

The SOURCE

SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on a Star
Steve Leung

Special Report
Singapore

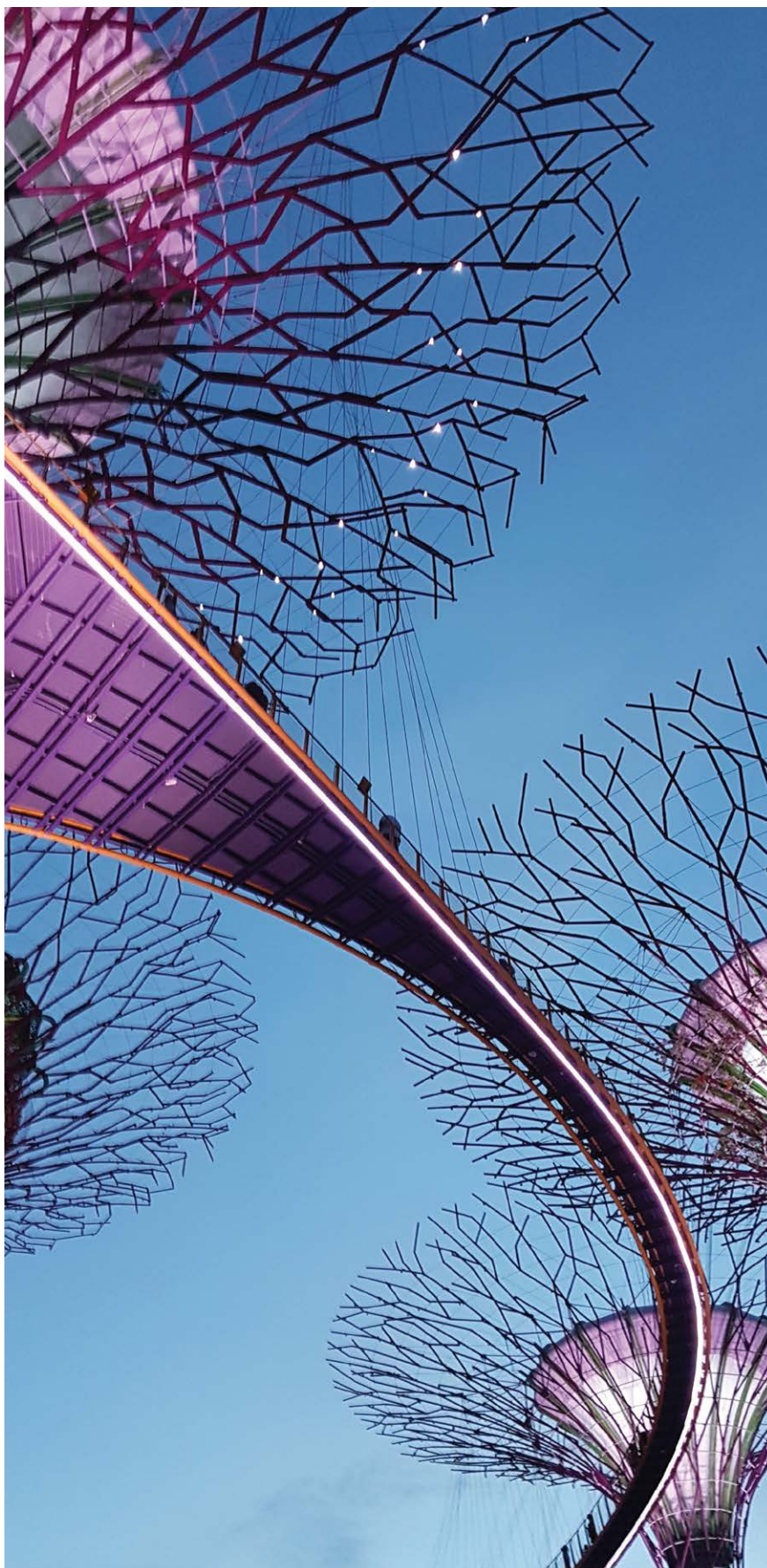
Snapshots
Projects & events







The SOURCE
SPOTLIGHT



Revamped & revitalised

Back in 2018, we launched The SOURCE as a bi-annual guide book offering carefully curated content for architects, designers, luxury residential property owners, property developers and industry associations.

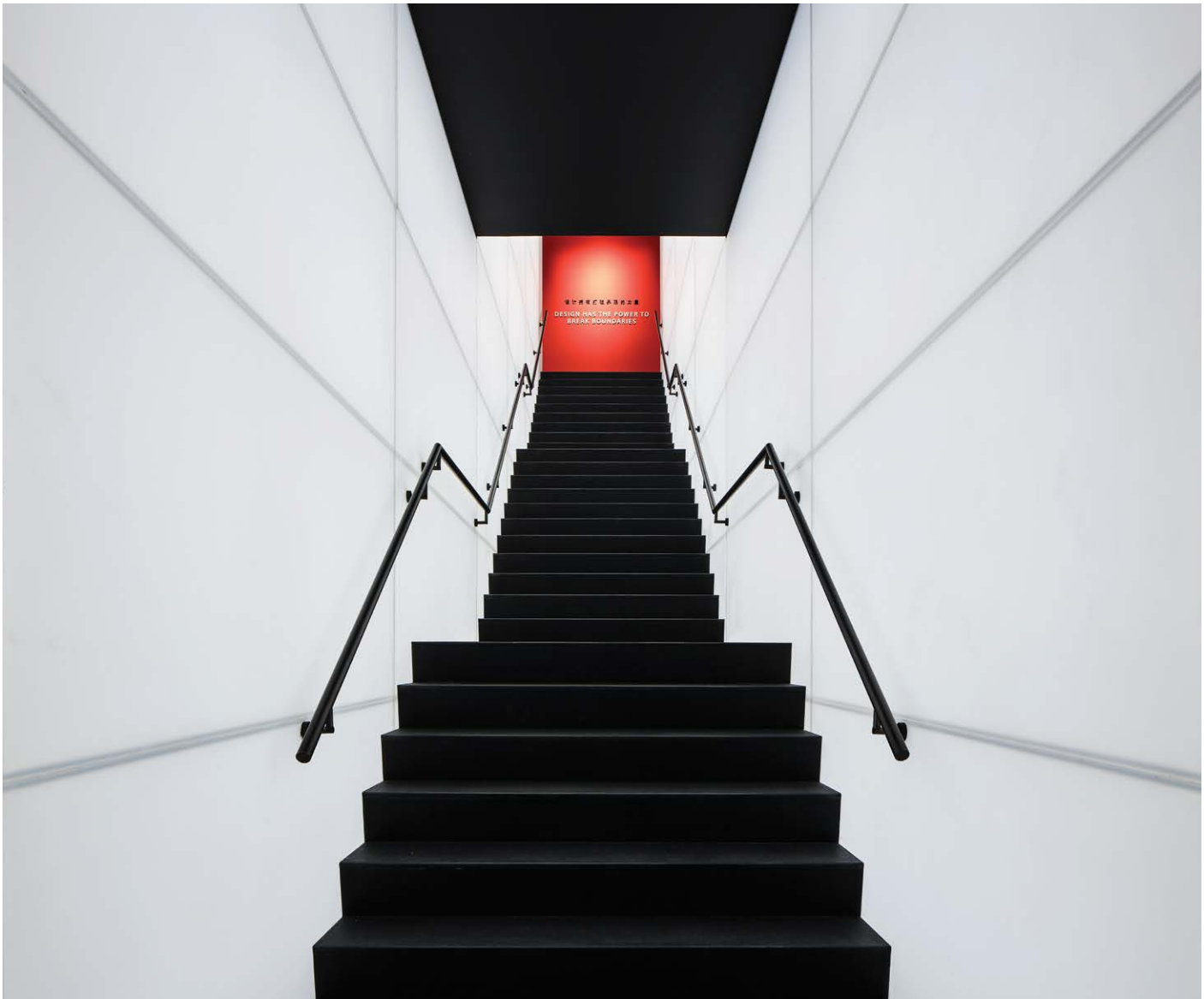
Four years on, the world has been forever changed by the global Covid-19 pandemic and, in response to the changing needs of our readership, we made the decision to relaunch in a more streamlined and focused format.

Going forward, we will be publishing three times a year as The SOURCE: Spotlight, with each issue to be headlined by a lead feature, as well as shining a spotlight on a specific topic or country in a special report.

This will allow us greater flexibility in terms of content, and a more immediate response to developing trends. As always, we look forward to hearing from you with your news and latest developments, and to sharing them with our readers.

Suzanne Miao
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The SOURCE: Spotlight

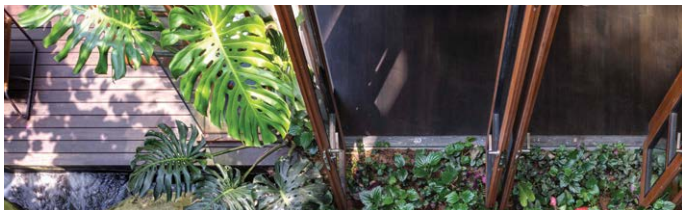


006 SPOTLIGHT ON A STAR

An exclusive interview with internationally renowned designer Steve Leung, founder of Steve Leung Design Group. Among his recent achievements, he was recently awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Government in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Hong Kong throughout his long and distinguished career in design.

SPECIAL REPORT: SINGAPORE

Influenced by a combination of its tropical location and its Colonial past, Singapore has long stood at a confluence of both past and present. Today it is a global financial centre, and one of the most densely populated places in the world. Its designers combine cutting-edge vision with a respectful celebration of history, and in this issue of The SOURCE: Spotlight, we feature a curated selection of residential and commercial projects.



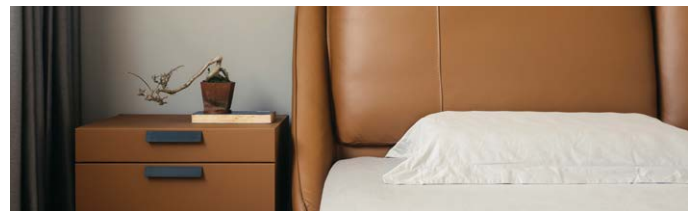
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050 SNAPSHOTS

New in brief from around the region and beyond, including highlighted trade events coming up in early 2023.

060 SNEAK PEEK

A glimpse at the beautiful Flowing Cloud Township Villa project by More Design office in Hangzhou, with the full story coming in our next edition in Q1, 2023.

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Spotlight
on a
STAR



One singular sensation

Hong Kong-born architect, interior and product designer Steve Leung has notched up more than 40 years of experience — inspired by Asian culture and arts, he has achieved international acclaim for his unique, contemporary style

Words: Suzanne Miao
Photography: Courtesy of Steve Leung Design

CLUB C+

Describing Club C+ as his “personal design interpretation of a comfortable home-from-home, a one-stop lifestyle destination where culture elites can savour the finest things in life”, Leung debuted his first-ever exclusive social lounge in Hong Kong’s vibrant Central district in late 2021.

Subtly recalling the hidden

meaning of ‘private home’ in Chinese, Leung translated his signature aesthetics into a members-only lifestyle space that blends Chinese contemporary design and British accents into a speakeasy-inspired club, where connoisseurs can indulge in delicious gastronomic adventures, fine wines, premium cigars, and exceptional art pieces.

A handpicked selection of B&B Italia furniture and decorative lighting further endow the setting with a vivid personality, transforming Club C+ into an immersive escape from hectic urban life.



Steve Leung has had much to celebrate in 2022 — the 25th anniversary of his company, Steve Leung Design; the recent honour of being awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Government; and his 65th birthday, to name just a few highlights.

True to form, however, Leung shows little sign of slowing down: “I find it quite challenging to take a break,” he explains. There are definite plans ahead, he assures us — as well as a redefining of his focus, as we found out.

Earlier this year, you were honoured as a Fellow of the International Federation of Interior Architects / Designers (IFI), following your tenure as President (2017-2020) and Past President (2020-2022). Named as the first-ever Chinese President of the IFI, what was the significance of that role to you, on both a personal and a professional level?

