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Singapore Design Week gets better every year

Brilliant lamps under \$100

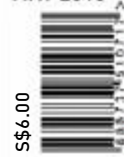
Hot Find  
Unconventional furniture from the Philippines  
page 50



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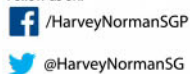


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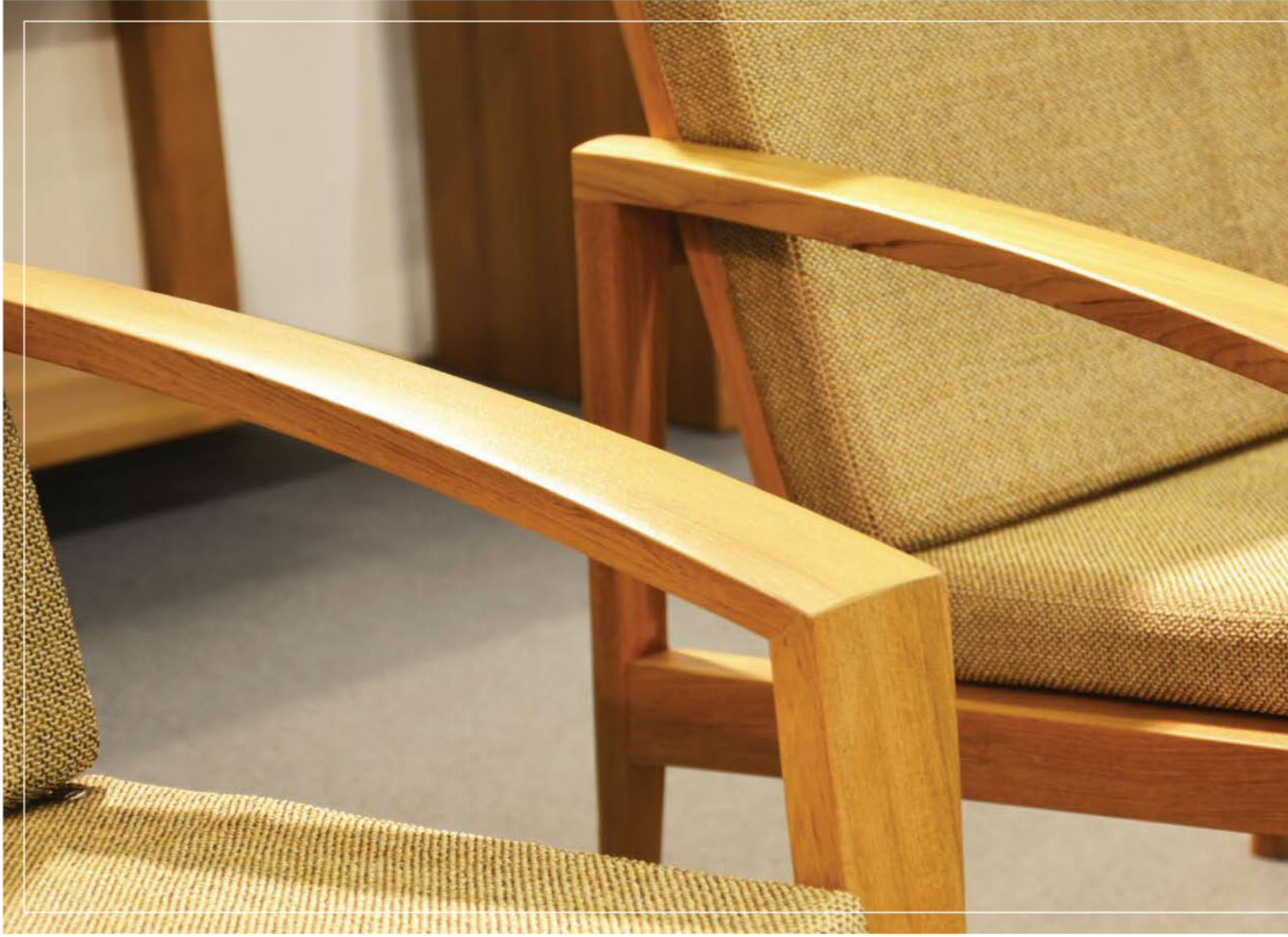
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NOW

The Latest in Design and Decor News



34

**HOT SEAT -  
DROP CHAIR**

The Drop chair was designed by Arne Jacobsen for the SAS Royal Hotel in Copenhagen.

38

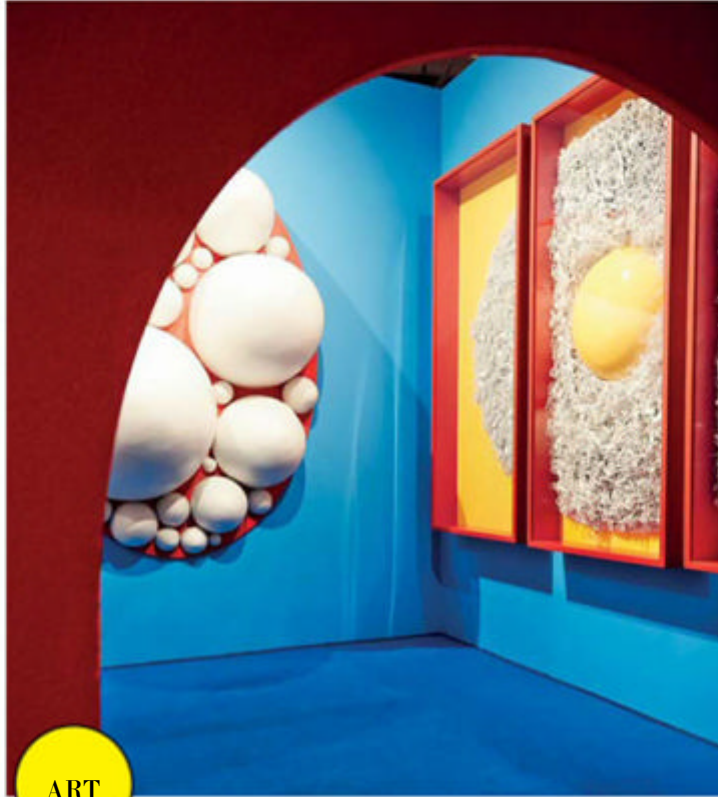
**CHECK OUT - TBURU**

Tburu was born from restaurateur Calvin Yeung's dream of an oasis that urbanites could escape to without getting away from the city.

40

**TREND -  
PLANT A THOUGHT**

Everyday objects that also act as planters allow you to bring greenery easily into your home.



**ART - FAMILY FUN**

Appreciating art doesn't have to be a solemn affair, as this contemporary art exhibition for the masses demonstrates.

36

42

**PEOPLE - LAURENCE  
LLEWELYN-BOWEN**

British celebrity interior designer who's a judge on *The Apartment*, a reality TV show.

44

**PEOPLE - DREW &  
JONATHAN SCOTT**

Hosts of home-renovation reality TV show *Property Brothers*.

46

**PEOPLE - SOO CHAN**

Renowned architect and designer of the recently launched Soo Chan collection for Poliform.



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**NEW SHOP - RICE**

Tiles and other building materials.

50

**NEW SHOP -  
DEPARTURES  
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FAB FINDS

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**THE ART OF TEA**

Infuse your intimate tea session with a contemporary design twist.

FEATURE

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**A CELEBRATION OF DESIGN**

Singapore Design Week was back for its second edition in March. We list the highlights.



78

**SHOP THE WORLD**

Contemporary Danish, Italian, French and Japanese designs are some of the most distinctive furnishing styles around; these are pieces you can use to indulge in your wanderlust for design.

90

**SEE THE LIGHT**

None of the 35 lamps here cost more than \$400. From tabletop lamps to pendants, this is your ultimate guide to affordable lamps for the home!

**71**



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# HOMES



98

## A PLACE IN PARIS

Views of the famed city surround this confidently chic home, which is awash with bespoke pieces, plush furnishings and a decided dose of the designer's innate French flair.



112

## BUILT ON TRUST

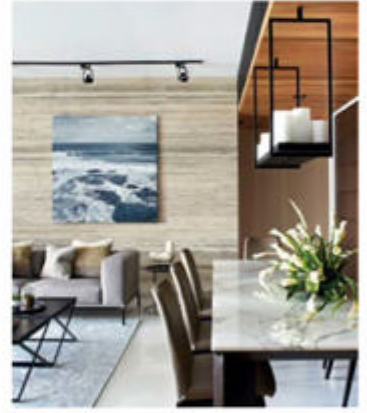
The difference is in the details. This rustic-industrial home stands out from the crowd thanks to its daring designer.



120

## SIMPLE ROMANCE

A shabby-chic aesthetic leads the mishmash of styles present in this home, which comes across as delightfully charming rather than disconnected.



128

## OPEN BUT COSY

The unfussy design of this apartment, enhanced with natural materials, allows the sophisticated taste of its homeowners to speak for itself.

# 104

## A CURIOUS COMBINATION

Fascinating objects from all over the globe enhance every corner of this beautiful house, fusing its colonial charm with its occupant's engaging personality.



photography VERNON WONG art direction DON TAN & YEW XIN YI





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**DIGITAL EDITION  
EXCLUSIVE**

**DYNAMIC DUO**

Find out what makes the partnership between Lyndon Neri and Rossana Hu work. They're the husband-and-wife founders of Neri & Hu – Maison & Objet Asia's Designers of the Year 2015.

**ASIAN DESIGN  
TAKES CENTER  
STAGE**

Asian designers are hitting their stride, with contemporary designs that interpret our current times with a fresh new perspective.

**8 LIGHTING  
MISTAKES  
TO AVOID**

Poor lighting will let down the most well thought-out interior designs. Make sure you don't make these common mistakes.

PROPERTY

Read our FAQ for the latest rules on renting out your HDB flat – to make sure you don't flout them, unknowingly.

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## Relax with Beads Cushion

This Summer, lighter colors are introduced to beat the heat while you relax.

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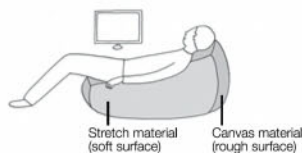
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### When placed on its side



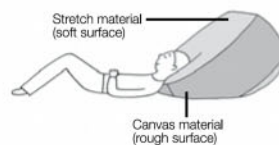
Wraps your body from shoulders to lower back, and keeps you in your favourite posture. Perfect for reading.

### When placed upright



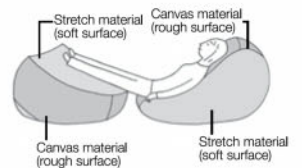
Sinks and widens in all directions making it comfortable when resting. Perfect for watching television.

### When placed on its side



Use as a pillow that wraps head in. Perfect for taking a nap.

### When using two beads cushion



Use as a footrest by using two beads cushion. Perfect way to relax and unwind yourself.

# g o s h o p p i n g

When we were planning this issue, we knew we wanted to do a big shopping feature in the spirit of the Great Singapore Sale, which kicks off in May. That was the easy part – the tough part was to think of how we could do it in a way that was fun and functional for our readers. We tossed around some ideas, and decided to go global.

Shop The World on page 78 shows you where you can get furniture pieces that best evoke the culture and spirit of Denmark, Italy, Japan and France (download our digital edition for bonus pages on designed-in-Singapore pieces). The culture and lifestyle of a country influences its furniture designs, and it is these (sometimes very subtle) differences that makes them unique.

We complement this furniture eye candy with lights curated for their affordability. See The Light on page 90 takes you through 35 lamps all under \$400, with 11 of them alone under \$100! For tips on what not to do when lighting your home, get our exclusive feature, 8 Lighting Mistakes To Avoid, only on our digital edition.

Also in this issue, see what the *Home & Decor* team was up to in the month of March, in A Celebration Of Design on page 68, when the events of the Singapore Design Week kept us busy. More design news comes your way in the June issue, with our first-hand report of the Milan Furniture Fair. In the meantime, check out [www.homeanddecor.com.sg](http://www.homeanddecor.com.sg) for highlights of the fair and of Milan Design Week.



REBECKKA WONG  
EDITOR

*Rebeckka*



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GLOBAL SHOPPER  
We're so lucky. You can find furniture from all over the world here in Singapore!

p.90

STYLE ON A BUDGET  
See the 35 lamps you can get from below \$100 to \$400.



p.68

SINGAPORE DESIGN WEEK  
What we saw and loved at the many design events during this amazing week.







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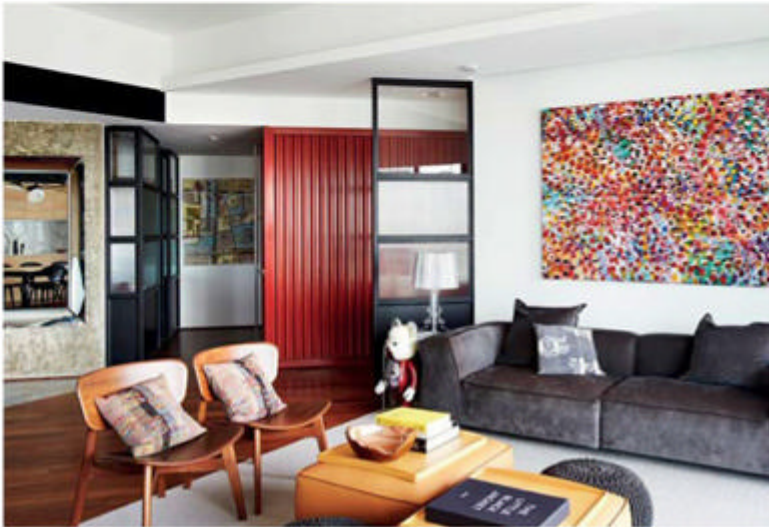
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CHECK OUT OUR TOP THREE BLOG POSTS OF THE MONTH



HOUSE TOUR: A PENTHOUSE WITH UNIQUE INDUSTRIAL ELEMENTS

This homeowner took the industrial style to the next level by placing a "shipping container" in his living room. Find out what's in the container! [www.tinyurl.com/shippingcontainerdecor](http://www.tinyurl.com/shippingcontainerdecor)



AN EASY WAY TO ADD CHARACTER TO YOUR HOME? USE GRAPHIC ELEMENTS!

Have a look at how these nine homeowners express their personalities through the use of strong patterns and bright colours: [www.tinyurl.com/graphicelements](http://www.tinyurl.com/graphicelements)



12 BUDGET-FRIENDLY FEATURE WALL IDEAS

Fill your white walls with something other than regular artworks. These ideas are equally eye-catching, and much easier on the pocket! [www.tinyurl.com/budgetwallfeatures](http://www.tinyurl.com/budgetwallfeatures)



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feel at home.



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"There's nothing wrong with mixing old and new, with combining different furniture styles, colours and patterns. Anything that is in your taste will automatically fuse to form an entire relaxing environment. A home... should be an amalgamation of the things that its owner loves and feels at home with."

- Josef Frank, Swedish architect and founder of the Vienna School of Architecture

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# 3

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## In the May digital issue...



### EXCLUSIVE VIDEO

We take you on a video tour of the fun contemporary art exhibition, Imaginarium.



### BONUS ARTICLE

Find out who the rising young Asian stars of design are.



### BONUS ARTICLE

Read our interview with Neri & Hu, Maison & Objet Asia's Designers of the Year 2015.



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## OUT & ABOUT

A look at our favourite snaps from *Home & Decor's* Instagram account this month. Follow us at Homeanddecor\_sg to see what caught our eye, what inspires us, and what we're up to!



Local artist Izziyana Suhaimi encourages visitors to weave or sew something original to add to her exhibition.

SAM AT 8Q



Phunk co-founder William Chan presenting the design collective's poster interpretation of Cappellini's Proust armchair.

DREAM INTERIORS



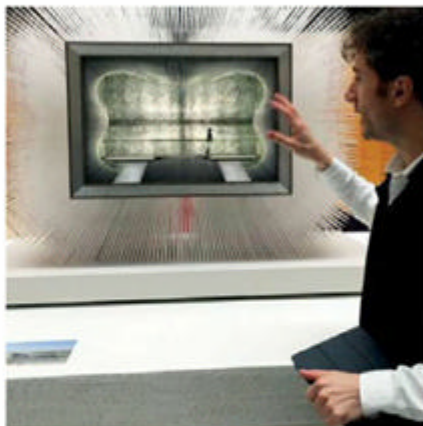
Lucha Loco, a cool Mexican restaurant and bar, is just one of the inspiring places loved by design insiders.

DUXTON HILL



These "flowers" by Singapore-based artist Miun are made out of dissected plants and laminates from Lamitak.

SINGAPLURAL AT 99 BEACH ROAD



British designer Thomas Heatherwick at the Inside Heatherwick Studio exhibition, presenting the UK Pavilion he designed for the Shanghai Expo 2010.

NATIONAL DESIGN CENTRE



At La Galerie De Dietrich's showroom launch, canapés made with ingredients associated with spring were whipped up in the live kitchen.

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# Now

## A New Classic

The growing popularity of copper has extended even to design classics such as Louis Poulsen's PH lamps. The 3½ - 2½ copper table lamp is a new limited-edition version that comes with two interchangeable top shades – an opal glass one for diffused ambient lighting, and a copper one with a white underside (pictured) for downward direct lighting. With copper, we love that each lamp's patina will develop differently.

The PH 3½ - 2½ copper table lamp, \$2,490, is made on order. From now till Aug 31, place your order at Macsk, #01-14, 63 Mohamed Sultan Road, tel: 6443-2282.





## Drop Chair

### *Why We Love It*

With only 200 original pieces in existence, the rarity of the Drop chair adds to its desirability. Designed in 1958, it was designed for the restaurant of the then SAS Royal Hotel, now the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, in Copenhagen. Its teardrop-shape design has a tapered backrest which allows you to slide into the seat without moving the chair much – the perfect detail to complement the peaceful atmosphere that the original restaurant exuded.

### *Who Designed It*

One of the most influential designers of all time, Danish architect Arne Jacobsen created simple, modern pieces that combined functionality with elegance. Besides his much-copied Ant and Series 7 chairs, his other notable masterpiece is the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel. He designed every detail of the building, including its fixtures and furniture. It was for this project that he created much-celebrated designs such as the Swan and Egg chairs.

### *What It Inspired*

Used exclusively in the SAS Royal Hotel, the Drop chair was never manufactured commercially. It was only in 2014 that Danish design firm Fritz Hansen decided to relaunch it. Its manufacturing process has since been updated with new technology, making way for new versions of the seat. It is now available in its original upholstered version, and in plastic with a cushioned seat. It comes in six colours. ●



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James Bort

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FAMILY FUN

APPRECIATING ART DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A SOLEMN AFFAIR, AS THIS CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION FOR THE MASSES DEMONSTRATES.



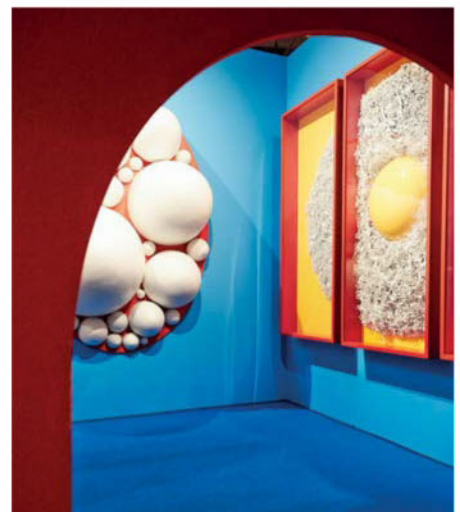
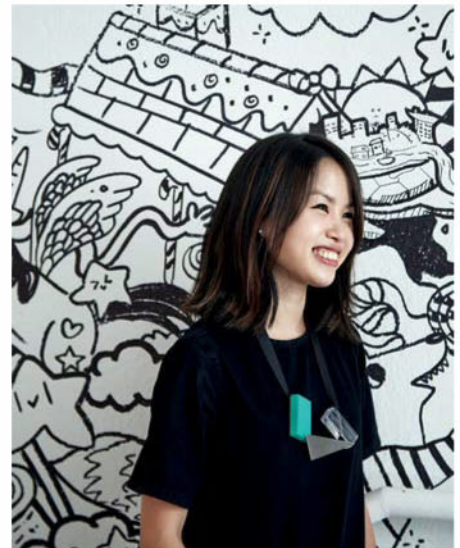
In a bid to make art appreciation more of a family affair, the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) has turned an entire wing on Queen Street into an immersive experience where children of all ages, as well as the young at heart, can get friendly with contemporary art.

Imaginarium is made up of seven never-seen-before artworks designed to break the “no touching” rule that’s almost synonymous with art galleries and museums. The works by Singaporean and regional artists allow the whole family to learn about art through play.

**Making art accessible**

“Art is a means of exploration and finding new ways to see the world, and playing is essentially that, too,” says Rachel Ng, an assistant curator at SAM. As children tend to have shorter attention spans, the exhibition is filled with works that make a big impact (most of the artworks take up an entire room), with written explanations that are short and simple, and tagged with questions that prompt viewers to think beyond the artwork.

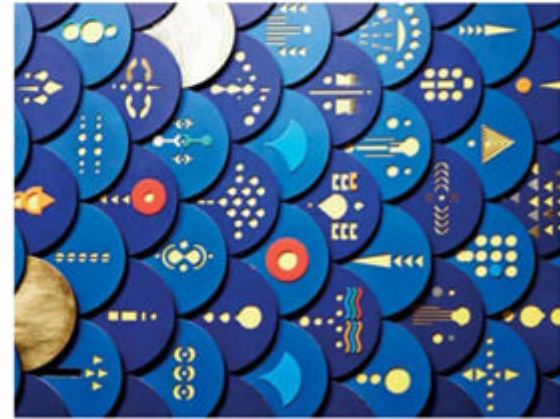
“This exhibition aims to be the first encounter children have with contemporary art, and for them to grasp the concept, they need to have an intimate experience with the pieces,” Rachel surmises.







Let us take you on a video tour of the exhibitions! Turn to page 16 for how to download.



**OPPOSITE TOP & FAR LEFT**  
Local artist Izziyana Suhaimi's *Let's Make!* Studio encourages participants to weave or embroider artworks to pin to the wall.

**OPPOSITE, MIDDLE**  
Rachel, an assistant curator who worked with the artists on *Imaginarium*, stands in front of art group *Band of Doodlers'* imaginative interpretation of Singapore's story.

**OPPOSITE, BOTTOM**  
Kumkum Fernando's immersive installation includes oversized boxes containing bizarre curiosities and a puzzle wall where visitors can complete the fish scales patterns with geometric components (as seen on the top right of this page).

**TOP**  
Korean artist Jeeyoung Lee's life-size candy land exhibit.

**RIGHT, MIDDLE**  
Children can be architects for a day by building their own city in local artist Chiang Yu Xiang's installation.

