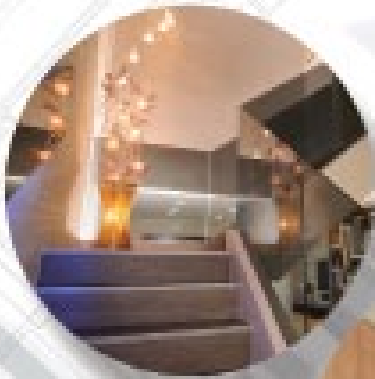


# DARWIN INTERIOR

*Creating Dream Homes*





# The Inspiration to Creating Dream Homes

The home is where love, care and concern abound despite the difficulties and frustrations that work and living may occasionally bring. The home is where you find warmth and welcome for your tired body and weary soul. The home is where comfort, joy and the celebration of life never cease to thrive.

We often hear that, "home is where the heart is..." and how true that is.

At Darwin Interior, we create homes that resonate with love, coziness and warmth.

Darwin Interior Inhouse Magazine depicts exactly the sentiments of a loving, cozy and warmth home that you will want to return to every day to recharge and to rejuvenate.

But we cannot create such homes without YOU, the inspiration for our team of designers, project managers and decorators. YOU are the reason and the catalyst for the inspiration that impacted us to creating great homes and dream homes.

I extend my appreciation and thanks for the numerous opportunities YOU gave my team to creating your dream home. Let me state emphatically that there will be no compromise on the quality of our designs and creations of your home.

All YOU need do is to indulge, celebrate and enjoy your home with loved ones.

Welcome Home.

**Ng Soon Heng**  
*Managing Director*

*Creating  
Dream Homes*



*Do  
you  
know*

that the kitchen sink is  
one of the most unclean surfaces in your home?  
Leftover food particles in your kitchen sink  
can transform into a breeding ground  
for harmful bacteria.

To ensure that your sink remain bacteria-free,  
wash it with a solution of bleach and water once a day  
and then let the solution run down the drain.  
Remove the drain plug and clean it  
with the solution too before washing your hands.

# Contents

## SHOWCASE

- 1 Message from the Managing Director
- 4 Futuristic Look with the Touch of Home
- 6 The Ebb from Modern to Nature
- 8 Value for Money with Wow Effect
- 10 Go Wall-less
- 12 Indulging in Opulence
- 14 Bringing Your Dream Home to Life
- 16 Modern & Clutter-Free
- 18 Monochrome with Class
- 20 Induce Entertainment into Your Home
- 22 Kitchen in Open Concept
- 24 Unwinding With a Balinese Twist
- 26 Swathed in Decadence
- 28 Homely & Eclectic
- 30 Wind Down at the Clubhouse

## EDITORIAL FEATURES

- 32 Eco-Friendly Paints for Your Home
- 33 Is It Time to Flip Your Mattress, or Buy a New One?
- 34 Light Your World with LEDs
- 35 Naturally Green Feature Walls
- 36 How to Choose Window Furnishings
- 37 Choose the Flooring that Saves the Earth

## HOUSEHOLD TIPS

- 38 Five Indoor Plants that Purify the Air
- 39 Removing Stains from Your Sofa
- 40 Selecting the Right Furniture for Your Home

## TESTIMONIALS

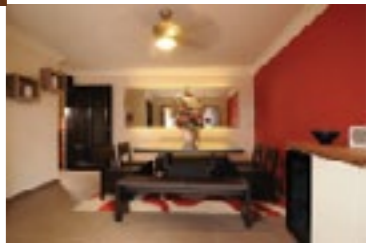
- 42 Testimonials

- 43 Advertisements

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When the door swung open into this Bukit Batok flat, I was immediately overwhelmed by the modern and futuristic flair. One second, I was standing on the doorstep of a flat at the very heartlands of Singapore. The next second, I was transported into a spacecraft.

The heavily accented spotlights in the living room and vertical blinds provide a very airy and contemporary ambience. With the state-of-the-art flat screen television perched on the wall and minimalist furnishing, it further accentuates the feeling of being in a hi-tech environment.

Although some extreme contemporary designs may be deemed as being cold and lifeless, the living room of this flat was flawlessly designed in various tones of beige, brown and white to give a modern, and yet, down-to-earth, natural environment. The outdoors feel in the alcove lends a natural vibe to the modern décor while the knick knacks on the shelf injects homeliness into the living room.

The living room then flows seamlessly into the dining area, with similar colour scheme and décor, before leading into the kitchen. The lively green colour combined with the perfect natural lighting flooding from the window ensures that the kitchen gives off a vibrant energy in contrast with the sophistication of the living and dining rooms.

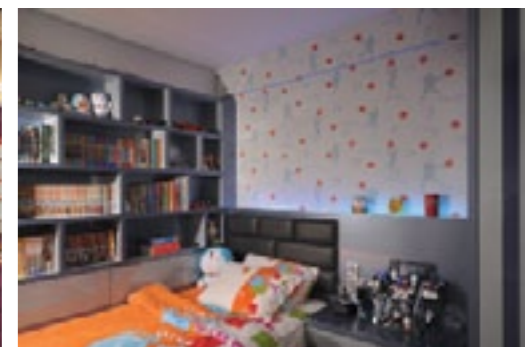
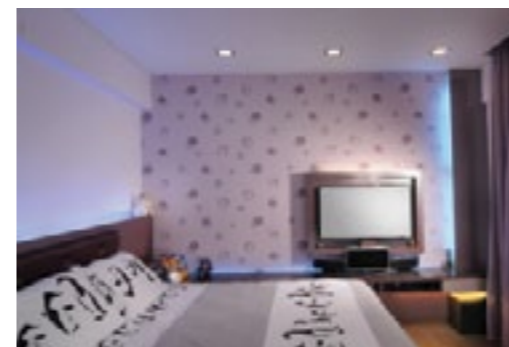
The staircase to the second storey was given its fair share of glam and style. The wooden steps blend in perfectly with the soft lighting and off-white colour of the wall. Oozing with cutting-edge style and sophistication, I felt as if I was walking up the steps of a five-star hotel, instead of surveying a flat in our heartlands.



"We want the staircase to be the main star of our home. We want guests visiting our home to have their breath taken away," said Connie Chiang, the resident of this unit at Blk 140, Bukit Batok St 11.

Their bedrooms were creatively designed to showcase their individuality and style. The boy's bedroom has a sports-theme wallpaper with manga comics neatly arranged by the bed for easy night reading. The purple-themed master bedroom, on the other hand, is gently lighted to ensure an easy night sleep. There is also a dedicated section to showcase their designer bags, perfumes, colognes and toys for the family to show off their expensive collections to others.

Similar to the kitchen, the bathroom was given a splash of colour to add vigor and life to the house. The numerous light-coloured cupboards not only ensure plenty of shelf space, it also blends in with the wall tiles to ensure that the bathroom look uncluttered.





Hosting various activities means having an eclectic style of décor. The walls of the bedroom area are painted off-white with soft lighting, accompanied by wooden flooring and bedside table. This gives an organic and earthy feeling to the bed area to soothe the homeowner to sleep with ease. The study area, however, was given a bright colour to stimulate alertness while the closet area is made from dark wood to complement not only the black tiles of the study and grooming area, but also the wooden platform of the bed area.

To ensure low-maintenance and easy-to-maintain features, the bathroom is decked in light brown and black tiles for the walls and flooring. Although the sink and showerhead are stylishly designed, the rock textured look of the black tiles will still bring you back to nature.



# Modern to Nature

## The *Ebb* from

Choosing a theme for a home is crucial in maximising the aesthetics potential of a living space. A theme ensures that you can walk from one room to another seamlessly as the unifying design gracefully connects the rooms to one another. Having a theme is even more important when you acquired a quirky-shaped house with weird corners. But when the right design is successfully implemented, the result is phenomenal.

With the perfect balance between cool contemporary and tropical nature, this living room is transformed into a warm and inviting sanctuary. Stylishly decked in hues of browns and creams, it is hard to resist sinking into the sofa with a cup of coffee. The feature wall is elegantly elongated throughout the whole length of the living room. Not only does this visually expand the room into a more spacious area, it also effortlessly connects the living room into the dining room. To complement the living room, the dining room has lighter-coloured wood panelling stretching the entire length.

While the living and dining rooms are connected by similar wood paneling, the kitchen is connected by mosaic-themed wall tiles. Dressed in a more contemporary monochrome theme, the off-white cabinets in the kitchen gleam from the flood of natural light, giving a clean, minimalist look.

The master bedroom was given the same amount of meticulous priming. With amply space given as the key benefit of the room, the master bedroom was cleverly segmented into three small sections to give the illusion of space. The bed is placed on a raised wooden platform, the study area is given a splash of bright red, and the dressing area is separated by a glass door. Each activity has its own denoted space, ensuring that the master bedroom does not feel cluttered from the different functions it holds.

In a delighted tone, Michael Lee, the resident of this home at Blk 104B Depot Road had this to say about his new home: "I love the nature feel of this home as I want to connect it with the outdoor view of the Bukit Timah Reserve."





# Value for Money with *WOW Effect*

The cool touch of the glossy beige tile floor was a welcoming feeling after being out on a blazing Tuesday afternoon. I was immediately greeted with a glass of wine on the bar counter before being invited for a seat on a luxurious leather sofa. Anyone would be pleased to call this haven a home. Regardless of your budget, with the correct value for money furniture buys and décor advice, you can achieve the home of your dreams.

"We did not want to spend an outrageous amount of money for our renovation. But at the same time, we want to wake up every morning and be wow-ed by its décor and proud to be living here," shared Manjit Kaur, the homeowner of this unit at Blk 55 Geylang Bahru.

And the "wow" effect is definitely what they achieved.

Mirrors that reach up to the ceiling accompanied by natural tones of earthy browns were cleverly utilised to turn this home into a luxurious, modern abode without breaking the bank. The mirror strips were used to create a visually larger and airier space. This design concept is repeated in the dining room to aesthetically link the two rooms together to create one seamless space. Wallpapers of comforting shades of brown were plastered to complement the mirrors. Soft spots of decorative touches, such as a potted plant and a plate of potpourri, are used enhance the level of warmth and comfort.

The kitchen is elegantly decked in dark wood-like laminate counters with gleaming granite top. Not only do the top cupboards double as concealing doors that blend with the ceiling, they also provide the perfect contrast to the dark wood. This ensures minimal clutter as the pots and pans are effortlessly hidden away. With the bar counter connecting to the kitchen, this allows the residents to easily communicate and engage with family members in other parts of the house.

