

# Square Rooms

SQUAREROOMS.COM.SG

**Room to Grow**  
Ideas for a family-friendly and stylish home + Expert tips to stay organised!

**Pretty Useful**  
Functional yet beautiful finds that'll make you smile

## DESIGNERS' BEST SPACES

Pros share their top projects and wishlist picks

JUL 2022  
ISSUE 206  
S\$5.50

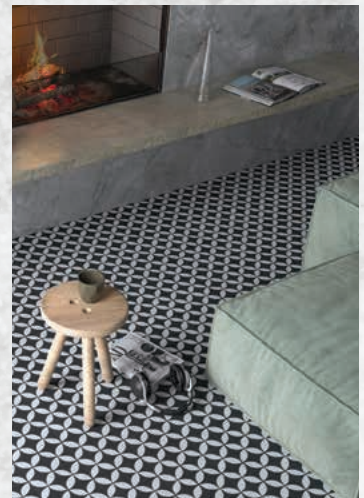






**LIAN SENG HIN**  
TILES STONE MOSAIC

[www.liansenghin.com.sg](http://www.liansenghin.com.sg)



## COMMERCIAL • RETAIL • PROJECT

*Visit our mega showroom today!*

**Lian Seng Hin Trading Co. Pte Ltd**

**Mega Showroom** 3 Ubi Avenue 3 #01-01 Crocodile House Singapore 408857 **T: 6747 2522**

**Central Showroom** 568A Balestier Road Singapore 329885 **T: 6252 2222**

**West Showroom** 18 Boon Lay Way #01-141 Tradehub 21 Singapore 609966 **T: 6251 2222**



## EDITOR'S NOTE

---



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME PHILOSOPHY

## CURIOUS ABOUT DESIGNERS' BEST IDEAS?

In this issue, we asked top designers to dig into their portfolio to share some of their favourite rooms they've ever worked on (p. 28). Learn about what makes these spaces so special, glean advice for your own rooms and get a bonus peek into what's on our experts' own personal home wishlist!

Also ahead, decor inspiration for family-friendly homes that don't compromise on style, fun or practicality (p. 22). Kids are only small for so long, but it's still a good number of years so you want to make sure everyone's comfortable and happy during this time. Since clutter can be a major

concern and a real mood buster in households with young kids, Hey Montgomery's Founder & Creative Director, Samantha Johnson, also shares her top pointers for keeping your home neat and tidy with minimum effort. After all, it's important to feel good about your home and be able to invite friends and family over without hesitation.

Craving more organising tips and home inspiration? Be sure to head to our website at [squarespaces.com.sg](https://squarespaces.com.sg) and follow us on social media for pro advice, new product launches and a treasure trove of decor ideas.

Warmly,

*Yi Ying*

# PLAZA

## THE DEFINITION OF ELEGANCE

A harmony of clean lines and soft elements form a timeless aesthetic for contemporary living.







**K I N G**



## CONTENTS

JULY 2022



### In Focus



**8**

#### News

Product and event debuts

**10**

#### Pretty Useful

Home essentials that function well and look good

### ON THE COVER



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF  
NOTION OF W

**12**

#### Nostalgic Charm

This mid-century modern flat was transformed to make its Vietnamese family feel right at home

**22**

#### Room to Grow

Tips for a family-friendly home that's full of fun and style

**28**

#### Pride and Joy

Top designers reveal their top renovation projects and what's on their own wishlist

**38**

#### Six Ways to Keep Mozzies Out!

There have been even more mozzies in the air recently, so keep them at bay with these nifty finds



# CONTENTS

JULY 2022



## Home Inspo

### **40** **Big Plans**

Large but previously nondescript, this family home was refreshed to maximise style and comfort

### **48** **A New Life**

A modest 50-year-old flat gets a modern update for its new family

### **56** **Custom Comfort**

Nearly every space in this home has been tweaked to serve the unique needs of its occupants

### **64**

#### **Design Showcase**

Intelligent interior design solutions from our advertisers

### **68**

#### **Resources**

ID and shop listings

### **72**

#### **Epilogue**

Why vintage finds are always a good idea





S Q U A R E R O O M S . C O M . S G

# Square Rooms

 @SquareRooms  @SquareRoomsMag

## EDITORIAL

EDITOR  
**YUEN YI YING**

FEATURES EDITOR  
**YAIZA CANOPOLI**

CONTRIBUTOR  
**ISABELLE TOW**

ART  
ART DIRECTOR  
**ARIS LAI**

## VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY

SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER  
**CHINO SARDEA**

VIDEO EDITOR  
**TRACEY NGUYEN**

## ADVERTISING

BUSINESS DIRECTOR  
**BERNARD LIM**

ASSOCIATE BUSINESS DIRECTOR  
**CHARMAINE SOH**

## MARKETING

SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER  
**DENISE LAW**

SENIOR MARKETING EXECUTIVE  
**SAWITTA  
SITTIPOOMSAWAT**

MARKETING EXECUTIVES  
**TRICIA TAN  
SHEILA DEVI**

## MEDIA GROUP PTE LTD

MANAGING DIRECTOR  
**DENNIS PUA**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**MARC S. ALMAGRO**

COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR  
**DANIEL POON**

HUMAN RESOURCES  
**WENDY CHUA**

SQUAREROOMS IS PUBLISHED BY

**MEDIA GROUP PTE LTD**

20 Bedok South Road Singapore 469277

Tel: 6445 3313 Fax: 6445 3373

Business Registration No. 200205728C

For editorial matters, [yiying@media-group.com.sg](mailto:yiying@media-group.com.sg) / [yaiza@media-group.com.sg](mailto:yaiza@media-group.com.sg)

For advertising enquiries, [bernardlim@media-group.com.sg](mailto:bernardlim@media-group.com.sg)

For subscription enquiries, [sheila@media-group.com.sg](mailto:sheila@media-group.com.sg)

For marketing enquiries, [denise.law@media-group.com.sg](mailto:denise.law@media-group.com.sg)

Printer & Colour Separation: KHL Printing Co. Pte Ltd

Distributor: CarKit (FarEast) Pte Ltd

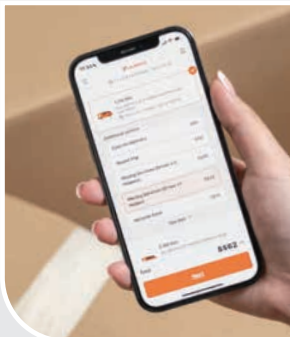
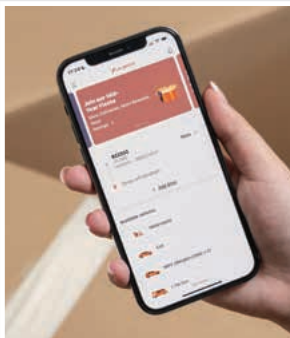
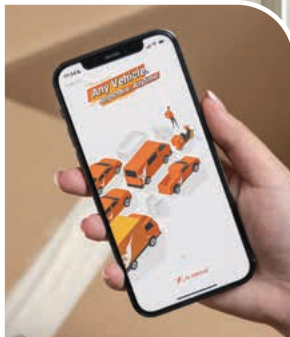
Although every reasonable care has been taken to ensure the accuracy and objectivity of the information contained in this publication, neither the publishers, editors and their employees and agents can be held liable for any errors, inaccuracies and/or omissions. We shall not be liable for any actions taken based on the views expressed, or information provided within this publication. You should always seek professional advice from the appropriate advisor, professional or institution. Copyright 2022.





## MOVING WITH EASE

Ready to move into your matrimonial home? This stress-free and affordable delivery service lets you move belongings big and small on your own schedule.

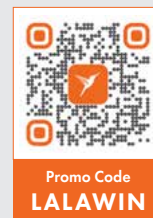


The most exciting day has come! You've got the keys to your flat and after living with your respective families for some time, you and your spouse can finally move into your own place. As anyone who has ever moved can attest, packing up can be stressful, both emotionally and physically, and it can be expensive too.

Lalamove aims to make the process as seamless and affordable as possible. Whether you've only got a few boxes of clothes or several pieces of furniture you'd like to take to your new home, the delivery service lets you pick the type of vehicle for the amount of items you want to transport, ensuring that you're only paying for what you need.

We've all got busy lives, so the company also offers the option of 24/7 delivery, even on public holidays, letting you move whenever you're ready, not on someone else's schedule. At all times, you can have absolute peace of mind with real-time tracking letting you know when your items will arrive, as well as the information of the driver handling your delivery.

Booking can be done easily via Lalamove's web, mobile or tablet application, and if you need help, Lalamove's customer service chat is available every day from 8am to 10pm, even on holidays, to address your questions and requests quickly.



### PROMOTION!

Sign up now and use code **LALAWIN** to enjoy **\$15 off your first three orders**. First-time users get three \$5 coupons—applicable for car, MPV, van and lorry deliveries. This promotion ends on 31 July 2022 and coupons expire 14 days after redemption.

For more information and to sign up, visit [lalamove.com/en-sg/house-moving](https://lalamove.com/en-sg/house-moving). T&C apply.



## Dreamy buys

SMEG is launching not just one but two exciting new products: an automatic bean-to-cup coffee machine and an electric hand mixer, both essentials in a well-equipped kitchen. The coffee machine is available in SMEG's signature range of lively colours and is equipped with an intuitive control panel for a streamlined coffee experience, whether you're feeling a latte, a cappuccino or a classic espresso.

The electric hand mixer, on the other hand, adds to SMEG's retro-inspired line-up, providing you with an irresistible aesthetic as well as plenty of functionality. Three stainless steel whisks and nine different speed settings make it the perfect tool for mixing and whipping up any of your favourite dishes.

[smeg.sg](https://smeg.sg)



## Minimal effort

Tefal's line-up of handy household products is expanding with two brand-new additions: the X-Force Flex handstick vacuum and the Easy Fry air fryer range. The former comes in especially handy on those deep-cleaning days, as it allows you to vacuum and mop at the same time with its ingenious Aqua Head attachment.

As for the Easy Fry air fryer range, get ready to tackle delicious and healthy meals with just a single appliance. The Easy Fry Grill & Steam is the flagship piece in the range with its easy three-in-one air fryer, grill and steamer, plus seven automatic cooking programs that switch effortlessly between the three modes. The other launch in the range, the Easy Fry Oven & Grill, combines nine cooking functions, from air frying to baking and dehydrating. Simply add your ingredients and choose from the versatile accessories to prepare up to three meals at once!

[tefal.com.sg](https://tefal.com.sg)



## Nostalgic luxury

A new range of lighting has hit the market and it's one to keep on your radar. The first lighting collection by Casa Cabana, it's made to order in Italy and inspired by the late 20th-century Italian architect and set designer Renzo Mongiardino. The key pieces in this small but mighty collection are Cilindro, Renzo and Giacomo, made from brass and metal with understated yet eye-catching elegance.

[cabanamagazine.com](https://cabanamagazine.com)



## [ SR Review ]

### WMF Fusiontec Aromatic

wmf.sg

Known for their heavy-duty cookware, WMF tried something a little different with the new Fusiontec range, combining the performance properties of copper, stainless steel, cast iron and aluminium. We were certainly intrigued by the new collection and decided to take their Fusiontec Aromatic pot for a test drive. Here's what we found.

The Fusiontec Aromatic was developed to provide the best possible results while cooking. The pot has quite some weight to it and comes with a condensation lid that's said to preserve up to 25% more cooking juices inside the pot, improving the quality of stews and roasts. The inside of the stainless steel lid has a knobbed surface that supposedly

distributes the condensation more evenly over the food for intensified flavour.

While we can't say what percentage of the cooking juices were truly preserved, we did find that the pot retained heat and moisture particularly well while cooking even for prolonged periods of time, triumphing over other pots. The temperature was distributed evenly throughout the pot, which resulted in faster cooking and a very consistent flavour throughout the dishes.

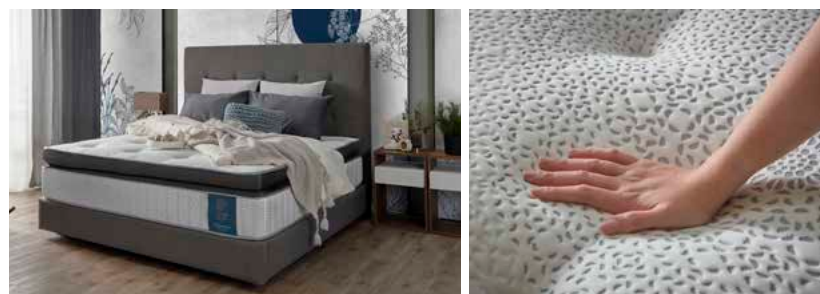
While the heavy weight of the pot can be somewhat uncomfortable to handle, it speaks of the cookware's solid quality and is a minor inconvenience considering the delicious result.



## Welcome to the garden

We've always had our eye on Cosentino's surfaces, but the brand's newest launch has us especially hooked. A limited-edition work by designer Colin Seah, the Garden Table draws inspiration from the outdoors, the surface crafted with the gorgeous Venetian stucco-inspired Kraftizen from Dekton. But the surface is not the most eye-catching part of this piece: at its core, a curved cut-out makes room for a large potted plant, turning the table into a literal sprouting garden. Yes, please!

[cosentino.com/en-sg](https://cosentino.com/en-sg)



## Around the corner

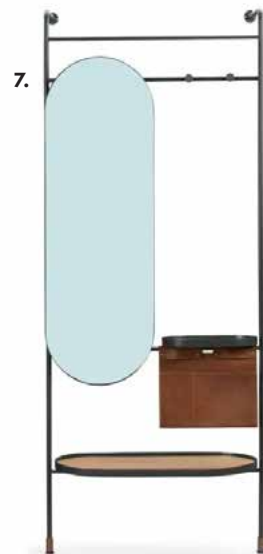
Need some furniture for your home? Check out Cellini's newest outlet at Centrepoint. More than just a furniture gallery, this new store features a specialised mattress boutique with an extensive mattress collection. You'll also encounter the brand-new antimicrobial Seville Lux mattress with ViroClean technology, the perfect pick to improve hygiene in the bedroom to keep everyone safe and sound.

[cellini.com.sg](https://cellini.com.sg)

# PRETTY USEFUL

When space is at a premium, we want to make sure that everything that comes to stay both functions well and looks good.

by YUEN YI YING





9.



10.



14.



- 9. Umbra Swivo Desk, \$699, HipVan
- 10. Alto Shelf 2, \$3,399, Commune
- 11. Celeb Noodle Bowl (Sand White), \$29.90, fortytwo
- 12. Maison Sarah Lavoine Sicilia Storage Basket Petrol Blue, \$66, Smallable
- 13. Madam Stoltz Terracotta Vase Blue, \$40, Smallable
- 14. Chabi Chic Salad Servers, \$66, Smallable
- 15. Quiet Town The Orient Organic Cotton Shower Curtain Terracotta, \$247, Smallable
- 16. Halli Lidded Canister, \$73, Anthropologie
- 17. Liewood Weston Multicoloured Collapsible Crate Green, \$44, Smallable

15.



16.



- 1. Teepee: Aromatic Diffuser Cover Set (by Pana Objects), \$55, fortytwo
- 2. Three-Tier Basket Wall Storage, \$346, Anthropologie
- 3. Arthur Hook Rack, \$64, Anthropologie
- 4. Popolo Chicken Plate, \$40, Smallable
- 5. Travis Decorative Teak Ladder, \$194, Anthropologie
- 6. Abby Rocking Chair with Ottoman, \$199, HipVan
- 7. Tierra Leaning Coat Hanger, \$1,029, Commune
- 8. Rigel Coffee Table, \$679, fortyTwo

11.



12.



13.



17.



# Nostalgic Charm

This mid-century modern flat was transformed to make its Vietnamese family feel right at home.

Text YAIZA CANOPOLI Images FIFTH AVENUE INTERIOR

## The Brief

Living away from home can be freeing and exciting, but it can also unearth something less pleasant—homesickness. As the pandemic has made it particularly difficult to connect with loved ones across borders, many have had to grapple with this feeling, finding creative ways to build a home away from home.

It is then no surprise that this Vietnamese couple wanted to infuse their HDB flat with a touch of their home country. With the help of interior designer Vina Christine from Fifth Avenue Interior, they were able to materialise their aesthetic vision into a gorgeous abode that tells a story, incorporating Vietnamese furniture and exuding mid-century modern charm with a sense of nostalgia.

