

METRO

VOL. 11 NO. 4

home

& Entertaining

**COLOR
YOUR
WORLD**

DISCOVER
A MULTITUDE
OF COMBINATIONS,
SCHEMES AND
THEMES FOR
YOUR HOME

**CHOOSE
AND USE
COLOR TO
CHANGE
A SPACE**

100+
TIPS, IDEAS,
AND PRACTICAL
SOLUTIONS FOR
DECORATING
A SMALL SPACE

30+ PAGES
OF AWESOME
APARTMENTS

ALVEO
LAND'S
PORTICO



Megaworld builds 'ultra high-end' McKINLEY WEST beside Forbes Park

Real estate giant to spend P45-billion to create an upscale community inspired by modern luxury Europe

Catering to Metro Manila's upscale market, property giant Megaworld is developing McKinley West, an "ultra high-end" township on a 34.5-hectare former JUSMAG property in Fort Bonifacio which is directly beside Forbes Park and Manila Polo Club.

The company is spending P45-billion in the next 10 years to build McKinley West which gained popularity among Manila's elite following its record sell out of 285 lots in its exclusive, upscale McKinley West Village in less than a month in 2010. The village borders part of South Forbes Park and Manila Polo Club.

Since then, prices of the village lots have appreciated to as much as 110 percent due to its strategic location.

"It has been four years since we sold out McKinley West Village, yet up to now, we are still receiving inquiries," reveals

Noli D. Hernandez, senior vice president, Megaworld.

Aside from the residential village, McKinley West will have rows of luxury residential estates with some properties having their own swimming pools, state-of-the-art security features and first-of-its-kind luxury amenities. Megaworld is commissioning UK-based global architectural firm Broadway Malyan to design these luxury estates which will be launched very soon.

It will also have its own business park offering modern office towers as well as commercial and retail buildings. Construction of the business park will start next year.

"McKinley West's masterplan highlights a luxurious blend of a modern business district and posh residential enclaves. We will live up to the lifestyle that the neighboring Forbes Park also

offers," Hernandez explains.

With the development of McKinley West, Lawton Avenue, the main road fronting the township, will be expanded to six to eight lanes, through the efforts of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA). The township will also have direct access to McKinley Hill, another Megaworld development.

"With the expansion of Lawton Avenue, we look forward to a more convenient access to Bonifacio Global City, South Luzon Expressway, C5 Road, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and McKinley Road towards Makati CBD. McKinley West's unparalleled location and accessibility to Metro Manila's major CBDs make it the most ideal mixed-use community today," adds Hernandez.

Megaworld has pioneered the "LIVE-WORK-PLAY-LEARN" lifestyle concept for mixed-use communities in the Philip-

MCKINLEY WEST AT A GLANCE

- 34.5-hectare property beside Forbes Park and the Manila Polo Club
- P45-billion township in Fort Bonifacio
- Close access to Ninoy Aquino International Airport, SLEX, C5 Road, Makati Central Business District and Bonifacio Global City
- Has a 12-hectare posh village (sold out in 2010 in less than a week)
- Home to luxury residential estates designed by world-renowned architectural firm Broadway Malyan
- Has its own business park with modern office buildings, commercial and retail centers



ppines, which are popularly known as "townships."

Apart from McKinley West, the company has nine other townships all throughout the country covering around 300 hectares of land. This includes the 18.5-hectare Eastwood City, which is considered to be the country's first cyberpark; the 50-hectare McKinley Hill in Fort Bonifacio; the 25-hectare Newport City in Pasay City; the 5-hectare Forbes Town Center in Bonifacio Global City; the 28.8-hectare The Mactan Newtown in Lapu-Lapu, Cebu; the 15.4-hectare Uptown Bonifacio in Bonifacio Global City; the 12.3-hectare Woodside City in Pasig City; the 11-hectare Davao Park District in Davao City; and the 72-hectare Iloilo Business Park in Iloilo City.

Over the past 25 years, the Megaworld Group has emerged as the country's No. 1 real estate organization. It has completed more than 320 residential and office buildings with a total area of around 5.6 million square meters. Currently, about 185 residential, office and hotel buildings with a total area of around 5.4 million square meters are under development.

To know more about the posh lifestyle it offers in McKinley West, call 0917-8878696 / 815-1888 or email at mckinleywest@megaworldcorp.com. Please visit the website at www.megaworldatthefort.com.



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Where Old Meets New

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
WILLIAM ONG

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58 True Colors

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A Color Story



PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMON ALEX SANDOR

THE EASIEST AND QUICKEST WAY to change a room is to paint or paper it a different color. Creating this issue devoted to color has a particular resonance for me, and it was a great way to explore one of my favorite aspects of the design process. I often feel like a crusader when it comes to celebrating the merits of color. Many people are still afraid of color and stick to a neutral scheme.

Early in my career, noted fashion designer Rajo Laurel asked me to design his first apartment. I did that apartment in red, which was quite a bold move at that time. I painted all the walls and even the ceiling in a deep red, which made one of Rajo's friends remark that it was like stepping inside a velvet-lined treasure chest. That apartment was featured on the cover of a design magazine, and many people were shocked that we used such a bold color in a small space. But to this day, I firmly believe that walls and ceilings painted in the same color create the illusion and feeling of space. As the demarcations are enveloped in the same color, the space becomes seamless. When your eye cannot detect where the walls end or begin, there is a perception of an endless vista. I continue to use this manner of expanding a space to this day. My own bedroom is painted all black, and it is extremely restful.

Don't get me wrong. I still love neutrals, but I tend to choose the deeper, darker end of the earthy palette. Once, I did an entire apartment in caramel and the effect was very warm and inviting. And I also believe that an accent wall is great for introducing pops of color. Another one of my favorite rooms was painted sage and we broke it up with black trim. The serenity of the green and the graphic impact of the black were an unforgettable combination.

There are many, many ways to integrate color into a decor. Moldings and cornices will look even more interesting when done in contrast to the walls, emphasizing their architectural presence. Fabrics, books, tabletop accessories can all bring unlimited hues into the home.

Serendipitously, on one of our shoots, a book on a coffee table was left open on a page that read: "A pop of color has the power to punctuate an otherwise ordinary setting and can make a far grander gesture than an overstated splash." Color is not only a visual treat, it is also a way to assert one's personality in an interior. Let your color choices be one of the great joys of your creative journey.

anton

ERRATUM: Metro Home & Entertaining regrets that the painting on p. 63 of Vol. 11 No. 2 was wrongly attributed to Francesca Enriquez. The artwork, *Blue Nude 1989*, is by Stella Rojas. Her works can be viewed at www.stellarojaspeintre.com.



jar



hannah



aped



patty



anna

Jar Concengco

For his first contribution to **Metro Home & Entertaining**, Jar shot a part of the studio of Takatak Project's Mary Velmonte (p.32). The creativity and resourcefulness of his subject really amazed him. "Her papier mâché artworks are beautiful," he says. Currently, Jar and his wife are building their own home with built-in sustainable features (like a rain harvesting system and solar panels). He shares, "It's really an interesting process from the ground up."

Hannah Cepe

Hannah is a self-taught scribble artist with a passion to create art. She is a student of Advertising and Public Relations at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Her media vary from charcoal, pen, and colored pencils to watercolor and even coffee—tools that help express herself through art. Her pieces were sold out on her first group exhibit held at Whitespace in Makati City last May 2014. Hannah's other passions include taking photographs, designing t-shirts, and doing stage designs. She illustrated the canvas pillows on p.33 expressly for the feature.

Aped Santos

Aped is a production designer and art director, who is known for movies *Baler* (2008), *Ang Sayaw ng Dalawang Kaliwang Paa* (2011), *Sta. Niña* (2012), and his latest project, *Mariquina*. In this issue of **Metro Home & Entertaining**, he worked with filmmaker Milo Sogueco in creating an interesting wall treatment in *Cool, Collected Blue* (p.33).

Patty Tumang

Since being awarded an Arts Writers Grant from the Creative Capital | Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers in 2012, Patty has been traveling across the Philippines to conduct research and write about Philippine contemporary art. Before moving to Manila in 2009, she resided in Oakland, California, where she earned an MFA in English and Creative Writing from Mills College in 2006. For this issue, she writes about botanical artist Emmanuel "Noel" L. Cordova (p.38).

Anna Angara

Anna is an interior designer who has worked on both residential and commercial projects. She earned degrees in Art History, Museum Studies and Architectural Interior Design over a seven-year period in London, England. She once worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila while struggling to meet her *Philippine Star* weekly column deadlines. Age and experience have taught her to be better at her craft as her first contribution to **Metro Home & Entertaining** ("Pipe Dreams," p.23) proves.

Fabled Décor

LET CHARACTER SHOW THROUGH FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES

BY BARBARA PARDO-TIANGCO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES



GENERIC FURNITURE is a thing of the past. These days, we all appreciate furniture and décor that have a story to them. That doesn't necessarily mean scouring town for hand-me-downs or antiques (although doing so can yield some great treasures!). Looking for interesting and charming conversation items are easier these days than in previous years.

TOP: Louis Polsen Lamps circa 1958, P45,000 each, Kish. BOTTOM FROM LEFT: Hammered Brass Champagne Bucket, P18,000. Olive tree, P9,500. Handmade wool stool, P9,500. Side Dresser by Helge Brandt circa 1962, P35,000. All from Kish. ON THE DRESSER: (From Left) Nickel plated cup, P15,500, Kish. Skull with horn on black stand, P5,200, AC+632. Succulent in concrete pot, P1,500 each, Kish. Mirror, price upon request, Kish. Silver birds, P2,495 each, Sifra. Shot on location at Kish.

FROM TOP: Regent chair, P11,000, Kish. Couple iceberg décor, P12,500, Kish. Weave basket, P1,395, Sifra. No. 3 throw pillow, P1,495, Sifra. Amazing Things pillow, P695, Bleach. IN PHOTO: Fornasetti Acuario wallpaper, price upon request, Studio 11. FROM LEFT: Cincinnati bureau, P49,000, Kish. Florence C sofa, P85,000, Kish. Winning rectangular pillow, P995. Jungle camo pillow, P695. Both from Bleach. (On the bureau) Maine antique nickel lamp base, P15,000, Kish. Dog bookend, P5,800 per set, AC+632. Succulent in ceramic pot, P5,500, Kish. Two halves glass bottle, P10,500, Kish. Porcelain skull, P4,900, AC+632. Silver horse, P3,895, Sifra.



FROM TOP: Sun dial, P5,500 (large), Kish. Moss pillows, P695 (17x17) and P995 (23x23), Bleach. Ceramic high bowl with wood pattern, P28,000, Kish. Hermle Danish Mantle Clock circa 1930, P35,000, Kish. IN PHOTO: (From Top) Crown with cross, P5,500, Kish. Succulent, P1,500, Kish. Skull with horn on German wood, P6,480, AC+632. Placemat, P995, Bleach. Angel feather pen, P1,240 (each), AC+632. Monsieur Clave portrait paperweight, P2,480. Scent bag with dog print, P200. Savon de Marseille palm soap, P280 (small). All from AC+632. Small box twist crown deco, P1,500, Kish.

Bright Breakthroughs

AN IDEAL WAY TO RELAX

The feeling of weightlessness when bathing encourages mental relaxation as effectively as autogenic training and, depending on the water temperature, has very different effects. Warm baths support the metabolism and fat-burning processes. Cold baths stimulate circulation, metabolism, and nervous system. Hot baths reduce inflammations, stiffness, pain in general and rheumatic complaints. They also increase the blood circulation to the skin.

Villeroy & Boch has a great selection of forms and designs to offer. Almost all the models are ideally suited for installation of Villeroy & Boch whirlpool systems. One of the special and unique features of their bathtubs is the use of Quaryl, which combines the best properties of natural quartz with the versatility of high-quality acrylic resin. It gives the Villeroy & Boch designers creative freedom, as it can be molded to create precise designs and, at the same time, provides durability and good thermal insulation.

Now exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Focus Palantir Inc., a subsidiary of Focus Global Incorporated.

Villeroy and Boch bathroom sanitaryware is showcased in the Focus Global showroom at Pioneer, corner Reliance Streets, Mandaluyong City. For more inquiries, call (02) 6348587. www.villeroy-boch.com



LUXURIOUS FIXTURES

Delta Faucet Company Asia Pacific General Manager David Naber revealed that the Philippines is their largest market in Southeast Asia. He explains, “With the growing middle class in the Philippines, people are starting to value quality products, durable goods, and luxury items.” Proof of the growing trend is the tapping, if you will, of fashion designer Jason Wu for their distinctive Brizo line. While luxury is defined in the aesthetically-pleasing designs, Naber points out that their brands incorporate cost-saving and environmentally friendly technology in their products. “Our H2O kinetic technology that enlarges water droplets and sprays them out in a unique pattern provides the user with a warmer, more drenching shower with 30% less water consumption. We also provide water-saving solutions through technology, like automatic shut-off, that come in handy when you forget that you left the tap on.” As for the choice of the fixtures, Naber says that Asians are reaching for a more contemporary, modern look. While chrome finishes are still quite popular, he sees more people choosing alternative finishes such as matte black, brilliant brass and Venetian bronze. — *Maan D’Asis Pamaran*



AN UPLIFTING LIVING EXPERIENCE

Alveo Land unveils another groundbreaking milestone that underscores its continuous commitment to innovation with LIFESCAPES by Alveo (Circuit Makati). Launched as an innovative concept that showcases modern contemporary design and an interactive showroom experience, the 3-storey structure features Alveo Land’s latest landmark project in Makati’s Lifestyle Playground, Solstice. The ribbon-cutting ceremony and showroom blessing was attended by representatives from Ayala Land, Inc.’s Strategic Landbank and Management Group, Alveo Land Corp.’s Management Committee and board members of the Philippine Racing Club, Inc. (PRCI). With LIFESCAPES by Alveo (Circuit Makati), plug into Circuit Makati’s multi-faceted “funertainment” lifestyle and envision awesome living at high-energy Solstice. *LIFESCAPES by Alveo (Circuit Makati) is located at Riverfront Drive, Circuit Makati, Carmona, Makati City. Showroom is open daily from 10AM–9PM*

SAY YES TO SAN JOSE

Renowned Filipino property developer New San Jose builders, Inc. (NSJBI) recently launched “Say YES to San Jose!,” a campaign to reach more Filipinos who dream of having their own homes. The Victoria projects can be found in key centers of the metro: Victoria Towers in Panay Avenue and Timog Avenue in Quezon City; Victoria Tower D, Victoria Station 1 and Victoria Station 2 linked to the MRT on EDSA and Timog Ave. in Quezon City; Victoria de Manila 1 and Victoria de Manila 2 in Taft Avenue, Manila; Victoria de Makati near Ayala Avenue; Victoria de Morato in Quezon City; Fort Victoria in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig; and Isabelle de Valenzuela. *For more information, visit the New San Jose Builders, Inc. website: www.newsanjosbuilders.com.ph or like NSJBI’s Fan Page: www.facebook.com/newsanjosofficial*



'THIS IS THE LIFE'

Always on the lookout for new ways of presenting classic themes, Heima sought to capture the spirit of summer in its latest collection entitled "This is the Life." Two signature designs were developed, namely, the Parasol and the SSS (Sun, Sea and Sky). The former is a representation of beach parasols or cocktail umbrellas while the latter is a geometric illustration of the sun, sea and sky. Both designs reflect the feeling of living 'the' life of leisure, relaxation and, above all, pure bliss. With this look, your home becomes your own resort, where summer never ends.



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A NEW TREND BEYOND COLORS

Nippon Paint (Coatings) Philippines will deploy its Nippon Colour Creations tinting machines to be housed in paint centers and modern trade outlets throughout the Philippines. Touted as "mini Nippon Paint factories," these machines are able to produce thousands of colors on demand, making it convenient for Filipinos to find their choice of color. The company is also bringing in its Nippon Momento Special Effects, a textured range of coatings created to give homeowners more options to wall decoration beyond just color. Offering the added sensorial dimension of touch, walls now sparkle to life with a variety of effects like gold, silver and even a pearlescent shine.

