

THE EDGE

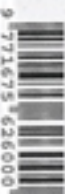
ISSUE #50. AUGUST + SEPTEMBER 2011

COMPLIMENTARY WITH
THE EDGE
NOT FOR SALE

haven

PP 13134/04/2012(029968)

ISSN 1675-6266



9 771675 626000

Dream homes 2011

THE EDGE
haven

my
dream
Home
2011

WINNERS + inspiring real estate *inside!*

GREEN HOME CATEGORY
JOINT SILVER AWARD

Location | Gita Bayu, Desa Serdang, Selangor
Architect | Ar. Michael Ching of CH&I Architecture Sdn Bhd



This green home features innovative budget-friendly solutions such as polished mixed concrete floors and unpainted walls.

TEXT: ROSALYNN POH
PHOTOGRAPHY: ABDUL GHANI ISMAIL + PATRICK COH + CAXTON CHOW OF CESTUDIO

Going organic

THE 'WONGS' BUNGALOW IS 'UNFINISHED' AND FRIENDLY TO THE ENVIRONMENT.



GREEN FEATURES

- Gravity-flow rain-water harvesting system – where the tank is placed at the roof and use gravity for pressure, requires no pump.
- Natural daylight and natural ventilation
- Water efficient fittings
- Low-energy or LED light fittings
- More than 50% of the site is landscaped
- Skim coat with recycled content as an alternative to paint

Clockwise from top left The design of the home is in such a way that the spaces inside are easily identified on the outside • The car porch – features gravel and mixed concrete floor • The foyer blends seamlessly with the outdoors • The view from the main living area to the garden, pool, kitchen and dining area

TWO YEARS AND three months — that is how long it took to build this green home in the exclusive Gita Bayu in Desa Serdang. Homeowner Raymond Wong and architect Michael Ching worked tirelessly to create a contemporary four-bedroom home with green features that blends with its surroundings and flows with the natural terrain.

The Wongs had moved into the 2½-storey bungalow just in time for Christmas last year.

It is hard to believe that the 4,500 sq ft home was built on a tight budget but that is the truth, says Ching. In fact, he says the home is “unfinished”, pointing to its unpainted grey skim-coated exterior walls, the unconventional polished mixed concrete and unvarnished belian floors and window frames.

The design concept is a clean look and one that ensures that “how you parcel the space inside is reflected on the outside”. One can easily see from the outside where the main living room, kitchen area and even the staircase are located.

The home uses three main materials — belian timber, concrete and glass — giving it an organic look and feel. Interestingly, Ching says the focal point of the house is its big garden — this is where he wants his three young children to romp around. There is also an existing jogging trail along the fenceless garden, promoting community connectivity.



More than 50% of the site is neatly landscaped and there is a beautiful dwarf geometry tree in the garden, which the family can admire from the main living room through its 17ft-high timber-framed glass sliding doors.

The water feature at the entrance, featuring a frangipani tree, seamlessly integrates the outdoors with the indoors. Tea plants grow along the entrance to cover the security wall near the slope.

The porch features gravel and concrete floors. "Concrete floors are rare in new houses in Malaysia. Once you pour mixed concrete onto the floor, let it settle and then polish it. Usually, you put tiles on it but for this house, we just polished it and it's smooth," explains Ching.

The bare concrete wall which forms part of the water feature outside continues into the house via the foyer and out again to the pool on the other side of the house.

The kitchen and dining areas also look out into the garden and a swimming pool. The dining area looks warm and cosy with its timber flooring and timber-framed sliding doors. A second track of sliding timber-framed doors

with metal netting offers a great way to enjoy the view and fresh air while keeping mosquitoes at bay.

The first room upstairs is a spacious family area. The two-layered timber louvred windows here provide shade and privacy while letting in natural light and keeping the house well ventilated.

The office or study, which is used by the homeowners who are both lawyers, has a Seventies feel with its concrete flooring, floor-to-ceiling shelves on facing sides of the room and retro furniture. This space too has views of the garden and pool below.

The master bedroom has a lovely, small balcony overlooking the focal point of the house — the garden and the pool below. The en suite bathroom seems bigger than the bedroom with its sunken bath, a shower area, his and hers washbasins and a walk-in closet, among other features.

On the top floor are the open gym and the roof garden. Pebble wash is used for the gym instead of timber and a closer look reveals a decorative leaf symbol which links the gym area to the adjoining roof garden.

Clockwise from top left The office/study has a rather retro feel with its concrete floor and furniture • The kitchen and dining area looks out into the garden and pool through double tracking timber framed sliding doors • The Wongs and architect (right) Ching





This page, clockwise from left: The view from the master bedroom balcony shows the seamless integration between the water feature at the car porch/entrance, the foyer and the kitchen/dining and pool area below • The top floor features an open gym and a roof top garden • The double layered timber framed windows provides shade and privacy in the family living room
Facing page, from top: One of the bedrooms in the dream home • The spacious master bathroom is considerably larger than the master bedroom



This is a simple and elegant green home that has adopted low-budget solutions for sustainability. Among its green features are a rainwater harvesting system and the use of skim coat which contains recycled material instead of normal house paint and a roof garden that cools the house. Sliding timber louvred windows and doors allow natural light and fresh air in and provide privacy while good ventilation means minimum use of air conditioners.

Says Wong: "I think the architect did an amazing job. The construction of a bungalow from scratch is an unbelievably difficult task in Malaysia. Selecting the right contractors and subcontractors in itself was a painful journey for us. But having gone through all that and now looking back, it was worth the while." ■