The master bedroom was given plenty of storage space to minimise clutter and to maximise space. Even the bedroom television set is easily hidden away in the closet when not in use. Decorated in different calming hues of beige and brown, the bedroom is subtly detailed but rich in comfort.

The bathroom is inspired by the looks of outdoor bathrooms situated in the woods. To carry out this look in a modern setting, ceramic tiles of different shades of brown were used to give the impression of wood paneling.



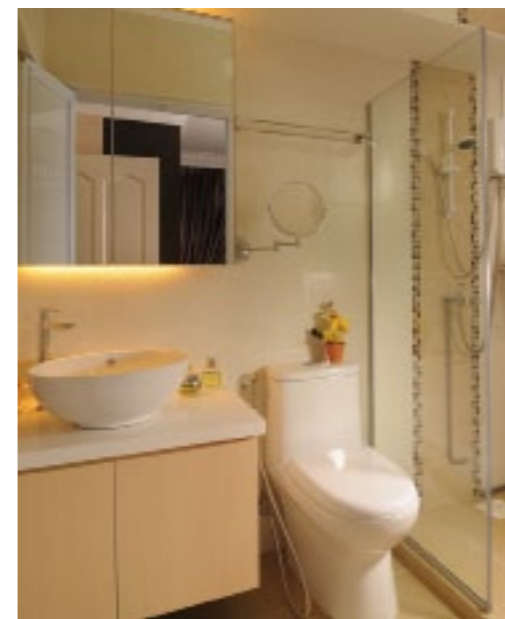
# Go Wall-less



Homeowners now mostly prefer modern and contemporary decors, especially when space is constraint. By choosing modern-day designs, it allows the home to look more spacious due to its minimalist and airy feel. For this heavenly abode, nothing is more important than overcoming space constraints, and the homeowners were not afraid to tear walls down to achieve the results.

"The kitchen wall seems to cut in our space, so when it was suggested that we tear it down, we agreed immediately. No regrets at all, the wait was worth it," said Leong Han Seng, the overjoyed owner of this unit at Blk 517C Jurong West St 52.

Knocking down walls is definitely one effective method to create a visually enhanced space, as homeowners can pull off an open concept design. The first thing you will notice as you step into this clean abode is that you can see the living room, study room and kitchen at one glance. The walls and ceilings are kept at cream-based colours to promote the flow of light and enhance the spacious, airy vibes. Dark tabletops are used in the public areas of the home to contrast with the light walls and ceilings.



With the removal of the kitchen boundary wall, the living room and kitchen seem to have been transformed into one large living space. Another approach to create the illusion of space is to use full-stretch mirrors that elongate to the ceiling. The furniture pieces, such as the dining set and coffee table in the living room, are also basic with no frills to further amplify the airiness and visually enhance the space. By going for a minimalist feel, it ensures that the home is kept modern yet child-friendly due to lack of clutter. A simple, non-pretentious island in the kitchen helps to boost the modern vibe of the home, as it allows for quick and easy preparation and serving of meals.

The centrepiece of the home is a glass panel that was specially carved out behind the living room area. The glass panel encloses part of the study room, with roller blinds being conveniently installed behind the window to offer the option of privacy. When the roller blinds are not in used, the clear glass panel accentuates the space of the common area.

While dark countertops are used in the common rooms, the master bedroom uses clear black outlines. Curtains are also used in most of the room as a soft touch of luxury in a contemporary setting. Just like the rest of the home, the bathroom is kept simple with white and light earthy tones for a clean and modern finish.

# Indulging *in Opulence*



Transforming a home into a luxurious living pad is a dream for many. But it is a challenging task to refurbish a small home into a representation of grandeur and opulence without overwhelming the available space. This home at Blk 140 Bukit Batok St 11, however, succeeds in combining the space available with elements of luxury and affluence.

Choo Bok Kee, the resident of this unit, commented, "A home should not only be about comfort. You should also be proud enough to show off to your friends and family members."

Decked with glossy marble flooring, the living and dining rooms are made to please each guest walking through the door. Each wall in the living room has its own unique decoration. One wall proudly displays rows of expensive cognacs and statuettes set against a simple beige background while the television wall is tastefully warped to create a unique texture. The living room is also given a luxurious carpet perfect for you to run your feet through while relaxing on a Sunday morning. A chandelier is tastefully perched on the ceiling to further perpetuate the feeling of grandeur.

Moving on to the dining table, the golden, soft lighting from the chandelier and spotlights gives the ambience of having a meal fit for a king. It is not only the walls and ceilings that play a part, little details such as an orange tree and koi painting also ties the décor with the opulence theme.

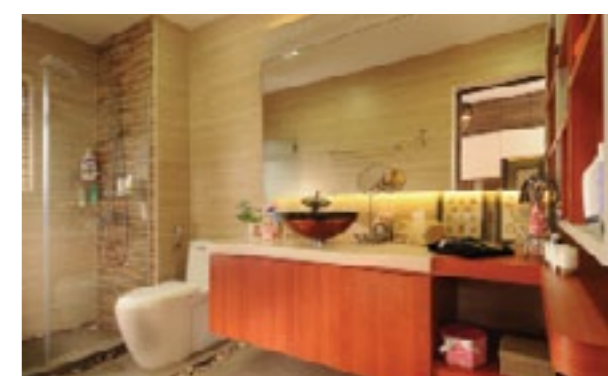
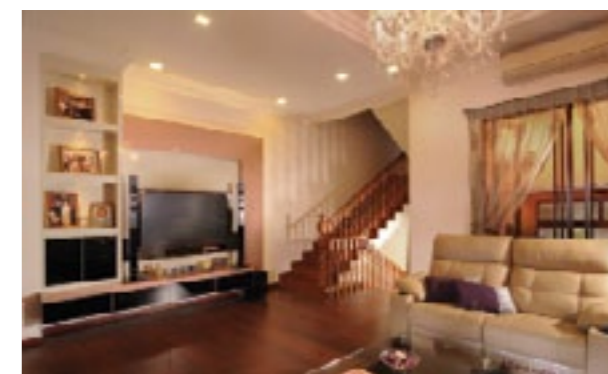
Although the living and dining rooms are designed to impress and entertain, the bedrooms are crafted for comfort and the individuals' needs without compromising on the richness of the design. The opulence of the master bedroom combines the varying shades of chestnut and divine white to give a calm and earthy vibe. The headboard of the bed is elegant by itself as it towers all the way to the ceiling.

The importance of fusing design with functionality is invaluable in interior design, especially when space is scarce. In another bedroom, a cupboard is built to reach the ceiling to maximise on the vertical space available. A painting of the Buddha is put up to add a vibrant vibe to the professional décor of the room.

This bedroom is set to stop anyone in the tracks. Each furniture piece in the room is given splash of orange to liven up the living space while each wall is covered with closets and shelf space to maximise on all available space.

The kitchen is given a sleek look with the successful combination of yellow and brown hues. Its blue marble counter top gives off a rich sheen that further adds to the theme of opulence to the home.





# Bringing Your Dream Home to Life

When Mohd Khair B Mohd Noor and Suriati Abdullah approached us for their house renovation, they were already armed with specific design ideas and décor concepts for every nook and cranny of their house. While they explained to us the vivid details of their dream home that is to be their tranquil sanctuary, we were able to plainly imagine the contemporary, yet kampung-style haven they have described.

A few weeks later, we brought their fantasy home to life.

Embellished in contemporary warm tones of beige, brown and off-white, this modern three-storey terrace home at Loyang Rise looks modern while being as warm and inviting as a kampung house. Each room also has a dash of vibrant colours to differentiate the rooms apart. Family photos and potted plants are the few decorations of the home to enhance the homely feeling.

Just step into the living room and you will feel the loving family vibe of the home. Not only are the family photos proudly displayed on the shelf, the cookbooks on the coffee table show that the family cooks at home often. The dark engineered wood floor gleams in marvelous contrast to the off-white walls. The pink tone of the simple feature walls and purple cushions set the living room apart from the other rooms.

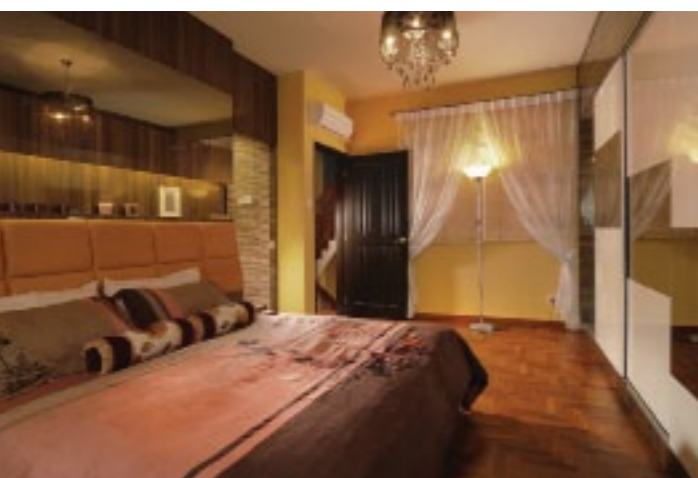
The dining room is painted bright green to give an uplifting vibe in contrast with the dark engineered wood floor and wooden paneling in the ceiling. The dining set is also cleverly selected to fit in with the clean and contemporary themes. The lustrous mosaic tiles of the dining room extends to the kitchen, giving it a natural flow from the dining room to the kitchen and vice versa. The white countertop of the island in the kitchen fits in well with the pristine white cupboards. Together with the metallic electronics, such as the refrigerator and ovens, and metallic ceiling lamp, this kitchen is the epitome of modern living. A Victorian-theme teapot set is strategically displayed just for a touch of country.

The car porch was converted into a family lounge area for the extended family members' gatherings every weekend. One wall is painted vibrant red and has a mirror stretching throughout another wall to emit an airy and contemporary look. The wooden furniture set, however, retains its kampung ambience.

The master bedroom prides itself with modern luxury and comfort. With a majestic headboard that runs through the entire paneled feature wall and an ornate chandelier, the master bedroom is designed to give the perception of grandeur. The mirror panels of the closet door add a modern touch to create the illusion of space in the master bedroom.

The bathroom is decadently designed with pebbles, mosaic tiles and a plenty of storage space for the homeowners. The wide mirror not only ensures that more than one person may use it at any one time, it further enhances the visual space of the bathroom.

The garden is neatly trimmed and well cared for. A simple outdoors furniture sit under a verandah ala kampung-style with red cushions to stand out from the dark wood and tiles.





# Modern

Having a small abode does not equate to having a cluttered and plainly designed home. Each space in a small home can be cleverly maximised to give the illusion of space and transpire a truly chic vibe. For this three-bedroom condominium unit, the homeowners opted for a fuss-free design that not only exudes clean contemporary décor but also provides a safe environment to raise a child.