Becoming President of the IFI was definitely a huge accomplishment in my professional life and I still feel extremely honoured and grateful for the trust given by my fellow design peers. However, despite being the first-ever Chinese President, I always envisioned my role on a global remit — quoting from my inaugural speech at the IFI General Assembly held in Lagos, Nigeria, in November 2017: “As the IFI belongs to no single person, no single country, and

no single region, I can promise you, in my role of new President of the IFI, that I will do my very best with my fellow board members to make the IFI a truly global representation of all of us.”

This vision is what, ultimately, inspired and prompted me to launch the IFI Global Awards Program (IFI GAP), the highest honour celebrating exceptional designers and projects globally. Now in its second edition, IFI GAP recognises and awards design excellence at the world level through the engagement of a stellar line-up of jurors featuring some of the most inspiring practicing interior architects, designers, and thinkers of today.

Teaming up with IFI member and expert networks, it is my intention to continue to build together a world-class repository of the profession’s individual luminaries and the best-of-the-best of built environments.

McDONALD'S CONCEPT CUBE

Following successful collaborations with McDonald's for the launch of its CUBE flagship restaurants in Chengdu and Shenzhen in 2020, SLD partnered again with the brand to unveil McDonald's third CUBE flagship restaurant in Shanghai in 2021.

Located at the new headquarters of McDonald's China, the location is also home to the McDonald's China Food Innovation Center. Spanning the ground and first floors of the building, the 700 sq-m

flagship restaurant can accommodate more than 200 diners, making it the largest McDonald's restaurant in Shanghai and the first to employ the CUBE scheme in Eastern China.

Leung's CUBE design scheme realises cheerful urban settings and taps into shared nostalgia and memories, integrating three main concepts throughout — 'cube', warm colours and the 'Hidden Smile'. Inspired by childhood memories of eagerly unpacking an iconic Happy Meal, the modular cubic shape of the Happy Meal box reveals the endless possibilities of this playful setting.

Additionally, with a strong commitment to environmental responsibility, the flagship is also set to become the first McDonald's restaurant in mainland China to receive LEED platinum certification.



Looking to the future, what will your role be in continuing to guide and shape the role of Asian design via your continued relationship with the IFI as a Fellow?

Over the upcoming years, in my roles of Fellow of IFI and Program Chairman and Jury Chair of the IFI GAP, I am truly committed to keep supporting the IFI's community at large by contributing my regional expertise to strengthen the IFI and IFI GAP's outreach here in Asia.

I see this strategy as mutually beneficial for both IFI but, also, for all those Asian design practices and young creatives who aspire to build their presence on the global landscape, or who are simply keen to be part of a wider dialogue on a more international level.

accepted work-from-home practices, and a strong desire to have exclusive, highly personalised, and flexible environments enhanced with smart technology features that enhance the quality of day-to-day lifestyles.

Sustainability is without any doubt one of the big design trends in our industry at the moment. Green design had actually been an on-going hit way before the pandemic, but it has been dramatically pushed forward by the global outbreak. Design is playing a more defined role in tackling environmental challenges, and more awareness is given towards green design principles.

For example, LEED and WELL are increasingly considered and adopted across a variety of design

“
Design has always been
a crucial component of my life
and of my own happiness
”

Speaking of the big picture, the 'new', post-pandemic world has placed unprecedented pressure on, and posed new challenges to, the worlds of design and architecture. What are your thoughts on how best to adapt to this fluid, shifting landscape?

From my personal observation, I would say that the key trends to consider when approaching post-pandemic design would definitely be a much-increased awareness of sustainability, commonly

outcomes, as well as a more pervasive employment of natural, eco-friendly, and upcycled materials.

I am also very curious to witness how the post-pandemic era will redefine our traditional approach to design. With work-from-home (WFH) practice remaining the status quo in the majority of urban contexts, people are considering creating dedicated working spaces within their homes and even replacing traditional office environs.



STEVE LEUNG x VISIONNAIRE — NATURE'S JEWEL BOX 2022

Launched at Salon del Mobile 2022, the Nature's Jewel Box 2022 furniture range for Visionnaire is Leung's fifth collaboration with the brand since the first collection was launched in 2015 for its 10th anniversary.

Inspired by Visionnaire's core values of the celebration of nature and holistic sustainability, along with the blueprint of the first collection, Leung investigates

a different aspect of the beauty of nature: the resilience of trees. The final creative outcome celebrates the compelling adaptability of trees to thrive and grow in the face of multiple weather conditions and hostile environments.

The collection is made of ash wood, chosen for its sturdiness without compromising softness and flexibility. A contemporary, sleek design language is carved through organic lines; the design subtly emulating shapes seen in nature to express a delicate balance between luxury living and the harmony of nature.

“
Design has always been
a crucial component of my life
and of my own happiness
”

The spatial layout of pandemic-proof houses will definitely rely on extra-flexible and multi-functional spaces, with smart technologies providing a higher degree of customisation that deeply connects interior design and technology to create more personalised environments.

The workspace will dramatically change as well: multi-faceted workplaces will be designed in a way to ensure proactive and resilient work-life balance to become the norm, and people will feel encouraged to work through different paradigms: on site, from home, and perhaps even from the fascinating Metaverse universe.

I am excited to see how design will take into consideration all these new needs and expectations.

Lastly, I have also noticed a drawn interest and increased demand for private and highly personalised lifestyle experiences, prompted by the halting of global travel, and social restrictions. In particular, I have been witnessing a renewed interest in deluxe yachts — seen as coveted ‘floating villas’ replacing the traditional concept of holiday homes — and the private club culture, with post-pandemic clubs embracing a more informal and laid-back flair that focuses on creating dedicated experiences for

the specific needs of particular HNWI (high net worth individual) segments.

I understand you will be launching your monograph later this year, covering key highlights from your long career. If you had to, could you pick out just one life-changing event or achievement that helped set you on your path?

This is quite a difficult question to address, as I feel like all my works helped set me on and further grow my path. However, if I would really need to pick one, I would probably say my first-ever show flat designed for Symphony Bay (Hong Kong) in 1997.

At that time, more than 90 per cent of deluxe show flats were designed in the western classical style. Nonetheless, I thought luxury could have been expressed through different ways too. When designing for Symphony Bay, I decided to take a risk and break from traditional convention by employing a more contemporary design approach and a generous use of natural elements.

It definitely was a gamble for both the client and my own reputation, but it was incredibly well received in Hong Kong’s highly competitive residential market.



OOAK LAMMA

With its name literally meaning ‘one of a kind’, this private holiday home is located in Lamma Island’s Luk Chau, which translates literally as ‘deer islet’.

A celebration of natural beauty, heritage and craftsmanship, OOAK Lamma is a unique private holiday home just a 15-minute boat ride away from the heart of the Hong Kong’s

bustling city centre. OOAK’s private pier is constructed from upcycled wood reclaimed from an abandoned fishing boat, and leads guests up toward a sleek two-storey villa complex. Here, white walls, reclaimed wood and turquoise furniture create a soft and subtle vibe; Leung’s tribute to Mother Nature.

Floor-to-ceiling glass sliding doors provide a close connection to nature and a true indoor-outdoor experience — Leung’s design reflects the philosophy of harmony between man and nature.

2022 is proving to be a hugely significant year, being the company's 25th anniversary and your 65th birthday! You launched SL2.0 in mainland China, and were recently awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Government... There are people who might say, "Come on Steve, you've worked so hard for so long, achieved so much success personally and so much progress for the industry — isn't it time you took a break?" What would you say to those people?

I would reply by quoting my personal motto: "enjoy life, enjoy design"!

Honestly, I find it quite challenging to take a break: design has always been a crucial component of my life and of my

own happiness. Jokes aside, regarding my future plans, I am already stepping down from a full-force regime at SLD by delegating more freedom (and responsibilities!) to my talented design teams. This allows me to spend more quality time with my family and, also, to allocate more of my energy in giving back to society.

My desire is to share my own experience, knowledge, and passion with the rest of the design community, especially with the younger creatives. I hope to make a positive impact on the next generation of designers, passing on the spirit and inspiring them to make our industry flourish.

www.sldgroup.com/

QUICK Q&A

Designer or architect you most admire?

Le Corbusier.

Greatest design influence or inspiration?

Design influence: Le Corbusier and Aldo Rossi.

Design inspiration: everyday life — what I see, what I hear, whom I meet, my travel experiences.

Favourite place to visit on holiday?

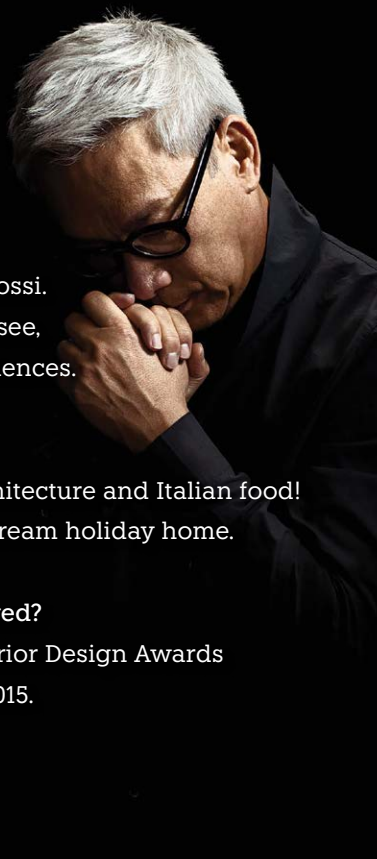
Italy: I am in love with ancient Roman architecture and Italian food!
And also Niseko, Japan, where I built my dream holiday home.

Most significant award or accolade received?

The 19th Andrew Martin International Interior Design Awards
— Interior Designer of the Year Award in 2015.

Your approach to life?

"Enjoy life, enjoy design".





SLD+

Launched in 2020, SLD+ — SLD's corporate culture centre in Shanghai — is home to the permanent 'DESIGN RE:COLLECTIONS' exhibition which showcases Leung's design journey and works.

Located next to SLD's Shanghai headquarters, SLD+ presents a clean, white outline embodying Leung's design aesthetic of modernity and simplicity. "SLD+ is a gift to myself," he

explains. "I hope that this signature building, with SLD's DNA flowing from the inside to the outside, will continue to inspire, extend, and create an infinite wonder of possibilities in the future, echoing with its name."

With just a single window on its façade, inside the building a striking staircase connects the first and second floors, symbolising both Leung's achievements and SLD's growth through an emotional crescendo of past, present, and future breakthroughs. This culminates with the motto 'Design has the power to break boundaries' engraved in the red feature wall. ☪