Rattan and green hues tie the look together across the various areas of the house—a boho-chic, Jungalow-inspired combination that balances out the sleek luxury of mid-century modern design. While the space is bold and eye-catching, it retains an understated, classic charm.

On the functional side, the flat underwent a floor-to-ceiling upgrade, including the removal of the service yard and storeroom, resulting in a spacious, open-concept kitchen. With a small child on board, extra storage space had to be allocated in various nooks and crannies to ensure plenty of room for the household's necessities.

After months of intensive renovation works, the young family was able to move into their dream abode, finally getting to cosy up in all of the home's inviting nooks and crannies.

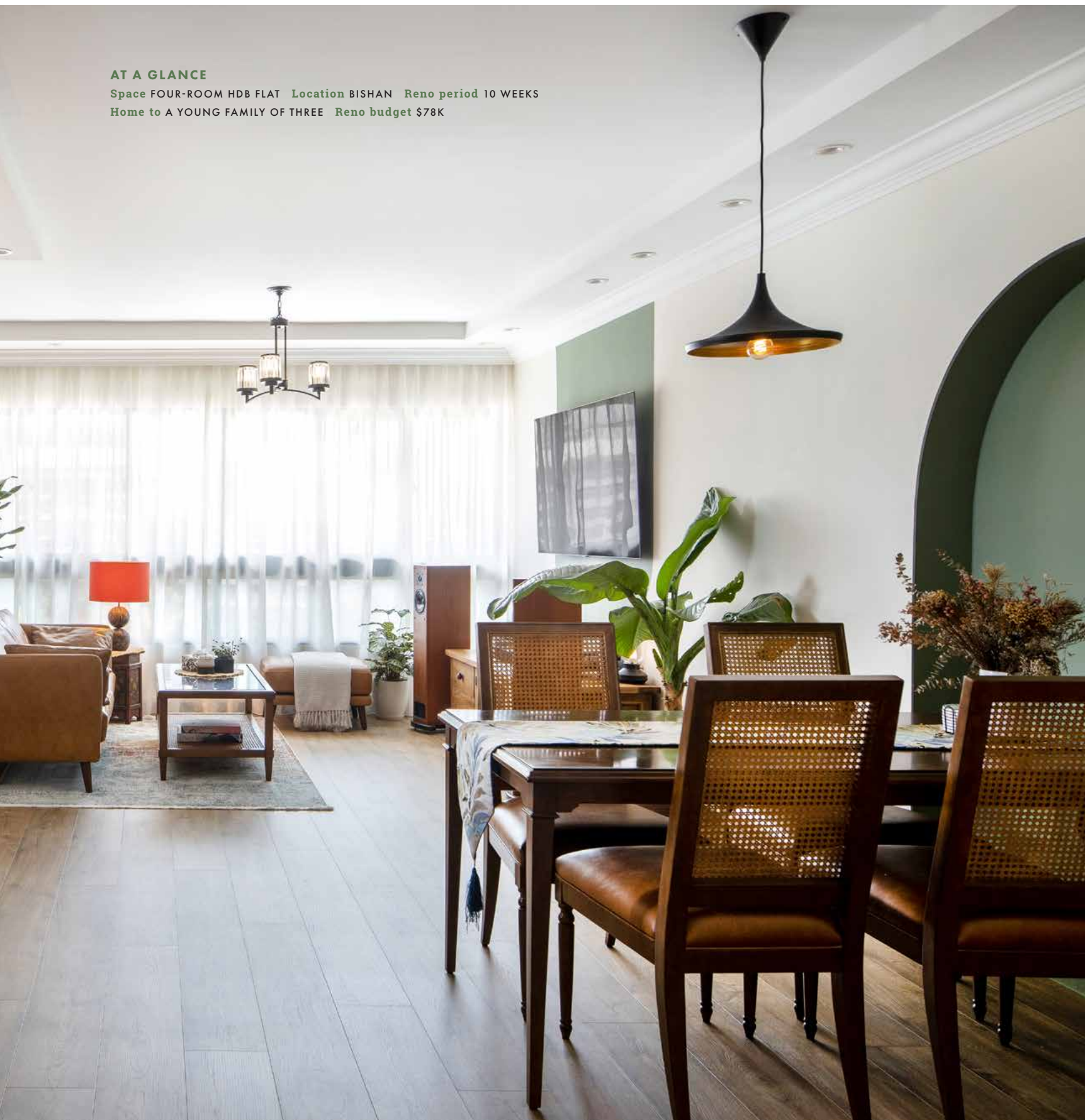




### AT A GLANCE

Space FOUR-ROOM HDB FLAT Location BISHAN Reno period 10 WEEKS

Home to A YOUNG FAMILY OF THREE Reno budget \$78K



**Previous page****Overall view**

From the curved kitchen entrance to the dining corner and the rustic furniture dotted around the space, this HDB flat never fails to be inviting. Warm lighting is the cherry on top, ensuring an intimate vibe throughout the whole house.

**This page****Living and dining**

While a standard laminate feature wall would have been a suitable choice for a sleek and modern home, it would have felt forced and out of place in this cosy nest. The design team opted for a curved paint feature in a soft sage green tone from Nippon Paint instead, avoiding monotonous straight lines. In the dining area, the same shape is flipped upside down in the form of a recessed wall for some extra visual intrigue.

**Dining area**

With its unique recessed arch, the dining area stands out as one of the highlights of this flat, exuding a gentle intimacy that's perfect for dinners with friends and family. A warm pendant light further accentuates this, illuminating the inviting wooden table and rattan-backed dining chairs.







## Nice curves

Creative ways to incorporate trendy curves into your interiors.



IMAGE COURTESY OF EIGHTYTWO

## Corner settees

Got some gaping corners to fill at home? Placing a floor lamp is the classic solution, but a curved settee can give your guests additional space to relax while also softening any harsh lines in your design.



IMAGE COURTESY OF FAEZAH MOKHTAR

## Internal windows

Internal windows can give your home that coveted landed appearance, plus they add lots of natural light and ventilation to cramped spaces.



IMAGE COURTESY OF A BLUE CUBE DESIGN

## Wall niches

One of the biggest trends of the last few years, they increase your home's storage space in the most aesthetic way possible.

## FEATURE

### Kitchen

Wondering why this HDB flat doesn't have a service yard? The often unsightly space was knocked down to make room for a bigger kitchen, the washing machine and dryer finding a new home in between the Panaplast cabinets. With its aesthetic and functional appeal, the kitchen has it all and is understandably the couple's favourite spot.



Above

### Tile detail

In this open-concept space, what demarcates the transition from one area of the home to the next is the flooring. The eye-catching patterned tiles from Soon Bee Huat not only help to organise the layout but also frame the kitchen island with some added visual dimension.







**Built-in storage**

The rattan panels were initially chosen purely for their functionality as they provide the shoe cabinet with ventilation, but the homeowners liked them so much that they were added to various cabinets throughout the home.





## Rattan touch

Three ways to spruce up your home with rattan.



### Accent chairs

With rattan being much softer than wood, it makes for a pretty comfy material to sit on. Plus, it's breathable, so it's perfect for an accent chair in our hot and humid climate.



### Cabinet fronts

Lend your cabinets practical ventilation while enhancing the way they look with some simple rattan panels.



### Pendant lamps

Lighting is often underrated in interior design, but choose a stylish pendant lamp and you're halfway to a beautiful room already!







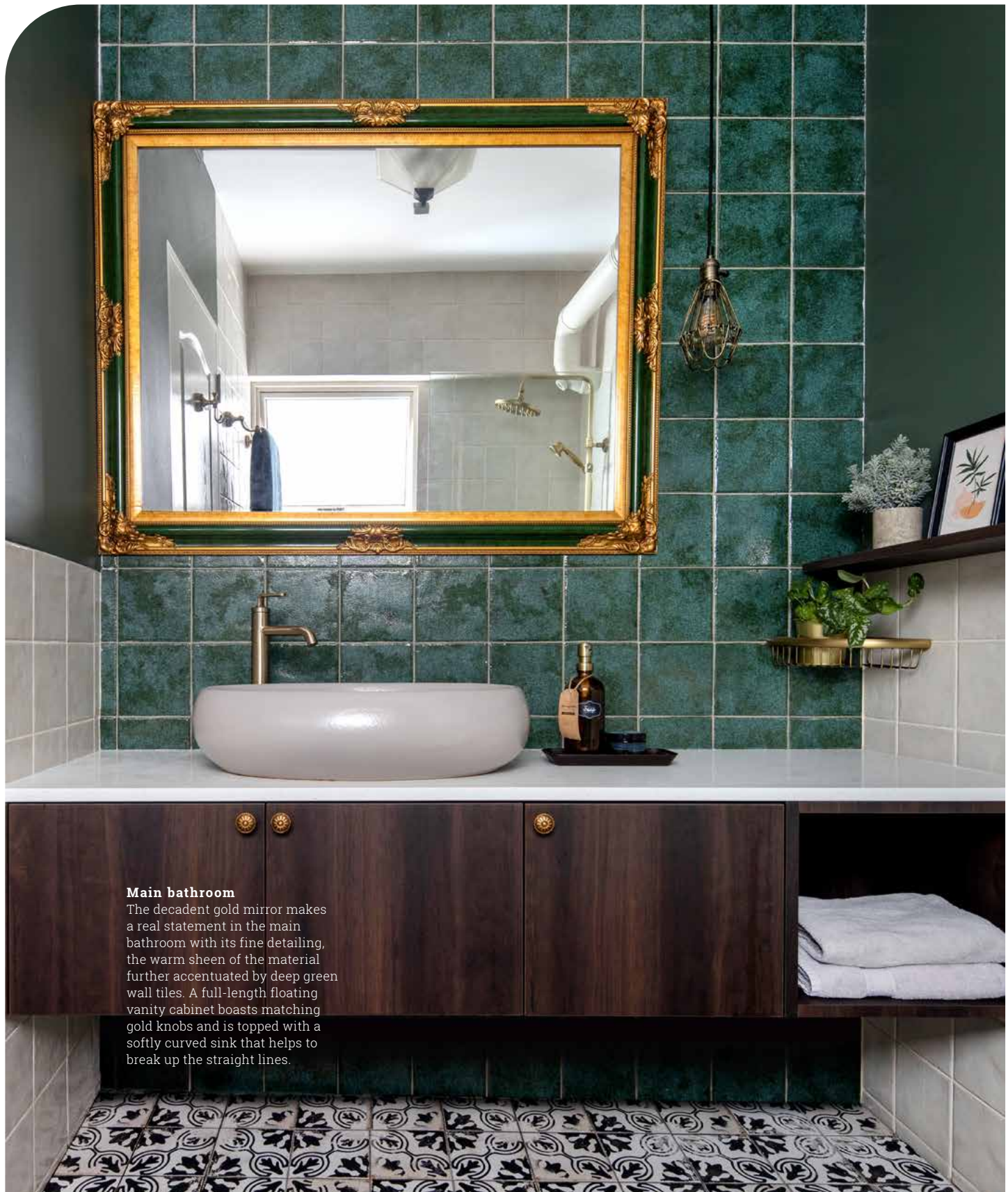
### Bedroom

The homeowners' beloved rattan gets to shine in all its glory in the main bedroom, fronting a spacious, full-height Panaplast wardrobe. It's complemented by colourful cushions, carefully selected artworks and an understated strip of sage green paint for that true Jungalow vibe.

### Bedroom settee

When it's time to get out of bed, the homeowners can continue relaxing with a good book on this charming corner settee, maximising the awkward shape of the bedroom with integrated storage cabinets underneath and a narrow bookshelf at the side.





**Main bathroom**

The decadent gold mirror makes a real statement in the main bathroom with its fine detailing, the warm sheen of the material further accentuated by deep green wall tiles. A full-length floating vanity cabinet boasts matching gold knobs and is topped with a softly curved sink that helps to break up the straight lines.





#### **Guest bathroom**

Simple and streamlined, this space is kept guest-friendly with its soothing, minimalist approach, yet still packs personality by incorporating striking patterned floor tiles from Soon Bee Huat.



### **Why choose an interior designer?**

The pros from Fifth Avenue Interior share five services designers can provide that make them convenient for your renovation.

#### **1.**

##### **Conceptualisation**

Whether you have no idea how to create your dream home or you have too many ideas and don't know how to combine and materialise them, a professional designer will help you come up with a project that actually works.

#### **2.**

##### **Project management**

You may not be able to be onsite all the time to monitor the renovation and ensure it meets the expected timeline. A designer will manage this for you.

#### **3.**

##### **Supplier sources**

Dealing with multiple suppliers for the first time can be time-consuming and challenging. Designers have a team of experienced and ready suppliers that they can easily refer to and engage.

#### **4.**

##### **Decision making**

Every renovation has a couple of hiccups that need to be dealt with. You may not have the technical know-how to make an informed decision, which is why a professional designer can come in handy.

#### **5.**

##### **Budgeting**

Without technical knowledge and renovation experience, it's difficult to budget realistically. An interior designer will ensure that your project is completed on time and within the budget you set.

# ROOM TO GROW

TIPS ON CREATING FAMILY-FRIENDLY  
HOMES THAT DON'T COMPROMISE  
ON STYLE, FUN OR FUNCTION.

text YUEN YI YING





Little tots are always bumping into things, but you can reduce the chances of serious injuries by going with rounded corners and padded furnishings. It just so happens that curved walls and pillowy couches are hugely popular right now. Ideal for young family life.



## ROAM FREE

If there's one thing kids need, it's lots of room to move about and explore. Creating boundary-free zones gives children confidence and also lets you have peace of mind knowing they are safe.



For this household with three kids, the parents' bedroom features a murphy bed, giving the family leeway to use this spot as a study, play or work area during the daytime. The fluted detail across the front ensures this space looks pretty whether the bed is up or down.



Space-saving and multi-functional furniture are always a boon when you have kids, ensuring adaptability, longevity and maximum use of space. Depending on your needs for the day, this height-adjustable table from Spaceman can function as a coffee table for when you have guests over, or you could use it as a dining table, a study desk for the kids, or even tuck it away.



We love the idea of these steps that can be stowed away, freeing up floor space for kids to roam while preventing them from climbing up the stairs while unattended.

## GET CREATIVE WITH PAINT

Dings, stains and drawings all over your walls are going to be inevitable, but you can try some nifty painting tricks to avoid headaches.

► If it's too much trouble to keep your kids from doodling on walls, try using chalkboard paint so the young ones can go to town and give you some downtime. Black isn't your only option, chalkboard paint also comes in brighter, fun options like green, dusky pink, blue and more.



▼ Have a small room that needs to be shared? Create some visual separation by zoning with colour. You'll get all the benefits of an open space while maintaining focused areas for different activities.



DESIGN BY SWISS INTERIOR

▲ Alternatively, do a half-painted wall that mimics the look of trending wainscoting and requires less effort than covering the whole wall. Paint the lower half a darker hue to minimise all the scuffs from kids bumping and scraping the walls. For easy maintenance, choose paint in an eggshell finish that can be wiped down. Some formulas even have antibacterial properties, perfect for households with little ones who like trailing their hands across the walls.

DESIGN BY SALT STUDIO







## CLEVER ADDITIONS

Family-friendly ideas to incorporate into your reno plans.



Internal windows help create a semi-open-concept feel while allowing each zone to have some separation and privacy. A large window, like this one overlooking the dining table, lets homeowners keep an eye on kids and elderly family members while prepping meals in the kitchen.



Rainy day, can't go outside? A climbing wall like this one is eye-catching and helps the kids get all their energy out.



Mirrors help children explore objects from different angles, develop spatial awareness, learn about their bodies and emotions as well as develop language skills. They're also great decor additions as they help reflect light and visually expand your interiors. Look into safely mounting or installing a shatterproof mirror so that your young ones can babble and bop in front of it without any danger.

## 5 TIPS FOR A NEAT & TIDY HOME

Hey Montgomery's Founder & Creative Director, Samantha Johnson, shares how to keep clutter under control even with messy young ones.

images HEY MONTGOMERY



their items are to be kept in those zones and will hover and play within those spaces, better still, after play time, they can help return and organise the items. Remember, everything should have a place, communicate this so the whole family can follow the lead daily.