Rashmoni Dutta, the homeowner of this unit at Tower 1 of Parkview Apartment shared his views of his dream home. "We want a simple but eye-catching design for our home. We do not need it to look extravagant or fancy, but still it should still turn a few heads."

Their wish came true when their home is transformed into a clean and airy living space with a distinct personality without being over the top. Step into this stylised sanctuary and revel in the modern, yet homely, vibe of the living room.

Decked in glossy, beige tiles, the living room and dining room are linked cohesively with homogeneous flooring, enhancing the visual broadness of the common area. Off-white walls are also preferred to amplify the feeling of a clean vibe. Dark brown and white furniture pieces are used to complement the living space. By sticking to a minimal, no-frills approach to the décor and furniture pieces, it further amplifies the amount of space. Curtains with drapes are used for the living room window to allow flexibility of controlling the intensity of natural light while providing privacy elegantly.



Large mirror panels with artistic motifs are placed along the walls of the dining room. These panels not only act as decorative art pieces, but also add an element of space. Potted plants are included to inject small doses of nature and avoid wasted space.

For the kitchen, veneer laminate is used for the cabinets while the crisp white surfaces are used for the counter tops. To combat space constraint, electronic appliances are arranged in the cabinets.

The main centerpiece of this home is its balcony. Soft lighting is used to create a soothing and relaxing atmosphere,

perfect for the homeowners to laze on the balcony chair with a drink while staring at the night sky. Potted plants are placed at strategic corners to add greenery into the ambience.

The master bedroom is given a splash of colour to add vibrancy into the living space. The headboard is specially designed with red padding, dark wooden board and mirror panels, taking centre stage in the bedroom. Topped with an antique ceiling fan and drapes, this master bedroom harmoniously fuses modern vibe with traditional accessories.





# Monochrome

## with *Class*

When you move into a resale flat, there is a tendency to want to revamp the whole unit to fit your style, especially when you have the budget for it. But should you decide to keep some of the old fittings, do not despair that you will end up with mismatched designs in your home. This executive maisonette, for example, has successfully infused the old and new fittings into one seamless, modern design with a touch of lush.

"For us, it is not necessary to completely makeover the whole unit. But at the same time, we want a theme that sets the correct tone for our home," mentioned He Jun, the homeowner of this executive maisonette at Blk 531 Pasir Ris Drive 1.

With that in mind, Darwin Interior masterminded this monochrome concept and furnished the home with clean lines and top-end materials that amplify the theme of contemporary living. The walls of living room, dining room and kitchen are off-white, while the furniture pieces alternate between black and white to give a classy and sophisticated look.

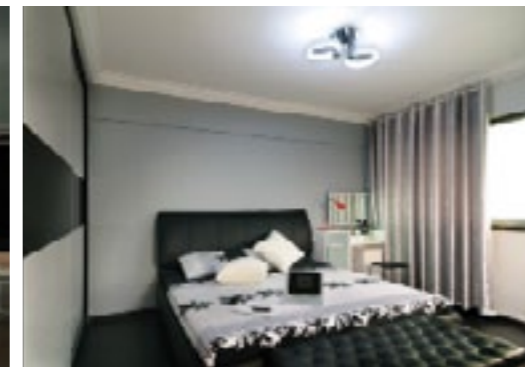
The feature wall in the living room resembles the letter "C", which is laminated white, while the base and centre of the feature wall are black to give a contrast. A lone potted plant on the coffee table adds a natural feeling of purity and peace in the innovatively styled living room.

A black and metallic dining set dominates the dining room, with a mirror taking the shape of a butterfly presiding over it on a wall. This quirky mirror sends a touch of personality in this monochromatic home. Facing the open concept kitchen, it allows the homeowners easy access for food and drinks to be served. The kitchen itself is a personalised masterpiece, as it is stylishly separated into wet and dry sections by a sliding door.

The luxurious staircase is another highlight of this classy sanctuary. This impressive staircase is adorned with black ceramic tiles that act as a runner, giving the impression of a red carpet runway. Ceramic tiles are used in place of a carpet as they are low-maintenance and look more modern.

Even the bathroom carries the classy, monochromatic design that is so prevalent throughout the whole home. Black tiles are used for the floor, while different wall tiles are used to differentiate the shower area with the toilet area.

Although the black and white theme are carried into the master bedroom, the main wall is given a pastel blue colour to send a soothing and relaxing vibe into the bedroom. This allows the residents to have an easier and more comforting sleep.



# Induce Entertainment into Your Home



Having a good rapport with the customer will always lead to good results. From the way Sim Mu Lin's home at Blk 302D Punggol Place turned out, it is suffice to say that our working relationship is simply top-notch.

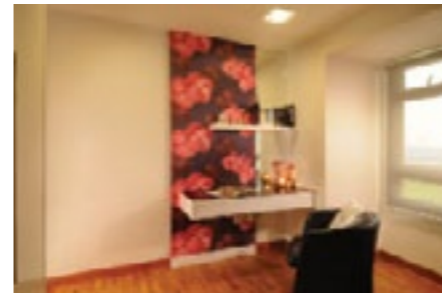
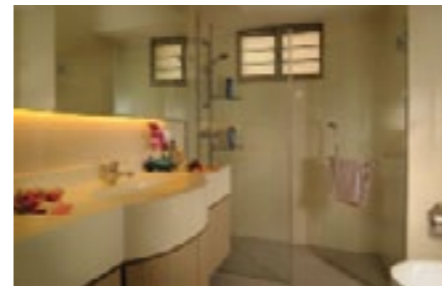
From a typical flat, the unit has now been turned into an inviting, yet modern, sanctuary that will never fail to surprise you at every turn. A stylish ensemble decked out in classy browns, white and black, this classy abode simply exudes elegance and simplicity.

With beige laminate flooring to highlight the dark leather furniture and sleek feature wall, the living room oozes warmth and relaxation. The coffee table is small and unobtrusive to ensure space is not unnecessarily compromised. The wall shared by the living and dining rooms is plastered with a textured print motif to sync the two rooms together. A large mirror covers one side of the feature wall while a transparent glass covers the other. The intention of the mirror is to further accentuate the illusion of space.

On the other side of the glass divider is an individualised entertainment room for the homeowners to entertain their friends and family members. The glass divider ensures that the room feels more airy and also permits more people to watch the game that is being played in the room. There is even a swivelling panel that allows the homeowners to access the television set from the living room. Lined with black seats along the glass divider, this ensures that guests can feel comfortable and relax in the entertainment room if they are not in the action.

For every newly wedded couple, the master bedroom has to be the most important personal space in a home. The master bedroom for this couple induces elegance and poise. Artistic motif wallpaper is plastered on the feature wall. A supersized black leather headboard accompanied the bed dressed in metallic bronze bedding. Facing the bed is a television set mounted on a plain grey textured wood to further ooze a relaxed and contemporary atmosphere.

The study room is designed with the same colour scheme as the common rooms, but with a vibrant wooden plank coloured in hues of vivid pink and red to inject zest into the décor.



# Kitchen in *Open*

When Troy Tay, the homeowner of this Blk 142 Bukit Batok East Ave 2 unit, approached us with the idea of having an open concept kitchen with a fully functional bar counter, I could not wait to get the project started. This open concept will surely be the centre of attraction for the HDB maisonette unit.

We started to plan the overall theme and decided on a contemporary theme of monochrome shades to tie the rooms on the first floor. This ensures that visitors walking through the house from the living room to the hallway to the kitchen area will find the design effortlessly intertwined.

For the living room, we established a spacious family area with a black and white feature wall for the flat screen television set. Although the theme centres on black and white, all rooms

have some colours to differentiate themselves. Mahogany laminate flooring was added to the alcove, while vibrant red stools were added to the bar. Different movie posters were also put up in the bar and the dining room to inject the residents' love of movies into their home.

The open concept kitchen flows easily from the kitchen to the hallway. It is easy for meals to be served on the bar counters and brought to the dining table. It is also perfect for the children to climb on the stool and have their breakfast while talking to their parents who may be busy cooking or washing dishes on the other side of the bar. For the parents, it is a real treat to take a seat on the stool after a long day at work for a nightcap. By having this open concept kitchen, it encourages family bonding and engagement.

# *Concept*

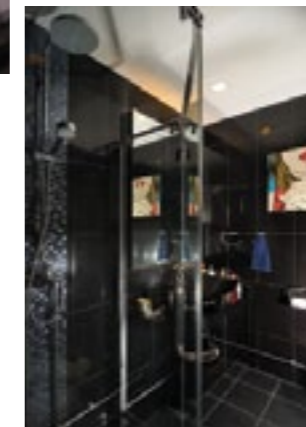
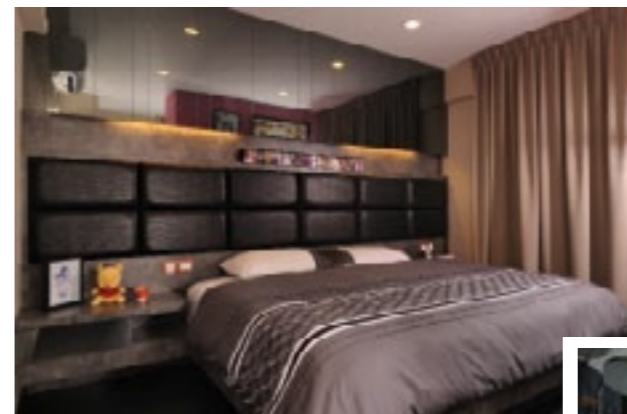


"The open kitchen concept is just what we are looking for," said Troy proudly. "It breaks down the barrier between the kitchen and the rest of the house. It is perfect for our family."

The elegant black and white setting of the dining room is also tastefully done. The full-length mirror further enhances the dining space and makes it look more spacious.

The bedrooms were given more colours to suit their needs. The master bedroom is given an earthy look consisting of different hues of brown to give it a soothing and relaxing ambience to sleep in. The headboard stretching from one end to the other is without a doubt the focal point of the room.

While the master bedroom is a picture of tranquility, the children's bedroom is painted vibrant, lively colours to suit their high level of energy and zest for life. The bathroom, on the other hand, is given a sleek, all-black look to round off the modern, monochrome look.





The first thing you will notice is how beautifully the soft lighting adds to the cosy feel emitted by the dark wooden furniture. The textured feature wall of the living room enhances the countryside vibes of the apartment. The different textures of wood and stone simply add harmonious layers of dimensions to the home. It is easy to feel your worries being washed away in such an inviting décor. The feeling of warmth that the living room oozes flows through the balcony. With the addition of pebbles to give a touch of the outdoors, this home is simply the embodiment of rest and relaxation.

