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STYLE WISE

Arte Living may be just two years old, but its interior designers, Carine Leong and Gary Boo, have 10 years of experience between them. Being a small team means they are able to provide very personalised services, right from the start of the renovation process when the client begins consultation, till even beyond the project's completion.

A fine showcase of their work is this 2,000sqf condominium penthouse in Bishan that underwent a complete revamp. "The owner didn't like the apartment's original style. Instead, she wanted the same all-white theme that we had given her previous home," laughs Carine.

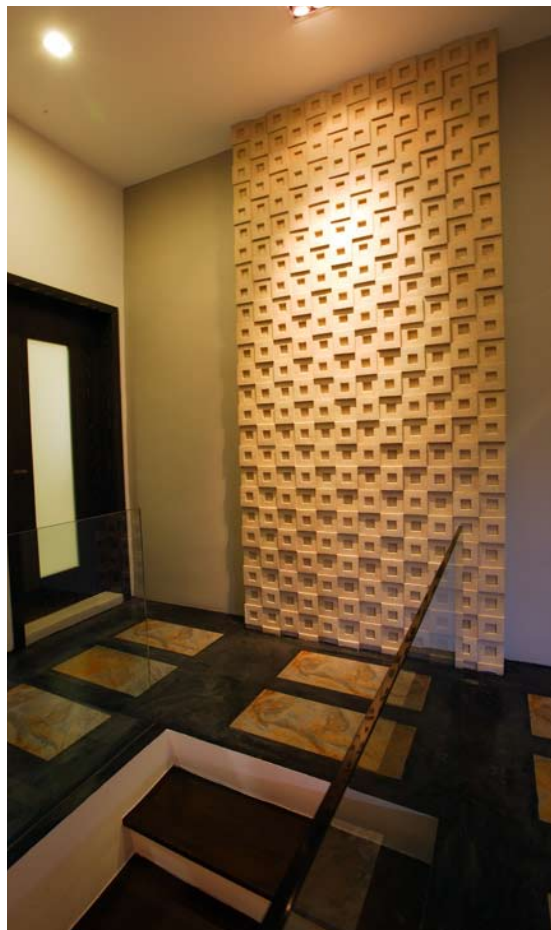
To give the penthouse a luxurious vibe, the designers chose an overwhelmingly white palette, such that being in the apartment feels like taking a walk in the clouds. Dark-stained chengai flooring on the stairs and exterior deck as well as dark furniture provide vivid contrast to boldly anchor the space.

The seamless finishes also conceal immense practicality. In the dining area, storage space is hidden behind a wall featuring square patterns. Pull-out cabinets fill up the spot under the stairs, making ample use of the oft-neglected, awkward area. ▶

LEFT Dark timber flooring and furnishings distinguish the exterior area from the white interiors.

ABOVE Topped with dark-stained chengai wood, the stair treads make a bold statement in the white space.

OPPOSITE The sleekness of this living space belies its immense practicality – a wall of storage is concealed behind the square-patterned wall.



MODERN TRADITION

To give the owner of this terrace house the cosy warmth he desired for entertaining friends and clients, the designers created feature walls in neutral hues to divide the home into snug niches. Besides using paint, they also created a wall made entirely out of sandstone on the second floor landing.

While the dark woods and rustic features impart a natural charm, the designers injected modernity with contemporary materials and some imagination. Slick glass panels replace traditional railings to neaten and visually enlarge the living room. "Fengshui required the space between the living and dining rooms to be unblocked. It wasn't a problem as we got around it by using glass," says the design duo.

On the second floor, rust-coloured tiles are laid wide apart and dark grout fills up the space between the tiles. "The owner really liked the colour of the tiles. So, I 'highlighted' each tile to make their beauty more apparent," explains the designers. DS

ABOVE The designers gave the house a touch of modernity with a simple glass and stainless steel stair rail. **LEFT** Jolts of red in the throw cushions and painting are a lively contrast to the sombre wood tones. **OPPOSITE TOP** Artful landscaping creates a beguiling yet low-maintenance garden that becomes more enchanting at night. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM** Designed by Gary, this sandstone feature wall draws you in with its deceptive simplicity and differing depths.

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