

METRO

VOL. 10 NO. 5

# home

## LOCAL ELIXIRS

COCKTAILS  
CONCOCTED WITH  
FILIPINO FLAVORS

STUNNING  
DWELLINGS  
FROM LOFT TO  
FAMILY HOME



E

ining

## INSPIRED INTERIORS

A LOOK INTO THE PERSONAL SPACES  
OF TOOTSY ANGARA, CHARLENE  
CARLOS, JEAN FERNANDO, MARISSA  
LOPA, RITA NAZARENO, MIKKA PADUA,  
LEONA PANUTAT, RIA PRIETO, VERNICE  
SONGCO, MICHELLINE SYJUCO,  
AND KATRINA TANTOCO-LOBREGAT

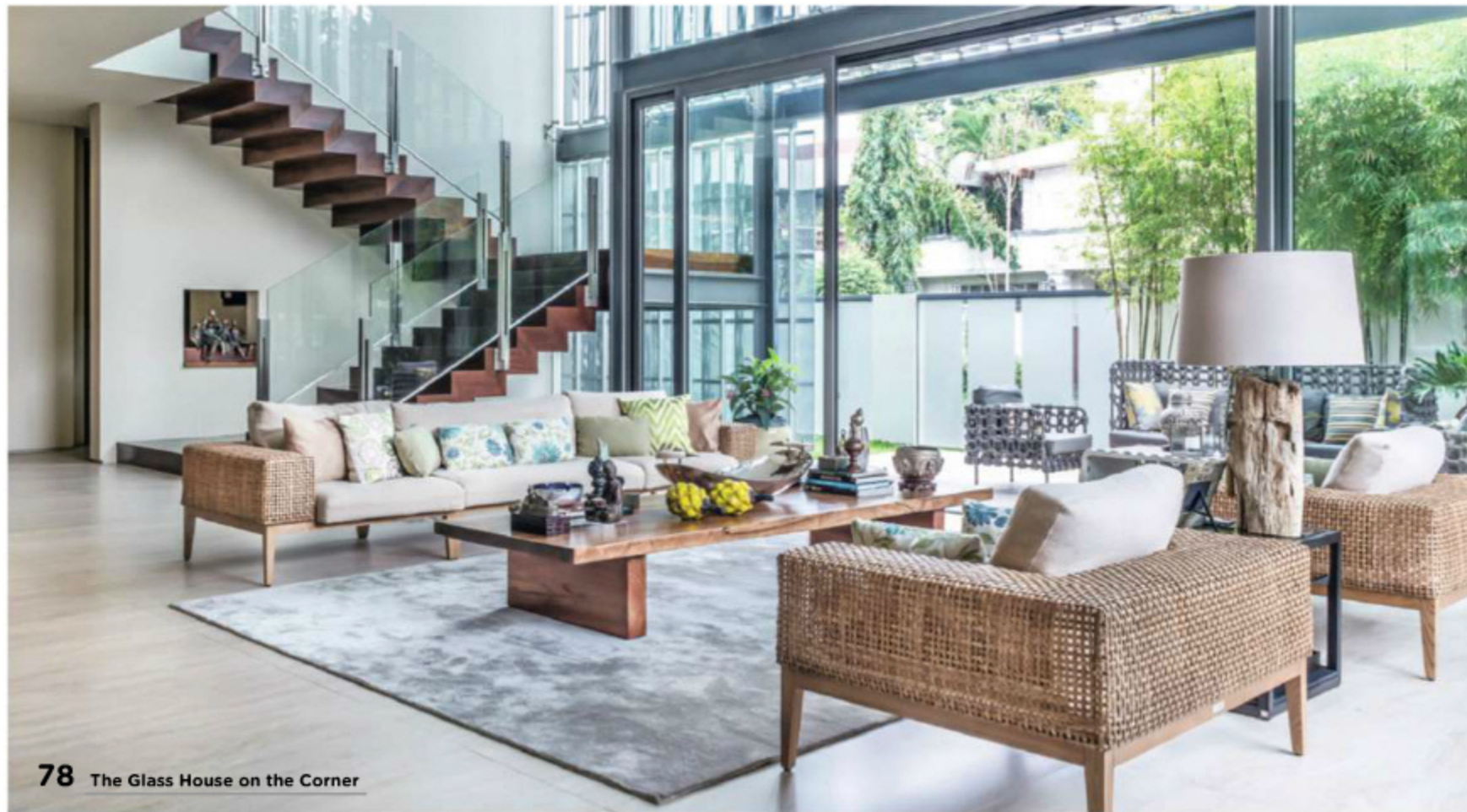
JERIKA  
EJERCITO, LAND  
DEVELOPMENT'S  
NEWEST PLAYER,  
SHOWS US  
BIG STYLE IN  
SDMI'S 8I XAVIER  
RESIDENCES





# contents

VOL. 10 / NO. 5



78 The Glass House on the Corner

## ELEMENTS

### 11 The 21st Century Victorian Aesthetic

### 14 Designer Dispatches

### 17 Tagô: The Modern Bahay Kubo

Mañosa's artisanal blueprint

### 18 A New Icon in the City Skyline

The proscenium takes pride in the perfect balance of modern and traditional in the Sakura model unit

### 19 Made by Magis

Italian design lab retails its furniture in Manila via Dimensione

### 35 High Fidelity

Aficionado Hermie Ventura knows his electronics

### 20 Redefining Filipino Architecture

Jason Buensalido finds his design advocacy in his own culture and identity

### 22 Art Central

Newest haven for the creative

### 24 Living the Life Eclectic

A trend to suit all tastes and lifestyles

### 32 Foyer Face-Off

Leah Puyat takes on Metro Home's design challenge for a foyer

### 34 The Fairest of Them All

Multiply your room's pleasures with the hottest mirrors in the market

## FOLIO

### 38 The 'Genesis' of Francis Nacion

Art from the other world

### 40 Luxe Stay

Centrally located in mid-town Manhattan, The Peninsula New York features a luxurious ambiance of old world elegance and modern accents

### 42 Crafting a Dream

It was never too late for Daniel dela Cruz to become a sculptor

### 44 Woman at Work

As vice-president of San Diego Mactan Inc., stylist and real estate top honcho Jerika Ejercito embarks on her first big project for the company—81 Xavier Residences in Greenhills



ON THE COVER  
Jerika Ejercito at 81 Xavier Residences, Greenhills


PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MILO SOGUECO

Metro Home and Entertaining is available online at [zinio.com](http://zinio.com).

## These aren't just granny's old ovens.

This is innovation geared towards the future. With La Germania's Built-in Microwave Ovens and Gas or Electric Ovens, you get that unparalleled edge in design and performance. Whether set separately or paired together, you're given all the functions that you need and more, with an aesthetic that works perfectly for the demands of the modern kitchen.



LA GERMANIA  ITALIA

*Innovating through Generations!*



Gas Hob



Glass Ceramic Hob



Range Hood



Freestanding Range

#### Visit our Kitchen Gallery

**BGC SHOWROOM** G/F 32nd and Fifth bldg., 32nd st. corner 5th avenue (across St. Luke's Hospital) Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City (Now Open)  
**ALABANG SHOWROOM** The Commerce Center East Asia Drive Corner Commerce Avenue Alabang Tel No. 775-7913

**MANILA SHOWROOM** 250 Escolta St., Corner E.T. Yuchengco St. Binondo, Manila Tel No. 244-6660

**CEBU SHOWROOM** A.S. Fortuna St., Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu Tel No. (032) 416-5188

For inquiries, please call 564-1521 to 28. For more information visit: [www.lagermania.com.ph](http://www.lagermania.com.ph) | [info@lagermania.com.ph](mailto:info@lagermania.com.ph)



# contents

VOL. 10 / NO. 5



58 Collected Eclectic



100 Loft Therapy

## INSPIRED INTERIORS

### 54 A Pentchant for History

'Personal spaces must have things that you love.' —Marissa Lopa

### 56 Family Ties

'I like putting in objects with a personal story.' —Rita Nazareno

### 58 Collected Eclectic

'I like mixing high and low. If I think it looks good, then it stays.' —Leona Panutat

### 60 Art Showcase

'Put in as many objects that you love, but don't overdo it.' —Michelline Syjuco

### 62 Statement pieces—and happy colors!

'I used my daughter's artwork and juxtaposed it with art from professional artists.' —Charlene Carlos

### 64 Visual Feast

'Interiors should be a sensory experience.' —Jean Fernando

### 66 Family Room

'We love its baby smell.' —Tootsy Angara

### 68 Family-Oriented

'We're partial to having pieces with a story and are family heirlooms.' —Katrina Tantoco-Lobregat

### 70 Serendipitous design!

'I like marrying themes.' —Mikka Padua

### 72 Traditional with a Twist

'This room has the balance of a well-curated and relaxed space.' —Vernice Songco

### 74 Function and adventure

'Your space must reflect who you are, and no one else.' —Ria Prieto

## HOME

### 78 The Glass House on the Corner

A family home that features a warm mix of modern and vintage

### 88 'Just the Way We Like It'

This home is a living showcase of high-end furniture pieces and accessories. A perfect combination of form and function

### 100 Loft Therapy

A private retreat in the sky

## ENTERTAINING

### 110 The Cocktail Lifestyle

This French master mixologist entertains with the right blend of liquor

### 114 The Hostess Gift

Fête your hostess with small tokens of appreciation

## THE LAST NOOK

### 116 Inspirations from the Past

Fashion designer JC Buendia looks back for novel ideas and enduring ideals

www.acehardware.ph



# ACE<sup>®</sup>

## Hardware



The helpful place.

Available at all ACE Hardware stores located at:

METRO MANILA: sm supercenter valenzuela • sm city manila • sm city sta. mesa • sm city san lazar • sm cubao • savemore c.o.d. • sm city north edsa • sm city novales • sm city fairview • sm city bay • sm city mabini • sm city marikina • sm supercenter pasig • sm megamall • v-eal greenhills cash and carry makati • sm hypermarket makati • sm makati • greenbelt 1 • market market • sm aia • sm mall of asia • sm city bicutan • sm supercenter muntinlupa festival mall • sm southmall las pilas • sm supercenter las pilas • sm south LIGON • sm city tipa • sm city clik • sm city slorogpo • sm city sta. rosa • sm city san pedro • sm city columbia • sm supercenter molino • sm city lacor • sm city dasmarinas • sm city maricao • sm city maricao • sm city maricao • sm city lucena • sm city batangas • sm city sags • sm city pampanga • sm city san fernando • megacenter the mall cabanatuan • sm city tarlac • sm city rosales • sm city baguio VISAYAS: sm city cebu • sm city consolacion • sm hypermarket mandaua • j centre • sm city mandurao iloilo • sm city delgado iloilo • sm city bacolod MINDANAO: sm city cagayan de oro • savemore kauswagan • sm city davao • sm city lanasan • sm city general santos



# Inspiring Interiors

**MAVERICK BRITISH FASHION DESIGNER** Paul Smith penned a book and entitled it *Inspiration is Everywhere*. He never formally studied fashion, but he was able to translate his personal aesthetic into a global design empire, and he revealed that each and every thing he sees can serve as a jump-off point for creative interpretation, whether it is a jacket lining or a store interior. Whatever your age or taste or lack of training, you can hone your eye for inspiration.

The ancient Greeks felt that inspiration was a gift from the gods and so, they created the Muses, beautiful goddesses who moved artists to feats of creative genius. It is true that there is still an element of mystery and spontaneity to the act of getting that lightning bolt of inspiration. In my experience, inspiration is both individual and universal. We are shaped by our own personal histories and inclinations and yet, there are sights that are so magnificent that they are amazing to all. New York City is one such example. It has been immortalized in song and story, and could possibly be the city with the most number of affectionate monikers. And yet, everyone who sets foot on this isle has their own private New York. I lived in New York for five years, and I always try to make an annual pilgrimage to refresh my spirit and renew my creative energy. This most recent visit was made more special by my stay at The Peninsula, where General Manager Jonathan Crook, who used to be the GM here in Manila, personally welcomed me, and everyone from the doormen, the folks from housekeeping and everyone manning the front desk, all made me feel truly welcome. Though New Yorkers are obsessed with the newest, latest thing, it was the familiar and frequented places that inspired me the most. A visit to The Cloisters, a museum in an old monastery that holds the most significant collection of medieval art in America, which I last saw years ago, still held me entranced

with its silent majesty. There is also that covert thrill of being suspended in the Middle Ages but simultaneously in the heart of the city, right smack in the 21st century. I returned also to Daniel's, still my all-time favorite New York restaurant. The best new discoveries were sweet treats from Levain and Treat House, proving the adage that life is short, and that we must eat dessert first. Certainly, inspiration doesn't only come from the place, but the people. I was able to see Thea Jacinto, whom I have known since she was in high school, and after her stint at the Rhode Island School of Design, she is thriving at women's design at Ralph Lauren. Her drive and determination rubbed off on me, as I am facing many new challenges myself.

In a similar way, I was inspired by Jerika Ejercito, our cover girl who is making strides by her early start in real estate development.

The first press conference I attended as Editor-in-Chief was the launch of Judy Ann Santos as the brand ambassador of Champion Fabric Conditioner. The theme of the launch was "You're always home," and the television commercial showed how relaxed and natural Judy Ann is at home. The other brand ambassador of Champion is Susan Roces and since she is the mother of my friend Senator Grace Poe, I have actually been a happy Champion user for the past few years. It was very fitting that this press conference was my homecoming after my New York journey, because it was an apt reminder that home can be the biggest inspiration of all. Two other occasions emphasized this epiphany. Fashion designer Randy Ortiz celebrated his twenty-fifth year in the fashion industry, and his fashion show began by giving a tribute to his parents' love story as the beginning and source of his own creativity. Then, at the opening of Kenneth Cobonpue's showroom in Makati at the Greenbelt Residences, I was surrounded by a brilliant showcase of exuberant Filipino design. As a design practitioner, I was excited to see how Kenneth and his team put together furniture, art and lighting fixtures to come up with spaces that are quintessentially Filipino but very international and cosmopolitan. As a Filipino, I was bursting with patriotic pride.

The theme of our issue is INSPIRING INTERIORS. In this light, we have composed a portfolio of creative mavens in their favorite rooms, and magnificently designed homes by architect Anthony Nazareno, Interior Architect Tina Periquet and architect Vince Lozano. To paraphrase Paul Smith, we all hope that you will find that inspiration is everywhere within our pages, and you can be inspired to make your own interior the very best expression of your own personal stories. 🍷

*anton*

Anton Barretto with accessories designer Rita Nazareno in the latter's studio, p. 68.



PHOTOGRAPH BY WILLIAM ONG

**Uratex**  
*Premium*  
MATTRESS  
Surround yourself in Luxury.

Experience the luxury with Uratex Premium Mattress. Created using first-class materials, it's designed to give you the ultimate in comfort while you sleep. It's a feeling of indulgence you'll enjoy night after night.

Where Good Nights and Good Mornings Happen.





# METRO home & Entertaining

EDITOR IN CHIEF **Anton Barretto**

DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR **Anna M. Rosete**

ART DIRECTOR **Neil Agonoy**

ASSOCIATE EDITORS **Barbie Pardo-Tiangco, Grace Libero**

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR **Marissa Alejandro Lopa**

COPY EDITOR **Ricci Fortuno-Barrios**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Anzenne Robert Roble**

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

**Martin Aguilar, Eda Batenga-Acuña, Geollette Esguerra, Rapha Kiefer**

CONTRIBUTING STYLIST **Leah Puyat**

CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATOR **Arlene Sy**

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

**Ian Castañares, Jovel Lorenzo, William Ong, Paul del Rosario, Milo Sogueco**

CONTENT UNIT HEAD **Christina N. Lopez**

EDITORIAL OPERATIONS OFFICERS **Myra Alora-Cabaluna, Zeny Orfano-Gonzales**

Visit us online at <http://facebook.com/metrohome.magazine>



HEAD, ABS-CBN PUBLISHING INC. **Ernesto L. Lopez**

MANAGING DIRECTOR **Mark J. Yambot**

CONTENT AND EDITORIAL DIRECTOR **Christina N. Lopez**

ASSOCIATE BUSINESS MANAGER **Ani A. Hila**

FINANCE MANAGER **Rowena Dote**

FINANCE SUPERVISOR **Sheryl A. Baria**

API AD SALES HEAD **Monica O. Herrera**

STRATEGIC PLANNING MANAGER **Jamie Victoria**

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES **Raquel Celi, Jenny Dayao, Jane Ramirez, Melanie Magtira, Euniz Sunga, Vanessa Pinlac, Vince Tuazon**

DIGITAL SALES MANAGER **Rex Anthony Fontanoza**

AD SALES TRAFFIC OFFICER **Christine Reyes**

HEAD, MARKETING FOR NARROWCAST **Teresita L. Villareal**

HEAD, MARKETING SERVICES-API **Elizabeth S. Timbol**

HEAD, PREMIUM LIFESTYLE GROUP **Abby M. Delos Santos**

MARKETING OFFICER **Abi M. Portillo**

EVENTS MANAGER **Love Andaya**

HEAD, ADVERTORIAL AND SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS **Ruby Gonzalez**

PRINT PRODUCER **Athena Fregillana**

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT **Christina Comia**

HEAD, CREATIVE SERVICES **Andre Cui**

COPY WRITER **Michelle Alejandro**

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS **Sherwin Llamas, Timothy John Zamora, Leia Gutierrez, Angela Duldulao, Nikki Abaya**

KEY ACCOUNTS MANAGER **Joy Pedraza**

KEY ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVES **Lucy Lacorte Sanchez, Piero Talag, Sharleen Soon**

DISTRIBUTION DEVELOPMENT MANAGER **Leonard Yoshly**

KEY ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVES - PROVINCIAL **Jong M. Naron, Alex M. Naron, Dennis A. Laredo**

CORPORATE/BULK SALES **Leo Fuentes**

PRE-PRESS PRODUCTION MANAGER **Andy Lizardo**

PRE-PRESS SALES MANAGER **Teresita C. Bayani**

DIGITAL IMAGING SUPERVISOR **Gil Cargason Jr.**

DIGITAL ARTISTS **Zaldy Aguirre, Alex Dulay**

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR **Bert Acala**

PURCHASING OFFICER **Arnel C. Bon**



MANAGING DIRECTOR **Antonio S. Ventosa**

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER **Loraine F. Atienza**

CCPMG AD SALES HEAD **Yvette Novenario**

Metro Home & Entertaining is published by **ABS-CBN Publishing, Incorporated** (formerly Benpres Publishing, Incorporated).

8th Flr, Eugenio Lopez Jr. Communications Center, Mother Ignacia St. cor. Eugenio Lopez Dr., Quezon City

Tel. 02-924-4101, 02-415-2272 loc. 4815; E-mail: [metrohome@abs-cbn.com](mailto:metrohome@abs-cbn.com); visit <http://www.facebook.com/metrohome.magazine>

Circulation Customer Service, Tel. 02-415-2272 loc. 4826; Fax 02-415-1215

Color separation: **COLORGUIDE**, 14 Scout Borromeo, Brgy. South Triangle, Quezon City Tel. 02-411-6373, 02-410-2551.

Copyright© October 2013 ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the Republic of the Philippines.

No part of this magazine may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission of ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc.

## THE CITY CLUB NO OTHER CLUB LIKE IT

Living at Alphaland Makati Place comes with one very special privilege - a membership to The City Club. Comprising three hectares of carefully crafted space, The City Club features 52 world class amenities that let residents work, play and relax in one convenient location. Developed by Alphaland Corporation and located along Ayala Avenue Extension, The City Club is a stone's throw away from the Makati central business district and other nearby commercial establishments.

Stay in shape with The City Club's numerous facilities for health and wellness. There are indoor courts for tennis, badminton, basketball and squash as well as a fully-equipped gym featuring the newest equipment from Life Fitness. For those who wish to revitalize their minds or add variety to their workout, there are studio rooms for Pilates, aerobics, pole dancing and yoga. The City Club has a regulation-sized boxing ring and martial arts studio, complemented by an extensive range of punching bags, speed bags, protective gear and gloves. The City Club is also home to another club first - a High Definition Virtual Golf Simulator that lets you practice your swing or play a round of golf. For the ultimate in pampering, there's a Hair Salon and a Barber Shop as well as a Club Spa which offers a wide range of massage and facial treatments.