When there is limited space, it is important to maximise the available space with storage compartments to hide the clutter. For example, in the kitchen, two whole walls are decked full of storage compartments from the floor to the ceiling. These cabinets are made from walnut-coloured veneer, and this material is repeatedly used throughout the common areas, including the false ceiling in the living room.

The Balinese theme also has stark influences in the master bedroom. Using a colour palette consisting of warm shades of browns and beiges, these earthy tones combined to beautifully exude a soft and soothing ambience. The floral paintings further amplify this tropical theme.

The bathroom carries this theme with its authentic-looking sink, wood-like flooring and dark brown blinds. The kid's room has more colours to reflect the energy of kids. The custom-made furniture in the kid's bedroom consists of a built-in platform bed resting against a padded window bay for precautions. The shelves, study table and wardrobe are also custom-built to suit the dimensions of the bedroom.

# Unwinding With a *Balinese Twist*

Home is your shelter from the hustle and bustle of the outside world. This is why it is important to implement the right décor furnishing to your home to ensure that you feel soothed and comfortable in your sanctuary after a busy day. For Shukor bin Warji, nothing is more important than that.

"After a long day, we just want to return home and feel immediately relaxed," mentioned the resident of No. 65 Sunny Palms.

What better way to feel relaxed than to return to a home that looks like a Balinese resort? With only 15 days to complete this project, we set out to transform this two-bedroom apartment into a Balinese paradise. This beautifully furnished recess simply exudes poise and makes for the perfect retreat at the end of the day. With the clever use of varying shades of mahogany, chestnut and cocoa as well as wood effect, bamboo and craft stone materials, the apartment is successfully revamped into a charming, rustic living space.



# Swathed in *Decadence*



If you wish to make a bold design statement, then having the budget for it will definitely make it effortless to achieve a striking, stunning décor. The challenge of this home is to transform this HBD unit into a stylish, luxurious haven, not unlike the décor of a high-end condominium. Although the homeowners have a high budget, they also have a high expectation.

"We left everything to the designer. We have complete trust," said Mohammad Nasruddin bin Sulaiman, a resident from Blk 338 Tampines Street 33.

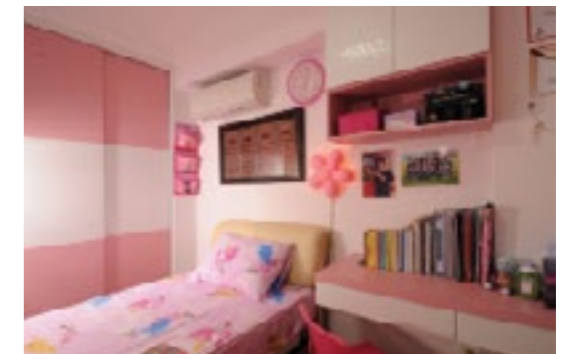
With that in mind, we set off to transform this home into a sophisticated abode worthy of recurrent praise and constant admiration. Dark, decadent shades are used to accentuate walls and furniture to exude a sophisticated and stylish design. Luxury furnishings are scattered strategically while feature walls are adorned with different touches to demonstrate a sense of grandeur.

The feature wall takes precedence in the living room, consisting of various dark wooden panels and a large tinted glass to create the illusion of several dimensions. A great contrast against the light coloured marble flooring and walls, this ensures that the feature wall visually outweighs the other elements in the living room. It is connected to the balcony, which has a special Craftstone-covered wall that amplifies the feeling of relaxation, making the balcony the perfect place to put your feet up and unwind.

It is almost impossible to walk by the dining room and not notice a full-fledged mirror stretching to the ceiling. It is strategically placed to create the illusion of space. Anchored by a simple dark-coloured dining set, the three chandeliers hanging on the ceiling of the dining room further add to the feeling of opulence and class to the home. The kitchen is a symbol of modernity, with a clean monochromatic décor to give a pristine ambience. The island in the kitchen is equipped with high-end stove appliances to ensure that cooking takes centre stage.

The bedroom is a stunning showcase on its own. Basked in the warm hues of black, beige and brown, this spacious master bedroom has a swivelling panel that allows them to watch television in bed or while exercising. The dark parquet flooring combines superbly with the motif-inspired grey wallpaper. Equipped with its own custom-built walk-in closet to store all their precious clothes and accessories, this master bedroom is set to be the envy of town. Heading to the bathroom, it is decked in monochromatic colours to emphasise its modern and classy ambience.

The kid's bedroom, however, is allowed to break out from the household design theme with various shades of pink to stamp her individuality. The textured laminate desk and overhead cabinets are even swathed in pink for that feminine allure.



# Homely & Eclectic



Warm and inviting, this unit at Thomson Ridge is an exemplary showcase of eclecticism and style.

Walk into the sitting room and be greeted by the diversity of the décor from brown velvety sofa set and luxurious deep red carpet. A perfect setting for large family gatherings due to the number of available seats, this common room is the ideal spot for engagement with family and friends. With light-coloured ceilings and pastel curtains, there is an ambience of spaciousness and airiness, as these elements promote the flow of natural light. A mirror engulfed the whole wall in the sitting room to further add to the visual space.

It is hard to believe that this unit was revamped within such a tight schedule.

"We thought it was impossible to renovate our home within a couple of weeks, but Darwin Interior managed to do such a good job of it," says Faridah Awall Walter, the proud homeowner of this unit.

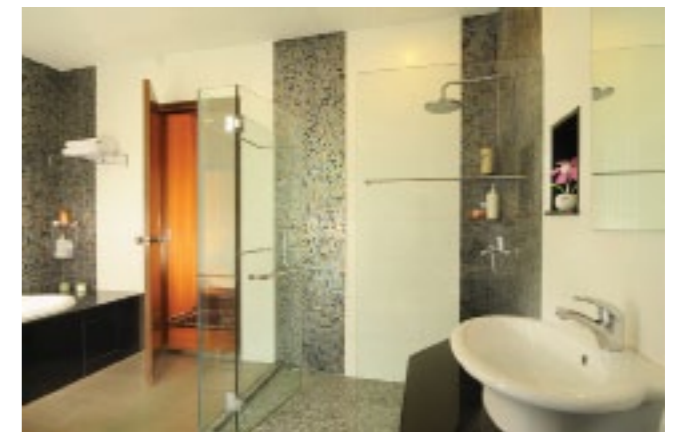
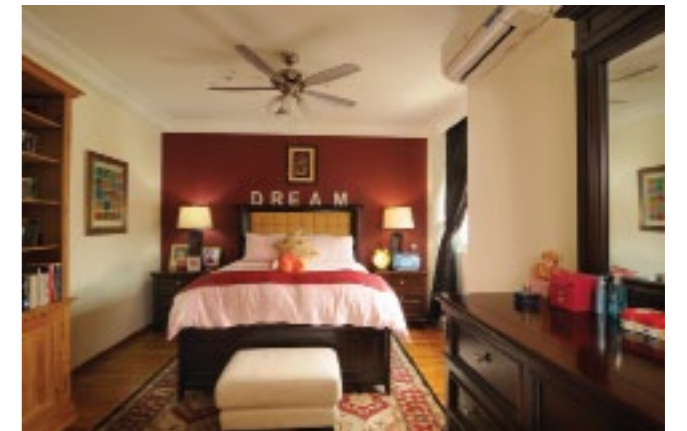
Walk further into the house and revel in the calm, mellow setting of the dining room. Swathed in pastel blues and greens, the colours contrast the wooden dining set perfectly. While the dark colours of the sitting room make a bold statement to impress the guests, the dining room is the spot to relax and unwind over a meal. The kitchen adorns a similar pastel green of the dining area with wooden cabinets and granite counter tops, giving the kitchen a lovely rustic character.

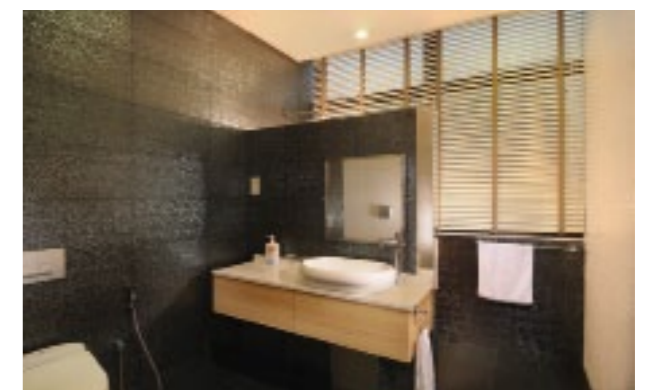
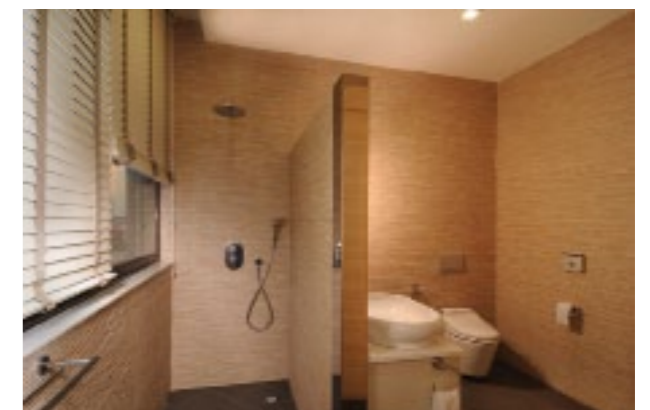
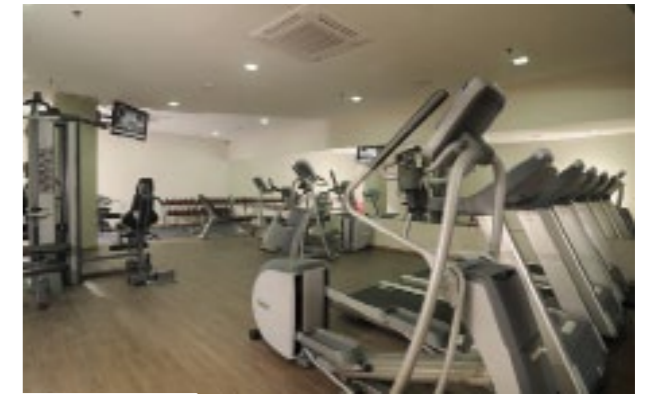
While the kitchen is designed with a countryside outlook in mind, the living room is elegantly designed with a dark-coloured feature wall to match with the dark leather seats and storage compartments. Fine touches of decorative pieces topped off the warm, homely ambience of the living room.