**RIGHT**  
Using kinetic energy to power up various artworks, Canada-born artist Vincent Twardzik prompts people to think about the earth's limited energy resources.



She also shares how it was an interesting learning process for herself and the artists, as they had to be attuned to a child's point of view. As all the works are new commissions, Rachel had to fine-tune each piece, including ensuring that all materials would be kid-friendly.

### Not all child's play

While the installations at *Imaginarium* steer away from deep conceptual themes, they take on different forms that are sophisticated enough to appeal to adults. Sri Lanka-born Kumkum Fernando's work, for example, features three oversized boxes containing wondrous yet slightly ominous visuals, which seek to reignite in adults the wonder and awe they experienced as a kid, while playing.

"It's interesting to see how parents take a back seat here, as the children guide themselves. Parents should also assure their kids that it's okay to explore and express themselves freely here. And, in turn, parents can learn from their child's perspective!" says Rachel. ●



THE EXHIBITION IS LOCATED AT SAM AT 8Q, 8 QUEEN STREET. IT RUNS UNTIL JULY 19, AND ADMISSION IS FREE FOR CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS. VISIT [WWW.SINGAPOREARTMUSEUM.SG](http://WWW.SINGAPOREARTMUSEUM.SG) FOR MORE DETAILS.





**TBURU**

Tburu (pronounced tay-bu-ru, the Japanese expression for table) was born from restaurateur Calvin Yeung's dream of an oasis that urbanites could escape to without getting away from the city.

As the sole occupant of Orchard Gateway @ Emerald's fifth level, its discreet location sets the tone for a peaceful meal away from the hubbub of the shopping belt.

The restaurant welcomes visitors with a modest entrance, which belies the grand views of Orchard Road that spread out before you the moment you take a step inside.

"Traditionally, sushi bars tend to be very small and cosy. But I like that this place, with high ceilings and big windows, is so different," remarked Calvin, who's from Hong Kong.

While he is better known for his culinary talents, he is also a self-taught interior designer who has a knack for utilising design to create a multisensory experience for his customers.

At the open-concept sushi bar counter, for example, guests can admire the chefs' nimble knifework as they prepare sashimi from whole fish (instead of fillet, which is more commonly offered) on a 2.4m-long cutting board that's made from the bark of a single tree.

Food presentation is one of Calvin's strongest suites, as he designed a menu that includes premium mentaiko sushi served in deep woven baskets, melt-in-your-mouth A4 Japanese Wagyu beef covered in a bell jar to contain the fragrance of rosemary, and exclusive sake served in stemware rather than cups.

As the menu's sushi, sashimi, grilled and seasonal dishes are the true stars of Tburu, Calvin was mindful of keeping the interiors gentle. "I went with a few natural tones, and added some unexpected touches such as the large leather bar stools and a contemporary art piece from my own collection in the private dining room," he revealed.

It all comes together to form a homely space where shoppers can escape to rest their feet and eyes, while Calvin tantalises their taste buds. ●

●  
TBURU IS LOCATED AT ORCHARD GATEWAY @ EMERALD, LEVEL 5, TEL: 6221-0004.

ABOVE  
The interiors of Tburu are kept minimal so as not to steal the attention away from the food.

RIGHT  
All the cutlery was hand-picked in Tokyo by Calvin, the restaurant's owner.

BOTTOM LEFT  
Sit at the open sushi bar and take your pick of the day's freshest seasonal catch.

BOTTOM RIGHT  
There's a dedicated grill room to prepare a fine selection of meat, such as kurobuta belly and Iberico pork jaw.





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**TREND**

## Plant a Thought

These everyday objects also act as planters, allowing you to bring some much needed greenery into your home in subtle but stylish ways. ●

**LEFT**  
Mexico-based design studio Peca unveils the Mokki lamp-pot, in hand-carved marble or white onyx. The design resembles a house surrounded by a garden, showcasing the beauty of stone when the "house" lights up. (The landscaping does not come with it, so you'll have to be resourceful and creative in designing your own mini landscape.) [www.pecacom.mx](http://www.pecacom.mx)



**ABOVE**  
Refreshing and illuminating, Bocci's 38 series of chandeliers has an ethereal feel. Each pendant, strung together in clusters using copper wiring, has cavities which houses either light sources or plants. Available at Space. [www.bocci.ca](http://www.bocci.ca)



**LEFT**  
Designed by Danish design studio Kristina Dam Studio, the Botanic Storage is a bench-sized console that allows you to display plants while keeping away clutter. Slide its panels accordingly to place plants inside or on top. [www.kristinadam.dk](http://www.kristinadam.dk)



**RIGHT**  
Japanese design collective Bril's Coniferous Clock charts the passage of time over a year with leaves that gradually fade from green to brown. The clock is made entirely out of the components of the cedar tree. Although it has no numbers or hands, it has a swinging pendulum that hints at its function. [www.bril.jp](http://www.bril.jp)





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{ I want to create opulent (yet affordable) rooms that spoil people!

own preferences as a starting point. You might be proud that your home looks like a show house at first, but you won't get any long-term satisfaction out of it.

**How can people be confident in their taste?**

Start with collecting information. Do your research, be it through watching television programmes, reading books, or visiting stores. Absorb all of it, and create collages of what you like. Then you can gather all the different elements for an interior design scheme.

**How would you dress up a small space?**

Keeping a small apartment all neutral and beige is actually the worst thing you can do! Instead, keep one area to make big statements in, and allow everything else to be neutral. For example, a colourful artwork on a beige wall will steal your gaze, and the rest of the wall will feel further away. Without it, you'll be more aware of the dimensions of the wall. Basically, get the eye to focus on the best bits and brush over the worst bits.

**Where do you spend most of your time at home?**

When my daughters return from college and university, we tend to mark the occasion with a celebration. It could be spending time in the kitchen cooking Sunday lunch. My wife, Jackie, is a brilliant cook. Sometimes, the meals are as simple as pasta or roast chicken, but it's the experience that's really important to me. ●

LEFT As oriental design is too often associated with Zen-inspired looks and natural materials, Laurence hopes to reveal the more decadent side of the East.

BELOW Courts will also be carrying accessories from House of Laurence, the British designer's furnishings brand.



**LAURENCE LLEWELYN-BOWEN**

BRITISH CELEBRITY INTERIOR DESIGNER WHO'S A JUDGE ON *THE APARTMENT*, A REALITY TV SHOW

Known for his witty sense of humour on interior-design reality TV show *The Apartment*, and his flamboyant design style, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen's newest project brings lavish home furnishings to the masses here.

Inspired by the elegance of bygone eras, his new lounge furniture range will be exclusively available in Courts stores, allowing homeowners to indulge in opulent settings without breaking the bank.

**What do you find inspiring about Singapore?**

Singapore has always been clever about combining the best of the West and the East. I want to reflect the richness of oriental design in my collection. I'm also excited about the Asian attitude towards new ideas. Design is all about those, so it's fabulous to be here.

**What is the worst design mistake you can make?**

To create a space that doesn't reflect your personality. It's important that you use your



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See the amazing transformation of the homes the brothers have worked on. Turn to page 16 for how to download.



## DREW & JONATHAN SCOTT

HOSTS OF  
HOME-RENOVATION  
REALITY TV SHOW  
*PROPERTY BROTHERS*

Twins Drew and Jonathan Scott, 37, helm HGTV's reality TV show *Property Brothers*, in which they remodel and transform fixer-uppers. On the programme, Drew, a real estate agent, helps the featured couple find a home that meets their budget, while Jonathan, a licensed contractor, lends a hand to create their dream home.

In town to promote the latest season of the show, the brothers share some renovation tips for new homeowners.

### When buying furniture, where should you start?

**Drew:** People tend to just grab random pieces they like, so we suggest picking a single piece of furniture for each room and continuing from there. For example, in the living room, start with the sofa. Choose one that works perfectly with the space and build around that.

### What is the fastest and simplest way to give a room a makeover?

**Drew:** Paint your home!

**Jonathan:** Painting is the simplest way. Any homeowner can do it. Take your time, use good-quality paint and keep the colours fresh and contemporary.

**Drew:** You could also look at swapping your light fixtures. Changing your lighting can dramatically change your space.

### Any tips for young couples renovating their first home together?

**Drew:** Really plan it out. Jonathan and I are always telling people: if you both jump into it without planning, you will not be newly-weds for very long.

Renovation and home-buying are a headache if you're not organised, so work with professionals who can help you and make sure the job's done right.

### What are three questions couples should ask their interior designer or contractor?

**Jonathan:** One: are you licensed? Two: have you worked on this type of project before? And three...

**Drew:** "Can I get that in writing?"

**Jonathan:** Yes, always make sure everything is in writing.

### What do couples usually argue about when they start renovation?

**Jonathan:** It usually comes down to finances. One person wants to spend money on something that the other doesn't, or both can't agree on materials and finishes.

**Drew:** They also argue about how the spaces will be used. ●



CATCH *PROPERTY BROTHERS* ON HGTV (STARHUB CH 437), ON SUNDAYS AT 9PM.

ABOVE  
In addition to their TV show, Drew (left) and Jonathan Scott manage real estate holdings. They oversee the sales and construction of residential and commercial projects.





# SANCAL

## TIMELESS AT FORTY

Since the early 1970s, Spanish furnishing label, Sancal has gone from a small three person team into Spain's leading designer upholstery manufacturer. Esther Castaño, who has taken the helm from her father owes the success to the company's focus to human-centric design. "People are at the core of Sancal's ethos: we create for, and are thankful for, the discerning. We design balanced products with a strong identity that can be personalized at the same time, because the diversity of humanity is the measure of everything."

Sancal has a particular design that is far from the conventional; a contemporary style, timeless and eclectic. Their premise is to design products that age with the customer, bringing long-term value in personal, singular spaces.



### ELEPHANT

Nadadora studio surprises us with a fresh vision for small, yet essential, pieces. Elephant's simple, geometric squares and rectangles have had their edges rounded to give a welcoming feel. Fun and versatile, they can fit into any setting: as a seat at the foot of a bed, a living-room pouf, a stool in a chic café or as small islands in a hotel reception.



### DUO

The rounded volumes that flow down to the floor give Rafa Garcia's Duo a chill-out feel. The idea behind the modular piece was to create a mono-block system, without cushions, that was still welcoming and comfortable, and even allowing us to incorporate extra back cushions.



### SILENCIO

Ricard Ferrer has created a one-of-a-kind piece, for it is neither an armchair nor a divan. Together with its pouf, it can resemble a small chaise. This lack of definition contributes to the versatility of a piece that is perfectly suitable for bedrooms, lounges and halls.



### AIR

The Air by Rafa Garcia boasts three types of arm and two back heights, conceived to sit in harmony with other objects in our sitting room. The aluminium feet are set well under the sofa, hidden in order to give the piece the sensation of floating in mid-air.

Soo Chan (also known as Chan Soo Khian) established the prestigious firm, SCDA Architects, 20 years ago, and needs little introduction to the design world. The development of the new Soori High Line luxury residence in New York marks the architect's US debut and his second Soori-branded property after the Alila Villas Soori in Bali. The customised furniture that can be found in these developments have become part of the collection of high-end Italian brand Poliform.

**I became an architect by a process of elimination!**

started talking about collaborating on a few pieces that are slightly Asian-inspired. The starting point was when one of the principals asked me to design a four-poster bed for his country house in Sardinia.

**What inspired your designs for the range?**

I don't think there were any "aha" moments. The aesthetics, in terms of lines and design language, of my architecture and interior designs were merely extended to the furniture. But the main drive behind the collection was that every piece should fit very well into our own designs, and have a classic look that will last the test of time.

**Who or what influences and inspires you?**

Architects, art, travel... It depends on what I'm doing. But generally, classical architecture influences me – for example, the Pantheon in Rome and its proportions, design purity, construction and structural integrity. (Famous architects) Louis Kahn and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and, of course, some contemporary designers inspire me as well.

**You're already involved in numerous ventures. What's next?**

All my enterprises are related to lifestyle. Going into development seems like a natural progression, because you have all the elements – architecture, interior design, furniture and service. Dealing with these interesting branches of the lifestyle sector is quite a big undertaking. So I'll be focusing on that for now. ●

THE SOO CHAN COLLECTION FOR POLIFORM IS AVAILABLE AT SPACE, 77 BENCOOLEN STREET, TEL: 6415-0000.



FAR LEFT Soo Chan is behind the new Soori High Line luxury residence in New York, Alila Villas Soori in Bali, as well as the Bistro Soori in Singapore.

LEFT The Soo Chan collection for Poliform comprises the Java bed (pictured), Java bedside table, Soori coffee table and Soori Highline armchair.



SOO CHAN

RENOWNED ARCHITECT AND DESIGNER OF THE RECENTLY LAUNCHED SOO CHAN COLLECTION FOR POLIFORM







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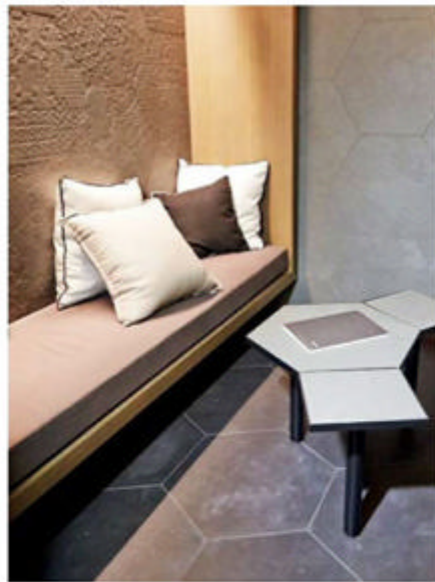
## RICE

### TILES AND OTHER BUILDING MATERIALS

Step into the new Rice showroom, and you might wonder if you've come to the right place. The fashionably dimly-lit interiors of the ground floor give off a cosy and chic vibe more like that of a bar or boutique hotel, than a typical showroom for building materials. "This isn't exactly a showroom, but more of a lab where you can experiment with tiles," says Alan Tan, who co-founded Rice with his brother, Terry, in 2001.

Each floor of the four-storey building serves a different purpose – there is the Trend Lab, Project Lab, Material Lab and Hotel Lab. The Trend Lab showcases the newest products and innovations; currently on display is the Italian brand Ceramica Sant'Agostino's Flexible Architecture series of tiles designed by Philippe Starck. The range offers endless ways of mixing and matching the tiles, thanks to the different thicknesses, surfaces, joints, finishes and colours.

One floor up is the Project Lab that's catered to architects and interior designers, showing large-format



displays of tiles for easier and more accurate visualisation. On the third floor, the Material Lab, with its rows of science lab-like benches, is where you can "work", says Alan. Here, create mini sample boards (with the help of magnets on the back of the tiles in the library) to better match designs for walls and floors.

The Hotel Lab on the highest floor demonstrates the versatility and potential of tiles. As its name suggests, it's done up like a hotel because "Singaporeans enjoy going on staycations and people often wish their homes were as nice as hotels",



**TOP LEFT**  
The ground floor is almost entirely finished with tiles. Named the Trend Lab, it's where the newest products are showcased.

**LEFT**  
This cosy discussion room, that customers can use, features hexagonal tiles in different colours and textures.

**TOP**  
On the third floor, the Material Lab is where you can find out more about specific tiles and view samples.

**ABOVE**  
The furniture pieces, decor and accessories throughout the showroom enhance the tiles on display. The items were selected and styled by Alan.

smiles Alan. Here, bedroom and bathroom sets are beautifully decked out in various tiles and stone finishes.

While the new space was designed by architecture firm Studio Goto, you'll find personalised touches from the brothers, whether it's quotes on the walls that were selected by Terry, or accessories hand-picked by Alan to decorate the various spaces. ●

RICE IS AT #01-03, 213 HENDERSON ROAD, TEL: 6692-1199.



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Weekend & PH: 11am - 9pm  
Enter by Serangoon North Ave 4

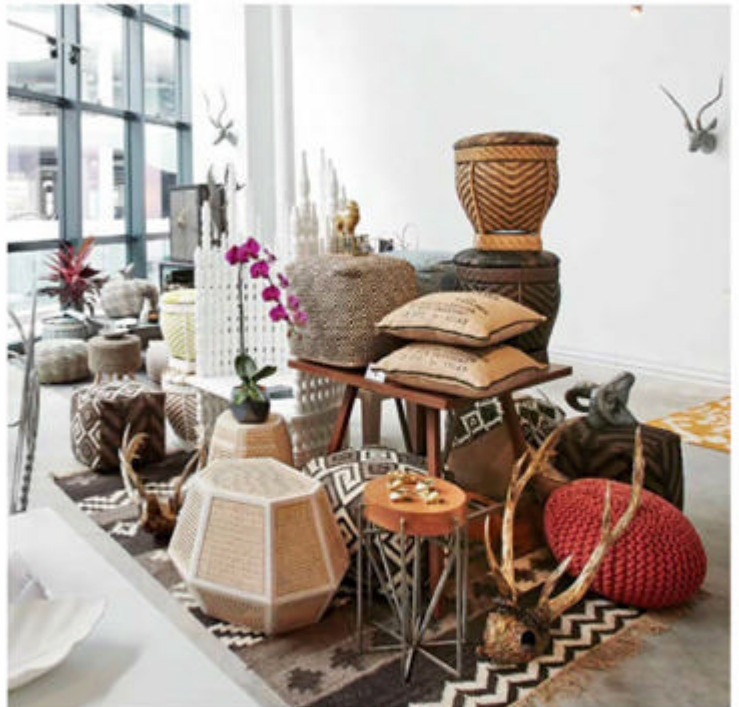
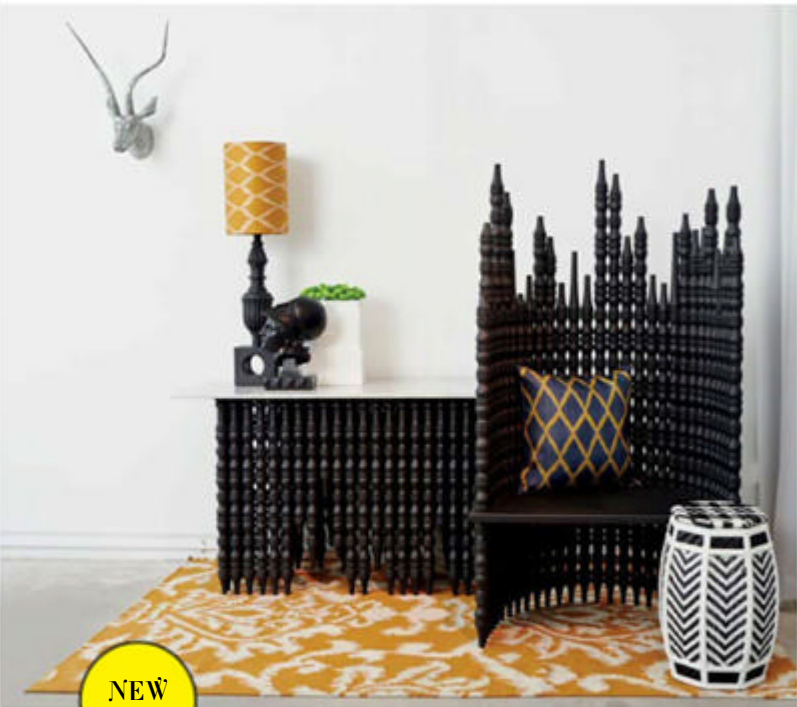
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**DEPARTURES & ARRIVALS**

**RUSTIC, INDUSTRIAL AND CONTEMPORARY DECOR AND FURNITURE**

Denise Kaur has always loved travel and home decor. But it was only two years ago that the Filipina decided to follow her heart, quit her job in finance here, and set up Departures & Arrivals. "When I travel, I open myself up to new cultures and designs. And I wanted to bring that spirit of travel into the home," Denise explains.

With that in mind, she set out to meet designers and artists to learn about their design philosophy, and how their pieces are made. In particular, she took a shine to the works of Filipino designer Ito Kish. "His designs are rooted in heritage, yet carry international appeal, but he also adds so much more meaning to them by naming each design after the people he loves. The Santamaria storage stool, for example, is named after his first store manager, in appreciation for all that she has helped him with."

Denise's careful curation has resulted in a store that's a beautiful mix of furniture and decor accessories from all over the world, from Kish's contemporary furniture, to handwoven graphic rugs from India, to peculiar animal sculptures from Filipino designer Lilianna Manahan (one of Maison & Objet 2014's Rising Asian Talents). It all makes up a "global eclectic look", which Denise hopes she can use to teach others how to bring different aesthetics together.



**LEFT**  
Denise's shop stocks designer items and products that have a good story to tell.

**LEFT, MIDDLE**  
The Trojan Merchicken is one of designer Lilianna Manahan's fantastical creatures.

**BOTTOM**  
These flat weave kilim rugs from India are soft and easy to fold and stow away.

**ABOVE, LEFT**  
You can find a wide range of Ito Kish's designs here, including the baluster collection and the Santamaria storage stools.

**ABOVE, RIGHT**  
Denise demonstrates how different styles, textures and motifs can come together in a small space.



You can see this mix throughout the store's many vignettes, including one that's anchored by an industrial wheeled coffee table, and accompanied by a modern woven stool with bold colours and motifs, as well as a rustic-style metal deer head sculpture by Filipino artist-designer Ann Pamintuan. "I want people to realise that their varied tastes can work well together. A home should always be a little bit of who you are, and what you aspire to be." ●

●  
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## Record and Play

Wireless Bluetooth speakers are a dime a dozen these days, but Binauric's Boom Boom ups the ante by doubling as a recorder. Designed by Frenchman Mathieu Lehanneur, this gadget fits nicely in the palm of your hand, and is able to project and record 3-D audio thanks to the Boom Boom smartphone app.



## Get Your Start

Star Furniture Group's D'Star Design Awards is back. The group, whose furniture brands include Star Living, Mondri Lifestyle Gallery, Jottergoods and Zen Tradition, is looking for budding furniture designers to submit designs that can be used in all parts of the home, with the theme of "grey area". One of the prizes is a trip to the Milan Furniture Fair 2016, worth \$5,000! Shortlisted participants will also visit the company's main factory and have their prototype manufactured for public voting.

GET MORE DETAILS AT [WWW.STARLIVING.COM](http://WWW.STARLIVING.COM), AND JOIN THE CONTEST AT [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DSTARDESIGNAWARD](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DSTARDESIGNAWARD). SUBMISSION ENDS MAY 17.



## Chair for Charity

Chairs become canvases for artistic expression in Chairity – Arts and Design against Cancer, a campaign started by Imis Iskandar to raise cancer awareness, as well as raise funds for financially strapped cancer patients. This year, 45 chairs were reimagined – 30 of them by well-known locally based artists – and will be sold to benefit the Children's Cancer Foundation. You can pledge a minimum of \$3,500 for each chair, which is subject to availability, or visit the show and lend some support to this worthy cause.

