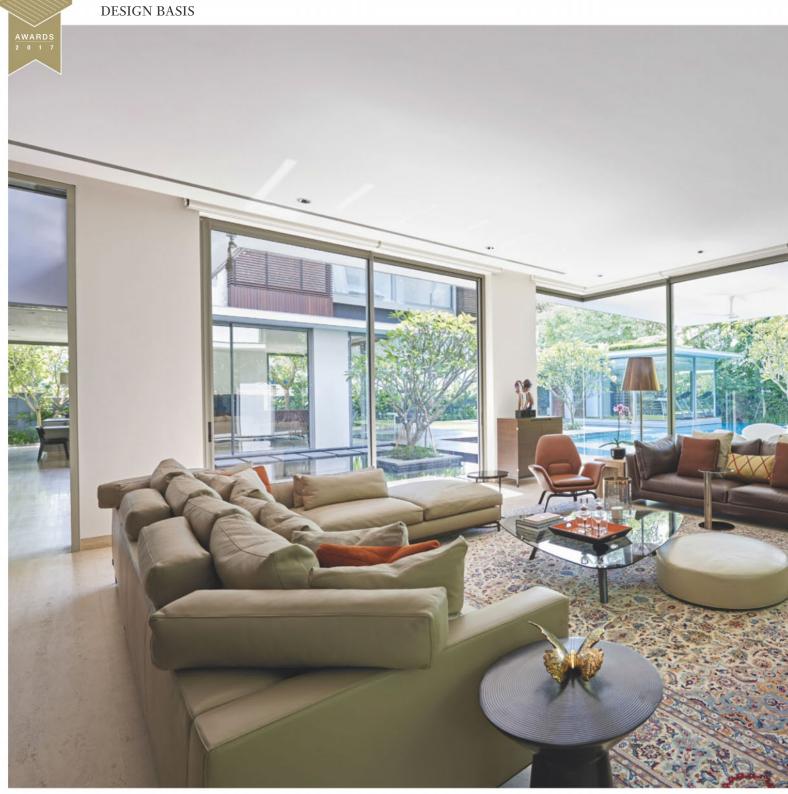








BEST CONTEMPORARY DESIGN



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TYPE OF HOME

Landed

PROPERTY SIZE 26,000sqft

BUILT-UP AREA 13,800sqft

RESIDENTS

5

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Tay Hiang Liang, Design Basis

TIME TAKEN

24 months

The Ang residence in Leedon Park, designed by architect Loh Er Pau of Tellus Design and interior designer Tay Hiang Liang of Design Basis, is a palatial beauty that charmed readers of the February 2016 issue. Stately, yet warm with a touch of Asian mystique, this home makes the most of the generous plot size by drawing in plenty of natural light and views of the surrounding greenery.

A contemporary classic, the Leedon Park home furnished by Marquis HQO has impressive features such as a generously sized entrance foyer with a Windfall Balance chandelier and a full-height ebony feature wall that creates a cool and relaxing ambience for entertaining. With various functional zones arranged in a classical H-shaped plan and a grand staircase joining the two wings, the layout offers strong visual connectivity between indoor and outdoor spaces. A sense of grandeur is expressed through the use of luxurious materials and dramatic heights.



LLADRÓ CONGRATULATES THE AWARDEES OF

SINGAPORE TATLER HOMES' A CELEBRATION OF DESIGN









BEST MULTIGENERATIONAL CONCEPT

SPLENDOR





TYPE OF HOME

Penthouse apartment

PROPERTY SIZE

5,040sqft

RESIDENTS

5

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Jennifer Murray, Splendor splendor.sg

TIME TAKEN

6 months

Reflective of its owners' taste, this vibrant penthouse apartment was one of the most popular features in the December 2016 issue—and proof that clever juxtapositions and calculated risks can lead to extraordinary results. The work of Roy Teo, founder of The Mill consortium of design companies, and Jennifer Murray, associate design director of Splendor, this two-storey home reveals its multifaceted personality in many ways. On display in the entrance foyer are family heirlooms infused with modern twists, while each room is a thoughtful curation of different styles. With interiors that are eclectic yet balanced, this is a penthouse that truly pushes the envelope.

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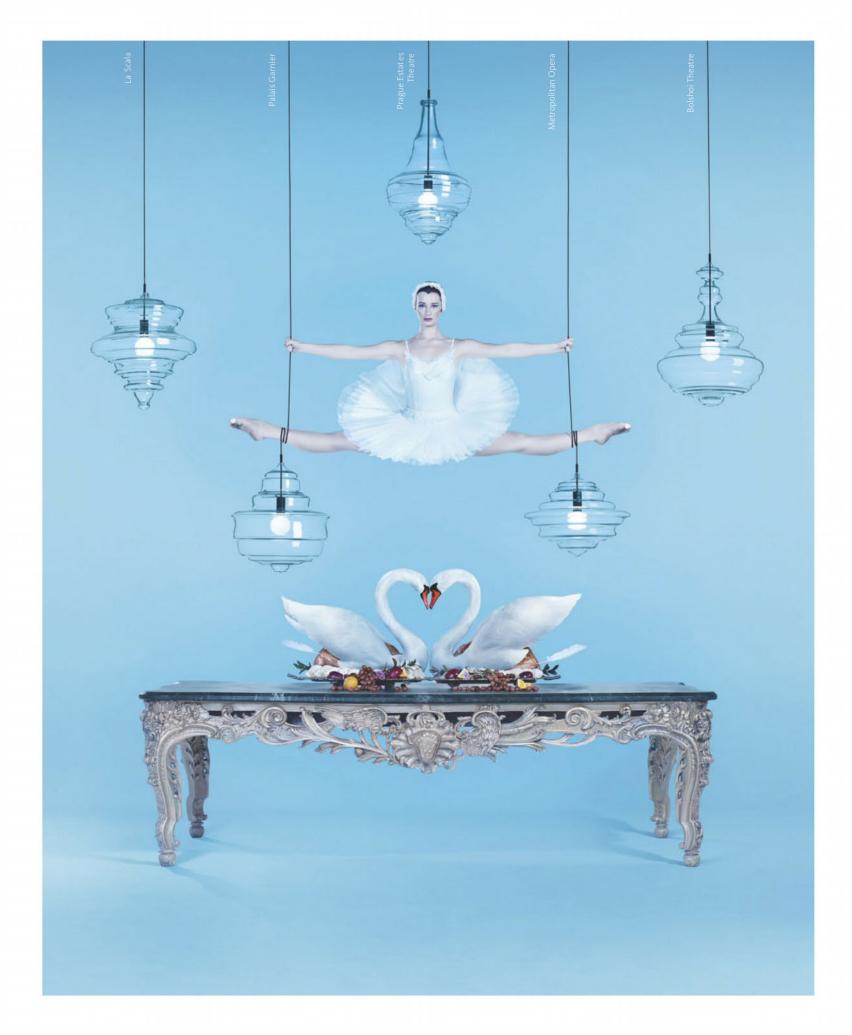
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