To know more about Nippon Paint and its line of coating solutions, visit www.nipponpaint.ph



THE LUXURY OF SPACE

Nestled in the tree-shaded neighborhoods of New Manila in Quezon City, the Sky Villas tower was designed by renowned architect Roger Villarosa, as well as the men and women of RJN Architecture & Interior Design, and CPG Corporation Pte. Ltd. Singapore. "If you are newlyweds, you will eventually see your family grow in just a couple of years, and the only way you will live comfortably is to find a condominium unit offering a size that allows you to do just that," says Architect Villarosa, putting emphasis on the unparalleled luxury of space among Sky Villas. The 31-storey Sky Villas tower will offer 112 premium cuts—205 sq.m. at the minimum—with only four units per floor for the entire building. Each unit has a floor-to-ceiling height of up to 3.1 meters, full-height windows per room, and light wells in the living and third bedroom. Keeping to its mantra of spacious living, the kitchen also has a separate service area and a large maid's room with its own bathroom.

For more information, visit www.philrealty.com.ph and www.skyvillas.com.ph.



INTEGRATED REFRIGERATION

Sub-Zero, the industry leader in premium refrigeration and wine storage, recently launched its groundbreaking line of Integrated Refrigeration. New to the integrated refrigeration line is Sub-Zero's unique air purification system that scrubs the air of elements that can cause food to spoil, such as mold, bacteria, viruses and ethylene gas. Its microprocessor maintains your desired temperature within 1° increment of the selected setting, and it even analyzes your usage pattern to determine the optimum defrost cycle needed.

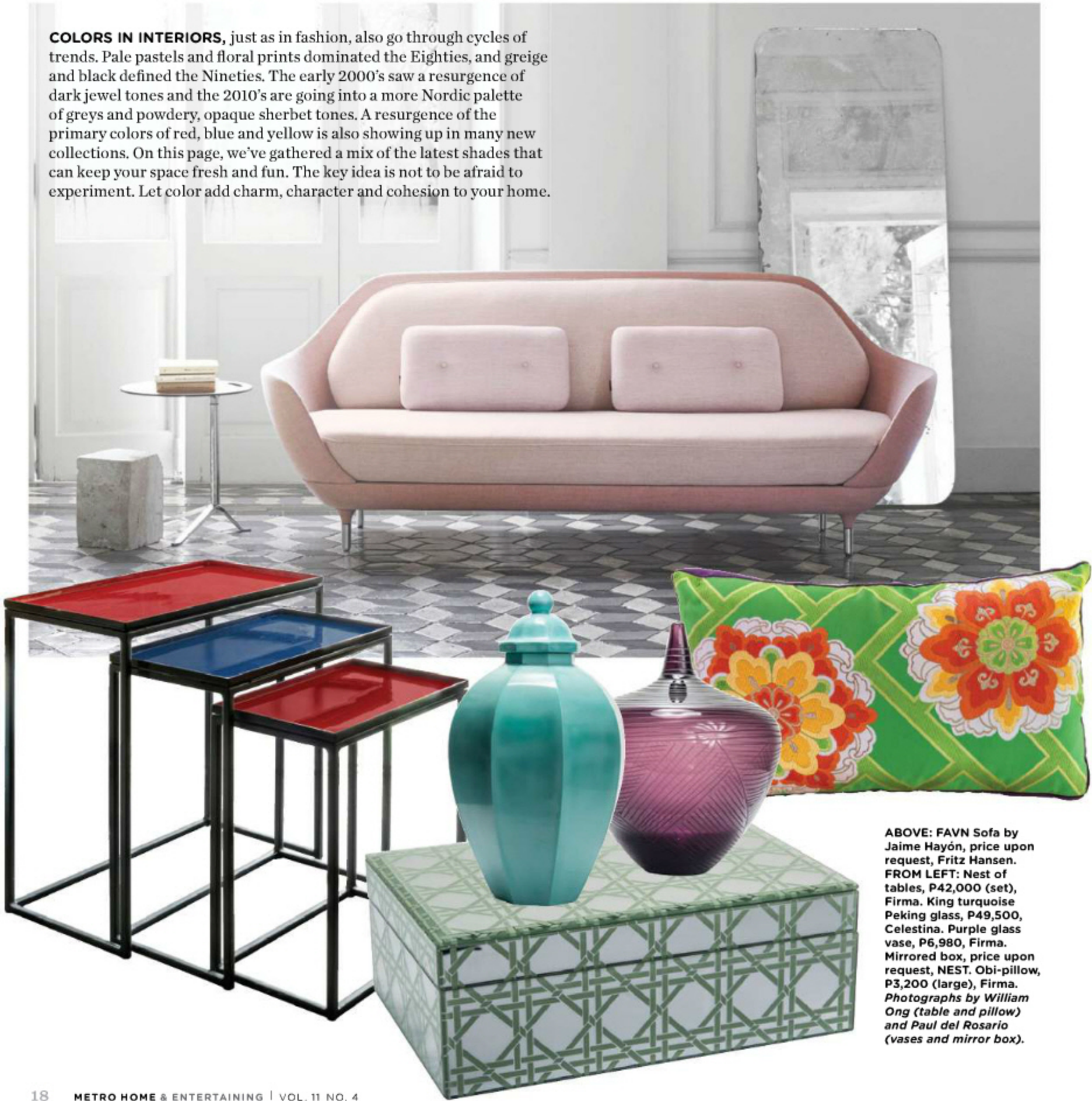
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Palettes with Pow

THE EASIEST AND MOST FUN WAY TO UPDATE A SPACE IS WITH THE SEASON'S LATEST COLORS

BY ANTON BARRETTO

COLORS IN INTERIORS, just as in fashion, also go through cycles of trends. Pale pastels and floral prints dominated the Eighties, and greige and black defined the Nineties. The early 2000's saw a resurgence of dark jewel tones and the 2010's are going into a more Nordic palette of greys and powdery, opaque sherbet tones. A resurgence of the primary colors of red, blue and yellow is also showing up in many new collections. On this page, we've gathered a mix of the latest shades that can keep your space fresh and fun. The key idea is not to be afraid to experiment. Let color add charm, character and cohesion to your home.



ABOVE: FAVN Sofa by Jaime Hayón, price upon request, Fritz Hansen. FROM LEFT: Nest of tables, P42,000 (set), Firma. King turquoise Peking glass, P49,500, Celestina. Purple glass vase, P6,980, Firma. Mirrored box, price upon request, NEST. Obi-pillow, P3,200 (large), Firma. Photographs by William Ong (table and pillow) and Paul del Rosario (vases and mirror box).

Beyond Basic

CAST A COOL GLOW ON YOUR SPACE WITH THESE DYNAMIC ILLUMINATED FINDS

BY MARISSA LOPA



FROM LEFT: Paranoid N°2 by Swann Bourotte, Ligne Roset. EU/UK Facet Pendant lamp, BoConcept. Raimond lamp by Raimond Puts, Moooi. Astra floor lamp, Natuzzi. All prices available upon request. Ligne Roset, BoConcept and Natuzzi lamps, Photographs by William Ong.

COUNTER-CLOCKWISE: Minimal table lamp designed by Archivio Storico, FURNitalia. Mila rectangular table lamp, Ethan Allen. Construction floor lamp, Abitare. All prices available upon request.

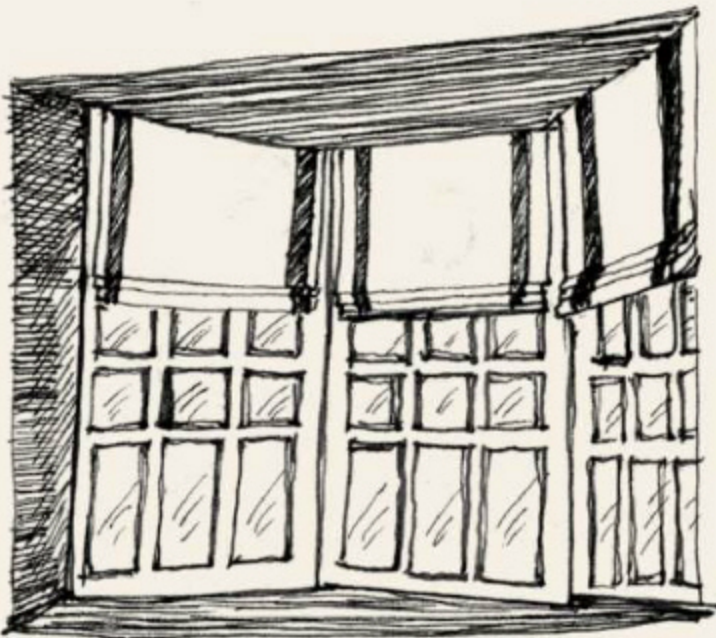
The Window Treatment

IT'S ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO GIVE A ROOM A NEW LOOK

BY MARISSA LOPA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANNA M. ROSETE

TO HELP YOU ALONG, here's a brief definition of some of the more commonly used types.

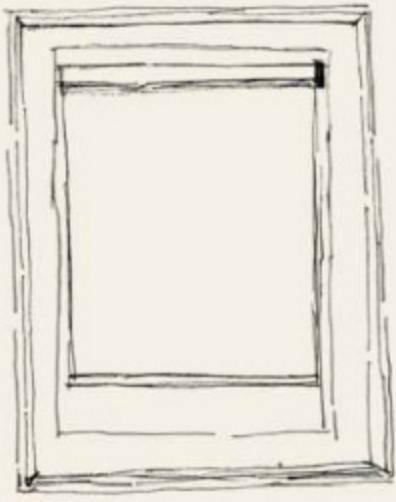
Curtains are unlined, as opposed to draperies, and are usually fixed or unmoving and hung over a rod or decorative pole. Materials for curtains are usually lightweight and sometimes sheer. Draperies pertain to the heavier material window treatments that may be drawn closed or open. Today, the term "curtain" is used as a general term to refer to both kinds of window treatments made of fabric.



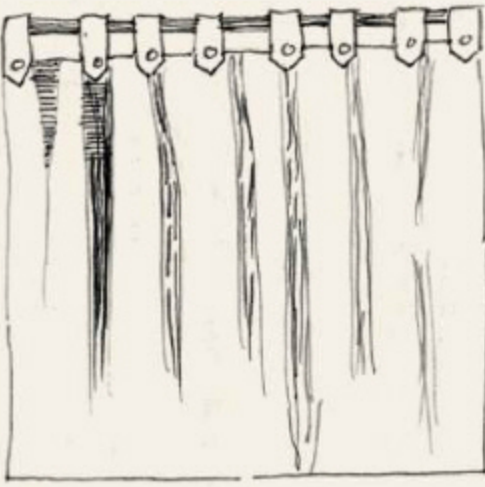
ROMAN SHADES are fabric shades that pull up into pleats at the top of your window and when pulled down, create a flat, tailored look. The panels are fitted with rings on the outer edges with a cord to draw them up or down. They may be used alone or framed by another set of fixed panels of curtain.



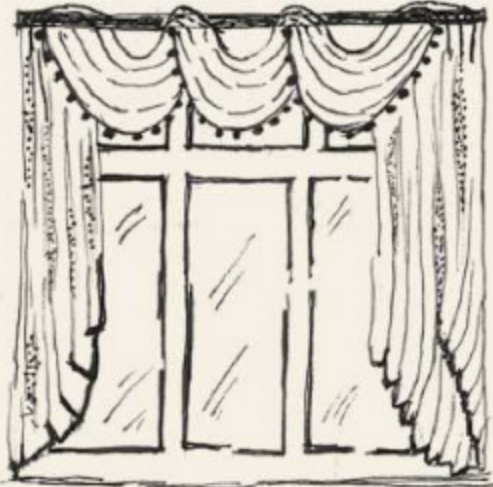
GROMMET TOP CURTAINS have rings made of metal, rubber or plastic rings—called "grommets"—to reinforce rod holes at the top of the curtains. Plain or decorative rods are run through them to hang the curtain up. This grommet style may be used as fixed panels to frame a window or doors or may also be drawn.



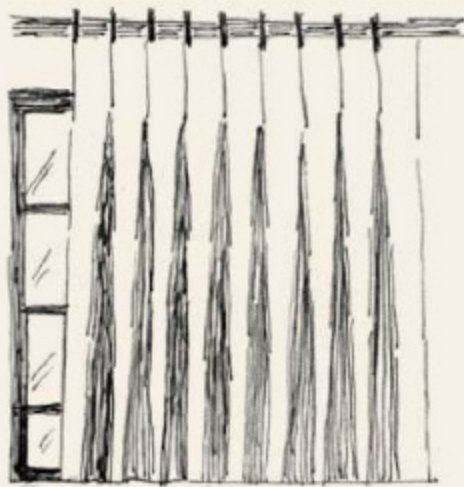
ROLLER SHADES are made up of fabric, vinyl or plastic that roll up into a spring-loaded cylinder. This type is often used in offices or condominiums for a clean-cut look. To soften this look, a fixed valance may be added at the top or fixed fabric curtains on both sides.



TIE TOP CURTAINS or draperies create a homespun, country look. To hold the panels up, ribbons or fabric tapes are sewn at the top where the rod goes through.



SWAG is a soft, semi curved half circle positioned at the center of the top of the window from one end to the other, with extra fabric left to hang down on either side. This is usually used as a decorative window treatment for a more formal or romantic style.



REVERSE OR INVERTED PLEATS are quite suited for modern or contemporary designed rooms. The flat front hides the pleats and allows the fabric to fall gracefully in folds to the floor. A traverse rod is used if this type of drapery is required to draw open or close. If one prefers to keep the light out completely, then black out lining is used.

Designing Stories

HISTORY AND DESIGN COME HAND IN HAND FOR INTERIOR DESIGNER JIGS ADEFUIN

BY ANZENNE ROBLE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAULO VALENZUELA



ABOVE: Sketches and mood boards by Jigs Adefuin. LEFT: Interior designer Jigs Adefuin in his design firm at LRI Design Plaza in Makati. OPPOSITE PAGE: (Top) The Adefuin Design Studio space. (Bottom) An entertainment room in Jigs's One Roxas Triangle project.

WHEN DESIGNERS ARE ASKED what their design advocacy is, they usually tell of two things: promoting sustainability through green interiors or championing the use of local materials. But when **Metro Home & Entertaining** asked interior designer Jigs Ranada Adefuin about his advocacy, he paused for a while, and jokingly says, "Meron ba?" A graduate of Interior Design from the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID), Jigs channeled his penchant for history through his design and projects. "I'm always inspired by history. I make sure I go back to the history of arts and architecture. And I always incorporate that whether my designs are contemporary or modern or traditional," he says. As a creative person, he strongly believes that every design has to have a foundation, and what better way to build that than by revisiting the basic aesthetic principles, to create something new and fresh.

His story

Jigs knew, ever since he was a kid, that he wanted to become an interior designer. "When I started taking up Interior Design class *sa* PSID, *sabi ko*, I've been doing this planning since I was 6 or 7 years old. *Nagdo-draw*

na ako, kasi I've been arranging my room and 'yung living room *namin sa* Angeles City," he shares. But prior to enrolling in the design school, he tried to go the opposite path by taking up BS Biology. This move seemed unexpected, especially for a person who already knew what he wanted ever since he was young. But coming from a family with a medical background (his sister is a nurse), it's not surprising at all. "After completing my 2nd year, *sabi ko*, 'Ay, I'm not enjoying this course.' So might as well go to in-

terior design *na*," recounts Jigs. And then everything fell into place. After completing his course in 1995 (Ranking 10th in the Philippine Interior Design Board Examination!), Jigs got to work in Nardy Aquino Interior Design Studio where he trained and gained experience for five years. That was also the time he developed his skills in creating and presenting floor plans, perspectives and other working drawings (something he still practices up to now), and providing his clients hand-drawn renderings of his de-

signs. He also became part of the Ethan Allen team for six years, expanding his "knack for the classic, elegant look that is chic and warm at the same time." After leaving the country and taking a sabbatical leave, he came back to establish his own design firm around 2007, Adefuin Design Studio, and has since built a steady clientele.


Creation in collaboration

"As a designer, I have to create designs that would fit the





requirements of my clients,” says Jigs, adding that designers are supposed to be trained to know the different design concepts and interpret them in a way that clients can relate to. His diverse portfolio is proof of how well he can adjust to changing times, but if given the chance to pick a certain design era, he would choose art deco without a moment’s hesitation.