THE CHAIRS WILL BE EXHIBITED FROM MAY 2 TO 16 AT MAYA GALLERY, #01-21 OXLEY BIZ HUB 2, TEL: 6291-1760, AND FROM MAY 3 TO 5 AT MY ART SPACE, ISTANA PARK, 31 ORCHARD ROAD. E-MAIL [MD\\_IMIS@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:MD_IMIS@HOTMAIL.COM) TO MAKE A PLEDGE.





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



## Always Room for More

One of the many small-space solutions offered at The Ewins Home is the Atim kitchen system from Italy, which has a transformable component that enables sizeable pull-out tabletops to be concealed completely. This clever mechanism allows you to set up a temporary dining space within the kitchen, or create more countertop space when preparing bigger meals.

VISIT THE EWINS HOME SHOWROOM AT #01-100 MIDVIEW CITY, 24 SIN MING LANE. TEL: 6659-0080.



## Red Hot

Norwegian company Hag makes some of the best and most well-known ergonomic office chairs around. The design of its iconic Capisco Puls 8010 model is based on the saddle-seat chair, and the need for the body to be in constant motion. Check out the sizzling red shade for its SG50 promotion (as well as five other colours)!

GET THE HAG CAPISCO PULS 8010 AT \$899, FROM SCANDINAVIAN BUSINESS SEATING. FOR ENQUIRIES, CALL 6225-6632 OR VISIT WWW.HAG-GLOBAL.COM.

## Click to Buy

Interior designer Audrey Lee has been running The Godown, the retail arm of her studio on Zion Road, for a few years now. With her new e-commerce website, you never have to wonder about opening hours. Browse through a selection of globally sourced and custom-designed home furnishings, which include dinnerware, lighting, kitchen tools, as well as bed and bath accessories. As with the retail store, the online store features new collections each month.

SHOP AT WWW.THEGODOWNSTORE.COM.



## Stylodeco

First founded as an online store, Stylodeco has a new showroom located in the Seletar Hills Estate, occupying about 500sqf of space in a house. Its range includes candles, lanterns, lamps, vases, and tableware from Europe and Asia. Also on sale are artworks and antiques. With a name inspired by the Singlish phrase "Stylo Milo", meaning stylish or fashionable, you can expect to find many beautiful pieces here for your home.

THE STYLODECO SHOWROOM IS LOCATED AT SELETAR HILLS ESTATE. VISIT BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. E-MAIL CONTACT@STYLODECO.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.





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Dekton is a renowned ultra-compact surface by Spanish company Cosentino that is highly resistant to water, heat, scratches and stains, making it perfect for bathrooms and kitchens. Be inspired by how Swedish bathroom specialist Svedbergs used the material for its four new bathroom concepts, which feature Dekton as countertops in a range of colour options, giving everyday spaces simple sophistication.

## Refreshing Touch

Bring a quiet style into your home with decor accessories from Serax, a Belgian design house. Its latest range of vases, pots and candleholders (from \$25 to \$180) has hints of rustic, Scandinavian and industrial aesthetics, giving you the flexibility of working it into most home decor styles!



VISIT ORIGINALS AT #02-03 SIME  
DARBY CENTRE, 896 DUNEARN  
ROAD, TEL: 6471-9918.



## Feed Your Knowledge

Add some fun to your kitchen or dining area and get educated at the same time with Follygraph's tasteful infographic posters! You can pick from a range of posters, which start from US\$14 (S\$19), that illustrate cooking-related facts and figures such as the different cuts of meat, or how long you should cook different vegetables.

GET IT AT [WWW.FOLLYGRAPH.COM](http://WWW.FOLLYGRAPH.COM).

## Breath of Fresh Air

What we think is the best-looking fan around, the Dyson Air Multiplier has changed the way fans work with its bladeless technology. Now, a new air purifying feature can be found in the Dyson Pure Cool, a fan that cools and cleans your air at the same time. Air that is drawn in passes through a patented 360-degree glass HEPA filter that contains 1.1sq m of pleated microfibres, which trap the tiniest of pollen, bacteria and virus particles. Not only does it take up 70 per cent less space than conventional purifiers, but it is also extremely quiet. You would need to change the filter only every six months, so what's not to love?

THE DYSON PURE COOL RETAILS AT \$999 AND IS AVAILABLE AT ALL MAJOR ELECTRICAL AND DEPARTMENT STORES.








# 2015 S/S Collection

Biaggio Noce Roma  
WY 5242D



[www.lamitak.com](http://www.lamitak.com)

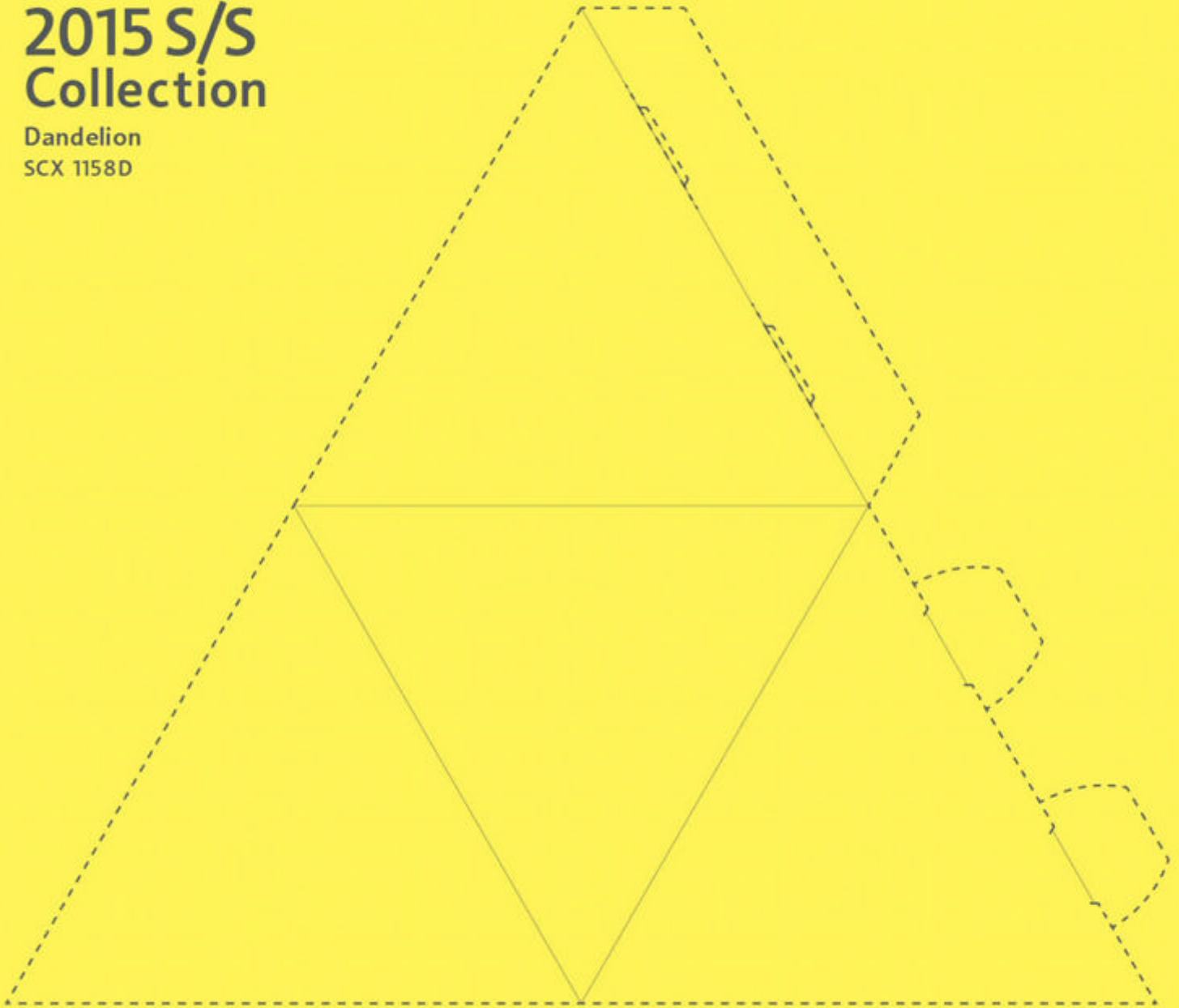
\*colours may vary from actual product

 A TAK Surfaces Lifestyle Brand



# 2015 S/S Collection

Dandelion  
SCX 1158D







**ABOUT THE LAMINATES**  
 Lamitak's Dandelion SCX 1158D is the perfect sunny counterpart to the even wood tones and grain of Biaggio Noce Roma WY 5242D. Paired together, the resulting look is refreshingly light and modern.

# AGAINST THE GRAIN

With their unique textures, and bold colours and styles, Lamitak's laminates are much more than just materials used to clad surfaces.

## INSTRUCTIONS



**STEP 1**  
 Press out the perforated shape.



**STEP 2**  
 Fold along the embossed lines.



**STEP 3**  
 Fold into a decorative holder!

Though entirely man-made, laminates can resemble any material you desire. The beauty of laminates lie in the way they mimic organic materials, yet remain hardy and long-lasting.

Lamitak takes this unique marriage of qualities to the next level by adding texture. Feel the uneven "stone" that clads the walls of the ancient Colosseum in Rome, or the worn "wood" surface of an old deck.

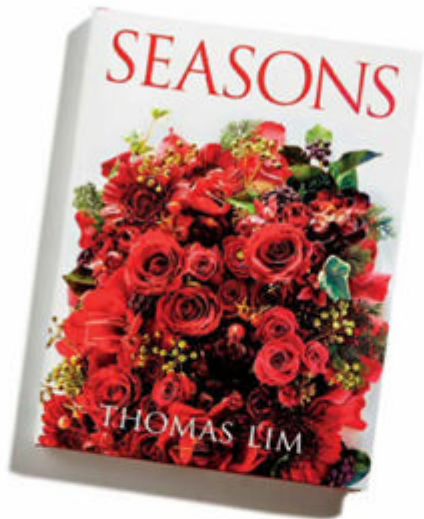
But unlike the natural materials they are inspired by, these water- and scratch-resistant laminates will neither lose their colour nor be worn smooth over time, preserving the look you fell in love with.

Manipulate laminates in ways you'll never be able to do so with organic materials. Construct a "marble" pillar, or even clad a wall in dark "denim".

On the next page, Lamitak's do-it-yourself project gives you an idea of just how laminates can be used in unusual ways. Printed on both sides with two designs from Lamitak's latest collection, the perforated shape can be folded to create a lightweight, decorative holder. Mount it onto your walls for a fun and functional display!

This is the first in a monthly series of flat-pack objects you can "create" with prints of Lamitak laminates. The possibilities are endless!

For more information on Lamitak, visit [www.lamitak.com](http://www.lamitak.com).  
 Follow it on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Lamitak.Studio](http://www.facebook.com/Lamitak.Studio)  
 and on Instagram @Lamitak.



NEW SHOP



### Naiise

Online store Naiise now has its very own 1,600sqf brick-and-mortar shop at Westgate. The brand is known for carrying a wide variety of quirky and stylish design-oriented products, such as home and decor accessories, local souvenirs, fashion and stationery. With over 2,000 products from more than 200 brands in store, design lovers are bound to find something they adore here.

NAIISE IS LOCATED AT #01-30 WESTGATE, OR VISIT WWW.NAIISE.COM.

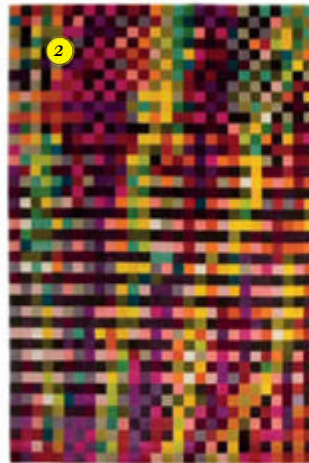
## Flowers that Speak

If you love sumptuous floral displays, this book will be eye candy for you. *Seasons*, written by Thomas Lim, one of Singapore's premier floral and interior designers, captures the highlights of his 30-year-long career in flower designing. From springtime blooms to summery creations, and gorgeous arrangements created for the wedding of one of his closest friends, Thomas shows off his artistry with fresh and artificial blooms to inspire both amateurs and professionals.

SEASONS BY THOMAS LIM IS AVAILABLE FOR \$119.90, FROM WWW.SHOP.EPIGRAMBOOKS.SG AND AT ALL MAJOR BOOKSTORES.

### OUR PICKS

### Abstract Rugs



- 1 Adventure rug, from \$1,745.96, from Boconcept.
- 2 Nanimarquina Digit rug, from \$7,675, from Space.
- 3 The Traveller rug, \$4,800, from The Rugmaker.



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**The Furniture Mall** 10 Toh Guan Road #01-01 The Furniture Mall, S608838 Tel: (65) 6861 1949  
**Open daily: \*11am to 8pm/ 11am to 9pm**

[www.lorenzo-international.com](http://www.lorenzo-international.com)

NOW



MARIMEKKO IS AVAILABLE AT LEVEL 4, TANGS ORCHARD. ITS STAND-ALONE STORE WILL OPEN AT THE CAPITAL PIAZZA IN EARLY MAY.

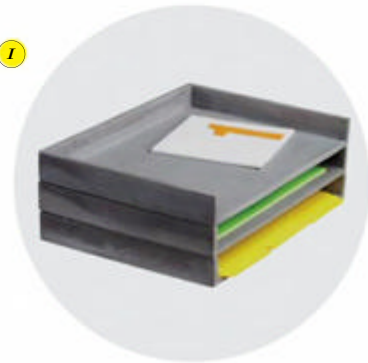
## Spring Prints

Finnish textile company Marimekko's fabrics are sure to brighten up any home. For Spring 2015, it has launched Kontti, a collection by graphic artist Jenni Tuominen that uses bold, contrasting colours to make a statement in any kitchen. The Kontti range includes a pot holder, a place mat, a tea towel, a cushion cover and an apron.

OUR PICKS

Concrete Accessories

1



2



3



- 1 Cement letter tray, \$49.95, from CB2.
- 2 Kuin Studio asymmetrical pots and vases, from \$25, from G.O.D.
- 3 Desinere Rok concrete paperweight, \$48, from [www.haystakt.com](http://www.haystakt.com).



NEW SHOP

## Cook Up a Storm

See all of De Dietrich's new products in action at its new 1,400sqf showroom! La Galerie De Dietrich houses the French brand's latest offerings, including the Full Combi Steam Oven for healthy cooking, and the Horizone Chef Tactilium 65cm Induction Hob for smaller kitchens. The sleek space also includes a large live kitchen, where professional chefs will hold fortnightly cooking demonstrations.

VISIT THE SHOWROOM AT #02-70 OXLEY BIZHUB, 65 UBI ROAD 1, TEL: 6508-4600.





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**FROM LEFT**  
**Birdcage**, \$68, from Song Birds Centre.  
Tocco Lindo multi **tray**, \$112, from Hommage Lifestyle. Bottle white porcelain **cups**, \$440 (set of six), from Lush Lush. Porcelain grey **teapot set** (with cup and saucer), \$89, from Kki Home. Tocco Zaisu beige and red **chairs**, \$481 each; Tocco circle **kotatsu table**, \$1,049; Tocco Oasi green tea **cup**, \$42, all from Hommage Lifestyle. Essence of Life chequered **plate**, \$20; Toshiyuki Kita Tamba large **sake server**, \$119; Toshiyuki Kita Tamba sake **cup**, \$69; Toshiyuki Kita **iron teapot**, \$158; Toshiyuki Kita green tea **cup** with wooden **saucer**, \$128; all from Atomi. V-Bamboo **cup**, \$59, from Cityflow. Fullico large swing **cup**, \$69 (set of two), from Atomi. White porcelain **pitcher**, not for sale.

Other items, stylist's own.

**BACKGROUND**  
Carlo Marmo Flavio  
DXP 1333K, from Lamitak.

---

## Modern Contrasts

Pair earth-toned tea accessories with urban metallic accessories and concrete-look backdrops for visual and textural contrast.



### FROM TOP

Toshiyuki Kita Tamba small **sake server**, \$109, and Fog linen natural-colour **tablecloth**, \$108, both from Atomi. Wonderful Design Studio red-clay **gongfu tea set**, \$579 (with teapot, a pair of teacups, a round wooden tray and six small white porcelain saucers), from Cityflow. Brown porcelain Chinese **teacups**, \$180 (part of a tea set with teapot and pitcher), from Lush Lush. Wooden **spoon**, \$14, from Kki Home.

### BACKGROUND & TABLE

(as before)





**FROM LEFT**  
Bamboo **candlestick**, \$150; standing wooden bottle-shaped **ornament**, \$130; Three Walkers walnut **table**, \$2,200, and brown porcelain **pitcher** and **tea cup**, \$180 (part of a tea set with teapot), all from Lush Lush. Hirota glass **tumbler**, \$58, and Suzugami large tin **plate** (rolled into a vase), \$138, both from Atomi.

**BACKGROUND**  
Dario Ramblas DXP 1329C, from Lamitak.



---

## Get Zen

Clean lines and a pared-down colour scheme can easily help one achieve a sense of calm and balance.



### FROM TOP

Wooden **tray**, \$579 (part of gongfu tea set), from Cityflow. Remember white porcelain **vase**, \$150, from Lush Lush. Nakagawa black wooden **bowl**, \$88; Graf natural beech wood **chopsticks**, \$20; Yumiko Iihoshi Oxymoron small **plate**, \$44, and Yumiko Iihoshi Unjour Gouter grey **plate**, \$38, all from Atomi.

### TABLETOP

Jiro Shizuoka Oak WY 4253X, from Lamitak. ●





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Singapore Design Week was back for its second edition in March. Whether it was at Singaplural, Maison & Objet Asia or the International Furniture Fair/Asian Furniture Show (IFFS/AFS), every day of our week was inspiring, thanks to the numerous exhibitions and installations around the island. Here are the highlights and our favourite sights.

# A CELEBRATION OF DESIGN





## YOUR HOOD

Eight unique installations and designs inspired by Singapore's urban landscape were created by design collective Little Thoughts Group with Samko's eco-friendly engineered wood. These include Lee Chang Tat's abstract forest that represents Tampines' greener past, and Chan Wai Lim's rocking furniture modelled after animals found in the kampung she grew up in.

[www.littlethoughts.org](http://www.littlethoughts.org)







**Most Awe-inspiring**

**BOTANIC LAMINATES**

"Most people see laminates in huge panels; I wanted to encourage people to take a closer look at their textures and colours," says Singapore-based artist Noreen Loh (better known as Miun). Titled The Marriage, her interpretation of Lamitak's pressured laminates as part of Singaplural's Project X exhibition resulted in a whimsical collection of sculptures made out of deconstructed plants and flowers, merged with laminate "petals". [www.miun.sg](http://www.miun.sg)

**SERIP**

The Portuguese manufacturer, which specialises in custom pieces, wowed with its intricate nature-inspired chandeliers and other decorative lights. The pieces on display comprised of elements such as hand-forged metal branches and mouth-blown glass blossoms. Even when not lit up, they were still luxurious works of art! [www.serip.com.pt](http://www.serip.com.pt)

**NOSIGNER EXHIBITION**

Japanese design firm Nosigner returns to IFFS with an exhibition that positions itself as a game changer in the region's design scene. With a mission to use design to solve global social issues such as natural disasters, founder Eisuke Tachikawa has been championing innovations such as open-source furniture, which anyone can build anywhere in the world at a low cost. [www.nosigner.com](http://www.nosigner.com)







photo NANYANG POLYTECHNIC

**Most On-trend**

▽  
**MAKE YOUR OWN COPPER FURNITURE**

After conducting workshops to help amateurs create their own copper lamps, Make Your Own founder Poh Wenxiang went a step further and created an entire furniture collection with copper pipes. These include an industrial yet clean-cut clothes rail, a study desk and a bench. "I also integrated plants into some of the designs to liven up the raw materials that I've used," he explains.

[www.makeyourown.sg](http://www.makeyourown.sg) ▸

**Most Innovative**

△  
**POWER PLUG FOR THE ELDERLY**

At Nanyang Polytechnic's School of Design graduation show, Industrial Design student Tommy Cheong's nifty extension plug caught our eye. For his final year project, Tommy designed Power, which allows the elderly to switch a plug on and off easily by stepping on it, instead of needing to bend over and use their hands. Its large surface area that's backlit with an LED light also makes it easier to identify if the power is on.

<http://unit.nyp.edu.sg>



photo MAMBO UNLIMITED IDEAS

△  
**MAMBO UNLIMITED IDEAS**

Mambo Unlimited Ideas is a Portuguese company that designs and produces furniture, ceramics, accessories and lighting. If you're looking for a statement piece, you're likely find it here – whether it's wire cage lamps, wood inlay cabinets, quirky decor ornaments or intricate wall claddings! Its modern Portuguese designs are bold and full of personality, and can be further customised with a wide range of finishes.

[www.mambo-unlimitedideas.com](http://www.mambo-unlimitedideas.com)



**Most Stylish**

▽  
**CARLO**

The Bali-based Italian brand fuses artisanal craftsmanship with natural materials from Indonesia, such as coconut shells, mother of pearl and tree bark, to create refined, contemporary furniture. Each piece is handmade and finished impeccably to showcase the versatility and beauty of organic materials.

[www.carloshowroom.com](http://www.carloshowroom.com)



▽  
**AT HOME WITH MAKE ROOM**

Make Room's showcase at Singaplural's festival site really showed off the company's prowess in decorating and styling. With bold-coloured walls, rustic furniture, botanical art, Scandinavian-style accessories, and industrial-style furniture from Journey East, the team behind the store transformed the previously drab space into an inspiration-filled room!

**Make Room is located at #10-01 Tan Boon Liat Building, 315 Outram Road, tel: 9113-1274.**

▽  
**SECRETS SHOWCASE**

Local designer George Soo curated a special showcase of IFFS' most distinctive exhibitors at one of the fair's main entrances, setting up a grand welcome for visitors. Fantastical installations were created for the Secrets showcase, using each of the eight brands' outstanding designs, including multicoloured chairs from Woven+, and hand-woven rugs from Sharda.

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



photo KIAT (SYSTEM SOVEREIGN)

▽  
**HEATHERWICK STUDIO'S EXHIBITION**

British designer Thomas Heatherwick was in town to launch the New British Inventors: Inside Heatherwick Studios exhibition at the National Design Centre, where he charmed the crowd with his animated and humorous recollections of notable projects, such as the UK pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010 and the Learning Hub at Nanyang Technological University. "Rather than having a single mantra, the studio is always about finding solutions for clients," Thomas surmises.