### Buy items thoughtfully

I know the urge to buy every “OMG I love it” thing you see when out browsing or online shopping. However, please don't impulse buy. You need to think of the overall vibe you are trying to achieve in your space then research and compare your options. Think about the mood, colours and the budget first before decorating your family or child's room, keep aside more budget for big ticket items such as beds and comfortable seating.

### Make use of storage solutions

Storage is the number one topic our clients want to address. Most parents hate the sight of unsightly plastic monstrosities children tend to gather over the years. First things first, clear out and organise the toys your child actually uses and bless or sell the rest. Think about the end result, then buy storage that will fit the items. Label them well to help your kids find their toys and even more importantly, help the young ones put their things away. Measure your space, then select long-lasting and good-looking storage options that are functional. Do also plan ahead. You don't want storage to fill up with rubbish when you can use the space for something else like a reading corner.

### Create a kids zone

Ok, so no one wants their entire home to be filled with clutter as soon as they walk through the door—a little zen would be most welcome! Create a kids zone in your home, if you live on one storey, this could be your child's own space or a small area in the living room. If you live on more than one level, section off an area on each storey. Safely secure a simple, muted and low storage unit that you can use for organising toys, label and use it for your child's favourite toys of the moment. Add a forward-facing bookshelf above for child-friendly access.

Make use of stackable crates that can be moved around the home easily and rotate the toys. Over time, your child will learn that







### Disguise those cables

The cables that come along with the gadgets we have at home now can certainly be messy and hazardous when they are not properly hidden away from children. Think about your space functionally before you make a purchase and don't forget about the cables; how will they be hidden? Before buying furniture, think about their location against your electric points and ensure all your electrical items will reach the points easily with minimum cable clutter. It's best to plan ahead and think about how you'd cover those danger zones, instead of having to block the space with a makeshift or ugly item down the line.

### Create the right atmosphere

Have you ever walked into a room and felt overwhelmed or, alternatively, calm and relaxed? Aim to give your child the best experience possible by helping them create a space that gives them everything they need to engage, play and relax. We all know how frustrating it can be when we can't find something. Children will enjoy their space more when they are able to understand where their precious doll is or that tiny car that always goes missing. A space is more than a place where things are kept, it is a sanctuary where children can play, feel safe and engage with their family. It's amazing what some thought and organisation can do for your child's well-being. With a little effort, your child's space could be inspiring.

## HEY MONTGOMERY'S LATEST OBSESSIONS

Try to avoid buying the same old or easiest option when revamping your child's space, think outside the box.



Dolly Natural Wide Bookcase by Leanne Ford, \$1,299. Available at Crate and Barrel, [crateandbarrel.com.sg](http://crateandbarrel.com.sg)



Tufted Decor, contact Little Kome for details, [instagram.com/little.kome](https://www.instagram.com/little.kome)



Wonderland Rainbow Children's A4 Print, £35 (approx. \$60.30). Available at Wonder & Rah, [wonderandrah.co.uk](http://wonderandrah.co.uk)



If you are looking for help with your child's space, Hey Montgomery specialises in interior design for kid areas. Visit [heymontgomery.com](http://heymontgomery.com) to find out more.

# PRIDE AND JOY

**TOP DESIGNERS REVEAL THEIR  
FAVOURITE RENOVATION PROJECTS  
AND THE THINGS THEY'VE GOT  
THEIR EYE ON THESE DAYS.**

text YUEN YI YING AND YAIZA CANOPOLI

Interior designers work on countless projects throughout their careers and you can rest assured that they have their favourites. But what makes a project special enough to stand out among so many? We asked some of our favourite local designers to share the top rooms from their portfolios, alongside some of their go-to design tricks and current wishlist items.







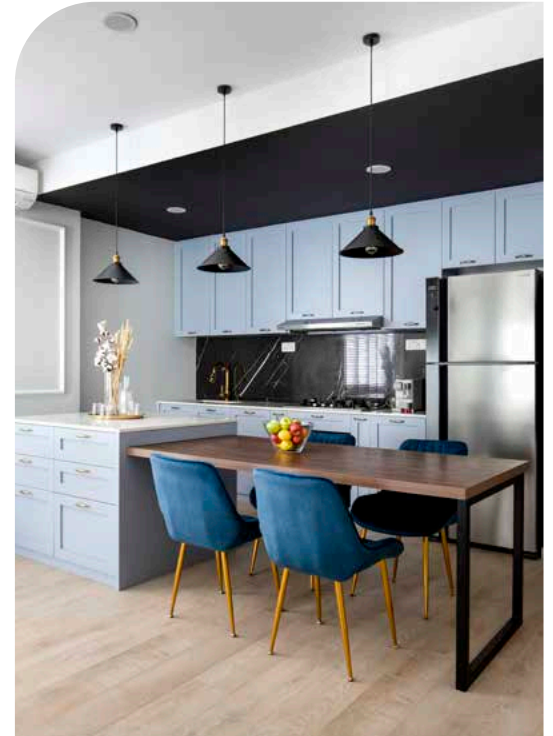
## KITCHEN

### Designer

Kelton Pek,  
Interior Designer  
from Versaform

### Space

Three-room resale  
condominium



### What makes this kitchen a favourite of yours?

The kitchen island in this project integrates with the dining table, which eliminates the need for a separate dining area and saves the household extra space in the process.

### What inspired the design?

The homeowners love cooking, which inspired us to give them an open-concept space to show off their cooking skills to friends and family.

### What are some common design mistakes or missed opportunities you often notice in kitchen designs?

Many kitchens don't incorporate enough enclosed cabinets, which limits the home's functional storage space. Make sure your kitchen has plenty of cabinets and minimise exposed displays and ledges.

### What's your top tip for homeowners who like the look of an open-concept kitchen but are worried about cooking smells escaping?

Opt for a good exhaust hood and always open up the windows when you're cooking!

### What's on your personal wishlist right now?

A fully automated smart home.

## INSPIRATION KIT



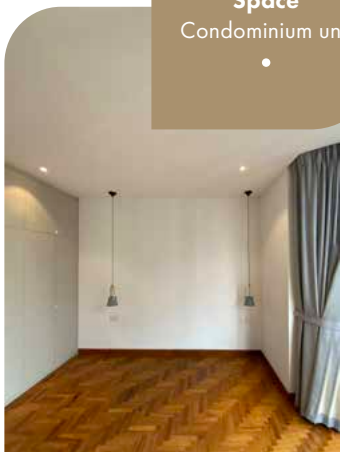
### BEDROOM

#### Designers

Lead Designer  
Rashi and  
Designer Melissa  
from Home  
Philosophy

#### Space

Condominium unit



### BEFORE

The bedroom was perfectly fine and bright but lacked personality and didn't feel particularly cosy or restful.



### AFTER

While the clients opted to retain existing cabinetry from the previous owners, the designers added a bold wallpaper behind the headboard to give the room an inviting and mysterious allure and then layered textures on the bed to imbue a greater sense of comfort.

### What makes this bedroom a favourite and what works well here?

We love how this bedroom has a modern luxe feel, the colours and textures exude moodiness without feeling overly dark. The geometric wallpaper makes the space feel impactful while the carefully curated lights and furnishings pull the modern elements together.





### What inspired the design?

Modern luxe design has many iterations, what our client wanted was a space that felt cosy without compromising on the look and feel of something that was modern and moody. We were inspired by Prohibition-era design which incorporates dim lighting, rich colours like blues and browns, and a focus on mixing of materials like velvet, leather, linen etc.

### Notable learnings while working on this space?

Balance! Working with a bedroom to incorporate dark colours, without it feeling drab and overly dark, was definitely a challenge. We had to think closely about how to work with the other walls (choosing to paint them in a cream-tinged white) and the existing natural light to balance the aesthetic we wanted to achieve.

### Top tips for designing a restful and stylish bedroom?

Work with different textures rather than colours! We love incorporating colour into our spaces, but in bedrooms we prefer to go with one or two key colours, keeping the rest of the palette neutral and then adding lots of textural variety to create visual interest.

### Any missed opportunities or mistakes you often spot in bedrooms?

The bedhead wall is definitely a common missed opportunity! It's usually the main focus when you walk into the room, yet this is often either just left blank or paid very little attention to.

### Advice for picking bedroom furnishings and decor?

Think about longevity and invest a little more—especially in your bedding. Also, a particular colour or print can really make or break the look and feel of your bedroom.

### What items are on your personal wishlist right now?

Comfortable armchairs that aren't bulky because these are so tricky to find!

### Trends you're excited about?

We love modern art deco. It's always a good place to start for inspiration because there is so much to take in.

### Trends you think should go away?

Scandi or grey- and white-themed homes.

### DETAILS MATTER

To make your bed look extra comfy, layer on throws, pillows and cushions, and place a large basket or chair by the bedside to set them aside at night if you aren't using them (yes, some things can be purely decorative!). Go for a mix of materials, sheens and sizes for maximum interest.





## DINING SPACE

### Designer

Dennis Cheok,  
Creative Director  
of UPSTRS\_

### Space

The Crate  
Apartment,  
a five-room resale  
HDB flat

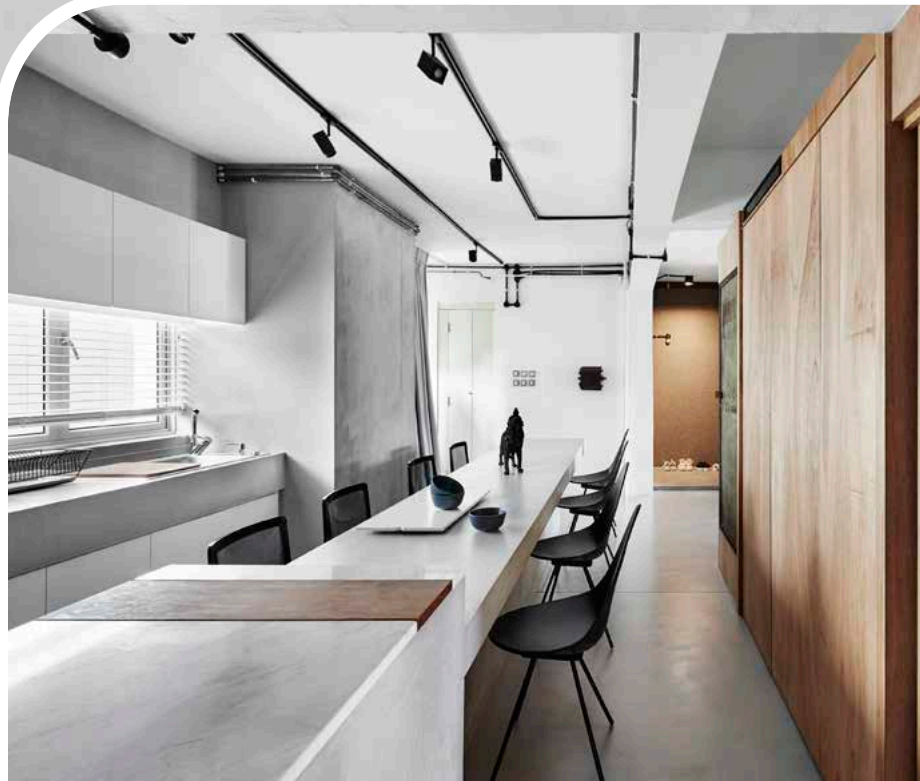


### What makes this dining room a favourite for you and what works well here?

The Crate Apartment has been \*the\* definitive project in UPSTRS\_'s residential oeuvre; particularly in the way we transform interior spaces through spatial planning manoeuvres, and in the way we weave material narratives and the homeowners' personalities into the spaces.

We first gutted the entire apartment and inserted a wooden "crate" at the centre, creating a new living topology devoid of defined "rooms." Whilst the "crate" is the spatial anchor within this project; the dining "room" is the true heart of the home. It is a private space where the family gathers and also a social space to congregate when the family hosts and entertains. The 6.5 metre-long dining table at The Crate Apartment is particularly striking, encompassing a planning feat which now has become an integral part of our studio's design DNA.

My favourite details have to be the little nods to our collective cultural heritage. We inserted an old popiah





### **TAILOR-MADE**

The home has been tailored to suit the lifestyle of a young urbanite family of three, with a shared passion for the film and broadcast industry, and for their family tradition of throwing home-cooked popiah parties.

board as part of a prep counter on one end of the dining table, neatly integrated within a Carrara marble top. Enclaved within the “crate” at the other end of the table are a pair of old film room doors, salvaged from the old Capitol Theatre, which was under major refurbishment during the same period of our design process.

#### **Notable learnings while working on this space?**

Two lessons were particularly enduring for this project:

1. Make use of limitations and challenges; or, when life throws you lemons, make lemonade. We were under immense budget constraints, and as a result, made full use of two core trades and resources that were at our disposal.

First was woodwork, which formed the core of our design intervention, and we envisioned a raw plywood inhabitable “crate” as the key spatial and material insertion. The second was masonry and wet works, and this lends a monochromatic backdrop surrounding the “crate,” and in turn, undulates from the floor to form a sculptural dining table. This delineation of material and colour between the natural timber “crate” and the monochromatic “white space” around it has become something quite distinctive and memorable about the project.

2. A lesson in material and cultural sustainability; or, waste not, want not. I have to admit that half a decade on, I still marvel to myself at the fact that part of Singapore’s cinematic and cultural history has been preserved and taken pride of place within someone’s home! As designers, it’s so easy for us to tear everything down and rebuild from scratch. But it can be so much more rewarding and meaningful when we are able to make use of what’s discarded, unveiled, or retained, especially if they bear part of our personal or collective cultural history.

What is key would be balance; we want design to enable us to move forward and evolve, and not to let nostalgia and history hold us back or take over.

#### **Top tips for designing a welcoming dining room?**

I’ll steer this conversation away from style, material, or decoration—these components tend to be subjective and personal. A few key pointers that I find universally helpful are:

- **Promote workflow and social connections**

The kitchen and dining space has much evolved to become not only the heart of the home but a highly social space within the home. Family and guests tend to gather around the host while food is prepared, and eventually shared at the dining table. As much as possible, we try to eliminate choke points and barriers



in our spatial planning between this flow. In the more compact apartments, we also encourage open, organic connections between the dining table and the living room. The seamlessness within the key social spaces in our homes tends to work very well with the way we live.

- **Eliminate clutter**

The dining table tends to accumulate clutter quite easily and quickly when we’re not being too mindful of the way it’s being planned and used. It’s helpful to cater storage spaces close to it, and, where possible, carve out other dedicated spaces around the home for prolonged work purposes.

- **Consider lighting**

Lighting plays such an essential part of the dining experience—it should not feel over-lit and too interrogative, nor too dim and sleepy. Directing the lighting to illuminate the table and not over the seats is most key, and placing the lights on dimmer switches enables us to control the level of illumination to suit the occasion. This is especially helpful when the dining table is used for work purposes.

#### **What items are on your personal wishlist right now?**

Strange and exotic plants. Plants give life to any space, and I’m particularly drawn to species that have a fascinating form, texture and colour.

Additionally, I have such a soft spot for beautiful tableware, especially artisanal or handmade ones, and what I particularly love is that these beautifully made objects are meant to be shared, held and enjoyed by friends and loved ones around the dining table and become part of the most precious memories that we build and collect in our home.





## LIVING ROOM

### Designer

Pamela Soh,  
Senior Interior  
Designer from  
Fifth Avenue  
Interior

### Space

Four-room HDB  
BTO flat



### What makes this living room a favourite for you?

The integration with the kitchen and dining area provides flexibility for future space planning. This also allows the owners to enjoy casual conversations when family and friends are in the living room.

### What inspired the design?

The inspiration came from several meetings and discussions with the owners. It's crucial to understand the clients' habits and lifestyles when designing an intimate living room. The inspiration also came from actively participating in the selection of furniture and getting to know the homeowners' preferences.

### Notable learnings while working on this space?

Break the rules! It's not necessary to stay with the original space planning, plan the space by understanding the clients' habits.

### Top tips for designing a living room for relaxing and entertaining?

Do not let the new space force the owners to change their lifestyle and habits but create a fresh environment that matches them perfectly. You only finalise the space planning after a mutual understanding has been reached. It's also important to keep the area's design theme similar to other parts of the house. Nevertheless, using different colour tones from soft to strong can create



contrast and a homey feel. Styling should not be ignored as well—loose furniture such as rugs, curtains, plants and pillows can enhance the cosiness of the living room. Before purchasing a sofa, it's advisable to physically test its comfort.