Among his many projects, doing residential is perhaps his favorite. “As time goes by, you’ll see the works that you’ve been doing, *na nabi-build siya* little by little. And then *nakikita mo ‘yung* collaborations *mo* with your clients, at the same time ‘yung ideas *mo na* *nagma-*materialize in front of you. That gives me satisfaction,” he enthuses. 

Check out his website www.adevindesignstudio.com or contact him at tel. 555-1271.



Pipe Dreams

A DO-IT-YOURSELF GUIDE TO INDUSTRIAL CHIC LIGHTING

BY ANNA ANGARA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



THE DESIGN TREND of “industrial chic” seems to be all the rage these days. Simple shapes and elements, raw materials like galvanized steel, reclaimed wood and concrete characterize many hipster hangout cafés and restaurants.

To achieve this trend in your dwelling, look to the home improvement store for inspiration. It’s a great source of potential decorating material. Ordinary hardware items such as pipes, wires, nuts and bolts can be transformed into affordable, unique accessories and furniture for your home with the help of a few tools and a bit of imagination.

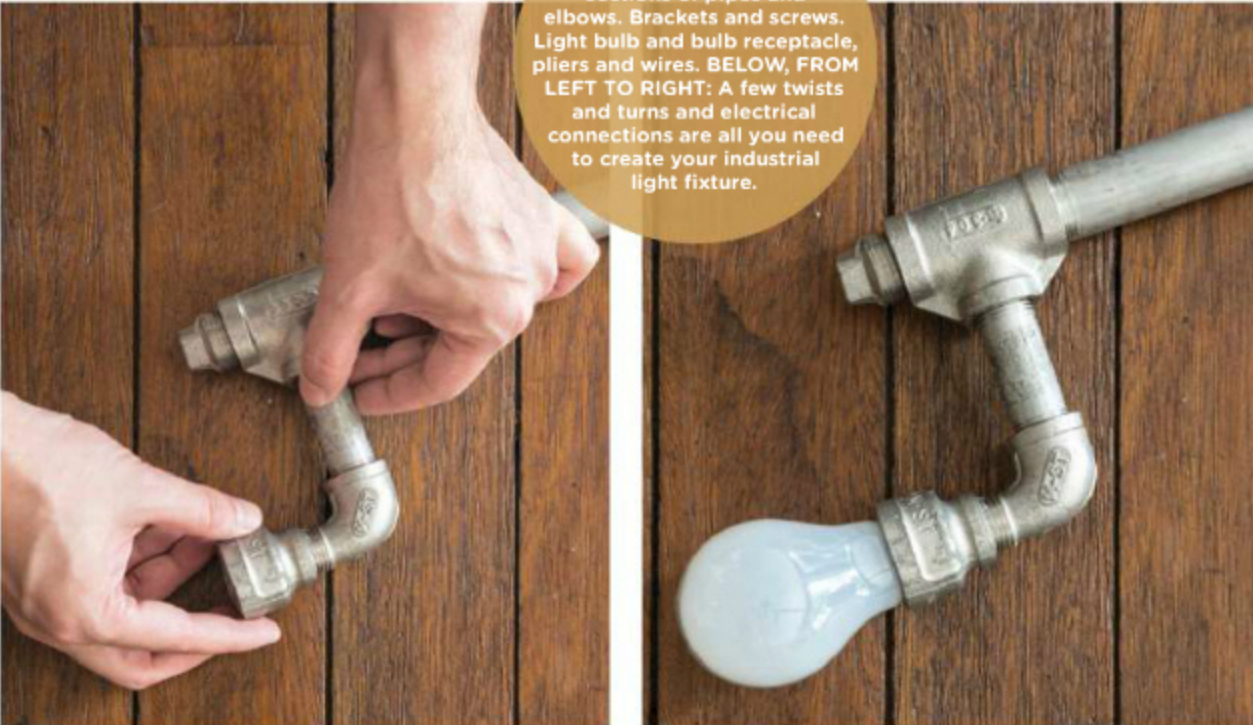
I took a photo of a lighting fixture that I wanted to recreate to ACE Hardware and showed it to one of their efficient sales personnel. In about twenty minutes, he had assembled an industrial chic lighting scone, just like the one in my photo.

A word of caution: it may seem like a pretty simple project, but if it involves electricity, do consult an electrician or the knowledgeable staff in the electrical aisle of ACE Hardware. They

Our DIY industrial lighting fixture was fashioned of pipes and lighting fittings from ACE Hardware.



TOP, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Assorted sections of pipes and elbows. Brackets and screws. Light bulb and bulb receptacle, pliers and wires. BELOW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: A few twists and turns and electrical connections are all you need to create your industrial light fixture.



patiently explained how I should go about wiring my lighting sconce.

To make the body of the sconce, head to the plumbing section and pick out Bestank stainless steel pipes and fittings. The electrical aisle has an assortment of quality brands. I chose a Firefly bulb, an Omni socket and electrical tape, and some Columbia flat cord. If you don't already own a pair, grab some ACE Hardware pliers to cut that cord.

To attach the sconce to the wall, you'll need Fischer clamps and screws, and the always handy-to-have-around-the-house Stanley electric drill.

Assemble the body of the fixture by connecting the pipes (or nipples in plumbing lingo) with the various fittings (also known as a "T", an elbow and a coupling).

Again, I'd recommend asking an expert before doing the wiring. The insulation of any metal pipe parts from contact with electrical socket parts is an important consideration. Without going into too much technical detail, I'll say this: you need to attach the cord to the socket, which in turn is fitted into the coupling. Do this before you connect the coupling to the elbow and pipes, and thread the cord through accordingly. 10

Tools and Materials

- Bestank stainless steel pipes or nipples come in different diameters and lengths.
- Bestank stainless steel fittings (the T, the elbow, and a couple of couplings) are all connector pieces that allow you to form bends and T shapes.
- Firefly Standard 60W 220V Frosted Lamp Bulb
- Fischer SX Wall Plug Woodscrew and Chipscrew

About ACE

ACE Hardware, one of the leading hardware stores in the U.S.A., was founded in Chicago in 1924. In 1990, ACE created ACE International, a separate division for managing the growing demand for its brand and products outside the United States. Since then ACE has established its presence in Latin America, the Middle East and Asia.

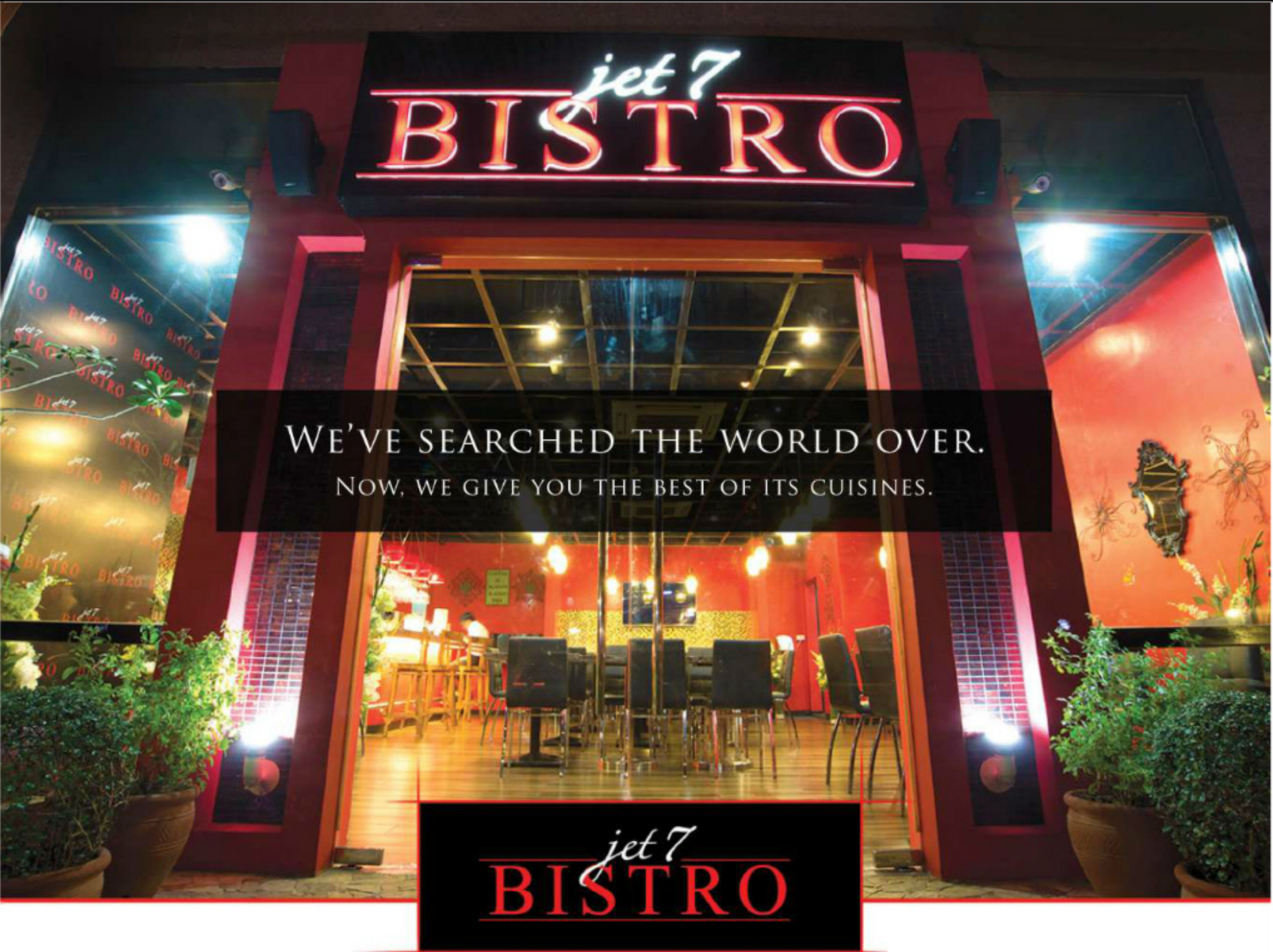
Ace Hardware Philippines, an SM Group of Companies affiliate, opened its first branch 17 years ago in SM Southmall, Las Piñas. Today, it has over a hundred branches nationwide.

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A Lady's Realm

TWO TEAMS CREATE
DISTINCT LOOKS THROUGH
THE USE OF COLOR

BY CAL TAVERA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES



DESIGN SMARTS

1. Choosing the right accessories is key to creating the overall ambiance. To make the space feel more neutral, the team refrained from using fresh flowers and chose a modern print of the subject. They also avoided objects with too many details and kept the lines simple.
2. To achieve this modern take on a classic look, play with the different shades of a color, and limit the prints to one or two designs. This simple trick will help create layers and keep it simple but not boring.

Team Metro Home's take on the lady lair capitalizes on a restrained color palette, with a mix of choice pieces from Ethan Allen.

Team
Metro
Home

Shades of Blue

The dollhouse may have been the peg in designing something feminine, but Team Metro Home decided to stir things up by executing a different take on this lady's lair. Absent were the fifty shades of pink; instead, hues of blues and purples color the space. The team worked with a dark color scheme for a more intimate setting where the lady retreats occasionally from a career-driven lifestyle to relax or have tea with friends. Keeping in mind the profile of a successful corporate lady in a man's world, the team created a look that embodies both feminine and masculine features. The dainty tufted Whitaker sofa and Wellesley benches are balanced out with the use of studs. Accessories, such as the mirrored obelisks, horseshoe sculpture and decorative horn, help keep it from looking too froufrou. The team used subtle touches to retain the feel of femininity through soft fabrics such as fur, prints and the choice of Birds and Roses artwork.



DESIGN SMARTS

1. To avoid clutter, assign a focal area for your accessories.
2. Mirrors act as accessories and help create the illusion of a bigger space at the same time.
3. Use white to instantly give a modern twist to a space.
4. Invest in furniture with the future in mind. They may become heirlooms one day.
5. Gold is a powerful design tool. Use judiciously.

In contrast to Team Metro Home, Team Focus Global eschews symmetry all together. By positioning the daybed on a slant, dynamism is introduced into their composition.

Team
Focus
Global

Contemporary Classic

Team Focus Global marries classic grace with modern flair for their take on a lady's lair. Inspired by one of their signature styles that reflects eclectic living, the group updated various classic styles with accents of contemporary pieces. The timeless look, inspired by the stylish, strong, present-day woman in her forties, is highlighted with gold treatments, tinged with red. The white Shelby daybed sets the tone for the sanctuary and becomes a place of refuge for the lady of the house. A tracery dining table doubles as a center table and is paired with a few Jaden leather host chairs for a gathering of her close circle of girlfriends. A bronze regent chandelier hangs above the table. To retain the eclectic look yet remain a haven, the designers directed their clusters on the walls and minimized pieces on the floor. The walls display her collection of metallic sunburst mirrors and a self portrait. Colors are limited to red, black and white to balance the gold.

Nobody but Hue

5 DESIGNERS SHOW WHAT YOU CAN DO TO ADD COLOR AND TEXTURE TO YOUR BLANK WALL

RIGHT: Metro Home & Entertaining Contributing Editor Tessa Alindogan. BELOW: Neutral earth-toned rosettes in various shapes, forms, and sizes from The House of Pre-Cast give an interesting texture and spin to an otherwise plain wall.



Rosettes in Stone

ADORN YOUR WALLS WITH OLD WORLD CHARM AND ELEGANCE

BY LEAH PUYAT
PORTRAIT BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO
PHOTOGRAPH BY WILLIAM ONG

A SPACE DESIGNED by Tessa Alindogan reveals a clever and appealing mix that is contemporary yet classic. If you look closely, the carefully curated accents and elements lean toward mid-century modern.

Tessa is quick to quip, "The old defines the new and the new defines what is to come." When you combine elements from different eras and genres, you achieve a look that is both traditional and current. You easily warm up to the space because of the familiar elements that evoke nostalgia.

For a modern or contemporary space, Tessa's thought process conjures images of a wall adorned with a myriad of vintage rosettes in different shapes, forms, and sizes. The intricate patterns against the stark wall give texture and infuse old world elegance.

"I used neutral earth tones because they are colors that you can easily combine with other shades," she says. Colors like these enable you to work around a monochromatic color scheme or create a perfect contrast to bright and bold hues.

From chocolate brown to beige and different shades of mocha, every permutation in the spectrum or color wheel will perfectly match these combinations. There is very little room for experimentation because it's a sure shot formula.

I found the rosettes at The House of Pre-Cast. They have a wide selection of moldings, finials, and other architectural ornamentation. You may even give your own design for them to recreate. "Do not be afraid to experiment when it comes to combining different materials and colors." The golden rule? Study your options before making your final decision. **1**



Splenda

Kintab bago. Kintab Splenda.

RIGHT: Proponent of things handmade and sewing expert, Apol Massebieau in La Pomme, a store she owns and runs in The Collective. BELOW: Apol's interpretation of childhood using a predominantly pink palette.



Playing with Pink

FOR LA POMME'S APOL LEJANO-MASSEBIEAU, WORK IS PLAY AND PLAY IS WORK
BY GABRIELA ALEGRE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAULO ANTONIO VALENZUELA

"INSPIRATION?" For me, it just comes!" says Apol Lejano-Massebieau, designer, writer, craft artist, and the woman behind the children's boutique, La Pomme. "I love it! I can't wait to do it, every day!" Apol exclaims. Her enthusiasm is palpable in La Pomme, which is filled with plush pieces in bright colors and patterns, from mushrooms and cupcakes to owls, pears and apples.

After a decade in the south of France, Apol, husband Pierre, and daughter Lilou moved back to the Philippines, eventually setting up shop in The Collective in Makati. La Pomme is a menagerie of plush creatures and objects, each piece handmade—snipped, stuffed, and stitched with love—especially for kids.

Apol produces her plush creations, with two helpers in her very own home, for La Pomme (French for "the apple.") "Every piece still goes through my hands," shares Apol. "I do the patterns, embroidery, finishing!"

She chose to play with pink for **Metro Home & Entertaining's** Color Issue. "I love pink!" she exclaims. A *taka* rabbit, a bear that used to be Pierre's and is now one of Lilou's favorites, and a vintage chair (a thrift shop find, says Apol, "I really like furniture *na mukhang luma*, that nobody else would love but me!") sit alongside a plush cat on the wall ("We love cats!"), and plush flowers and a little girl's pink party dress hangs from the ceiling. Apol juxtaposes soft and hard, the whimsy of fairy tale imagery and vintage pieces, with a dash of melancholy. "Childhood isn't all fresh and light, it's also a little bit dark," she says.