[www.heatherwick.com](http://www.heatherwick.com)

▽  
**LUZERNE**

Luzerne, an internationally recognised local brand, is the hospitality industry's go-to source for tableware. With its new retail offering, a diverse range made of ceramic and stone, the contemporary tableware designs will fit into any stylish home, too. The Volupte series (pictured) designed by patissier Janice Wong, in collaboration with Swarovski, features crystals on plates and dessert platters.

[www.luzerne.com](http://www.luzerne.com)



photo LUZERNE



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Find out who the hot rising stars of Asian design are, only on our digital edition. Turn to page 16 for how to download.



*Most Delightful*

### TOKYO TRIBAL EXHIBITION

In collaboration with local design company Industry+, Japanese design studio Nendo presented a collection of peculiar furniture pieces which have simple forms and compact sizes suitable for contemporary, urban spaces. The designs incorporate a tribal twist with contrasting prints and ethnic materials. Bamboo and rattan “baskets” appear to meld into many of the pieces, adding storage space and a touch of the unexpected. [www.industryplus.com.sg](http://www.industryplus.com.sg) [www.nendo.jp](http://www.nendo.jp)

### LIAO DESIGN

“I want to design pieces that people can be creative with,” says Jia Hao Liao of his versatile designs, including the 1+1+1 chair which can be transformed into a coffee table, a chair or an armchair. Another flexible piece by the Paris-based, Singaporean designer is the Modu sofa (pictured, available at For The Common Goods), which has cushions and coffee-table modules that can be mixed to form various configurations.

[www.jiahaoliao.com](http://www.jiahaoliao.com)  
[www.forthecommongoods.com.sg](http://www.forthecommongoods.com.sg)



photo LIAO DESIGN



### MUSE DESIGN BONSAI CABINET

The Thai design workshop and manufacturer is inspired by Asian and European visual arts, and creates accent furniture, art, decor and lighting using natural materials. The limited-edition Bonsai cabinet (only 10 pieces!) stands out thanks to its exquisitely crafted details and finishing, and is derived from the idea of a tree growing into a reclaimed wood cabinet. The branches, found on the cabinet doors and in the interior, are made of bronze, while the cabinet itself is made of burnt oak wood.

[www.muse-th.com](http://www.muse-th.com)

### TIZUMUKA STUDIO

Former interior and furniture design lecturer Ivan Ho struck out on his own not too long ago, and has already been recognised with an honorable mention at the Red Dot Design Award in 2014 for his Yodeesa stool (pictured). Yodeesa stands for “one, two, three” in Hokkien, and its name is derived from its three components (seat, legs and knob), which can be disassembled without tools, making it easy to store or transport.

[www.tizumuka.tumblr.com](http://www.tizumuka.tumblr.com)



photo TIZUMUKA



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# WASH AWAY YOUR PROBLEMS

**Solve all your laundry woes with Brandt's  
new range of washing machines.**

With your busy schedule and long working hours, having a restful weekend should take priority over doing household chores. You need machines that will help you rather than create problems for you. Brandt's new range of front-loading washing machines get the job done while addressing common laundry issues! With a load capacity of up to 8kg, the washers are also perfect for small families.



BWF5712A, 7kg front-loading washing machine, spins at 1,200rpm.



BWF5714A, 7kg front-loading washing machine, spins at 1,400rpm.

**PROBLEM:**

**Clothes wear out quickly**

With a drum that spins at either 1,200 or 1,400 revolutions per minute (rpm), Brandt machines maximise their cleaning potential without damaging the fibres of your fabrics, extending the lifespan of your clothes. The drums also come with three omegas, blades equipped with 16 water jets that help remove dirt gently and effectively. Their unique wave shape helps give your clothes an even, thorough wash.

**PROBLEM:**

**Complicated controls**

Brandt washing machines are easy to use, featuring a simple curved display, large touch keys and a single knob, which points to all the programs you'll need. For ease of use, the doors open up to 180 degrees and the drum has a 32cm diameter, making it wide enough to reduce loading time!

**PROBLEM:**

**Energy wastage**

Using a new induction motor with a European Union energy label rating of A+++, Brandt machines save energy while spinning at only 52 decibels (the equivalent to the sound of a quiet office), giving you literal peace of mind while it's in use. The machines recognise three different load levels and dispense precise amounts of water to fit each load, as well as calculate the wash time needed. They also feature programs tailored to various fabrics, from everyday materials to baby clothes. For singles or smaller families, washing just two to three pieces of clothing is easy as well, thanks to Brandt's Flash 21 program. Standard spin cycles last for 45 minutes at 40 deg C, while Flash 21 sees your clothes washed in cold water in just 21 minutes.

BWF5812A, 8kg front-loading washing machine, spins at 1,200rpm.



BWF5814A 8kg front-loading washing machine, spins at 1,400rpm.

**Get \$100 off every purchase of a Brandt top- and front-loading washing machine! Valid from May 30 to July 27, 2015.**

Brandt's new range of front-loading washing machines are available at all major electrical stores.



# SHOP THE WORLD

One of the best things about being in Singapore is that you don't need a plane ticket to buy furniture and accessories designed and made in all corners of the globe. Contemporary Danish, Italian, French and Japanese designs are some of the most distinctive furnishing styles, and these are pieces you can use to indulge in your wanderlust for design.



Hay Mags sofa,  
\$5,290, from  
Grafunkt.





See the chic furniture selection from Singapore, only on our digital edition. Turn to page 16 for how to download.



1 Era rocking chair (high), \$3,015, from Danish Design.

2 Watch Out clock, \$199, from HomesToLife.

3 Reindeer skin throw, \$659, from HomesToLife.

4 House Doctor metal wire Simply basket, \$115, from Journey East.

5 House Doctor table lamp, \$999, from Journey East.

6 Bloomingville goatskin cushion, \$175, from Cuckoo.

7 Menu FUWL cage shelf, \$215, from Grafunkt.



## DENMARK

Some of the most revered names in furniture design are Danish, and the user-friendly and functional qualities of pieces designed by masters such as Arne Jacobsen and Hans Wegner still remain in designs today. While Danish homes tend to have pared-down palettes and unfussy aesthetics; with the country's renowned heritage in woodworking, it's the high-quality craftsmanship and exquisite finishes that speak volumes. ▶



**8** Extendable Milano table, \$2,195, from Boconcept.

**9** House Doctor Block rug, \$69, from Journey East.

**10** Semi brass pendant lamp, from \$581, from Danish Design.

**11** Bloomingville Mongolian lamb fur cushion, \$190, from Cuckoo.

**12** Era rocking chair (low), \$2,509, from Danish Design.





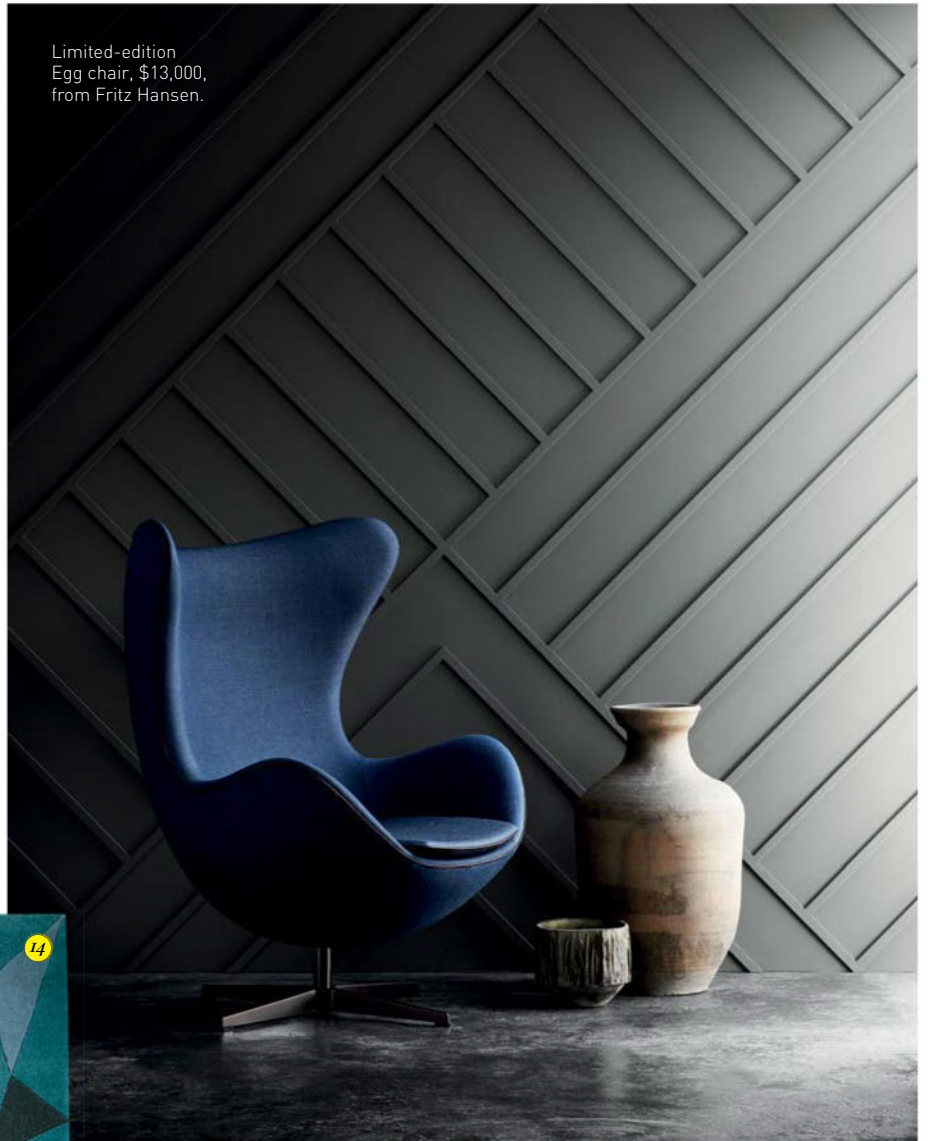
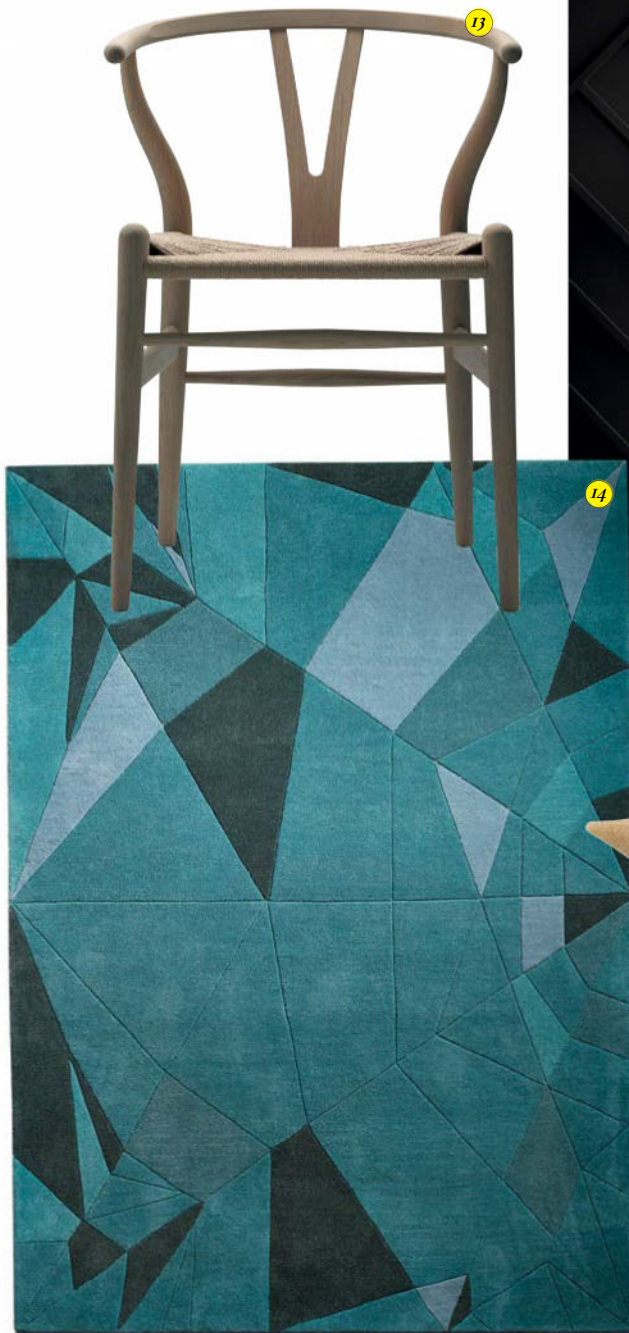
**13** Carl Hansen & Son CH24 Wishbone chair, from \$1,415, from Space.

**14** Penguin rug, \$1,345.95, from Boconcept.

**15** Shorebirds, \$160 for a set of three, from Danish Design.

**16** Copenhagen retro lounge chair, \$755, from Teak & Mahogany. ▶

Limited-edition Egg chair, \$13,000, from Fritz Hansen.



Flexform Magi daybed, \$13,155, from Space.



## ITALY

You can always recognise an Italian influence in a furniture piece from its fluid, almost sexy lines, and streamlined profile. Contemporary Italian designs have pushed the limits of traditional craftsmanship in natural materials, such as marble and leather, to the very edge. Whether beautifully sleek or luxuriously flashy, Italian pieces never fail to make a statement. ▶





**17** Maxalto Alcor sideboard, from \$14,690, from Space.

**18** Campo Anastasia lounge suite, price on request, from Star Living.

**19** Albero bookcase, price on request, from Poltrona Frau.

**20** Slamp Supermorgana lamp, \$1,075, from The Design Store by Lifestorey.

**21** Frato Oliva floor lamp, \$3,200, from Marquis Studio.

**22** Saporini Capri leather sofa, \$3,899, from Harvey Norman.

**23** Magis Proust armchair, \$1,370, from Xtra.

**24** Karpenter leather armchair, \$1,200, from Mountain Teak.

**25** Moroso Take A Line For A Walk armchair, \$11,079, from Xtra.

**26** Oliver B Montana solid walnut dining table, \$5,899, from Harvey Norman.





## JAPAN

If you're wondering why Japanese interiors always seem to appear incredibly calming, it's because their furniture design has its roots in basic function. The well thought-out and expertly crafted pieces are in line with the philosophy of Scandinavian design, too. But physical and cultural differences have made Japanese furniture proportions more compact and closer to the ground. Traditionally, they show a preference for darker wood, such as oak and walnut, as well as darker fabrics. And more uniquely, Japanese pieces can be rather whimsical, too! 🇯🇵



Nissin From Takayama Otas table and chair, from \$900 each, from Atomi.



**27** Sala TV board  
182, \$1,452, from  
Hommage Lifestyle.

**28** Orbit sofa, from  
\$3,900, from Atomi.

**29** U-La Chasen  
hanger, \$443,  
from Ki-mono.

**30** Sala sofa 140,  
\$1,669, from  
Hommage Lifestyle.

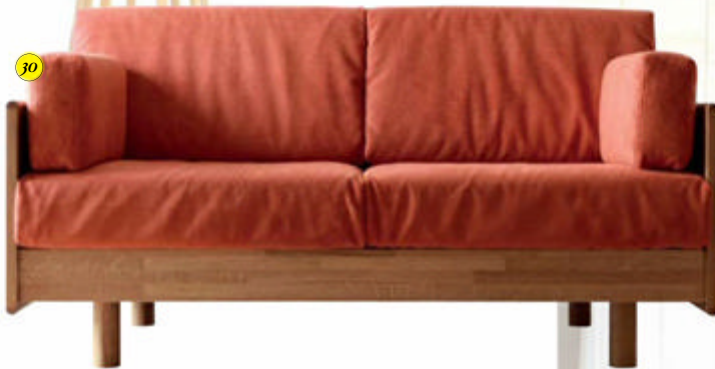
**31** Y-hope cabinet  
133, \$4,348, from  
Hommage Lifestyle.

**32** Vitra Butterfly  
stool designed by  
Sori Yanagi, from  
\$945, from Space.

**33** Emo sofa, \$909,  
from Ki-mono.

**34** FYN dining  
table, \$4,062;  
chair, \$1,081;  
and chair with  
armrest, \$1,309,  
from Ki-mono.

**35** High-back  
reclining one-  
seater sofa, \$469;  
and footstool,  
\$159, from Muji.





## FRANCE

Contemporary French designs have come a long way from the style's more opulent past, and are now known for their sophisticated charm, which is always marked with a tinge of glamour, and a sharp fashion-forward use of colour. While these pieces range from dreamy to dramatic, they're also understatedly stylish. The trick is in putting them all together effortlessly. ▶



**36** B&B Italia Seven table by Jean Marie Massaud, from \$12,585, from Space.



**37** Ligne Roset Toa armchair, \$5,680, from Grafunkt.

**38** Numero 74 Kiss cushion, \$65, from Cuckoo.



**39** Flos Chapeau lamp by Philippe Starck, \$800, from Space.

**40** Ligne Roset Everywhere TV console, \$7,790, from Grafunkt.

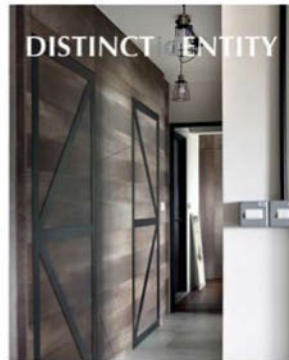
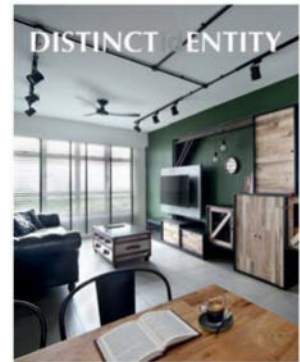
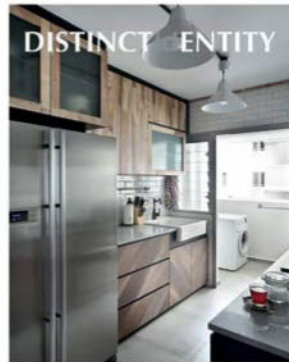
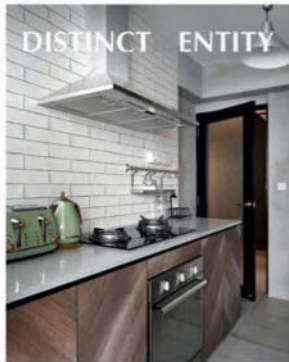




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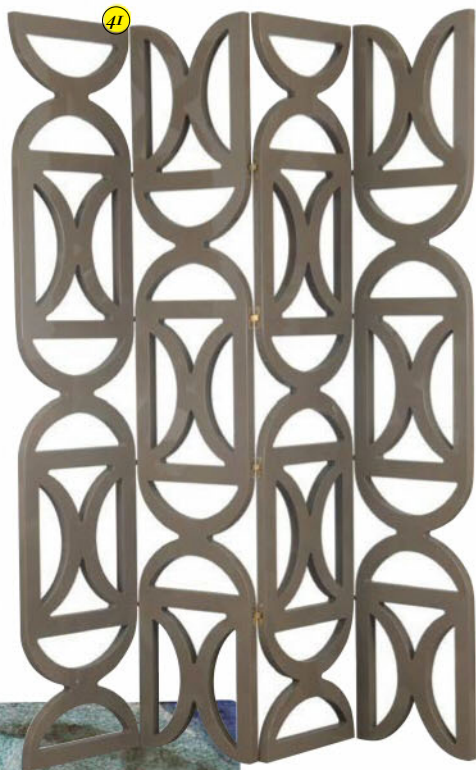
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**41** Hamilton Conte Dinamarca screen, \$11,400, from Marquis QSquare.



**42** Fauteuil Baby Mayflower chair, price on request, from Roche Bobois.



**43** Coussins & Tapis, Tapis Sally rug, price on request, from Roche Bobois.

**44** Fauteuil Baby Mayflower chair, price on request, from Roche Bobois.

**45** Marie Claire Milano sofa, \$2,399, from Harvey Norman.







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UNDER  
\$100

# SEE THE LIGHT

None of the 35 lamps here cost more than \$400. From tabletop lamps to pendants, this is your ultimate guide to affordable lamps for the home!

1



2



3



4



5





UNDER  
\$200



1 Light Hang Cage pendant lamp, \$41.73, from Comfort Design.  
2 Amtevik lamp shades, \$19.90 to \$29.90, from Ikea. 3 Lite Linen Shade table lamp, \$69.95, from Crate & Barrel. 4 Bloomingville white ceramic geometric table lamp, \$95, from Stylodeco. 5 Solvinden LED solar-powered floor lamp, \$19.90, from Ikea. 6 Damen pendant lamp, \$99.95, from Crate & Barrel. 7 Muuto E27 pendant lamp, \$39, from The Design Store by Lifestorey. 8 MLM 8802 Triangle wooden pendant lamp (small), \$99.50, from Mondli Lifestyle.



1 MLM 8825-5H hanging lamp, \$199.50, from Mondli Lifestyle.  
2 HK Living Lab pendant lamp in pool green, \$159, from Make Room. 3 Carpenter table lamp, \$139.95, from CB2. ↗





4



7



8



9



5



6



10

4 Maggie pendant lamp, \$119, from Galanga Living. 5 Rex desk lamp, \$199.95, from Crate & Barrel. 6 Kartell Take table lamp, \$165, from Space. 7 Frandsen Ball pendant lamp (big), \$165, from Grafunkt. 8 Candlestick pendant lamp, \$119.96, from CB2. 9 Vintage pendant lamp, \$180, from Lush. 10 Aina table lamp, \$169, from Castlery.



UNDER  
\$300



2



3



4



5



1 It's About Romi New York table lamp, \$300, from The Design Store by Lifestorey. 2 Frandsen Organic pendant lamp, \$290, from Grafunkt. 3 Light Years Bulb Fiction pendant lamp, \$275, from W. Atelier. 4 House Doctor Kubix table lamp, \$245, from Stylodeco. 5 Vaughan Designs Victorian Candlestick table lamp in cornflower, \$275, from E&A Interiors. [▶](#)



7

UNDER  
\$400



1



6

6 District Eight Design Gooseneck table lamp, \$290, from Journey East. 7 Pendant lamp, \$210, from Kanarien. 8 Objekto Eclipse lamp, \$248, from Stylo deco.



8





1 Menu GM15 pendant lamp in moss green, \$332, from Grafunkt. 2 Light Years Volume table lamp, \$370, from W. Atelier. 3 House Doctor Cube pendant lamp, \$310, from Journey East. 4 House Doctor Circle pendant lamp, \$310, from Journey East. 5 House Doctor Ellipse pendant lamp, \$310, from Journey East. 6 Vaughan Designs Chablais Vase table lamp, \$375, from E&A Interiors. ●



Look TV console, \$455 (U.P. \$989), from V. Hive.

Match TV unit, \$299 (U.P. \$475), from V. Hive.