We also recommend having two different curtain layers to cater for day and night use. For example, higher transparency curtains would be recommended for daytime use to allow sufficient natural light into the space.

For a living room conducive to entertaining, consider the space planning of the living room with zones that connect the owners to their guests during gatherings, like the kitchen, dining area and island. Lighting is also an element that creates a relaxing living room, simply by selecting a suitable colour temperature and brightness level. Hence, it's crucial to review the electrical plan and set up the necessary lighting based on the area's functionality to create different scenes within the space.

#### **Any missed opportunities you often spot in communal spaces?**

While sufficient storage is crucial, too much built-in furniture restricts future flexibility, so allocate storage in different locations if possible. If owners prefer buying furniture separately, it is advisable to keep in mind the design theme and check in with the engaged interior designer.

#### **What items are on your personal wishlist right now?**

Larger windows as I enjoy seeing the changes of nature, especially sunlight which affects the general atmosphere of a space. Natural light provides so much impact and creates surprises at different times. Besides, I also love the swaying shadows from trees by the window which lend the room poetry and whimsicality.

#### **Trends you're excited about?**

Textured walls such as limewashed surfaces. The rawness, as well as natural and organic texture, gives a sense of uniqueness.

#### **Trends you think should go away?**

Bulky, built-in storage.



## INSPIRATION KIT



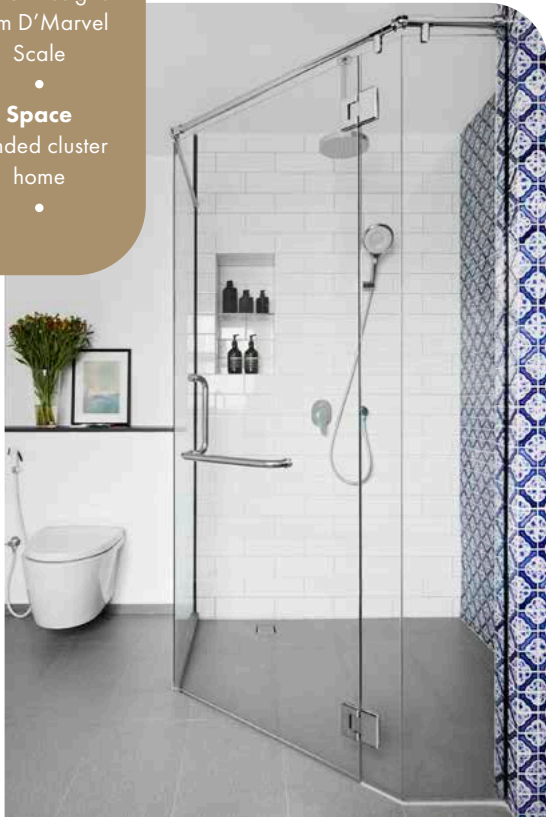
### BATHROOM

#### Designer

Derrick Lim,  
Interior Designer  
from D'Marvel  
Scale

#### Space

Landed cluster  
home



#### What makes this bathroom a favourite of yours and what inspired the design?

The porcelain feature wall tiles, which resemble antique Chinese ceramic pottery—that's the thing that inspired this design! The tiles are only used in the shower area, making it stand out from the rest of the space while still maintaining a soothing colour flow. I also love the amount of space in the bathroom, which allowed me to design a wider vanity area with two sinks.

#### Did you learn anything new from designing this space?

The layout of a bathroom is very important. In the original floorplan, the shower area was small as the WC was too close to the shower area. I resolved this issue by moving the WC nearer to the corner, as well as changing it to a wall-hung WC, making more space for the shower area.



#### Any tips for designing a great bathroom?

Provide sufficient space for storage and toilet accessories. This is important to prevent the bathroom from looking too cluttered and also give it that seamless finish. So many bathrooms don't have enough space to store toiletries, which means you have to resort to buying ready-made shelves, ruining the overall aesthetic of the space.

#### What are some common bathroom design mistakes?

There is often no proper segregation between the wet and dry areas. The choice of floor tiles also plays a part in this. Some tiles used for the bathroom floors are not suitable for wet areas, making them very slippery and dangerous for the household. Bathroom floors should also always have a slight gradient so that the water is able to flow to the drain and the floor can dry as quickly as possible.

#### Top advice for avoiding mould and mildew in the bathroom?

Most bathrooms only have a small window, which makes ventilation difficult, often leading to mould and mildew. One way to overcome this is to use Nippon Paint's anti-mould paint. Not only does it prevent the growth of mould and mildew in the bathroom, but it also saves you some money since you can bypass using extra tiles.

#### What items are on your personal wishlist right now?

A big sink and a ladder used to hang towels.





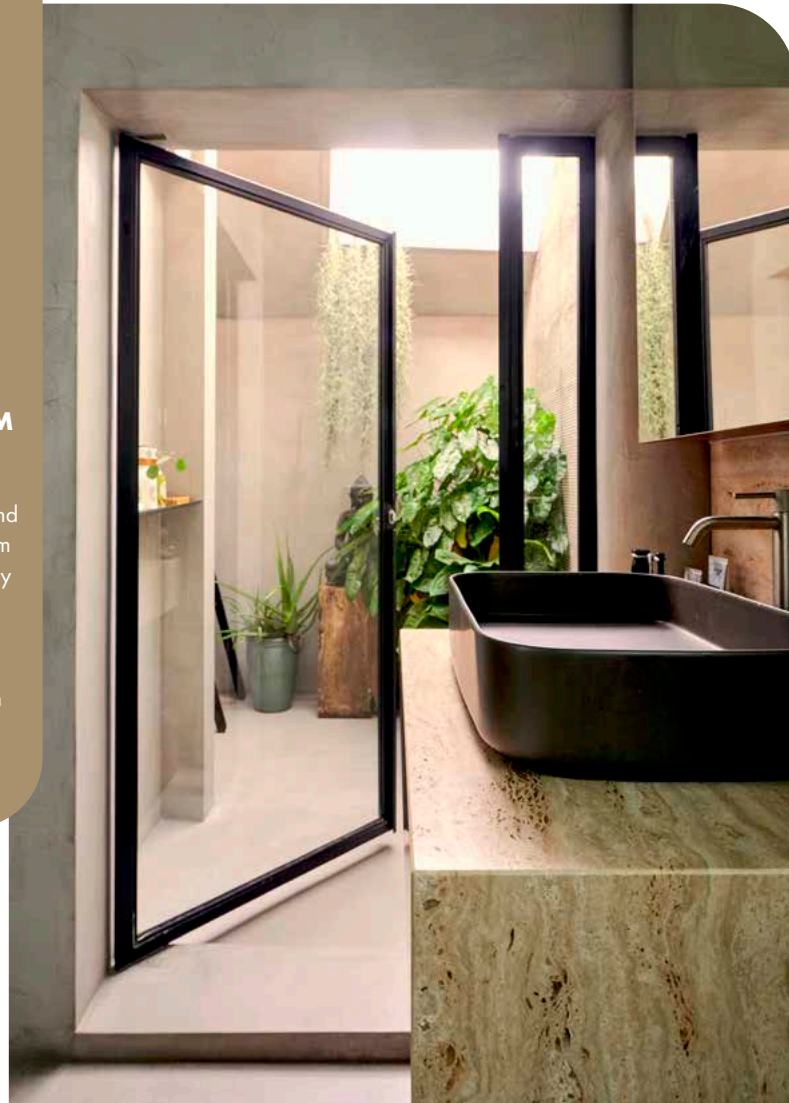
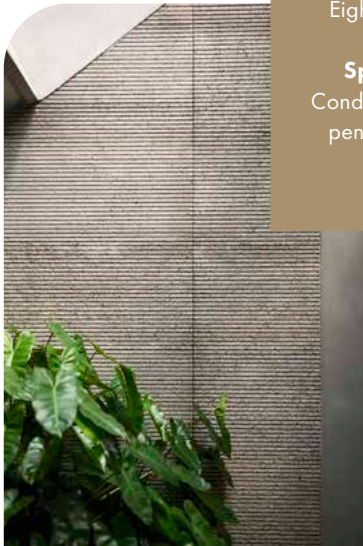
## BATHROOM

### Designers

Terence Neo and  
the design team  
from Untitled by  
EightyTwo

### Space

Condominium  
penthouse



### What makes this particular bathroom a favourite of yours?

Our studio is known for curating poetic spaces that connect people and nature. The design brief for this house allowed us the perfect opportunity to manifest our signature aesthetic. We blurred the boundaries between indoors and outdoors, making natural elements accessible inside and playing with textures and materiality to achieve an intimate sanctuary.

### What inspired this design?

The homeowners are extremely well-travelled. They particularly enjoy escaping the hustle and bustle of city life by retreating to luxury resorts. Wanting to incorporate that sense of lush tranquillity, we designed this bathroom to be villa-esque. As wood can sometimes look very rustic, we were also conscious of maintaining a level of refinement to exude luxury at the end of the day.

### Can you share your top bathroom design tips?

We consider the overall mood that homeowners would like to achieve and the way they use the space. This includes ergonomics, like the height of the counter and sink, as well as carving out the wet and dry areas.

### What are some common pitfalls of bathroom renovations?

The placement of fixtures, built-ins and sanitary wares often isn't planned carefully, which results in inconvenience. For instance, if the wet and dry areas aren't planned properly, the WC area will end up getting wet when you take a shower.

### What items are on your personal wishlist right now?

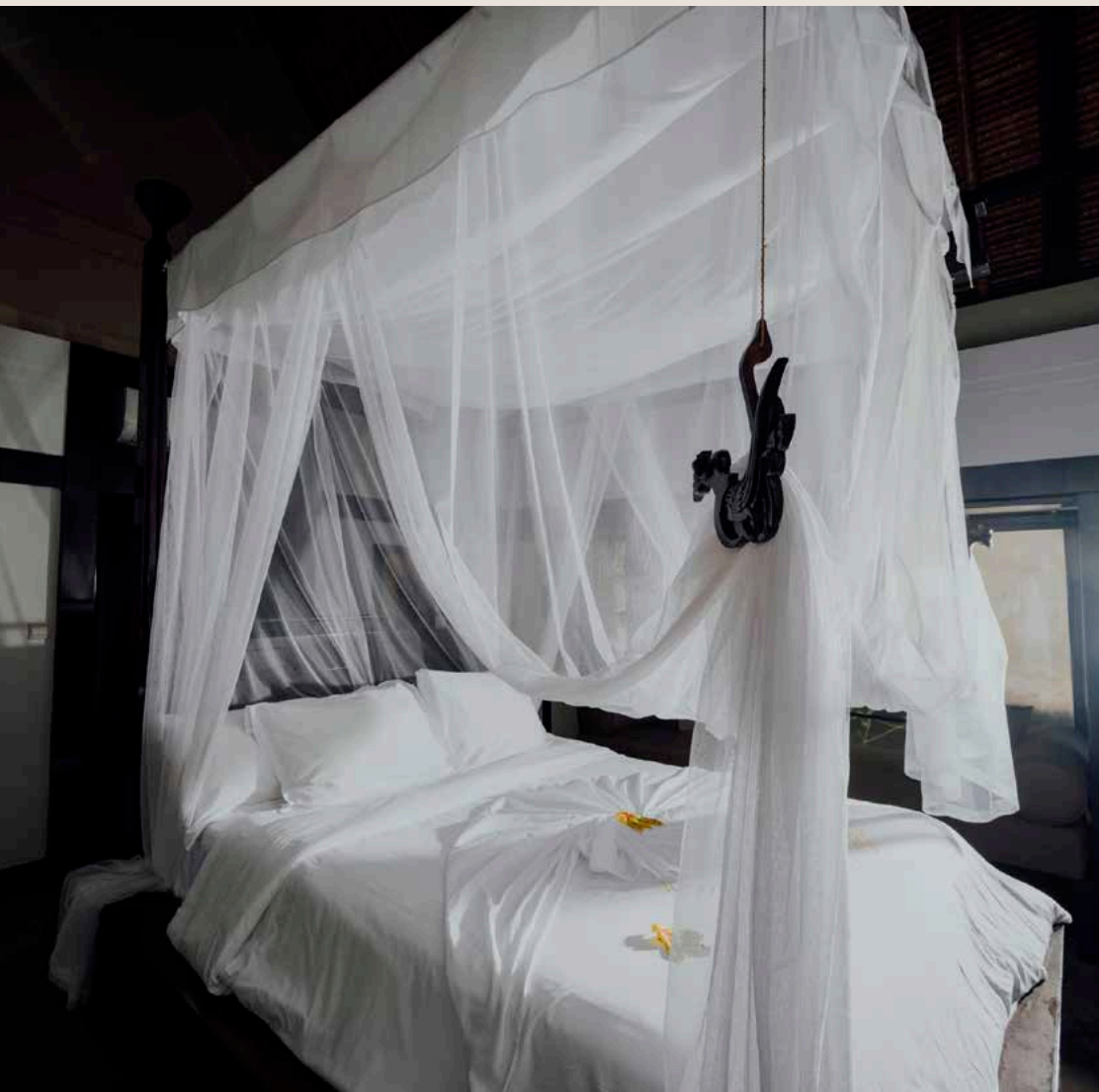
A bedside lamp and a small outdoor furniture set.

# SIX WAYS TO KEEP THOSE MOZZIES OUT!

There have been even more mozzies in the air recently, so keep them at bay with these nifty finds for your home.

text YAIZA CANOPOLI

No one likes mosquitoes, right? They buzz around our ears, make us itchy, keep us awake at night and make working from home impossible. Add in the dangers of catching dengue fever and mosquitoes become truly the one thing to avoid in your home at all costs. These solutions are easy fixes you can implement quickly and with little fuss.

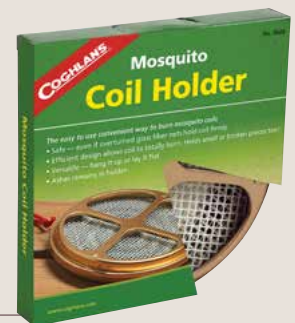


## 1.

### A MOSQUITO NET FOR YOUR BED

If your home has been infested with mosquitoes lately, pick up a mozzie net from an outdoor goods store or Amazon for undisturbed sleep. The net will even add a nice resort vibe to your bedroom! Just avoid using it around children's beds and cots as it can pose a strangulation risk.

## 2.



### A MOSQUITO COIL HOLDER

Mosquito coils can be very effective at repelling the little suckers, but they don't exactly look very appealing and can be bothersome and messy to set up. Get hold of a simple mosquito coil holder to make the process smoother and less unsightly. This particular mosquito coil holder can be used flat on its back or hung upright. Coghlan's Mosquito Coil Holder, \$16.90, Outdoor Life





3.

### AN INSECT SCREEN FOR YOUR WINDOWS

The most effective way to get rid of mosquitoes is to stop them from entering your home in the first place. A simple insect screen covering your window frames will get the job done without much hassle. These magnetic ones from MagicSeal can be easily taken out and put back when you need to open or close the windows.

Magnetic insect screen, MagicSeal



5.

### A MOSQUITO-REPELLING PLANT

We love dotting our homes with indoor plants. They look good, smell good and they can even work wonders to repel bugs and mosquitoes! The pelargonium citrosum, also known simply as the mosquito plant, keeps mosquitoes at bay thanks to its citronella-like scent which the little pests cannot stand. You can grab yourself one of these great plants from Noah Garden Centre.

Mosquito plant, \$9, Noah Garden Centre

4.

### AN ELECTRIC MOSQUITO SWATTER

We never thought that a mosquito swatter could be stylish, but this electric one proved us wrong. It attracts mosquitoes with its UV light, then zaps them once they fly into the grid. No need to worry about electrocuting yourself, either—it comes with a three-layer safety mesh to make sure you don't hurt yourself if you get too close. Valore Rechargeable Electric Mosquito Swatter, \$39.90, Challenger



6.

### A STRONG STANDING FAN

How can a fan keep mosquitoes at bay? Well, frankly, mosquitoes aren't great at flying. Their bodies are light and they can easily get blown away by even a soft breeze. This means that when all else fails, sitting in front of a strong fan can help keep the mosquitoes off your body and make them struggle a bit before they get to bite anything. Getting hold of a fan with a far-reaching wind, like the KDK P40US standing fan can help ventilate the whole house and throw the mosquitoes off course even more effectively.