The bathroom is designed with strategically placed pastel mosaic tiles to enhance its sense of style. With the pastel theme and dark design pieces connecting the bathroom to other rooms in the house, the bathroom is an excellent showcase of clean, simple décor without the kitsch. Both

bathtub and shower sections are installed to maximise every nook and cranny of this spacious bathroom while meeting every needs.

The kid's bedroom is elegantly designed to suit an inviting retreat for sleep and relaxation. A soothing dark maroon wall in the bedroom sets the tone to soothe nerves and induce a homely feeling. The pink bedding and mahogany vanity table exude the feminine allure.





# Wind Down at the Clubhouse

It is crucial for a clubhouse to feel warm and inviting to attract others to be part of its membership network. It has to be packed with amenities while also inducing a relaxing, laid-back atmosphere. Set-up with the intention to provide a hang-out area for members to unwind after a long day at work, have a meal, or even run a few laps on the treadmill, Luzerne Rooftop Clubhouse was to be designed with such a cosy and comfortable ambience that members will almost feel like they are home.

Time was of the essence for this project. We had a limited time frame to turn a cold, dark void rooftop into a homely retreat. However, with strong determination and peerless expertise,

we managed to magically transform this empty space into an oasis of warmth, style and comfort in just three months.

The main living space is decked with earth tones, classy black and soft lighting to induce the aura of soothing relaxation. The combination of parquet flooring and wooden wall panels with black modern bar stools and home entertainment system are successfully linked to create a stylish ensemble. This décor of understated elegance resonates throughout the whole clubhouse, giving it a homely and tranquil atmosphere.

The importance of décor in creating the right ambience is not taken lightly even for the bathrooms. Textured black accents

of one bathroom combined with black tiles contrast perfectly with the beige walls. Another bathroom carries the same design concept but is swathed with beige textured accents to create a more natural feel.

The clubhouse is also equipped with a gymnasium that offers plenty of exercising equipments for its members. Having a laidback ambience is not suitable for a gymnasium. As such, although it still retains the core interior design of the clubhouse, the gymnasium has a different look to reflect the purpose of the room. The parquet flooring of the gymnasium has a lighter tone to show a more rugged look. The walls are accented white to stimulate the flow of light, creating a clean and breezy look.

The bar section adds a level of sophistication to the clubhouse. With the inner washing area cleverly hidden behind elegant wooden panels, this allows the modern and elegant look to remain untarnished to guests.

The beautiful rooftop opens to the refreshing outdoors of neatly placed potted plants and starry night skies, bringing a whole new level of refinement to an exquisite clubhouse.

# Eco-Friendly Paints for Your Home

If you are thinking of using conventional or oil-based household paints for your home, think twice. They contain many chemicals, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which emit harmful gases from the walls into the air as the paint is applied or as it dries. Exposure to VOCs in paint can trigger asthma attacks, eye irritation, respiratory problems, and nausea, among other symptoms.

Even after the paint has dried, it can emit VOCs for years afterwards, thus polluting indoor air. This, combined with the fact that the paint is usually applied to a large area, can cause residents of these freshly painted homes to be exposed to harmful levels of VOCs.

Due to this, latex paints, which contain lower VOCs, have become more popular among homeowners. However, they still contain other toxic chemicals, such as solvents and glysterine silica, which can cause dizziness when exposed. Even zero VOC paints contain small traces of VOCs.

Eco-friendly paints, also known as 'green paints', on the other hand, are free from man-made chemicals and do not contain any VOCs. Most importantly, they are the safest option for your health.

How different are they from conventional paint? Let's take a look at some of their characteristics.

- Unlike conventional, synthetic paints, green paints contain only natural, raw, plant-, or mineral-based ingredients. By using naturally based materials, you can reduce the amount of fumes released into the atmosphere during the creation of the paint, as well as the number of toxins that are released once it has been used and discarded. In addition, with non-toxic paint, the minerals and organic matter can be harvested in environmentally friendly and sustainable ways.
- They contain no-VOCs, so fewer chemicals are released into the air that can hurt the environment as well as damage human and animal health. This means that using green paint will not contribute to the depletion of the ozone layer and poor indoor air quality.
- Green paints are odourless and does not emit any gases while being applied or when dried.
- These paints contain no petroleum-derived products.
- Even your house will benefit from the use of green paint by allowing the wooden timbers, plaster and walls to breathe underneath the layers of an eco-friendly paint. This will help them to move when necessary without damaging the paint, especially in very hot or cold temperatures. The paint will work with the surface, allowing it to move slightly as it expands and contracts, thus reducing the risks of cracks in the paintwork.
- When looking to buy green paint, look at the ingredients and search for natural products and non petrol-based oils. Be aware of VOCs levels, and pick ones that contain fewer acrylics and synthetic agents, even if it is only by a small percentage.

Green paints may have some disadvantages, such as higher cost. But the benefits of using green paints far outweigh any advantages of using conventional paint supplies. By switching to green paint, you can be rest assured that the toxins of conventional paint would not harm your loved ones.



Every year my mother would badger me to help her carry the mattresses outside and place it under the sun for a few hours. This has been going on since I was 13, and every year I wonder if breaking my back carrying those bulky items actually play any part in conserving their quality.

As it turns out, it does. Basking your mattress under the sun actually helps it to be disinfected naturally. But there are other ways to maintain your mattress, and since we spend about a third of our lives sleeping, it is worth taking a few moments learning how to keep it functioning at its best. Try out these tips every few months to keep your mattress in shape:

## Is It Time to Flip Your Mattress, or Buy a New One?

- Give your mattress a thorough inspection for stains. Use an upholstery shampoo or a tiny bit of diluted mild soap on any stain and let it dry thoroughly.
- Place it in the sun. You do not have to drag it outside, but simply place it in direct sunlight can naturally disinfect your mattress. Thus, dragging it near an open window when the sun is blazing is good enough.
- Rotate and flip the mattress. If you have a pillow-top mattress, you will not be able to flip it over so just keep rotating it. By doing this, your mattress will wear evenly and it helps to free the sags that come from constantly sleeping on the same spot.
- Sprinkle with a few handfuls of lavender before vacuuming it. Not only will the lavender keep it smelling fresh but the scent also helps to enhance sleep. If you do not have any lavender, use baking soda instead. Vacuum up the lavender or the baking soda after a few hours.
- Invest in a mattress cover. Not only does a mattress cover protect your mattress, it is also easier to wash a mattress cover if you spill something on the bed than attempting to clean a whole mattress. Look for one that is specially engineered to keep dust mites at bay.
- Make it a habit to change your sheets regularly. Changing your sheets on a regular basis, such as once a week, can help keep dirt from accumulating on your mattress and transforming it into a breeding ground for dust mites.

If it is high time to buy a new mattress, always go for quality. For a firmer mattress, ensure that the thickness of the wire in the coils is of a lower gauge number, denoting thicker, stiffer wire. Also, although a higher quantity of steel coils may mean a better quality mattress, do not immediately choose the highest concentration.

Experts suggest testing it in the store and lying down on each mattress in the position in which you normally sleep. The right mattress should make you feel like you are floating in the air. Spend at least 10 to 15 minutes lying on the bed before deciding whether it is comfortable for you.

The extra thought put into purchasing your next mattress is invaluable. Nothing beats waking up on the right side of the bed every morning and starting your day feeling fresh and on a positive note.

### What are Green Beddings?

Green beddings are bed products made from high quality natural fibres. It is typically made of organic cotton, contains zero pesticide, and has no added formaldehyde. This helps you to sleep better and healthier.



# Light Your World with LEDs

Buying lamps for your children's bedrooms is not an easy task. Not only do you need to consider the possibility of them knocking over the lamp and shattering the bulb, you need to also ensure that the light intensity is bright enough for them to do their homework while comfortable enough not to hurt their eyes.

LED light bulbs fulfill the above requirements and more.

An LED light bulb is a solid-state lamp that utilises light-emitting diodes (LEDs) as an electronic light source. Widely dubbed as the most effective and efficient light source compared to incandescent and fluorescent lamps, LED lamps can also be made interchangeable with other types of lamps. Examine the bases of most LED lamps and you can see that they are also manufactured for incandescent bulbs.

But how exactly are they safe for your children's bedrooms? LED lamps are practically unbreakable as their internal parts are rigidly supported to ensure that they resist vibration and hard impact.

Not only that, LED light bulbs have excellent control over the distribution of light with small reflectors. LED lamps can be dimmed over a wider range with no minimum current needed to sustain lamp operation. Controlling light output and spatial distribution of a LED lamp gives you the flexibility of adjusting the intensity of light for the comfort of your children.

Besides being the choice type of light for the apple of your eyes, LED light bulbs also offer other advantages, such as:

- Saving your money. LED bulbs switch on instantly, generate very little heat as they do not use a filament, and use less energy than traditional incandescent and fluorescent bulbs. LED lamps also last longer and have better and higher energy efficiency than incandescent and fluorescent lamps. Most LED light bulbs are rated to last 50,000 hours or more. That equates to about 17 years when used for an average of eight hours a day.
- Saving the environment. LED lights can emit up to 7,500 lumens with just one high-power LED chip and has an electrical power consumption of 100 watts. LED lights also do not contain any environmentally hazardous materials such as mercury or lead, thus greatly reducing your carbon footprint.
- Ensuring high quality lighting. Most LED lamps applications, multiple diodes are assembled to achieve stunning effects because the efficiency of conversion from electric power to light by LED light bulbs is generally higher than the incandescent lamps or fluorescent lamps. LED lamps are applicable for both general and special-purpose lighting. As LED light bulbs naturally emit many colours, there is no necessity to use filters for coloured lights. LED sources are also compact, ensuring that you can use LED light bulbs in many different lighting fixtures. They form the numbers on digital clocks, transmit information from remote controls, light up watches and tell you when your appliances are turned on.

With so many advantages of using LED lamps, do not stop with just your children's bedrooms. These unsung heroes of the electronic world belong in every single room of your home.

# Naturally Green Feature Walls

Walk into any designer show flat and you will notice that each room has a particular focal point that immediately captures your attention. Coined as a feature wall, it is designed to highlight and transform the room into a stylish living space. There are many ways to create a feature wall without spending too much time or money. Yet, many rooms lack this necessary feature.

If you are scouring for your next home improvement project, building and renovating a structures wall can be a fun and challenging experience. But did you know you can go "green" while doing it?



### Going Green with Your Feature Wall

Green feature walls are walls that are covered with plants, creating a lush green face. There are two primary kinds of green walls, also referred to as "vertical gardens". A green facade is made by building a supportive framework with training plants. The framework is typically distanced slightly from the wall so that the plants remain on the framework rather than attached to the wall, and the plants can be installed in planters at the base or top of the wall.