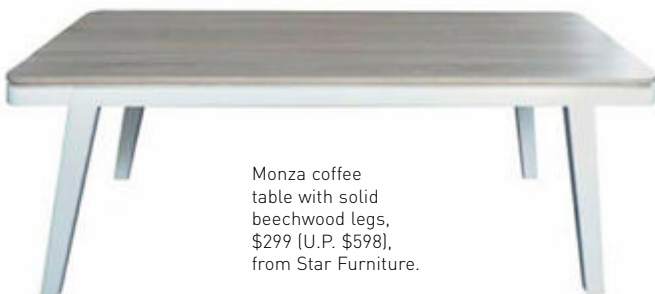
# WOOD WORKS

Visit the home furnishing stores at IMM for a variety of wood furniture pieces.

With the help of wood, you can change the atmosphere and mood of your home. Available in a wide variety of hues, textures and grains, pieces made of this natural material are able to create any look. See how various types of wood furniture can conjure up completely different decor schemes.

## LIGHT WOOD FURNITURE

Light wood furniture pieces, such as those made of pine, are commonly associated with northern European countries and the Scandinavian decor style. The feel is light and bright, so use them in a small space to help enhance the spaciousness of the home.



Monza coffee table with solid beechwood legs, \$299 (U.P. \$598), from Star Furniture.



Barley-S dining table with solid beechwood legs, \$499 (U.P. \$998), from Star Furniture.



## DARK TO MID-TONE WOOD FURNITURE

Close to the natural hue of walnut, mahogany, and Asian teak, dark to mid-tone wood furniture pieces can easily create either a more tropical, traditional or vintage feel.

RAF table, \$1,490, from Jottergoods. Astro coffee table, \$450 (U.P. \$900), from Mondri Lifestyle Gallery.



Bilbo dining set (1+4), \$599 (U.P. \$1,812), from Mondri Lifestyle Gallery.



Don't be afraid to mix and match different styles of wood furniture. To keep them from looking messy, make sure the pieces have a common factor. For example, pair an old vintage dining table with modern dining chairs that are of a similar wood tone.

## PAINTED WOOD FURNITURE

Bright colours can help to liven up the mood of a room. However, they might come across as tacky or hard on plastic or metal furniture. For a softer and cheerful look, opt for painted wood pieces – which are also perfect for children's rooms.

Try to keep wood furniture out of direct sunlight. Ultraviolet rays can cause your wood pieces to discolour and crack.



Button chest of five drawers with solid ash legs, \$599 (U.P. \$1,198), and Button TV sideboard with solid ash legs, \$599 (U.P. \$1,198), both from Star Furniture.

Take your pick of wood furniture from a large range of styles available at IMM. As a one-stop mall with over 50 home furnishing stores, as well as Singapore's largest outlet mall, there is something to suit every decor scheme.

### Featured stores

- Mondri Lifestyle Gallery and Jottergoods, #03-25
- Star Furniture, #03-20
- V. Hive, #03-27


Visit IMM at 2 Jurong East Street 21, (near Jurong East MRT Station), [www.imm.sg](http://www.imm.sg)

Free shuttle bus service daily from 10.30am to 10.30pm • Pick up at JCube and Westgate



The rich earthy hues of the cocoa-coloured PMP armchairs and tall Paunchy vase give the sunlit living area a warm and welcoming feel. Bright accents in the form of whimsical blue apple artworks and cheerfully hued cushions animate the room.





# A PLACE IN PARIS

Views of the famed city surround this confidently chic home, which is awash with bespoke pieces, plush furnishings and a decided dose of the designer's innate French flair.





The elegant dining area takes full advantage of the view of the Seine, a design theme that was crucial to Stephanie's design. Marble-powdered panelling separates the space from the semi-open kitchen.







**LEFT**  
A suite of handle-less Siematic kitchen cupboards and an accompanying island unit in dusky-grey glossy plywood give the kitchen an industrial chic vibe. A pair of golden Bull & Stein decorative apples is a glamorous touch to the dark marble countertop.

**FAR LEFT**  
The dining table, with its sleek varnished oak top and large white stone legs, was custom-made by Stephanie to suit the space and paired with fabric Dan-Form chairs. An Eichholtz metal bench provides lounging space nearby.

Situated in the heart of Paris near Avenue Montaigne, this stunning apartment came with enviable views of the river Seine and the Eiffel Tower, which designer Stephanie Coutas embraced to maximum effect in a blend of trendy Parisian style and practical panache.

As it was not the Spanish owners' main home but their pied a terre in Paris, it was important that the apartment was not only cosy, but also befitting of a glamorous holiday home. Thankfully, "they feel like they're living in a hotel on Avenue Georges V," says Stephanie with pride.

Framing the views of Paris' iconic sights, the living room is subtly divided into a larger space for lounging and an armchair area for resting one's feet after a spot of shopping on Avenue Montaigne. The interplay of warm colours and cool tones channel easy intimacy amid cool modernity, that is emblematic of Stephanie's distinct style.

The large entrance hall – which was once dark and uninviting – was transformed into a sumptuous entry area complete with sleek mirrors and luxe leather panelling, while the open kitchen and adjoining dining space were carefully dressed in a continuation of the home's crisply elegant allure. A perfect picture of Parisian flair infused with modern-day functionality. ▶

**WHERE TO GO**

1001 Maisons by Stephanie Coutas,  
[www.stephaniecoutas.com](http://www.stephaniecoutas.com)



ABOVE  
A wide door frame announces entry into the living area, which faces more views of the Seine. In winter, the family sits back and enjoys the warmth from the modern fireplace. The wall is illuminated with a Rosy mirror, designed by Doriana and Massimiliano Fuksas for Fiam Italia, that features a unique 3-D curved frame.

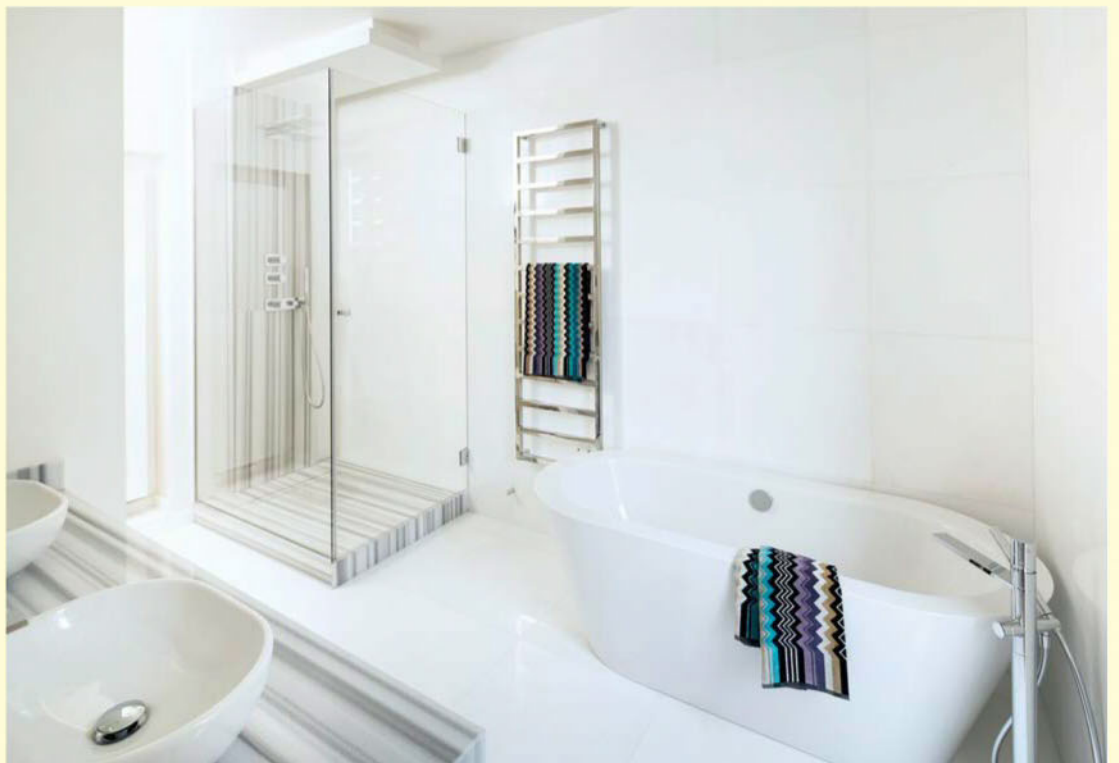




**ABOVE RIGHT**  
The bedroom showcases a symphony of perfectly matched colours. A geometric-style beige wall panel designed by Christophe Fey forms a quiet backdrop to the blend of greys, golds and blacks in the artwork by Bruno Collin and the luxe bedding. A fluffy Pöls Potten stool adds a touch of whimsy.



**RIGHT**  
The striking white-and-brown striped marble countertop, shower wall and floor take centre stage in this bathroom, which has been deliberately left bare. A shiny towel radiator sits within easy reach of both the shower stall and bathtub. ●









# A CURIOUS COMBINATION

Fascinating objects from all over the globe enhance every corner of this beautiful house, fusing its colonial charm with its occupant's engaging personality.

=====

## W H O

A bachelor  
in his 40s

=====

## H O M E

Two-storey black-and-  
white colonial terrace  
house in the east

=====

## S I Z E

1,500sqf

**LEFT**  
To take full advantage of the abundance of light this home receives, it was essential that the original frosted glass windows were changed to clear ones. The knitted doll of fashion designer John Galliano (on the shelf) was bought in Bali. ▶



Working in the tourism industry definitely has its perks, and Carsten Lima is enjoying them. Leaving his native Denmark 26 years ago, he has lived all over the world. But home now is Singapore, where the 45-year-old Asia-Pacific director at Design Hotels has been based since 2013.

Previously living in a rented condominium unit, Carsten yearned for a change. And his new address couldn't be more different – he now rents a black-and-white colonial terrace house situated in an idyllic residential neighbourhood that feels like a world away from the city.

The home's almost all-white interior is filled with unique finds that come from all over the globe, and whether it's a collection of video tapes stashed in an old sink cabinet that's repurposed as a side table, rolls of salvaged school charts from Germany or a classic shoe-polish stand from Turkey, the good-natured Dane has a story to tell about every one of them!







**LEFT**  
The dining room, featuring a table and chairs from Habitat, is bright and airy, due to the copious amount of sunlight reflecting off its white walls and floor.

**(OPPOSITE) TOP**  
"I've always embraced travel, culture and languages," says Carsten, who works for the design-focused hospitality service, Design Hotels.

**BELOW**  
An arabesque screen, part of the home's original design, zones the ground-floor space while still allowing visual connectivity between the entranceway and the living room.

### **What drew you to this neighbourhood?**

I heard about Katong from a colleague who lives in the east, and she was always raving about the lifestyle here. Then, Nathan (Yong, co-founder of Grafunkt) introduced me to this neighbourhood, and I really liked its eclecticism and multiculturalism. I also wanted to get away from the business district and the inner city; the overall tranquillity and atmosphere here suits me well. People seem to be more at ease with each other here.

### **Why this particular house?**

I like the natural lighting in here – it's phenomenal. But first, I had to change the frosted glass in the windows to clear glass. Also, I like the width of the house; I can actually swirl around! There's nothing cramped about it.

In addition, the various spaces within the house are framed very well from one space to another. White and black are the best colours to play with, too! ▶







LEFT  
Some of Carsten's favourite books, ornaments and souvenirs are placed on a shelf from Grafunkt, which was co-founded by his neighbour, Nathan Yong. The coffee tables are also from the same shop, as are a few other pieces in the house.

**Where did you get your furnishings and decor?**

I have been collecting many different objects and curiosities from all over the world since I left Denmark in 1989. I take all of them with me when I move across borders. Some are from a long time ago and others are more recent. As I've always worked in tourism, I've lived in many places, primarily London, Paris and Barcelona – but also Turkey, Tunisia, Greece and Malaysia.

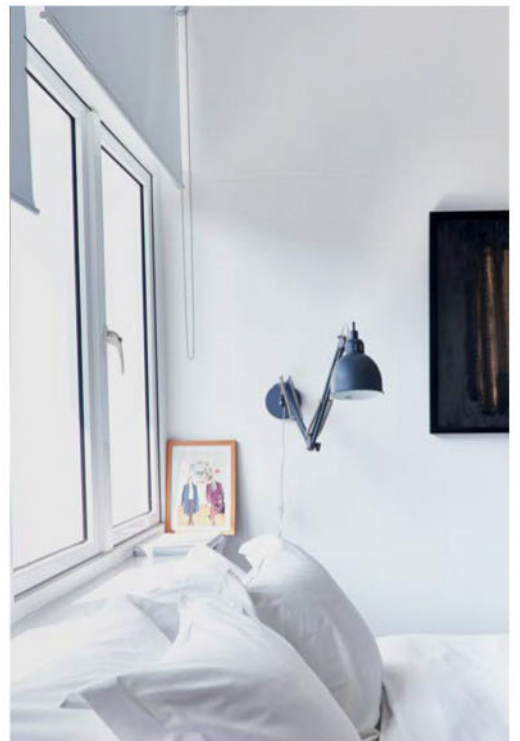
**How do you display your collection in the different spaces you've lived in?**

I think my pieces complement each other in completely different ways, as long as I play around with them to achieve different effects. When my friends visit, they always say: "This looks so much better here than before!"

**Describe how your home has been decorated.**

It's a curious mismatch of sentimental objects. I like the idea of my house being looked at as a cabinet of curiosities. And since I decided not to have curtains, I get a lot of curious passers-by looking in!

As these things are from different periods of my life and from various countries, it makes my home look like a showroom of my life. It looks a bit random, but it works. ▶





**You seem to really like old things.**

Yes, and I take very good care of my things, because preservation is extremely important to me. I think there's a certain value to old things. While I don't have the eagerness to find out the complete history of an object, knowing that there's a story behind it is interesting to me.

Sometimes, when my things break in transit and I can't keep them anymore, it's really sad and it takes a little while to get over them.

**Tell me about some of your pieces.**

I bought this pair of wooden armchairs (in the living room) at Portobello Market in London in the 1990s. They're still in their original condition. I thought about reupholstering them, but then they would lose their vintage feel. The wooden drawer cabinet (in a bedroom on the second floor) that belonged to my grandmother is broken, but my life is in there. In it are books from university, agendas I keep, my first camera, some hats, travel essentials, old-fashioned sunglasses and more. The cart (in the dining room) is from Bangkok and was used by street peddlers and, now, I use it as a display cabinet for items that mark milestones in my life.

**Has seeing so many well-designed hotels all over the world influenced your own decorating style?**

I get inspired, but it hasn't influenced me as such. I meet many people who dictate trends, such as hotel owners, architects and designers, so I do pick things up from them. But it's like choosing ingredients to make your own pizza – I still have my own sense of style, and definitely a Danish touch.



**So what makes a place a home, as compared to a hotel?**

A hotel room has to be comfortable and functional, but a home can be a lot more "difficult" to live in. You pay for service at a hotel, but I don't have to service anybody here! A home should be carefree. People often ask if they should take off their shoes before entering, but I let them decide. I want people to be able to shuffle things around, to be casual and relaxed. ●

LEFT & OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT  
Carsten's bedroom is quiet, serene and understatedly stylish with just the basic essentials, and old and new furniture.

OPPOSITE, FROM FAR LEFT  
A street peddler's cart from Bangkok sits in a corner of the dining room, and functions as a display cabinet for objects significant in Carsten's life, including a pair of dancing shoes from his years growing up in Denmark.

Along the upstairs hallway are a wall-hung kimono, a rosary from a gothic market in Barcelona and, on the floor, a vintage Turkish shoe-polish kit.

A framed botanical painting from Taylor B is among the many art and decor objects in the home, which reflect the homeowner's eclectic taste in design.

# BUILT ON TRUST

The difference is in the details. This rustic-industrial home stands out from the crowd thanks to its daring designer.

---

## WHO

A young graphic-designer couple

---

## HOME

Four-room HDB flat in Punggol

---

## SIZE

990sqf

RIGHT  
The couple, both graphic designers, have many quirky accessories in their home, including the penny-farthing in their study. ▶









A white brick feature wall, concrete screed flooring, industrial-style track lights, barn doors and a kitchen that looks almost classic in style. These elements from various decor styles were not what Jeri Tan and Bernard Wong initially envisioned their cosy four-room HDB flat to be filled with.

But they are more than happy with the final result. The renovation started with a simple request for a white brick wall and an industrial look, but that vision was tweaked in the hands of Mei Teh from Story Of Us.

Mei wanted to do things differently, and deconstructed the brick wall to give it an uneven look. The “broken” wall appears more eye-catching now. The industrial look they wanted was also further enhanced by customising the dining table with a

laminated surface that sports a rough, unfinished look. The table surface was also raised so it looks more like a casual work table than a formal dining table.

But the biggest changes made by Mei can be seen in the kitchen. Jeri and Bernard wanted a simple white and wood look for the narrow space, but the designer encouraged them to think out of the box and turn the whole open-concept kitchen into a decorative feature.

“I was initially quite taken aback by her idea of a London theme for the kitchen,” laughs Jeri. “But my husband said that it was nice and bright, and that playing it safe would be very boring, so we went ahead with it!” To add a personal touch, Bernard designed and printed his own signage, similar to those seen in London Underground stations. ▶





The colourful London-inspired kitchen was used to brighten the raw, industrial look of the home.

**ABOVE, LEFT**  
The aviation phone might appear to be a decorative prop, but it's actually a functioning piece that goes perfectly with the decor of the home!

**ABOVE**  
Inspired by the colours of the Union Jack, the kitchen cabinets were painted red, white and blue, and the display cabinets were made to look like the doors of London's telephone booths.

**OPPOSITE**  
Jeri and Bernard enjoy cycling around Punggol and exploring the estate. So, their bicycles take centre stage on the feature wall. They are hung on DIY bicycle racks that Bernard created after spotting something similar online.



LEFT  
To complement the industrial look of the home, the dining table was built to look like a workshop table, and is paired with bar stools instead of dining chairs. ▶





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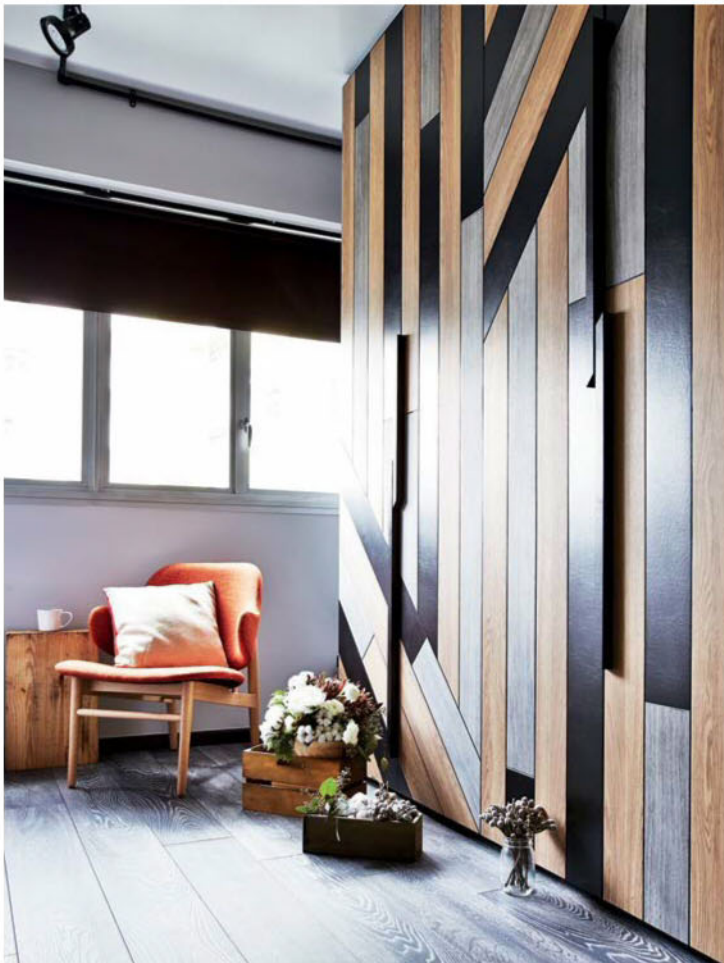
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photo STORY OF US



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**T O P**  
The bedroom features a leaning shelf from Journey East, and a chandelier made out of mason jars by an artist from Thailand.

**L E F T**  
The other bedroom was turned into a walk-in wardrobe that has doors in a wood plank-lookalike design created with laminates.

The couple also decided to expand their living room by taking down the walls of their spare bedroom, and creating a large open-concept work area with space for a built-in storage cabinet. Mei designed cabinetry inspired by barn doors, to match the raw industrial look of the abode.

Pointing out that renovation was completed without a hitch in under two months and for \$45,000, Jeri credits the smooth process to Mei, who was a former classmate of hers: "She's a very good friend, so we trusted her plans for the home!". ●

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# SIMPLE ROMANCE

A shabby-chic aesthetic leads the mishmash of styles present in this home, which comes across as delightfully charming rather than disconnected.

---

## WHO

A couple and their  
twin toddlers

---

## HOME

Two-bedroom  
condominium unit at  
Tanamera Crest

---

## SIZE

1,200sqf





Despite its pale palette of white walls and light wood floors, this two-bedroom residence doesn't look at all spartan. Homeowner Lena Tambunan, who lives here with her husband and two children, says that she always aims for simplicity in design.

What gives this apartment a homey appeal is a melange of shabby chic, vintage- and cottage-style furnishings, which are juxtaposed with modern elements and clean lines. "There's a romance to it," she says of the worn-in look, illustrated by the distressed wood dining table and statement mirror in the dining area. ▶

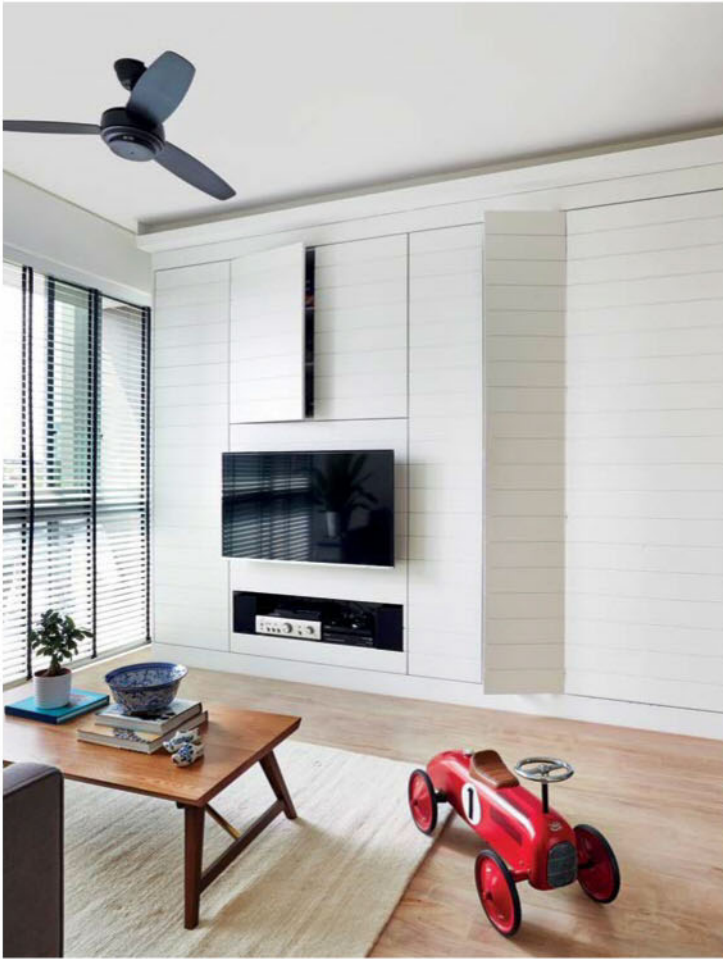


**TOP**  
One of the most prominent items in Lena's home is a vintage-style two-wheeler, which her bicycle-obsessed husband built for her two years ago.