Special
Report:
SINGAPORE

When two become three

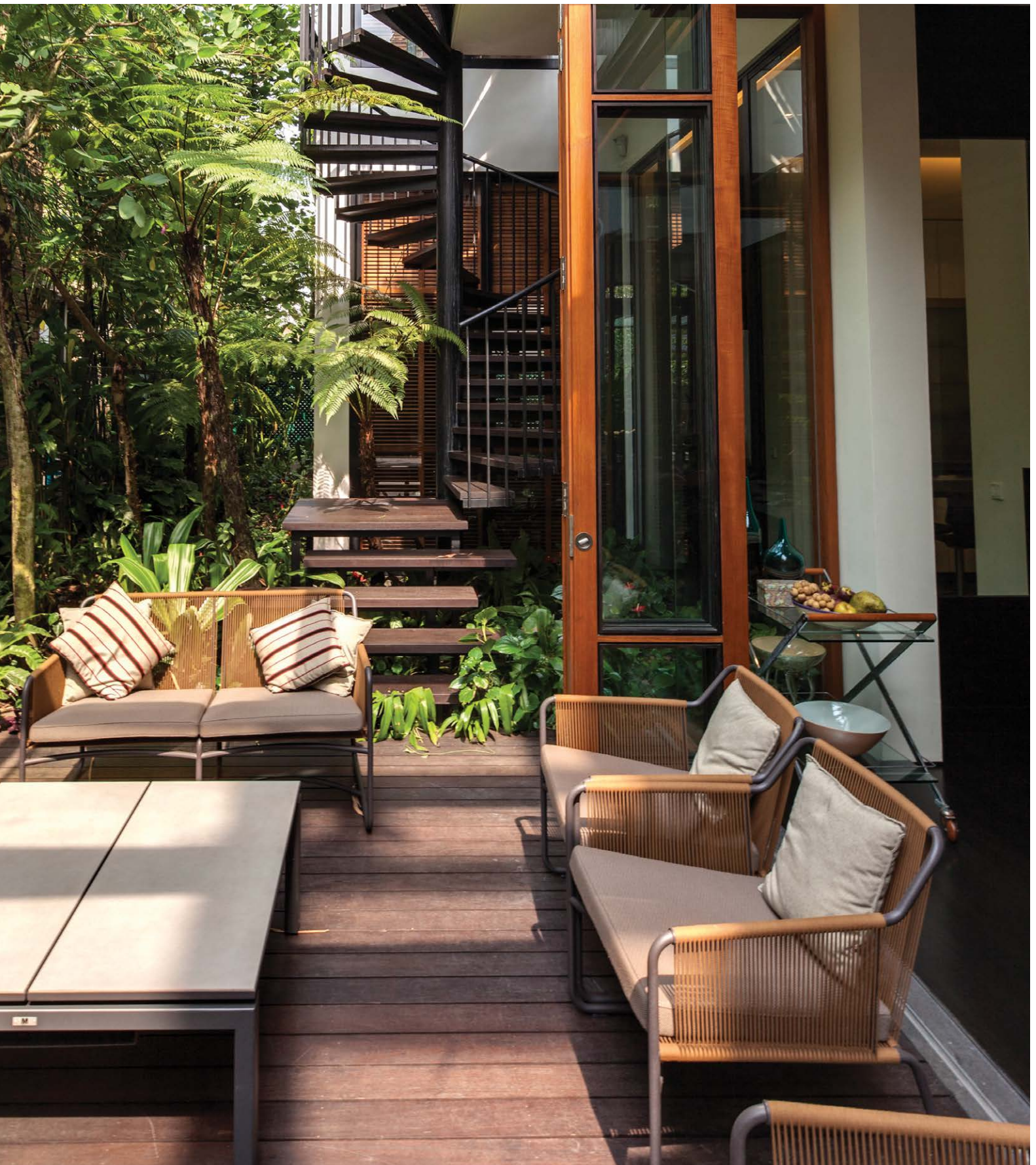
Photography: Sanjay Kewlani | www.skewedeye.com

A decade after designing side-by-side homes on a single plot for their client, Aamer Architects was tasked to create a third home on a newly-acquired adjoining plot to unite a multi-generational family

Back in 2001, owner Adrian Tan commissioned Aamer Architects to design two houses for him on a capacious plot, which was divided to accommodate separate but identical houses. Some 10 years later, Tan acquired the adjoining plot with the intention of building a third home to accommodate one for himself and his wife, and one for each of their two grown up sons with their future families.

The original homes had gone on to win the prestigious Singapore Institute of Architects' Design Award in 2004. Upon purchasing the additional plot, Tan's wish was to create a new home in sync with the existing two — but with its own unique differences, of course.





A spiral staircase provides the client's sons direct access to their rooftop entertainment space and pool

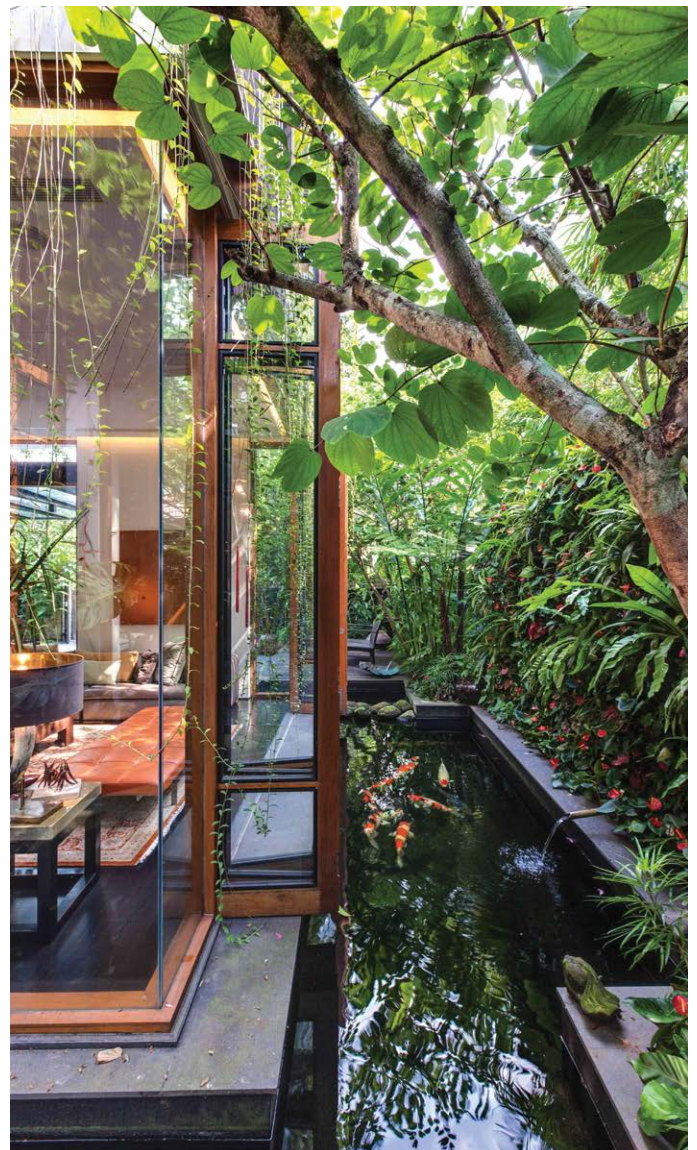


Natural daylight floods in through ceiling-height windows



Tan specifically requested a garden courtyard and koi pond for the new home. Thus, the design placed the swimming pool on the roof, making the most of amazing views over the estate and surrounding houses, which mostly comprise two-storey bungalows.

As Tan's sons were in their late teens and early twenties, they naturally wished to have their own space and privacy. An interesting planning layout placed the boys' rooms outdoors via a verandah terrace, with their own access from the ground level leading up to the rooftop entertainment room and pool garden terrace.



A koi pond was one of the client's specific requests



With a garden courtyard and koi pond at ground level, the swimming pool was lifted into the skies; its rooftop position affording sweeping views over the neighbourhood



The bathrooms are open to gardens replete with lush flora and fauna



Vertical timber trellises support climbing creepers that reach from the ground all the way up to the rooftop swimming pool

Much like the first two houses, the materials palette comprised natural elements such as timber, marble and granite, blending well with the lush, vertically-stacked gardens.

As with the first two houses at the side, gardens and greenery were deemed to key importance. While the first two houses had trees growing through wooden balconies, this time creepers climb up vertical timber trellises that extend above the rooftop swimming pool.

Even the bathrooms are open to gardens replete with lush flora and fauna including birds and butterflies, making this a truly vertical garden villa. ☺

Project: Tan's Garden Villa

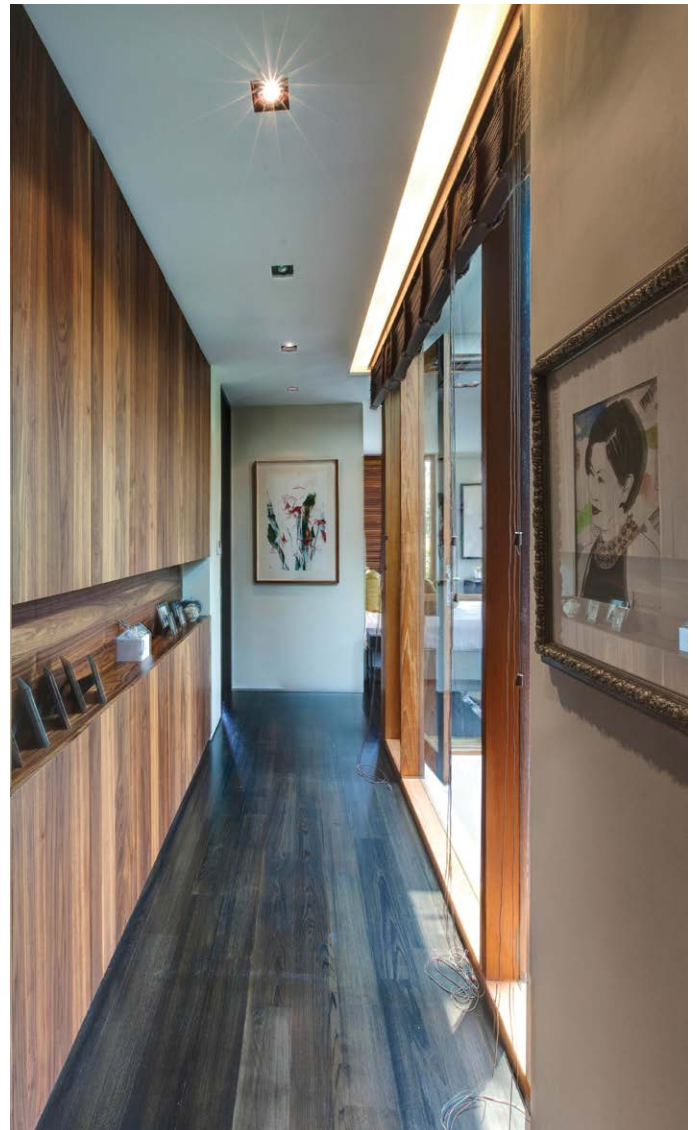
Location: Singapore

Architecture: Aamer Architects | www.aamertaher.com

Interior design: Terre | studioterre.com

Site size: 450 sq-m

Project size: 350 sq-m



The materials palette was dominated by natural elements such as timber, used extensively as flooring and in bespoke joinery and fittings



Memorabilia from the couple's travels, and expressions of their varying interests, are displayed on walls and shelves

A division of spaces

Photography: LAANK



A split-level apartment needed to be artfully divided to create spaces for a young couple who each wished for their own pockets of privacy

In undertaking the residential design for a young creative couple and their three cats, design studio LAANK had to masterfully juggle creating spaces which allowed their clients to be together, yet separate when they wished.

Comprising a walk-up apartment split over two-levels, the house was conceived on a 'no-design' basis which would instead respect and reflect each member of the couple's personality. The plan was, in short, to craft spaces for their differing interests and hobbies.

The space within the home was simultaneously narrow in terms of layout, yet quite spacious for two people. A key challenge which LAANK faced was how to meld the two different personalities together while still accommodating private spaces for each — without needing to resort to the creation of many different rooms.



A crisp, white-dominated colour palette is warmed by the use of timber for shelving and counters, as seen in the kitchen and open cupboard

As LAANK explained in a statement, ‘Both have very different interests and likes. One likes pottery, gardening, cooking, while the other likes music, reading and skating. We wanted to acknowledge the differences and yet ensure the design and design process was still harmonious.’

The design team thus utilised the split levels to allow for different ‘pockets’ of space for different uses. Level one was designed to provide the private spaces, including the couple’s bedroom, while level two features an open dining-kitchen area extending to a music lounge and balcony.

The configuration allows for a seamless indoor/outdoor space and for the dining and music area to be together. A 3m-long table takes centerstage as the couple likes to host and have friends over. This table also doubles up as a workstation for both.

Adhering to the ‘no-design’ approach, the walls are adorned with an eclectic collection of artworks and memorabilia collected by the couple while on their travels; with random, quirky, and colourful furniture across different styles furnishing the space. ☺

Project: 88 Walk-Up

Location: Singapore

Design firm: LAANK | <http://laank.com.sg/>

Project size: 1,800 sq-ft



Quirky artworks and décor lend a cheery, personal vibe to the sitting room



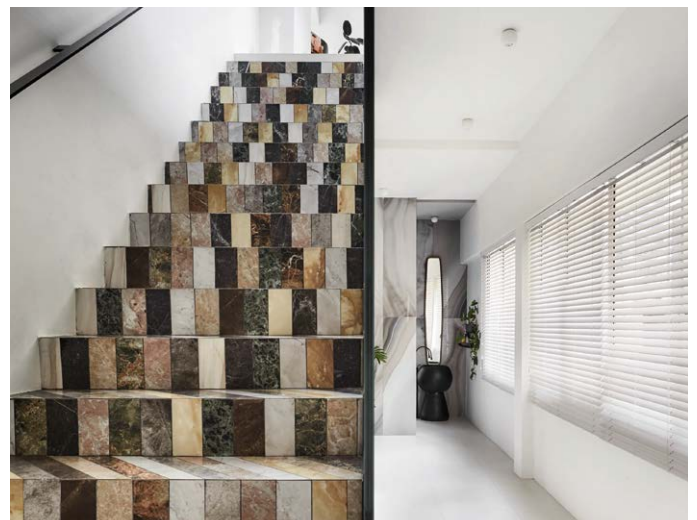
The spacious, split-level master bedroom provides an extensive walk-in wardrobe



The galley kitchen houses an extensive dining table, and leads onto the terrace



A strong monochrome statement bathroom is brightened by the addition of greenery



Multicoloured marble strips create visual interest in the stairwell

A stylish sense of gathering

Photography: Sanjay Kewlani | www.skewedeye.com



Inspired by the client's love for getting together with family and friends, Metre Architects took a design cue from the architecture of this HDB apartment

A gently curving outer wall of this Housing & Development Board (HDB) re-sale apartment at Compassvale Link in Singapore was the starting point of a design by Metre Architects for its client.