Dining at The City Club is always a pleasure. With eight specialty restaurants to choose from, savor the best in Japanese, Thai, Chinese, Spanish, Italian, Filipino, and French cuisine. There's also a Steak house which serves top quality USDA steaks and prime rib. After a hearty meal, try the wide selection of teas at the Tea Room serving tea from the TWG brand. Unwind in our Bar and Game Room or at the Tabacalera Cigar Divan where members can also enjoy the finest hand rolled cigars and single malt scotch whiskies.



Children and young adults also get their own spaces at The City Club. They can splash about in the swimming pool, play computer games at the Wii Room or Game Station Room, watch a movie in the Screening Room, or test their sharpshooting skills at the Airsoft Range. In case you have to be elsewhere, your little ones are always in good hands. Drop them off at the learning center, day care, activity area, or indoor play area. You'll also find a huge outdoor play area and indoor playground where they can run around to their heart's content. With so many things to do, there's always a good time in store for everyone.

At The City Club, getting work done is not a problem. The City Club has its own Business Center that houses several meeting rooms and a library that also doubles as a conference room. The City Club has function rooms that are perfect for small group seminars or large-scale corporate events. When it comes to connectivity, members

of The City Club stay connected no matter where they are thanks to a high speed WiFi backed by a state-of-the-art fiber optic network.

With all these amenities spread out over 30,000 square meters, residents of Alphaland Makati Place are sure to enjoy working, playing and relaxing at The City Club. For more information, visit The City Club website at [www.cityclub.com.ph](http://www.cityclub.com.ph), the Alphaland Makati Place website at [www.makatiplace.com.ph](http://www.makatiplace.com.ph) or contact Alphaland at [sales@alphaland.com.ph](mailto:sales@alphaland.com.ph), (T) 632.846.6205.





anzenne



grace



arlene

**Anzenne Roble** is the editorial assistant of *Metro Home and Entertaining*, *Cars*, and *UAAP* magazines. As someone who describes herself as “an almost writer,” in this issue, Anzenne talks to architect Jason Buensalido and writes eloquently about his design advocacy. Having recently joined this magazine, she’s excited to dive into the world of design and explore more things. (p. 20)

**Grace Libero** is the Style Editor of *StarStudio* and now an associate editor for *Metro Home and Entertaining* as well. She counts fashion, food, books, movies, interior design, and *Koreanovelas* as among her interests. A writer by heart, Grace checks out a family home in the metro and tells us what makes this beautiful modern glass house special. (p. 78)

**Arlene Sy** is an independent visual artist, illustrator, and art director specializing in lifestyle, fashion, and portraits.

She regularly contributes to various local publications, and has mounted two solo exhibits to date. Her most recent venture is *Bonnie Paperie*, a line of bespoke, illustrated paper goods. Visit her work at [arlenesy.com](http://arlenesy.com). She is *Metro Home*’s resident illustrator for the etiquette section, where she gave life to Miss De Meanour and Catrine. For this issue, she illustrated gift ideas for your hostess. (p. 114)

**Ian Castañares** is a self-taught photographer specializing in still life. His career in photography started when he landed a job as staff photographer for *Metro Magazine*. From there, he started developing his expertise with product and portrait photography. Aside from being a freelance photographer, he is also a part-time faculty in the Photography Department of School of Design and Arts in De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde. For this issue, he took photos for Leads (p. 11)



ian



jovel

Lensman **Jovel Lorenzo** can be considered a connoisseur of different arts. He is a long-time photographer who continues to advocate the raw beauty of film photography, taking great pictures as much as he can with his trusted old Nikon FM2. His pictures can be seen in his website, [jovellorenzo.com](http://jovellorenzo.com). He is also a professional dancer—with years of training under one of the country’s best Jazz crew. For this issue, Jovel took photos for Trends (p. 24), the design face-off (p. 32) “The Loft Therapy” house feature (p. 100) and Ria Prieto’s favorite room. (p. 74)

# The 21st Century Victorian Aesthetic

BY BARBIE PARDO-TIANGCO / PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES

Armoire, price available upon request, Kish. In armoire: Boxwood tree in pot, P2,600; Faux taxidermy white ceramic elephant head, P12,000; oval repousse frame, P2,000; 1960 fish plate, P1,900; rabbit candle holder; sand hour glass; octagon golden mirrors, P5,800; succulent pot, P1,500, bird figurine, all from Kish. Wooden dog in clothes, P1,280, AC+632. Flamingo side table, P24,500, Kish. On side table: red top hat, P5,480, AC+632; Silver crown lanterns, P6,900, Sifra. Mugato lounge chair, P58,200, Maison 68; Purple throw pillow, P2,000, Kish



**VICTORIAN FURNITURE** and accessories have oft been reincarnated but never before with such respect for the era it belonged to. Today, much more thought and detail are given to this neo-vintage style once known for excessive ornamentation. The Victorian era was a time when minimalism was correlated to bad taste, so every bare spot in a room had to be filled with objects that reflected the homeowner’s interests. The revival of this style is thankfully less overwhelming but requires a more discerning eye to maintain a sense of balance despite the beautiful clutter.



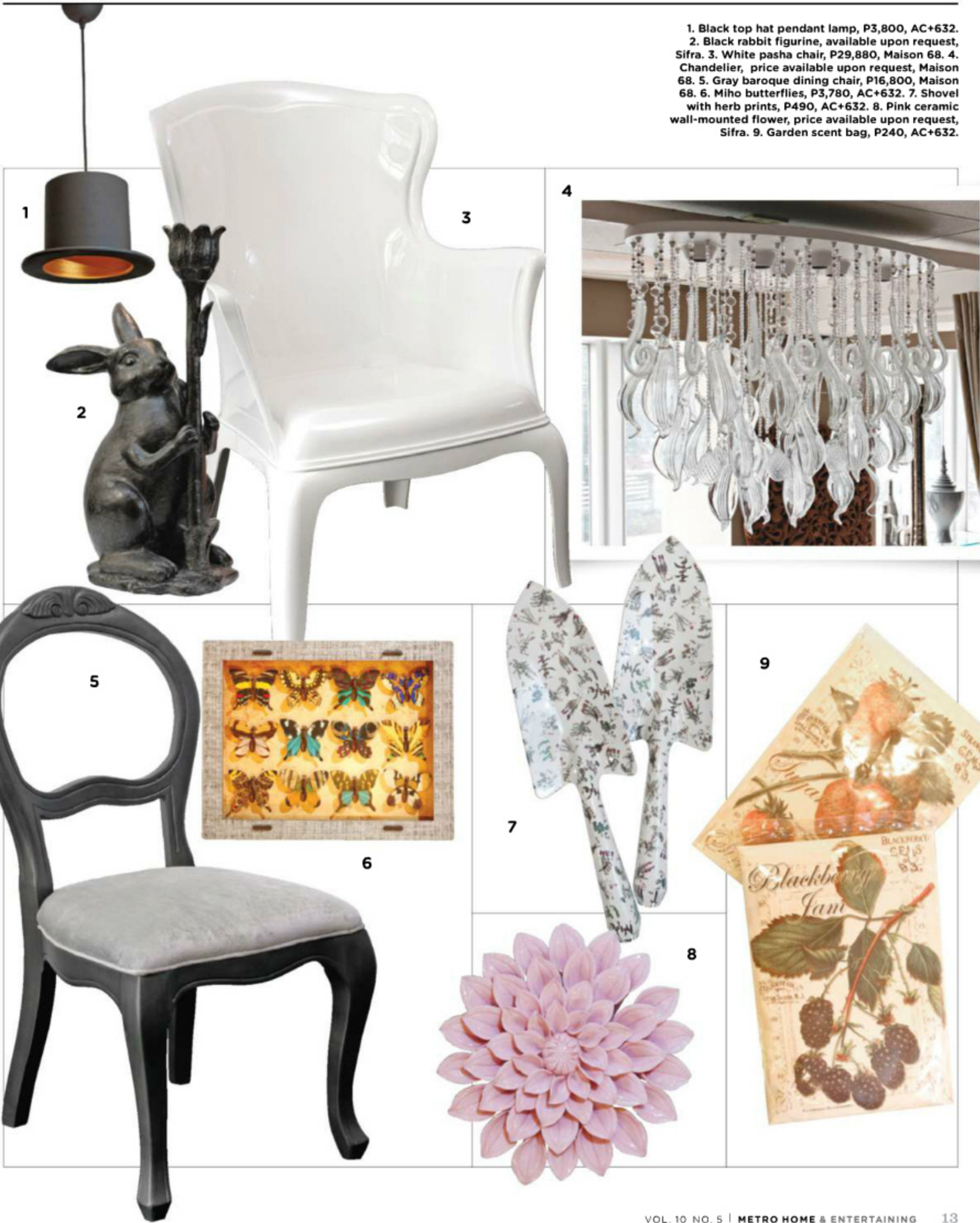
CLOCKWISE: Faux taxidermy ceramic rhino head, red chandelier lamp, price available upon request, both from Kish. Family of ceramic ducks, P3,825, Sifra. Decanter, price available upon request, Kish; Floral paper weight, P1,180, AC+632. Dita lacquer silver vase, P6,990, Maison 68; Magnifiers on stand, P6,500, boxwood tree in pot, P2,600, both from Kish. Fleur de Lotus, P7,990, Maison 68.

Story shot in KISH.

DECORATING WITH VICTORIAN FLAIR

- Don't toss your modern sensibilities in favor of an all-Victorian scheme. Now, this style is best appreciated in juxtaposition with modern objects. It's the drama, wit and irony they lend to spaces that make Victorian-inspired décor prized accessories for the home.
- It is always a good idea to have some furniture pieces with classic lines and shapes. As you evolve and so do your tastes and even your home, these will never go out of style, and will grow with you. Often, a change in upholstery is all these pieces need to be given new life.
- Do mix and match styles. You can live in a historic house, but employ a modern color and pattern scheme in your décor, or vice versa. Think in terms of design elements such as form, pattern and color to achieve a cohesive look whilst incorporating historic elements into your décor.
- Reconnect with your passions and do your research. Books and travel provide a view into the past. Don't limit yourself to décor. Perhaps it is Victorian fashion that will offer inspiration.
- Take a tour through Newport, Rhode Island's Victorian homes and read Edith Wharton's *The Decoration of Houses*, a late Victorian tome regarded for its practicality and sensibilities to this day.

By Anna M. Rosete



1. Black top hat pendant lamp, P3,800, AC+632.
2. Black rabbit figurine, available upon request, Sifra.
3. White pasha chair, P29,880, Maison 68.
4. Chandelier, price available upon request, Maison 68.
5. Gray baroque dining chair, P16,800, Maison 68.
6. Miho butterflies, P3,780, AC+632.
7. Shovel with herb prints, P490, AC+632.
8. Pink ceramic wall-mounted flower, price available upon request, Sifra.
9. Garden scent bag, P240, AC+632.



# Designer Dispatches



## THE CEBUANOS' GO-TO BRAND FOR LUXE APPLIANCES

Focus Global Inc., the exclusive Philippine distributor of German appliance manufacturer Miele, recently opened a showroom at the newly opened Design Center of Cebu. Miele's decision to align itself with other luxury brands that value superior design and excellent craftsmanship is indicative of its commitment to Cebu's sophisticated society. With 114 years of industry experience under its belt, Miele is confident that it will be the Cebuanos' go-to brand for domestic luxurious appliances and commercial kitchen equipment. After all, it was named the third most successful company in Germany back in 2007, second only to Google and Porsche.



## PILLOW TALK

Celebrity couple Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres believe in the healing power of sleep. Lucy has discovered Tempur products that include beds and pillows, which help people sleep better. "I have the pillow that is contoured for when I sleep, but when I work on my computer in bed or for those nights when I read a great book endlessly, I rely on the Tempur Wedge as it gives my back the TLC that it needs," she shares. "Richard likes his pillow thin so he has a thinner one. It's funny because no matter how sleepy Richard and I are, we know when our pillows have been interchanged! Groggily, we swap and then doze off."



## EXTRAORDINARY BATHROOMS

Kuysen Enterprises marks another extraordinary milestone as it unveils its upscale showroom at The Eton Residences Greenbelt. The showroom opens with Philippe Grohe, head of the Axor Brand, flying in especially for this event to introduce Hansgrohe's premiere line, the Axor Starck Organic collection, designed by the iconic designer Philippe Starck. The collection is also Axor's—and perhaps even the world's—most efficient line of bathroom fixtures to date. Grohe shares that the Axor Starck Organic's innovative operating concept enables its users to experience the sustainable use of water. The Axor Starck Organic collection focuses on how products can work with less. The organic minimalist design is bursting with sensuality and energy, and runs through the entire collection, from the wash basin mixers to the accessories.

## CENTRAL LIVING AT ITS FINEST

Vertis North, Ayala Land's 30-hectare masterplanned community with a 2-hectare central park and storm water management system, will soon be home to various trade and lifestyle centers. More than 500 units will be sold in each of the three towers at Avida Towers Vita, varying from studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units. These will be complemented with sensible amenities like a garden nook and a Grand Lawn, which will be thoughtfully designed to bring a relaxing breathing space amidst the hectic cityscape. Residents can enjoy the convenience of being located within the convergence point of commuter rail lines and three major road arteries, particularly Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (EDSA), North Avenue, and Quezon Avenue.



## GENTLER THAN HAND WASHING

You've heard this time and again: washing machines are not 'gentle' on clothes. Enter German brand Miele's Washing Machine with Honeycomb Spinner—it is actually gentler on your clothes than hand washing. During a product demonstration in Manhattan, Miele representative Skyler Stevenson literally threw rose petals into the machine, and then pulled them out 20 minutes later visibly cleaner but looking completely untouched. Miele's honeycomb drum uses a technology that creates a thin film of water, which cushions clothes away from the cylinder. This lessens friction, preventing your clothes from de-threading and dithering, and leaves no drum imprints, allowing the fabric to come out as good as new.



NEWEST INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Williams-Sonoma, Inc. announced that the Philippines is the newest international market of its distinguished portfolio of brands. Pottery Barn and Pottery Barn Kids will be the first brands to debut and are expected to open in Manila in early 2014 at Bonifacio High Street, the first main street retail concept in the Philippines. Williams-Sonoma's agreement with Stores Specialists, Inc. includes development rights in the Philippines for all brands in its portfolio, including Williams-Sonoma (cookware and wedding registry), Pottery Barn (furniture and wedding registry), Pottery Barn Kids (kids' furniture and baby registry), PBteen (girls' bedding and boys' bedding), West Elm (modern furniture and room decor). These brands will be exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc.



A BRAND THAT'S 'FOREVER BETTER'

The design center located at the ground floor of The Residences at Greenbelt epitomizes the motto "Immer Besser" ("Forever Better"), inspired by one of Europe's most trusted brands, Miele, whose products fit perfectly in this design showroom. Among celebrities who appreciate Miele are Gwyneth Paltrow, who proudly owns a Miele dishwasher, and Maroon Five's sexy lead singer Adam Levine, who enjoys his morning coffee, courtesy of his Miele espresso machine. Miele products are made in Germany, assuring its customers of highest standard and tested durability. It's a promise they have fulfilled for more than 100 years.



BIG-SISTER TAPE

Think of mt Casa as the regular washi tape's big sister as it comes in widths that reach up to 200mm. They also come in big round stickers. Think of all the surfaces you could cover and decorate! Walls, floors, ceilings, even cars! Beautify your room, your office, even your kitchen. They are made of the best quality adhesive that leaves no residue on any surface you stick them on. It's like wallpaper, but without the commitment. You can write on them, too! Visit any of the Heima branches for your mt Casa experience to begin!



Tagô: The modern Bahay Kubo

MAÑOSA'S ARTISANAL BLUEPRINT



CLOCKWISE: Living and dining room rendering of MPI's Tagô home. Rendering of the homes in perspective. Perspectival plan of the Tagô community.

MAÑOSA PROPERTIES, INC. (MPI) has introduced the artisanal brand of real estate to the country through capturing the elements of the bahay kubo and using green architecture.

MPI president Dino Mañosa explains the green architecture philosophy espoused by his father, Architect Bobby Mañosa: "Being mindful of the environment when designing homes and communities is a requisite to organically achieve 70-80% of being green. This includes the consideration of wind directions and sun paths which guide the placements and sizes of doors, windows, and walls. The remaining 20-30% is where technology, such as solar panels and turbines, comes in." These hallmarks are

expected to be part of Tagô, MPI's newest residential community in secluded Bonifacio Drive in Tagaytay City.

Environmental sensitivities

Tagô, an exclusive community, offers only 52 two-storey homes. The dimensions for Tagô House A include a 304-sq.m. floor plan on a 400-sq.m. lot, while the dimensions for Tagô House B include a 227-sq.m. floor plan on lots that range from 240-300 sq.m. A Tagô home is covered by a split interpretation of the high-pitched roof of the bahay kubo, which includes deep overhangs and sunshades to protect the façade from rain and direct solar radiation. Wide windows,

derived from the traditional nipa hut, and a clear space at the center, are also present for passive cooling, cross-ventilation, and light paths to penetrate the living space.

Indigenous materials

Contemporary Filipino green design comes alive through the indigenous materials found throughout the property. Bamboo, mat-woven ceilings, and an ara-al and adobe wall made of native stones are used to lower carbon footprint and soften the aesthetics of the home. Additionally, the Mañosa signature staircase with señorita steps are applied, which make it easy for multiple generations to

traverse the home. The second-generation Mañosa adds that the MPI hallmark of designing and developing green communities is heightened by the BERDE certifications of its residential projects, including Tagô. The environmental sensitivities now include a rain water collection system that optimizes the use of water for plant irrigation and other water needs. Additionally, all organic wastes from each home are composted and used in the garden. For inquiries, contact Coco Salcedo, director of sales & special projects, at (0917) 882 5604 / (02) 705 1135 or coco@manosa.com



# A new icon in the city skyline

THE PROSCENIUM TAKES PRIDE IN THE PERFECT BALANCE OF MODERN AND TRADITIONAL IN THE SAKURA MODEL UNIT



**ROCKWELL UNVEILS A PEEK** into the refined lifestyle of culture and elegance that the elite community of the Proscenium will soon live in. Rising soon in the Rockwell Center in Makati, the Proscenium is set to be the home of the next generation Rockwell resident.

Designed by globally acclaimed starchitect Carlos Ott, the Proscenium's iconic architecture resonates in the Sakura model unit's impeccably sophisticated interiors. Renowned interior designers Butch Valdez and Alice Erfe provide a masterfully crafted living space at the Sakura.

### Impeccable living space

A soothing palette of warm neutrals with splashes of color bathes the interiors of the Sakura, striking a perfect balance between modern and traditional. Natural stone flooring welcomes residents into the spacious foyer, while material, such as linens, fine

horse-hair wallpaper and flooring in a herringbone pattern mostly seen in French or English homes, is seen throughout the unit.

The contemporary furniture is made of natural fiber instead of synthetic materials, and attention to detail is evident in the intricacy of areas of the model unit, such as handmade ceramic tiles and a travertine accent wall in one of the bathrooms.

Unique artworks function as focal points in the living and dining areas, ranging from European to Filipino, and contemporary. Echoing the lifestyle infused with art and culture at the Proscenium, a striking three-piece installation graces the living space, and a painting of a Filipino *banga* adds warmth to the room. A majestic painting serves as a focal point and conversation piece in the dining area, all tastefully coming together to form an elegant home.

Full height windows



The Sakura model unit's spacious bedroom (left) and the dining area

open up the living and dining areas to remarkable views of surrounding city skylines for the enjoyment of all who make their home at the Proscenium.

The spacious bedrooms continue the calming color scheme, striking designs, and arrangement of sophisticated pieces, with wide windows allowing the rooms to be bathed in natural light.

### Refined living

Soon to be the home of the new generation Rockwell resident, the Sakura remains elegant and, at the same time, welcoming. Set in the midst of Makati's most chic address, the Rockwell Center, the Proscenium proves to be the ideal home for those who seek prestigious living.

Beyond living spaces suited to the needs of its exclusive community, this revolutionary development offers its residents exceptional amenities, with almost a hectare of space devoted to

luxurious swimming pools, a gym, a jogging path, a day care, a game room, and more.