**RIGHT**  
The shabby-chic design of the dining table and benches brings a casual, laid-back vibe into the home.

**OPPOSITE**  
Before stepping into the home proper, guests are greeted by Peranakan-inspired floor tiles in the foyer.





Lena, who designed the place herself, bought most of the furniture abroad while shopping for her online homeware boutique, The Vintage Parlour. As she keeps her shop's inventory at home, she needed extra storage space. The solution came in the form of a full-height storage cabinet-cum-TV console, built by her contractor from Dreamvision.

Another bespoke furniture piece that her contractor created was the children's wooden loft bed – the highlight of the home – inspired by a tree house from an Enid Blyton book.

"Why buy a bed from Ikea when you can build a tree house?" exclaims Lena, gushing over the rustic wonderland. ▶







**ABOVE**  
Lena went with a creamy tone for one of the living room walls to make the interiors seem less "flat".

**(OPPOSITE) TOP**  
Despite its large size, the built-in storage cabinet has a neat profile and a clean white finish that creates the illusion of more space.

**BOTTOM, LEFT**  
A refreshing touch of greenery imbues the muted living room with life and colour.

**BOTTOM, RIGHT**  
Lena tossed the idea of conventional kitchen cabinets and designed one that's fitted with sliding doors and a chalkboard to scribble grocery lists on.







**LEFT**  
The matrimonial bed's French-inspired frame was custom-made at a family-owned furniture factory in Indonesia.

**BELOW, LEFT**  
A single branch (suspended from fish string hung from plastic wall hooks) hangs above Lena's vanity table, creating a picturesque scene with a minimalist sensibility.

**BELOW, RIGHT**  
Quirky accessories such as animal doorknobs are a simple way to personalise a home. Bought in Milan by Lena from Zara Home, the moose head embellishes the door to the master bathroom.

**OPPOSITE**  
Accessible only through the master bedroom's walk-in wardrobe, the master bathroom features a striking, vintage-inspired mirror from The Vintage Parlour that stands out against the white wall.



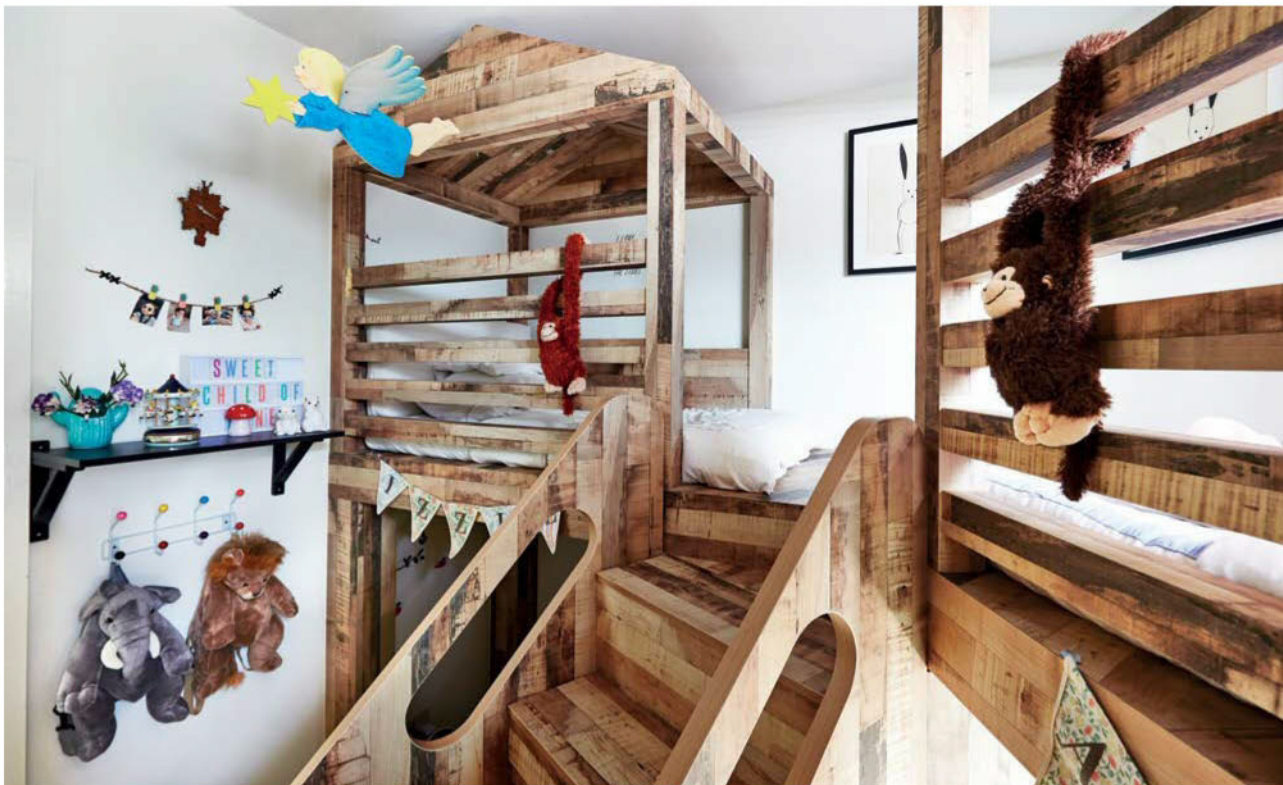
However, what's closest to her heart is her ornate eight-year-old matrimonial bed. "We've had it from the day we got married," Lena explains.

Besides structural changes, such as erecting false walls to seal off the kitchen and segregating the master bedroom to create a walk-in wardrobe, the \$70,000 renovation resulted in a more feminine feel for the home. While most men wouldn't go with this particular look, Lena's husband – being the romantic gentleman he is – simply "lets her do whatever she likes", she says, smiling. ▶

**WHERE TO GO**  
[www.thevintageparlour.co](http://www.thevintageparlour.co)  
(for home-decor items and accessories)

**RIGHT**  
Cosy, charming  
and coveted by all  
kids (and some  
adults), the loft bed  
also doubles as  
a playhouse.

**BELOW**  
The homeowner's  
contractor built  
this massive teak  
"tree house" loft  
bed, complete  
with stairs and  
pitched roofs, from  
scratch. Fitted  
with hidden  
storage  
compartments,  
toys and other  
knick-knacks  
can be stored  
in its steps. ●







## Wash up or wind down.

The bathroom is one of the most private, yet most public, rooms of the home. It takes care of lots of needs, activities and people in only a few square metres. The right choices in bathroom furnishings can instantly rejuvenate even the tiniest of spaces, making starting and ending the day more joyful for everyone.



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**STUGVIK basket with suction cup \$15.90**  
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**LOSJÖN hanger \$9.90/5pcs**  
PET plastic. Assorted colours.



**STORJÖRM mirror with integrated lighting \$195**  
Glass, powder-coated steel, stainless steel, ABS plastic and acrylic plastic.  
W80, H60cm. White.



**GRUNDTAL towel holder with 4 bars \$24.90**  
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W46, H25cm.  
Stainless steel.









# OPEN BUT COSY

The unfussy design of this apartment, enhanced with natural materials, allows the sophisticated taste of its homeowners to speak for itself.

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## WHO

A mother-daughter duo, and the latter's partner

---

## HOME

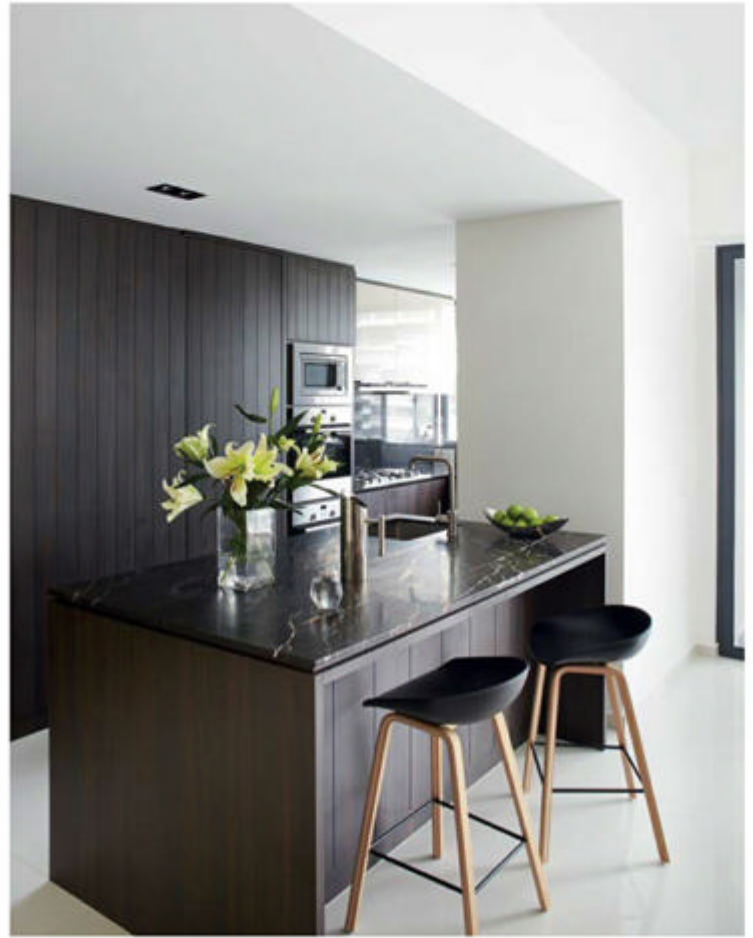
A four-bedroom apartment at The Interlace

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## SIZE

2,400sqf

**LEFT**  
With storage space concealed, the common area remains streamlined. The family then styled it with sculptural accessories, and flowers by Christopher Teo of Floral Obsession at Scotts Square. ▶



This dwelling at The Interlace is an elegant home with a sweeping view of its lush surroundings and the sea beyond.

While it has an ideal design – every room has a rectilinear layout and is accompanied by a full-length balcony – Cherie Tan and her mother, Patsy, were worried about not having enough storage space as they were downsizing from a landed property.

So while storage space and a good use of space were imperative to the three-month renovation, the family also paid close attention to making the space truly theirs by dressing it up with their collection of accessories.

Here's how Cherie reworked the space with the help of an interior-designer friend.

**How did you conceptualise this home?**

I must give full credit to my close friend, Vin Leong, who spent a great deal of time and was patient in helping me define and realise the final design concept of our home – chic, clean and intimate.

I wanted it that way because our unit has a generous view of the sea, so it's important for the design to showcase that with clean lines and open spaces.

**How was the layout restructured?**

We found the original hemmed-in kitchen space too restrictive. So we designed an open-concept kitchen, and that opened up an expansive perspective, which is evident when you walk through the front door. We also merged two rooms to form a bigger space, so





**LEFT**  
Cherie, her mother Patsy, and Roy in front of a photograph of the Great Ocean Road shot by Roy, who's a photographer.

**(OPPOSITE) LEFT**  
A section of the wall dividing the living room and TV room (a former bedroom) was replaced with a sliding door to allow Patsy easy access to the TV room and her bedroom.

**RIGHT**  
The originally enclosed kitchen was opened up, and can now fit an elegant island with a Brownstini marble counter. This grand island is also where the family often gathers to have breakfast or entertain guests.

Nature is a recurring theme in this home, and natural materials such as the living room's travertine wall take centre stage.

my partner, Roy, and I could have a study desk and full-height wardrobe space in our bedroom.

**With an open kitchen, how do you ensure that cooking fumes don't linger in the living area?**

We have a stove in the outdoor yard for heavy cooking. When we cook indoors, we keep the balcony's windows open, and the smell clears quite quickly.

**Tell us about the other rooms.**

My mum's room was mostly left untouched. As she prefers not to have a TV set in her bedroom, we converted the adjacent bedroom into a TV room. Both rooms are her personal spaces, so we kept the colour palette to her favourite neutral tones. ▶

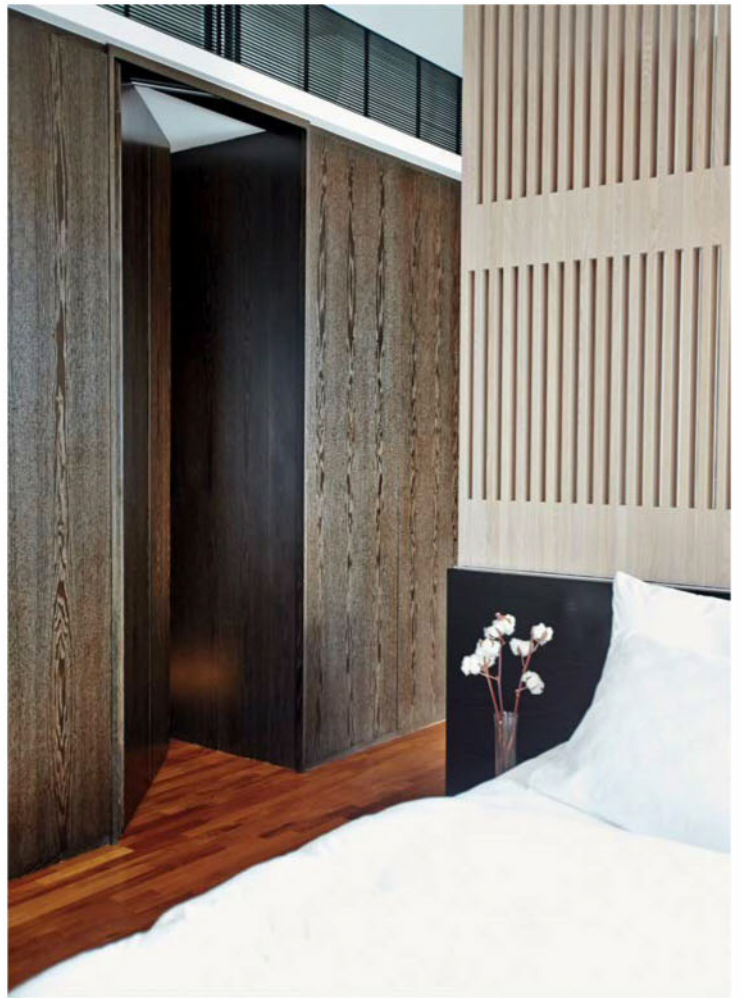
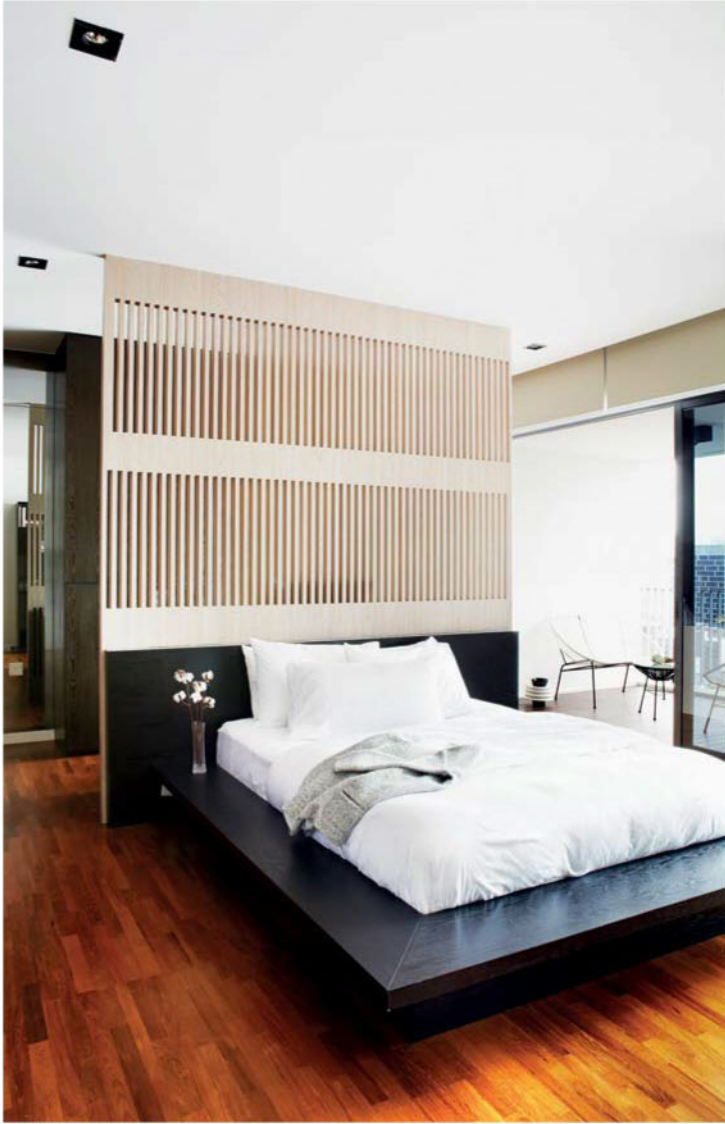








LEFT  
Much of the family's refined taste is reflected in their choice of furniture pieces, which include designs from Space, Dream Interiors and Boconcept. ▶







ABOVE  
Patsy's room houses her dearest collection of items, including vintage chairs in the balcony and an artwork by Nicolas Dorigny, a famous French painter and engraver.

[OPPOSITE] TOP LEFT & RIGHT  
Cherie and Roy's room features a customised bed frame with extended sides that serve as side tables. Concealed behind the semi-private divider are a utilitarian study desk and a full-height wardrobe.

BOTTOM LEFT & RIGHT  
The bathroom, which is hidden behind a seamless push-open panel, is designed to allow both of them to get ready at the same time in the morning.

**What did you appreciate the most from Vin's input as a designer?**

He helped us hide as much as possible with built-in storage and seamless doors. He also lowered the ceiling above the dining area to conceal the air-conditioning. With the clever use of wall cladding and panelling, he was able to preserve the home's clean, straight lines.

**How did you go about decorating the space?**

I love incorporating the beauty of natural materials to help bring warmth, texture and comfort to the home.

So we chose materials like wood, travertine and marble,

for the home, and styled it with accessories including textured fabric, ceramics, leather, wood, corals and stone.

I also love scented candles for ambience, so the apartment has an assortment of candles scattered around. My favourites are from Cire Trudon and Dyptique.

**Which is your favourite part of the home?**

Definitely the kitchen island, as it's where we often start the day, having breakfast. This is also where Mum, Roy, and I often cook and host our guests. That's why even though the footprint of the kitchen is small, it had to be fully functional. ●



**YOUR RENO & DECOR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

We answer your renovation and decorating questions with help from industry experts. E-mail questions to [maghomedecor@sph.com.sg](mailto:maghomedecor@sph.com.sg).

**I love the look of marble bathrooms in hotels, but how can I maintain a marble bathroom if the material is porous?**

We love the luxury of marble bathrooms, too, but marble is a porous stone and absorbs stains easily. If used in the wet area of a bathroom, soap, shampoo and other impurities can accumulate on the surface and make it even more slippery.

“Most marble used in hotel bathrooms are treated with impregnators, but they will still have a certain lifespan. Impregnation only delays the effect of staining, but not make the marble stain-proof,” says Terry Tan of tile company Rice.

This means that any liquid left on the marble surface for more than an hour would still stain it. Bacteria might also start to build

up beneath the stone surface.

Maintain marble surfaces by cleaning off any soap residue and wiping wet spots after a shower. A well-ventilated area will ensure that the marble surfaces dry quickly as well. If there is no window in your bathroom, you can install a mechanical ventilator.

To enjoy a marble look without the required maintenance, Terry suggests using quality porcelain stoneware tiles that use digital inkjet technology to make it resemble the natural material.

He adds: “Some leading Italian tile manufacturers even offer antibacterial tiles by partnering with Microban.” Microban is a global firm specialising in antibacterial technology. Such tiles might even be cheaper than using marble, too, says Terry.

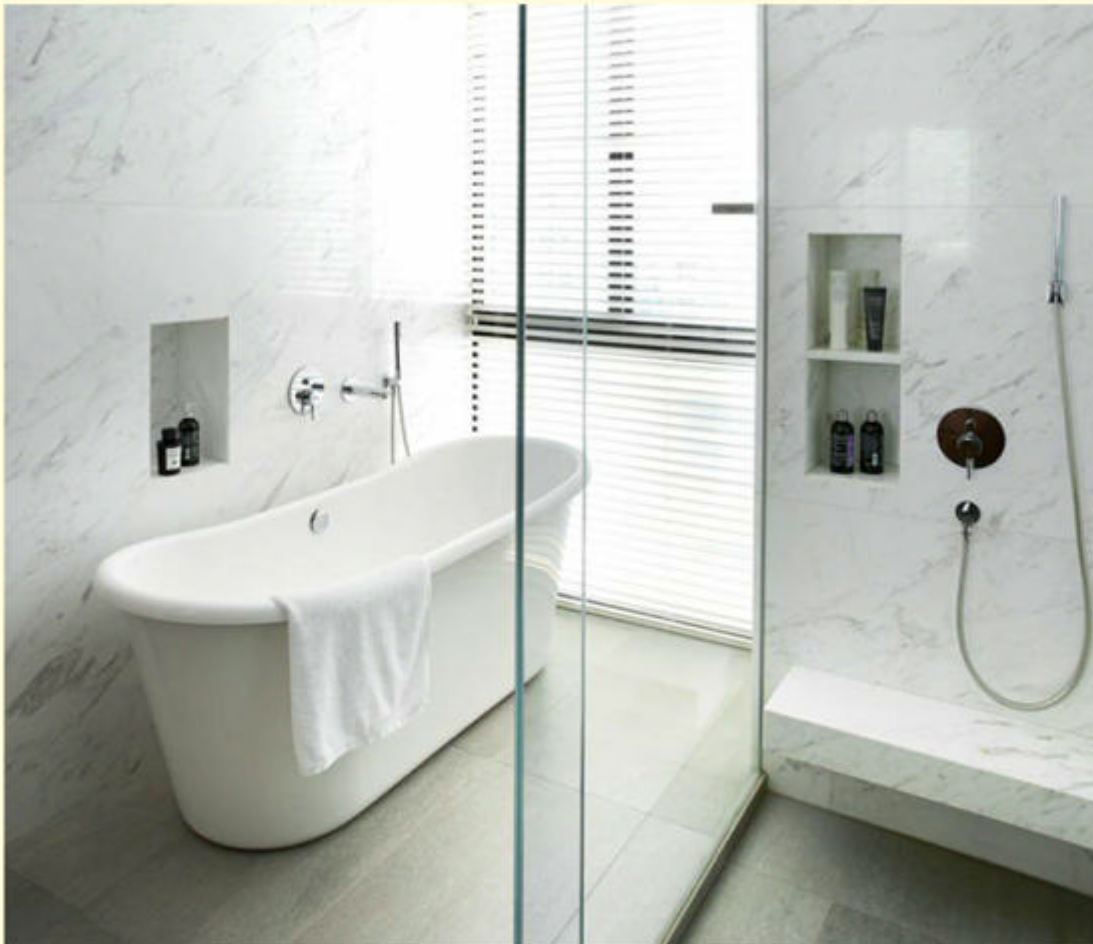
**I can't decide between an electric and gas water heater. With a small household of two adults and two kids, which should I choose?**

There are many other factors to consider. One of them is whether your home already has a provision for access to gas and, if not, how much the installation would cost. Public housing, for example, is more likely to have this provision, as compared to older private condos or landed property.