Apol says, "You can display them how and wherever you want. Your child's room is where you can let your imagination go wild for your color and pattern fantasies!"

With La Pomme opening in Power Plant Mall, Rockwell this August, Apol will undoubtedly spread more of her bold cheer and creativity not just to children but to grown-ups, too!



Rugged Red

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN MAVERICK STANLEY RUIZ TRANSFORMS EVERYDAY OBJECTS

BY GABRIELA ALEGRE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO

LEAFING THROUGH job ads in the newspaper got industrial designer Stanley Ruiz his first product design stint for a foreign businesswoman based in Tagaytay and as a designer for a Bali-based company, before moving to New York. Since then, he's designed accessories for home and furniture retailers (Jonathan Adler, Habitat, Takashimaya, The New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York) both here and abroad, has exhibited in the US, Europe and Asia, and has been featured in numerous international design publications and websites. He has also garnered nominations and awards to boot.

Influenced by music and shaped by experience, Stanley says, "*Marami na akong pinagdaanan...* I was out of school for a time, I made a 'zine." He then chanced upon industrial design. He experiments with raw materials and uses contemporary production methods to transform wood, metal, ceramics and natural materials into practical, everyday designed objects, such as his *Symbiosis* speakers, *Anno Domini* clock, and *Raw* clock and mirror. He stays grounded on a rough craft aesthetic, paired with a distinctly modern, streamlined feel.

After stints in Bali and New York, Stanley returned last year to establish his own design practice in Manila, and has since done work for CITEM (CebuNext and Manila Fame), among other companies, and has collaborated with Filipino artists and designers, including Budji Layug, and Kenneth Cobonpue's Hive.

"I use color sparingly in my work," he says, mostly as accents to his designs. For **Metro Home & Entertaining**, he spray-painted egg trays, old shampoo bottles, and a host of seemingly random objects of varying shapes, sizes and textures in three shades of red. He pieces together these everyday objects into an ingenious installation. Juxtaposed against a striking white wall and his *Shelter Island* chair, Stanley's creation is striking yet lo-fi, fusing craft and production, traditional materials with contemporary design processes. 🍷



Industrial designer Stanley Ruiz in his studio, populated by a collection of pieces he has designed for international companies. BELOW: Ruiz makes use of upcycled plastic packaging colored in three shades of red to create a wall assemblage. His *Shelter Island* chair makes a neutral complement to the assemblage.





ABOVE: Advertising art director and advocate of local craft revival, Mary Velmonte in her studio where she makes contemporary interpretations of the local papier mache folk art, *taka*. BELOW: An assembly of papier mache pieces painted in shades of green, by Mary Velmonte.

Green Consciousness

ART DIRECTOR MARY VELMONTE REVIVES A LOCAL PAETE CRAFT WITH FLAIR

WHAT STARTED AS an elevator pitch to a group of friends is now a full-blown craft studio, Takatak Project. The best part? Mary Velmonte, the woman behind the *takas*, or papier mache figurines, is reviving this craft from Paete, Laguna.

On one of her trips to Paete one late afternoon, Mary chanced upon an old *taka* studio run by an old man and a woman. “It really felt like *dapit-hapon na itong* craft,” shares Mary. Five years later, the Takatak Project was born.

An art director by day, Mary devotes her weekends to designing *takas* and, with the craft artists of Paete and her creative team, produces a growing menagerie of *takas* for various clients. The *takas* are “lightweight, affordable, good for children,” says Mary,

who, after a stint at the local crafts fair, 10a Alabama, realized that there was a market for the Takatak Project.

She draws inspiration from *ikat*, Aztec and geometric prints, which are handpainted and finished by her and her team. For **Metro Home & Entertaining’s** annual color issue, Mary Velmonte played with the color green—a color that perfectly complements the *takas’* handmade aesthetic. “It’s organic and made of craft paper,” she adds. She chose an assortment of animals, and pieced them together in a tableau that reflects traditional local flavor with a dash of contemporary Pinoy culture.

With the Takatak Project, Mary melds a distinctly Pinoy craft with a whimsical, contemporary aesthetic, making the *takas* come to life for years to come.



Cool, Collected Blue

FILMMAKER MILO SOGUECO MUSES ON A COLOR THAT KEEPS HIM CALM

BY ANNA M. ROSETE
PHOTOGRAPH BY
PAUL DEL ROSARIO
PORTRAIT BY PAT NABONG

THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED with director, photographer and MTRCB board member, Milo Sogueco, will agree that he is intense and passionate about whatever it is he happens to be working on. It seems that the color red would have been more apt, but when this feature for **Metro Home & Entertaining** was discussed, he said, “Why red? I like blue.” Well, he was an Atenean, but far from a mere display of school spirit, Sogueco explains, “I like blue skies. Open vistas. The expanse of clear skies makes me happy. I am a nature person. Blue with green—mountains, too! They lift up my spirits. I am not fond of dark, dreary weather. *Mas gusto ko pa yung maaraw na maaraw at mainit.*”

For this feature, production designer Aped Santos, of Sogueco’s most recent foray into directing, the Cinemalaya film *Mariquina*, assembled a display of Milo’s personal items and merchandise from a store Sogueco co-owns, The Stockroom. “Blue is the new neutral. You can easily pair any color with it,” Santos explains. Using a pale blue damask-printed wallpaper as the background, Santos displayed various books from Sogueco’s personal collection, including *Eyemazing* Volume 1, a Dutch publication and a monograph on Erwin Olaf. Some choice personal items from his growing art collection are a painting by Andres Barrioquinto and a coin bank shaped like a fish hand painted by Marina Cruz. Portraits of Milo’s canine companions were drawn with a blue Sharpie by budding artist, Hannah Cepe. She did so expressly for this feature, and they were used as accent cushion covers. As a tip, Santos offers, “Use the color blue’s academic analogous colors, green and purple as fitting contrasts that pop in a predominantly blue vignette.”



LEFT: Filmmaker Milo Sogueco on the set of *Mariquina*. BELOW: Vignette by production designer Aped Santos displaying items from Milo’s personal collection and merchandise from The Stockroom.



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Beautiful Barcelona, p. 44



Creative Reflections

A VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS GRADUATE TURNED TELEVISION DIRECTOR CREATES MUCH APPRECIATED MIRROR ART

BY WILLY MARBELLA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAULO VALENZUELA



HANGING IN HIS BATHROOM is a mosaic mirror given to him as a gift. As he was staring at it one day, he thought, "I can do that, too!" That was exactly how Pinggoy Generoso came up with the idea to create his collection of fancy mirrors.

And since Christmas was rolling around the corner, he made one mirror each for the indefatigable Boy Abunda and the colorful Kris Aquino as Christmas gifts. Needless to say, they both found the gifts beautiful and began encouraging him to create more. Egged on by these two talents, whom he directs, Pinggoy started making these mirrors during his free time.

The creative mind

Pinggoy Generoso's slew of directorial jobs is familiar to audiences who want to get

the latest news in lifestyle, travel, interior decorating, food, and current events.

A graduate of Visual Communications from U.P., he set out to work in the field of production. As fate would have it, he now lives his dream. But a creative mind is one that never stays put. It will always find inspiration where others don't see one. And so, compelled by this gift of a mosaic mirror hanging in his bathroom, he created a collection of decorative and functional mirrors.

Artists are influenced by their environment and the materials they find around it. This is so true of the different leitmotif "Direk" uses for his mirrors.

One of them is what I call the "mat" collection inspired by the decorative geometric lattice-like woodwork taken from demolished houses found in *mambubulok* (junk)



TOP LEFT: Direk Pinggoy Generoso helms ABS-CBN shows *KristV* and *Bottomline*. He also makes this colorful spectrum of mirrors as a creative outlet. **TOP RIGHT:** Generoso's mirrors are fashioned of repurposed architectural salvage, *virinas* and mosaic glass.

shops. Pinggoy painted them white, placed a mirror in the middle, and using adhesive and discontinued mosaic tiles from home depots, he gave these decorative panels a breath of fresh air. To add a whimsical touch, he embellished them with cast iron filigrees of different designs and contrasts them with the hard-edged patterns of the mosaic tiles, which render his designs with lots of vernacular Pinoy appeal.



Found pieces such as lattice work and wrought iron from shops that line Laon Laan are the main characters that make up Generoso's line of mirrors. **RIGHT:** A butcher block is repurposed into a fanciful mirror with floral wrought iron ornamentation and mosaic tiles.

Filigrees and mat design

Looking at these bedazzling mirrors suddenly reminds you of multihued, woven mats from different parts of the country. The mosaic tiles mimic the geometric patterns of the mats as well as the crisscross of the basic weaving technique. The filigrees mimic the designs that these weavers incorporate in the finished piece. Admiring the mosaic mirror while looking at your own reflection is like looking at yourself inside a fancy picture frame.

In another set of mirrors, Pinggoy used different stands of *virinas* (glass-tubes that house images of saints and other religious figures), painted them a distressed white, and crafted different combinations of sizes and wood profiles. Then after a metal worker welded a metal support to hold all

these pieces together, Pinggoy added more filigrees in the manner of Marie Antoinette's opulence meeting Rachel Ashwell's shabby chic. Interestingly, he gave his mirrored creations names denoting Filipino titles of respect: *Kuya*, *Ate*, *Diche*, and even *Hermana Mayor*.

Asked where he plans to take this "hobby," Pinggoy answers, "I have absolutely no idea."

But just like any artist, once the creative juices start flowing, one never knows where it is going to lead. And as with any artwork, Pinggoy Generoso's creations will certainly be cherished, especially since it has your own reflection to behold. 📧

Contact him through pinggoy_generoso@yahoo.com and www.facebook.com/espejonipinggoy



Bringing In the Outdoors

BOTANICAL ARTIST PAINTS HYPERREALIST MURALS THAT FEATURE LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA

BY PATRICIA TUMANG
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOVEL LORENZO



EMMANUEL L. CORDOVA'S whimsical gardenscapes are a gateway into a world of lush botanical plants, foliage, and birds. One of his recent works, a large-scale oil-on-canvas entitled *Peafowl Farm* (2011), depicting a serene tropical paradise with fluttering peacocks, pandan trees, New Guinea creeper vines, coffee shrubs, and *gloriosa* lilies, graces a private home in Makati.

The painting encapsulates the artistic direction Cordova has taken since graduating in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts in Advertising from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, where he also took studio art courses and dabbled in portraiture. Cordova felt stifled by his career in advertising. "There wasn't much freedom. I'm more of a painter and artist," he says.

His foray into botanical painting began when Ruben Nazareth, the uncle of his friend Demetrio Silva Jr., commissioned him to paint a mural of roses in his home. Cordova discovered his love for botany. He accompanied his friend Mara Pardo de Tavera, the great-granddaughter of Paz Pardo de Tavera (the wife of the artist Juan Luna) to Los Baños, Laguna to see their friends' gardens. There, he'd study and sketch the



TOP:
Outdoors, indoors (2004).
OPPOSITE PAGE:
(clockwise from top)
Peafowl Farm (2011).
Red Macopa (1998).
Botanical artist,
Noel Cordova.

different plants and flowers that thrive in the Philippines.

"Mara commissioned me to do a painting and told me about this beautiful jade, a flower from the Philippines. I became interested in learning about the characteristics of plants," Cordova says. "I also had a chance meeting with the Zobels, who invited me to Mindoro and Calatagan to see the beautiful and amazing forest there."

Though he was doing well in large-scale commission work for private homes and five-star hotels, Cordova shifted to smaller botanical works in watercolor, which were exhibited in several galleries and museums in Manila, including the Ayala Museum for his solo exhibition *Botanicals Elcordova* in 1991.

London-based botanical art collector Dr. Shirley Sherwood saw Cordova's exhibition and became interested in his work. "She wanted to buy something, but I didn't have works for sale at the time. Then I went to National Bookstore, and I saw this book of botanical paintings from her collection. I sent her pictures of the 24 paintings that I did for Ateneo," Cordova says.

Cordova contributed a series of botanical illustrations for *Plantas Medicinales de*

Filipinas by Dr. Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera, a 19th-century book on Philippine medicinal plants that was reprinted by the Ateneo de Manila University Press.

Dr. Sherwood commissioned Cordova to make a watercolor print of *Areca catechu*, or the betel nut, which became part of a traveling exhibition that started at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC. Dr. Sherwood later included it in her book, *A Passion for Plants: Contemporary Botanical Masterpieces* (2001).

"I was the only Filipino artist (featured in the book). During the book launch, I was able to go to London," Cordova says. The Montinola family, art patrons who had commissioned works from Cordova, sponsored his previous trip in 1994, when he visited the Chelsea Flower Show organized by the Royal Horticultural Society, and some of Europe's famed botanical gardens and museums.

Upon his return to Manila, he created a series for his solo exhibition, *Inspirations from a Journey*, at the Intercontinental Manila. "The colors and textures of European architecture became the background of my works. I can still remember the smell of the roses and pine trees and the beautiful

wisterias," Cordova says.

Cordova has pursued a lucrative career doing botanical murals and paintings. Over the past 10 years, he has incorporated birds, insects, and wildlife as subjects. His paintings have sold well at prestigious auction houses like Christie's and Sotheby's. With the help of his nephew and assistant, Nilo Cordova, he does commissioned work for residences. One of his most recent is *Outdoors, indoors* (2014), a paneled mural series of tropical plants, flowers, and fruit trees for a spacious recreation room in a Forbes Park property.

"One of the things that challenge me is to imitate nature in painting. I like working from real life and sometimes from photographs that I take myself. If I do something that's almost exactly as the original, it's a fulfillment for me."

For more information on Emmanuel L. Cordova, please email elcordova@yahoo.com.

Green Light District

GO FOR A QUICK ESCAPE AT THIS ECO-ART RESORT, WHICH OFFERS A UNIQUE AND ENRICHING EXPERIENCE



“WE WANT TO CREATE EXPERIENCES around everything ‘art’ to enrich people,” says Abel Jose, brand manager of Green Canyon Resort. From the name of this 29-hectare resort alone, one would immediately get an idea that this tourist destination made sure to protect and maintain the beauty of the nature all throughout its construction and operation. “We developed and built the resort using sustainable and efficient techniques that are environmentally friendly,” adds Jose. But more than being a resort, it is likewise a recreational venue that showcases organic art pieces; nature and art harmoniously co-exist in Green Canyon Resort.