A hospitable sort who enjoys cooking and hosting friends and family, the client loved gentle curve of the outer wall of the HDB block — so much so that she planned to remove one bedroom in the apartment to enlarge the living area, and reveal more of the curved shape of the space. Metre responded by setting out a concept which would encourage convivial actions and welcoming behaviour within the space, such as relaxation, dining, getting together: “Our intuition was to celebrate the curved perimeter wall by introducing an inner curve that gathers the space.”



The sweeping curve of the outer wall is echoed internally by the sweeping bespoke cabinetry in the main social space



Providing both seating and storage, the calligraphy-inspired bench gently hugs the dining zone



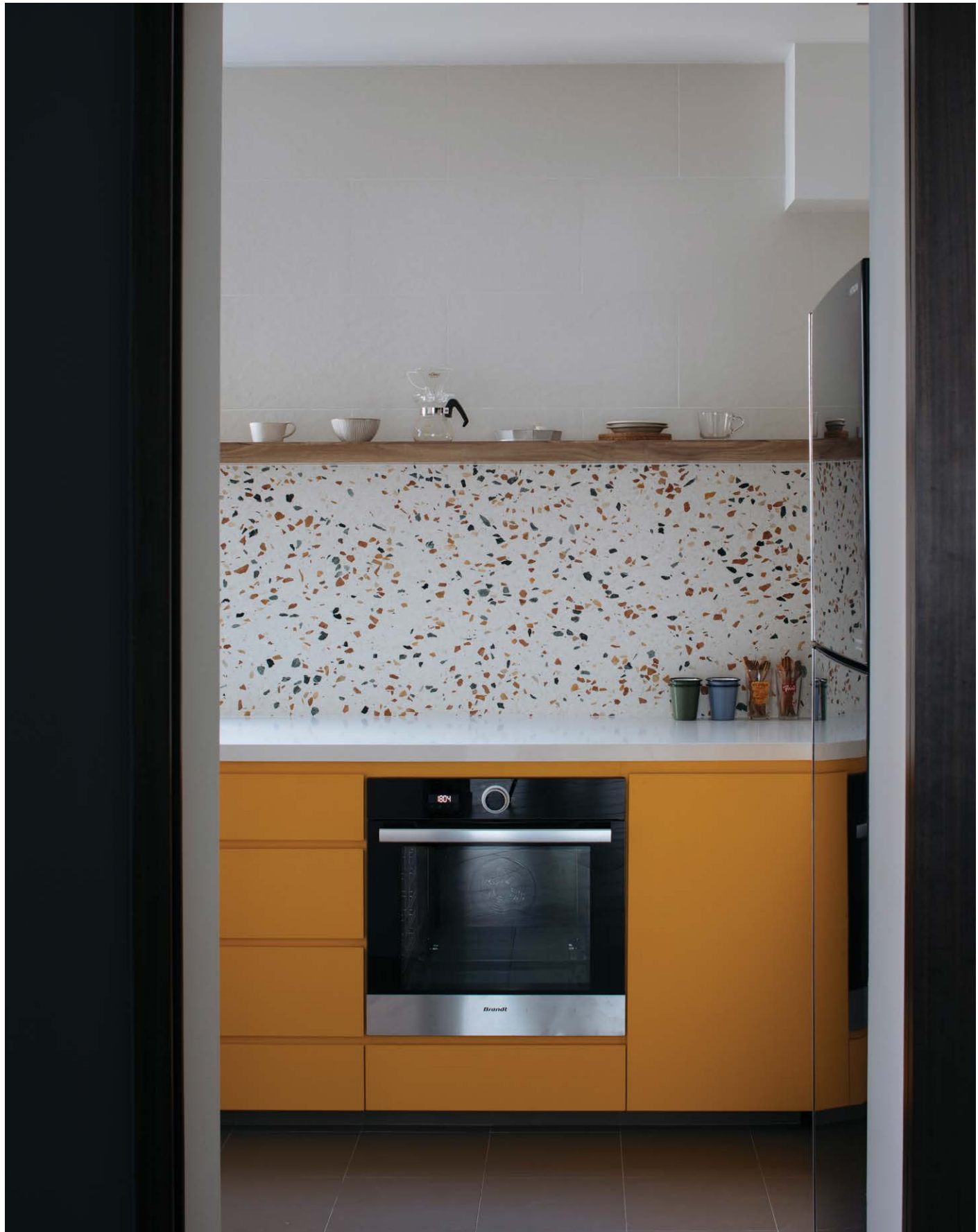
The curved bench seating following the arc of the outer wall allows different 'zones' to be realised, such as this TV-viewing spot

This began with a peripheral bench providing ample seating and creating storage space beneath. Encircling the space, this arc physically connects everyone at the gathering and yet allows smaller groups to hang out in their respective corners. The formal articulation of this curve is inspired by the clerical script in Chinese calligraphy, where a typical stroke starts heavy and ends lightly.

The front of the curve is shaped like the bow of a boat, its sculptured form emphasised by its deep shadow. The curve concludes in an upward sweep, gaining three-dimensionality, while delineating the interface between public and private. The dining table is custom-made with the owner's favourite terrazzo top, celebrating the spontaneity that makes each gathering unique and unrepeatable, akin to the Japanese concept of *ichi-go ichi-e* ('this time only').



The multifunctionality of the curved bench is evident: seating, shelving, storage, style





Simplicity in both colour and materials palette is echoed in the furniture selected

In defying the default sofa+coffee table for the living area and table+chairs for the dining space, the design uncovers a singular expression for this conversational space. It is a proposal that departs from existing templates of domesticity, and required a leap of faith by the owner.

Open and unscripted, the design influences while allowing ample possibilities: “This is intended to be a multi-potential space, like a blank canvas for the owner to accumulate furnishings and memories.”

To verify the efficacy of this design intent, Metre scheduled two photography sessions, the first immediately after handover, and the second after one full year of occupation — with the arc still outlining the shape of gathering. ρ

Project: A Sense of Gathering

Location: Singapore

Design firm: Metre Architects | metre.sg/

Project size: 91 sq-m



A clean, minimalist palette is presented in the bathroom

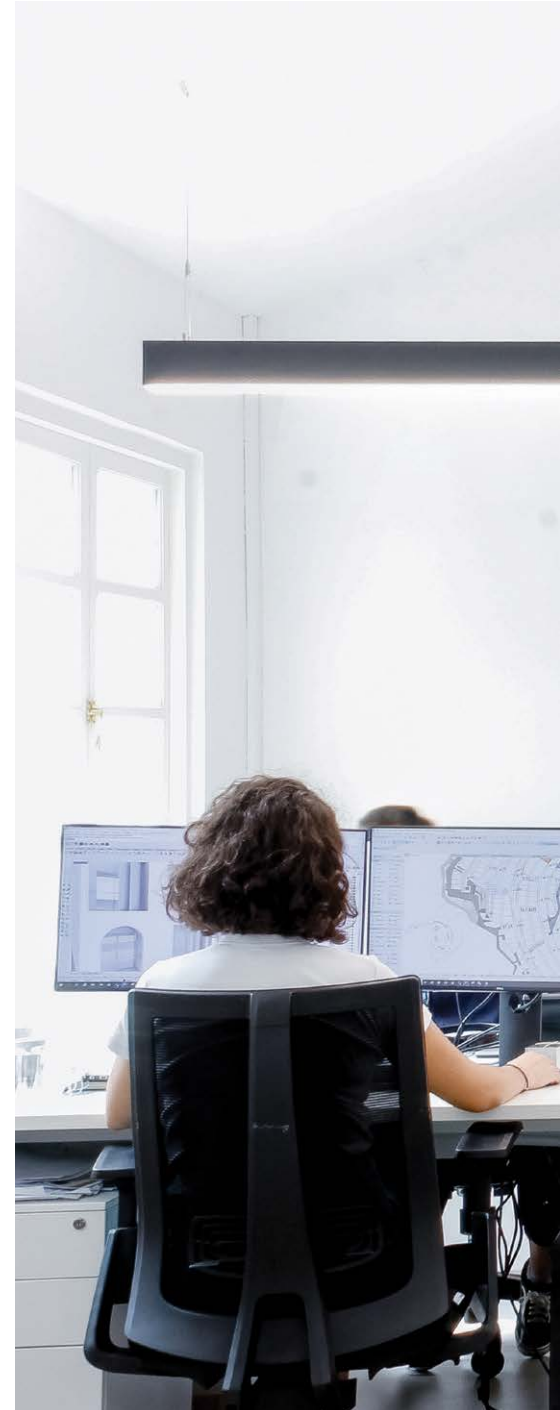
Making room for growth

Photography: Courtesy of 10 Design

10 Design recently relocated its Singapore studio to 41 Duxton Hill, needing a larger, permanent office to accommodate a growing team and business demands in Southeast Asia

In just one year since it was established, 10 Design's Singapore studio has achieved significant growth, which Ross Milne, CEO of 10 Design, describes as "remarkable" given the challenging global economic climate.

Led by partners Peter Barrett (partner, master planning) and José Cláudio Silva (design partner), the Singapore studio released its first major project, Hon Thom Island earlier this year, a 303,700 sq-m integrated resort and hospitality destination for Sun Group in Phu Quoc, Vietnam. Other new projects are ongoing in major cities across the region, including Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Da Nang, Binh Thuan, Phnom Penh, Jakarta, Cebu and more. In addition, the studio has extended their portfolio internationally with a current project in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. "The relocation further marks a major milestone of 10 Design's presence in the region," says Milne.





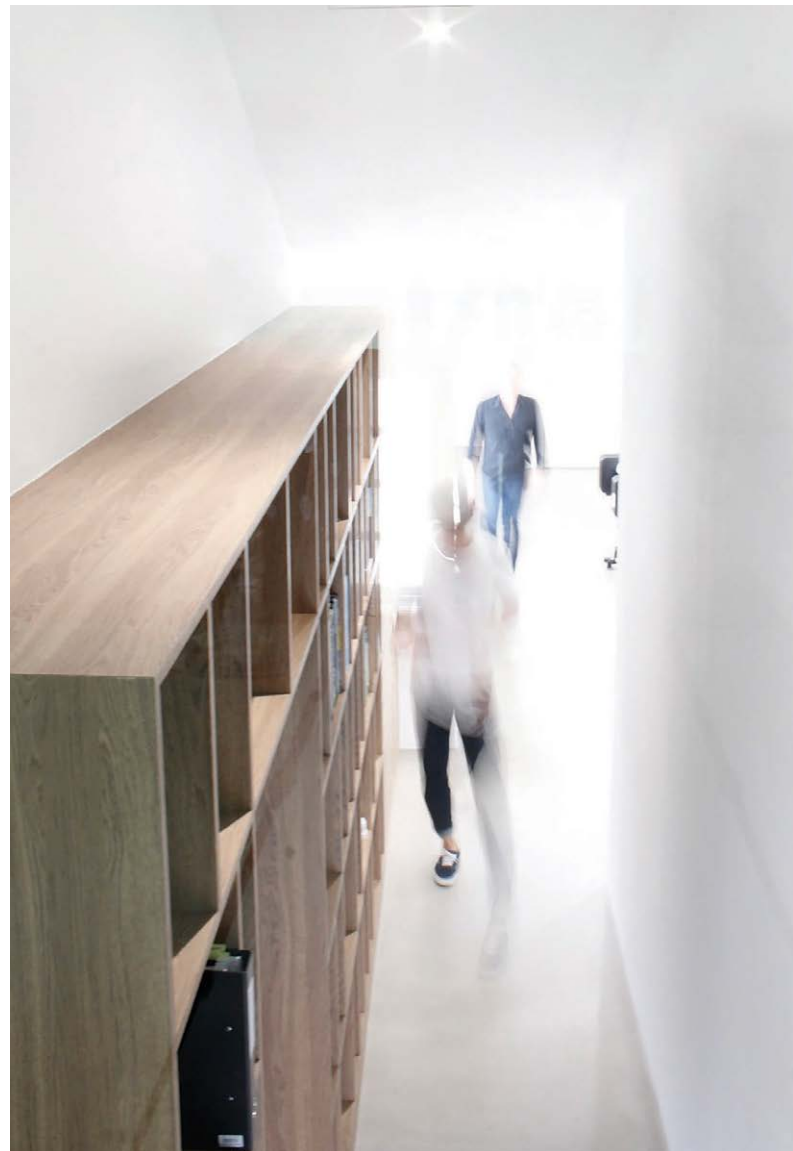
Project teams sit together in the open studio



The aim was to build a permanent home for 10 Design's staff, as well as a branded, professional environment in which to welcome clients



10 Design's new Singapore office spans three floors across two conservation shop houses representative of southeast Asia's rich architectural and built heritage



The interiors are deliberately kept sleek and clean with a bright white palette



Breakout areas, an open library and workshop spaces have been specifically designed for collaboration

Barry Shapiro, managing partner — Southeast Asia of 10 Design, explains that by leveraging their extensive experience and market knowledge within the region, Barrett and Silva have built on 10 Design's strong portfolio in southeast Asia. "Some of our ongoing projects in the region are moving into detail design or beginning to progress on site," he adds. "We look forward to seeing these projects move forward including major developments in Vietnam such as the Narra Residences in Ho Chi Minh City and Landmark 55 in Hanoi."

