



interior concoction no. 9

Observe a textbook example of how different strands of styles and themes can be blended, mixed, kneaded and served up with taste, finesse and style.

Text by Sam Yen Photography by Gerry Chin



Six months. That's half a year. Or roughly 180 days, 4320 hours or 259,200 minutes. That's also roughly the time required to create this vision of 'simplistic elegance' in Vista Damal. Conceived to be a gallery around which the homeowners' showcase of objet d'art could be displayed alongside a comfortable living environment. Mixing form with function can be a tricky bit of alchemy, but here it's a successful mixture - austere interiors peppered with carefully selected art pieces that enhance, not overpower, each other. All that, and harmonious feng shui too. The designer found it more profound to be simple and more elegant to be pure. Certainly so.

Too many walls

The apartment is 1,400 sq feet in size. Within that space, and within those 6 months, renovation and demolition took place to realise the mental picture in the mind of the owners and designers. Only the external envelope, structural elements and part of the wet areas were retained. Most of the partition walls were removed.

They made way for the inclusion of architectural planes - to better define the interior space, filter and control the light and the cross-ventilation. As for the flooring, the original marble slabs were replaced with pure white neoparies quartz slabs- a neutral complement to the art objects. For the bedroom and study maple engineered timber strips flooring replaced dark timber parquet. The balmy and warm tones add a more inviting atmosphere to the room and a softer setting.

Enter-resting

Walking in, welcome comes in the form of a custom-designed cascading water feature (complete with healthy, 'yang' force fish) behind a rippling, glass sapphire screen. Not only is it meant to be therapeutic (being in an appropriate feng shui location), it is also meant to evoke the senses of sight, smell, taste, touch and sound. Within the living/dining area, designer classic furniture and custom-made fittings mingle and arrange themselves in functional elegance against a colour scheme of white, green and blue. White is a pure and

ABOVE
White on white never
looked so appealing.

LEFT
An undulating azure glass
panel greets the visitor.





neutral background, serving to augment the impact of the art objects. For example, in the centre of the living space, an original vivid artwork by Eng Tay dominates the proceedings. The green and blue stem from the colours of the Daum French pate-de-verre crystals, a major part of the displays - perfect creations of glass & crystal used to full effect here.

Light in your eyes

The careful choreography of light can be clearly perceived in this space. Just the way it hits and reflects of the architectural surfaces is a success of design. Much of it is natural light, abundant everywhere. Flooding, waxing and waning through the glass roof of the new modern dry kitchen. Regulation comes in the form of a Chinese Bamboo, planted next to the roof to provide shade; casting gentle moving umbras when the wind blows. Architectural planes of varying materials, colours and textures - mainly glass and acrylic - strategically filter the light into variations across the various spaces of the apartment. And when natural light is unavailable, 'a

mixture of warm downlights and spotlights were used to enhance the spatial quality.' Coloured lighting is also present in certain places, giving a special richness of depth.

What's cooking?

White grey-veined marble forms the counter-top in the kitchen. In fact stark, immaculate white is the colour of choice of much of the area, save for the light blue tinted translucent glass doors on the cabinets. Entrance to the cuisinette (from the living room) is granted via a very inventive clear tempered glass pivoting door - operating like a revolving bookcase in murder-mysteries. On the opposite side of the living area, is the 'private unit'. Kept separate from the open space outside, it consists of the interconnected bedrooms, study and ensuite. Partitions act as the device which can either add privacy or public space within these rooms. In the bedrooms, linear and clean white acrylic roller blinds filter through the sunlight. The master bedroom also features a soft satin black-out curtain for that added touch of refinery. Over in

ABOVE
Eng Tay's harmonious depiction of family life is the backdrop to the dining area.

OPPOSITE PAGE
Natural light bathes the pristine kitchen.

RIGHT
Simple lines are effectively
used in the master
bedroom.

BELOW
From here to infinity.



the study, a white leathered Corbusier 3-seater lounge seats itself on the maple timber floor - a statement of comfort. Accompanying it is a Corbusier chaise lounge; a unique curvilinear form that just enough juxtaposition to the chiefly streamlined planar surroundings.

Mix and match

The concept of the bathroom was also one of an overall white area, set up with more coloured screens; this time for the shower and the water closet. The marriage of white neoparies quartz slabs on the walls and the floors, Greek grey-veined white marble sink counter and white translucent acrylic combined to form a vista of dulcet white hues. The marble sink was custom made to specifications - designed to be a clean and tidy 'his and hers' water trough beneath a graceful mirror. As this house demonstrates, it is perfectly acceptable to mix the established and the exclusive together. With a dash of airy light, and a pinch of tastefully selected art, the results are definitely a recipe of success. □

Environmental Design Practice tel: 60 3 90581101
www.edparchitects.com.my