Bringing art and culture in all its forms to the Rockwell community, the Proscenium boasts of a 600-seater theater that will soon house world-class performances, and the Lopez Museum, which features the Lopez family's rare collection of art that spans generations. A retail row will also feature distinctive dining choices and luxury for the residents and patrons.

With the interiors of the Sakura providing only a taste of what is to come at the Proscenium, the Rockwell community prepares for the rise of a new icon in the city skyline. ❶

Visit the Sakura model unit by the South Court of the Power Plant Mall, or visit [www.prosceniumatrockwell.com](http://www.prosceniumatrockwell.com).

# Made by Magis

ITALIAN DESIGN LAB RETAILS ITS FURNITURE IN MANILA VIA DIMENSIONE

BY RAPHA KIEFER  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO

**A FAMILY BUSINESS** has heart, consistency and love reflected in its products, traits that big corporations generally lack. Also refreshing is working in a non-factory environment, a detail that streamlines focus on creation and consequently pushes the boundaries of what was thought possible in the design world.

Italian furniture design company Magis is structured this way. In the 35 years since its formation, it has created a culture of experimentation with new design, technologies and materials, a blueprint that defines its products.

### Collaborations

The giant design laboratory based in Veneto (Italy) retails its products in 85 countries, including the Philippines, where the brand is managed by the Bench-owned Dimensione home and office franchise. "The Philippines is a growing market and the brand has been doing well here," says Alberto Perazza. Alberto is the son of Magis founder Eugenio Perazza, and is mostly responsible for bringing the brand to the Asian market. "Magis has a wide range of products whose common theme is brought together by high technology. The products put together form and function, and can define anyone's style. Dimensione has been a great partner over the years and together, we want to push forward," he adds.

The design process at Magis involves collaborations with some of the world's most renowned designers, whose numbers stand at 43. Included in this list is Jasper Morrison, whose "Air Chair" line was a major turning point in the



LEFT: Alberto Perazza, son of Made in Magis founder, Eugenio Perazza. RIGHT: Magis furniture range for children



LEFT: Black Air Chair by Jasper Morrison. RIGHT: White Chair\_One by Konstantin Grcic



company's history. The Air Chair features a highly sophisticated gas-assisted moulding process, which was groundbreaking at the time.

Also on the list of designers is Konstantin Grcic whose creation, The Chair\_One, is one of the company's most acclaimed products. It is constructed just like a football: a number of flat planes is assembled at angles to each other, creating the three-dimensional form. The process of creating this chair took many years and required building machines exclusively for this product. This slow development method to achieve perfection is a perfect example of how much

passion Magis puts in each of its merchandise.

### Ergonomic chairs

With the audacity to bring innovative designs into the market, products such as the Thomas Heatherwick-designed SPUN turn heads wherever they are seen. SPUN is an ergonomic form that works as a chair, whichever way it is rotated. To achieve this in a single form, the seat had to be capable of serving as a back support, and the back support had to make a comfortable seat. The original design was made through

the metal spinning process while the Magis version is created with a different kind of rotational process, the rotation-moulded plastic.

The company was very much involved in working with different types of technology such as aluminum die-casting, steel plate pressing and wood processing. "We're following the eco-friendly trend. In the last few years, the company has been using plastic in a measured way, and only if it adds value to the product. It is also important to note that quality plastic can last a long time, which in essence makes it eco-friendly," Alberto shares.

"Maybe someday, we will work with a Filipino designer. We don't really pay much attention to where the designer is from. What matters to us is starting a good conversation that may lead to new ideas and a good long-term working relationship," he adds. ❷

Magis' wide range of products can be found at select Dimensione outlets in Metro Manila. For more information, please visit [www.dimensione.com.ph](http://www.dimensione.com.ph) or [www.magisdesign.com](http://www.magisdesign.com).



# Redefining Filipino architecture

BY ANZENNE ROBLE / PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOVEL LORENZO

JASON BUENSALIDO FINDS HIS DESIGN ADVOCACY IN HIS OWN CULTURE AND IDENTITY



TOP LEFT: Architect Jason Buensalido in his Makati office space. TOP RIGHT: One of Jason's current projects, the iHouse. BOTTOM: A collection of his various design sketches.



**MODERN, ECO-FRIENDLY** and deeply rooted in Filipino culture, the designs of Architect Jason Buensalido speak for themselves. An architectural licensure exam top-notch and a proud Tomasian (University of Santo Tomas), Jason started his own firm just a year after getting his license in 2005.

"I founded Buensalido + Architects in 2006 after winning a national competition for the Cul-

tural Center of the Philippines' design excellence," he shares.

## 'Green design is a standard'

Known for his contemporary verging on avant-garde style, Jason easily combines the whimsical with bold and fresh design concepts to the delight of his clients. From planning the interiors of popular restaurants in the metro to drafting his own



TOP: One of Buensalido's recent designs that is both Filipino-centric and eco-friendly, the iHouse project. BOTTOM: His love for local ingenuity and modernism can be seen in his explorations of form and material through the models in his office.



take of a modern Filipino village, he has proven that originality is the key to success in the design industry.

Jason is a firm believer that "green design is a standard, not an add-on." A certified BERDE professional (Building for Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence), he makes sure that his designs are eco-friendly and have sustainable structures.

He redefines Filipino architecture through his works, trying to combine the con-

temporary and global sensibilities he learned abroad (at the Architectural Association Global School in the United Kingdom) with the local culture.

He explains, "By doing this, we'll be able to produce a truly unique belief system in architecture that truly belongs to the Philippines, and people from all over the globe will take notice."

## A sense of liveliness

In fact, he paid tribute to the Filipino spirit in one of his

recent works, the Sofia Townhouse, which was recognized by the online community as one of the most beautiful townhouses in the Philippines. The interior surfaces have *banderitas* and triangles that are a common sight in *fiestas* and festivals as well as bursts of colors, capturing the distinctive Filipino positivity and sense of liveliness.

"Our culture and identity is my design advocacy. I believe that we should be honest and proud of who we are; it is the only way for us to move forward as a nation. It doesn't necessarily have to be visual, but it could be in our habits as a people, the way we use our spaces, our spirit... we always integrate the metaphysical aspects of who we are in our designs," Jason adds.

He dreams of designing a building, a monument, or even a small house that will represent the civilization of today for future generations. He acknowledges that he draws inspiration from his wife Nikki. 📌

## Modern aesthetics

Not sure how to spot contemporary designs? Architect Jason Buensalido shares some tips.

**1.** Originality is one of the key elements in modern architecture. One-of-a-kind ideas are translated into aesthetically pleasing structures (or even odd-looking, to some), which could give an out-of-this-world feeling every time you look at it. Simply put, it's something you don't see every day, or anywhere else.

**2.** Innovative designs, in the sense that they are mostly experimental, even inventing new ways to utilize new construction materials. Every aspect of the building is very functional, challenging the traditional mix-and-match ideology.

**3.** Contemporary "belongs to the current, to the present, or even to the future, and not copying styles of the past," Jason says. Residential or commercial buildings made of natural, environment-friendly and sustainable materials with large windows or skylights that let the sunshine in are spot-on modern.



# Art Central

NEWEST HAVEN  
FOR THE CREATIVE

BY RAPHA KIEFER  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO



LEFT: Sculptor Paul Quiano in his Artalyer studio. RIGHT: Various studies for commissioned work. BELOW: Student work in one of the classroom workshops.



### PAUL QUIANO'S TIPS FOR COMMISSIONING A SCULPTURE FOR YOUR HOME:

1. Have a definite idea of what you want before calling the artist. Think about the subject matter and its purpose.
2. Determine space and location. Keep in mind that you and the rest of the household will have to look at the sculpture for the rest of your lives.
3. Determine your budget, and set realistic plans.



next generation of artists. **Alfred Galvez**, a painter and muralist, does not want to be associated with a particular style. He prides himself in being able to showcase his versatility on the empty canvas although, like Paul, the initial focus has to be on classic techniques. A veteran in the arts scene, he has

seen how Filipinos have opened their minds to design in the last decade, and is proud to be one of the pioneers in professional mural making, a skill he says is highly specialized and often underestimated. He now regularly conducts workshops at Artalyer and is determined to create "a battalion



LEFT: A sample of faux finish by Alfred Galvez displays a damask pattern on faux metal. RIGHT: Muralist, faux finish artist, Alfred Galvez in his studio.



### ALFRED GALVEZ'S TIPS ON COMMISSIONING A MURAL FOR YOUR HOME:

1. Hire professional muralists because only a muralist will understand what a mural is.
2. Determine the space and color theme of your mural. Keep in mind that a mural is an accessory of interior design.
3. Some of the most common areas for murals are the powder room, the living room and the lanai.
4. Make sure you like the design before it is painted on the walls. It will be there for a long time.



LEFT: Trompe l'oeil sample panels by Alfred Galvez amidst the tools of his trade. RIGHT: Artalyer's Australian co-founder, Sean Cassidy.



### SEAN JAMES CASSIDY'S TIPS ON HOW TO INTEGRATE ART INTO YOUR HOME:

1. Be true to your emotion when dealing with color.
2. Live in the house for a while before deciding on major changes as the dynamics of your relationship with your home plays out.
3. Trust your instincts, and don't overthink.

*"A man that works with his hands and mind is a craftsman, and a man that works with his heart is an artist."*  
—a quotation at the recently opened Artalyer in QC

**ARTALYER IS AN EXAMPLE** of a vision realized. A place run by artists for artists (amateur and seasoned), it is a hub for creativity and a destination for those who wish to bring art into their lives and their homes. Artists Paul Albert Quiano, Alfred Galvez and Sean James Cassidy are the founders and head instructors of Artalyer, which conducts regular workshops for different techniques on painting and sculpture. The team is also the premiere choice for commissioning professional sculpture and mural work, and offers a wide range of faux finishes for your home, a spe-

cialized wall ornament for those who want something more personal and customizable than wallpaper or laminates. **Paul Quiano**, a sculptor for 19 years, is a mainstay in the Manila art scene with countless exhibits and commissioned work that adorn many public spaces and private residences. When mentoring students, however, his focus is on classical and traditional practices. "Many students get lost in their art because they don't start with the basics, which have been tried and tested for centuries." The school is an informal one, with no certificates awarded after completing the lesson, but Paul believes in the results of his classes. He conducts sculpting workshops at Artalyer on a regular basis, a task that allows him to pursue his passion while molding the

provide a means of best presenting the works, whether modern or classical in design. Layering can create art for a large range of architecture and design. The technique enhances a wide variety of colors, important in Filipino art." Sean is part of Ub Ubbo, an international art group that supports artists from Australia and the Philippines. "World culture in recent years has woken up to Filipino art, and it is difficult to imagine this interest not flourishing," he says. Although Artalyer as a group is in its infancy, it has become a

haven for artists wishing to learn and express themselves. It is through passion and vision that this community was created and continues to grow, and subsequently, so will the art culture in our cities and at home. **Artalyer is located at No.8, 11<sup>th</sup> Jamboree St., Bgy. Sacred Heart, Quezon City (near Kamuning), tel. no. 0921 4175888, email: [artalyerworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:artalyerworkshops@gmail.com).**



# Living the Life Eclectic

A TREND TO SUIT ALL TASTES AND LIFESTYLES

BY ANTON BARRETTO  
ADDITIONAL TEXT BY ANNA M. ROSETE  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO,  
WILLIAM ONG AND JOVEL LORENZO



LEFT: Lalique New York black clock, P69,500, Rustan's. BOTTOM: Leather armchair, P34,800, Dimensione.



TOP LEFT: Lamp, P10,430, Pietro Collection. TOP RIGHT: White vase with diamond detail, price available upon request, Nest.



BOTTOM: Noritake West Hill starter set from, P20,500, Rustan's.



## Art Deco



Millenium console table, price available upon request, Nest.



LEFT: Ashtray stand, P3,480, Firma. RIGHT: Glitter by Astek wallpaper pattern, price available upon request, Wall Crown.



Waterline ottoman, price available upon request, Roche Bobois.

### INCORPORATING ELEMENTS OF THE ART DECO PERIOD INTO YOUR HOME

The 1920s through the 1930s were the peak of the Art Deco period. It permeated through all parts of culture, from fashion, industrial design, architecture and interior design. The Art Deco aesthetic is characterized by geometric, angular lines, exotic materials, bold colors, linear elements, shunning the romanticism associated with the Victorian era. Decorate with elements of this period:

- Colors should be striking with bold contrasts. Bright and deep yellows, reds and greens are juxtaposed with chrome, silver and black.
- Contrast creams and beiges with the texture of polished wood.
- Go with strong lines with no frills and furniture with exotic wood like zebra wood.
- Reflective surfaces were characteristic of the period. Use mirrors and chrome in your scheme.
- For floors, use black and white linoleum with geometrical, abstract patterns. Similarly, use polished wood parquet. Overlay large rugs with geometrical patterns and bold colors.



Urban Safari



Horn ornament, P10,395, Pietro Collection.



TOP: Panna lantern, P25,950, Dimensione. BOTTOM: Green cushion with fern pattern, P4,340, BoConcept.

Grande vertico lamp, price available upon request, Hive.



LEFT: Black three-leg stool, P9,840, BoConcept. RIGHT: African Queen wallpaper, price available upon request, Wall Crown.



Fur leather cylinder chair, P15,950, Dimensione.



TOP: Jade glass vase, P6,278, BoConcept. LEFT: African Queen animal print wallpaper, price available upon request, Wall Crown.



Faux turtle shell lamp from Nest, price available upon request.



African Kuba cloth, price available upon request, Nest.



African Queen wallpaper, price available upon request, Wall Crown.

GO ON A SAFARI AT HOME

An adventurous spirit is charmed with the exotic, animal print patterns in home décor that reference the wild. Elements that characterize this look are:

- Animal prints
- Neutral, earthy colors
- Natural fibers
- Animal hide



# Chinoiserie



Painting by Aida Cui, price available upon request, Nest.



TOP RIGHT: Acid green lantern, P4,880, Firma. LEFT: Jia Estrella's The Scarlet Chest, price available upon request, Art Informal.



Manuel Canovas textile, price available upon request, Elements.



RIGHT: Chionese dresser chair; Pointe ala Ligne Chinese basket candle, price available upon request, both from Nest. LEFT: Buxton sideboard, P58,400, Hive.



RIGHT: Lime green vase, price available upon request, Nest. LEFT: Royal blue stump stool, P12,800, Firma.



Seletti plates, price available upon request, Dimensione.



TOP RIGHT: Jia Estrella's Spring Window and BOTTOM LEFT: Jia Estrella's The Porcelain Seasons, price available upon request, both from Art Informal



RIGHT: Aqua vase, P14,800, AC+632.

Chinoiserie is an 18th century style in Western decorative arts that reference Chinese motifs. From their travels for trade towards the East, Europeans took inspiration from Chinese porcelain ware with fantastical images, silks, brocades, and even the sketchbooks with drawings from their travels. This fascination resulted in the still-popular style called, "Chinoiserie." Here are elements to add this style into your décor:

- Fabric for accent cushions and upholstery
- Wallpaper and textiles for drapery, curtains and rugs
- Bamboo furniture
- Ceramic ware as decorative accents



Modern Filipino



Legno black floor vase, P7,278, Natuzzi.



Balimbing vase, P5,880, Firma.



Premier Wall Vogue 2 dark brown vinyl fabric wallpaper, price available upon request, Wall Crown.



Glamorous wallpaper, price available upon request, Wall Crown.



Natural teak loft dining table, P125,000, Dimensione.



LEFT: Loudbasstard, price available upon request, Nest. BELOW: Chacran wallpaper, price available upon request, Wall Crown.



Motley 40 by Samuel Chan, P92,500, Dimensione.

The Filipino style is characterized by natural materials, referencing early architecture such as the *bahay kubo* and the *bahay na bato*. These are wood, *capiz*, *solihya*, woven abaca or rattan. In contemporary design, furniture and décor from the past are given new silhouettes to achieve a modern feel. Similarly, materials may be used in a fresh, new context for a modern adaptation.



# Foyer Face-off

LEAH PUYAT TAKES ON METRO HOME'S DESIGN CHALLENGE FOR A FOYER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOVEL LORENZO

**AN EMINENT BROADCAST JOURNALIST** and talent manager once said of his most popular and controversial talent : she's a true star because she knows when to make her entrances and her exits. A well- designed space must have the same star quality. A striking entrance sets the tone for a home and makes it a warm and welcoming place. When you are conceptualizing an entrance, you can be more experimental or unconventional because it is not a place where you spend a lot of time. You will not easily tire of the place as it is a moment of transition in the home. You can use a strong color or include unusual accessories , especially pieces that are especially meaningful or expressive of your life and personality. However, bear in mind that the entrance must still be cohesive with the rest of the home, so as not to be jarring or disjointed. For example, maintain some elements that have a common thread with the living area, perhaps a color, or a fabric, to create visual and spatial harmony.

## Leah Puyat



My obsessions are design (both in fashion and architecture), travel, books, and of course, my family and friends. And so I aimed to unite all these passions into this entrance. For this

story, I styled an entrance with an expansive main wall. I chose a wallpaper with texture and a metallic hue for a touch of glamour. I went with a black and white scheme with pops of color to be both timeless and on- trend. To anchor the space, instead of one heavy piece, I combined a straightforward and slim black console table and a whimsical side table with a curved detail and a burst of citrus green. I always love a contrast, and I have noticed that the most successful marriages are a meeting of opposites, so I like the mix of simplicity and quirkiness. There are a few sentimental touches.



**DESIGN SMARTS FOR YOUR SPACE:**

- Decide on a focal point for your foyer. Call attention to it by giving it pride of place.
- Give your entry personality as a pre-amble to the rest of your home's character. Display personal items like photographs and objects from travels.
- Cheer up the space with casual floral arrangements that don't overwhelm.
- Employ books to achieve a play of heights.

Abstract painting by Tessa Alindogan. Mirrored vases, stylist's own. The coffee table books, stylist's own. Silver pomegranate from Jerusalem, stylist's own. Little bust of Queen Nefertiti, stylist's own. Picture frame designed by stylist, stylist's own.

## Team Metro Home

Evocative of adventurous travels and free spirited jaunts through the world's spice trails, Team Metro Home chose to capitalize on daring reds and warm wood texture for a dramatic foyer design. In this scheme, a rich sense of provenance is portrayed by the antique door and the Moroccan home accessories, such as the jars and the table runner. Addressing the need for storage in the foyer, an antique *mesa altar* with two drawers was enlisted by the team. A cluster of roses with berries adds to the richness of the vignette.

**DESIGN SMARTS FOR YOUR SPACE:**

- Use reclaimed wood or architectural pieces as a focal point. An old window or door, for example, is suggestive of a portal to a time gone by.
- Add texture and color by using a piece of ethnic textile. They imbue spaces with that well-traveled look.
- Layer your space by juxtaposing objects with different provenance. They are conversation pieces, and they give your vignettes a sense of rich history.
- Experiment with objects' heights
- Use furniture with drawers. Because the foyer is a multi-tasking space that requires storage for keys and other everyday necessities, it is always a good idea to have furniture that fulfills this need. to to avoid static look

The Moroccan jars, Moroccan table runner, antique *mesa altar*, antique door, Nest. The book, roses, silver tinker box, editor's own.





# The fairest of them all

MULTIPLY YOUR ROOMS' PLEASURES WITH THE HOTTEST MIRRORS IN THE MARKET

BY ANTON BARRETTO  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG AND JOVEL LORENZO



# High fidelity

AFICIONADO HERMIE VENTURA KNOWS HIS ELECTRONICS

BY RAPHA KIEFER  
PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO

**BRINGING THE SENSORY** experience of cinema into the confines of the 21<sup>st</sup> century home is attainable on multiple levels. The TV or a stand alone sound system simply won't make the grade as the dawning of the "Entertainment / TV room" replaces the need for the traditional living room set-up. The process can be as simple as purchasing a system and following the DIY installation guides. But as with anything else in this world, there are the "good" products that peak at a certain level, and then there are the specialized systems that break the barrier of the casual audio visual experience.