10 Design's Singapore team has expanded steadily over the past year, driving the need to "build a permanent home for our staff, and a branded, professional environment to welcome our clients," says Silva. "We are particularly excited

for this location that carries the history and culture of the city, as we wish to create a sense of belonging for our staff who are also from diverse backgrounds."

Located in Singapore's Tanjong Pagar area on the historic Duxton Hill, the new studio spans three floors across two conservation shop houses representative of southeast Asia's rich architectural and built heritage.

"At the outset, we wanted our studio to reflect 10 Design's culture," says Barrett. "Project teams sit together in the open studio, with breakout areas, open library and workshop spaces designed for collaboration among our architects and designers. This new studio gives us an ideal base to launch our design work throughout the region." ♪



Looking forward, preserving the past

Photography: Studio Periphery | studioperiphery.com



Focusing on their children's future, a couple also celebrated an element in their home that spoke to a time gone by

Originally from China, the clients have now lived in Singapore for more than two decades, with their sons currently at primary and secondary school level. Forming the genesis of the project were two unique design requirements: to have the living room, the typically largest room in an apartment, crafted as a conducive study space for their boys; and to preserve the original dark teak staircase in the property.

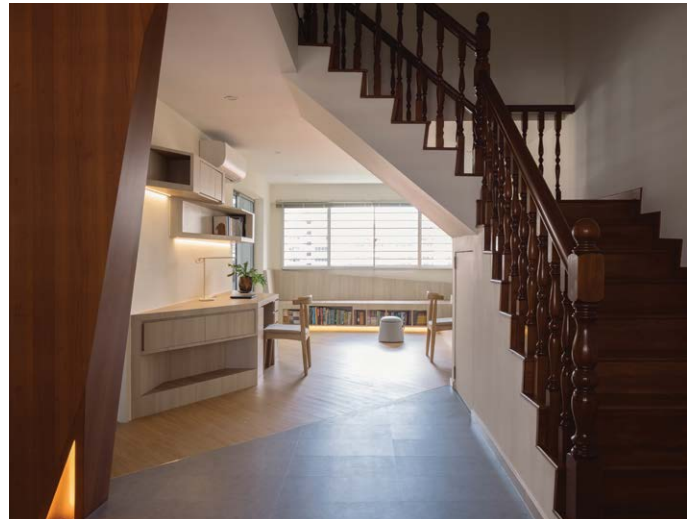
Well-maintained by the apartment's previous owners, the staircase was constructed of very high quality wood, which had been very popular in HDB maisonettes in the 1980s. While a more conventional design approach would have been to re-finish the antique-looking teak and replace the ornate balustrades, the owners' fondness for it led instead to a conservational mindset.



In the master bedroom, a sumptuous leather bed and headboard add a touch of luxury



The sleek kitchen, dominated by stone and marble, opens out onto the airy terrace



The owners wanted to conserve the existing, rather old-fashioned, teak staircase, having fallen for its charms

This in turn generated two design gestures to bridge this vintage element into the new design for the apartment. At its mid-landing, Metre Architects crafted a triangular cabinet in the closest matching laminate to the teakwood, extending it beyond the balustrade “like new growth sprouting from an old teak tree”.

This triangular cabinet also became the ideal location to house the wifi router in the apartment. The designers took the inclined geometry of the staircase and drew a converging diagonal line from the wall across, which became a ‘threshold cabinet’ that doubles as a privacy screen to shield direct views from the main door.



Unusually, the living room — traditionally the largest space in the home — was given over to become the children's study



This skewed cabinet forms a polygonal portal with the staircase and sculpts the double-volume stairwell as a triangular courtyard, delineating the front dining area from the study space at the back, and enriching the spatial layering of the rectangular floor plan.

Diagonal lines found their rightful place through considerations of ergonomics (to wit: the body manoeuvres more easily around a slanted corner than a right-angled one) in the main space with two study tables, one of which cascades into a seating bookshelf.

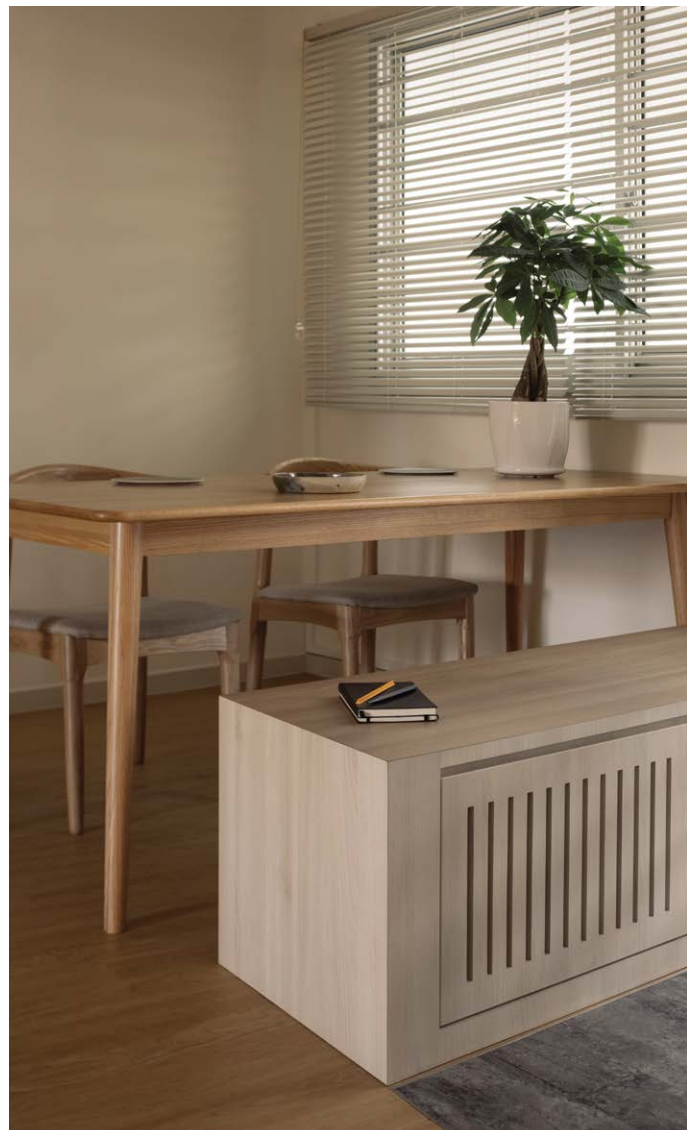
Since moving into this apartment, the family reports they spend more time together compared to previously, when they tended to dwell more in their own individual rooms. This strongly suggests that in this era of ever-increasing time spent online, design is still able to steer awareness towards physical spaces, to return the mind to the here and now. 🐾

Project: Converging Space

Location: Singapore

Design firm: Metre Architects | metre.sg/

Project size: 148 sq-m



Pale wood dominates the materials palette, providing a strong contrast to the teak staircase

A cohesion of colours

Photography: Studio Periphery | studioperiphery.com

Tasked by their clients to be bold in blending colours, textures and materials, Shed Studio fulfilled the brief with a refreshing retro vibe

When a client asks for something that's not your run-of-the-mill neutral palette, it can seem daunting — but it's also an exciting challenge, as Shed Studio co-founders Sheena Sim and Edmund Ong point out. As the creative leads on the project to revamp an apartment in Tampines, “the main challenge lay in mixing all the colours, textures and materials in a cohesive way so that at every angle you turn to, there's always a visual treat”, they say.





In the sitting room, pieces include Bolia's Angle sofa, Hay's Rebar coffee table, Grado's Lin cabinet and Commune's Jarl shelving units



On the wall, the Planet lamp designed by Mette Schelde for Please Wait To Be Seated has discs attached by magnets — these can be moved around to create different patterns



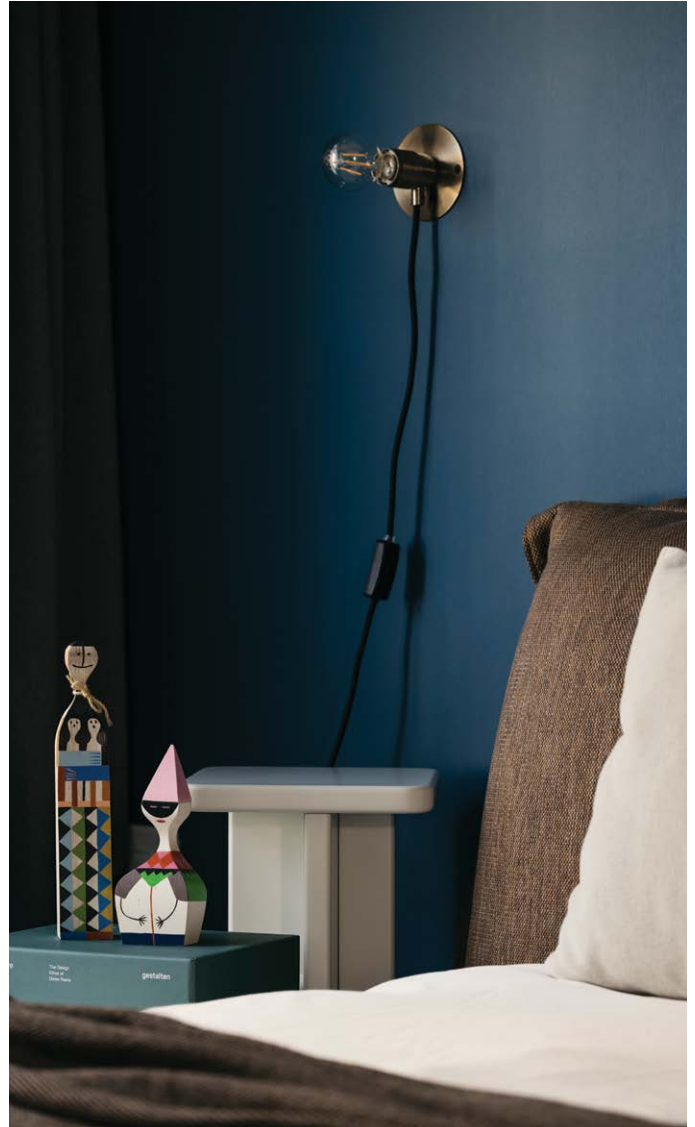
The open-plan kitchen diner features the #33 dining table by Skovby, paired with Hay's Soft Edge P10 chairs

How were the design choices/style determined, in particular the colour palette?