A living wall, on the other hand, uses panels of plants that are attached directly to the wall, typically with a waterproof membrane between the green wall and the structural wall behind it. These walls use a drip irrigation system, with a gravel bed beneath the wall to help filter the water. A living wall can be far more diverse than a green facade, as plants can be arranged on the panels in any way desired.

### Environmental Benefits

Much like the closely related concept of the green roof, green feature walls have a number of environmental benefits. Besides being low maintenance and having high water efficiency, they help conserve energy by providing a layer of insulation. In other words, using a green feature wall can actually cut down your interior temperature by degrees. Additionally, they also help to soundproof your room. Having green feature walls outdoors helps to control storm water runoff.

Because green feature walls are viewed as being environmentally friendly, it is sometimes possible to get special credits for installing a green feature wall, making it an economically sound decision when you combine these credits with long-term energy savings.

### Health Benefits

Besides saving the environment and your energy bills, interior green feature walls also filter air in a building. Plants, especially distinctive tropical species, have the ability to absorb pollutants from the air, thus protecting the residents of your home from harmful toxins. If green feature walls are hydroponic, they can eliminate the possibility of soil borne pathogens and dirt.

Distinctive and stunning green feature walls can range in size from small accent walls to green feature walls with incredibly diverse plantings that cover the entire side of a building. So regardless of whether you are living in a HDB flat or a bungalow, having a green feature wall will not only boost your home's aesthetic value, it will also provide immeasurable health and environmental benefits.

# How to Choose Window Furnishings



Choosing the right dressing for your windows can be an exasperating task given the number of choices available, but it can also turn into a pleasant experience if you know what works best for you and your home.

Curtains and drapes are typically favoured for their luxurious looks and feel, while blinds are more popularly known for their functionality and low costs. Sunscreens, on the other hand, allow you the convenience of viewing the scenery outside. All of the above choices have their merits, but which works best for you? Here is more information to help you with your purchasing decision:

### Curtains & Drapes

If you prefer elegance and a unique sense of style to fit the décor of your room, then having curtains or drapes are your answer. Generally, older homes with tall ceilings and period furniture would look more graceful with heavy draperies.

Considering the purpose of the room will also give you a hint on which window dressing suits it. For example, for a window near the kitchen sink, you may prefer curtains over it for easy access to natural light.

### Blinds

While curtains may easily allow natural light flooding your kitchen as you cook, bedrooms tend to benefit from the use of blinds to effectively block lighting sources outside. This helps make the room more conducive for sleep. Blinds are also found in most business and commercial properties due to its professional look and affordability.

Not only that, bungalows with shorter ceilings and windows also usually benefit from the airy feeling that blinds can give both the room and the window, accented by nothing more than a simple valance. If you prefer a minimal amount of dressing for a window, then blinds are your solution.

### Sunscreens

Sunscreens are becoming more popular. You can see through the fabric while it blocks out harmful UV rays and natural heat. Thus, homeowners can enjoy the benefit of having lower energy bills when the weather is hot.

Privacy is also enhanced with a window sunscreen. While you may have an unobstructed view of the scenery beyond the window, outsiders cannot see easily through the mesh. Screen manufacturers have screens that are dark or light in color, such as gray or beige. A darker screen choice will provide you with the most privacy, especially if the mesh is closely woven together. If your window is facing your neighbour's or if you live close to a busy street, having window sunscreens may provide you with the best privacy.

At the same time, more homeowners are combining curtains with blinds or sunscreens to form the ultimate display of function and decoration. Blinds or sunscreens are installed on the window and then curtains are placed over it. This gives the homeowner the ability to filter the light without sacrificing beauty.

Each side has their proponents and detractors. When deciding what type of window furnishing to use, weigh the pros and cons, and choose what fits best with the décor and mood of your home.

# Choose the Flooring that Saves the Earth

It is easy to forget the importance of having good flooring. We can get so fixated with buying the latest high-end theatre system and a limited edition designer sofa set that we can barely care the type of floor we walk on. However, we have to realise that making the wrong flooring decision can cost us thousands of dollars in renovation fees and several days of unnecessary reconstruction in the future.

If you are currently in the market for new flooring and do not wish to make the wrong choice, take a look at laminate flooring. It has become one of the fastest growing choices today for its low maintenance and low cost. Not only that, the laminate flooring is virtually resistant to burns, scratches, chipping and is great for high traffic areas.

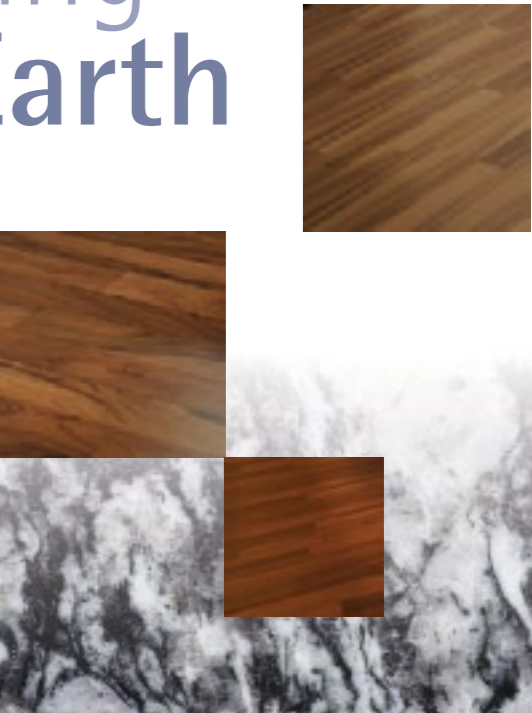
But there is more to laminate flooring than just being a bargain buy.

Laminate flooring has a host of environmentally friendly benefits. Namely, laminate flooring creates the look of a natural resource – such as wood or stone – as opposed to actually using it, so fewer raw materials are used in the manufacturing process. Because laminate flooring's appearance is actually a high-definition photograph, it effectively provides the desired look without destroying a tree or mining a quarry.

That is just one of the ways that laminate flooring is the green choice in flooring, and more eco-conscious consumers are sitting up and taking notice. Here are more pointers on how "green" laminate flooring is:

- Emissions of volatile organic compounds are often well below permissible levels as the melamine that contains formaldehyde or urea-formaldehyde in the wear layer is permanently affixed to the resins. Some manufactures have also begun developing formaldehyde-free wear layers.
- Laminate flooring's environmentally friendly properties begin with its inherently green manufacturing process. Product cores are comprised of at least 74 percent pre-consumer recycled waste, such as sawdust from mills and wood chips from log processing. This minimises the need for new raw materials, whose harvesting often depletes natural resources.
- Once installed, laminate floors can be easily cleaned without the use of harsh chemicals, protecting indoor air quality.
- At the end of a laminate floor's lifetime, it can be reused or recycled. The boards can also be tossed into the re-production process, grounded for agriculture use, or burned as waste-to-energy. That keeps old flooring from landing in the landfill.
- Laminate flooring is free of solvents, preservatives, and other chemicals that can agitate allergies and asthma.

If you are finally convinced to get laminate flooring, assess the available products in the market carefully. Weigh each factor carefully against the price of the product and choose the highest grade you can afford, to ensure a good-looking, lasting laminate floor and the best value for your money.

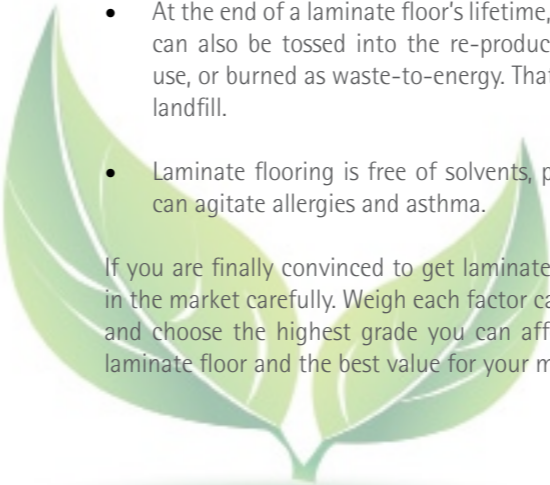


### Tips to Maintain Marble Floors

- Clean stains with a solution of three teaspoons of baking soda and 1 quart of warm water.
- Use only warm water when mopping, as other cleaners may dull your marble floor.
- To make your marble shine, rub the floor with a damp clean cloth dipped with crushed chalk powder.

### Dos & Don'ts of Ceramic Tiles

- Do clean up spills immediately to avoid a permanent stain.
- Don't use steel wool, scouring powders, or other abrasives that can scratch the finish of your ceramic tile.
- Do remember that ceramic tile may crack or chip under extreme force.
- Don't use bleach or ammonia-based cleaners – these products can cause discolouration.



# Five Indoor Plants that Purify the Air

Often times we fall sick on a regular basis for no clear reasons. We do not realise that inside our home there are various types of toxins, such as benzene, trichloroethylene, formaldehyde, acetone and chloroform, present at any one time. These harmful toxins could lead to serious health problems like asthma, allergies or even cancer.

Over the past few years, scientists and researchers have discovered that there are various houseplants that help to purify our household air and balance indoor humidity. Besides absorbing pollutants, these plants also remove harmful gases and help fight pollution.

Not only are these plants handy to have around, they are also easy to maintain. For example, even though plants generally prefer to be placed under the light, many indoor plants do not have to be placed near windows. This is because they originated from the dense shade of tropical forests and have a high rate of photosynthesis, making them ideal plants for your home.

To maximise the effectiveness of your houseplants in filtering harmful pollutants, ensure that they are not placed in a draft.

If you are looking for a cheap and natural method of air purification, check out five of the best living air purifiers below:



**Aloe Vera**  
More popularly known as an important ingredient in most skin care products, aloe vera plant also helps with filtering various gas emissions from harmful toxic materials. Also touted as an impressive medicinal herb, this incredible plant may also be grown as an ornamental plant.



**Marginata**  
Marginata is a slow-growing flowering houseplant with very few growing requirements. It is proven to not only remove formaldehyde and benzene from the air, but also filters other toxins present. Pet owners should be aware though that this plant may be poisonous to dogs.



**Chinese Evergreen**  
Chinese evergreen is a herbaceous perennial plant that also purifies the air. This is a common houseplant that grows much better with less water and minimum light. It can remove airborne toxins such as benzene and formaldehyde from your household.



**Peace Lily**  
Peace lily is a low-maintenance plant that is best known for reducing harmful indoor toxins that may cause cancer. It also helps in removing benzene and formaldehyde present in the house, and is recommended for homes that meet the term 'sick building syndrome'.