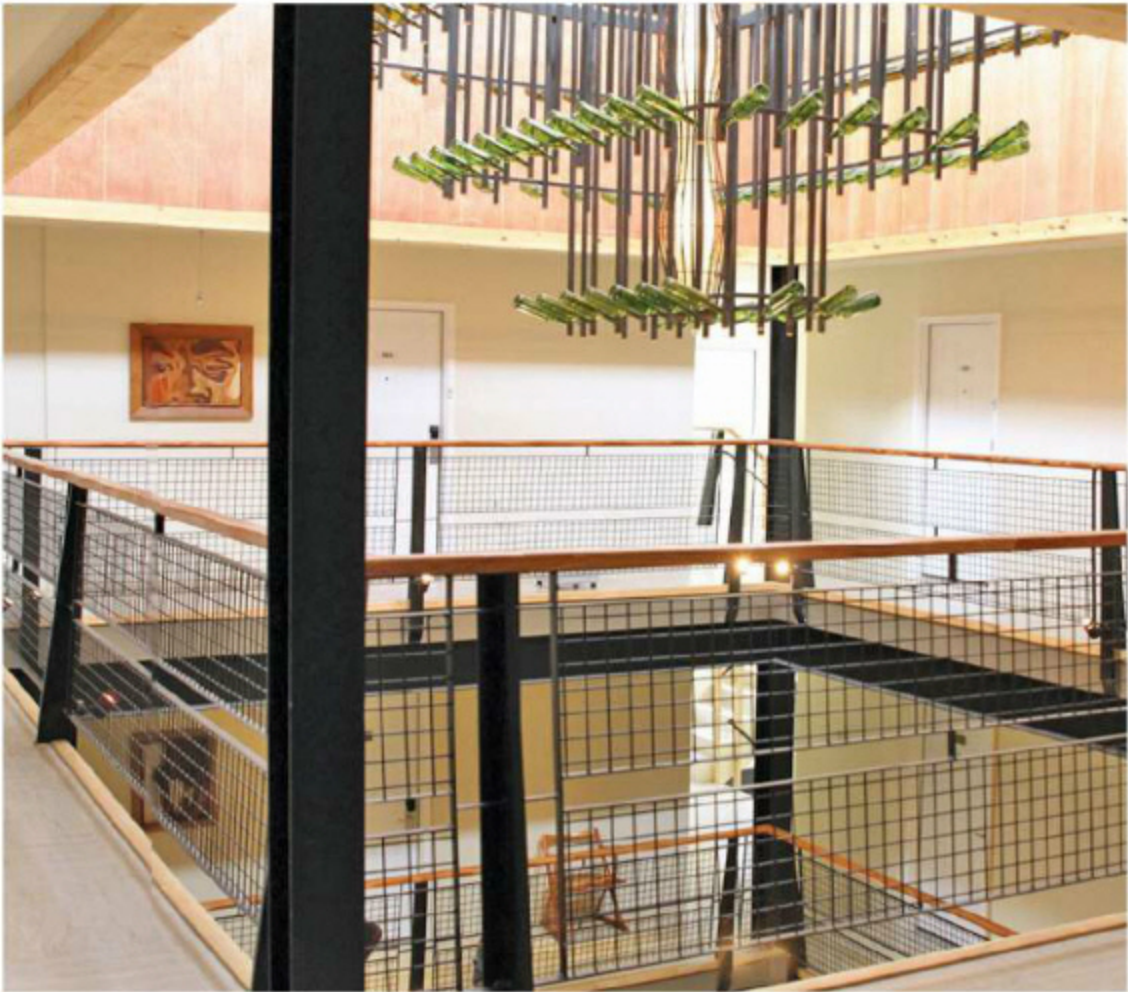
Found at the center of Southeast Asia’s foremost airspace, Clark Air Field (where the verdant landscape of Pampanga’s growing tourism center is punctuated by the reju-

venating flow of the Sacobia River), Green Canyon Resort offers guests a relaxing respite. Its eco-art resort concept turns a new leaf on Filipino hospitality.

Characterized by an open layout that maximizes the rolling, unspoiled greens of its environs, Green Canyon Resort has a rustic, natural charm coupled with innovative touches, making it a one-off destination for the modern lifestyle tourist. Its stately, 60-room boutique gallery hotel serves as the highlight of the blooming sprawl. It offers the contemporary conveniences and cutting-edge features that match the world’s leading accommodations, while uncompromising its thriving green-print of sustainable energy sources, upcycled furniture pieces, and intelligent space design that preserve the natural appeal of its chosen location.

The resort also serves as a stark canvas to exciting developments in art and culture—from its signature studio furnishing designed by its in-house artist and furniture designer Niccolo Jose offering an exceptional distinction to each of its suites to the handful of sculptural pieces and art installations within the resort’s vicinity. Green Canyon Resort is like a gallery showcasing the finest nature-inspired masterpieces.

And to best impart the remarkable Green Canyon Resort artistic experience among its guests, workshop classes in painting, woodworking, sculpting, and cooking have been envisioned to be held among its vibrant surroundings, igniting creative inspiration and interactive collaboration among its guests of varying lifestyles and artistic disciplines.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Green Canyon Resort lies as a tranquil mountainous resort in the Clark Freeport Zone. It is characterized by an open layout that maximizes the unspoiled greens of its environs. **BELOW:** Everywhere you look, there’s a unique artwork by Niccolo Jose that will catch your attention—from the grand chandelier made of wine bottles hanging by the center of the rooms, to the chairs at the lobby and hallways, to the décors and accent pieces.



Guests may enjoy a relaxing massage and body treatment or spend a lazy afternoon reading a good book while enjoying a refreshing drink by Green Canyon Resort's Symphony Pool. Or, walk around and explore the resort's expanse.



Recreational activities also abound at the Green Canyon Resort, making each stay more memorable and meaningful. The Green Canyon Journey takes its guests on a guided tour among the resort's scenic landscape twice daily, where weekend residents can marvel at the dawn or the sunset, while enjoying a convenient and hearty spread of healthy, farm-fresh dishes from its landmark restaurant, Palette. The Green Canyon Resort also takes wellness to a whole new level of

relaxation and rejuvenation, with invigorating massages and body treatments centered on the traditional healing arts best experienced among the resort's healthful natural surroundings. A walk through Green Canyon Resort's Organic Farm also proves equally rewarding, with guests treated to valuable lessons on sustainable agriculture and their rightful place in a well-nourishing diet.

Guests young and old can also experience Grand Canyon Resort's wide

assortment of entertainment amenities. The Water+Wave pool provides the comforting lap of the waves for a refreshing getaway at the center of its calm landscape. Grand Canyon Resort's Symphony Pool, on the other hand, is a luxurious plunge pool that invites its patrons to take a cooling dip while enjoying coconut juice straight off the husk and taking in the grandiose view of the resort. Grand Canyon Resort also provides its more adventurous guests the option of exploring the resort's expanse with its ATVs, adding to the new lifestyle destination's array of revolutionary excitement.

Where the lulling comforts of nature merge with the exciting expressions of art, the satisfying luxury of leisure meet the gratifying growth of unadulterated lifestyle, where soothing experiences mingle with exhilarating adventures, Green Canyon Resort turns a new leaf on the country's warm hospitality. ①

Green Canyon is located at San Vicente Road, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga. For more information, visit www.greencanyon.com.ph.

A PEST PROTECTED FOUNDATION

WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING A HOME OR COMMERCIAL SPACE, PREPARING THE FOUNDATION PROPERLY IS VERY IMPORTANT, THIS IS WHY ARCHITECT AND BUILDER **MALU GUTIERREZ** APPRECIATES A SOLID PARTNERSHIP WITH **Rentokil** FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

BY MICHELLE ALEJANDRO

As the principal architect of Acasia Build Inc. and graduate of the UP College of Architecture, licensed architect and current United Architects of the Philippines' (UAP) executive director of government and external affairs, Malu Gutierrez knows all about conceptualizing and building a beautiful and functional home or commercial space. In fact, one could say the knowledge runs in her blood as her late father, Fernando Marquez was also an architect builder and Acasia Build Inc. is a family run design and build company engaging in residential and office design and implementation.

"I think the most important thing for home owners or commercial owners to consider when building is good site selection and good planning," Malu shares. "Good planning involves physical planning and design as well as budget, timeline, and the qualified group to execute the project." Malu relates that the beginning of a project is crucial to its success because that is when the foundation, both figuratively and literally, is built. "In designing and specifying materials we evaluate durability and sustainability," she says, further adding, "In construction, site preparation is of paramount importance to the project success. The foundation needs to be very well designed and the soil should also be properly treated."

It is, in fact, in this aspect that Malu first began to work with **Rentokil**. When creating homes and commercial spaces, Malu wants to ensure that she and her clients create investments that are durable, beautiful, and will last the test of time. She knows that soil treatment, in particular, is an essential step that should not be missed when creating a space. "Proper soil treatment involves termiticide application that starts from the foundation, the compacted soil prior to the concrete flooring and all exposed soil of external area to create a protective barrier against the most destructive subterranean termites," Malu explains. "If no treatment is done, any structure would be more at risk as termites work their way up into the home or commercial space and damage whatever they find edible – expensive wood flooring, doors, trims, books, furniture, and more."

Rentokil Initial Philippines has a new address! We're in an even bigger location to serve you better. We're now at **73 Elisco Road, Kalawaan, Pasig City**. Call **Rentokil** now for a **FREE CRITICAL STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT** of your home or business. Dial **1800 10 EXPERTS (397 3787)**, or email enquiry-ph@rentokil-initial.com. For more information, visit www.rentokil.com.ph



To ensure this does not happen to her projects, Malu has partnered with **Rentokil** on several occasions. "I appreciate that **Rentokil** approaches termite treatment in a very scientific manner," she shares. "They are very timely and careful and their work always results in a successful termite proofed structure." Additionally, their process is also safe for our work sites and workers. This support has helped us achieve our goals of making the project successful and our clients happy."

And this, at the end of the day, is always Malu's goal when working with her clients, to help them build their dream house with a strong foundation. "The home is also a family legacy that can be passed down to the next generation," Malu says. "It is an investment that can gain good property value. The same is true for commercial spaces as well. Hence an expert pest control provider like **Rentokil** is an ideal partner in ensuring the security of our clients' investments. Not only do they employ an effective scientific method but their network is across the globe so you are assured that they are equipped with international expertise enhanced by their local experiences." She adds that it is this mix and their effective results that make **Rentokil** the pest management partner of choice for design and construction companies like Acasia Build Inc.

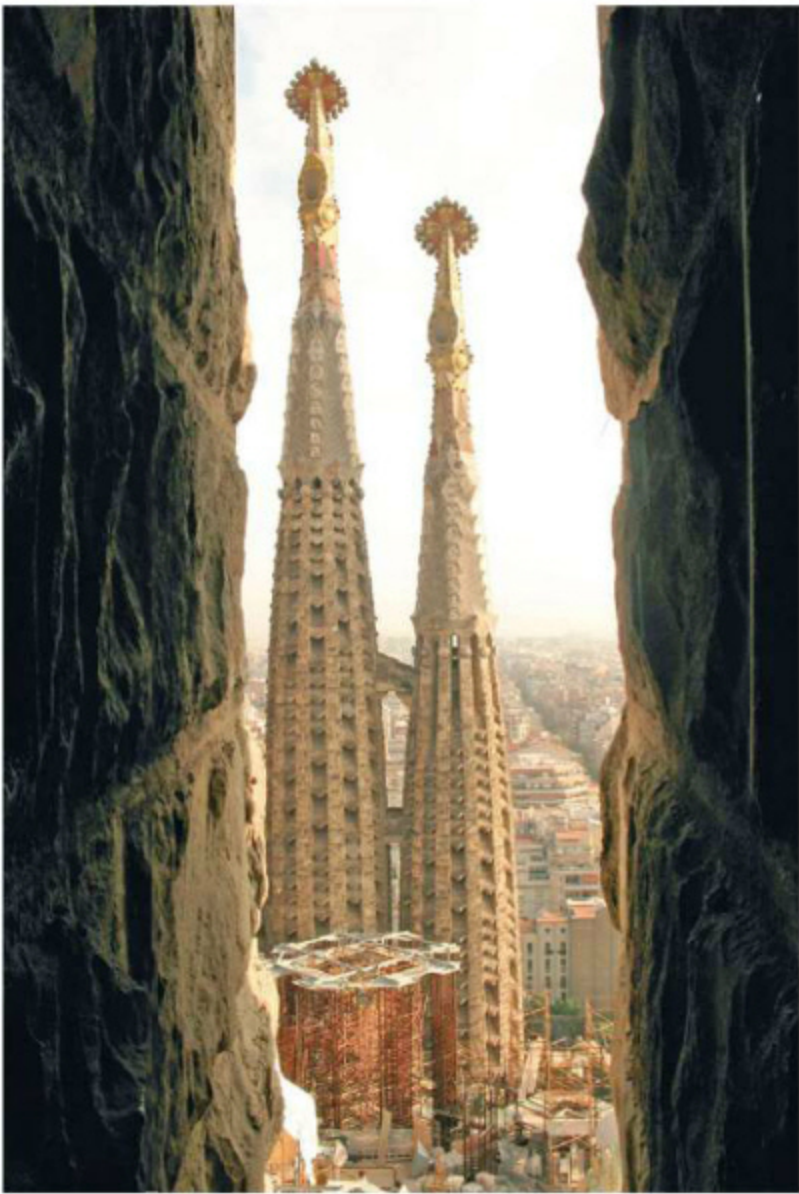
"... an expert pest control provider like Rentokil is an ideal partner in ensuring the security of our clients' investments ... they are equipped with international expertise enhanced by their local experiences."

Currently, Malu and her firm are working on two residential projects with **Rentokil** in Valle Verde and Valley Golf and couldn't be happier with their professionalism and consistency in service, two values that match her own when it comes to all of her work – designing and building beautiful homes and commercial spaces that are a true and lifelong investment.

Beautiful Barcelona

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY **ANTON BARRETTO** (COURTESY OF METRO SOCIETY)

DISCOVER A COLORFUL CITY
WITH A RICH CULTURE, SUPERB
ART SCENE AND CELEBRATED
CULINARY EXPERIENCE



OPPOSITE PAGE:
Casa Milà is an iconic
building along Passeig de
Gràcia, designed by Antoni
Gaudí. LEFT: The towering
spires of The Sagrada Família
is Antoni Gaudí's unfinished
masterpiece. RIGHT: Take a
stroll along the courtyards
beside the cathedral
of Barcelona in the
Gothic Quarter.

IN THE RIVALRY OF BARCELONA AND MADRID, I am most definitely on the side of Barcelona. In a story I read long ago, Barcelona was described as a city that just gets under your skin. When I returned from my trip, a friend lent me a book on novelist James Michener's trip through Spain, titled *Iberia: Spanish Travels and Reflections*. The chapter on Barcelona hit the nail on the head. Michener writes: "To travel through Spain and finally to reach Barcelona is like drinking a respectable red wine and finishing up with a bottle of champagne. For Barcelona is an exhilarating city, replete with challenging aspects. It is not only the political capital of the north, where one can best evaluate the problem

of regional separatism in Spain, especially Catalan, but it is also the intellectual capital of the country, with a fascinating collection of museums. It is a world almost to itself, a unique metropolis bound more to the Mediterranean than to the mountains, more to France than to Africa." In fact, the tagline of the world's winningest football club FC Barcelona, "More than a club," also describes its namesake city, as Barcelona can also be said to be more than a city. It is right where past and the future meet.

Hip hotels
Since it is one of the most visited and stylish cities in the world, Barcelona has

its fair share of fantastic hotels. On past trips to Barcelona, I had wanted to check out the Camper Hotel, but it was always fully booked. This time around, my friends and I were lucky enough to finally score some rooms. My room had a hammock and a little living room. Casa Camper is run by the same company that makes Camper shoes, known for being very comfortable and casual but still fashionable. The hotel echoes this principle. The Casa Camper site stresses that it espouses a more egalitarian vision of luxury. "Luxury lies in simplicity, discretion, authenticity, a healthy life, and in understanding aesthetics as a source of inner satisfaction." They sum up their vision as "friendly aesthetics." Thus,

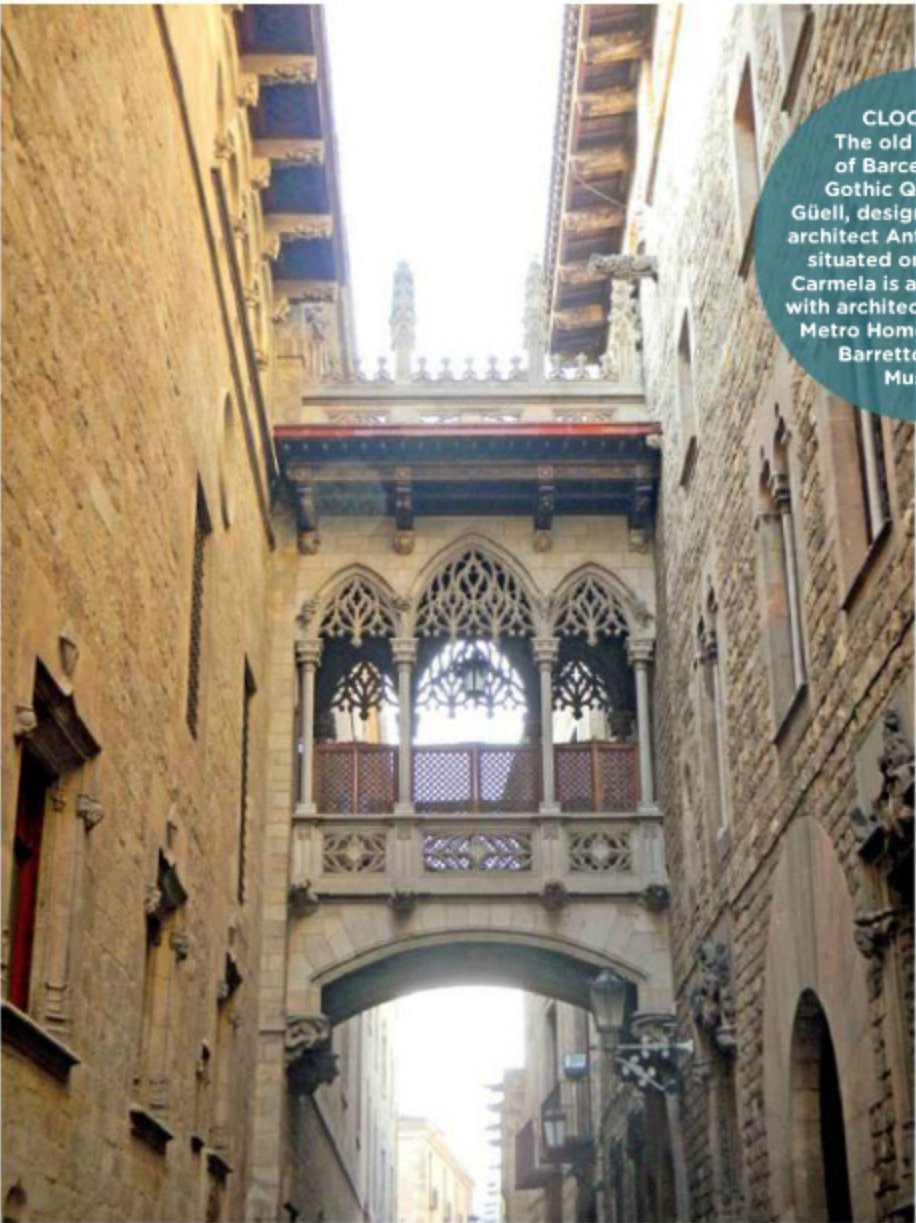
instead of limited individual daily bars, they set out an all-day spread of snacks, fruits, a selection of bread and pastries, juices and sodas, to make their guests feel truly cared for. In line with their concern for the environment, all water is recycled, and they rent out bikes to encourage a cleaner form of transportation. The vibe is young and absolutely unpretentious, and I can only hope that the next Casa Camper (there are already Camper hotels in Athens and Berlin, with equally interesting design philosophies) will be in Asia, so it will be a shorter trip for me.