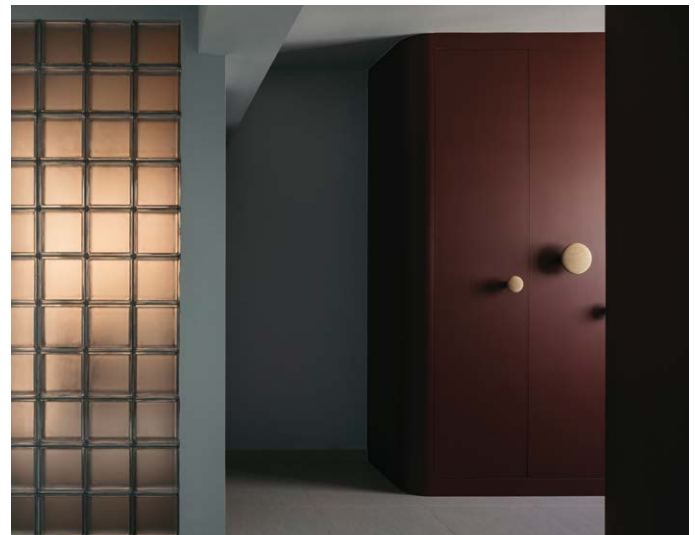
It came mainly from the clients' brief. They are well travelled and adventurous enough to request a mixture of colours and materials throughout the house. We compiled a series of images to get a sense of their preferences and boundaries, and made it a point then to incorporate bold colours, patterns and textures throughout the home.

The scheme has a wonderful, almost 1950s-like vibe that feels so retro that it's almost futuristic. Where did this vision come from?

As designers, we do have a penchant for old things. Although we didn't specifically intend for this project to have a retro vibe, it does come through from the usage of materials and fixtures that were prevalent in the '50s and '60s, such as the glass blocks and the Teti lamps designed by Vico Magistretti in 1967.



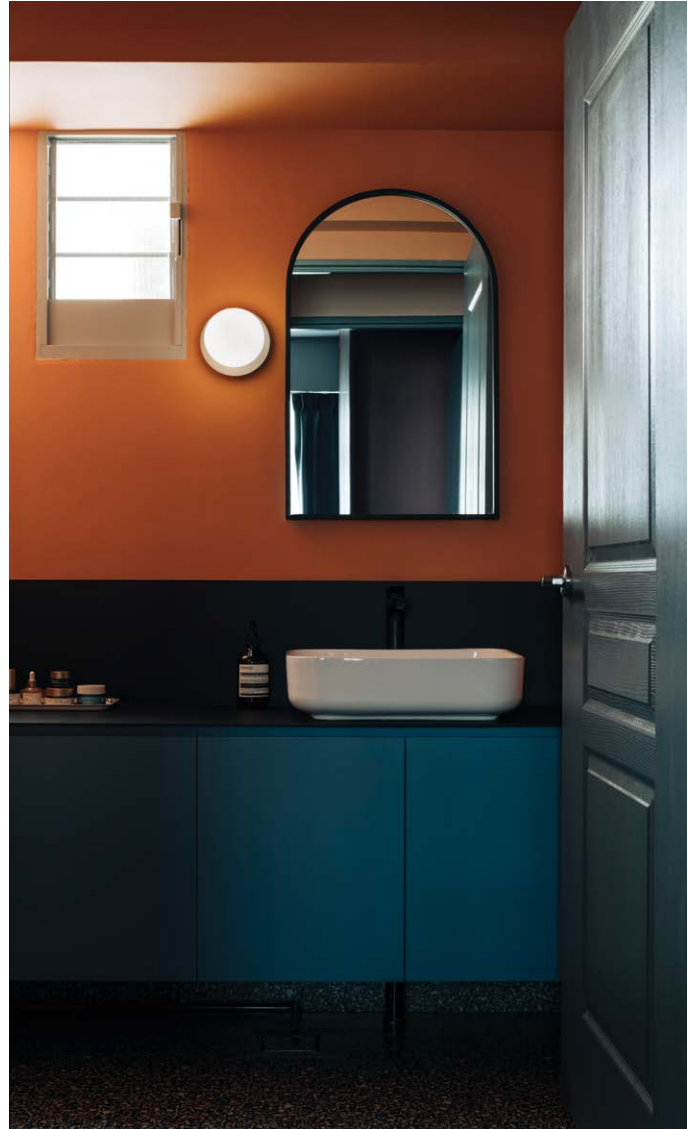
Frama's sleek E27 wall lamp sits above Grado's Cross side table



Glass cubes provide contrast against Muuto's Dots wooden coat hooks, here acting also as wardrobe handles



A pair of TR Bulb wall lamps by Menu add a quirky touch in the kitchen



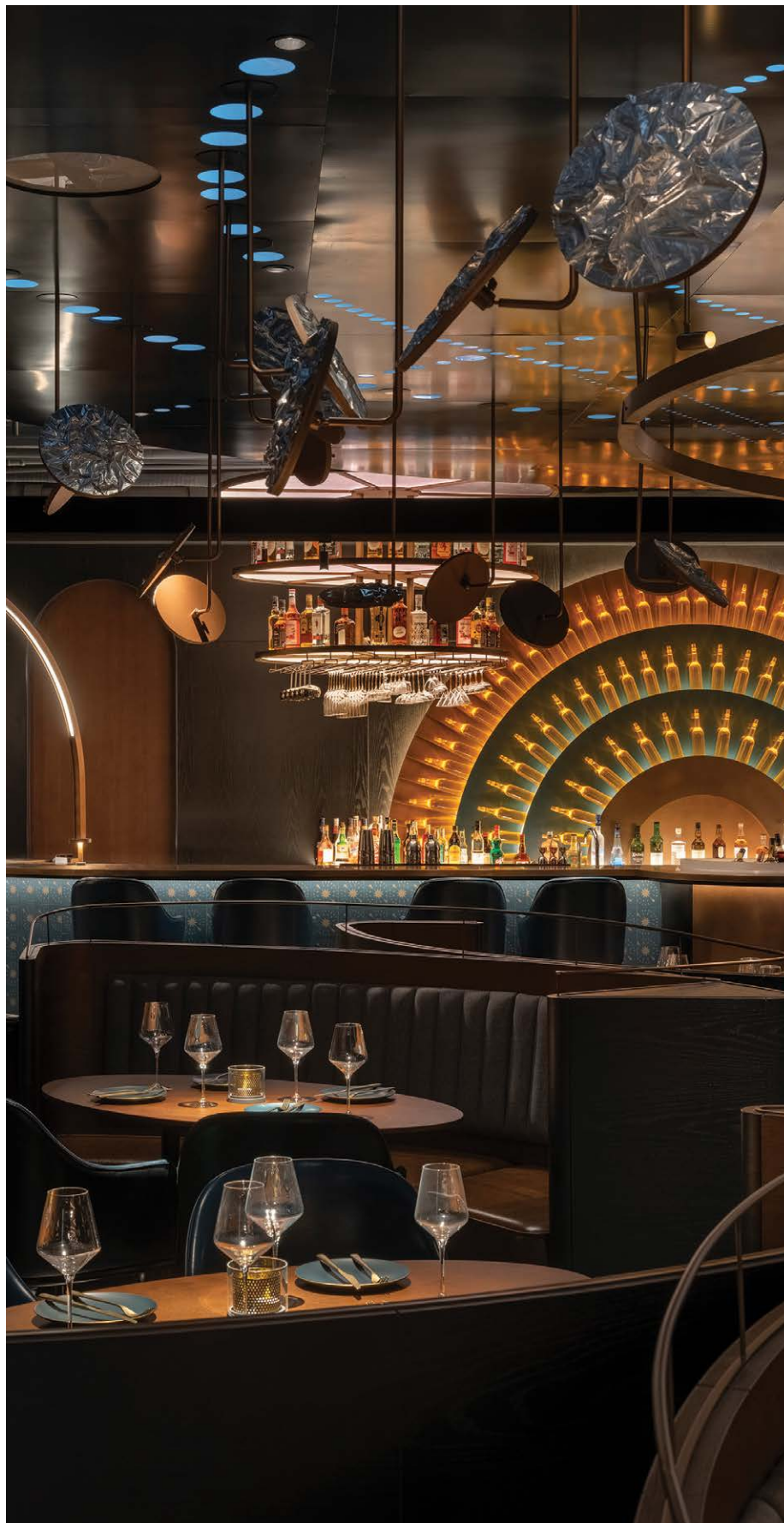
The Liila wall lamp by Nuura lends a soft glow to the warm orange of the walls, which contrasts with the rich dark teals and blue of the cabinetry and door

Were any structural layout changes made, for example the removal of walls to make a bigger, more open-plan feel?

There was a minor layout change made to combine the master bedroom with the adjacent room to create a walk-in-wardrobe. The rest of the house retained its original structure.

It is, overall, a triumph of classic and contemporary, melded by cleverly-chosen colours and furnishings.

Snapshots



Exploring new possibilities

Project: Halation Bistro/Lounge

Location: Shanghai, China

Client: Halation

Design: Roomoo | www.roomoo.cn

Project size: 360 sq-m

The word 'halation' is defined as the spreading of light beyond its proper boundaries, often described in simple terms as glare, or light reflecting off shiny surfaces. This definition itself defines the interiors of the Halation bistro/lounge in Shanghai, where the Roomoo design team used 3,713 square-shaped glass block pavers to in three different combinations and patterns.

Deeply inspired by the halation effect in astronomy, 15 large infinity mirror pendant lamps and 70 metal ceiling surfaces together spell out the infinite imagination of the universe and the interstellar, with 81 hanging discs recalling planets and meteorites. The bar counter is represented by 80 pieces of brick, like the sun and moon, changing gradually, while two wine racks like flying rotary switches activate the gate of time constructed of 86 wine bottles.

The intricate lighting system, crucial to the bistro's otherworldly halation inspiration, is controlled by Bluetooth, with different moods created and changed according to the time of day.

A new museum in harmony with nature

Project: Ethnography Museum

Location: Budapest, Hungary

Architecture: Napur Architect | <http://napur.hu/en/>

Lead Architect, Author:

Marcel Ferencz, DL

Project size: 34,000 sq-m

Designed by Marcel Ferencz of Napur Architect, the award-winning new Museum of Ethnography in Budapest is distinguished by a dynamic yet simple design in harmony with the natural environment of the park.

Communicating with the urban texture of its surroundings, gently



Photo credit: György Palkó
www.gyorgypalko.com

Skylights punctuate the living green slopes of the museum's sweeping roofscape

curving lines enable the building to function as a gateway and a passage linking the city and the park. Sixty percent of the structure is under ground level, complete with a landscaped roof and transparent skylight sections.

The spectacular trademark of

the building is its glass curtainwall surrounding the landscaped roof garden. Reminiscent of two intertwined hillsides, it consists of nearly half a million 'pixels', a raster created by a metal grid based on ethnographic motifs selected from the museum's Hungarian and international collections.

X11 steps into the future in Xi'an

Project: X11 Toy Collection Store in Xi'an Mixc World

Client: KK Group

Location: Xi'an, China

Area: 1,000 sq-m

Studio: Tomo Design, TO ACC | www.tomodesign.cn

Toy retail brand X11, targeting the spiritual needs of Gen Z, launched its narrative-laden immersive shopping experiences at its flagship stores in Shanghai and Wuhan — and has now followed this up with a new site at Mixc World in Xi'an.

Conceived by Tomo Design, the design unfolds a distinctive journey of exploration, symbolised by the airship-inspired structure housing the toy collections. Combining the romantic symbolising of freedom

and fantasy, consumers are presented with a retail space that has been transformed into an experiential encounter of story-telling filled with curiosity, fun, exploration, and cross-dimensional innovation.