According to a study cited on the Energy Efficient Singapore website ([www.tinyurl.com/heaterstudy](http://www.tinyurl.com/heaterstudy)), gas water heaters consume less energy than electric water heaters; about \$30 to \$100 in annual energy cost savings. Weigh that against the cost of installation, and the cost of the heater itself. Gas water heaters are also said to be more expensive than electric ones.

For electric water heaters, instantaneous versions use less energy than storage water heaters and work faster; but storage water heaters might be a better solution if you need hot water supplied to a few bathrooms. “For a family of four, try an electric storage heater with a minimum of 30 litres. It can supply multiple outlets with hot water simultaneously, and is automatic with a thermostat that heats and stores water at a set temperature for use. Storage heaters require only one electrical point, but having several instant heaters in one home would require as many outlets as there are heaters,” says Eddie Lee, senior sales manager at Ariston Thermo.

Gas water heaters also need sufficient water pressure to work well, so check with Citygas. Visit its showroom at Cross Street for more details. ▶



photography JASPER YU design PIU DESIGN



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**Is it suitable to use solid surfacing for bay windows?  
Is this material resistant to heat and sunlight?**

There is a range of materials you can use to surface your bay window seat, but solid surfacing is not recommended. As that area is right by the window, and gets lots of sunlight and heat, wood or stone are better choices.

“As solid surfacing is made of polyester (or even acrylic), it is prone to discolouration over time when under direct sunlight, especially if the top is white. We would advise clients to use stones such as quartz or granite. If there is a budget constraint, try a laminated plank instead. In terms of pricing, laminates are the least expensive, followed by solid surfacing, quartz, and then granite,” says Space Factor’s creative director, Dolly Teo. ●

**I know mirrors make a space look larger, but having too many of them can look tacky. How do I incorporate them into my home?**

A strategically placed mirror can do wonders to enhance a space, but a mirror in the wrong place can kill the look of your decor.

For dark and narrow hallways or corridors, a large mirror along one wall, or a tall mirror at the end of a long space, opens up the confined area considerably. They can also be used to reflect light into a darker space.

You can create a focal point at the corner of two walls, such as in your wardrobe area, with a tall mirror. A more casual and modern way to display a tall mirror is to

simply lean it against the wall.

In the living area, use mirrors on one wall to reflect decor items such as your dining room’s pendant lights, a piece of art, or even a nice view. Don’t use them to reflect unflattering images such as messy or awkward spaces. Framing a mirror in the same way you’d frame an artwork gives it more presence.

Now for the don’ts. Don’t place two mirrors opposite each other; this will only create a confusing space. You can also follow the fengshui rule of not placing a mirror where you will catch your reflection when you wake up. Lastly, avoid placing a mirror on the ceiling.

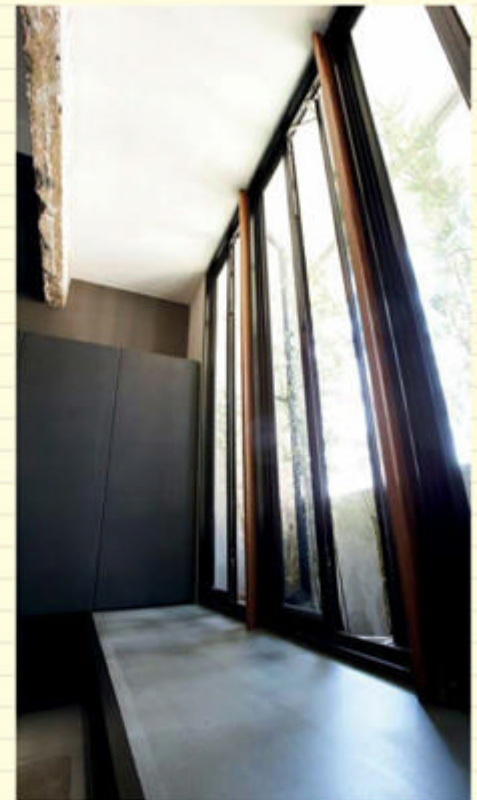


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# GOOD WORK

More people are now working from home and spending most of their day in front of a computer. If you are part of this growing group, your home office will greatly affect how you feel, and the quality of your work. Here are five tips to create a space that inspires you.

## 1. Know your “why”

To find fulfilment and success in anything you do, the first step is to be clear about why you do it. Make a statement of what you are working towards, and make this goal clear in your space. Is it travel that inspires you, or your family? Decorate your space with the reason for your work and you will feel more motivated. Think wall art, decoration or colours.

## 2. Set boundaries

It's hard to create a balance when work spills over into personal life. Create a visual separation with design elements so that when you are in work mode, you can be fully present in your zone, and then disconnect when in home mode.

## 3. Stay organised

Office clutter has a way of building up! The only way to control it is to stay on top of it. It's easier when you have a dedicated place for everything, so plan out smart office solutions. Keeping your space organised will also ensure that you don't end up buying doubles of things, creating more waste. Know exactly what you have and what you need.



**DID YOU KNOW**

## 4. Make your office green

Many offices are going green – printing less, using less paper and recycling. Set up a recycling bin under your desk so that you can dispose of your waste responsibly.

## 5. Bring in nature

Nature has a calming effect – a simple plant or bouquet of flowers makes a big difference. Not only does it give a sense of peace, but it can be great for your health, too. Natural air purifiers such as areca palm, mother-in-law's tongue and money trees remove harmful toxins from the air. You can find these plants at your local nursery, and at Ikea. If you don't have a green thumb, essential oils such as peppermint, rosemary and lemon help to stimulate focus, memory and clarity. In an essential oil burner, add three to four drops of essential oil to ¼ cup of water.

Doctors now say that sitting is the new smoking. With many people working long hours, resulting in a sedentary lifestyle, experts fear that they are a ticking time bomb of ill health and run the risk of obesity, high blood pressure, depression and more.

Make sure that you are getting up and moving for at least five minutes every hour, or invest in a standing desk (from [www.ergotron.com](http://www.ergotron.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.idealworkspace.com](http://www.idealworkspace.com)). They can cost upwards of \$1,000, but can add years to your life! Otherwise, get inspiration from the hundreds of DIY ideas for propping up your computer on crates, books or shelves. Your health is worth it!



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Unlike other robot vacuum cleaners, Samsung's Powerbot doesn't move blindly around your home, as it comes with visionary mapping technology. The Powerbot creates a map of your home and calculates the

most efficient cleaning path.

But if you're fussy, and would like a specific spot cleaned, the machine comes with a unique point-cleaning controller for more focused cleaning.

**Samsung's Powerbot VR9000 is priced at \$1,499 and is available at all leading electrical stores.**

## LG CORDZERO

LG's latest vacuum cleaner is not only cordless, but it also boasts the company's patented Robosense technology. As the Cordzero is much larger than conventional cordless vacuums, it takes some effort to move it around. To help you, LG's Robosense technology removes the need to tug it manually, and allows the machine to "watch" you and follow you at a close distance. The Cordzero comes with 200 watts of suction power and can clean continuously for up to 40 minutes.

**LG's Cordzero is available at all leading electrical stores.** ▶



## HAIKU SENSEME FANS

Haiku's new range of Senseme fans doesn't look any different from its predecessors, but it comes with "thinking" technology. The fan has a motion sensor which allows it to be turned on and off automatically when you enter the room. But what makes the

fan unique is its ability to learn. It monitors the room's temperature and humidity, and adjusts its speed accordingly. It also learns from your manual adjustments and tailors its speed to your liking.

The fan can be controlled by a mobile app that allows you to set a schedule for lighting and fan operations, helping you create unique settings for different rooms or people.

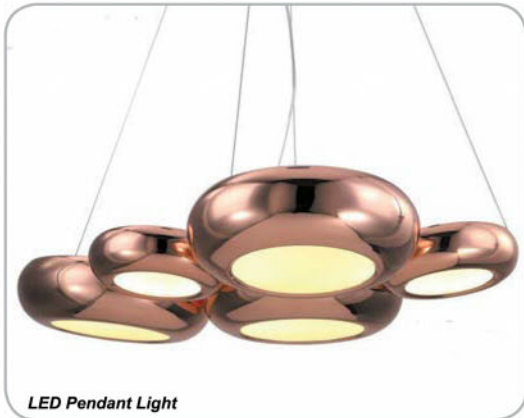
**View Haiku's Senseme fans at the Big Ass Fans showroom located at #11-02/03 Park Mall, tel: 6709-8500.**



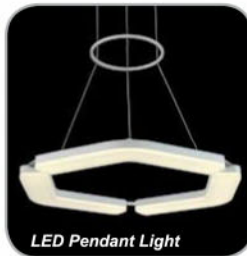


## The Latest in Couture and LED Lightings for your Home or Business.

Here at Lightcraft, you will find all your lighting needs under one roof! From decorative and feature lighting to architectural and outdoor lighting. Specialized lighting for every purpose: dimmable energy saving, controlled spotlight or wash beams on walls, trimless recessed, wire system or surface mounted - fiber optic systems and the latest innovation in color changing and white LED lighting. Visit us soon and be pleasantly surprised.



LED Pendant Light



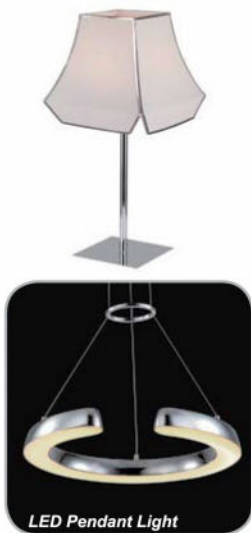
LED Pendant Light



LED Pendant Light



LED Wall Light



LED Pendant Light



LED Table Light



LED Pendant Light



LED Floor Light



LED Pendant Light



LED Ceiling Light

### LED Lighting Fixtures from FINLAND • LIVAL



LED Recessed Light (Round)



LED Recessed Light (Square)



LED Wall Light



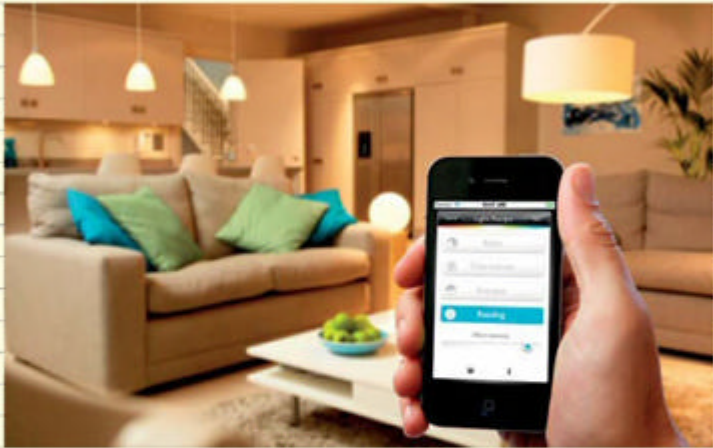
LED Ceiling Light



LED Ceiling Light



LED Track Light



### PHILIPS HUE

Branded as “personal wireless lighting”, the Hue lighting system promises to give you complete control of your home’s ambience. Install the Philips Hue LED bulb (up to 50 bulbs can be linked) and control it through an app on your mobile device. The bulb is dimmable and is able to project a wide variety of colours.

The app allows you to set up personalised lighting programs and set timed alarms for your lights to warn you if you’re running late. With a Wi-Fi connection, you can even set your lights to turn on and off as you enter or leave your home.

You can also match colours in a photo on your smart device to your lighting system, recreating a specific colour scheme at home. Additionally, you could link your bulbs to a music playlist, creating unique light shows with just the tap of a button.

**Find out more about the Philips Hue at [www.philips.com.sg](http://www.philips.com.sg).**

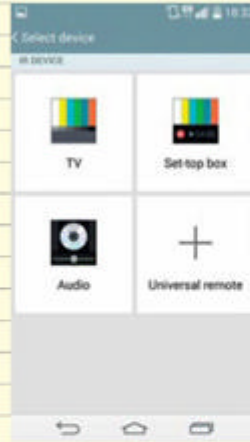


### NEST PROTECT

Smoke alarm Nest Protect is so advanced that it talks to you when it senses smoke in your home, with the warning “heads up” before you see or smell something. This is especially useful when the carbon monoxide levels at home rise, as the gas is odourless. During an emergency, the box will flash red and sound an alarm.

The gadget helps you keep tabs on your home while you’re not in, and will send you a message on its app if it senses a problem. The app also has a feature which keeps you and your family updated on emergency family meeting points, and emergency numbers.

**Nest Protect, US\$99 (S\$134), can be purchased at <http://store.nest.com>.**



### LG QUICK REMOTE

This app allows you to control a multitude of gadgets and appliances from a distance.

The ultimate universal controller, LG’s Quick Remote app connects to any appliance or gadget that has an infrared connection. This includes entertainment appliances such as TV sets, radios, set-top boxes and DVD players; as well as air-conditioners, fans and blinds.

LG’s Quick Remote app works with many products from various manufacturers and brands as well. The pre-programmed settings within the app ensure that your infrared “remote” is tuned specifically to your product. However, it is available only on LG phones.

**Find out more about LG’s Quick Remote at [www.lg.com.sg](http://www.lg.com.sg)**





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**PART 2 OF**  
A TWO-PART  
SPECIAL



## HOUSE RULES

With old regulations for renting out your HDB flat revised and new ones devised, keep up with our handy FAQ to ensure that you don't run foul of the law.

To help with household expenses, 61-year-old William Chan did what many HDB flat owners do – monetise his asset by renting out a spare room in his three-room HDB (Housing Board) flat.

He and his wife share the master bedroom while his son, daughter-in-law and their two young kids occupy the other bedroom as they wait for their new HDB flat.

"I posted an advertisement on noticeboards near our home to put up our utility room for rent," he says. The tiny space fetches him a decent \$380 in rent every month.

In the last four years, three tenants have

come and gone – none of them registered with the HDB. "I don't have to, I'm only renting out one room, not the entire unit," insists William, referencing friends who have done the same for years without trouble.

The truth is that he has unknowingly flouted the HDB's regulations. Like William, many HDB flat owners who may be clueless about HDB's subletting rules don't realise they are breaking them.

Homeowner Tan XL, 45, for example, was shocked to receive a call from her HDB officer. She had been leasing out two bedrooms in her



five-room flat and keeping one room as storage space as she and her family were living with her parents in their flat.

"I didn't realise that I had to notify HDB that I had leased out two rooms to tenants," she says. "Worse still, as I was not living in the flat, I was considered to be subletting my whole flat illegally!" Fortunately, as she had satisfied the minimum occupation period of five years, she was given only a stern warning and allowed to seek approval for subletting the whole flat.

"Our HDB flat is our first and only property and we definitely intend to live here in the future. If I had been forced to give up my apartment because of my negligence, I cannot imagine what I would do. Buying a new home will be far too expensive for us now," shudders Madam Tan at the thought.

Over the years, it can be hard to keep up and comply with the latest HDB subletting rules, with all the changes. Read on to find the answers to your burning questions, as a would-be "landlord".

### **I AM A HDB FLAT OWNER. WHY DO I NEED TO INFORM HDB IF I WANT TO RENT OUT MY FLAT?**

As a HDB flat owner, you don't actually "own" the unit, even if you paid a cool \$1 million for it, as some Bishan and Queenstown maisonette buyers did. You only own the lease for 99 years. This differs from private properties built on 99-year leasehold land; such owners actually own the land for the period of the lease.

It may sound bewildering, but this technicality has not really affected HDB flat owners when they buy and sell their homes. Once you have fulfilled your minimum occupation period of five years (or three years, if you bought an unsubsidised flat without getting a CPF grant before Aug 30, 2010), you are free to sell and profit from your flat.

However, if you want to make some rental income, technically, HDB is the real landlord; you are only renting your flat's lease from them. If you want to rent out your spare bedroom or the whole flat, it is considered to be subletting the lease that you rented from HDB. That's why you need to keep to HDB's rules.

### **HOW DO I APPLY FOR HDB'S PERMISSION?**

If you are only subletting a room, you don't need HDB's approval to do so. However, you must inform HDB ([www.bit.ly/1HKTMlm](http://www.bit.ly/1HKTMlm)) within seven days of the commencement date of the subletting,

and also of tenancy terminations, subsequent renewals, and changes to your tenants' particulars within seven days of these changes.

Make sure that you continue to live in the flat with the subtenants during the period of subletting. If you are found not doing so, the registration for the subletting of bedrooms will be revoked automatically. You will also be considered to be subletting the whole flat without HDB's approval. Action will be taken against such flat owners under the Housing and Development Act – and you could be forced to give up your unit.

Intend to rent out your whole flat? This is allowed only for Singaporeans; Permanent Residents (PRs) can no longer do so.

HDB owners must have completed their minimum occupation period of five years (or three years, for those who bought an unsubsidised flat without getting a CPF grant before Aug 30, 2010), unless in exceptional cases, such as those which involve an overseas posting.

If you are living abroad during the subletting period, remember to appoint an attorney to act for you in the management of the flat. Seek prior approval from HDB online ([www.bit.ly/1xhYihg](http://www.bit.ly/1xhYihg)) or in person at any HDB branch office. Each application costs \$20.

### **WHAT KIND OF TENANTS CAN I RENT TO?**

Anyone who is a Singapore citizen, Singapore PR, or a non-citizen holding an Employment pass, S-pass, work permit (construction workers, Malaysian nationals only), Student pass, Dependent pass or long-term social visit pass, with validity of at least six months.

It is your duty to verify your potential tenant's immigration status at the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority's iEnquiry website (<https://ienquiry.ica.gov.sg/home.do>), and their employment pass or S-pass validity using the Ministry of Manpower's (MOM) website ([www.bit.ly/1CR18uA](http://www.bit.ly/1CR18uA)).

However, from May 1, 2015, workers in the marine and process sectors, including the chemicals and pharmaceutical sectors, will no longer be allowed to rent HDB flats. This is due to MOM's long-term plan to "house marine and process non-Malaysian work-permit holders in purpose-built dormitories and approved workers' quarters with facilities which better cater to the workers' needs".

If your tenants are from these affected industries, don't worry, they are allowed to stay on till the end of your existing subletting approval or registration. [▶](#)

### I'VE GOT A SPACIOUS UTILITY ROOM IN MY FLAT. CAN I RENT IT OUT?

No. You can only sublet bedrooms; the living room, the bomb shelter or utility rooms do not count. If you own a two-room flat or a smaller unit, you cannot lease out the bedrooms and can only sublet the entire flat, to a maximum of four people.

For William, the maximum number of people he can house in his three-room flat is six. This means he has breached HDB's regulations even if his tenant doesn't mind the squeeze. Four-room or bigger units can take a maximum of nine occupants, regardless of how many bedrooms your unit has. Such owners can sublet a maximum of two bedrooms.

### WHAT'S THE MINIMUM SUBLETTING PERIOD?

Six months. Subletting on a short-term basis via websites such as Airbnb and Roomorama are strictly not allowed in HDB flats.

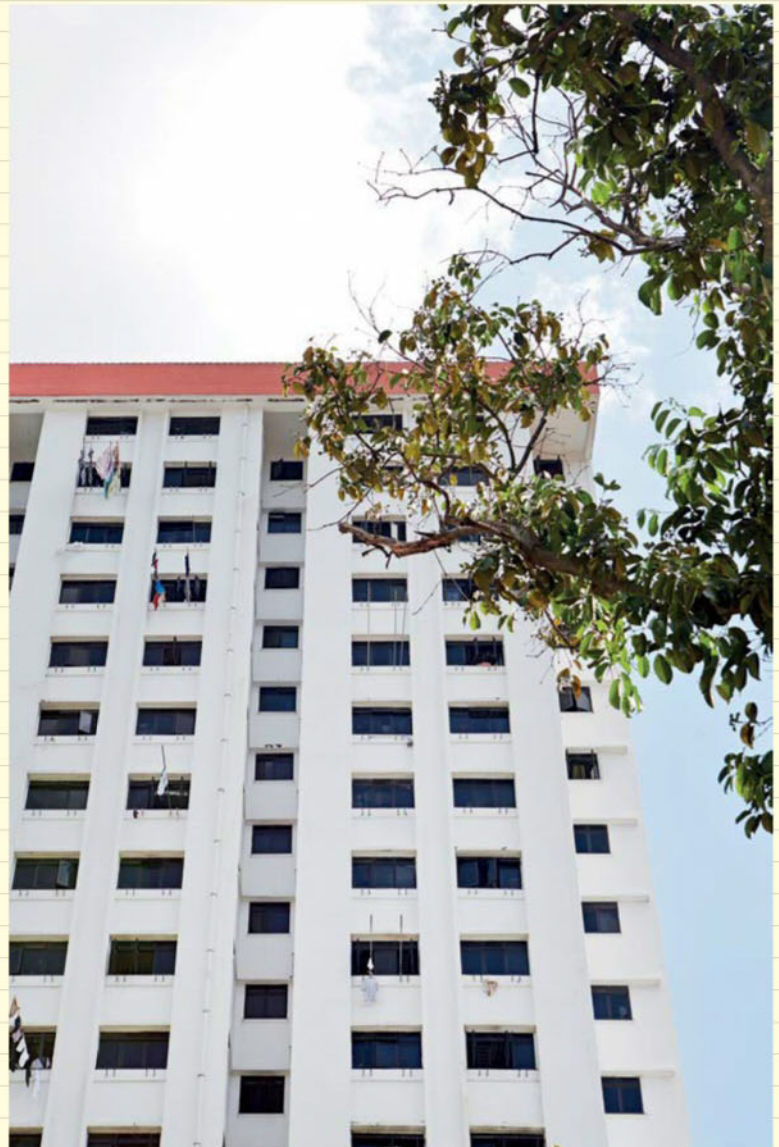
### HOW LONG CAN I LEASE OUT MY WHOLE HDB FLAT FOR?