Many friends who have seen the Mandarin Oriental Barcelona recommended that we go there, and I ran into some friends

who very kindly invited our traveling gang to lunch. The building was once a bank, and architect and furniture designer Patricia Urquiola was able to meld her signature sensuous and witty style with the sumptuous, subtly Asian look of the Mandarin chain. In interviews, she has said that she set out to create a very distinct and unforgettable space. "I knew that I wanted there to be a sense of memory here. Ferran Adria once told me that memory is everything. But the first thing I noticed when I came to the building was the light, and I wanted to harness the light in this Mediterranean city." The Oriental touches came in the rich layering of materials, such as a gently folding wood and fabric wall, as well as 3D textured

details on screens and walls. The construction and design took three years but when it opened in 2010, it won awards for having the best hotel design and being the business hotel of the year.

We also considered staying in the Pulitzer Hotel—my friends had also stayed there and enjoyed its location (slightly off Las Ramblas). The design of the Pulitzer is more monochromatic, with a cleaner black and white palette, but still with some Asian touches. The W Hotel, which we also considered, is quirkier; however, it is quite far from the city center. If you are a hotel junkie, you will be spoiled for choice in Barcelona. If beautiful spas are a priority, the Mandarin and the W are the top choices.



CLOCKWISE: The old city center of Barcelona is the Gothic Quarter. Park Güell, designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí, and situated on the hill of El Carmela is a beautiful park with architectural elements. Metro Home's EIC, Anton Barretto. The Dalí Museum.



Museu d' Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), designed by Architect Richard Meier, houses a permanent collection of art from the mid-20th century onward.



Museum mania

One of the best reasons to live in Casa Camper is its proximity to some of the best museums such as the MACBA, or Barcelona's Museum of Contemporary Art, which sealed the city's reputation as a center for innovation. It opened in 1995, but was conceptualized back in 1959 by art critic Alexandre Cirici Pellicer. Designed by Richard Meier (known worldwide for massive all-white buildings that embody clean, modern architecture), it is not only a grand soaring platform for art, but a shining example of public and private collaboration. It is jointly owned and run by the Ministry of Culture, the City Council, and a private foundation, so it is a union of national and local governments as well as private corporations and individuals.

The Picasso Museum and the Miro Museum are more intimate spaces, found in the charming older parts of the city. The collections are not comprehensive, as there are many collectors and museums that have large holdings of these two artists. What they

do convey is a sense of place, because this city was special to these giants of modern art. Picasso once said that Barcelona is where it all began. Many art critics have noted that Miro's works bear the influence of Catalan folk art, and Miro is certainly one of Barcelona's favorite sons.

If you have the time, a one-hour train ride to the town of Figueras, where the Dalí Museum can be found, will be a worthwhile trip. Though technically on the city's outskirts, it is still part of the Barcelona experience.

The sacred and the profane

An enduring icon for the city are the bulbous towers of Antoni Gaudí's Sagrada Família. When I first entered this strangely hypnotic church, I felt as if I had stumbled onto the set of a science fiction movie, such as *Star Wars*. The biomorphic forms envisioned by Gaudí blur the line between ugliness and beauty, evoking enchantment and repulsion in equal measure. Gaudí never finished the church and construction is dependent on

donations, so no one knows if it will ever be finished. Gaudí was an intensely religious man who wanted to incorporate many symbols of Church history, rendered in his organic style. He is officially being nominated as a candidate for beatification, and if he gets canonized, he will be the first architect saint.

Moving from sainthood to scary legends, there is a story that when the devil tried to tempt Jesus, he actually brought him to El Tibidabo, the peak overlooking Barcelona. The influence of this legend can be seen in the novels of Carlos Ruiz Zafon, currently Spain's best selling novelist, where diabolical characters mysteriously weave in and out of the narratives. Walking tours based on the events in *The Shadow of the Wind*, Zafon's worldwide bestseller, are now very popular, though the writer asserts, "My Barcelona is a purely literary one, not a faithful representation." It is, however, very easy to imagine that romantic and adventurous characters abound in this city, in stories that combine gritty urban scenarios with mystical encounters. ❶

Vibrant Barcelona

SOME OF THE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CITY OF BARCELONA

THE CITY WITH MANY NAMES

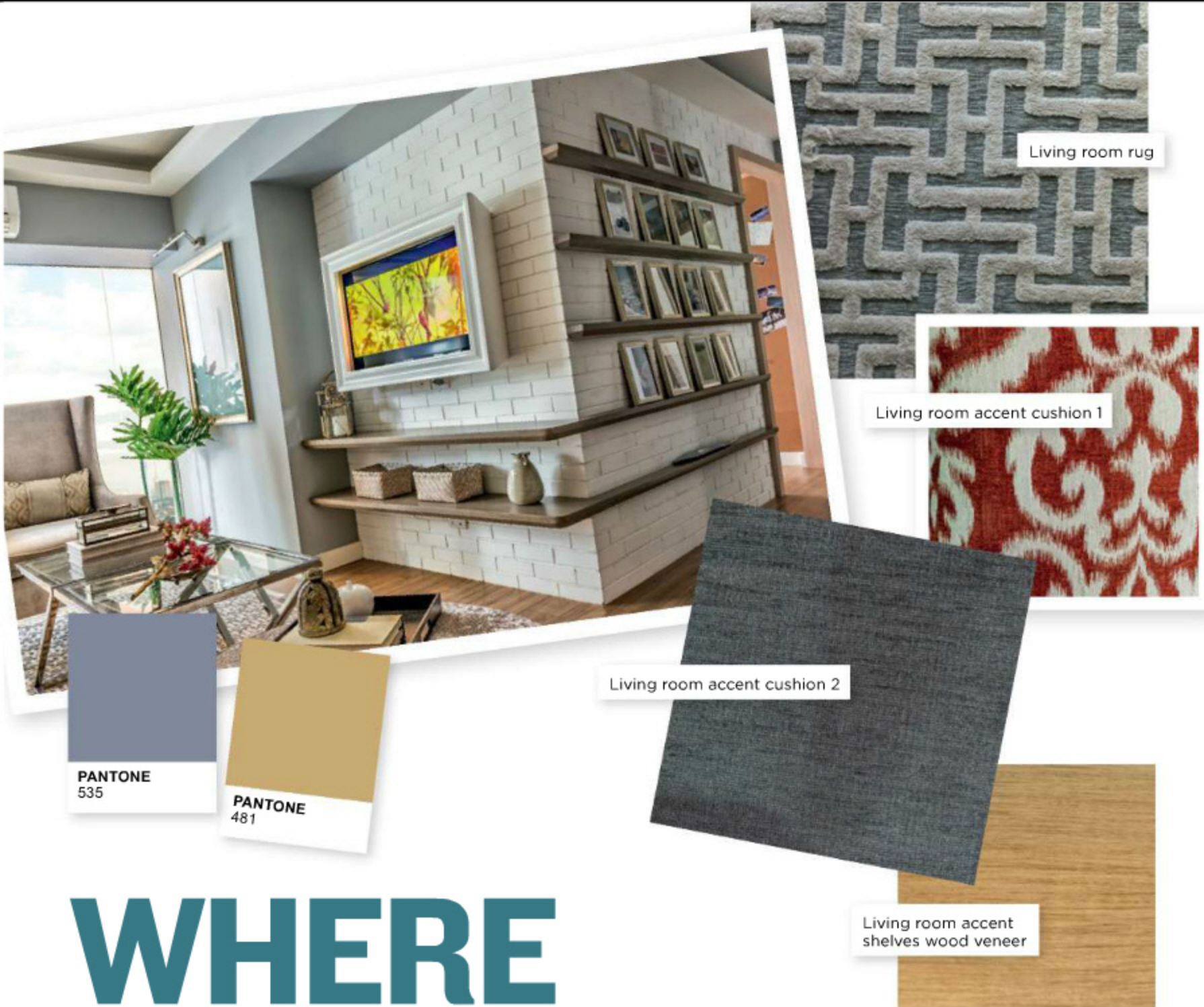
During the Middle Ages, the city was variously known as Barchinona, Barçelona, Barchelonaa, and Barchenona.

FUN AND FESTIVE

There's at least a couple of festivals or parties going on every week in Barcelona's yearly calendar, and some of the most popular are September's Festes de la Mercè, the main city celebrations in honor of Barcelona's patron saint.

HOME OF THE ARTISTIC

Barcelona is home to many iconic names and personalities in the creative field. Aside from the famous Antoni Gaudí and Pablo Picasso, there's also Josep Puig i Cadafalch who is known as the last modernist architect. Some of his notable works include La Casa Amatller, Palau Baró de Quadras, and Fàbrica Casaramona.



Living room rug

Living room accent cushion 1

Living room accent cushion 2

Living room accent shelves wood veneer

PANTONE
535

PANTONE
481

WHERE OLD MEETS NEW

ALVEO LAND'S NEWEST DEVELOPMENT IN ORTIGAS, PORTICO, COMBINES OLD WORLD CHARM WITH MODERN AMENITIES, BREATHTAKING FEATURES, AND COZY SPACES YOU WOULD WANT TO CALL YOUR OWN

BY NANA CARAGAY / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



The interiors of this Portico model unit are care of Design Hirayama + Quesada (<http://designhq.net/>). Partner Frenjick Quesada describes the theme as "timeless classic meets contemporary." To achieve this, they mixed patterns, textures, and modern furniture with classic pieces for a home they envisioned for a couple with a young son. "An eclectic mix of the old and new reflects the passions and personalities of the family living here."



A touch of red breaks up the muted tones and livens up the space. "We looked at classical details and materials such as mouldings, brass, and brick mixed in with stainless steel and modern pieces," designer Frenjick Quesada says. LEFT: "The modern dining chairs and table are juxtaposed with a period bench," Quesada says. "Artwork, from abstract to still life to landscape, are arranged in an organic, asymmetrical arrangement for contrast and interest."

FANS OF RICHARD LINKLATER'S *Before Sunrise*, *Sunset*, and *Midnight* trilogy will remember that scene, towards the end of the second installment, where Julie Delpy's Celine leads Ethan Hawke's Jesse into her apartment complex located somewhere in the outskirts of Paris. From the moment he steps into the sprawling courtyard, where they are met by Delpy's adopted cat and an assortment of nosy-but-friendly neighbors in the midst of an afternoon party, you can see that he has fallen in love with the fiercely independent Celine and her free-spirited lifestyle just a little bit more. It's no wonder, then, that once he gets inside her home, he—spoiler alert!—decides he never wants to leave.

That spirit of a quaint, romantic courtyard escape located right in the middle of a bustling city is reflected in Alveo Land's latest mixed-use lifestyle neighborhood in Ortigas, Portico. Its eponymous name refers to classic architectural thresholds easing both indoors and outdoors in a refreshing shared space, and is actually one of the many delicate features in the development that exemplify its charming neighborhood environs. "Portico's name evokes the airy feel of a porous community, with immediate access to fresh experiences and abundant social spaces nurturing pause in a lively urban setting," says Eunice Acejo, Alveo Land's Marketing Head.

Indeed, "shared space" and "mixed-use" are terms that you will come across frequently when reading descriptions of this new project. Aside from the 41-storey landmark residential tower, The Sandstone at Portico, which is slated for turnover in the first quarter of 2019, the community will also be home to an artisanal retail row of boutique stores, dining spots, and refreshing hangouts, many of which will be exclusively found here. "Portico is envisioned to house establishments that are unique to the area so that people are encouraged to really visit the place for its distinct offerings and options on flavor and retail," Acejo explains. For those who prefer to break away from the usual options, there are less mainstream restaurants and coffee shops here—everything available will be one-of-a-kind, giving residents and visitors alike the feeling that they've stumbled upon a secret escape in the midst of a flourishing cityscape.



Master bedroom feather décor

Modern meets traditional

As for Portico's residential spaces, the condominium buildings will be seamlessly interwoven with upscale amenities, elegant gardens, and even stylish townhouses, so instead of looking up and seeing a uniform row of identical buildings lined one after the other, homeowners will be treated to a variety of high-rise and low-rise estates, inspired by New York brownstones located along the blocks of trendy districts like Greenwich Village, SoHo, or Brooklyn. The characteristic urban courtyards surrounding them, as well, will be created in the spirit of those found at Manhattan's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), an eclectic combination of cobblestone pathways, artistic landscaping, and verdant greens that result in a living experience that is both old-school nostalgic and refreshingly new.

"Portico provides a special offering of lush open spaces in a charming neighborhood setting, creating a truly breathtaking haven amidst the modern city's concrete surroundings," Acejo notes, pertaining to Portico's exceptional environment that will evoke a feeling of camaraderie and small-town living. Even the interconnected parking areas keep pedestrian-friendliness in mind, as it was carefully masterplanned in such a way that vehicular activity will be concentrated around the basements only, leaving safe, healthy, and perfectly delightful neighborhood sceneries above. With these, you can look forward to long strolls, relaxing bike rides, and quiet afternoons spent walking your dog... a throwback to times when people caught up with neighbors by running into them on the street and life was lived at a leisurely pace.

As a signature development from Alveo Land, the neighborhood's building and construction standards are ensured of the highest quality, with maximum livability of its residents a top priority. For instance, The Sandstone at Portico averages about 11 units per floor in one-, two-, and three-bedroom configurations. Portico will also feature increased glass ratio, so you can expect tall windows and lots of ventilation; the units are airy, thus providing breathing space as a product of the large floor plans and innovative window schedules.

Innovative space

One of the more groundbreaking living innovations in The Sandstone at Portico is the twin flat unit, a 104-square meter space that houses a fully-equipped studio-type "twin room" layout adjacent to a spacious two-bedroom featuring its own maid's quarters and utility area. This novel use of space allows owners to make use of the adjoining unit as either a functional third bedroom, a flexispace for an entertainment hub, mini-gym, or home office, or as an investmet unit that they can rent out to prospective tenants. Despite both spaces sharing one unit, this distinctive layout allows for private, yet harmonious living across its walls.