## Audiophile

Self confessed audiophile Hermie Ventura, president of Frequency Response, Inc. or FRI, is one professional who resonates at this higher level. "People need to know that the process starts at the very beginning, the design stage of the house." This, he claims, is also the biggest challenge as clients are traditionally inclined to believe that the procedure does not begin until the house is done. "For us to optimize the Hi-Fi audio and installation with the right balance of form and functionality, the homeowner has to work with us from the start," he says. Being part of the design stage may influence the size or shape of the room and even the materials used, without compromising aesthetic value.

Working with specialists will not only aid in optimizing the home theater system but will also hide eyesores such as cables and wires later on. Since the early '90s, Ventura has been in the forefront of this profession, which includes full home automation (allowing the homeowner to control the electronic systems from his phone or a computer from literally anywhere). This passion-driven career began with car audio, which later progressed to homes, restaurants and offices. "People are more aware of the importance of what I do now but it hasn't always been easy," he says.

## Electronic designers

In the long run, what may initially seem like an unnecessary service may actually be a sound investment. For example, hard surfaces such as glass and cement cause sound to bounce back and forth, creating bad acoustics.



If the acoustics are bad, even the most expensive sound system will sound horrible.

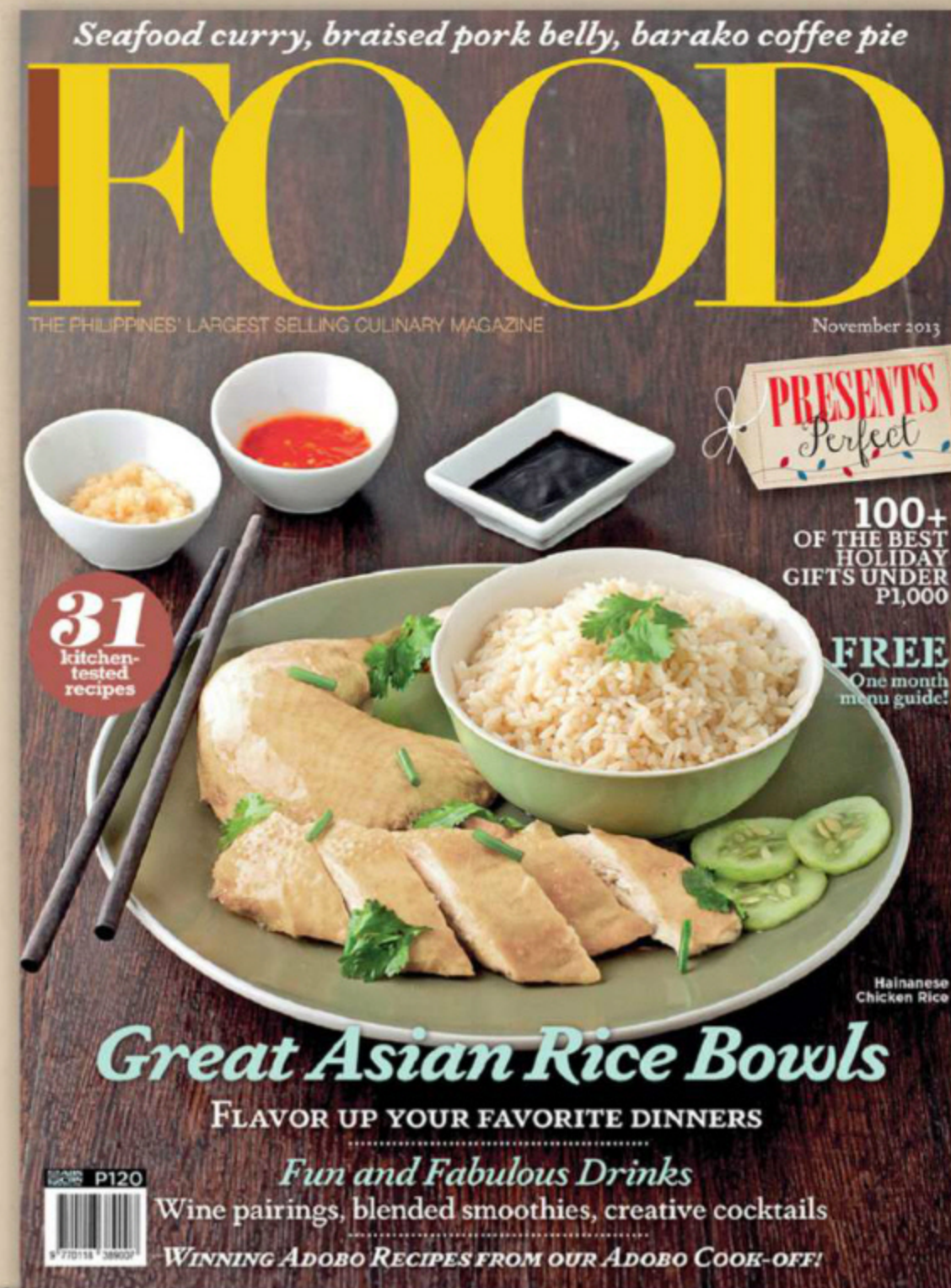
"A lot of people are afraid to ask about the cost. I prefer to ask clients how much their budget is because it's not about how much money they have to spend but how the money is spent," Hermie points out.

Hermie Ventura's company FRI is the only one in the market that designs,

supplies and installs everything down to the roughing-ins of all the conduits and pipes. With his expertise and experience in the industry, one can't help but wonder what system is installed at his own home. He responds, "I have a very simple system, but it definitely sounds more valuable than it is." Needless to say, this aficionado knows his electronics. **1**



# WHET YOUR HOLIDAY APPETITE WITH THE PRESENTS PERFECT GIFT GUIDE.



facebook.com/foodmag    twitter.com/foodmagazine    @foodmagazine



# folio

ART / DESIGN / PLACES / INSPIRATION

*The Explorer*  
by Francis Nacion, p. 38





# The 'Genesis' of Francis Nacion

ART FROM THE  
OTHER WORLD

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY  
OF GALERIE STEPHANIE



**AN AFFINITY FOR CREATION** is one of the fundamental traits of an artist. The creative process has its ebbs and flows, but begins with that initial start, an artist's Genesis so to speak, and the source of his inspiration dictates the final painting. The art of Francis Tejada Nacion begins with his readings into folk spirituality and the myths and legends of the countryside.

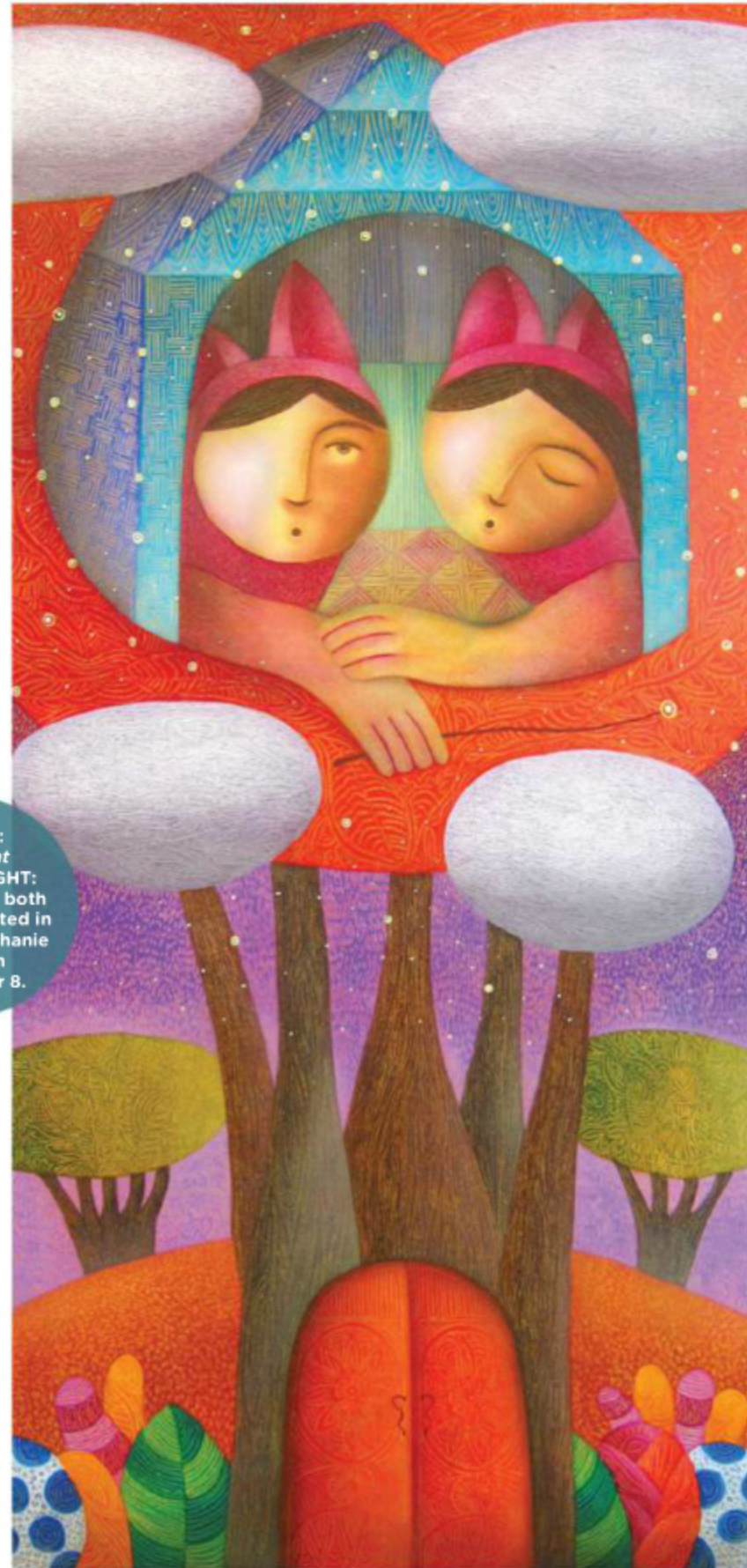
Looking at a Francis Nacion painting is like having a folk story come to life—full of fairies and spirits, animal transformations, heroes and ordinary rural folk caught up in a world of magic and mystery. And Nacion knows what he paints: he uses his own personal experience as a foundation of a larger analysis of folk traditions.

## Festival of spirits

In his work "Midnight Sonata," the bluish tint of dusk marks the start of a festival of spirits where music and song waft up into the night sky. Here, animals take their true spirit forms in a ceremony that is a joyful and jubilant affair. This piece is demonstrative of Nacion's illustrative aesthetic style, with his use of colors giving life to the festivities.

"The Explorer" is a more contemplative piece. Here, we see a spirit in the form of a horned, wolf-like beast clutching a telescope and seeking out new lands. Framed by the reddish hue of strange vegetation, the artist seeks to instill a sense of urgency around the work—as if the

ABOVE: *Midnight Sonata*. RIGHT: *Tree House*, both works exhibited in Galerie Stephanie through November 8.



spirit is looking for a new home amidst the destruction of his original environment.

Francisco Tejada Nacion Jr. was born in Kalibo, Aklan in 1981, the youngest of eight children. He has been drawing since the age of four but majored in Computer Engineering at the University of Baguio. Nonetheless, he pursued art studies while in college.

In 2006 he apprenticed with Fernando Sena and joined his workshops. The following year, Nacion joined the famed Saturday Group of artists, which includes Mauro Malang Santos, whom he greatly admires.

## Playful visualizations

The reason why Francis Nacion is so fascinated with the spirit world is because he believes that his brother has a "third-eye" and the ability to communicate with spirits. Thus, Nacion thinks that spirits are everywhere and inhabit many things in nature, often playing on their ability to take the form of humans and animals.

His earlier works tended to be darker, but his newer works see him transitioning to lighter tones and themes. Throughout his career, however, his approach remains the same: to use tales passed on by the elderly in the provinces and render them in playful visualizations. One of his many aesthetic techniques is to use recurring patterns to balance the canvas, lending a children's book look and feel to his paintings.

Nacion's 5th one-man show entitled "Genesis" at Galerie Stephanie is ongoing until November 8, 2013. 📞

Galerie Stephanie is located at Unit 1B Parc Plaza Building, 183 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue (C-5), Libis, Quezon City, tel. no. (632) 709-1488.



LEFT: *The Explorer*. RIGHT: *The Partygoer*, both works from Nacion's fifth one-man show, *Genesis* at Galerie Stephanie.





# Luxe stay

CENTRALLY LOCATED IN MID-TOWN MANHATTAN, THE PENINSULA NEW YORK FEATURES A LUXURIOUS AMBIANCE OF OLD WORLD ELEGANCE AND MODERN ACCENTS

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE PENINSULA HOTEL NEW YORK



LEFT: Grand stairway at the Peninsula Hotel New York. RIGHT: Hotel entrance from Fifth Avenue.

THIS 23-STOREY LANDMARK BUILDING, circa 1905, retains many of the original Beaux Arts architectural features designed by Hiss and Weekes but, at the same time, features modern accents that complement its old world elegance well. It features 185 spacious and luxurious guestrooms, and 54 suites decorated in a classic, contemporary style.

### Accommodation

Located in the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifty-Fifth Street in the heart of the city's most prestigious business, shopping, and entertainment district, The Peninsula New York has 239 newly renovated and luxuriously appointed guest rooms, including 54 suites and a Peninsula Suite with more than 3,000 sq.ft. (279 sq.m) of living space.

Each guestroom and suite are equipped with a state-of-the-art electronic system that allows guests to control guestroom features at the touch of a button.

### Business and meeting facilities

The Peninsula New York also has business and meeting facilities like the Gramercy room, which is the property's largest function room that can accommodate up to 130 guests, banquet style; there are five more function rooms to choose from.



BELOW: East terrace reception of the Salon de Ning enjoys views of the Manhattan skyline.



ABOVE: Suite room's master bedroom. MIDDLE: Grand suite living room. BELOW: The sun terrace.



### Dining

The hotel's restaurants, Gotham Lounge and Salon de Ning, promise to give guests an ultimately luxe dining experience. Gotham Lounge has a library theme that looks elegant and intimate. It serves the legendary Peninsula Afternoon Tea.

Salon de Ning, on the other hand, is located on the hotel's rooftop; it features two outdoor terraces complemented by an intimate interior bar. East meets West in Salon de Ning, where Chinese and international influences fuse into a stylish melange of cultures, reflecting the glamour and style of 1930s Shanghai. A range of signature cocktails and Asian-inspired light fare are offered.

The Peninsula New York also celebrates its 25th anniversary this year with 25 weeks of celebratory initiatives, plus a new restaurant called Clement. Occupying the space of the hotel's former restaurant, Fives, Clement has a chic design and menu concept that focuses on locally sourced ingredients from the northeast region. The restaurant feels like a quintessential New York home, with different rooms that cater to a range of moods, desires, and occasions.

### Spa and fitness center

High above the bustle of New York City, guests will discover the serenity, luxury,

and refinement of the *Forbes* five-star-rated Peninsula Spa. Chic and elegant, the spa features a stunning collection of 11 serene treatment rooms, including a spacious Private Spa Suite with views of the city, men's and women's private relaxation lounges, and an Asian tea lounge. Locker rooms feature luxurious thermal experiences, including a sauna, aromatherapy steam room and ice fountain, and "experience" shower.

Located on the 22nd floor, the bright and airy fitness facility offers the latest in cutting edge cardiovascular and strength training equipment, and a tranquil sun-lit movement studio. The Sun Terrace overlooking Fifth Avenue offers the ideal location for outdoor lounging. The glass-enclosed pool boasts a sleek décor that features striking teal columns set against a cool black tile floor. **10**

For more information on The Peninsula New York, visit [peninsula.com/newyork](http://peninsula.com/newyork)



# Crafting a dream

IT WAS NEVER TOO LATE FOR DANIEL DELA CRUZ TO BECOME A SCULPTOR

BY MARTIN AGUILAR  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO

FROM LEFT:  
*In the Silence of the Heart, God Speaks, To fly without wings, and Because I have faith*, are some of the sculptures in Daniel dela Cruz's latest exhibition entitled *Silent Eloquence*.



The sculptor Daniel dela Cruz stands beside one of his masterpieces entitled *In His Light, I Am My Faith* is a metal sculpture suspended in tight rope.



**YOU CANNOT FAIL TO APPRECIATE** the talent of Daniel dela Cruz as you enter his home, where his masterpieces are displayed. Every metal sculpture is intricately designed.

At a young age, dela Cruz fell in love with the art of sculpting. Since kindergarten, he made sculptures out of clay. He also learned how to make toys out of wood. He was fond of making wooden puppets and tops (*trumpo* in Filipino), which he used to entertain himself. Later on, this hobby of making clay sculptures and crafting wooden toys became his passion.

**Against family expectations**

He wanted to take Fine Arts in college, but his father opposed his plan. Dela Cruz comes from a family of doctors, and he was expected to pursue a medical degree.

"My father wanted me to be a doctor," says dela Cruz, who ended up taking BA Philosophy at the University of the Philippines as a pre-law course.

While at the university, he realized that his true passion is sculpture. "I had to find my own way," he says, which meant that he had to make his dream of becoming an artist a reality.

Upon graduating from the University of the Philippines in 1991, dela Cruz pursued his passion for art and stood fast against the expectations of his family. He found work in an export company as a product designer of gift items and Christmas decors. This job challenged his creativity, and helped him to develop and improve his skills. The products that bore his designs were distributed in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

In a span of five years, dela Cruz became the president of the company. He also became a designer for the multinational company Villeroy and Boch.

**Not just a form of artistic expression**

Despite his success in the field of product design, dela Cruz never forgot his dream to become a sculptor. At age 39, he decided to pursue his passion for sculpting. His experience in the field of product design allowed him to know the different materials that can be used for sculpting. He chose metal as the main element of his sculptures.

In 2007, he had his first art exhibit entitled *Kandungan*, which gave tribute to women. This first exhibition was a success, and there was no stopping dela Cruz from

creating more masterpieces.

Dela Cruz's purpose in creating sculptures is more than just a form of artistic expression. For him, it is a way of giving back for all the blessings that he has received. Through his sculptures, he wants to inspire people to be positive about life. His sculptures are like a life journey filled with different experiences.

His latest collection, entitled *Silent Eloquence*, revolves around the theme that in silence, we can hear God's voice within our hearts. In *Silent Eloquence*, dela Cruz wants to convey the importance of quietude to obtain inner peace.

Daniel dela Cruz's love for sculpting never failed him. His hard work and perseverance managed to make his dream into a reality. Now, he is considered one of the best sculptors in the country. Truly, his journey is a success story. ❶



# WOMAN AT WORK

AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF SAN DIEGO MACTAN INC., STYLISTA AND REAL ESTATE TOP HONCHO JERIKA EJERCITO EMBARKS ON HER FIRST BIG PROJECT FOR THE COMPANY—81 XAVIER RESIDENCES IN GREENHILLS

BY GEOLETTE ESGUERRA  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MILO SOGUECO

**ON A WINDY FRIDAY**, there was unusual movement in the unit, producing a cacophony of hard knocks on the wood planks in the loft, high heels clicking on the ground floor tiles, and the shuffle of furniture being moved about. All emanated from the three-bedroom loft, where a photo shoot was being set up with the woman behind 81 Xavier Residences —Jerika Ejercito.

She emerges from the first floor bedroom wearing cut-off shorts and a Kenzo sweater from this season, a style that hasn't made it yet to Manila. To say that she is stylish is an understatement. She has been featured twice in **METRO** Magazine, once for her sense of style, and another for her sense of purpose through her advocacy I Am the Issue foundation. She goes out to a gathering and cameras track her movement, followed by reporters noting what's she's up to or wearing.

Today, she wears another hat, as vice-president and chief operating officer of San Diego Mactan, Inc., her family's real estate firm. This is her first major project, one that her dad, former President of the Republic and current Mayor of Manila Joseph Ejercito Estrada, has entrusted her with, a task she takes very seriously. "It's the first project that my dad has given me, and I want to prove myself, to show him that those nine years [of school] weren't wasted," she shares.



Jerika Ejercito, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of San Diego Mactan, Inc., in her development, 81 Xavier Residences' 3-bedroom loft model unit.