**Snake Plant**  
The snake plant is an evergreen perennial plant that is tolerant of irregular watering and dim lightning. Widely used as an ornamental plant in most households, scientists have discovered that this plant has the capability to absorb formaldehyde, nitrogen oxides as well as a variety of other harmful chemicals.

**Benefits in abundance**  
The benefits of having houseplants are overwhelming. Plants keep the air clean and pollution free by absorbing excess carbon dioxide as well as other harmful toxins in the atmosphere. Additionally, as most of them require minimum maintenance, there is hardly any excuse not to have at least one at home.

So why not visit a nearby nursery today and decorate your house with some houseplants? It might just save your life.

# Removing Stains from Your Sofa

Accidents can happen to your furniture, whether it is a stylish designer piece from Italy or an antique sofa set from the 1960s. It is not uncommon to find pen marks, coffee stains or even traces of make-up on your favourite sofa regardless of how cautious you are.

Once a stain occurs, it is often ignored as effort to remove the stain can be quite an uphill task if you are as ignorant as I am. Unfortunately, the longer the digression, the harder it is to remove the stain. As time passes, you will then be forced to bear an expensive cleaning bill or even resort to buying new furniture set altogether as some stains can eventually be impossible to remove.

It is thus ideal to address the stains as quickly as possible. If you have a stained fabric sofa, here are some suggestions to attempt removing the stains:

- Before you try to remove the stain, take a damp cloth and blot a hidden part of the furniture to test that water will not cause any damage. Some furniture may suffer from colour bleeding. If you have a fabric cleaner you wish to test out, you may also apply a small amount on the hidden part of the furniture.
- If there is still an excess stain, do not rub on it. Instead, blot it gently with a cloth quickly to prevent the stain from expanding to other areas of the fabric and until the spot is dry.
- To remove ink or coffee stains from the fabric, repeatedly blot the stain until it is dry. You should then mix a solution of white vinegar and warm water, and proceed to blot the stain with traces of the solution until it disappears.
- To remove make-up stain, blot the spot with a small amount of rubbing alcohol or dry cleaning fluid until the stain disappears.
- For wines or tomato-based sauces, you may damp the stain lightly with warm water for one minute before blotting it dry with a paper towel. Once that is done, rub in a small amount of dishwashing liquid and warm water before continuing to blot the spot until no stain transfers to the paper towel. You may then tap the spot with club soda or tonic water.
- Greasy stains may be addressed by using a mix solution of white vinegar and warm water, similar to the tip above on removing ink and coffee stains. If greasy residue persists, use cornstarch or baby powder on the spot for two minutes before brushing it off with a soft brush.
- To remove chocolate stains, gently scrape it off as much as possible with a blunt knife before damping the spot with a washing soda solution.
- Always ensure that the spot is thoroughly dried either by using thick layers of kitchen tissue or thick towel. Baking soda may be sprinkled on the damp area overnight to absorb any remaining fluid in the upholstery. Vacuum thoroughly the following day to remove excess baking soda residue.

However, you should be wary of using cleaning products that you are unsure of, like using bleach which can permanently damage your sofa.

Well, to avoid any stress over stains on your fabric sofa, use it as it is meant to be used – to seat on to enjoy a TV programme or for after dinner tete-a-tete with family members, etc. but watch what you drink or do on your sofa, and you will have a comfort zone to rest your weary body and tired legs.

# Selecting the Right Furniture for Your Home

Elegantly styled and designed furniture is a long-term investment. That is why it is important for you to choose the right furniture pieces that meet your needs while at the same time, are well engineered so that you will reap many years of enjoyment from them.

Take a moment to think about the theme of your dream house, such as Victorian, Western or modern, to determine your sense of style. From there, you can make purchasing decisions of furniture items that match the singular, selected theme.

Although placing furniture in a room without any discernable theme will probably look fine, the room will lose its maximum aesthetics potential.

But selecting the right furniture piece does not stop at how well it fits the décor of your room. Ensure that the quality of the furniture is suitable for your needs. To determine the right furniture material for you, check out the following quick tips:

### Chairs & Sofa

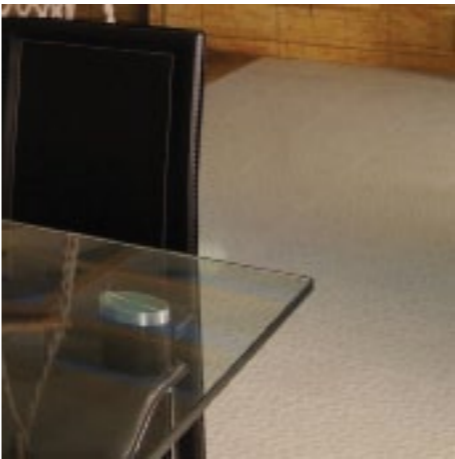
- Choose comfort when it comes to selecting suitable chairs and sofa set. Refrain from being distracted by looks alone. Remember that you may be sitting on them every day to watch television or have your dinner. Check the angle of the seat to ensure you continue to feel comfortable even after prolong sitting.
- Take note that sofa seats should not have depths greater than the length of your thighs otherwise you will not be able to relax and bend your knees while lounging on your sofa.
- Ensure that the chairs you have selected, especially dining chairs, have legs fitted with plastic cushions to protect your floor. They also ensure that your chairs do not make screeching sounds when they are dragged.

### Garden & Patio Furniture

- For garden or patio furniture, we recommend that you choose furniture made out of aluminium, metal coated with enamel paint, plastic, rattan, or woods such as teak or merbau.

### Leather

- If you prefer taut and smooth leather covers, ask the seller for corrected cowhide furniture.
- If you prefer to sink into your sofa however, ask for soft leather such as semi-aniline.
- If you are buying used furniture and wish to make a layman's check on the quality of the leather, examine the underside of the leather to see if it has the same colour as the surface. Cheaper leather does not go through the whole tanning process and the colours are sprayed on instead.



### Tables and Counter Tops

- When looking for glass-topped tables, insist on tempered glass. Tempered or toughened glass is built to balance its internal stresses and make it more resistant to breakage. Additionally, should it break, the glass will shatter into small pieces instead of dangerous large shards that may result in serious injury.
- For dining tables, refrain from choosing those with edges that are sharp and at right angles. Choose dining tables with chamfered or beveled edges. Sharp edges are more likely to dent over time while the latter do not hurt the underside of your forearms.
- If you choose wood-veneered tabletops, do note that they need to be treated with care. Rough treatment will likely result in numerous scratches and bubbles forming, or, at worst, delamination.
- If you wish to have marble kitchen counter tops, refrain from white or light colours as they stain and blemish easily.
- Avoid laminated tops around the kitchen sink as they are vulnerable to water damage.
- Solid surfaces such as cultured marble or granite have a limit to their resilience. If they are not insulated from hot ovens and stoves, the material may crack or split. Hot pots and pans may also burn the surface.

### Wood

- Ensure that solid furniture made from tropical or temperate woods are properly seasoned. Be wary of wood substitutes being passed off as solid wood.

### After selecting the right furniture:

- When buying the furniture, insist on details in the invoice. If the leather is semi-aniline, ensure that it states so. This will protect you if a dispute occurs.
- Check the warranty statement carefully. Although some warranty statements read "10-year warranty", it may only cover the frame of the furniture and not the leather.
- If you are buying baby furniture, check with the seller that the paints used are non-toxic before making the purchase.
- Always check the dimensions of your space beforehand. What looks stunning in the showroom may not even fit in your apartment.
- Ask for product authenticity. There are many copies of designer furniture in the marketplace. If you are after the genuine article, ensure that that is what you are getting.

Regardless of which furniture you have set your heart on, try not to go beyond your budget. Overspending on furniture may result in you having less furniture than what is needed to make a room look complete.

Remember that it is not enough to simply purchase furniture to turn a house into a home. You have to do it smartly as well. You will discover that your furniture acquisition experiences are more rewarding than you ever thought possible.



Edwin Neo was a godsend. We were on a tight schedule, but he managed to revamp our 5-room flat within two weeks! Thank you, we will definitely recommend Edwin and Darwin Interior to our friends.

Patmanaban Gobal Krishnan ~ Blk 120 Marsiling Rise

Darwin Interior's service and workmanship were fantastic. Aric Awyong was a pleasure to work with, and his passion and positive attitude were very inspiring. My sincerest gratitude to Darwin Interior for their wonderful support and quality service.

Nagayah S/O Sheravali Blk ~ 126A Kim Tian Road

Ecstee Ho is everything you look for in an interior designer. She is extremely reliable, professional and passionate. She made our dream home come true with an affordable budget! We will not hesitate to recommend Ecstee to our relatives, friends and associates.

Eric Eng ~ 204A Punggol Field

I only had three weeks to renovate my new home and I was so worried about being homeless. Luckily, I met Steven Low from Darwin Interior. He showed so much concern that he even pushed forward the renovation so that I would not be homeless. Thank you, Steven!

Sarefa Ishak ~ Blk 710 Yishun Avenue 5

I wish to thank Ricky Goh for personally supervising the renovation works on a daily basis. He was quick to provide solutions and showed an excellent work rate. We will definitely refer Ricky and Darwin Interior to our friends and relatives.

Satheesh Veerabadrin ~ Blk 429 Choa Chu Kang Ave 4

Thank you to Vincent Wong from Darwin Interior for all his hard work! Everyday when we wake up, we cannot help but look in awe and wonder at our beautiful, new home. His high professional standards and coordination were amazing.

Hum Kwan Peng ~ Blk 103 Towner Road

I am extremely pleased with the services provided by our carpenter, Ling Hwa Huat. Not only does he have the analytical skills to diagnose problems and implement viable solutions, he is also an excellent character and a steady worker.

Connie Chiang ~ Blk 140 Bukit Batok Street 11

Rayson Fong's service was excellent. He has successfully carried out all our requests and was always there when we needed him. We will definitely call on him and Darwin Interior again when we renovate our balcony and kitchen.

Rosilah binte Mosli ~ Blk 723 Yishun St 71

My heartfelt thanks to Charmaine Chuah from Darwin Interior for her excellent work. Her smooth coordination and timeliness in handling the renovation gave me a complete peace of mind. I have no hesitation recommending her to anyone in need of an interior design consultant!

SS Pang ~ 5 Mount Emily

I would like to commend Michelle Chan of Darwin Interior for all her suggestions and guidance throughout the renovation of my flat. I have a beautiful home now thanks to Darwin Interior!