Previously, owners could do so for three years per application, regardless of the nationality of the tenants. However, since Jan 16, 2014, if at least one of your foreign subtenants is not a Malaysian, this will be halved to 18 months.

Foreign tenants are also now subject to the new Non-Citizen Subletting Quota, which was enforced to prevent "foreigner enclaves" from overwhelming any neighbourhood. This is set at 8 per cent and 11 per cent at the neighbourhood and block level respectively, and applies to subtenants who are Singapore PRs and foreigners. However, it does not apply to Malaysians.

If you intent to rent to foreign tenants, make sure you check with HDB ([www.bit.ly/1CR2DZD](http://www.bit.ly/1CR2DZD)) to ensure that the quota is not full yet, before you sign on the lease. Otherwise, you can sublet your whole flat only to Singaporeans or Malaysians. This quota does not apply for subletting of rooms. ●

As a HDB flat owner, you don't actually "own" the unit. You only own the lease for 99 years. If you want to rent out a bedroom or the whole flat, it is considered to be subletting the lease that you rented from HDB.





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# LINEN LOVE

High-quality bed sheets are an investment. Learn how to properly care for them to ensure that they last a long time.



## WASH REGULARLY

Dirt, dust, oil and sweat build up quickly on bedding. The longer they accumulate on the sheets, the more stress is put on the sheet fibres. Grubby sheets are also more appealing to microscopic mites.

It's a good idea to change your bed sheets and pillowcases once a week, or every two weeks. Pillow protectors and mattress covers also require washing at least once a month.

## SPECIAL FABRICS

- Silk is strong, but needs special laundering to keep its fibres intact. Wash silk items by hand the first few times. Afterwards, you can switch to machine washing, but choose the gentle or hand-wash cycle and resist the urge to use the extra spin cycle option.

- Linen is a soft yet durable natural fibre. The more frequently linen sheets are washed, the softer they become. The material dries quickly, so the sheets don't need a long or hot drying setting. Better yet, air-dry them.
- Bamboo fibre sheets are best laundered with cold water and soap made for natural fibres, or with neutral pH levels. Colours may run during the first few washings, so make sure to wash this material separately.

## ROTATE YOUR BEDDING

Keep at least three sets of sheets per bed. This way, you can have one set on your bed, one in the laundry, and one tucked away in the closet. By rotating the sheet sets, they will last longer and won't wear out as quickly.

## WHEN TO REPLACE

Bedding can last for many years, but too frequent and improper washing will break down even high-quality bed linen. Replace them when the fabric gets thin, shows fading, or develops pills (small balls of fluff on the surface). If the edges of the sheets look shabby and frayed, it's time to retire them.



While it's tempting to crank up the heat on your washer thinking it will make your sheets cleaner, hot water is actually harsh on fibres, and hard on colours. Always use cool or lukewarm water and a gentle wash cycle to extend the lifespan of your bedding.



LIFESTYLE STATEMENT



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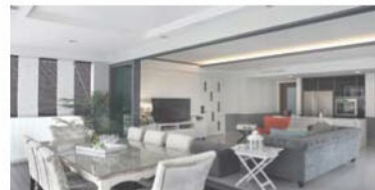
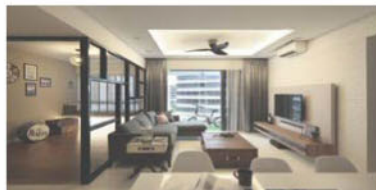
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## EVERYDAY OPULENCE

Given the luxe treatment, this apartment makes its occupants feel as though they're living in a palace!

Home to a couple and their two young daughters, this three-bedroom condominium unit may have a footprint of only 1,100sqf, but it has a big and bold personality.

The home has a sumptuous, baroque theme that's inspired by the homeowners' wedding picture (displayed in the dining area in a gold-tone frame). "The husband and wife are quite sentimental, and wanted to recreate the look and mood of their wedding photo, in their home," explains Joanna Evangelista of Vegas Interior Design.

While the husband wanted red and black to be part of the colour scheme, the wife preferred a lighter palette. Joanna created a theme that balances both, controlling the use of these colours and keeping the floors, ceilings and most of the walls white. She also included gold-



tone accents in the furniture for some glamour. The dark damask-print wallpaper used as wall features in the living room and master bedroom was key, as it matched the one in the wedding picture. The cornices and ceiling mouldings throughout the home were also a nod to the trimmings of the fireplace on the set in the photo.

"All the furniture was custom-made in Indonesia using teak wood, and we had to wait two to three months for them," says Joanna. From the high-back brass-studded dining chairs

and gold-and-white carved dining table to the quilted bed headboards and ornate mirror frames, the luxurious look is consistent throughout the home. The designer even made sure that the shade of deep red used for the soft furnishings and upholstery was the same. The couple spent over \$60,000, inclusive of the furniture, for this grand, opulent look. ●

### WHERE TO GO

Vegas Interior Design, #01-07  
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#### WHAT IS IT?

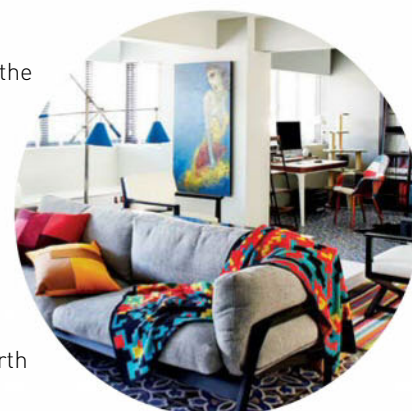
- The annual signature event of *Home & Decor*, which showcases the latest interior design trends, innovative decoration and renovation materials, and home improvement products.

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- Double-income families, couples and single professionals who will spare no expense in making their home as comfortable and stylish as possible.
- Practical homeowners who value functionality as much as style, and are looking for gadgets and products to improve their quality of life.

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**For more information, e-mail [maghomedecor@sph.com.sg](mailto:maghomedecor@sph.com.sg) or call 6319-6326.**



### Tangy and Refreshing

Known for its environmentally friendly home and personal-care products, Method introduces a couple of refreshing products that'll make cleaning a little more fragrant. The ginger yuzu dish soap pump (\$8.95 for 532ml) and Squirt + Mop hard-floor cleaner (\$6.50 for 739ml) balance the citrusy scent of yuzu with a spicy gingery kick, leaving your dishes and floor smelling fresh all day!

Available at Cold Storage, Fairprice Finest, Isetan and Meidi-Ya.



### Turn up the Heat

Italian designer Umberto Palermo lends his flair for elegant automobile designs to the latest range of Andris series water heaters by Ariston. The heaters' clean-cut and curvaceous design is far from an eyesore, so HDB homeowners won't have to worry about concealing it!

**Ariston water heaters are available at all leading sanitary, electrical and hardware dealers. For a full list of dealers, visit [www.ariston-heater.com.sg](http://www.ariston-heater.com.sg).**



### Movie in a Pocket

Imagine being able to carry around a projector in your pocket! At 124mm by 71mm, Canon's Rayo R4 mini projector is around the size of a smartphone, and allows for 180 minutes of playback time.

Simply hook it up to your smartphone or laptop with a Mobile High-Definition Link (MHL) or High-Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI) cable respectively, and you can set up a cinema-like experience anywhere.

**Take it home for \$499, at all Canon authorised dealers.**



### Sleeping on Clouds

With Tempur's Zero G Adjustable Bed Base, you can morph your bed into a shape that'll best contour to your body's needs. You can either elevate your legs for increased blood circulation, or prop your head up if you intend to do some reading before calling it a day.

**Try it out at the Tempur Sleep Boutique, #01-01 Seng Kee Building, 20 Martin Road, tel: 6933-7667.**



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www.englander.com.sg

**Serta International**  
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Tel: 6238-0070  
www.serta.com

**Simmons Gallery**  
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Marina Square  
Tel: 6339-7966  
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11 Lorong 3 Toa Payoh  
www.electrolux.com.sg

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Tel: 6268-5054  
www.akemiuchi.com

**Boconcept**  
#04-01/03 Paragon  
Tel: 6736-0777  
www.boconcept.sg

**Commune**  
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singapore@roche-bobois.com

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www.starliving.com.sg

**Teak & Mahogany**  
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Tel: 6273-8116  
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**Teak Avenue**  
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www.teakavenue.com

**The Design Store by Lifestorey**  
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www.lifestorey.com

**Unitrading W&F**  
63 Niven Road  
Tel: 6640-1846  
www.unitradingwf.com

**Xtra**  
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**XZQT**  
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www.thedesignpractice.sg

**The Scientist**  
706A Geylang Road  
Tel: 6743-0363  
www.thescientist.com.sg

**Three-D Conceptwerke**  
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Tel: 6293-8001  
www.three-d-conceptwerke.com

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**Whiteboard**  
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www.whiteboard.sg  
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## KITCHENS

**Mudian**  
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www.mudian.com.sg

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www.watelier.com

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www.lightcraft.com.sg

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www.dulux.com.sg

**Nippon Paint**  
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www.nipponpaint.com.sg

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Tel: 6316-1938  
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Tel: 6538-3823  
www.hafary.com.sg

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www.hotspringstone.com

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www.rice-fields.com

**T.A.K.**  
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www.tak.com.sg

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#05-19 UB One  
Tel: 6749-8087  
www.absolut-outdoors.com

**Acacia Fabrics**  
#04-03 Ubi Techpark  
Lobby A  
Tel: 6743-0060  
www.acaciafabrics.com

**Acorn**  
#02-09  
512 Chai Chee Lane  
Tel: 6635-6147  
www.acorn-ceilingfan.com

**Bilton Industrial Products**  
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Eunos Technolink  
7 Kaki Bukit Road 1  
Tel: 6298-2283  
www.bilton.com.my

**Capital Distributors**  
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9 Tagore Lane  
Tel: 6288-9190  
www.kdk.sg

**City Gas Gallery**  
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Tel: 6732-6910  
www.citygas.com.sg

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24 Sin Ming Lane  
Tel: 6659-0080  
www.theewinshome.com

**Extra Space**  
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www.extraspace.com.sg

**Hafele Singapore**  
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Tel: 6494-7400  
www.hafele.com

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www.imm.sg

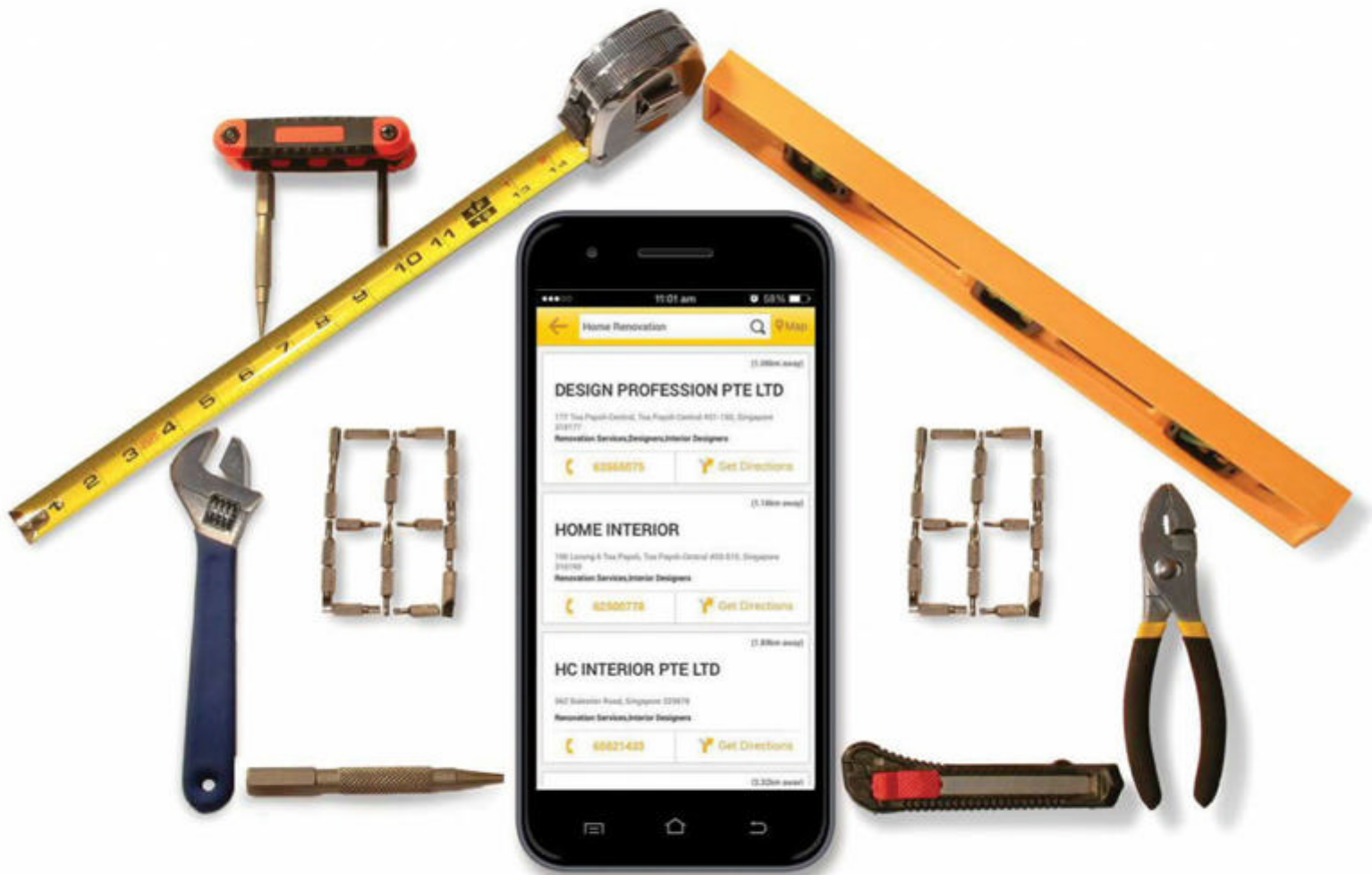
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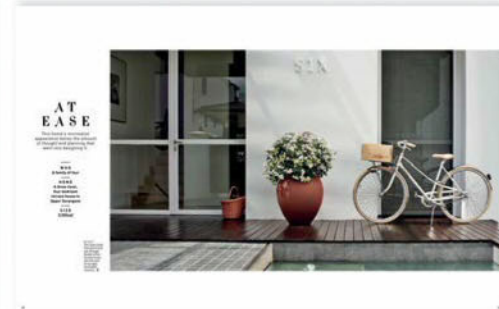
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www.eandainteriors.com

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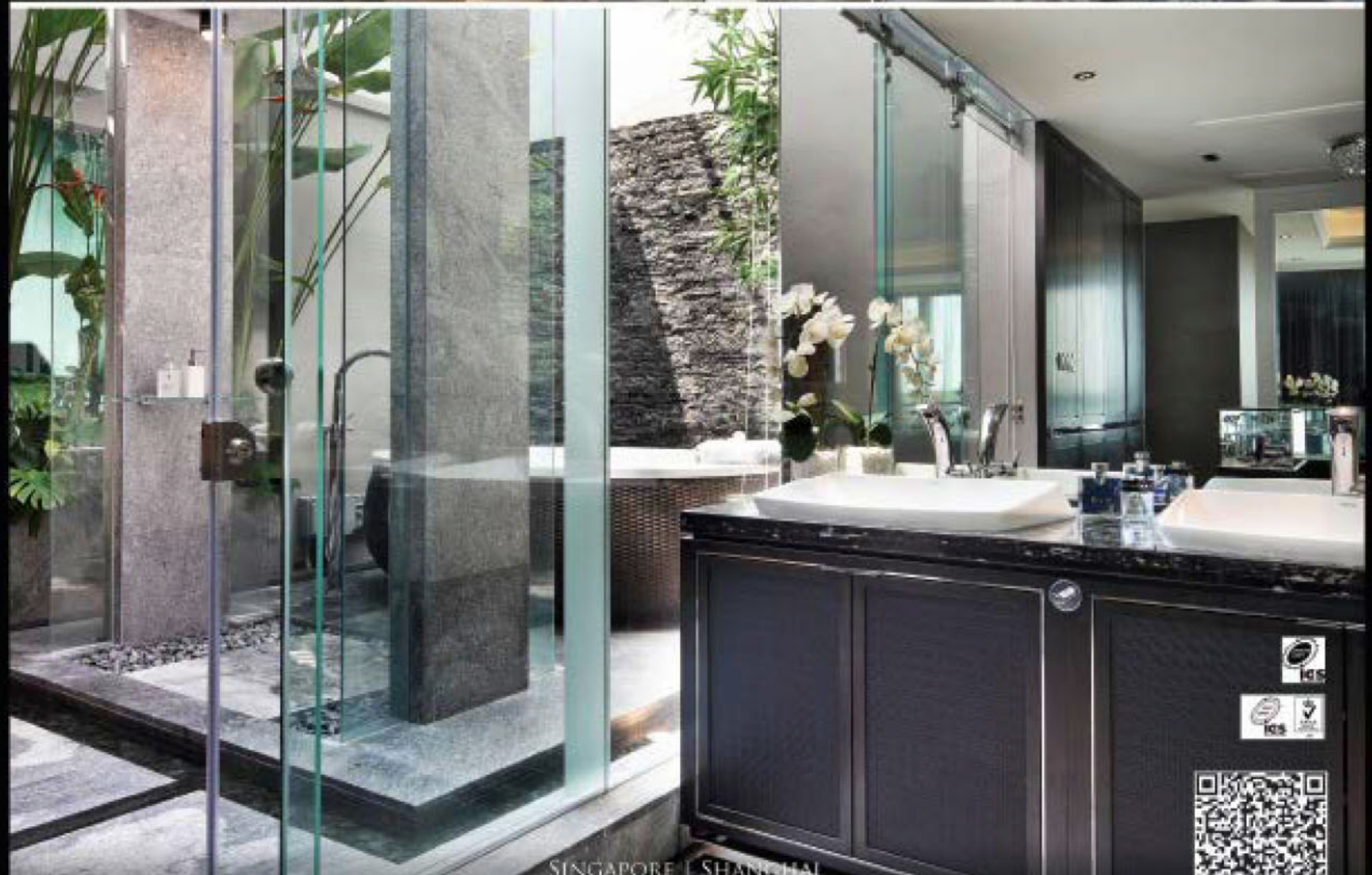
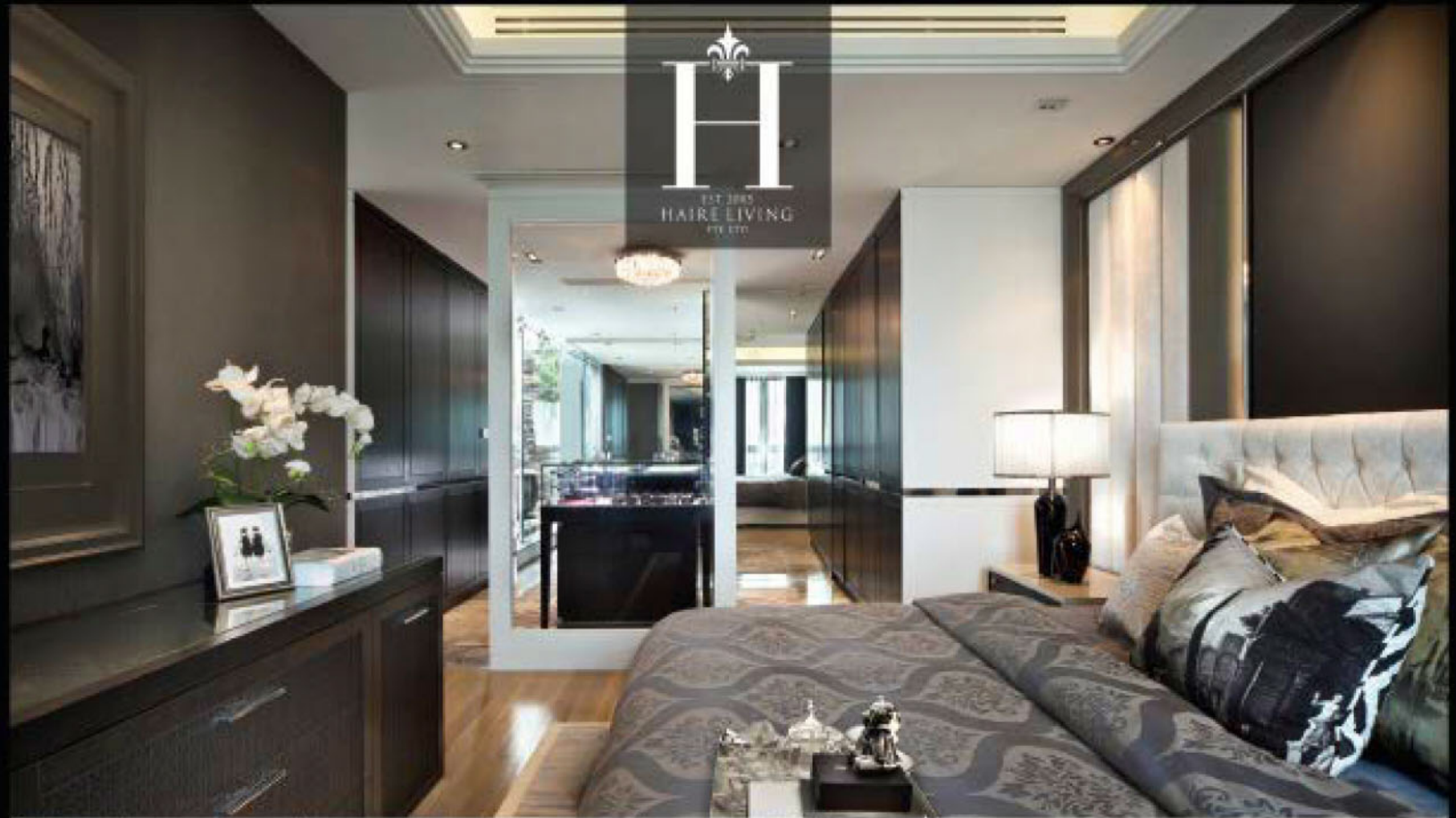
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