MAKEUP BY RB CHANCO  
HAIRSTYLING BY ARIANNE ANTONIO  
STYLING BY VINCE FLORES



A living room in the two-bedroom flat enjoys luxurious amenities: natural light, a flat screen television that comes with all units, and a cove ceiling. OPPOSITE PAGE: The dining room is open to the kitchen in the two-bedroom loft. Special touches such as a stairway enclosed in glass, and decked in warm wood treads, granite countertops and double height ceilings mark the space.



### In London town

Those nine years weren't easy for Ejercito, who, at 16, moved to London in 2001 in the midst of the political upheaval centered on her father. She first went to Cobham Hall Boarding School for Girls in Kent, England, for two years, before starting university at American Intercontinental University (AIU). After college, she moved to a finishing school in Switzerland, before setting out to work on her master's degree at Westminster University, where she took up business administration and marketing.

Indeed, living in Europe taught her to be independent and self-reliant, as Ejercito worked part-time as a waitress in college. There, she had little of the conveniences or the staff that she was used to in Manila, and coming from a sheltered home, she had to adjust to living by herself, this time with more purpose and conviction. At first, she was reluctant to return to the country, comfortable with the life she had made for herself in London. In the end, she went home, and struggled with depression in her first few months. This, among other things, inspired her to set up her own foundation she called I Am the Issue.

She's built up quite a résumé in advocacy work, but heading the family business is her first major enterprise, one she's very passionate about. With 81 Xavier as the flagship project of SDMI, she is keen to make sure everything goes right. "I want to set a standard," she says in a company video, "I don't want to just satisfy

the basic requirements, but I want [81 Xavier Residences] to be also a solid investment.

She talks about being attached to the project business- and sentiment-wise. San Juan has always been a happy place for Ejercito. She grew up in the area just two blocks from where 81 Xavier Residences is located. She saw how the city progressed, with new buildings and establishments coming up every year she visited for Christmas.

But amidst those changes, she says, the core of the city remains intact, and the city itself has cultivated one of the best hospitals in the country, Cardinal Santos Medical Center. It has two of the most prestigious Chinese schools—Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) and Xavier—with the latter located right beside the property. Due to the proximity, she says, the building will attract parents of students from Xavier, ICA, and La Salle, hence the project's emphasis on security and convenience, with amenities that include a tutorial center, a feature not usually incorporated in condominiums.

### Meticulous design of details

Apart from the location, the building integrates various conveniences through meticulous design of details. The axis faces north and south, thus eliminating the problem of the west afternoon sun. The carpark has natural ventilation, and the two trees on site were retained, even sacrificing part of the carpark. Most of the time, developers would remove everything in sight, making things easier for construction, but





**ABOVE:** Master bathroom in 81 Xavier Residences' three-bedroom loft displays hotel-like finishes such as polished stone slab for the bathroom walls and frosted frameless glass partitions.  
**OPPOSITE PAGE:** The master bedroom boasts of the development's generous spatial proportions.

the company chose the more difficult task of building around these two trees—treating them as an integral part of the place.

She credits the fantastic team that helped create the development—Architect Jose Pedro “Bong” Recio for architectural work, and Architect Arlen de Guzman, who took charge of the interiors. Most of the decisions in the development actually sprang from discussions with the entire family. “We all had to pitch in, we all talked about how we wanted to proceed, whether or not we wanted it to be a luxury condo,” she says of their collaborative process. “We could have gone 10 different ways, but this is what we chose.” The process mirrors their philosophy, with the guiding idea of 81 Xavier as the place “where the heart has found its home,” again emphasizing the value of family.

But the real treat, explains Ejercito, is in the units themselves. From the smallest cut, the one-bedroom flat with den (68.81 sq.m.), to the other units—two-bedroom flat (87.31 sq.m.), the one-bedroom loft (92.2 sq.m.), two-bedroom loft with den (144.2 sq.m.), and the generous two-bedroom loft (at 158.03 sq.m.)—each space is carefully designed with the family in mind. The feel inside the loft units are similar to those of a single-detached dwelling, one that comes with ample ventilation and light instead of the claustrophobia-inducing little windows in other developments.







One of the secondary bedrooms in 81 Xavier's three-bedroom loft model unit is ideal for a pair of twin beds. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** The master bedroom in the two-bedroom loft model unit gets open views into the bathroom that is veiled by a frameless glass partition.

### Each unit has its own character


As for the look and feel of the model units, Ejercito admits to having some input in it, although she preferred to leave it to the experts. "Each unit has its own character, so it's very me—everyday a different mood," she says, looking around the three-bedroom loft, which is bathed in tiffany blue walls that stand out among the neutral-hued furnishings. "We want to give our customers their own choices, options, and whatever suits them," she adds. Looking around, you'll see Ejercito's hand in the little touches of London in each unit. "Upstairs, you'll see Union Jack canisters, memoirs, and other quirky things that remind me of London," she shares. "I admire the work of Architect Arlen, so I just let him do his job. I'm really a marketing and finance graduate, so I just add a bit here and there by saying, 'Okay, can we just put this little thing here, please?'" she demonstrates in her sweet, raspy voice that hints of a London accent. "I respect and admire his talent, so I let him do his thing," she adds.

She feels her contribution has been more in organization. "I think it's more of putting a system in the company. I'm very by-the-book, so

to speak, so I'm really applying what I learned, putting a system, and using what I learned from it," she explains. She is very adamant about following rules and regulations to the point of obsessiveness. "I'm very precise about these things, so designing a system that fits everyone—that's what I feel like bringing into the company."

As for being tagged a real estate heiress, a moniker that has been hounding her since she began working with SDMI, she gasps at the thought and refutes it almost immediately. "Far from it! And while there's really nothing wrong with being a property heiress, it's just not me. I mean, I appreciate it when people see me as such, because I'm just doing my job for the family," she adds.

Having returned to the country just a few years ago, there is still very little the public knows about Ejercito. But perhaps, the best way to see her for who she is, is to see her at work—modern, yet rooted in tradition and family. Watch this space, as we see far greater things in her midst.

"People might see me as a fashion-savvy property heiress, but it's really because I know what I want to wear, and I know what I want." 





# INTERIOR MOTIVES

with Shamcey Supsup  
Premieres  
November 7, 2013  
9:30pm



**lifestyle**  
NETWORK  
live your passions

Sky Cable Channel 52  
Also available on  
Destiny Digital Cable

facebook.com/LifestyleNetwork  
www.twitter.com/Lifestyle52

# inspired interiors



Personal, meaningful and infused with character, rooms are repositories of value, memories and familial narratives. We take you inside eleven women's favorite rooms. Often working, some mothers, these women share a passion for creativity. A peek into their most treasured spaces offers nuggets of inspiration on embracing the task of decorating a room, tailor-fit to one's personality.

Family room in Charlene Carlos' home. Photograph by William Ong



# A penchant for history

'PERSONAL SPACES MUST HAVE THINGS THAT YOU LOVE.'

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



**IN HER FAVORITE ROOM,** there is a marriage of family history, treasured objects, rich detail and comfort. It is interesting because there is a focal point that serves to anchor the look and feel of the space. In such a room, you would feel at ease with your innermost thoughts.

**1. Why is this your favorite room?**

Aside from having some of my favorite elements in the house, the dining room is where the story of my family evolved. It is where we gathered as a young family till today for meals and exchange stories, catching up on what is going on with one another. In this room, we've shared so much laughter and tears.

**2. What is the prevailing theme or look of the room?** The room has a decidedly rich, exotic feel to it with its red walls and hand carved antique Indian window as the focal point.

**3. Who decorated this room?** I did.


**4. What makes this room function for you?** It has enough seating for my family and a few others, and very comfortable dining chairs. It has a warm and inviting ambiance.

**5. What are your favorite objects or features in this room?** I would have to say the chandelier. It was a piece that I felt was meant for this house because I could not find the right one until I came across this chandelier, bare of any crystals, in a second hand store. So I painstakingly ordered the crystals and special glass covers for it abroad, and put it all together myself. The antique Indian window is also a favorite. I felt it had more provenance and mystery to it than just a painting or a mirror.

**6. What was the primary consideration, in terms of look, function and theme, when you decorated this room?** We had the table from the onset so the architect was made aware that it had to be accommodated in the dining room. It

isn't a large room, which was fine, but we wanted it to be comfortable and warm for casual get-togethers, and be grand enough for the more formal ones.

**7. How does this room reflect your personality and style?** It reflects my penchant for things with a history, and my eclectic taste. In this room, there is a mix of the Orient and the European elements.

**8. Give a tip to our readers on how to personalize a space.** Personal spaces must have things that you love, so that when you are in that space, you feel like you belong, and you are most at ease. Just like any of us, it can change as our tastes change, and as our lives evolve, so don't ever think that whatever you put in there stays forever. 

ABOVE: Metro Home's Contributing Editor in her dining room. This dramatic room is swathed in decidedly rich and exotic finery.



A chandelier lovingly hand-assembled by Marissa, and a window from India are the room's focal points.



# Family ties

'I LIKE PUTTING IN OBJECTS WITH PERSONAL STORY'

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



LEFT: A graphicote glass wall serves as a sketch pad of ideas (some by brother, Architect Anthony Nazareno) in Rita Nazareno's office. In the foreground are products she designed for S.C. Vizcarra. RIGHT: S.C. Vizcarra creative director, Rita Nazareno.



ABOVE: Bolts of material, together with swatches and products in varying stages of production co-exist on an antique wooden table that has been in the collection of Rita's mom for years. BELOW: A corner of the S.C. Vizcarra office showcases their products.

**COMING FROM AN ACCOMPLISHED** television background abroad, Rita Nazareno came back to Manila to take the helm at S.C. Vizcarra, a luxury handbag and home accessories firm, which was started by her grandmother, Segundina Cornejo Vizcarra, as a *taller de bordados de mano* (hand-embroidery studio). Today, Rita leads the firm as its creative director, and not surprisingly, her favorite room is the S.C. Vizcarra office cum boardroom, where many of her creative ideas are given life. As a family business, the space is also a repository of memories of time spent with her Lola Gunding and her legacy.

**1. Why is this your favorite room?** I spend a lot of time here, and most of the designs for S.C. Vizcarra are worked out from here. I share this office with my mom, so it is a nice reminder of the familial aspect of the business.

**2. What is the prevailing theme or look of the room?** There is really no prevailing theme. It is an office in a good ol' workshop. It is functional yet welcoming, and conducive for ideas.

**3. Who decorated this room?** My mom and I share this office, so it has a combination of our things. You will also see traces of my brother Anthony—his drawings are on the glass board—and my dad, Butch Sales. After all, S.C. Vizcarra is a family business, so everyone involved leaves a little of their personality in this office. It is a

collection of our individual tastes.

**4. What makes this room function for you?** When my brother and I became more involved with S.C. Vizcarra, he installed a glass wall, which has been very helpful because we draw on it some of our designs. Most of the time, we sit around the long table sharing ideas, shooting the breeze, having lunch. The office functions as a space for interesting family bonding time.

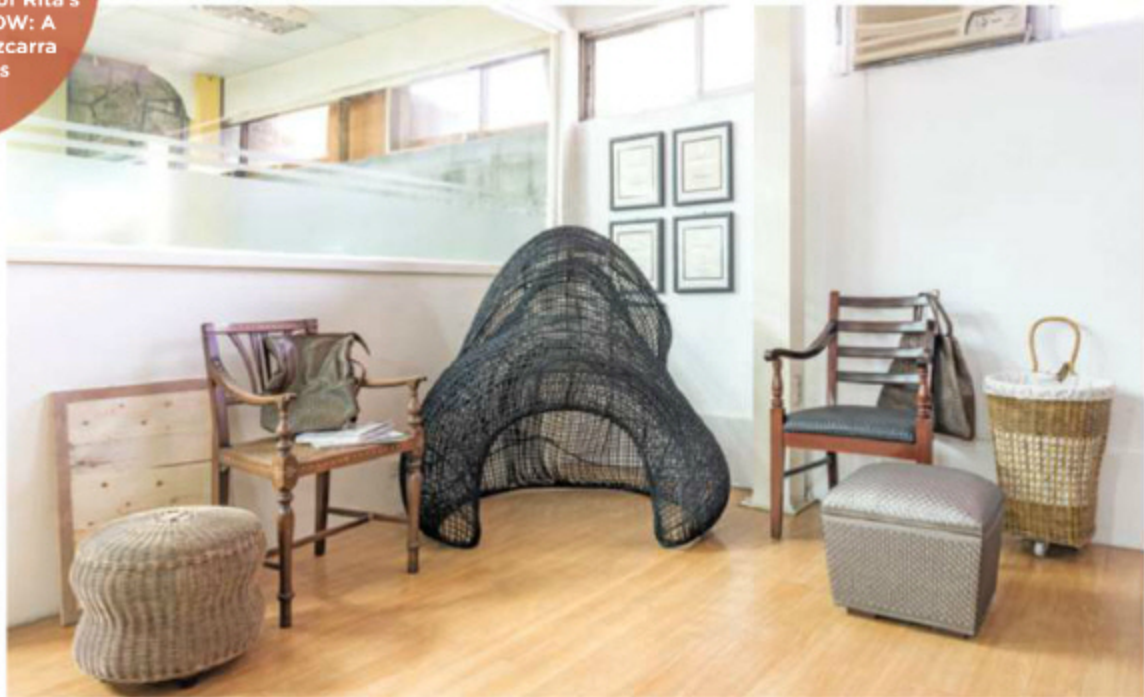
**5. What are your favorite objects or features in this room?** The long, antique wooden table is a favorite. It has been in my mom's collection for a very long time, and I remember it from my childhood home. I also love the round artwork by Maria Taniguchi. The pictures of Lola Gunding (who founded the company in 1925) with me, when I was one year old, in Oakland are always nearby, on my desk or in one of my numerous organizers. I love those organizers. I have mini caddies for my phone and keys, so I don't misplace them, and larger ones for various files and papers.

**6. What was the primary consideration, in terms of look, function and theme, when you decorated this room?** There really wasn't a conscious effort to decorate the office in one go. It just evolved to what it is. There is a revolving door of things in this office, either coming in and out from the workshop floor (new materials, old

materials, swatches, products from varying stages of production, etc.), from storage, from our homes, or from our travels.

**7. How does this room reflect your personality and style?** I think I like this room precisely because it is not all me. I like that I share it with my mom. The factory was a department store before, where we sold S.C. Vizcarra handicrafts. I still feel the presence of my grandparents and I think that's pretty cool.

**8. Give a tip to our readers on how to personalize a space.** I like putting mementos or art I have chosen myself in any space I inhabit. These items must have a personal story tied to you. 📌





# Collected eclectic

'I LIKE MIXING HIGH AND LOW. IF I THINK IT LOOKS GOOD, THEN IT STAYS.'

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



LEFT: The living room in Leona Panutat's residence displays an array of happy decor and accessories, some from L'Indochine. RIGHT: Leona Panutat amongst her prized collection of paintings by Charlie Ongshanco and Obemio. BELOW: Decorating with a mix of textures such as metallics from the Pelican box and the "LOVE" plate, and the natural woven tray.

**LEONA PANUTAT IS HALF OF THE DUO** who scores Asia for inspired home décor. Her finds make it to people's homes by way of L'Indochine, the months-old shop in SM Aura that is now quite a big hit among those who love the stylish. When not traveling for L'Indochine, Panutat is mom to two-year old Wyatt. Her favorite room is an ode to time spent with him, mementos of her travels, and the functions of life with her family.

**1. Why is this your favorite room?** My whole family gathers here. Every morning, Wyatt and I would sit on the couch and sip our breakfast drinks. Coffee for me, hot choco for him. On weekends, we hang out here. My husband and I read while Wyatt plays with his toys on the bench.

**2. What is the prevailing theme or look of the room?** Hmmmm...Collected eclectic? I don't think our room has a particular theme or look. It's pretty much a marriage of things we've collected over the years, travel mementos and family heirlooms.

**3. Who decorated this room?** I did, but my husband was involved in selecting the furniture and the artwork.

**4. What makes this room function for you?** What I really love about it is that nothing is too precious. The whole family can gather around, and I don't have to worry about something getting broken or stained. By all means, put up your feet and just chill.

It's very kid-friendly. Like I said, Wyatt often brings his toys down and plays here. I also like that even if it's a small area, we have ample seating. When our friends come over, we spend hours just sitting, lounging and talking. It's very comfortable.

**5. What are your favorite objects or features in this room?** My absolute favorite is the painting by Obemio, which sits right smack in the middle of the gallery wall. Other favorite objects are The Nightingale painting by Carlo Ongchango, and the vintage coffee table, which is one of the first pieces we got for the house.

**6. What was the primary consideration, in terms of look, function and theme, when you decorated this room?** First consideration was the function. Since this is one of the most used rooms in the house, we wanted it to be welcoming

and comfortable. We made it a point to have ample seating and lots of surfaces to place things on. Second was the look. We wanted a room that represented who we are, and that means easygoing, informal and fun!

**7. How does this room reflect your personality and style?** I decorate the same way I get dressed, it's all gut feel. I don't usually have a plan. I just buy what I like and try to make it work with what I have. I like mixing high and low, and I'm not a stickler for rules. If I think it looks good, then it stays. Life is too short to be too serious. Mix vintage with modern, heirloom pieces with thrift store knickknacks.

**8. Give a tip to our readers on how to personalize a space.** Use pieces that you love. Try to pick up an item or two from your travels. Placing them in your vignettes and coffee tables will instantly make the space your own. These are the pieces that will differentiate your home from everyone else's. Hang paintings by your kids, or pepper your space with fun family photos in fabulous frames. 🐼



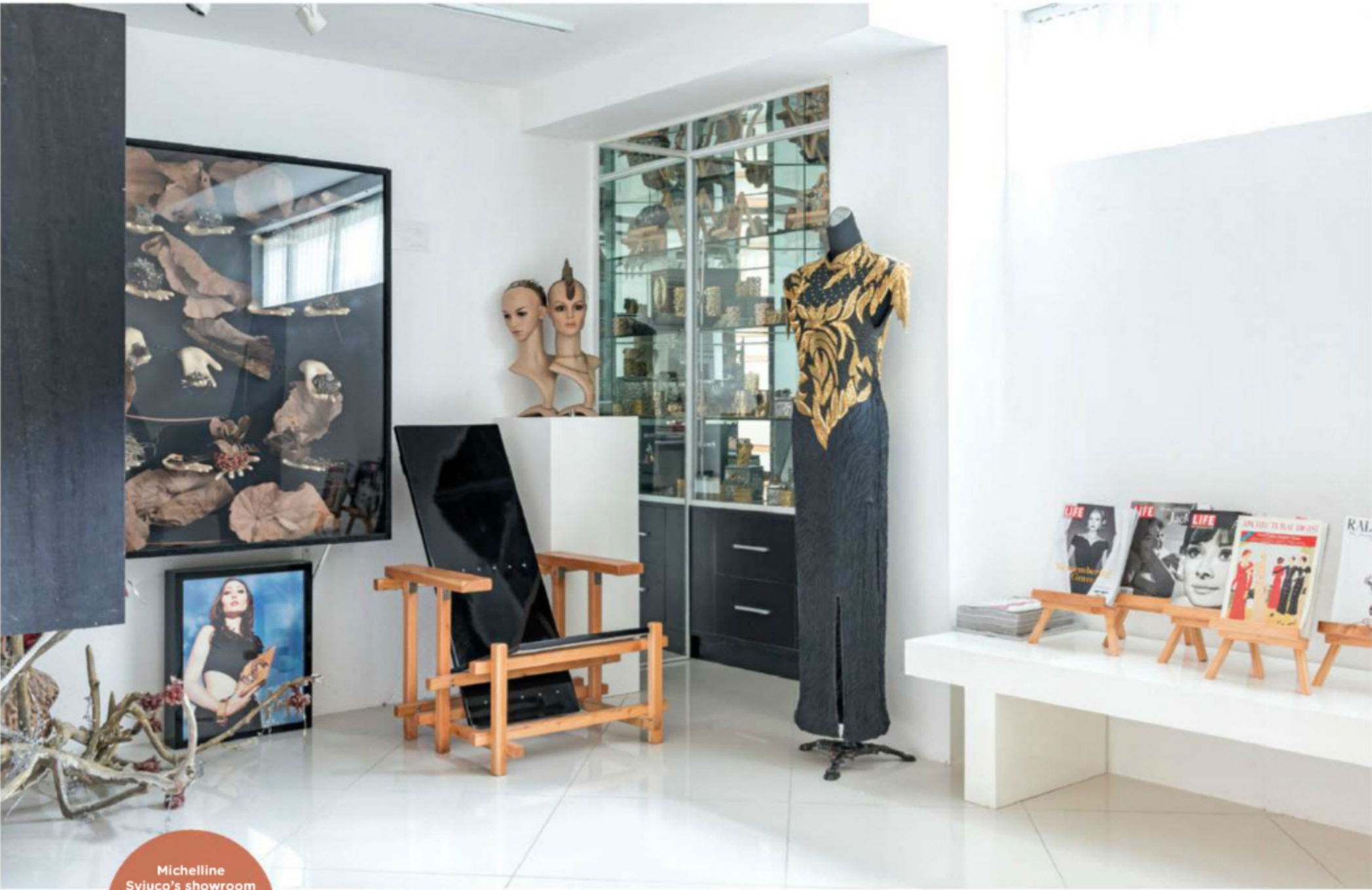
The most endearing quality of Leona's living room is its relaxed atmosphere, owing to her refreshing manner of mixing high and low accessories, paintings, prints and textiles that share space on her wall. Note the way she highlights son Wyatt's painting by playfully framing it with colored tape. She also makes use of recurring themes such as the wing relic on the wall and the pillow.



