

HOME & DECOR

STYLISH LIVING MADE EASY

SINGAPORE'S
NO.1
INTERIOR
DESIGN
MAGAZINE
ELSEN MEDIA INDEX 2009

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cleanslate

A NEUTRAL PALETTE COUPLED WITH EFFICIENT SPACE PLANNING GIVES THIS APARTMENT THE VERSATILITY ITS HOMEOWNER WANTED.

The central island is where the homeowner eats, works and entertains. Tableware from Haier Boutique.

the facts

WHO LIVES HERE? A BACHELOR IN HIS 30s
FOUR-ROOM HDB APARTMENT ON HOLLAND ROAD 947SQF

UNEXPECTED TOUCHES LIKE THE CEMENT DOOR
ADD AN URBANE EDGE WITHOUT DISTRACTING
FROM THE CLEAN, MINIMALIST LOOK.



Homogeneous cement-like tiles complement the cement sliding door to the master bedroom. Vases from Haier Boutique.



left: The TV console features sliding panels that open to reveal display shelves above. The owner has a quirky collection of decorative items like these endearing miniature designer chairs.

Most singles would find a four-room HDB apartment adequate, but not homeowner T.C. "I have a lot of stuff," chuckles the bachelor. So when he engaged designer Gary Boo of Arte Living to do up his flat, he requested to incorporate plenty of storage.

T.C.'s other requirement was that the interior not be "too bold". He explains: "I might eventually want to rent out or sell the flat, so the design has to be generic enough for someone else to like it." With that in mind, the forward-thinking homeowner and his designer decided on a white, minimalist interior. "I can bring in my personality with my collection of decorative items, but when you remove the things, the space becomes a blank canvas," reasons T.C.

SPACE PLANNING

The 30-year-old property needed a complete overhaul to transform it into a clean-cut, modern abode. The original built-in furnishings were torn down, the walls plastered and whitewashed, and the electrical wiring updated and concealed.

To create a more efficient space, Gary knocked down the walls of one of the three bedrooms to convert it into a dining-cum-study area that flows into the new open-concept kitchen. As T.C. hardly cooks, Gary shrunk the latter to expand the back toilet and utility area. The compact kitchen now fits in an induction hob, sink and white floor-to-ceiling cabinets in a row. A solid-surface island counter with storage below also functions as a six-seater dining table and work desk. >



With a larger back area, the formerly cramped bathroom is now a more luxurious space – a welcome element since the master bedrooms of older HDB flats like this one do not have ensuite bathrooms. There is a sleek black marble sink, glass vanity and even room for an extra built-in wardrobe, which T.C. no doubt finds more useful than a larger kitchen.

More storage is discreetly incorporated throughout. A flushed white niche in the utility area conceals the rubbish chute, broom and other cleaning equipment. In the living room, a full-height mirrored column cabinet stores shoes, while a built-in sideboard by the main door hides knick-knacks. The panels on a TV slide open to reveal cabinets and display shelves.



above Swarovski crystals embedded in the cement sliding door add a touch of bling. *cup* The bathroom expands out into the utility area, which now has room for a spacious vanity.

THE LITTLE TOUCHES

Against the white backdrop, Gary incorporated subtle accents with an urbane edge. The master bedroom's door is made from cement-coated plywood embedded with Swarovski crystals, and a feature wall in the room is clad in a wall covering that has the texture of stingray skin.

T.C.'s collection of contemporary art, flea-market finds and travel buys also add colour. The renovation, including electrical works, cost \$65,000 – a worthwhile investment, feels T.C. Not only does his new home suit his needs, it can also easily adapt to someone else's if need be. ●

where to go

ARTE LIVING TEL: 6238-1057



whatwelope

TACTILE DETAILS
THE WALLPAPER IN THE
MASTER BEDROOM MAY COME
IN UNDERSTATED, NEUTRAL
HUES, BUT ITS TEXTURE – THAT
OF STINGRAY SKIN – ENSURES
THAT IT IS FAR FROM BORING.