KDK P40US standing fan, \$125, Courts





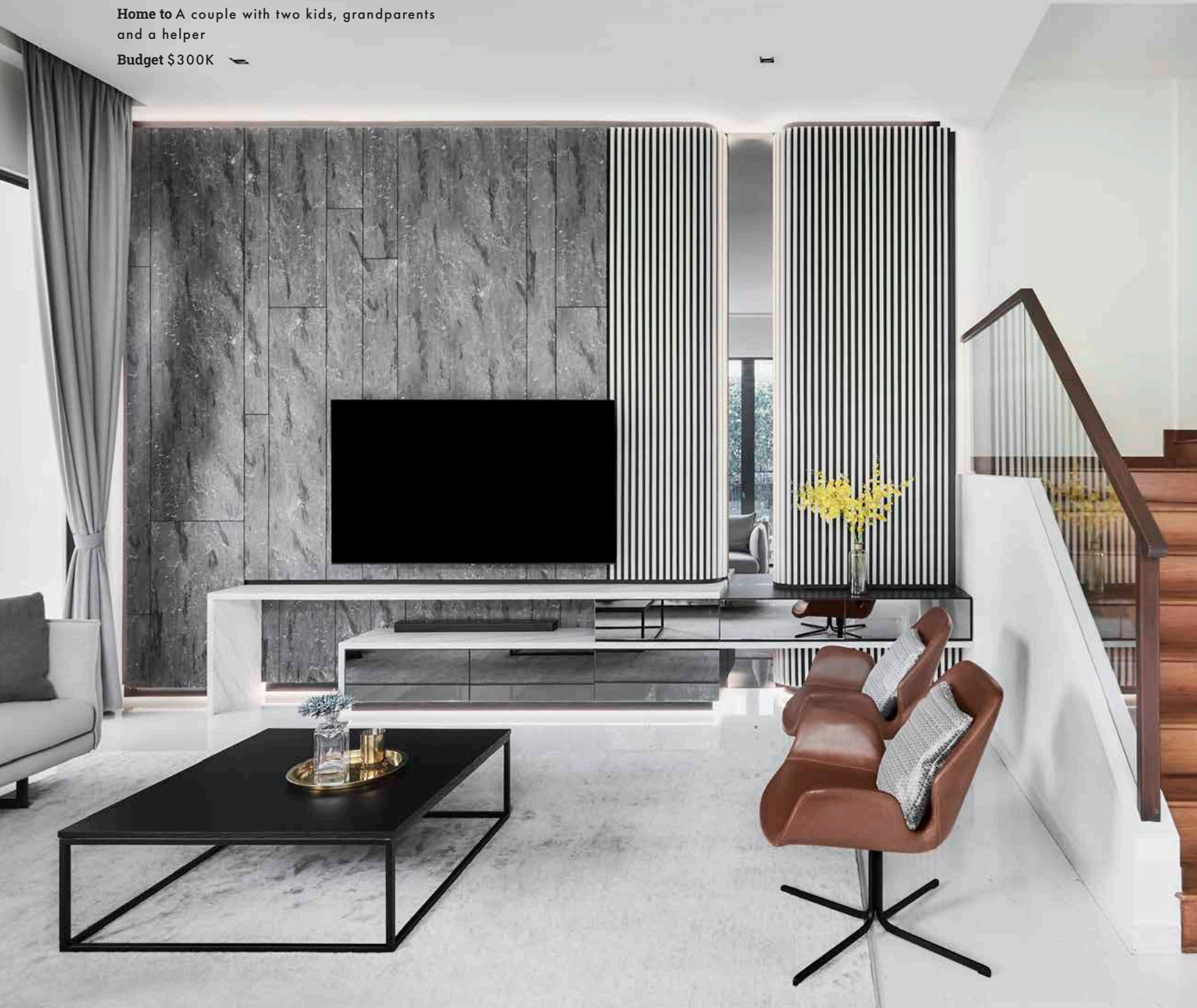
**Space** Three-storey corner terrace with an attic

**Location** Kembangan

**Reno period** Around three months

**Home to** A couple with two kids, grandparents and a helper

**Budget** \$300K







## Big Plans

Large but previously nondescript, this family home was refreshed to maximise style and comfort.

Text YUEN YI YING   Photos RICHFIELD INTEGRATED

Offering up approximately 8,000sq ft of useable indoor and outdoor space as well as tall ceilings of about 3m to 3.6m, this resale home was full of potential. What it lacked was personality and polish. The terrace unit had been simply furnished, but the scant design features made the home feel somewhat unfinished and not particularly inviting nor functional for its new multigenerational family.

Starting with pretty much a blank slate, Richfield Integrated's Senior Designer Chris Cheang and Project Manager Yishan were tasked to give the space a modern-contemporary refresh. The duo gave the home a style boost by incorporating design moments throughout, including features like an eye-catching media wall with stone-look and fluted panels as well as gorgeous double glass doors that open up into the walk-in closet, making each space feel special while still being practical and comfortable for family life.

A unified colour scheme of grey, white and blue tones ensured seamless visual flow through the home, connecting the sizeable and disparate spaces to create an intimate environment. The same hues were also used outdoors, blurring the lines between interior and exterior spaces.

Owing to a prior bad experience with a contractor who worked on the family's previous property, the homeowners were understandably nervous about this renovation, but they didn't have to be. Even with supply and labour crunches due to Covid, Richfield Integrated not only met the projected completion date but even pulled off a makeover that surpassed the homeowners' expectations. Full of praise for the company, the family shared that the team not only presented plenty of ideas they hadn't thought of but was also meticulous and considered the finest details that tended to be overlooked. Additionally, the homeowners were thrilled with the workmanship and materials used, sharing that they were "all excellent and exceeded our expectations." Thanks to everyone's combined efforts, this home is finally rising to its potential, as it was meant to be.

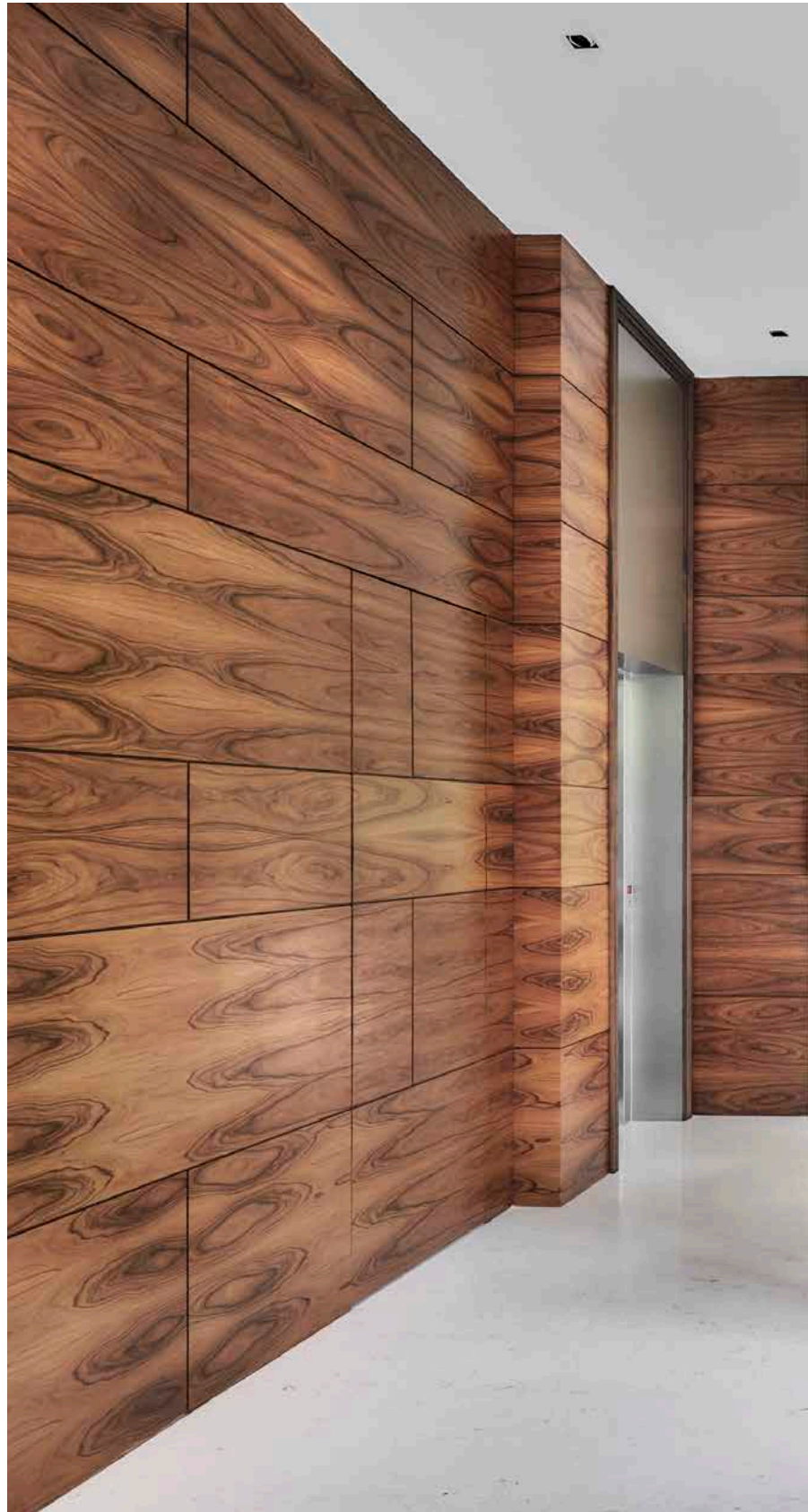
---

**Right****Dining and kitchen**

After repolishing the existing marble flooring, adding new light fixtures and repainting the ceiling, the dining and cooking zones were kept minimal to balance the strong hues of the existing wood panelled walls. Keeping the main area light also served to accentuate the volume of the space, which boasts 3.6m-tall ceilings.

**Previous page and below****Living room**

To make a stylish and lasting impression, a bold feature wall was placed here, crafted with fluted, mirrored and stone-look panels inset with soft lighting to enhance the ambience. A comfortable KING sofa faces two lounge chairs from Nook and Cranny with a modern coffee table placed between.







**Closet**

The couple wanted a nice and spacious walk-in wardrobe that was simple yet elegant. The wife also requested for an island in the middle to display her jewellery and a see-through cabinet for her bags. The team created a commodious dressing room by hacking a wall to a previous study. They gave the walk-in closet a grand entrance, installing double glass doors that lead into the custom vanity area comprising a floating counter and a mirror encircled with lights.



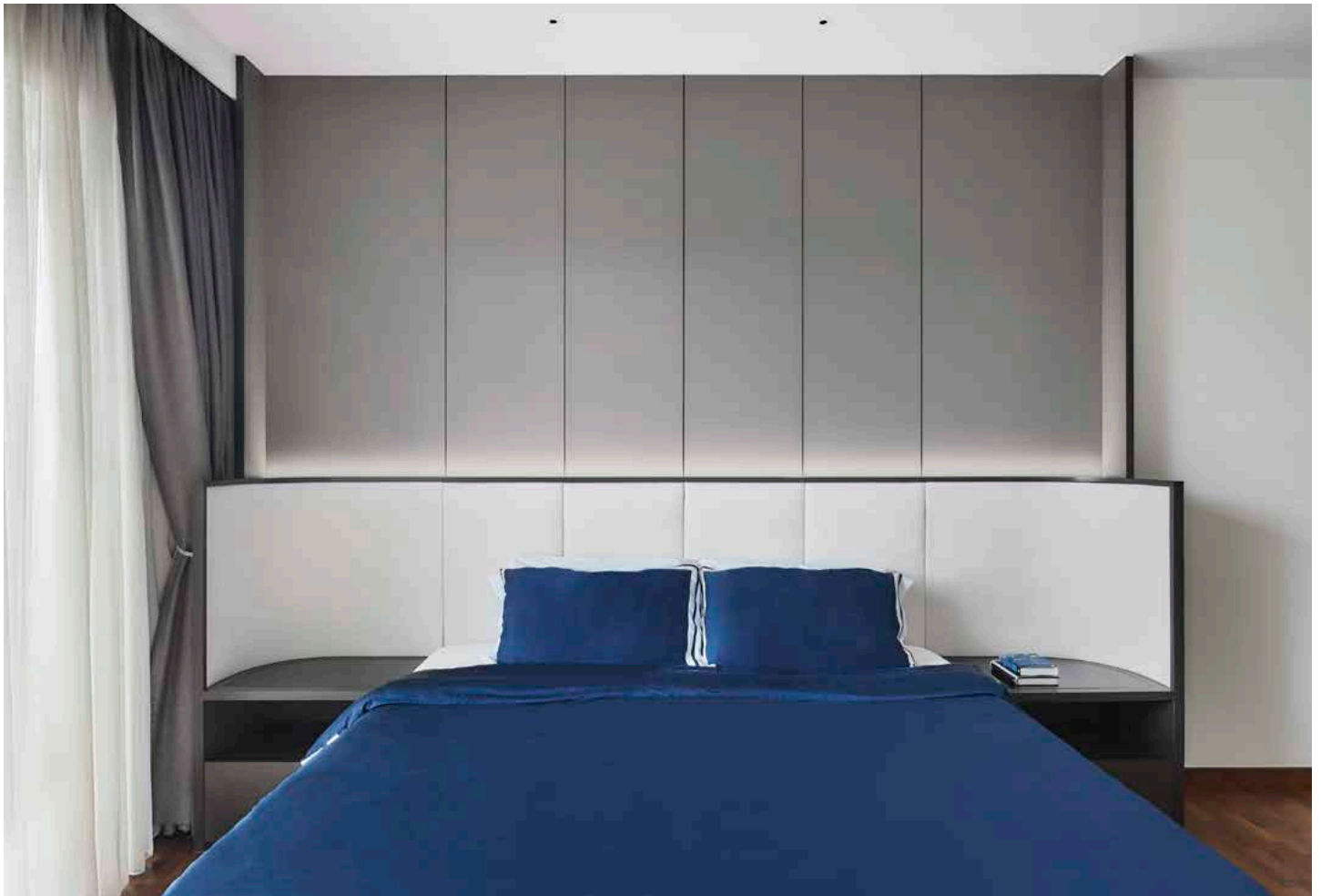




---

#### **Main bedroom**

Going for a simple yet elegant appearance, the team designed a unique and stately double headboard with curved corners, sticking with neutral tones to create a restful atmosphere. The couple also requested a spot for watching shows, specifying the placement of the TV and sofa. A mosaic of smoked mirrors downplay the TV and serves to visually expand and brighten the space.





Left

**Grandparents' bedroom**

The grandparents asked for a bedroom that would be convenient and bright. A full-height headboard similar to the one in the primary suite fulfils their needs, incorporating more prominent lighting as well as switches and sockets so everything is within reach.

Below

**Son's bedroom**

The family's feng shui master advised adding red to the boy's bedroom so the team incorporated the hue with a painted wall design and furniture, balancing the bold tone with white and grey to maintain a calming space.