# Art showcase

'PUT IN AS MANY OBJECTS THAT YOU LOVE, BUT DON'T OVERDO IT.'

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



Michelline Syjuco's showroom is a sanctuary that houses her creations, where visitors can enjoy looking at her art.

**ART MAKES HER SPACE.** This room reminds Michelline Syjuco of how much she's done and can still do. Here, she is surrounded by her work, which helps her to think through what she's still working out in her mind. The bonus is this place is great for entertaining!

**1. Why is this your favorite room?** My showroom is my favorite room because it houses most of my creations. It's my own private sanctuary where I can just sit back and enjoy looking at my work.

**2. What is the prevailing theme or**

**look of the room?** I don't really have a theme for the room... it's basically filled with work I've done for different shows. These include sculptures, wall works, and wearable art pieces.

**3. Who decorated this room?** I decorated it myself, with some help from my Mom :)

**4. What makes this room function for you?** The fact that it contains my work from the past as well as a huge collection of jewelry and art books, *Vogue* magazines, etc., makes



LEFT: Artist/jewelry designer, Michelline Syjuco in her showroom. ABOVE RIGHT: A glass vitrine wall encasing her jewelry collection. BELOW RIGHT: In Michelline's hands, a *manton de manila* is rendered in metal for a narrative piece that played with light and silhouettes.



it really inspiring for me to be in this space. It's also designed with a built-in glass display case for showcasing my jewelry to clients. Overall, it's a great space for entertaining.

**5. What are your favorite objects or features in this room?** I love the fact that my Ateneo Art Awards works are showcased in this room. These include my signature shadow work as well as two panels from my Armadillion exhibition.

**6. What was the primary consideration when you decorated this**

**room?** I just wanted the room to showcase my different forms of art.

**7. How does this room reflect your personality?** This room definitely embodies my personality because it's full of objects and works that I created myself.

**8. Give a tip to our readers on how to personalize a space.** When personalizing a space, put in as many objects that you love, without "over cluttering." It's important to maximize the space, but not to the point of "suffocating" it. 📌



# Statement pieces— and happy colors!

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG

'I USED MY DAUGHTER'S ARTWORK AND JUXTAPOSED IT WITH ART BY PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS.'

Charlene Carlos and daughter Macie collaborated on the design for the seven-year old's room.



Bright colors characterize Macie's room. Layering was also a strategy employed to achieve a vibrant room. Also consider fearlessly mixing patterns and textures. Incorporate mementos from travels. On the bed, a *kantha* quilt from India, elephant stuffies from Thailand, Pearl the Mermaid and accent cushions, all from L'Indochine.

RIGHT: A Francis Nacion painting of a girl with a violin makes reference to Macie's musical talent. FAR RIGHT: A budding artist, Macie has a nook for her art materials. Carlo Ongchangco's *Princess and the Pea* is a highlight of this corner.

**WHEN CHARLENE PANUTAT-CARLOS** was asked by retail giant SM to handle the merchandising for L'Indochine, it was bittersweet for the mother of three. She had been a homemaker for ten years before her latest endeavor, and motherhood to Macie, her talented seven-year old daughter, comprised of those ten blissful years. Now with L'Indochine, Charlene spends quality time with her brood, balancing violin rehearsals and painting classes with her travels on buying assignments for the store. Her favorite room, daughter Macie's bedroom, was a collaboration between mother and daughter.

**1. Why is this your favorite room?** This is my favorite room because it was a joint project with my daughter Macie. It was a great mother-daughter bonding experience. I loved her inputs on what she wanted to do with her room, and she accompanied me pretty much everywhere to help choose things.

**2. What is the prevailing theme or look of the room?** HAPPY COLORS! Macie loves bright girly colors—green, pink, turquoise, etc. So I drew inspiration from my Kate Spade iPhone cover, which had all these colors. At the same time, the commissioned painting of our family by Francis Nacion featured the same colors, so the painting provided a perfect backdrop for the room.

**3. Who decorated this room?** Macie and I decorated this room together.

**4. What makes this room function for you?** This room fits Macie's lifestyle. She has a defined study area, a reading nook, a play area (she stores her toys in plastic bins underneath her bed), a violin practice area, a semi walk-in closet, and a sleeping area. The most functional piece of furniture in this room is her custom-built bookshelf. Macie is a bookworm. Over the years, she has collected hundreds of books. So the shelves really help us coral everything!

**5. What are your favorite objects or features in this room?** Macie's paintings. I am so proud of her artwork, and I try to display them prominently all over our house, most especially in her room. Also, Macie's framed portrait by Gus Albor. *Tito* Gus enjoyed her violin performance for him. He was so inspired by her that he drew her portrait and gave it to her.

**6. What was the primary consideration, in terms of look, function and theme, when you decorated this room?** Macie should love her room. Even if the colors are incredibly bright, they must all complement each other. So I stuck to my color palette.

**7. How does this room reflect your personality and style?** We embrace colors and patterns. We are not afraid to mix prints.

We peppered the room with statement pieces that showcase Macie's fun and happy personality. These pieces were purchased from various trips abroad.

**8. Give a tip to our readers on how to personalize a space.** Photos and artwork are a great way to personalize a space. In our case, we used my daughter's artwork and juxtaposed it with art from professional artists like Gus Albor, Migs Villanueva, Carlo Ongchangco and Francis Nacion. Do collect special pieces during your travels. Pepper your home with these statement pieces. I personally love pieces that have anecdotes behind them. 🐼





# Visual feast

'INTERIORS SHOULD BE A SENSORY EXPERIENCE.'

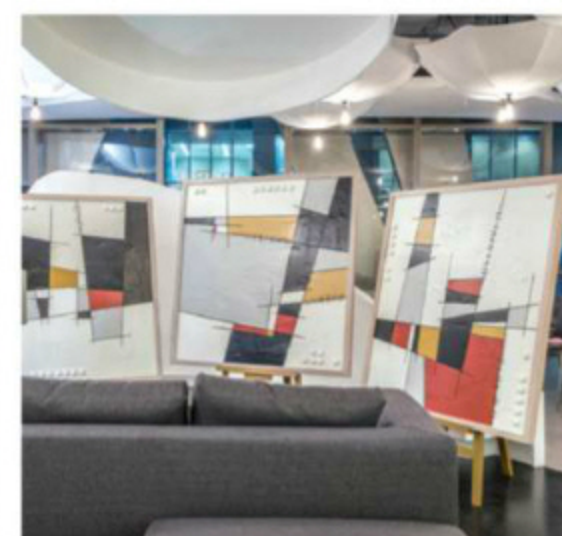
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO



LEFT: Jean Fernando in the Vask bar, covered in carrara marble from Italy. RIGHT: Vask, designed by London-trained architect, Juan Carlo Calma. The ceiling design is inspired by Emmenthal cheese.



CLOCKWISE: Terrace of Vask Restaurant. Dining room looking out to views of the terrace decked out in pop art. Art work curated by Architect Juan Carlo Calma.



**THE DINING ROOM AT VASK** is where Jean Fernando goes for meetings as well as entertaining friends. She loves the food and the décor, which, in her book, should both be a visual feast. The look, the feel, the taste are sensory, which give rise to a total experience.

**1. Why is this your favorite room?** I chose the Vask Dining Room because it is like an escape from Manila. Aside from the modern and stylized décor, it is a great place to host friends or hold meetings in a vibrant and lively setting. Being in Vask

feels like being in New York or a trendy new eatery in Singapore.

**2. What is the prevailing theme or look of the room?** The Dining Room has three main seating areas: the Bar if you want to grab some pintxos and maybe some draft beer with a pal; the Long Table, which is communal and can fit 20, if you don't mind meeting new people next to you; and, the normal seating, which is what you get if you want to have an à la carte meal at Vask. The look is more modern, with Emmenthal

cheese-inspired cutout ceilings and splashes of art all around the room.

**3. Who decorated this room?** London-trained architect Juan Carlo Calma did the interiors for the restaurant. He also curated the art that is smattered all around the area.

**4. What makes this room function for you?** I love food, and this room has become my go-to for meetings or reunions with friends. Although the atmosphere becomes lively and active during dinner time, it is perfect for entertaining guests from out of

town who want to try something new or want cutting edge food and decor. On top of that, it's a great place for people watching.

**5. What are your favorite objects or features in this room?** The ceiling, and many people comment to "find the hidden Mickey." The Carrara marble from Italy makes the bar noteworthy. Another fun installation is the Darth Vader Sto. Niño statue that greets you as you enter the space.

**6. What was the primary consideration when you decorated this**

**room?** We wanted a modern look to fit the concept and name of the restaurant: Vask Modern Tapas & Gastronomic Cuisine. Since diners eat with their eyes first, we wanted a visual feast upon entering the restaurant that is a breath of fresh air in Manila.

**7. How does this room reflect your personality?** I love to travel and also a lot of kitsch, so on every corner of the Dining Room, you find a piece of art that seems randomly placed. Actually, it is strategically added to give the room its fun, artsy

atmosphere. I think interiors, alongside food, should be a sensory experience, and that's what the room aims to accomplish.

**8. Give a tip to our readers on how to personalize a space.** Find key pieces from travels that has a story or meaning for you. They should be good conversation pieces and make your space unique. Keep the color palette neutral if you want to dabble in some art installations. And have a wow! piece (such as the Carrara marble bar) that needs no explanation. **11**



# Family room

‘WE LOVE THE ROOM’S  
BABY SMELL.’

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOVEL LORENZO



LEFT: Tootsy Angara in her son Javier's room. RIGHT: Parachutes of different colors are painted on the wall.

**YOU KNOW RIGHT AWAY** when there's a baby in the house. There's the crying and the cooing, and the laughter. Amazing how such a small bundle can produce intense emotions. Baby makes a happy home, and baby's room is where Tootsy Angara's family congregates to give and receive joy.

**1. Why is this your favorite room?** The baby's room is where the entire family hangs out. Our blood pressure rushes down every time we enter the room. We love its baby smell and cozy, cuddly feel.

**2. What is the prevailing theme or look of the room?** There's a lot of blues, argyle, different textures and prints.

**3. Who decorated this room?** My high school best friend Maru Almazora de Ocampo.

**4. What makes this room function for you?** It's our third child Javier's room, but it doubles up as our family lounge area.



LEFT: A free-spirited mural portraying the Eiffel Tower adds whimsy to Javier's room. RIGHT: Bespoke wall painting is by Maru Almazora de Ocampo.

**5. What are your favorite objects or features in this room?** The big chairs and the couch.

**6. What was the primary consideration, in terms of look, function and theme, when you decorated this room?** Comfort. We built our house 10 years ago, so this room is the newest area that has been renovated. We wanted something perfect for a nursery, but also a room comfortable and big enough for the five of us to fall asleep in.

**7. How does this room reflect your personality and style?** Relaxed and comfortable—just the way we like it.

**8. Give a tip to our readers on how to personalize a space.** It's all about how a room makes you feel when you're in it. It should make you happy and feel like you are truly home.🏡



# Family-oriented

'WE'RE PARTIAL TO HAVING PIECES WITH A STORY AND ARE FAMILY HEIRLOOMS.'

PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES



LEFT: Katrina Tantoco-Lobregat with her daughter in her favorite room, the family room. RIGHT: Family room designed by Andrew Laurel in collaboration with Katrina. The centerpiece is a coffee table designed by Antonio Garcia.



The family room has a mix of old and new pieces, with touches of feminine romanticism.

**IT'S IMPORTANT TO KATRINA TANTOCO-LOBREGAT** to be able to express herself creatively. She has been involved in healing work and modalities, and would like to expand her work along this path as it is a lifestyle that she thinks will benefit not only her but her family as well. Their lifestyle is relaxed and casual, and that look and feel are reflected in their family room.

**1. Why is this your favorite room?**

This is our family room that segues into our outdoor lanai area and the garden. Apart from our kitchen, the family room and lanai is where we find ourselves coming together. At the end of the day, these are the mo-

ments I look forward to.

**2. What is the prevailing theme or look of the room?** We are a relaxed and casual family. The slouchy couches, the natural palette with touches of color and enough space to roll around, run around and stumble, reflect that. I'm not sure you can really define this room into a design aesthetic. It is a mix of some, yet it seems to come together for my family.

**3. Who decorated this room?** This was a collaboration between Andrew Laurel and myself. We spoke briefly about design concepts we wanted to achieve, and the functional aspects of the room. The great thing about working with Andrew is his attention

to symmetry and measurements, whereas I am a bit of a free-spirit and tend to stray from structure. Andrew worked so well with what we had, our family requirements, and our design aesthetic.

**4. What makes this room function for you?** As a family, we value a relaxed, lived in, casual environment. I suppose this room communicates that whilst having a bit of elegance.

**5. What are your favorite objects or features in this room?** The coffee table was designed by Antonio Garcia and adds a bit of old world charm to the room along with the antique mirror, which was given to us by my mom. Many pieces here were

handed down to us by Paolo's folks. We are a bit partial to having pieces that have a story and are family heirlooms.

**6. What was the primary consideration, in terms of look, function and theme, when you decorated this room?** We have two young kids, and they are the primary consideration. We did not want them to feel restricted from roaming around and just being kids. There is a lot of free space where they can roll around the floor, build blocks, do artwork on the floor and move to the garden and lanai and back. The secondary consideration was for our guests.

**7. How does this room reflect your per-**

**sonality and style?** It's a free-spirited room with a mix of various design elements that come together. Overall, it's a neutral room with a bit of feminine romantic elements. The room is also a mix of old and new pieces, contemporary and traditional. As I mentioned earlier, I value a serene, relaxed vibe. I wanted to replicate the feelings of being in a resort. All these elements, taken together, speak a bit of me.

**8. Give a tip to our readers on how to personalize a space.** There is a quote I came across years ago that resonates with me in creating a home: "Have nothing in your home which you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful." 



# Serendipitous design!

'I LIKE MARRYING THEMES'

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



LEFT: Moroccan rug hand-carried by Mikka originally intended for her daughter's room. A basket of samples for work. RIGHT: Seektheuniq.com's Mikka Padua chose her corner home office, which is really part of her living room, as her favorite space.

**GUIDED BY AN APPRECIATION** for artisanal homeware and fashion accessories, Mikka Padua offers her finds at seektheuniq.com. Prior to her online venture, she was a buyer for Esprit, then down the road, her path took her to Zalora.com.ph. With a trained eye for the beautiful, and for what sells, she found herself wanting to be her own boss. Fueled by her passion for the handmade and by things that suggest a global provenance, this mother to a four-year old girl launched Seek the Uniq.

**1. Why is this your favorite room?** I chose this little corner, (an office nook that is part of her living room) because this is where I feel most peaceful and calm. There may be some clutter, but it's the kind that inspires. Little trinkets from travels, postcards, and artwork by my 4-year-old daughter tend to fuel my creative juices and keep me going no matter how insurmountable work can get.

**2. What is the prevailing theme or look of the room?** I would like to think of our space as a fusion of clean lined Scandinavian and a little quirky bohemian. We like fuss-free furniture in neutral tones that we fondly pepper with vibrant accoutrements, bits and pieces we bring home from our travels.

**3. Who decorated this room?** My husband, myself, and our daughter all have inputs in how our little abode is designed /

decorated, but this particular corner of mine is really just me as I have taken ownership of this tiny real estate.

**4. What makes this room function for you?** This corner is oddly cut, but I wanted to make the most of it. I painted it gray to carve out a section and make it look like the area was really intentional, not some unusable, impractical condo space. This room functions well for my work-from-home needs; it is small and everything's within reach.

**5. What are your favorite objects or features in this room?** I love this collapsable wooden table that I found at a local weekend market. The size and shape fits the corner perfectly that you would think it was custom-made. I also adore this area rug I hand carried from Marrakesh. Originally, I planned to hang it on a wall in my daughter's room, but when I tried it here, I didn't remove it anymore. Again, it serendipitously worked well in the area.

**6. What was the primary consideration, in terms of look, function and theme, when you decorated this room?** Finding the right sized furniture was very important, given the limited space and it being prone to clutter. The lean table turned out to be very functional, and the white shelves serve its purpose well, too. I opted for a ghost chair to balance the rather gloomy hues of the wall and desk. There was no theme in mind, I just went as I pleased, finding pieces I love and putting them together.

**7. How does this room reflect your personality and style?** I like marrying themes; style-wise, I'm not one to go for just one look. Just like this area, my personal style is a little bit of this and that—one part preppy, another part bohemian, sometimes a juxtaposition of feminine and androgynous. Cliche as it may sound, eclectic best defines this space and my personal style.

**8. Give a tip to our readers on how to personalize a space.** Decorating nowadays is no longer about following rules or going by the book. It is not about trying to get a perfect echo from a magazine spread, or having a place for a sum of functions. Piecing together things you love, big or small, and surrounding yourself with them will turn a house into a home. This is an ever-evolving process that should be enjoyed. 🐘



RIGHT: Padua advises to assemble things you love to make a space your own. Here, a pair of wooden elephant bookends painted a vibrant orange, a yellow rhino and a matryoshka share real estate on white floating book shelves.



LEFT: Fabric swatches and photo inspiration are integral to Mikka's decor. RIGHT: Her favorite corner at home is decked out in gray paint, drawings by her four-year old daughter, and finds from across the globe.





# Traditional with a twist

'THIS ROOM HAS THE BALANCE OF A WELL-CURATED AND RELAXED SPACE.'

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



LEFT: Bungalow 300's Vernice Songco in her favorite room. RIGHT: Chevron accent cushion provides strong, dynamic lines against a background of warm whites in her master bedroom.



Swarm, art work by Christina Dy, a favorite piece of Vernice's, dominates the wall space above the sofa. Warming up the space are other personal favorites, Bungalow 300's Cockatoo pillow, ikat ottoman by Hacienda Crafts. RIGHT: Curated bookshelves display photos, tchotchkes and a terrarium by RAAB. FAR RIGHT: Cockatoo accent cushion made for Manila FAME's Red Box program.

**HER BRAINCHILD, ALONG WITH PARTNER** Marga Espiritu, Bungalow 300, instilled in Vernice Songco a love for the local, the artisanal and the handmade. Since its conception as a pop-up store, Bungalow 300 has encouraged a homegrown ethos, and pride for the Philippines' wealth of design and artistic talent. It is a concept store that inspires the public to tell a story with their interiors. Vernice's favorite room, her master bedroom, illustrates just that: pieces that are associated with certain personal narratives are used in her space, along with some of her favorites from Bungalow 300. All of these are poised against a background of warm whites, the perfect canvas on which Vernice shows some personality.

**1. Why is this your favorite room?** I love this room because this is where I get to relax and spend time with my husband and kids.

**2. What is the prevailing theme or look of the room?** This is my take on easy, laidback and traditional with a twist.

**3. Who decorated this room?** I did.

**4. What makes this room function for you?** I'm very lucky with the layout of the room because it had space for a sitting area next to our bed, so it functions both as our bedroom and family room. When everyone is home from school and work, we all hang out here. The kids come and go as they please and they actually spend more time here than in their own bedrooms.