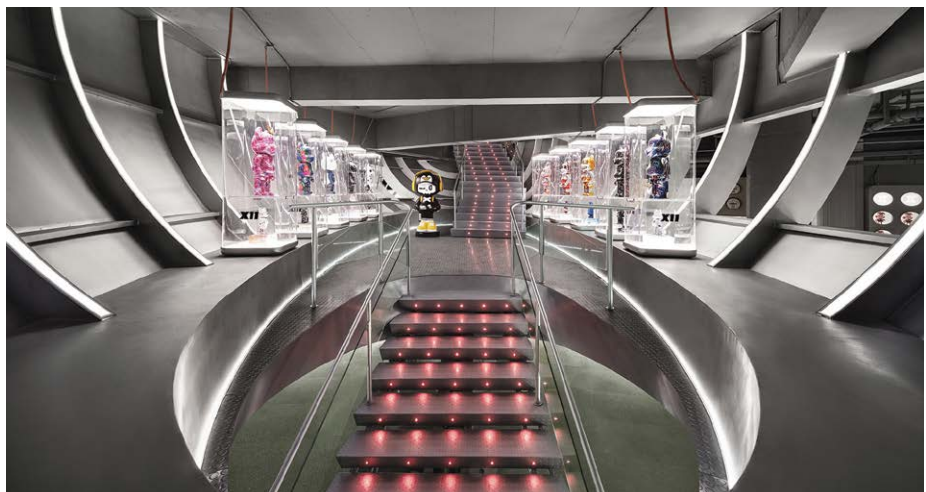


Photo credit: Yanming Studio

Retro styling includes red spot lighting along the stairs, mechanical buttons and old computer screens that recall 1970s sci-fi movies

Photo credit: CreatAR Images



Gazing out into the distance, contemplating history and sacrifice

Remembering heroes in dark times

Project: Memorial of Everyman

Location: Chongming, Shanghai, China

Design: Wutopia Lab | www.wutopialab.com

Lead Architect: Yu Ting

Project Architect: Mu Zhilin

Project size: 25 sq-m

The original plan was to convert this abandoned water tower into a space which would complement the adjoining conference centre and hotel, set in a renovated weaving factory. But the project was delayed due to illness and, returning to work 40 days later, Wutopia Lab lead architect Yu Ting was inspired to transform the space into a memorial.

A historical event which occurred during a project of land reclamation was the inspiration: noticing a potential catastrophic failure in the dam, a worker named Lu Jingjuan leapt into the water to plug the hole. Many more workers followed, using their bodies to ensure the safety of the dam. Inside the water tower, the colour gold symbolises their heroic gesture, with a 100-step staircase forming a separate, internal golden tower with a year marked on each step.

Designed to attract young urbanites

Project: NEXT Sales Center

Location: Hangzhou, China

Client: SHINION

Design: GFD

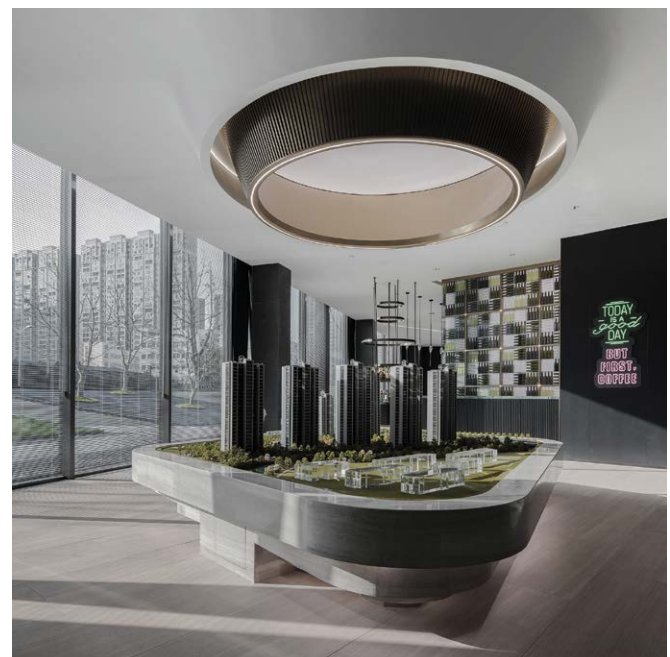
Design director: Ye Fei

Design team: Wu Chitao, Jin Mingjie

Project size: 396 sq-m

Located in Shushan, Hangzhou, the project serves as both sales centre for the residential development NEXT, and as an urban life experience centre. Commissioned to conceive the space, local design practice GFD drew on deep insight into the aesthetic tastes of the younger generation to create an immersive experiential and interactive space, showcasing a new image of urban community and a modern dynamic lifestyle.

An interactive bar area is placed centrally, signifying the younger generation's imaginings about community life and breaking of boundaries. Additionally, the materials set the overall tone of the space, dominated by dark grey hues of wood-grain marble and granite.



A model of the new housing development, NEXT, receives ample natural lighting in its prime position by the windows



Photo credit: Hufton+Crow; courtesy of One Thousand Museum

The Interlace rug, part of the Natural Field Collection by ZHA

ZHA explores new dynamics for Illulian

Project: Handmade rug collections for Illulian

Client: Illulian

Design: Zaha Hadid Architects | www.zaha-hadid.com/

ZHA Principal: Patrik Schumacher

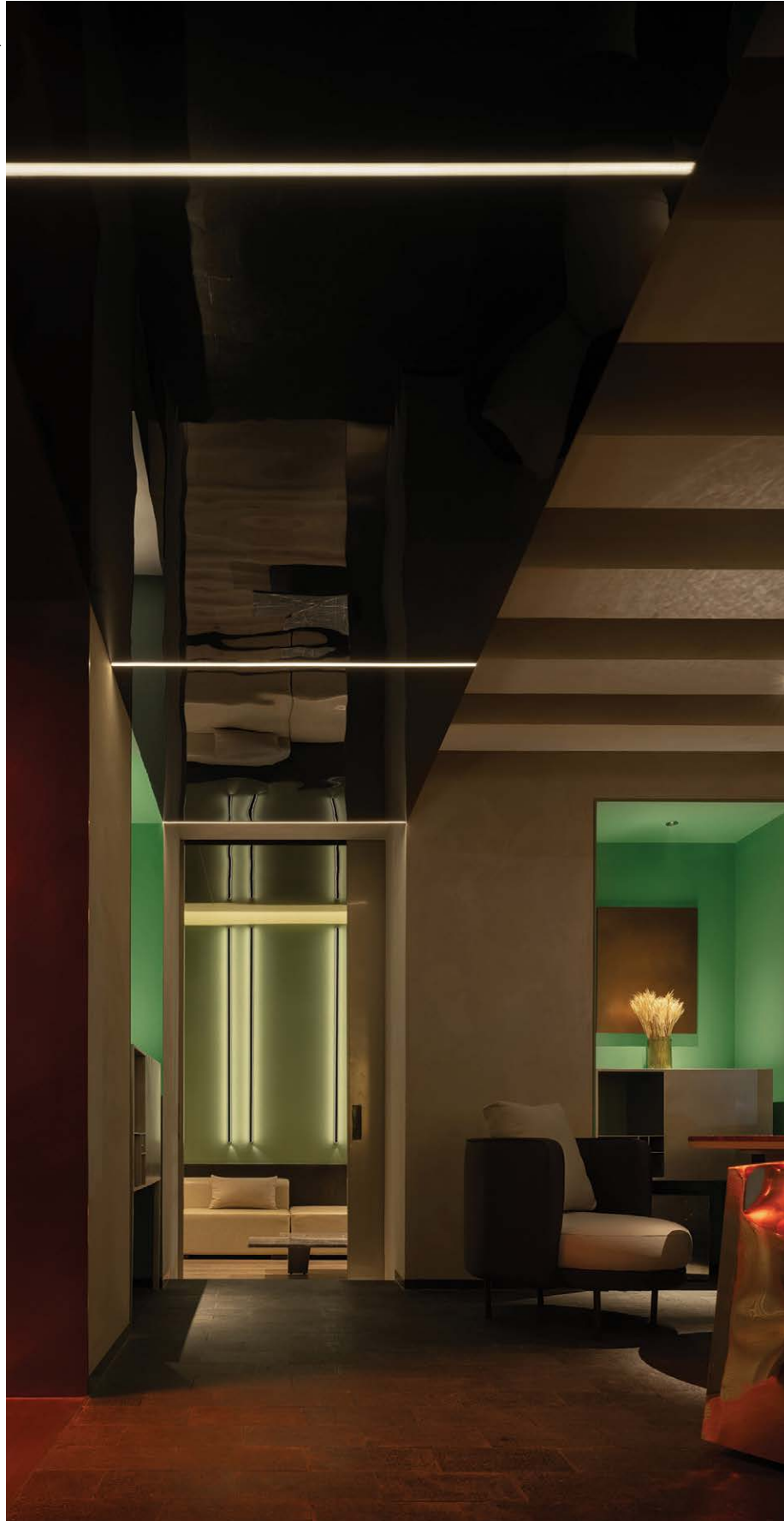
ZHA design team: Ludovico Lombardi, Davide Del Giudice

Handmade in Himalayan wools and silks, the new rug collections by Zaha Hadid Architects (ZHA) convey the intricate craftsmanship of Illulian's all-natural materials and weaving process together with the manipulation of perspective, form and space within ZHA's architecture.

When invited to design the

collections, ZHA explored the materiality of Illulian's rugs. Interwoven threads of silk create a sheen that interacts with the matte of the Himalayan wool to generate dynamic interplays that alter with changing light conditions and viewpoints. Minute differences in thickness also express a hierarchy between design elements.

Photo credit: InSpace



Retro aesthetics for a new generation

Project: Wake Bar

Location: Zhengzhou, China

Client: Zhang Yi

Design: Salone del Salon |

www.instagram.com/salonedelsalon/

Project size: 160 sq-m

Designed by Salone del Salon, Wake Bar adopts a narrative spatial language and dramatic lighting art to introduce an immersive, evocative atmosphere. The design aims to explore a sense of belonging for urban citizens, breaking the boundaries of different circles and striking a resonance between the space and the soul.

Located in a creative industrial park transformed from an old factory on the western outskirts of Zhengzhou, Wake greets passers-by with its red brick exterior walls. A narrow staircase leads to the second floor, where customers experience visual changes from darkness to brightness, and from narrowness to openness. Muted lighting and soft, almost faded colours suggest an ethereal land of time and space hidden in the city.

The bistro of flowers

Project: Bogen

Location: Bolzano, Italy

Clients:

Roswitha and Benjamin Mayr

Design: noa* network of architecture | www.noa.network/en/home-1.html

Project size: 188 sq-m

In an ancient, barrel-vaulted workshop hiding under the dust of history along one of the oldest trade streets of Bolzano, Italy, noa* has transformed the space into a welcoming bistro poised between historical heritage and contemporary finesse.

A strong relationship with history was crucial in the definition of the project, as the house is under monumental protection and because the design team wanted to emphasise the original architecture of the arches — the bistro itself pays homage with the name Bogen, German for 'arch'.

The clients wanted a romantic, bohemian-style atmosphere, making use of handcrafted floral compositions created by Roswitha Mayr, the owner of the house. noa* structured the design around a pivotal element: a welcoming 7m-long counter placed under a ceiling of flower baskets. “The flower vault immediately became the highlight of the interior design,” says Silvia Marzani, interior designer at noa*. “The upturned baskets filled with dried flowers are a suggestive image that symbolises the transience but at the same time the beauty of life.”