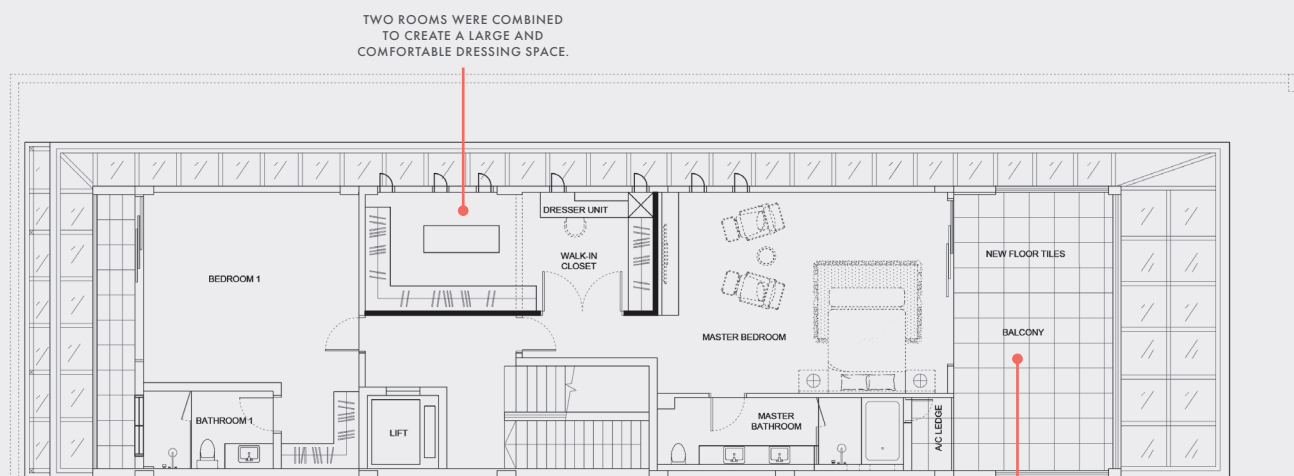




Left

#### Garden

Bordered by money plant vines and accented with potted palms, the garden is a lush and inviting place to be, providing good views from indoors too. The space was modernised with new porcelain floor tiles, a revamped outdoor kitchen and an extended glass canopy to improve its looks and functionality.



2ND STOREY

A CANOPY CONSTRUCTED OVER THE BALCONY LETS THE HOMEOWNERS GET MORE USE OUT OF THIS UNDERUTILISED SPACE.







**Space** Three-room HDB flat

**Location** Toa Payoh

**Reno period** 20 weeks

**Home to** A family of four

**Budget** \$75K

## A New Life

A modest 50-year-old flat gets a modern update for its new family.

Text ISABELLE TOW Photos D'MARVEL SCALE

Being one of the first flats to be built in Toa Payoh in the '70s, its basic design reflects the Housing & Development Board's then objectives to rapidly relocate residents en masse into high-rise flats during the country's formative years. Half a century later, however, the apartment's spartan layout is now dated and ill-adapted for modern living. Its small 670sq ft size, tight bedrooms and closed-concept layout separating the spaces by their respective functions give the apartment a stuffy atmosphere and pose spatial challenges to raising a well-bonded family.

New owner Roy Ng and his missus decided to update the apartment so it would better meet their young family's needs—they have two school-going sons. They consulted Derrick Lim, Fook Han Rong and S. Kumar, design principal and project designers of D'Marvel Scale, and entrusted the renovation into their skilled hands. Besides the request to reconfigure the layout, the Ngs also relayed their desire for an island counter in the

kitchen and mentioned the redundancy of a formal living room.

To create an open communal space that promotes interaction, the wall that enclosed the kitchen was hacked. With the kitchen now enjoined with the living room, the connected spaces form an expansive light-filled communal zone that maximises the apartment's full length. A clean-lined Japandi-inspired design language that was conceived visually enhances the volume of the home, defined by neutral hues like beech wood, dove greys and whites. The built-in storage unit was also designed for an elongating effect, by giving the concealed cabinets a seamless finish that effortlessly draws the eye down its entire length. The long magnetic strip light overhead further enhances the illusion of depth of the space.

An island countertop was installed in the middle of the communal zone, making it the centrepiece of the space. For added function,

a shorter table extends from one end forming a dining table that can comfortably seat a party of five. This dining table is the family's main gathering hub, where parents and both sons come together to have meals, engage in conversation and watch their favourite TV programmes.

To optimise the limited space of the bedrooms, the decision was made to move the wardrobes outside the rooms. A shared walk-in wardrobe was created in a nook in between the facing bedrooms, with closets built along all three sides of its U-shaped layout. Inside the bedrooms, custom platform beds with pull-out drawers underneath were built. By keeping the cabinetry few and out of sight, the bedrooms maintain an uncluttered look whilst preserving more space for movement, play and rest.

Practical tweaks made to this outdated apartment have transformed it into a functional home for its new occupants, demonstrating that new life can be breathed into old concrete bones.

---

**Right**

**Communal zone**

The family wanted an open communal space where all members can occupy and enjoy each other's company. To achieve this, the wall segmenting the living room from the kitchen was demolished, enjoining the spaces into a commodious gathering zone.

---

**Below**

**Dining space**

The TV is installed in the cabinets behind the dining table, so the family can watch programmes during meals. Sliding doors hide it out of sight when it is not being used.









---

**Top**

**Walk-in wardrobe**

A central wardrobe where the family stores all their apparel was created between the bedrooms. Its design, white doors with contrasting black handles, was inspired by the modern piano.

**Left**

**Window dressing**

A louvre window looking out of the kids' bedroom and into the communal space was installed for a touch of fun.



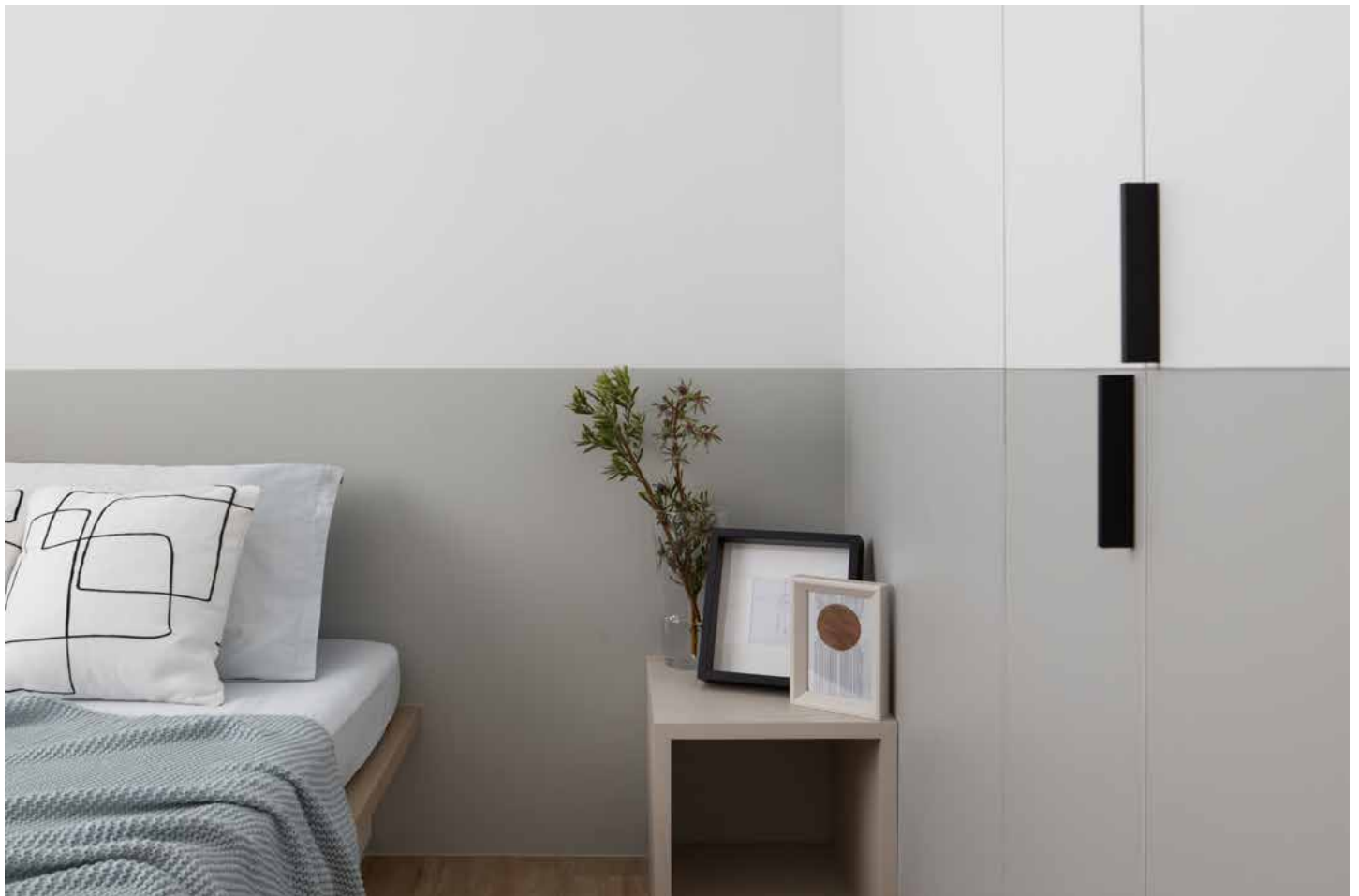



---

**This page**

**Sons' bedroom**

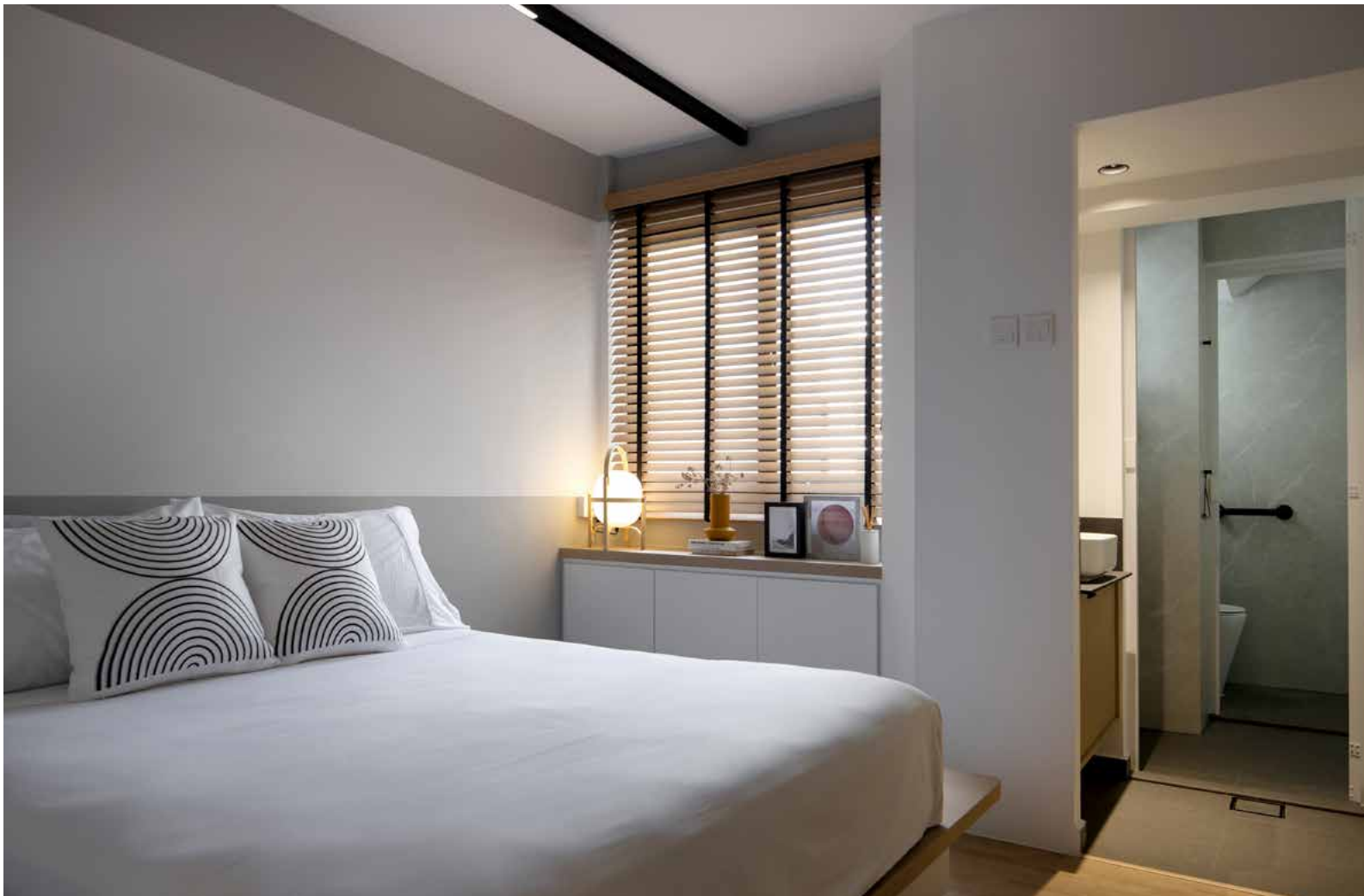
The walls of the kids' bedroom have been painted white and grey to match the vinyl design on the wardrobe doors, giving them a cohesive look.



---

**Primary bedroom**

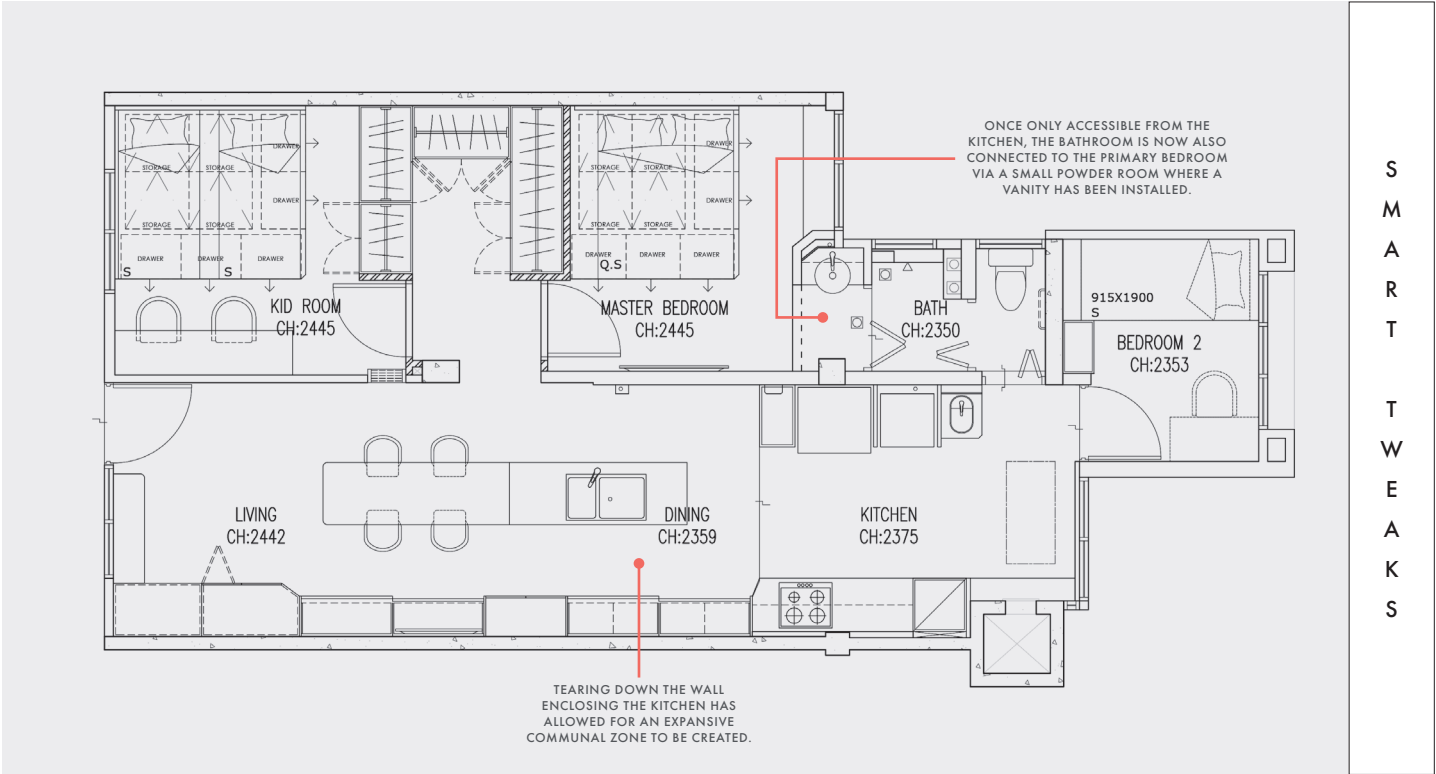
A round wooden light fixture inspired by the planet Jupiter adds visual interest in the main bedroom. The cabinets under the window cleverly hide the unsightly AC trunking.