**5. What are your favorite objects or features in this room?** I have a lot of favorites! It's hard to pin them down. My work developed in me a love for the work of local artists and designers, so I try to collect a few pieces along the way. My favorite object is a charcoal drawing by Christina Dy entitled "Swarm" that sits on top of my couch. This piece actually has a story behind it (which I'll keep to myself), but it makes it even more special to me. Another favorite has to be our (Bungalow 300's) latest "Cockatoo" pillow made for the Young Designer's Program of FAME. I can go on and on...

**6. What was the primary consideration, in terms of look, function and theme, when you decorated this room?** I wanted to make sure I could create a comfortable and inviting place of rest that would inspire me and also be a space where my husband and my kids could lounge in. When putting together the pieces for my bedroom, I knew I wanted to start with a clean and restful palette in creams and whites, which could serve as a neutral base. Color is sacrificed for texture and pattern. Because of this, I can change my accessories depending on my mood. I feel like it has the balance of a well-curated and relaxed space.

**7. How does this room reflect your personality and style?** The room has an airy feel, but the artwork and accessories I choose tend to be dark, moody, graphic but also playful, (just slightly) feminine with

a dash of whimsy. Which is probably how I would describe myself as well!

**8. Give a tip to our readers on how to personalize a space.**

- Pillows are an easy and quick way to add character and personality to a room.
- Display meaningful mementos and photos.
- Dress up your walls. Collect art that is meaningful to you. It need not be expensive. Even framed fabric, printed paper, posters and photographs from travels are a great way to add art to walls. ①





# Function and adventure

'YOUR SPACE MUST REFLECT WHO YOU ARE, AND NO ONE ELSE.'

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOVEL LORENZO



Dark walls at RED Editor and Curious Setting blogger Ria Prieto's home office are capped with a splashy marigold ceiling.

**SHE'S GOT WHAT SHE WANTS** in her favorite room. It inspires her, and helps her creative juices to flow. It's pleasing to the eye, calming and serene, but with a pop of adventure somewhere—in the paint, the furniture—and the overall look says it all.

**1. Why is this your favorite room?** I like that I have an office at home because I can work without feeling guilty about leaving the kids and having to worry about them. When it rains hard, the whole RED team also ends up working here since it gets difficult to get to the *Inquirer*. Plus, everyone gets to enjoy a home-cooked meal!

**2. What is the prevailing theme or look of the room?** In this room, the paint color I chose was a strong influence of the décor. I didn't necessarily have a look or theme in mind, but I know I wanted an intellectual feel to induce creativity. I think I achieved that.

**3. Who decorated this room?** I did. It was formerly a guest bedroom, but now we hardly have guests who sleep over. I converted it into an office when we needed space to work on PDI's new monthly insert, *Inquirer RED* Magazine, while waiting for the office space allocated for our team to be ready.

**4. What makes this room function for you?** I can't work in a space that is not inspiring. I also noticed that I work better once I've personalized a space. It has to be visually pleasing, or else I get anxious! Of course, it also has all the things I need, like books that I use to draw inspiration from.

**5. What are your favorite objects or features in this room?** I love my ceiling, which I had painted in marigold. The ceiling of this room is rather low, and the color gave it depth. In general, I was quite adventurous with the color of this room, and it actually paid off. I was so happy with



LEFT: Ria Prieto in her favorite room, her home office. RIGHT: A shelving unit displays books and other objects she loves.



how it came out that I had the eaves of the house painted deep ash shortly after.

**6. What was the primary consideration, in terms of look, function and theme, when you decorated this room?** First, it had to be functional, so I made a list of the things I need for an office. Second, I had to consider the size of the furniture I was putting in since this room is rather small and has an unusual configuration. (There is a beam right in front of the door.) Overall, the "look" of a room is very important to me. I must like the room I'm in, otherwise, it'll make me unhappy.

**7. How does this room reflect your personality and style?** I'm straight to the point. What you see is what you get. Like this room, everything here is here for only one reason: I wanted it here.

**8. Give a tip to our readers on how to personalize a space.** The easiest way is to add photos. To make decorating impactful, it is important to know what you like. Not minding what other people will think is a good place to start. If you want to paint your walls pink, go for it. Your space should be a reflection of who you are, and no one else. 📌



LEFT: A column of art greets visitors as they walk in. RIGHT: Butterflies in a vitrine, below a chandelier's drop crystals fill a corner with personality and flair.







LET HUNGER TAKE YOU PLACES.

# FOOD PRINTS

with *SANDY DAZA*

Premieres Sept. 7, 8:30 pm

LIFESTYLE NETWORK'S  
LATEST FOOD SERIES  
TAKES SANDY FROM  
ONE FOOD ADVENTURE TO  
THE NEXT TO REDISCOVER  
FILIPINO CULTURE  
THROUGH ITS CUISINE.

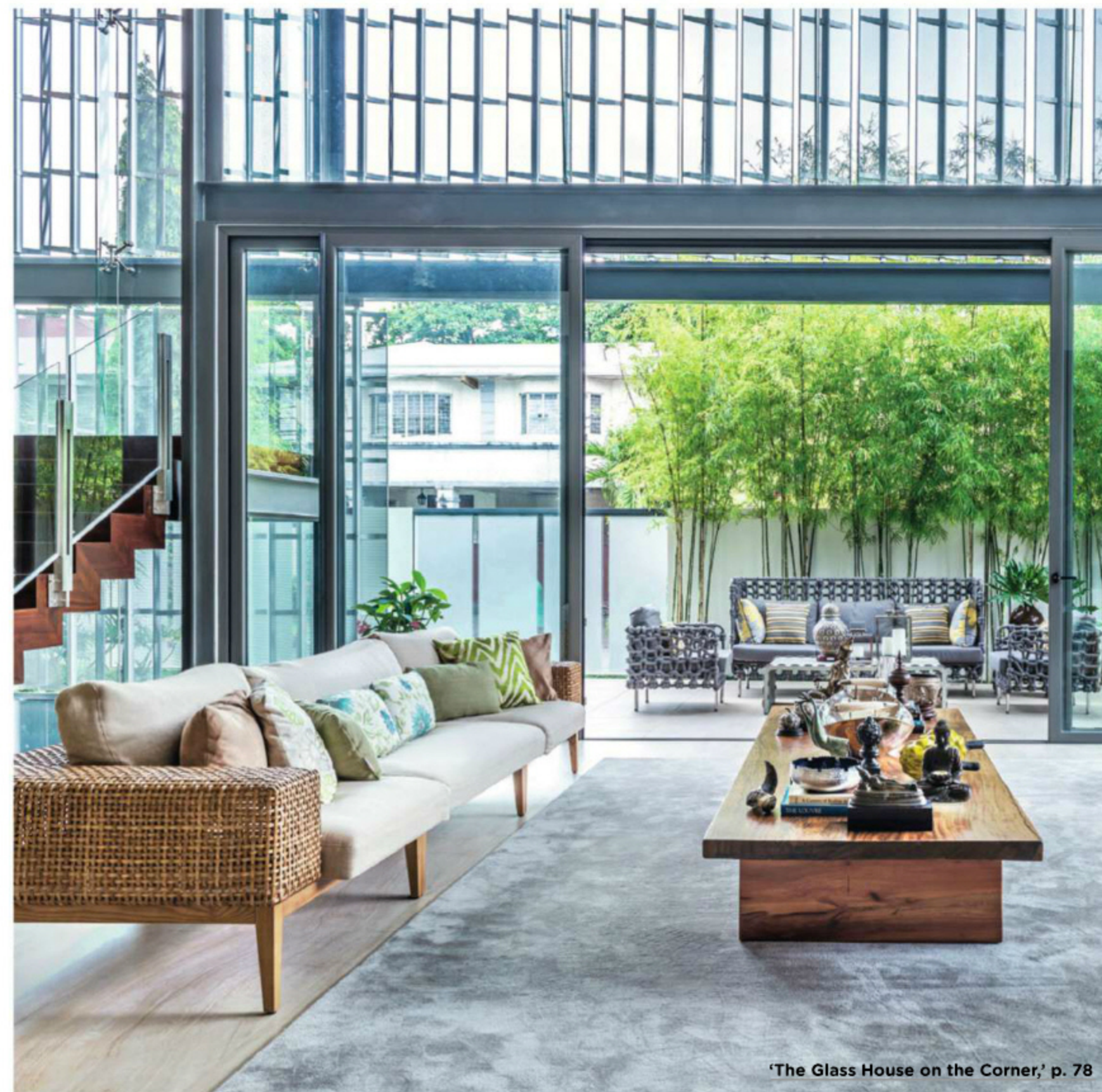
SKYCABLE CHANNEL 52  
ADD THIS CHANNEL TO YOUR  
DESTINY CABLE PACKAGE



**lifestyle**  
NETWORK

[www.twitter.com/Lifestyle52](http://www.twitter.com/Lifestyle52)  
[www.facebook.com/LifestyleNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/LifestyleNetwork)

# homes



'The Glass House on the Corner,' p. 78





# THE GLASS HOUSE ON THE CORNER

THIS FAMILY HOME FEATURES  
A WARM MIX OF MODERN AND VINTAGE

BY GRACE LIBERO / PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO

For a family who loves to entertain at home, this living room, which extends to the lanai when the sliding glass doors open, serves as a perfect venue for mingling. The Kenneth Cobonpue Tropez rattan sofas lend a warm and inviting appeal to the sleek glass house.





**THIS NEW HOUSE HAD BEEN LIVED IN** for only five months, so its residents, a close-knit, travel-loving family of five, is still in the process of making the house their home.

The hospitable, perky, and stylish lady of the house wants to add more accents—an olive green carpet in the living room to complement the Tropez sofa by Kenneth Cobonpue and bonsai on the table ready to occupy its rightful place in the garden.

### Sleek modern architecture

This 520-sq.m. home in Pasig City, which sits on a corner lot, is particularly noticeable for its sleek, modern architecture. “I wanted a modern glass house,” the lady of the house shares. “You know that glass house featured in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*? That’s how I wanted it.”

She and her basketball coach-husband worked very closely with architect Anthony Nazareno, who also took on the role of interior designer. Anthony says it was fun and easy to work with this couple because “he was very involved” and “she knew exactly what they wanted for their house.”

Anthony was convinced from the get-go that her glass-house idea was a great jump-off point to create an illusion of a huge space for the lot. He had weekly meetings with them to make sure they had everything covered.

The main challenge in building a glass house, says Anthony, was “its location on the main street, which faced southwest, the hottest orientation.”

They found their solution in aluminum fins, which are not just decorative, but also filter light and cover the house for privacy. Bamboo, bonsais, and various plants also surround the house for a cooler vibe. The glass doors and windows provide an unobstructed

**TOP:** The lanai is designed to be the extension of the living room. Apart from using tiles of the same palette in both areas, the connection between them is established with two Kenneth Cobonpue set-ups, the Tropez in the living area and the Cabaret set in the lanai. **RIGHT:** To create a striking contrast between the first and second floors, architect Anthony Nazareno made use of dark laminate wood on the walls for the upstairs hallway.







**TOP:** With its minimal combination of white and steel, the kitchen is the area in this house with the most streamlined look. **LEFT:** The black and ochre geometric painting by Arturo Luz, which serves as the focal point in the dining room, was the inspiration for the owners' choice of table and chairs.

view of the gardens that surround the house.

The design of the house is a far cry from the Moroccan-themed place the couple and their three kids had been previously residing in for 14 years. To incorporate the same varied cultural richness to the new house, it was adorned here and there with ethnic and storied decor, culled from the family's many travels abroad.

"The house is eclectic in a way," the lady of the house points out.

### Perfect place for get-togethers

There are two reasons for moving to a bigger place strategically nestled in the middle of the metro. First, they wanted to build a more comfortable space for their family, especially since they now have two sons, ages 20 and 18, and a tween daughter, age 12. Second, their previous house wasn't conveniently near his workplace and the kids' schools. (She shares that the proximity of their new house to the schools gives them the option to carpool with their neighbors.)

Their new house has also become a perfect venue to bond and catch up with their relatives and friends. "I like to entertain in the house a lot, but in our old house, when I would invite friends over, *walang pumupunta* because it was far," the lady of the house shares.

The fact that they love hosting get-togethers was factored into the design process. For instance, the spacious living room, designed with a double height ceiling, was conceptualized with only a glass door separating it from the lanai, making both spaces feel like one. To enhance this seamless transition, both areas have beige tiles in order





to create visual continuity.

Anthony points out, “Open up the doors and they have one big living room. We didn’t want to have a division or contrast.”

Although the dining room is separated from the living room by a huge wood and glass sliding door, intricately designed in an interlocking lattice pattern and executed by VLF Wood Veneers, it was chosen to give the dining room, as Anthony puts it, “a sense of mystery.”

Across the dining room is the dominantly white and steel minimalist kitchen. It is one of the lady of the house’s favorite spots because it’s where the family hangs out to share anecdotes on how their day went, and where they even end up eating take-out dinner at times.

### A lived-in, well-loved home

The family gathers over more exquisite meals in the dining room. Anthony says that for this part of the house, they worked around a painting by Arturo Luz. “The black and touches of ochre in the painting were ‘captured’ in the chairs. And its geometric shapes are reflected in the wood Geo dining table by Vito Selma,” adds Anthony.

Though there was a conscious effort to fashion some areas of the house to achieve a cohesive look, there was also layering and complexity involved. If you stand in the middle of the living room and look up the stairs, your view would be the hallway outside of the four bedrooms designed in a contrasting dark laminate wood.

Anthony explains, “That was a very conscious decision on our part, because the house is pretty much a very neutral palette; the walls are

TOP: As with other parts of the house, one of the boys’ rooms takes inspiration from an abstract painting by Gus Albor. RIGHT: In the 12-year-old girl’s bedroom is a painting she created three years ago. Symmetry, underscored by long coral-colored curtains, marks the space.







**TOP:** The den houses most of the oriental decorative pieces they bought during their travels abroad. At the center of the room is the Hanako table by Vito Selma. **LEFT:** Swathed in abaca wallpaper from Bicol, the master suite is a cozy retreat that allows the couple to enjoy their own personal space.

off-white. I wanted it to feel like an open wooden box. And we wanted to introduce some contrast. At night, switching on the lights up there creates a nice mood between the first and second floors.”

The staircase by the corner is also interesting. The steps are dark wood and the railing is made of glass. Instead of step lighting, Anthony made wise use of the empty space under the staircase by transforming it into a black-tiled sunken platform with running water, which was installed with floor-mounted spotlights.

Each bedroom has a different personality. The two boys’ bedrooms are neat and simple, the walls adorned with interesting paintings; a Gus Albor abstract painting from their previous house was reframed to lend a different look. The girl’s room is chic in white with pops of color and prints; the focal point in her room is a floral painting she did herself. The master bedroom, which features abaca wallpaper from Bicol, is posh and hotel-like. What’s common in all four rooms is that each bathroom has mirrored closet cabinets to make the spaces look and feel bigger.

“The house is not so prettied-up. It looks more lived-in even if it’s modern. There are family souvenirs from their travels,” Anthony notes.

The lady of the house, on the other hand, shares, “I put in a lot of personal stuff and some pops of color that show our personalities.”

The house may be modern, but it’s not entirely new; each décor has a story to tell that makes this house a home. **1**



Hidden behind the warm gray accent wall in the living area are the powder room, elevator, and storage spaces. Upholstery used in the sofas and pillows are from the owner's line of fabric. A geometric shelf divides the living area from the hallway leading to the den. Accessories on display include personal collection and gifts from family and friends.

# 'JUST THE WAY WE LIKE IT'

THIS HOME IS A LIVING SHOWCASE OF HIGH-END FURNITURE PIECES AND ACCESSORIES. A PERFECT COMBINATION OF FORM AND FUNCTION

BY EDA BATENGA-ACUÑA / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG





**IF ANYTHING, THIS MODERN RESIDENCE** looks like a picture straight out of a brochure. All the furniture is scaled to a T. Nothing really feels out of place or out of proportion, for that matter. The accessories, which by themselves seem to have a conversation among them, are composed in a methodical arrangement. Each serve a purpose, either to blend, complement or emphasize. The colors match down to the same tints and shades.

This magnificent, orchestrated vision is not really a surprise since the owners of the house specialize in bringing into the country high-end names in home design, including furniture and soft furnishings.

"We bring in several brands from abroad. Aside from the furniture, we also have wall and window treatments, lighting, upholstery and other finishings," says the eldest daughter of the homeowner. She is, by now, one of the product managers in their group of companies. "As long as we're building the house, we wanted it to be a place where we could showcase our products."

The house, much like the owners, is pretty straightforward. The layout is simple and uncomplicated. A foyer greets you at the entrance and, as you walk past the adjacent den, a 120-degree sweeping view leads to the living area, dining room and kitchen beyond. Outside and to the left of the living area is a garden with a heated lap pool, a refreshing view that lends itself to the interior spaces through floor-

**TOP:** The wide hingeless front door is a dramatic entrance to the house. White textured wall acts as the perfect backdrop to an Ethan Allen print.  
**RIGHT:** The sleek kitchen connects to the dining and living areas via adjacent sliding doors. A view of the pool beyond the dining is partially visible.





Clean lines dominate the dining room which seats eight. A lone chair upholstered in beige leather is juxtaposed against the dark tones of the tables and chairs. The special seat is reserved for the lady of the house.





TOP: Steps leading to the powder room. RIGHT: The den is where the family spends a lot of time. A large projector screen makes it feel like they are in a cinema. A painting behind the couch is by one of the daughters.







Two queen-size beds are put side by side in the master bedroom. The sofas at the foot of the bed are also upholstered in the same fabric as those in the living area.

to-ceiling glass walls. On the opposite side is an accent wall treated with veneer in warm grey tones, a color that plays well with the neutral palette of the black and beige sofas.

Brilliantly hidden beyond plain sight by the skillfully architected accent wall are several other more utilitarian spaces—a powder room, a hallway that leads to the elevator, and a storage room.

“Believe it or not, this house took two years in the making,” says the man of the house. “We just wanted everything to be perfect.” The design process was a very close collaboration with Vince Lozano. Vince was involved from drafting the house plans to designing furniture pieces, and making sure the house accessories all went well together.

“In fact, I even had Vince make a scale model of the house just so I’d know how everything will look like!” the owner continues. “Plus, of course, there were several changes we wanted along the way. For example, the pool wasn’t in the original plan, but we decided later on that we’d like to have one. Also, consulting with a feng shui master resulted in some alterations in the layout. But all in all, we are happy how it turned out.”

### First Christmas

Asked how happy they are with their new house, the daughter says, “Well, we have everything that we need here. It seems Vince was able to address all of our requirements. Though the common areas are designed to blend with each other, our rooms were tailored to fit our personalities.”



The heated pool gets a lot of use from the owners. It has a view of the dining room from the pool area. Outdoor furniture is also distributed locally by the homeowners.

The lady of the house is also proud to have a unique feature in her own bathroom. “When Vince and I were designing my bath, I requested for a shampoo bowl. He was very open about it, and so we did install one. Now every time he designs other houses, Vince is just so eager to suggest it to his other clients.”

At the time of the interview, another of the owner’s daughter and her aunt were busy preparing for their first Christmas in the house. While we were finishing the shoot, the two came in from their Christmas shopping and were happy to share with the rest of the family this year’s theme. “We’ll probably go for copper, gold and a hint of rust this year,” the aunt announces.

“Since we moved in just last January, this is going to be our first Christmas here, so everyone’s really excited,” the eldest daughter shares. If that is any indication, the family is sure to enjoy this home for years to come.

It took two years to finish the house construction, and ten months for the family to settle into their new home. Nevertheless, the man of the house says this home is still a work in progress. “Actually, this house isn’t done yet,” he says. “We’d still like to fill it up with paintings, but we’re not in a hurry. We’d like to take it slowly and just build our collection.”

It’s actually the same principle that they used in building their house. They did it slowly but surely, and now everything down to the last detail is just the way they like it. ❶





# LOFT THERAPY

A PRIVATE RETREAT IN THE SKY

BY MARISSA ALEJANDRO LOPA  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOVEL LORENZO

Tina Periquet designed this loft for a mother and son. The desire to let maximal natural light in from a single source informed the design parti that clears the windows. The space enjoys expansive views of the golf course beyond, owing to the generous window heights.