"This thoughtfully laid out two-plus-one bedroom unit provides homeowners the opportunity to seamlessly lease out an independent portion of their unit, whether the twin room or even the full-sized two-bedroom itself, or combine the adjacent rooms into one convenient and practical three-bedroom configuration for extended family," Acejo suggests. An example of this can be seen in the twin flat model unit photographed on these pages. The unit itself was envisioned and designed with a modern upscale family setup in mind. That is, a successful and well-travelled couple who has a tweenage son and who also shares their space with a young female relative who, in turn, has chosen to infuse the next-door twin room with character and décor that highlight her personal eclectic sensibilities.

"This home is a reflection of contemporary urban lifestyles with subtle nods to a rich and cultured past while still enjoying the best



Master bedroom wall picture



Master bedroom rug

Master bedroom sidetable book wrapper



Master bedroom accent pillow



PANTONE 300



Master bedroom bed runner



Master bedroom study chair

Don't be afraid to mix textures, patterns, and prints to achieve a rich, eclectic feel. As long as you keep the colors complementary, the effect will be harmonious rather than overwhelming. "We would like to highlight unexpected pairings," Quesada says. "Some of the items we used were sourced from swap meets and flea markets while some were from more contemporary collections."

of today," says Frenjick Quesada of Design Hirayama + Quesada, who took charge of outfitting the unit's interiors. "A mix of old and new, from classic to contemporary, are combined to showcase the homeowners' personality." Tastefully curated artwork sits alongside hand painted murals, brass bespoke hardware, sleek stainless steel, and antique souvenir finds picked up from their travels, all of which express the ideal homeowners' very own penchant for elegance imbued with objects that boasts of refinement and provenance.



When working with limited space, Quesada says it's okay to use bigger furniture but to also mind the proportions, as seen in the master bedroom. "We chose the biggest possible furniture that would be proportionate to the space. This stretches it—a common mistake is to use small furniture for a limited space, which may result in making the space feel even smaller."



Twin room bed runner



Twin room side table accessories

Portico's twin flat unit allows for independent living between the inhabitants of a two-bedroom unit and a studio-type "twin room", all in one cohesive layout. For the twin room, Design HQ envisioned the tenant to be a woman who works in a creative field. "The look was feminine, artistic and bold," Quesada says. "Our inspiration was a young woman who mixes and matches fashion. Fresh forms patterned with splashes of color were what we were going for, all while mixing in unexpected pairings."



PANTONE 3125



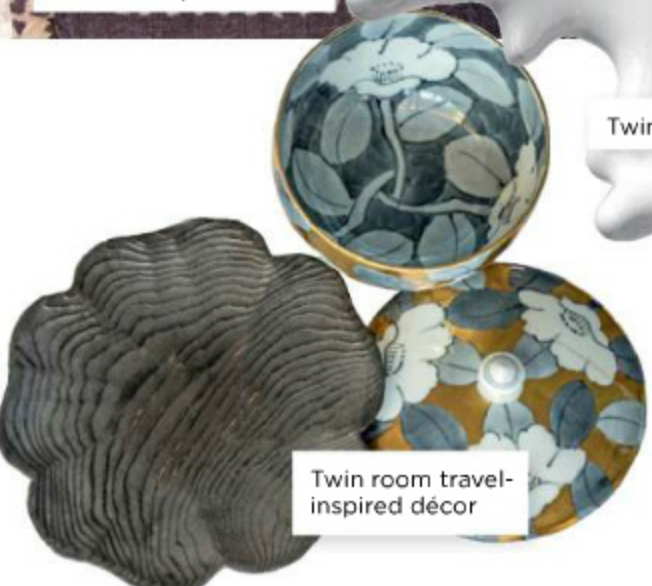
Twin room travel-inspired décor



Twin room pillow cover



Twin room drawer handle

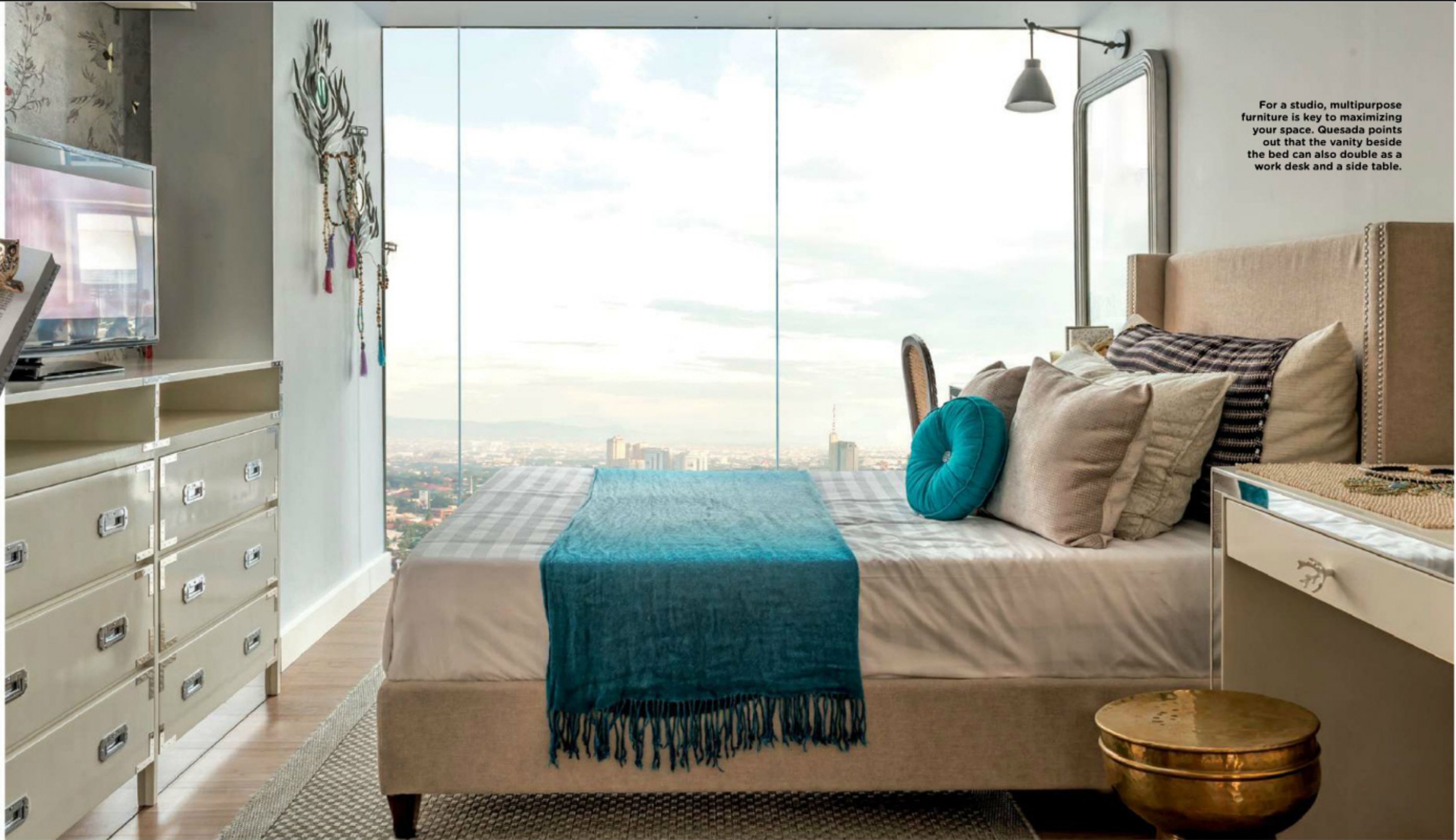


Twin room travel-inspired décor

Modern family

For the twin room, Quesada pictured a single woman with a similar thirst for travel and a creative streak. "The look was feminine, artistic, and bold. Fresh forms patterned with splashes of color were what we were going for, all while mixing in unexpected pairings." Hence, the delightful surprise of bright turquoise bed sheets blending with graphic pink portraits, while the brass accessories and scattered jewelry provide a dainty touch that complements the delicately-handpainted avian mural on the wall.

Move next door to the main two-bedroom space housing the young couple and child, and the atmosphere takes a sophisticated turn. Modern dining chairs and light fixtures are juxtaposed with period furniture, while landscapes share a wall with convex mirrors and abstract art. "We used a diverse mix of modern, classical, and transitional furniture pieces to achieve the look of an artistic collection over time," says Quesada. "We highlighted the unexpected pairing of the pieces—some were sourced from swap meets and flea markets while some were from more contemporary collections."



For a studio, multipurpose furniture is key to maximizing your space. Quesada points out that the vanity beside the bed can also double as a work desk and a side table.

The bedrooms are also of interest, particularly that of the son, who has a fascination with space travel and astronomy. This is evident in the constellation wallpaper and black-and-white artwork showing the different phases of the moon. Meanwhile, in the master bedroom, the parents have created their own little sanctuary, combining materials, prints, and textures for an effect that is refreshing and chic.

"We wanted a place that showed items of the past with the conveniences of the present," Quesada continues. "We looked at classical details and materials such as moldings, brass, and brick mixed in with stainless steel and modern pieces." This mash-up of old-world influences combined with today's amenities is a recurrent theme, reflecting the old-meets-new aesthetic that Portico is creating.

Never too far

Another important convenience that Portico affords is that, despite its sentimental ambience that seems to stop time in its tracks, the rest of the modern world is just a brief walk or drive from home. Portico is located in a sizeable parcel of land in the midst of Ortigas

and along Capt. Henry Javier Street, right at the junction between the lifestyle and commercial hubs of Makati City, Bonifacio Global City, and Quezon City's Vertis North. Hospitals, shopping malls, and places of worship are a short distance away, so if you want to get back to the rest of the world, the gentle transition can be done quite easily. But just like Jesse in Before Sunset, we would do well to warn you: the character and the pleasant charms that await within Portico's walls will be difficult to leave behind. **1**

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Using high quality foam with an inter-connecting cell structure, it distributes pressure equally and evenly, letting your body feel relaxed while you sleep. It also uses 3D Spacer Fabric to keep your mattress cool and fresh, while Tencel fabric gives it that soft and smooth feel.

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The Orthocare collection



The Premium Touch collection



The Senso Memory collection



The Orthocare collection



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True Colors, p. 58

TRUE COLORS

TAKING CUES FROM TRADITIONAL RURAL FILIPINO ARCHITECTURE, PRE-HISPANIC, TRIBAL ACCESSORIES AND CONTEMPORARY ART, THIS HOMEOWNER HAS CREATED A HOME WORTHY OF AN ANCIENT LEGEND

BY LEAH PUYAT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES



At ease with color: neutral walls and cream sofas anchor a home full of Filipino themes and motifs. This weekend home has streamlined lines and yet comes to life with pre-Colonial and tribal touches, ikat-inspired pillows, Machuca tiles and contemporary art.

Fountain of youth. The open basement is the favorite hangout for the family, especially the children and their friends. A cobalt blue fountain is the design centerpiece. The green rocking chair and the terra cotta tiles form a vivid but complementary color scheme. The view of the surrounding hills and the constant soft breezes are rejuvenating and restorative.



IN OUR SEARCH FOR THIS WEEKEND HOME, nestled in a hilly gated enclave at the foot of majestic and lyrical Mt. Makiling, we were guided by a bird of multicolored, splendid plumage. That sounds a lot more poetic than the prosaic reality. The homeowner had told us that she had a *sarimanok* (the legendary bird of the Maranao people of Mindanao, which is said to be a symbol of good fortune) right by her front door, and as soon as we saw a wooden bird with scroll, leaf, and spiral designs in primary colors, we knew we had found the place.

From the pyramids, whose stones blend in with the tawny sands of Giza, to the Parthenon whose regal columns match the rocky hills of Athens, the most enduring and memorable design statements have a strong sense of place. This home's resident amateur decorator tells us, "I opted for a *bahay kubo* or a traditional Filipino home because of the location—we are at the foothills of Mt. Makiling, which figures in a lot of Filipino myths and legends. It's also the home of UP Los Baños and lots of indigenous flora and fauna are to be found in the area. So it seemed incongruous to attempt a modern glass house or a Zen temple in this place. I wanted to get as native as possible without sacrificing modern amenities."

The hut on the hill

A little backpedaling is in order. The story of Maria Makiling is one of the most popular Filipino legends, a tale that was made immortal by oral tradition and was even retold by our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, a son of Laguna and therefore, heir to this romantic and yet ultimately tragic tale. Maria Makiling was a *diwata* (a fairy goddess or enchantress) who was the protector of Mt. Makiling. She could endow a favored mortal with a bountiful harvest or magic ginger, which turned to gold.

As I look around this home, I realize that two elements reflect the legend: the choice of a *bahay kubo* theme ties in so well with the provincial myth. The homeowner is also a dedicated social entrepreneur and philanthropist, carrying on the benevolence and generosity of the legendary lady.

The first design decision dictated all the other aesthetic directions. The simple dictum was actually a request of the owner's mother, who resides in the house for six months of the year. She says, "My mother had expressed preference for a *bahay kubo* and the Mañosas are the only ones who can elevate the *kubo* to an art form. When I visited (Architect) Gelo's own house and saw the way he could harmonize the outdoors with the indoors, I felt that he was the best choice to take advantage of the views and the natural attributes of our place. I knew his design would also be flexible enough to put a lot of contemporary touches."

The choice of architect made the design process fairly smooth and peaceful. The *bahay kubo*'s pitched, thatched roof is reinterpreted in

"At the very start, I was very sure that I wanted the look of Machuca tiles, as it is one design element that is very Filipino, and yet at the same time, still international," declares the homeowner. The graphic black and white design of the tiles keeps the kitchen quite contemporary and chic.



the main living areas and the second floor bedrooms, adding to the home's open, lofty feel. Windows all around the main living area create a wide vista. The house faces the subdivision's nature park, and so their view will never be marred by another home. For the home's main floor, the living room, dining room and kitchen all flow into each other, another reflection of the *bahay kubo*'s commonality of space functions.

The treasure hunt

As soon as the house's basic structure was set, the foraging began. The owner left no stone unturned, stopping by sidewalk furniture manufacturers, antique dealers' warehouses, Cebuano exporters, the metro's malls and the streets of Divisoria to find fabrics, furniture, art and accessories to create a colorful haven. One particular colorful find could have been a bone of contention, but turned out to be a happy choice, and the first, most exciting design find.

"It was a deep fuchsia Thai silk shot through with orange lines. The plan was for me to share the home with my parents when they were in the Philippines. I was worried that my father, being a very conservative man, would completely reject the idea of a fuchsia bedroom. When I told him about the curtains, I assured him that the room would be painted a very neutral gunmetal gray to offset the brightness. That paved the way for a headboard with a fuchsia and orange design. My mother and I hardly ever agree, but we designed that headboard together. She and I hardly have the same taste, but when it came to this, we were in total sync."

The owner and her mother's opposing tastes even completed the totality of the eventual interpretation of what is Filipino. The owner wanted to mix more of the tribal and Islamic feel of a pre-colonial Philippines, and then add contemporary art. But her mother is quite religious and wanted to add Catholic icons. One design mistake brought in a touch of Mexico, which represents the galleon trade that marked our Spanish era.

The owner narrates, "One construction mistake we made was in commissioning a front door. There was a miscommunication on the specs, and it was such an eyesore. We ended up with a Tibetan door. We didn't want to put the first narra door to waste, so my mother went to Paete and commissioned a wood carver there to make it into an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe." And so now their home is an even merrier mix of all the eras of our nation's colorful history.

How did the owner organize her decorating efforts? "Buying for this house happened in three spurts. The first (phase) was in Divisoria when I was actually buying fabric for another project. I saw so many beautiful prints with native *ikat* type patterns and I knew they would be perfect for that indigenous Filipino look I wanted. I didn't even know the sizes of the windows back then so I just blindly estimated the yardage for the curtains and actually got them mostly right. Only one room needed an additional accent fabric."

The other two phases came in concert with two other projects. The owner and her cousins were also redecorating a serviced apartment building and they decided on a trip to Cebu to find suppliers.

The capiz chandelier and the ethnic print of the runner are fresh interpretations of traditional Filipino elements. The windows keep the space awash in natural light and the homeowners never tire of the panoramic vista before them.



"My son's only instruction was that it couldn't look like a kid's room since he is already a teenager. But I still wanted to stay in my Filipino theme, so when I found the street scene in a pop art style, I knew it would make the room," reveals the homeowner.