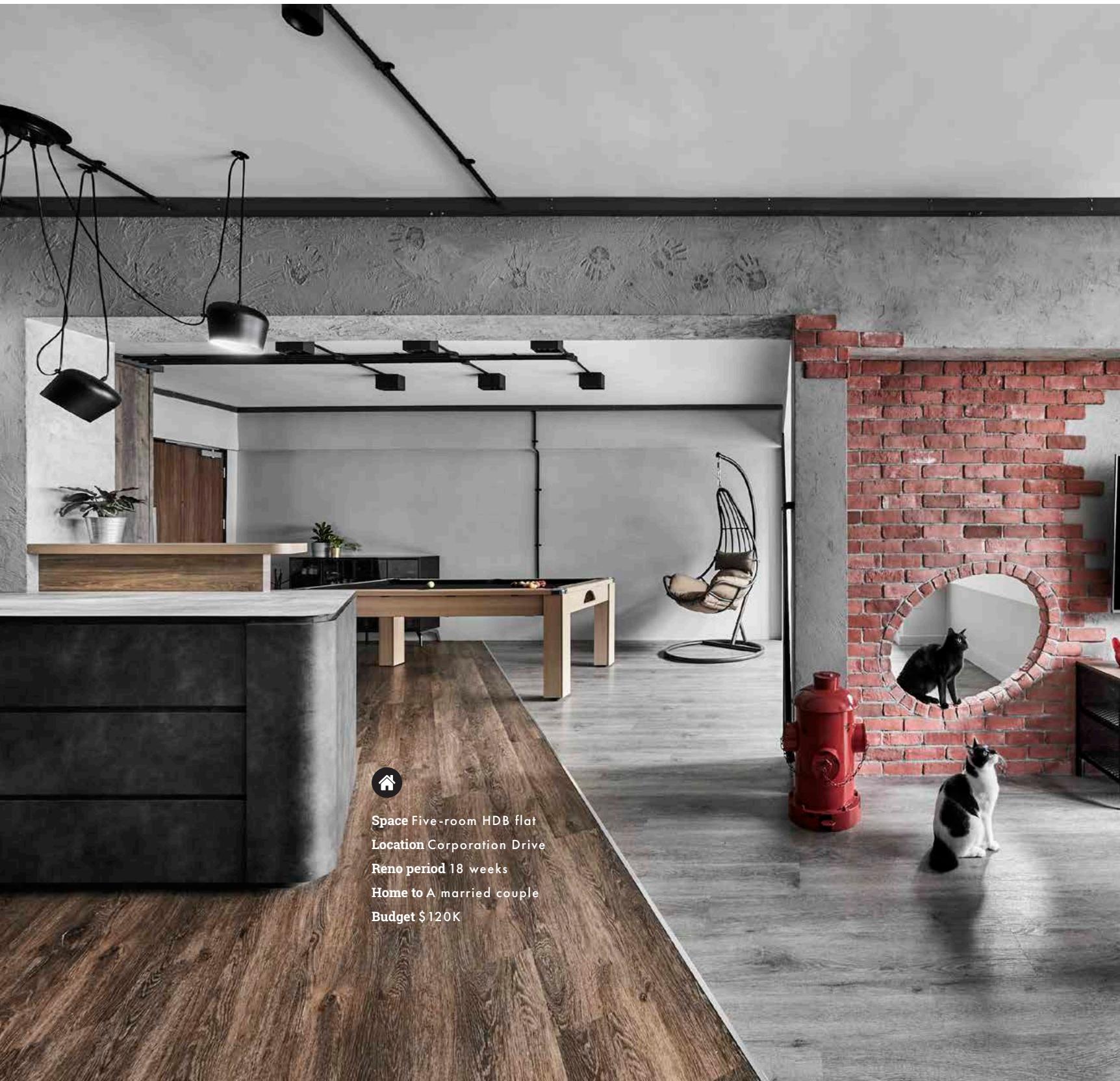






**Bathroom**  
The bathroom's original layout separated the shower from the WC. To make it more practical, the wall segmenting the spaces was hacked and replaced with folding doors so that two people can use the separate zones simultaneously, improving efficiency.





Space Five-room HDB flat  
Location Corporation Drive  
Reno period 18 weeks  
Home to A married couple  
Budget \$120K





## Custom Comfort

Nearly every space in this home has been tweaked to serve the unique needs of its occupants.

Text ISABELLE TOW   Photos NOTION OF W

First-time homeowners Gary and Geraldine imagined their dream home to cater to their lifestyles to a T. It would have a spacious communal area so that they can enjoy their weekly game of mah-jong or pool with friends. It would also sport a pet-friendly design so that their two pet cats can roam freely whilst having their own dedicated space.

They conveyed their ideas and brief to Grace Chua, designer at Notion of W, who proceeded to sketch an outline of their vision. Besides the need for a pool table, there was also the request for an island countertop, a useful feature for baking and to act as an extra hang-out spot. As heavy cooking happens in this household, a more practical closed kitchen layout was also decided.

To create a free-flowing communal area, the kitchen and storeroom walls were demolished. The resulting living room is an expansive singular space, perfect for hosting large parties. A fixture of this fun-loving home, a pool table sits by the long end of the room—when games are not at play, a tabletop converts it into a dining table that can comfortably seat a party of eight. Facing this is the dry kitchen and island countertop. While the dry kitchen occupies the flat's original kitchen placement, the wet kitchen has been created in the service yard.

As the couple expressed their preference for industrial-inspired interiors, the colour and material palette of the home is ostensibly dominated by cool tones and raw, unpolished

textures. The floors sport grainy wood-toned vinyl, the structural beams and column have been finished in coarse concrete, and the matte jet-black cable trunking and track lighting add a signature imprint of the industrial look.

The most striking feature of the apartment is the angled strip of flooring that starts near the main entrance, cuts across the apartment, and leads directly to the bedrooms. This angled feature is not mere aesthetic flourish, but highlights the angular reconfiguration of the bedroom corridor that simultaneously minimised the footprint of the cats' room and expanded both bathrooms.

With more space, more could be done within the bathrooms. After moving the washbasin from next to the WC to the adjacent wall, a larger shower could be accommodated in the common bathroom. Rarely found in HDB bathrooms due to the tight space, a bathtub now fits into the main bathroom whilst retaining enough room for the WC, vanity, and storage cabinets. Unsightly pipes and aircon trunking have been concealed behind a false wall behind the WC, which is also used to create some handy display niches.

The efforts to make this apartment more social and pet-friendly through spatial reconfiguration have paid off. The owners moved in with their furkids in December 2020 after a 4.5-month-long renovation.

---

Previous page

**Living room**

A cut-out in the "brick" TV wall was created as a fun feature for the family's cats. Hand imprints along the beam belong to the owners' friends, adding a warm and personal touch to the design.

This page

**Entertainment zone**

A space planned with guests in mind. Besides the pool table that also doubles as a dining table, the island counter at the centre adds an extra hang-out spot.














---

**Left**

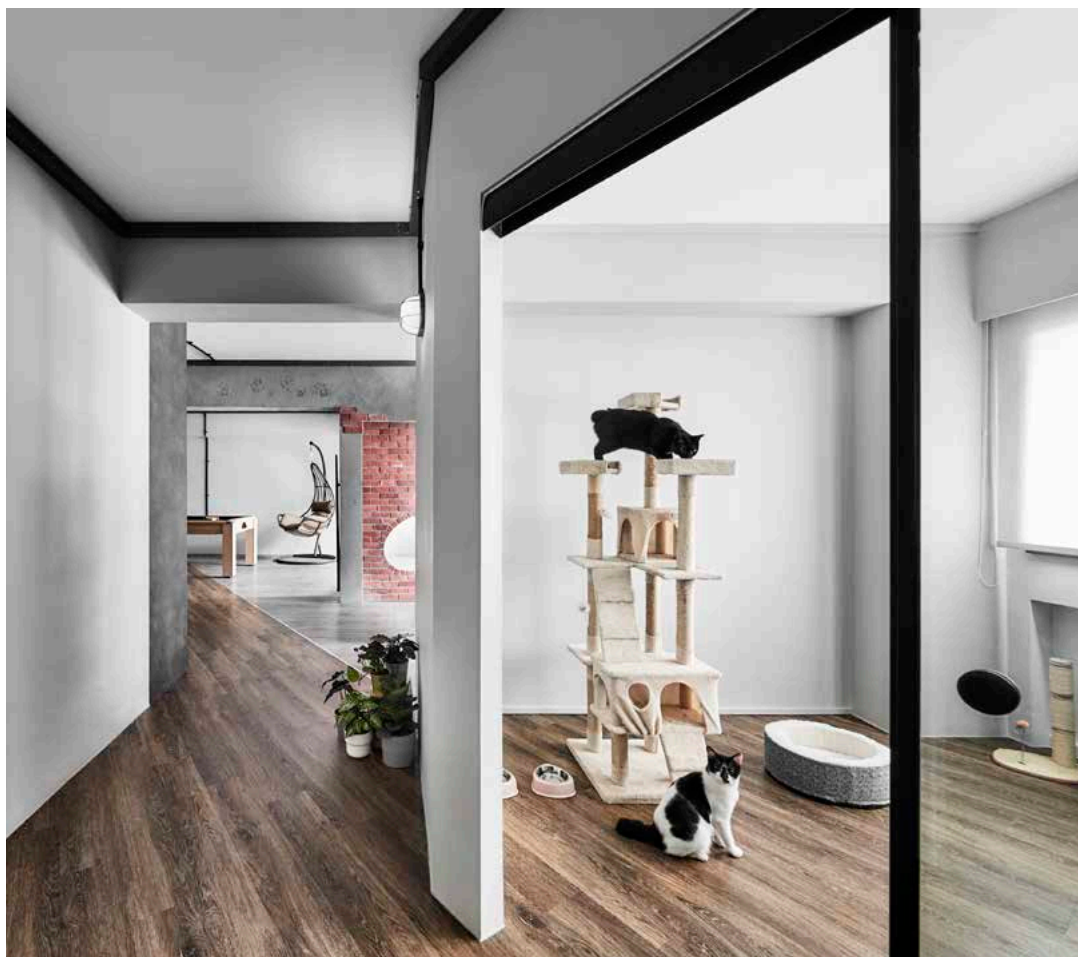
**Kitchen**

To keep fumes from seeping throughout the home, framed glass doors were installed in the wet kitchen.

**Below**

**Cat room**

The furry members of this family have their very own room in the apartment.



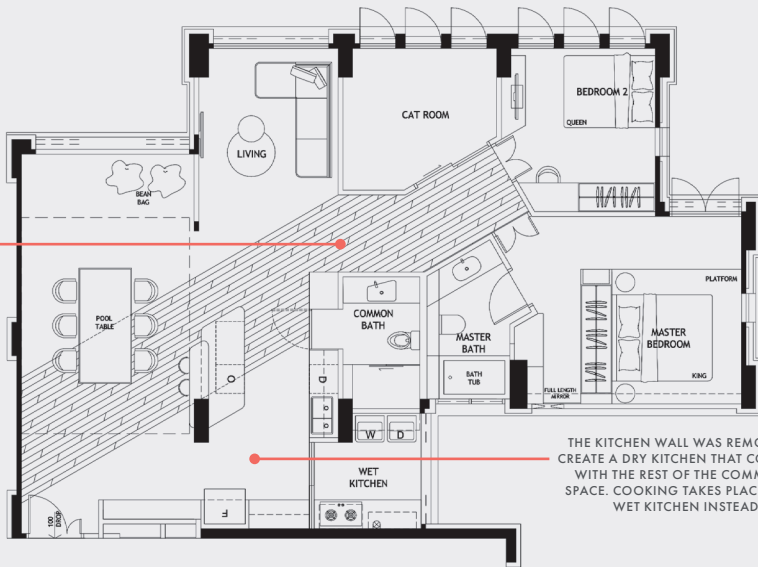
S  
M  
A  
R  
T  
  
T  
W  
E  
A  
K  
S

Below

**Walk-in wardrobe**

The wardrobe acts as a partition in the bedroom, splitting it into two distinct zones, the wardrobe and bed zone.

BY DESIGNING THE CORRIDOR TO BE AT AN ANGLE, THE CAT'S ROOM CAN BE REDUCED WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY ADDING SPACE TO THE BATHROOMS.







#### Left

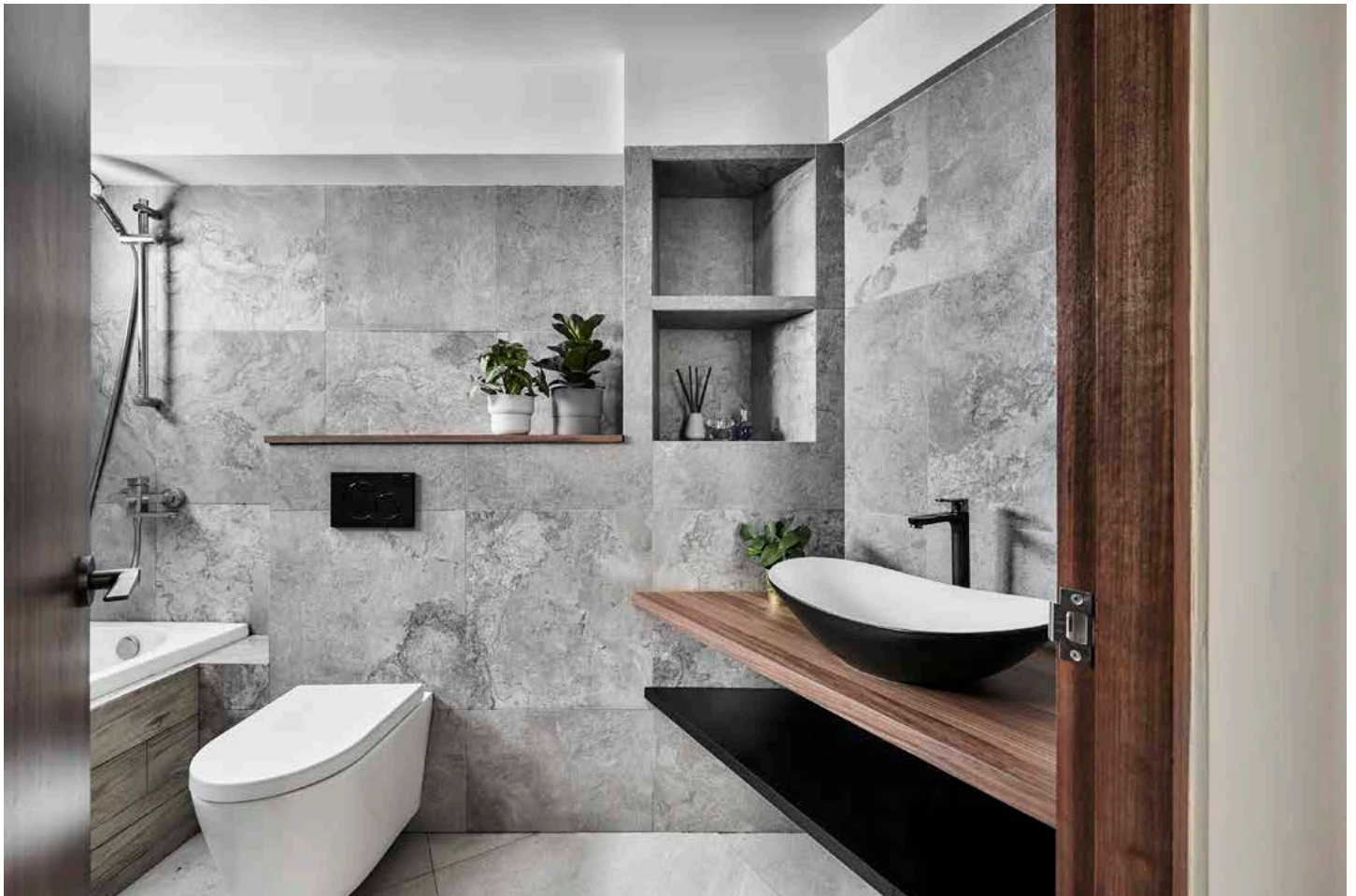
##### **Common bathroom**

For greater privacy, the door to the bathroom is concealed, disguised to look like a simple wall next to the pantry.

#### Below

##### **Main bathroom**

With more space, the bathroom can now fit a standard size bathtub, whilst maintaining enough room for other essentials.



# Modern Spin

A contemporary makeover turns a worn-out flat into a chic and comfortable dwelling.