In the living room, an L-shaped sofa sits in the company of a bi-level coffee table with a black glass top. Greek chairs in wood and leather are opposite the sofa, and Kenneth CObonpue's chiquita stool serves as an accent piece.



**STARTING A NEW CHAPTER** in their lives, a mother and son enjoy their private time together at a modern loft designed by Tina Periquet.

As soon as you walk into this corner loft, a floor away from the rooftop, in broad daylight, you are immediately assaulted by the seemingly endless view of the city of Makati and beyond.

The bilevel apartment /condo's floor-to-ceiling windows flood the space with light by day and reflect romantic cityscapes by night. What's more, a private golf course immediately beside the building affords expansive views of immaculate greens, urban rooftops and open sky. No room, at least in the first floor level, is begrudged the breathtaking view.

### **Sense of light and openness**

The lady of the house travels extensively in and out of the country and is an avid amateur photographer and diver. Sunsets are her favorite subject to capture as well as her favorite time of day to celebrate with a glass of chilled white wine.

The two key components at play here are, first, the desire for a sense of openness and lightness, and second, the ability to let natural light into every room of the apartment from a single light source. The open plan of the kitchen, living and dining rooms, oriented toward one common side—the windows—happily illustrates how one component serves the other.

The kitchen is cordoned off by a bar, which hides built-in storage for plates, flatware and other dining accoutrements. Leather bar stools flank the other side of the bar, a perfect perch for informal meals. The exposed appliances are all in stainless steel to maintain that sleek and clean look. This is where mother and son nurture their newfound shared interest in cooking and preparing meals.

The dining room, located off the left corner, proudly shows off a Kenneth Cobonpue Wave dining table base with a tempered bevelled glass top. A long console table that doubles as a buffet table, especially commissioned for this project by NEST, achieves a distinct delineation between the living and dining areas.

The sectional L-shaped sofa, by BoConcept, is the focal point of the living room, giving a comfortable view of the 40-inch flat screen TV. A black glass double layer coffee table sits squarely in the middle with a collection of vintage glass ashtrays and vessels atop coffee table books. Two leather and wood renditions, the "Greek" chair round off a corner while Cobonpue's Chiquita stool adds the finishing touch. All these elements are pulled together by a geometric printed area rug.

### **Luxurious illusion in a small space**

One of the more interesting features of this apartment is the stairway, with only a slim stainless handrail as visible support. It consistently delivers on the concept of openness and lightness.





ABOVE: Chucky, the Yorkshire terrier enjoys the best seat in the house. The bar stools that function as part of the kitchen, but are also open to the living room, afford the scenic view. RIGHT: Kenneth Cobonpue's Wave table base is the centerpiece of the dining room.







**ABOVE LEFT:** The catwalk on the loft's second floor boasts of two-toned wood implements. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The master bedroom looks out to city vistas. The headboard is framed by glass, which also acts as a wall partition. **LEFT:** The son's bedroom is functionally decked with a sofa that pulls out to become a bed.

The bedrooms, located on the second floor, are open to a catwalk that looks down to the living room area. Although the son's bedroom has no direct view of the city, it benefits from the natural light from the same windows through its swing type opaque glass door.

The modestly sized master bedroom serves its purpose of providing a good night's rest with a hotel-grade queen-sized bed set against a coated glass wall. The simple lines of the headboard and matching side tables were exclusively designed by Italian designer Carlo Cordaro from his workshop in Cebu.

The bathroom is a study on how to successfully create an illusion

of luxury in such a small space. Niches for bottles and magazines are carved out of the hard stone that line the counters and walls, lengthening the space visually. The vanity cabinet doors and drawers are mirrored, reflecting light and space.

Carefully chosen artwork is kept to a minimum. A Tessa Alindogan original oil painting hangs on one wall of the dining room, and another on the second floor corridor.

The apartment in its entirety is an expression of its owners' outlook in life. It clearly reiterates the owners' eagerness to see and learn more of this world through traveling and other forms of art. **1**



**FULLY BOOKED**

fully rewarding.



**Now, reading gets more rewarding  
in so many ways!**



- Year-round 10% discount
- As much as 10% cash rebate
- 0% installment
- Free Fully Booked gift certificate



Like us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/RCBCBankard](http://www.facebook.com/RCBCBankard)

Want a card? Visit any Fully Booked branch or log on to [www.RCBCBankard.com](http://www.RCBCBankard.com).

# entertaining



The ingredients used to make the perfect 'Cocktail Lifestyle,' p. 110



# The Cocktail Lifestyle

THIS FRENCH MASTER MIXOLOGIST ENTERTAINS WITH THE RIGHT BLEND OF LIQUOR

BY RAPHA KIEFER / PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO



LEFT: The Venus Sour, a Don Papa Rum-based cocktail concocted by Cadeac d'Arbaud expressly for Metro Home.

**FOR FILIPINOS, THE ART OF THE COCKTAIL** has long been perceived to be the exclusive complex work of the professional behind the bar. Due to this stubborn belief, many hosts choose to serve beer rather than attempt to entertain with mixed drinks. And yet, with a little research, the right liquor and a small investment in basic equipment, your guests will hardly notice the difference.

"It all begins with the right selection of alcohol," shares French master mixologist Matthias Cadeac d'Arbaud who, today, is behind the counter of the Rocket Room in the Fort, mixing new creations. Filipinos don't have to rely solely on imports as local producers are changing the landscape of the Filipino's relationship with alcohol, contributing to the growing cocktail lifestyle.

**Here's to Don Papa!**

Matthias is in Manila as a guest mixologist for Don Papa Rum, a drink he believes has a bright future in the global scene. This homegrown premium rum is made from the distinguished Negros sugar cane in small batches, which is then aged for seven long years in American oak right here in the Philippines.

Intrigued by the unique taste of this liquor, which was introduced to him by his good friend Victor Magsaysay, Matthias proudly serves the spirit at his cocktail bar called Bar Zelda at the 10<sup>th</sup> district in Paris. "It is such a well balanced drink, it is actually difficult to work with it. The challenge is to not stray too far from the base and work with subtle ingredients that complement its great taste. In the case of this rum, keeping it simple is important," he says. Having studied under world renowned mixologists and garnering experience in some of the most prestigious bars in New York, it is safe to say that this Frenchman knows his liquor.

It is the imagination and perseverance of small independent companies such as the Bleeding Heart Rum Company, the producers of Don Papa Rum, that elevate the reputation of Philippine liquor not just within our shores but across the globe. This high craft alcohol has been stacking up awards all over the world, highlighted by the recent recognition as Product Innovation of the Year at the Paris cocktail spirits show, and multiple awards at prestigious shows all over the globe for its sophisticated packaging.



Matthias Cadeac d'Arbaud spends an afternoon in Rocket Room, mixing The Venus Sour, and talking to Metro Home about cocktails.

**Venus Sour**

Inspired by his travels through the Philippines, this specially created drink for **Metro Home** is a perfect example of complementing the Don Papa flavors. "The drink is sour, bitter and spicy. Its flavors are deep and textured," says Matthias Cadeac d'Arbaud.

**How to make it:**

- 2 parts Don Papa Rum
- 1 egg white
- 1 part calamansi juice
- 1 dash Ginger cordial
- 1 part sugar syrup
- 2 drops Moroccan bitters
- 1 slice of orange rind
- Cube ice

Shake until the shaker sweats. Serve in a rock glass. Add orange rind for garnish. Drink immediately as flavors will separate within a few minutes.





ABOVE: Coffee beans, calamansi, peppers, muscovado sugar and ginger, local ingredients for a cocktail spread. Recipes on page 125.

Quest for new ingredients

Matthias is a gifted mixologist on the forefront of the evolution of the cocktail lifestyle in France, which involves a continuous quest for new ingredients. This perpetual search has him experimenting in the creation of his own flavored waters and syrups, a process that requires courage, patience and highly advanced taste buds.

For the amateur host, he gives this positive advice: “When preparing drinks at home, do not be afraid of using local ingredients instead of imported, fancy sounding mixers because if you do not know its flavor well enough, your drinks will reflect that.”

Matthias’ first foray into Asia serves as an example, as he is intrigued by the unique flavors of the local *calamansi*. He shares, “Cocktails are inspired by different things, it can be a song, a good book, a new alcohol or a visit to a new country. A great cocktail will often reflect the ambiance of the season or even my mood.”

For **Metro Home** he creates a special cocktail in a few minutes and names it “Venus Sour.” His laidback demeanor and swift handiwork may seem too complicated for the untrained individual to fathom, but these make him the perfect barman, one who is obviously very good at what he does and is happy about it. 🍹

Tips On Starting Your Own Home Bar

- 1. Stock up on alcohol.** As a non-pro mixologist, you don't have to empty the liquor store. Two or three high craft, well balanced spirits will suffice.
- 2. Store the liquor in a cool place away from direct sunlight so it will keep for a long time.** Once opened though, the flavors will leach out if kept too long.
- 3. Invest in these basic equipment:**
  - Ice bag
  - Bar spoon
  - Muddler
  - Jigger
  - Cocktail shaker
  - Strainer
  - Ice cube traysThese are readily available in the kitchen equipment section of your favorite mall, and do not cost an arm and a leg. There is enough instructional information on the Internet on how to use them.
- 4. Invest in glasses.** They do not have to be specific for the alcohol but do make the effort to use different glasses for the water and for the wine.
- 5. Get mixers.** For amateurs, stick to these basics:
  - Cointreau for a full natural orange flavor that is not too sweet.
  - Red Vermouth for Manhattans.
  - White Vermouth for martinis.
  - Bitters blend flavors, not to make your drink taste bitter.
- 6. Get ice.** Cube ice melts slower than tube or cracked ice, therefore it cools the cocktail without watering down the flavors. Look for ice made from purified or mineral water. When preparing for your party, a safe calculation is 1 pound of ice per guest.
- 7. Enjoy the experience.** As an amateur, don't get pressured; your guests will not expect expert cocktails. The Internet is full of basic recipes to get you started (or see page 125 for Cadeac d'Arbaud's recipes using Don Papa Rum). Once you have mastered those, you may work your way up to more complicated mixes.

THE COCKTAILS



BLACK SAND

“Inspired by the colors, sounds, textures and, of course, the wonderful atmosphere of Zambales. Black sand beaches by the sea, and rich green dense mountain forests. It's an homage to the Philippines with a French touch,” says Cadeac d'Arbaud.

- How to make it:**
- 1 part Don Papa Rum
  - 2 parts pineapple juice
  - 1 part calamansi juice

Shake until the shaker sweats. Serve in a rock glass. Add crushed coffee beans and green pepper for garnish.



THE DON PAPA JULEP

“This goes right back to the origins of the word julep, which comes from the Farsi word *galep*. In Persian, they use *galep* to mean ‘as easy to drink as orange blossom water’s. This variation on the classic Mint Julep is a fabulously refreshing drink and a wonderful expression of Don Papa’s versatility.” -MCDa

- How to make it:**
- 5 cl Don Papa Rum
  - 2 cl calamansi juice
  - 2 cl liquid brown sugar
  - 1 bunch mint leaves, including the stalks
  - 2 lime leaves

Crush the mixture with a pestle in a shaker then shake until the shaker sweats. Filter and serve in a long glass full of ice. Garnish with a sprig of mint and add 2 drops of Thai bitters.



THE DESTROYER

“The Destroyer is intense. It was inspired by an early 20<sup>th</sup> century drink rumored to be made from rum and passion fruit. This is a modern take on this long lost classic.” -MCDa

- How to make it:**
- 5 cl Don Papa Rum
  - 1 cl Amaretto di Saronno
  - 1 dash calamansi juice
  - 1 dash apricot brandy
  - Half a passion fruit

Shake until the shaker sweats. Serve in martini glass. Add a star fruit for garnish.



DON PAPA OLD FASHIONED

“The Old Fashioned is an all time classic cocktail, served in the best bars for over a century. This Don Papa-based Old Fashioned is designed to highlight Don Papa’s magnificence.” -MCDa

- How to make it:**
- 5 cl Don Papa Rum
  - 1 cl liquid brown sugar
  - 1 drop maraschino
  - 2 drops hopped grape fruit bitters
  - 1 drop orange bitters
  - 2 slices of orange rind
  - Ice

Take a rock glass, cover the bottom with 1 cl liquid brown sugar. Add 1 drop of maraschino, 2 drops of hopped grape fruit bitters, 1 drop of orange bitters and 5 cl Don Papa. Add 2 slices of orange rind, and slowly add ice to rim while stirring all the time. Serve.



# The Hostess Gift



FÊTE YOUR HOSTESS  
WITH SMALL TOKENS  
OF APPRECIATION

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ARLENE SY

**CAT:** Have you decided on a hostess gift for Mrs. Perfect?

**MISS DE MEANOUR:** There's no rule that we have to bring hostess gifts, right?

**CAT:** It's not written in the Constitution, but it's a kind and gracious gesture. After all, it isn't easy to host a dinner! You have to do the guest list, menu, place cards, the works.

**MISS DE MEANOUR:** But I can't stand the idea of showing up with a bottle of wine, or a bouquet of flowers. It's such a cliché!

**CAT:** Those days are over, there are so many options now. Besides, bringing wine and flowers can make the hostess feel obliged to use the flowers as her centerpiece, or serve the wine, and you really mustn't add to the stress of the hostess. We could send

the presents the day before, so it would be up to Mrs. Perfect if she wants to use the flowers or serve the wine.

**MISS DE MEANOUR:** I suppose dessert is also out of the question. Though we could always send it the day after. That's perfectly acceptable, so Mrs. Perfect would have a treat all to herself after all her planning.

**CAT:** Yes, a private indulgence to wind down the next day. Any more bright ideas?

**MISS DE MEANOUR:** She clearly enjoys having people over. Maybe a book on parties, petit four plates, monogrammed napkins, candles or a set of personalized invites?

**CAT:** Yes, personalized items make a lovely gesture. By the way, have you decided on what you're going to wear to dinner?



## Gentle Reminders

- If you're not familiar with your hostess' taste, find a mutual friend who can advise you on your hostess' preference.
- If you are the hostess, do not display the presents brought by guests, so as not to embarrass those who did not bring any present.
- Send your gift a day before or after the said occasion. This way, your hostess won't feel obliged to display your gift, and prevent any awkwardness if some guests have not brought presents.
- If you are the hostess receiving the gift, there is no need to write thank-you notes for your hostess gifts. The verbal acknowledgment at point of acceptance is adequate. No need to prolong the cycle of gratitude, as the hostess gift is already a thank-you for the kindness of having friends over to your home.
- Write a note to accompany your gift, expressing appreciation of your hostess' graciousness.



### Elements

ac+632, 2/F, Greenbelt 5, Legaspi St., Ayala Center, Makati City. Tel. 758-2564, Fax: 758-2597. Email: [ac632@pldtdsl.net](mailto:ac632@pldtdsl.net); **Sifra Interiors & Objects**, 3/F Greenbelt 5, 3/F Home Zone Glorietta 4, 2/F LRI Design Plaza, N. Garcia (Reposo) Bel-Air 2, Makati City. Tel. 501-3220 / 752-7174. Email: [Sifra.Interiors@yahoo.com](mailto:Sifra.Interiors@yahoo.com), [conradadamos@yahoo.com](mailto:conradadamos@yahoo.com); **KISH**, 233 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air, Makati City. Tel. 896-8366, Fax: 896-8367. Email: [info@kish.ph](mailto:info@kish.ph); **Maison 68**, 321 San Nicolas St., Manila. Tel. 242-4172. Showroom: 2/F FMCB Center, 68 Jupiter St., Bel Air, Makati City. Tel. 403-6868,

Fax: 403-6869. Website: [www.maison68inc.com](http://www.maison68inc.com); **Dimensione**, Unit 901 Quadrant 5 Block 6 Bonifacio Global City High Street, Taguig. Tel. 856-6756, Fax: 856-6755. Website: [www.dimensione.com.ph](http://www.dimensione.com.ph); **Nest**, 40 Jupiter St., Bel-Air 3, Makati City. Tel. 818-8811/403-3062; **Pietro Collection**, La Fuerza Compound, 2241 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Tel. 310-5164; **Firma**, Ground floor Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. Tel. 757-4009; **Hives by Restoration**, 3/F Greenbelt 5, Legaspi St., Ayala Center, Makati. Tel. 729-8717; **Roche Bobois**, 2100 Don Chino Roces Avenue Extension,

Makati City. Tel. 519-8240. Email: [manila@roche-bobois.com](mailto:manila@roche-bobois.com); **BoConcept**, Ground Floor Mos Design Building Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City Center, Bonifacio Global City. Tel. 856-2748 Ext. 1, Fax 856-2745. Website: [www.boconcept.com](http://www.boconcept.com); **Rustan's**, Shangrila-la Plaza Mall, EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Tel. 633-4636; **MOs Design**, B2 Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Fort Taguig. Tel. 856-2748. Website: [www.mosdesign.com.ph](http://www.mosdesign.com.ph); **Natuzzi**, 2/F MOs Design Building, Bonifacio Highstreet, Global City, Taguig. Tel. 856-2748 ext. 3, Fax: 856-7915; **Grassroots**,

3/F Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati. Tel. 501-3980. Website: [www.shopgrassroots.com](http://www.shopgrassroots.com); **Wall Crown**, Lot 7 Greenview Compound, 295 B. Serrano Avenue Quezon City, Philippines, Unit CS 242 MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio 32nd St. cor. Bonifacio Blvd., Global City, Taguig City. Tel. 725-5088/412-2707. Fax: 414-5254. Email: [sales@wallcrownphilippines.com](mailto:sales@wallcrownphilippines.com); **Art Informal**, 227 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City. Tel. 725-8515; **Elements Fine Furnishing Fabrics**, 901, 9F DPC Place Building 2322 Chino Roces Ave. Makati, Metro Manila. Tel. 889-8873.



# Inspirations from the past

JC BUENDIA LOOKS BACK FOR NOVEL IDEAS AND ENDURING IDEALS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HAROLD TAPAN, COURTESY OF STARSTUDIO



Fashion designer JC Buendia in his New York-inspired condo unit; a watercolor portrait of his mother, done by one of Fernando Amorsolo's apprentices, sits atop his entertainment console.



His creation showcased at a recent bridal fair; JC's Poppins resto that offers Cajun-Creole cuisine



**FOR SOMEONE WHO LIVES** and thrives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, JC Buendia is an anachronism. He takes inspiration from old movies, Art Deco and the Edwardian era. Does this label him a romantic? Yes—and no, because this modern persona is very much a design of his times—forward looking and open to innovation.

**WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT INSPIRATION (SOMETHING THAT HAS A PARTICULARLY STRONG INFLUENCE ON YOU AT THE MOMENT)?** I'm currently inspired by the Art Deco era.

**WHO OR WHAT WAS THE DESIGN INFLUENCE OF YOUR CHILDHOOD?** Movies, particularly movies set at the turn of the century, the Edwardian era.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST COMMONLY REPEATED DESIGN MISTAKE?** Too much of everything!

**IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY PART OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF METRO MANILA, WHAT WOULD IT BE?** I'd remove those horrible lamp posts; there's a different design for every

*barangay*, I think. Let's go for simple and functional.

**WHAT IS YOUR DESIGN INDULGENCE?** Books and travels.

**WHAT, FOR YOU, WOULD REPRESENT AN IDEALLY DESIGNED SPACE?** An ideally designed space for me is one that doesn't tamper much with nature, one that considers the flow of air, the view of trees, the sunrise.

**WHAT IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED BUT IS ACTUALLY A FINE DESIGN?** I think we have

overlooked furniture from the recent past. We place high value on period pieces, but I feel there's a certain charm and nostalgia that go with designs from the '60s and the '70s, even the houses built at that time.

**APART FROM HIRING AN INTERIOR DESIGNER, WHAT PIECE OF ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE HOMEOWNERS DISSATISFIED WITH THEIR CURRENT SPACE? HOW CAN THEY REIMAGINE IT?** Go to a bookstore and buy a book or magazine; there's one for every need. It will open you up to new ideas. ①