Shirrin Bano ~ Blk 289A Punggol Place

We are extremely satisfied with the professional services rendered by Cindy Fong of Darwin Interior. The design standard matched our expectation and the project was completed well within schedule! Thank you Darwin Interior for turning our dream home into reality!

Mohd Khair B Mohd Noor ~ Loyang Rise

We would like to thank Ben Koh from Darwin Interior. He has an extremely professional work attitude and gave us a great home concept that matches our lifestyle. Truly, it is only at Darwin Interior that dream homes are created!

Chern Lee Choo ~ Blk 104 Henderson Crescent



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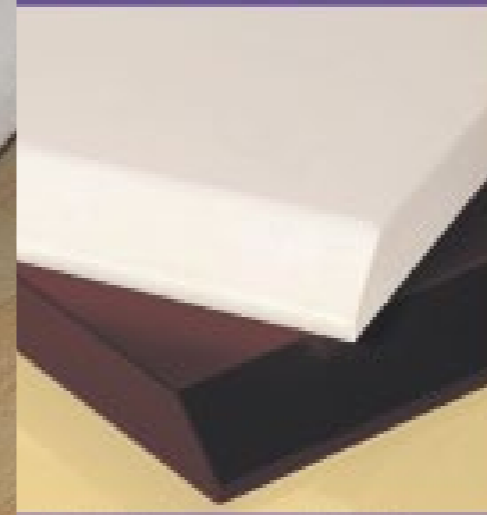
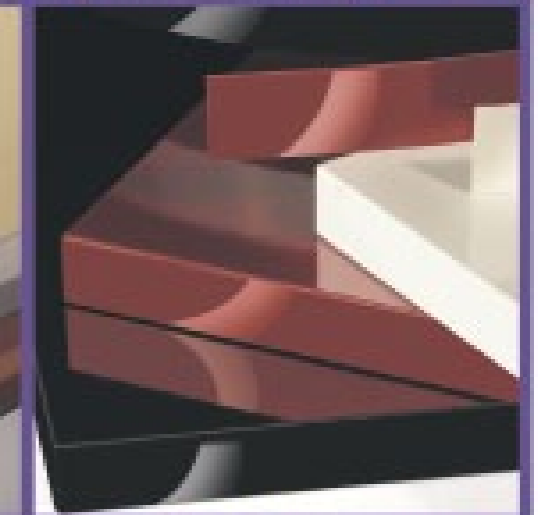
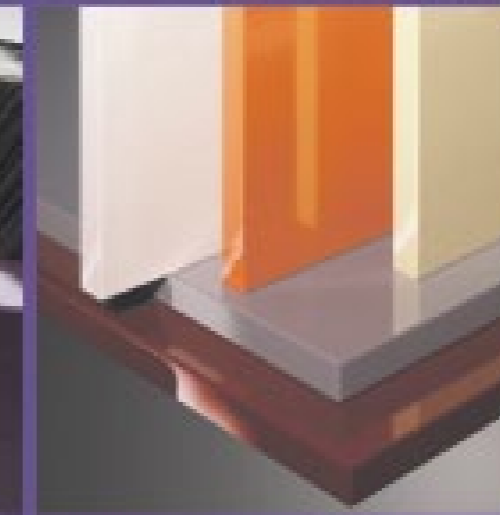
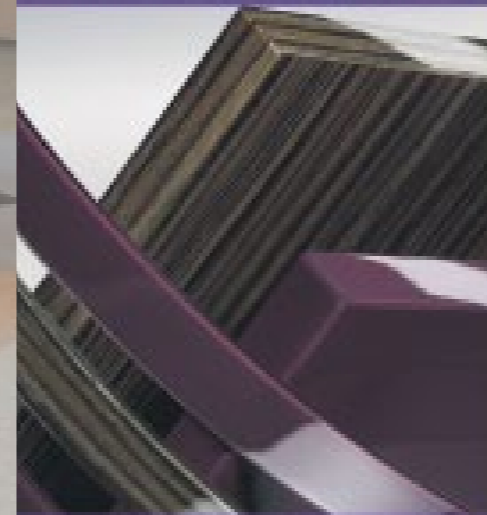
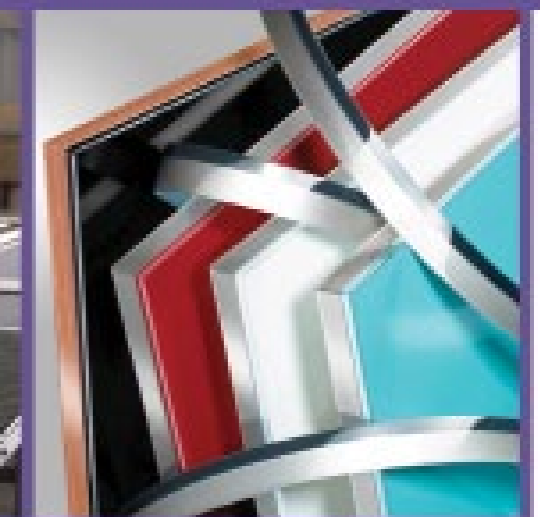
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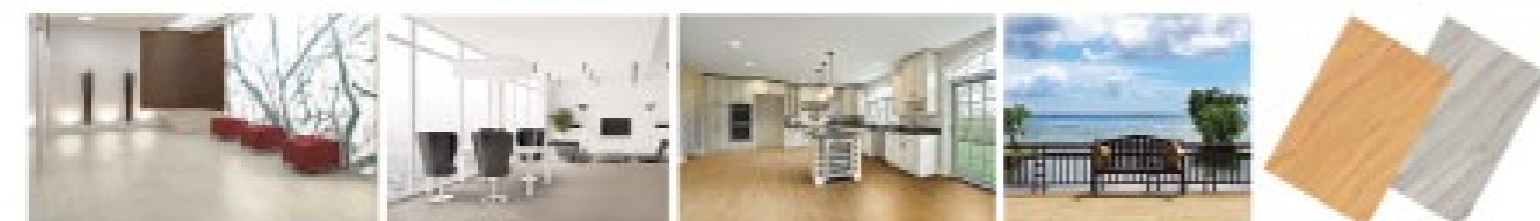


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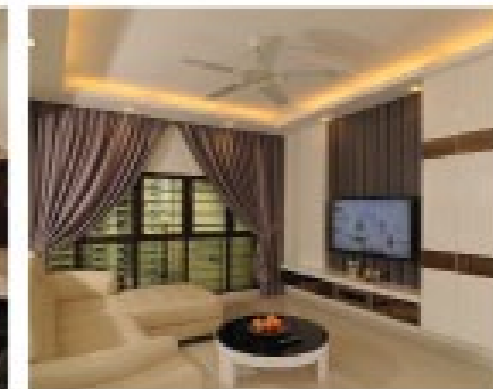
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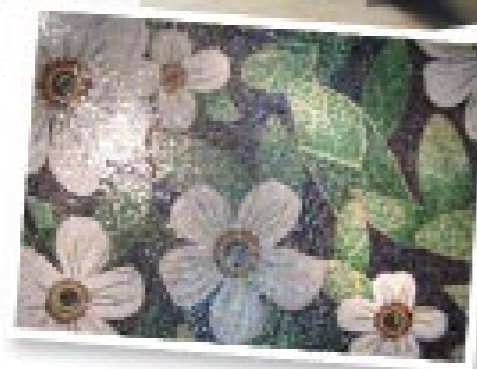
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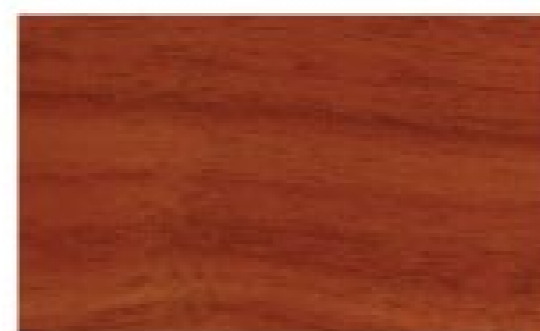
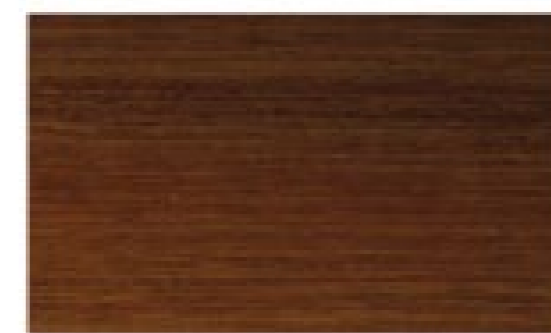
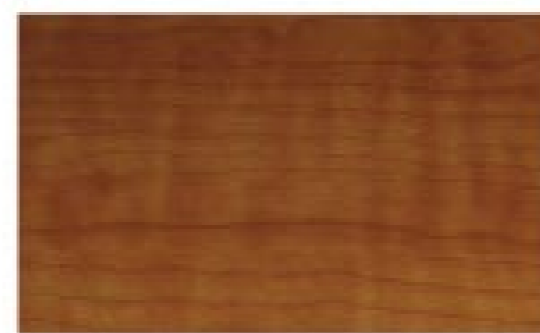
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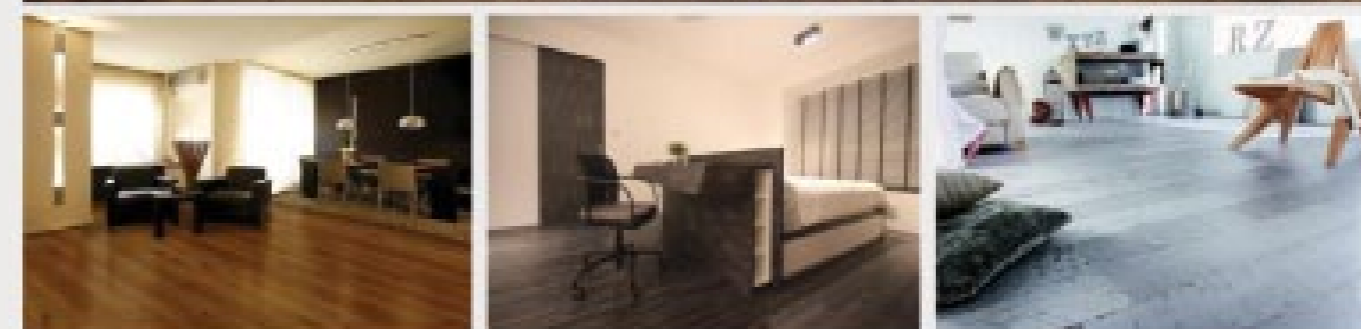
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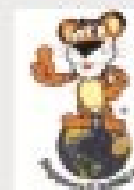


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