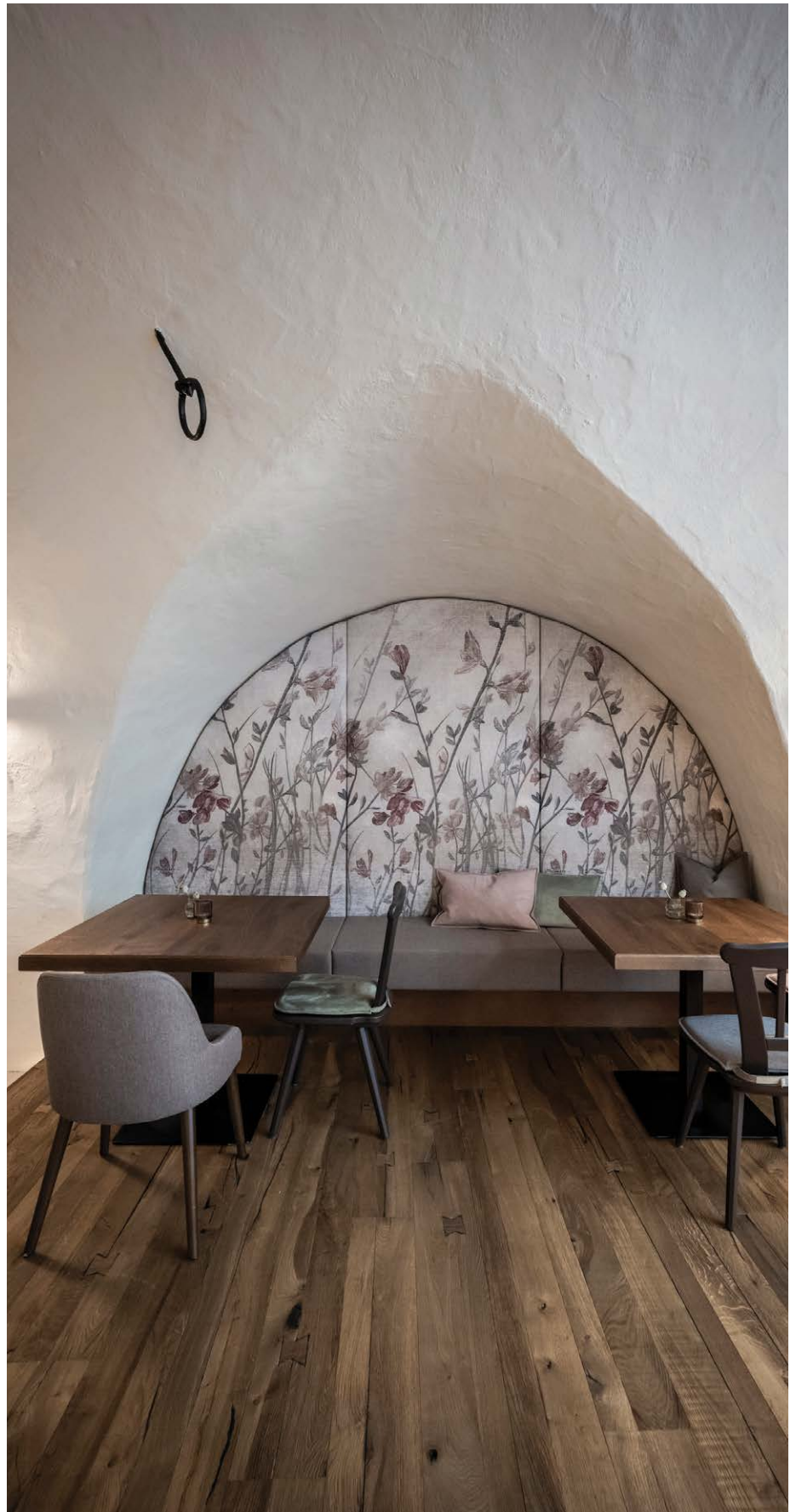


Photo credit: Alex Filz

A romantic, bohemian atmosphere is celebrated in the venue

ZHA to design Jinghe New City Culture & Art Centre

Project: Jinghe New City Culture & Art Centre

Location: Shaanxi Province, China

Design: Zaha Hadid Architects | www.zaha-hadid.com/

ZHA Principal: Patrik Schumacher

ZHA project director:

Satoshi Ohashi

ZHA project Architect: Nan Jiang



Render by ATCHAIN; courtesy of ZHA

The undulating landscape of Shaanxi province inspired the form of the new centre

Zaha Hadid Architects (ZHA) has been named winner of the competition to design a new culture and art centre in Jinghe New City, a science and technology hub north of Xi'an.

Echoing the meandering valleys carved by the Jinghe River through the mountains and landscapes of Shaanxi province, the

design of the Jinghe New City Culture & Art Centre intertwines with the city's existing urban masterplan to connect the new multimedia library to the north of Jinghe Avenue with the new performing arts theatre, multi-function halls, studios and exhibition galleries to the south via elevated courtyards, gardens and paths.

Paying tribute to the lost Majapahit empire

Project: Jumeirah Bali

Location: Bali, Indonesia

Client: Jumeirah Group

Design: Martin Grounds | Grounds Kent Architects

Jean Michel Gathy | Denniston International

The design brief for the all-villa luxury Jumeirah Bali was to connect the island's past and present in a verdant water-based sanctuary. In collaboration with Jean-Michel Gathy from design consultancy Denniston International,

Martin Grounds from Grounds Kent Architects created an overall design narrative centred on the golden era of the Majapahit empire and its role as a sanctuary for Bali's ruling elite in the year 1343.

Architecturally, the maritime empire was characterised by imposing walled cities concealing clusters of pavilions, including those used for bathing and socialising, terraced royal gardens, and stunning water features.



Ancient Hindu-Javanese culture is remixed with tropical modernism in an opulent water palace in Bali's Uluwatu, with landscape design by the late Made Wijaya

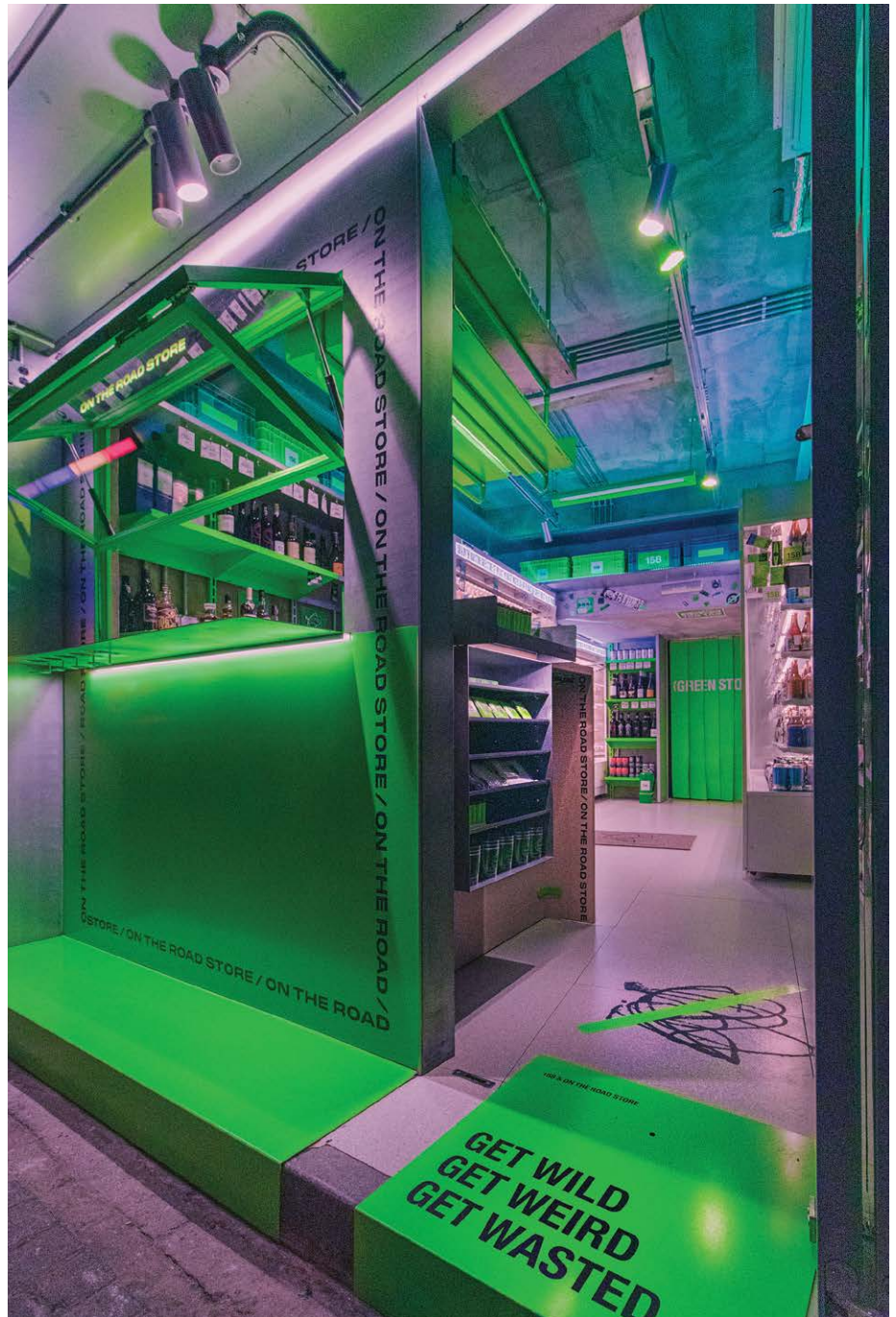
When concept becomes reality

Project: City Band Aid — Three Designs Related to Liquor
Location: Shanghai, China
Design: RIGI Design | www.rigi-design.com
Lead designer & team: Liu Kai, Liu Xu, Donna Mai

OTRS, or ‘On The Road Store’, is both a content creator and maker of street culture. Its official account on WeChat disseminates youth culture through its community, and connects the streets of the city through small pubs. It has, in short, resulted in a niche street culture which exclusively belongs to the younger generation.

There had in fact been a physical OTRS located at Changle Avenue, whose much-loved owners had become fixtures in the local community. When OTRS shut down in 2021, RIGI Design undertook to create a ‘Band Aid’ to link its customers at three new locations, using colours and numbers to demarcate each venue in a memorable way.

A statement by RIGI Design



Located on Julu Road, this OTRS is where many young people start or finish their evening, with either pre-drinks as the night begins, or the last drink before heading home

explains, “In popular theory, colour can be used to represent emotion. Red conveys passion, blue means calmness, and green represents peace — not necessarily true. Now that we have undertaken interruptive action, we

felt it would be best to use the most straightforward and basic way to define every store. Like animals use smell to define each zone, we hope people will recognise the different stores by this strong medium.”

Photo credit: Liu Xu, Wang Xiyuan; courtesy of RIGI Design



Arctic Design Week

20-26 March 2023

Rovaniemi, Lapland, Finland

Marking its 15th year, Arctic Design Week 2023's theme is 'Better Future with Arctic Smartness.' The long-term umbrella theme is responsibility, which showcases sustainable and responsible design, as well as the most successful business ideas, and most spectacular cultural deeds. "Design is the power of significant change and enhanced success. This is why the Arctic Design Week concept serves enterprises and communities in creating sustainable and responsible success stories," says Arctic Design Week producer Taina Torvela.

www.arcticdesignweek.fi/



Maison & Objet Paris

19-23 January 2023

Paris, France

The first of its two annual editions, Maison & Objet January 2023 will see more than 3,000 brands exhibiting at the show to reach an international audience from the architecture and design, retail and HoReCa trades.

www.maison-objet.com/en/paris

DesignTO

20-29 January 2023

Toronto, Canada

In 2023, DesignTO Festival will feature a range of independent projects, a symposium titled 'Trash Talk', and a group exhibition titled 'One Hot Second', focusing on how creatives can make changes decelerate the rate at which Earth is rapidly warming.

<https://designto.org/>

Stockholm Design Week

6-12 February 2023

Stockholm, Sweden

Together with Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair, Stockholm Design Week has established itself as the most important week of the year for Scandinavian design since its launch in 2002. Design events will take place in a variety of venues across Stockholm.

www.stockholmdesignweek.com/



Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair

7-11 February 2023

Stockholm, Sweden

After cancelling in both 2021 and 2022, the Stockholm Furniture & Light Fair is poised to finally return in 2023. An engine for Scandinavian design, it is also an industry leader in the subject of sustainability development with new, up-and-coming designers to be featured in Greenhouse.

www.stockholmfurniturelightfair.se/ 

A beautiful sense of age

Time, they say, waits for no man — but the Flowing Cloud Township Villa project proves that patience pays off. Back in 2017, MDO (More Design Office) was commissioned to renovate six existing village houses in Qinglongwu, an ancient village in Tonglu, Hangzhou.

Part of the Fangyukongxiangsu Cultural and Creative Complex, plans are for various cultural activities to be held here all year round. With accommodation a vital part of the vision, MDO set out to rejuvenate old cottages into guest houses. Last year, the project finally concluded, with the design team adopting a sensitive approach and involving local craftspeople.

For the full story, don't miss the next edition of The SOURCE: Spotlight, scheduled for publication in Spring 2023. ♪

Project: Flowing Cloud Township Villa
Location: Tonglu County, Hangzhou, China
Architecture: MDO (More Design Office) | <https://moredesignoffice.com/>
Design directors: Justin Bridgland, Jaycee Chui
Design team: Da Gao, Szuniang Tseng, Carlo Alberto Follo, Yabin Yao, Kelsey Alexander, Yanping Tang, Shengnan Xia, Haiyan Peng, Zhiyuan Wang, Jiacheng Que, Di Chang
Project size: 1,300 sq-m

Photo credit: Xun Zheng





