

ARTE LIVING DESIGN STUDIO

DESIGNER

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COMPANY PROFILE

Clients of this nine-year-old design studio know they can rely on Gary Boo and Carine Leong's dependable and personable service, as well as expertise to create comfortable retreats to relax in when they return home.

"We believe in creating timeless, classic spaces homeowners can call their own."



When the homeowners bought this apartment, it was a huge, empty space, says Carine. After she got down to work, the 14-year-old resale unit was transformed into a serene and inviting sanctuary within a month.

Major renovations, such as the hacking of walls, were not necessary, as the previous owner had already removed a few structures, including the balcony beside the living area. Carine converted this space into a cosy sitting area, and added a platform to separate it from the rest of the living room.

This corner where house guests can chill out, features craftstone brick walls, and a customised

ledge that extends to form part of the entertainment console and cabinet.

On the opposite end of the living space is the dining area with a feature wall of floor-to-ceiling mirrors and pop-out wood panels. The mirrors make the room appear even more spacious.

Carine also used lighting to showcase structures such as the cabinet doors in the living room, as well as backlighting above and below the TV feature wall. The warm light accentuates the cosiness of the home, and its wood-based aesthetic. She finished the look with furniture of a simple and timeless quality.

LEFT
The wood-finished flooring and understated furnishings give the living room a tranquil presence.

BELOW
Warm backlighting showcases the TV console and helps accentuate the home's sense of calmness.

BOTTOM
A T-shaped ledge separates the cosy corner from the living room, and works as a side table as well.



As she was well acquainted with this homeowner's preferences and peeves from designing her last residence, asking Arte Living Design Studio's Carine Leong to work on her new two-bedroom apartment came naturally.

She wanted to recreate the monochrome look of her former home, but Carine suggested a more white-based palette that would make this smaller place appear larger.

The result is a contemporary apartment with a mostly-white scheme – save for the black couch in the living room, the green balcony, a smattering of brightly coloured decor items, and touch of blue for the sake of feng shui, which the 50something homeowner believes in.

A mirror covering the entire length of a wall in the common area visually expands the footprint of the residence. Furniture with clean lines also creates the illusion of more space.

What's more, as the home didn't have a storeroom, the custom-made floor-to-ceiling cabinets and TV console provide storage solutions. Carine built them into an alcove in the living room, flushed with the adjoining walls, so there would be a seamless flow.

The only space in which Carine went big on colour was the double-volume balcony – a favourite hangout of the homeowner and her mother who lives with her. As the apartment is on the top floor of the building, it's got the best views.



LEFT
Set into a recessed wall, the TV nook features a background of mosaic tiles.

BOTTOM LEFT
The home's mostly-white scheme helps make it appear more spacious.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Colourful upholstery and fun pieces of furniture, like the hanging chair, really cheer up the home.

OPPOSITE
Green walls, leafy plants, and teal-tinted sliding doors give the balcony a garden feel.

