

ISSUE #52. DECEMBER 2011 + JANUARY 2012

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PP 13134/04/2012(029366)

ISSN 1675-6266



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# MADE TO MEASURE

FENG SHUI REQUIREMENTS  
DOVETAIL INTO INNOVATIVE  
SOLUTIONS FOR THE NG  
RESIDENCE

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**Top** Rectangular chunks of Forest Brown marble add an element of interest and colour to the restrained façade of the property

**Left** Strategic doorways, integrated into the glass wall, open out onto narrow aluminium bridges affixed to the louvered aluminium tower to facilitate cleaning

LAST YEAR, NG Aun Hooi was a man driven by an important undertaking. His eldest son, who was in the penultimate year of his secondary schooling, would soon be leaving the roost to pursue his higher education. Having just acquired a 7,000 sq ft corner lot in the relatively new township of Mutiara Damansara in Petaling Jaya, Ng was determined to quickly put up a home before his firstborn moved on to pursue his studies further afield.

With the benefit drawn from his years of experience as a building and civil contractor, Ng achieved his goal in



Clockwise from right A separate entrance at the AV cum karaoke room offers late night revellers a discreet exit • High ceilings and a minimalist décor confer a sense of understated luxury on the formal lounge • Hidden doorways carved into the L-shaped wood feature wall contribute to the purity of the overall design aesthetic • The geometric vocabulary of the base cabinetry unifies this space





less than 12 months and the family shifted into their spanking new home in April this year. "I impressed upon the architects that time was of the essence. They in turn came up with a design concept within a fortnight. We also steered clear of any architectural elements that would draw out the building process and instead stuck to simpler alternatives," says Ng.

However, it is apparent that design intent and creativity were not sacrificed at the altar of expediency. Designed as a composition of rectangular volumes, the house presents a linear look with pronounced vertical forms, balanced by a clever juxtaposition of horizontal elements.

The geometric language of the home is further articulated by the unique pairing of a marble monolith and an aluminium louvered tower that punctuates a side elevation of the house. Besides discharging an aesthetic role, the tower doubles as a screening device (for the stairwell).

"We were given a concise design brief that incorporated very specific feng shui prescriptions. Basically, the property was sectioned into nine quadrants with pre-set placements of certain common and private living spaces, such as the staircase and children's bedrooms, which had to be allocated to specific quadrants," explains Micheal Ching, director of CH&I Architecture Sdn Bhd.

"The comprehensive feng shui requirements, however, gave us the opportunity to







**Clockwise from top** Homeowner Ng, flanked by his architects Ivan Mah (left) and Micheal Ching • A narrow courtyard straddles the pair of towering walls • Glass balustrades enhance the open expression of the stairwell. Equipped with a changing colour sequence of recessed lighting, the stairwell is a dominant feature in the home.

create innovative solutions without compromising on the fundamentals of good ventilation, natural lighting, sight lines and, of course, design aesthetics.”

The prayer altar offers an early example of how prescribed norms have been accommodated creatively. It is imperative that the altar is the first thing you see when you enter the home and in most residences, it is commonly positioned to face the main entrance. Staying true to the unfussy and modern interior of this home, the ornate prayer room is instead tucked away in a front corner of the house. Set against a backdrop of bold red, the altar is plainly visible upon entering the property, courtesy of a horizontal window punched at eye level into the front wall.

Comprising three storeys, the detached home boasts a built-up of just under 6,600 sq ft and includes the customary social and functional areas as well as six bedrooms, an AV-cum-karaoke room and even a roof garden.

The layout is defined by a sense of openness and spatial clarity, where areas like the lounge, dining area and dry kitchen flow seamlessly from one to the other. The impression of spaciousness is enhanced by high ceilings, a double volume feature and floor-to-ceiling glass walls, which flood the interior with copious amounts of natural light.

Where light marble flooring and muted shades of upholstery complement modern steel and glass elements, select wood fixtures have been integrated to inject subtle warmth and a sophisticated texture into the interior.

A beautiful example of this approach is found in the L-shaped Amazon teak feature wall, which acts as a stylish backdrop to the dry kitchen while doubling as concealed cabinetry. Wrapped round a corner, the sleek partition extends towards the back of the house where camouflaged panels open to reveal doorways into the kitchen and a generously sized laundry room.

“We wanted to ensure a purity of design that informs clean lines as demonstrated by the wood feature wall and stairwell,” states Ivan Mah, co-director of CH&I Architecture. Sculptured out of steel and American oak, the staircase is a work of art in its own right. Set against a double-volume void and framed by aluminium louvres, the staggered steps that soar up three levels create a visual flow that leads the eye upwards. Glass balustrades, meanwhile, augment the open expression of the stairwell.

The upper floors of the home are dedicated to the private living spaces of the family, which includes twin girls and a pair of boys, all in their teens. Housed on the second floor are the master suite, the daughters’ shared









This page, clockwise from far left The roof garden on the uppermost floor is a favoured spot of the children • Natural light saturates all the bedrooms, courtesy of the expansive fenestration • At night, accent lighting choices underscore the cheery mood of the twins' bedroom décor







**Top** Like his sisters' bedroom, the location of the eldest son's sleeping quarters was predetermined by feng shui prescriptions

**Bottom** The bedroom opens out onto an enclosed terraced garden

bedroom, guest room and family room-cum-study.

Though all the bedrooms have been decorated in themes that harmonise with the personalities of their respective occupiers, the sleeping quarters of the sons — located on the top floor — have an added edge over the other rooms. The younger son's bedroom opens out onto the inviting roof garden, which enjoys uninterrupted views of the surroundings. As for the privileged eldest son, his bedroom unapologetically echoes the master suite in size and lays claim to its own garden terrace.

The Ng residence is a marriage of practicality and precision. Informed by contemporary interpretations of time-honoured beliefs, this home sees creative elements and clean design successfully dovetailing to complement the directives of traditional conventions. ■