**FACT  
FILE**

## SPACE

Four-room HDB flat

## SIZE

1,100sq ft

## LOCATION

Hougang

## HOME TO

A couple and a parent

## DESIGNER

Colin Phua from Renozone

## RENO PERIOD

Eight weeks

### 1 Kitchen

The cooking space conveniently came with an open-plan layout but badly needed a refresh. Colin fitted the kitchen with generous cabinetry to boost functionality, integrating appliances to keep the counters clear and create a neater appearance. Additionally, he added an island to provide an extra spot for dining, meal prep and socialising. A rich navy hue was chosen for the built-ins, adding modern flair to the space.

### 2 Bathroom

Deep grey stone-look tiles cladding the flooring and walls give rise to a cocooning and spa-like atmosphere. The natural vibes were then further accentuated with a floating vanity featuring woodgrain panels and woven baskets that fit perfectly underneath. For a pop of colour and contrast, a unique bowl sink with an oriental design was

chosen specifically for this space and instantly perks up this private haven.

### 3 Bedroom

Cloaked in deep charcoal tones, the bedroom feels both relaxing and dramatic at the same time, with the stone-patterned closet flanking one side giving the sleeping quarters a more dynamic appearance. Pendant lamps and cove lighting elevate the mood, while the deep blue bedframe and drapes help unify the decor with the rest of the home.

### 4 Study

An adjacent room was combined with the main bedroom, creating a generous primary suite with a private office that's ideal for working from home. A fluted wall pretties up this utilitarian zone and performs a secondary function—it hides the entrance to the bathroom for a more visually pleasing productive space.



116 Lavender Street  
#01-07 Pek Chuan Building  
Singapore 338730  
Tel: 6292 3345  
renozone.com.sg

## RENOZONE INTERIOR DESIGN HOUSE

Renozone has been in the business of making dreams come true since 1998. With their well-tested professional capabilities, client-oriented service and attention to detail, they ensure that their

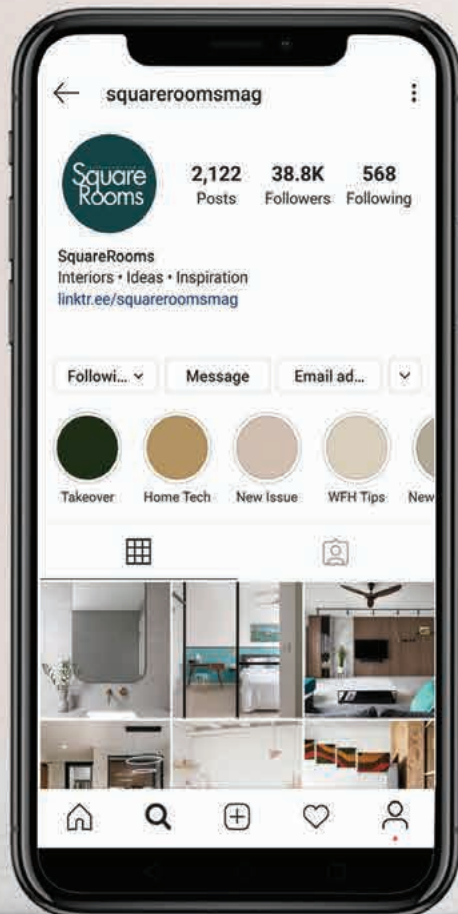
clients' needs are fulfilled and met beyond their expectations. Be it creating your dream home or giving your business the best shot at success, Renozone is proud and ready to be of service to you.



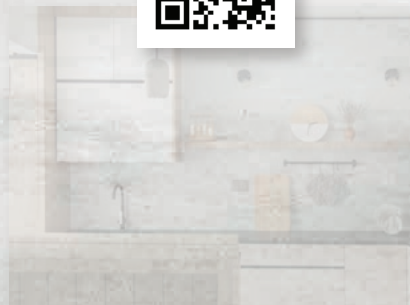


*tip*  
Aim to add a special  
design detail to every  
room to lift your mood  
wherever you are.





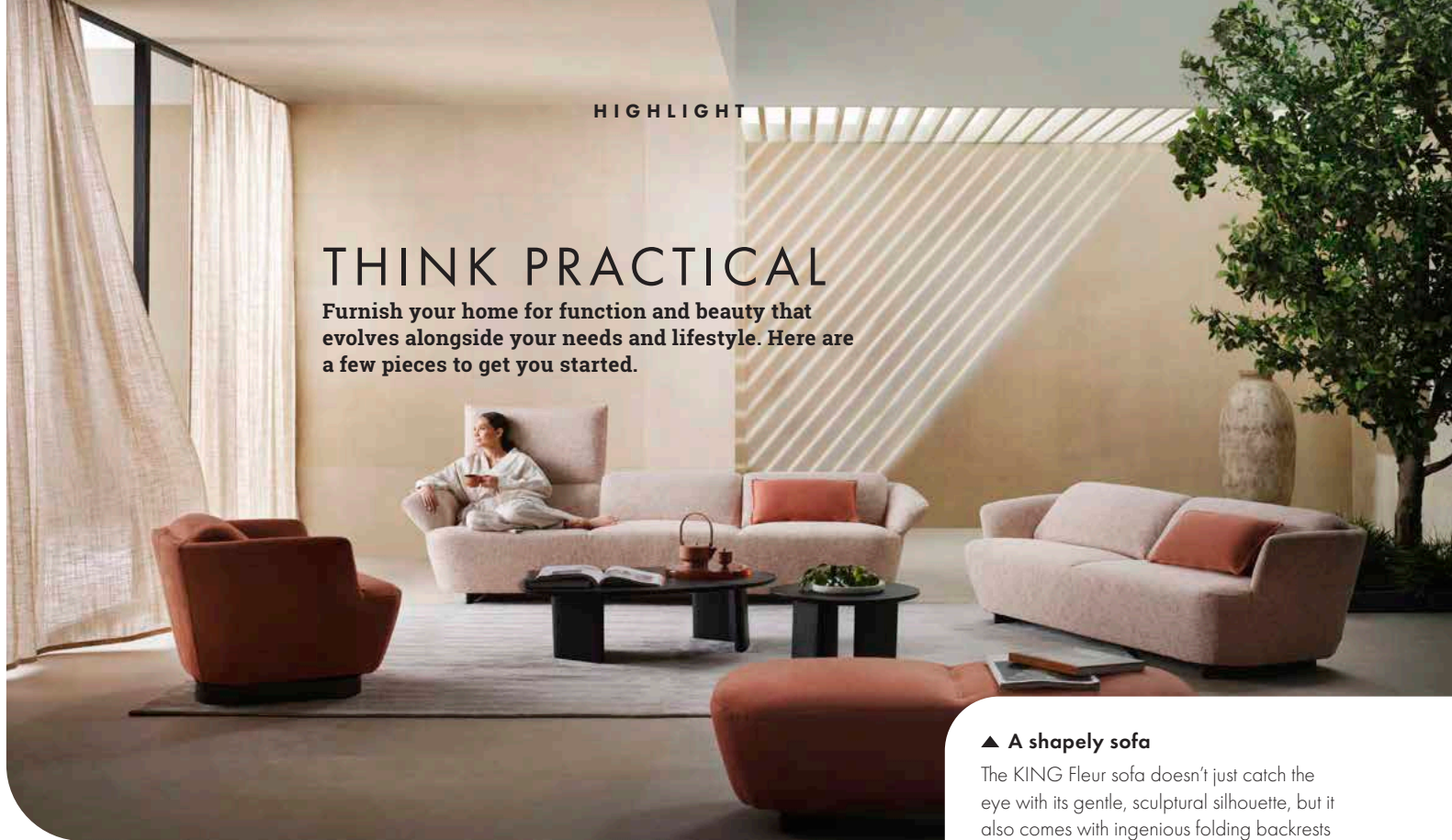
Follow  
**@squareroomsmag**  
for interior inspiration





# THINK PRACTICAL

Furnish your home for function and beauty that evolves alongside your needs and lifestyle. Here are a few pieces to get you started.



## ► A modular wall system

The new Vertio Wall System by KING brings you unparalleled flexibility, allowing you to reconfigure and rearrange your storage space as you move through various stages of life.

The system's design embodies the simplicity of the mid-century modern style, the waterfall detailing of the timber bringing warmth to the black powder-coated metal components. Set it up as a wall-mounted single unit or an expansive room divider!

## ▼ A multifunctional ottoman

Besides providing extra seating even in tight spaces, the Bongo ottoman incorporates built-in storage under its top!

Just like with any KING sofa, its covers can be removed and cleaned or replaced for a fresh new look. Choose from a range of premium fabrics or luxurious European leather coverings to create a look that suits your home and lifestyle to a T. You can also convert your trusted Bongo ottoman into a side table with extra timber tray tops, available in a variety of finishes for a personalised look.



## ▲ A shapely sofa

The KING Fleur sofa doesn't just catch the eye with its gentle, sculptural silhouette, but it also comes with ingenious folding backrests and adjustable arms that maximise the seating surface and complement the brand's signature sink-in comfort.

The elegant Fleur sofa can transform your space into a sleek and contemporary living room or a casual, laid-back lounging area depending on how you arrange its components, making it extra versatile. It rests on slender dark bronze legs and is further enhanced by refined twin-needle stitching, making it a distinctive statement piece that packs a punch.

Round off the look with the other pieces in the Fleur collection, including sofas, ottomans and a swivel lounge chair.

## ◀ A storage bed

What could be more functional than a bed with hidden storage? Distinguished by its tufted headboard, the KING Serenade bed brings refined luxury into any bedroom, balancing both style and practicality.

The generous storage compartment can be simply opened up with a hydraulic lift system, which additionally makes it much easier to make the bed, eliminating the need to bend down when changing the sheets.

In terms of comfort, the brand's premium foam creates padded layers for superior sleep quality, while the strong steel frame foundation delivers lasting performance.



KING  
kingliving.com.sg

KING Kallang Showroom, Hong Aik Building #01-00  
KING Alexandra Showroom, Thye Hong Centre #01-02/03

tel: 6805 4198  
tel: 6232 9106

## INTERIOR DESIGNERS

---

### **Bowerman**

tel: 9487 9324  
facebook.com/  
bowermaninteriorplanner

### **D'Marvel Scale**

140 Paya Lebar Road  
#03-09 AZ@Paya Lebar  
tel: 6702 6789  
dmarvelscale.com

### **EightyTwo**

685A East Coast Road  
tel: 6698 7987  
eightytwo.sg

### **Fifth Avenue Interior**

81 Ubi Avenue 4  
#01-11 UB.One Building  
Singapore 408830  
tel: 6443 9530  
fifthavenue.com.sg

### **Home Philosophy**

tel: 8780 9380  
homephilosophy.com.sg

### **KDOT**

T-Space @ 1 Tampines North  
Drive 1 #03-35  
Singapore 528559  
tel: 9006 6654  
facebook.com/studio.kdot

### **Mesh Werk Studio**

199A Upper Thomson Road  
Singapore 574342  
tel: 9424 2433  
meshwerk.sg

### **Noble Interior Design**

62 Ubi Road 1 #01-03  
Oxley Biz Hub 2  
Singapore 408734  
tel: 6509 9559  
nobleidesign.com.sg

### **Notion of W**

1 Tampines North Drive 1  
#08-56, Singapore 528559  
tel: 6304 3231  
notionnow.com

### **Renozone Interior Design House**

116 Lavender Street  
#01-07 Pek Chuan Building  
tel: 6292 3345  
renozone.com.sg

### **Richfield Integrated**

122 Eunos Avenue 7  
#05-17  
Richfield Industrial Centre  
tel: 6841 7701  
richfieldin.com

### **Salt Studio**

195 Pearl's Hill Terrace #03-55  
tel: 6721 9506  
salt-studiointerior.com

### **Studio FortyFour**

studiofortyfour.com.sg

### **Swiss Interior**

483 Sims Avenue  
Singapore 387555  
tel: 6747 4742  
swissinterior.com.sg

### **UPSTRS\_**

12 Marina View  
Unit 11-01  
Asia Square Tower 2  
Singapore 018961  
upstrs.co

### **Versaform**

1 Yishun Industrial Street 1  
#04-02 A'Posh Bizhub  
tel: 9336 1783  
facebook.com/pg/versaform.sg



Everything you need to  
get started with your home reno

S Q U A R E R O O M S . C O M . S G



| read more |

## 5 budget home makeovers that cost less than 50K



Learn how to  
renovate without an  
interior designer

IMAGE COURTESY OF NORTON MARINIA WARD

Maddy  
Barber's  
top tips  
for a  
successful  
kitchen  
reno



DESIGN BY JENNY WMC

@SquareRoomsMag

@SquareRooms

## RESOURCES

### PRODUCTS & SERVICES

---

**Anthropologie**  
[sg.anthropologie.com](http://sg.anthropologie.com)

**Commune**  
9 Raffles Boulevard  
#02-52 Millenia Walk  
tel: 6338 3823  
[thecommunelife.com](http://thecommunelife.com)

**Formica**  
[formica.com/en-sg](http://formica.com/en-sg)

**FortyTwo**  
[fortytwo.sg](http://fortytwo.sg)

**Hey Montgomery**  
[heymontgomery.com](http://heymontgomery.com)

**HipVan**  
[hipvan.com](http://hipvan.com)

**KING**  
2 Leng Kee Road  
#01-02 and #01-03  
Thye Hong Centre  
tel: 6232 9106  
[kingliving.com.sg](http://kingliving.com.sg)

**Lalamove**  
[lalamove.com/en-sg](http://lalamove.com/en-sg)

**Lian Seng Hin**  
3 Ubi Avenue 3  
#01-01 Crocodile House  
tel: 6747 2522  
[liansenghin.com.sg](http://liansenghin.com.sg)

**Smallable**  
[en.smallable.com](http://en.smallable.com)

**Spaceman**  
[spaceman.com](http://spaceman.com)





IMAGE COURTESY OF NOTION OF W

# Subscribe now.

Get savvy about interiors with a year-long subscription to SquareRooms. Sign up now with our special rate and enjoy inspiring decor content even on the go. Now you'll get even more value with every issue of SquareRooms!

## TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Offer ends 29 JULY 2022 • All subscription payments are inclusive of GST & local postage charges • Pricing may vary due to currency exchange • Subscription is non-refundable • Subscription requires 4 to 6 weeks for processing once received • In the event of cancellation of an annual subscription at any time, no refund will be given • For any enquiries or purchase of back issues, please email [sheila@media-group.com.sg](mailto:sheila@media-group.com.sg) • Media Group Pte Ltd reserves the right to use subscription details for future marketing and promotional purposes

**DIGITAL**  
GET A DIGITAL  
SUBSCRIPTION HERE



**PRINT**  
GET A PRINT  
SUBSCRIPTION HERE





## HUNTING FOR TREASURE

One of the things that designers (and us) love doing is seeking out vintage finds. These pieces add so much warmth, character and uniqueness to a space and also tend to be better built than what you'd find in stores these days. Further, using pre-loved items is way more eco-friendly and you don't have to wait for stock to come in too. Part of the thrill is the sourcing, you never know what you might find. Even better when you score a great deal and have a story to tell. For the best finds, we like checking charity shops, Facebook Marketplace and Buy-Nothing groups, Etsy, Ebay, Hock Siong, Second Charm and Carousell. But before making a purchase, always be sure to ask any questions you may have and request for more pics if needed. If you can inspect the item in person, feel the weight and quality, check the joints and hinges and look out for pest damage. Pricing can be subjective as vintage items are often one-of-a-kind. You can look up prices for comparable items, but ultimately go with your gut if you find something you love.





Get inspired  
by gorgeous  
home  
interiors



Timeless design ideas,  
clever renovation tips and  
top decor picks brought to  
you by real homeowners.  
Discover your dream home makeover in  
the newest edition of IdealHomes!



[www.squarerooms.com.sg](http://www.squarerooms.com.sg)

# idealhomes

vol.14 2022



interiors — ideas — solutions by SquareRooms



Available  
at major  
bookstores

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BUY  
THE DIGITAL COPY NOW



SquareRooms



@SquareRoomsMag

# Your home, your story.



## Find the right surface for your kitchen

Stylish, versatile, low maintenance and hygienic surfacing materials.

Start your journey  
here in Formica  
showroom.

38 Armenian Street Singapore 179942  
☎ +65 8030 9728



Book a visit