"It was love at first sight when I saw these chairs," the owner swoons over these chairs of painted canvas, found on a buying expedition to Cebu exporters' showrooms. The balcony is another favorite spot for the family and their friends, for catching the sunset, or enjoying the cool mountain air. LEFT: "This is one of my favorite parts of the house. These are portraits of my children and nephews, which were painted by my mother. They're smiling children, what could be more uplifting than that?" This gallery wall is in the corridor of the second floor.

The third phase came in with an old school friend who was furnishing a bed and breakfast.

On her Cebu trip: "It was an overnight whirlwind trip, and we were able to cram in visits to eleven furniture exporters. From one of them, I was able to buy the chairs in the balcony. That was love at first sight. And from the beginning I was really determined to get a *sarimanok*. It is a very Pinoy symbol with a fairly Islamic influence. I wanted to go further back in our history, so I have many furnishings like the big bowls from a tribe in Mindanao, and lots of woven baskets from the Mountain Province. Anyway, in this particular antique dealer's warehouse, it was pitch black, and I just saw the head of the *sarimanok*. I bought it without seeing it in full. It was an act of faith. And it turned out to be exactly the right size and wingspan."

On her third phase: "My friend shared a lot of her sources. She chanced upon a supplier who made reproductions, and another one who bought from old houses. But my favorite supplier has to be Mrs. Virginia Chan of Shell Arts. I fell in love with so many of her pieces."

At day's end

Falling in love is a recurrent theme in the making of this house, and luckily enough (is it the power of the *sarimanok*?), this home's story is much happier than the old legend.

The first house party included seventeen of her eldest son's friends and their parents who came the next day to pick up their kids. "The hands-down favorite time of day is sunset, when the entire living room has a panoramic view of the sun sinking at the back of the treetops. In the far distance, we see the twinkling lights of the city. It is impossible to feel stressed or anxious when you see that.

"Sometimes, it is a major production to pack up for the weekend. But from the moment we step into the house, and most especially when we face the sunset, we are always so thankful we decided to come. It's a literal and figurative breath of fresh air. I am so thankful that my children get to have a playground where they can see exotic birds of all colors, where they can catch fish in the pond or dragonflies in the field, where they can pick fruits hanging from the trees and walk in the woods. These things are just not possible in the city, and that's a pity."

Anthropologists, sociologists and cultural historians tell us that we need myths and legends to make sense of the world around us and to feel one with that world. But to hear of the simple pleasures of a walk in the woods or a fruit picked from a tree, it seems that myths are indeed not just myths. And that the real gift of a legend is not ginger that turns into gold, or a life of enchanted immortality, but the far simpler realization that the best stories are the ones we create for ourselves. **10**

ASIAN PERSUASION

THE DESIGN SCHEME FOR THIS CONDO UNIT IS ANCHORED ON SENSIBILITIES THAT PRIZE THE COZY AND SERENE

BY NANA CARAGAY / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG

The color scheme of this two-bedroom unit was inspired by the view, with green and orange as the dominant shades because the living room window provides a gorgeous view of the parks and sunset. This is reflected in the Oriental console from Justin Treasure and the custom-made chair from Nest. The multicolored pouf from Larry's provides a touch of playfulness and contrast.



The clear dining table was chosen so as not to overpower the small space. “We wanted something that would not look heavy and overbearing,” says the homeowner. This also happens to be one of the most used areas in the home, where guests help themselves to pre-dinner cocktails before hitting the town.

IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE VIEW. The huge window located at the far end of this three-bedroom unit floods the space with a generous helping of natural light, and happens to be the perfect spot from which to appreciate the sunset. It also overlooks a patch of idyllic, soothing greens on this otherwise thoroughly urbanized landscape. This view eventually dictated the homeowners’ chosen color scheme, accents of orange and green, as a way of incorporating the outdoors in the interiors and visually expanding their abode.

“If you look out the window, that’s what you see—the green of the park and the sunset,” says Anton Barretto, who took charge of the designing and decorating. The homeowners are instantly on board with his observation, and agree that it would give an added dimension to their space. “Because we live in an apartment, all the colors inside somehow reflect the outdoors and unify them with the indoors,” says the owner. “Anton was able to capture that sense of bringing the outdoors in, which makes the space very cozy and relaxing.”

“There are Asian accents—we were really after a colored console to kind of anchor the TV. And then we found this, and it was in a green tone,” Barretto adds, referring to the Oriental console from Justin Treasure, which ended up becoming one of the main jump-off points that pulled the look together. In fact, he confesses that everything really started to fall into place once they found this piece. “The owners particularly fell in love with this. It was the right piece that they were looking for to add color.” The homeowners took a liking to what they describe as the “beautiful muted green patina finish,” and made use of the drawers and cabinets to hold electronic gadgets and conceal the sound system.

Purposeful choices

Barretto points out that storage is something you can never have enough of in condo living. One of his guidelines for maximizing lim-

ABOVE: The daybed (LEFT) has a pull-out trundle so that guests can sleep over, as the homeowners love to have friends over and entertain. The antique prints hanging on the wall were sourced from an art gallery in Hong Kong. The kitchen (RIGHT) is spare but enjoys limited use, as the homeowners prefer to have wine and cheese with guests before heading out to dinner at the restaurants nearby.

ited space is to avoid overstuffing it with furniture. Hence, every item chosen here has a specific purpose and consideration in mind. The comfy-looking beige couch, for example, is from Dimensione, and follows the exact specifications set by the owners. “They knew exactly what silhouette they wanted. They weren’t going for the boxy type because it might look too bulky, they didn’t want a classic silhouette that would look too traditional,” Barretto says. The multicolored round pouf from Larry’s adds a touch of playfulness and whimsy while the orange chair sitting opposite was custom-made at Barretto’s home store, Nest.

The owners opted for two custom-made cube-shaped stands in the middle of the living room to serve as dual coffee tables rather than just one central piece. “You have to consider the movement around the apartment, so we couldn’t have a big coffee table in relation to where the sofa is positioned and the TV,” Barretto reasons. “We broke it up into pairs so, just in case, it’s versatile enough to move one to the side of the sofa or closer to the armchair to free up the middle.”



"We wanted an earth-colored home, a place where we could just be comfortable after a long and stressful day," say the homeowners, and this is once again reflected in the beiges and browns of the master bedroom. The niche was especially built to frame the bed, while the only touch of color can be seen in the painting hanging on the wall.

This makes perfect sense since the owners, who have two grown children who shuttles between this unit and another home, love to entertain. Because of this, the dining room and the bar situated right beside it are the areas that enjoy the most use. Cove lighting, a dropped ceiling, and a cluster of clear glass tubes that hang over the dining set (a lighting fixture purchased at MC Home Depot) create a relaxed yet elegant vibe.

"The husband was very concerned about lighting," Barretto says. "His request was to put a lot of options for him and dimmers so that he could set a mood if he wanted to, because he likes to have friends over for wine and cheese and then go out to restaurants to eat." The transparent glass dining table is another favorite piece, one that was selected by the man of the house. "We wanted something that would not look heavy and overbearing in the small space," the owners say.

B is for beige

The lady of the house's input, meanwhile, can be seen in the art hanging on the walls—pieces by Acuña and Alindogan as well as a set of delicate Oriental prints depicting scenes from everyday life in ancient Asia. The latter is an antique find sourced from a Hong Kong art gallery and serves as a point of interest in one of the bedrooms, otherwise minimally furnished with just a daybed and a trundle that can be pulled out for guests who stay over.

Barretto steered the homeowners toward a neutral color scheme for the walls, particularly shades of beige, the better to offset the little touches of color that can be found all throughout. "They didn't want a white space; they were very specific. They believe that earthy colors are cozier and warmer; they feel that white is cold," he says. "They wanted a lighter shade of beige first so we tried it on the wall, but I was already suggesting this darker shade of beige. When we sampled it, they saw the dark shade and immediately said, 'This is it. That's the color we want.' And then they chose the darker shade for the accent wall."

Barretto's options won them over, and they are quite happy with the outcome. "We wanted an earth color-inspired home with a warm and relaxing color scheme... Anton picked the perfect beige shade," the owners affirm.

The color scheme is reflected once more in the master bedroom, where the queen-size bed, covered in bed sheets and pillows in varying shades of brown, is bordered on either side by sleek wooden paneling. "We built up the wall to create a niche to frame the bed," Barretto explains. Attached to these panels are metal lamps for nighttime reading.

It is apparent from this quiet, intimate nook that the homeowners' original vision for this halfway house has been realized. "This home is our own sanctuary, a place where we can have peace and quiet at the end of the day, away from the hustle and bustle of the city around us," they say. How they managed to create it right in the middle of one of the busiest, most highly developed areas in the metro is, in itself, already a wonder. **1**

THE SIMPLE PLAN

DIRECTOR RICH ILUSTRE GOES FROM MAKING TELEVISION SHOWS TO CREATING HIS HAPPY PLACE

BY CAL TAVERA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO

One of the first artworks to be put up were the cat and dog paintings by Yanni, a young artist Rich Ilustre discovered during the annual Art in the Park exhibit in Salcedo village. Another piece he is proud of acquiring is one of the early works of Froilan Calayag who is known as the "Prince of Dark Fairy Tales." A customized sofa graces the living room, and a *Bet on Your Baby* pig, from the television show he directs, keeps the furniture company. A colorful rug punctuates the room with color.



The only thing retained from the loft turnover was the kitchen counter. However, they found it too exposed so they built a bar to cover it and provide additional space for food for when he has guests over. LEFT: A sculptural metal railing was designed for the stairs. On the sofa, a denim pillow by his former boss sits comfortably with the others. It was a gift given to the twelve idols and him for his work on Philippine Idol on TV5.

“CHELSEA MARKET IN NEW YORK was the inspiration for the home. It is this indoor food hall filled with merchants selling everything that would entice any foodie. It is eclectic, rustic and done in stripped-down bricks,” says Rich Ilustre. The TV Director, who is the reason behind the success story of shows such as *Bet on your Baby*, *Shall We Dance* and *Talentadong Pinoy*, retained fond memories of his years in the States, so when it came to designing his second home, he instantly picked the City of Lights for his design direction. He shares, “After living in New York, I really wanted a genuine loft feel that is both relaxing and cozy. I was also fond of details like the old wood, metal and exposed bricks in the market. It has that industrial feel that was not too modern and will serve as a good background for my collections: 80’s action figures and numerous robots. I wanted my home to be filled with items that I love. Work itself is toxic so you want to come home to a haven that exudes a happy vibe.”

After the turnover of his condominium in May, the director decided to collaborate again with his first production designer, Cynthia Gaerlan,

who has evolved into an interior decorator full time. Since working on Rich’s award-winning music video “So Slow” by Freestyle, the duo continued their partnership with other videos and set designs. Cynthia, who also worked on his restaurant, Napa and first home, was thrilled with the challenge of their latest project which consisted of an 80-square meter space of irregular angles and surprising bends. She says, “I love working with unusually shaped areas. They are much more interesting to deal with than the predictable uniformed rooms.” She continues, “Also, after working with Rich for more than a decade, I knew it would be an experience because we would have to customize everything to make it different. It is rare that we buy something off the rack.”

An ode to Mother Earth

The overall product, a combination of Rich’s design aesthetic and Cynthia’s production and interior decoration background, is a sense of playfulness that is intrinsic to the design. The loft has been con-

verted to a well-proportioned space highlighting the beauty of bare brick walls, dressed up with accents of color through artworks and toys and showered with custom-made pieces made possible by a visit to the junkshop. “We had to be resourceful and creative in how we approach things because Rich is a director and the home had to be unique and perfect for him,” notes Cynthia. “We went to the junk yard because this project was special, but I do enjoy putting items together from obscure places. The lighting fixture by the dining area, for instance, was assembled with shoe molds we found by chance in Marikina. He was shooting a project for Cinemalaya and one of our locations was the famous Valentino’s. We did not want to buy an existing light fixture so we designed a lamp over the weekend.” She adds, “Even the grillwork mounted on the wall came from a junk shop. We just made a few adjustments in framing it. We love it because it is so art deco.”

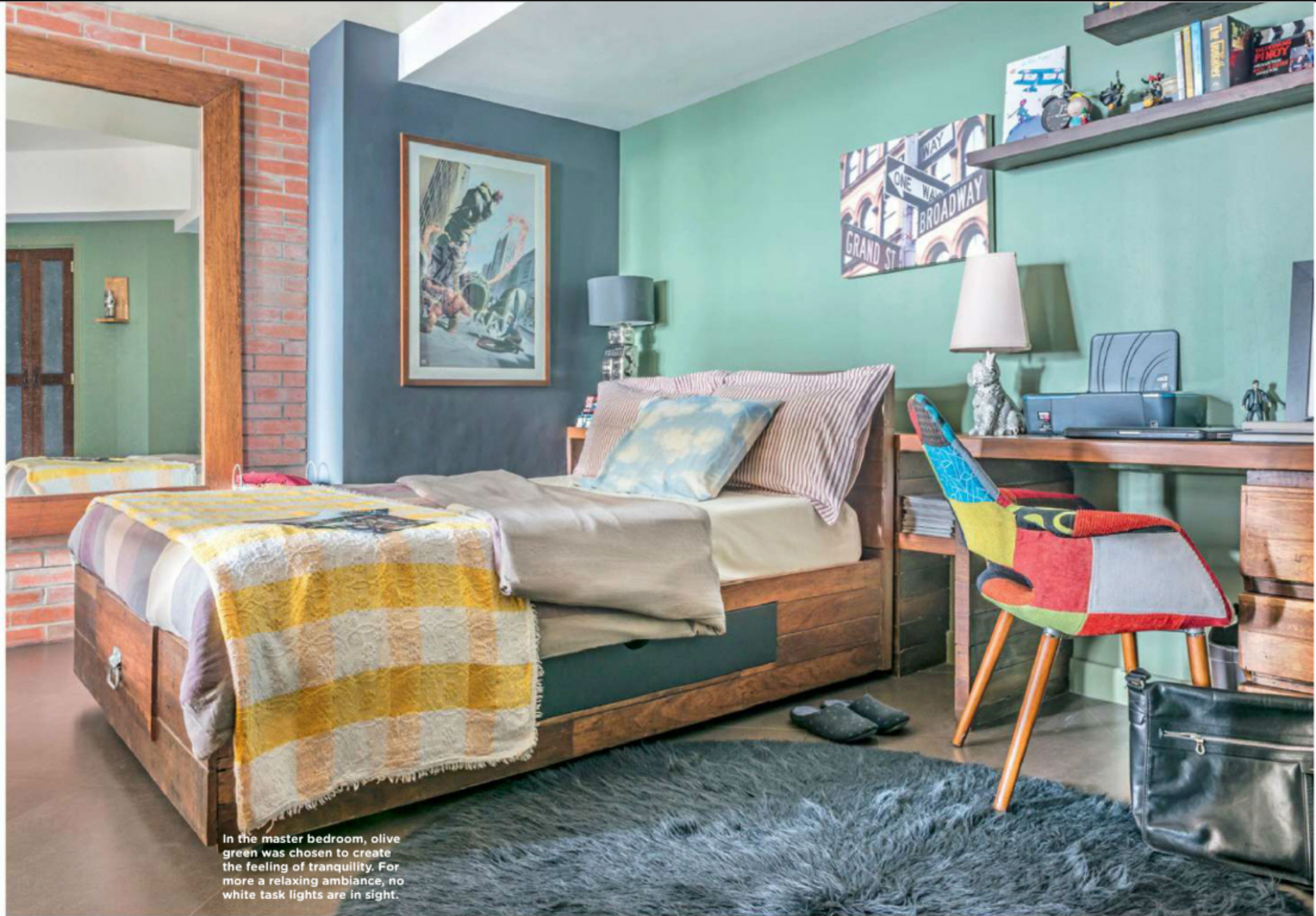
The wood used for the additional storage in the living room area is all reclaimed from demolished houses. Since the wood came in dif-

ferent stages, they had to experiment with various finishes to create a smooth look. The new stairs, the treads of which were fashioned of real wood were replaced with natural stone. These then found their new calling as the bar counter and study desk in the bedroom. Cynthia admits it is more expensive to repurpose materials because they can be labor intensive but says it is worth it because it is more environmentally friendly.

It runs in the family

By the kitchen, black and white stickers decorate the overhead cabinets. At a closer glance, they display movie posters of the classics Rich’s grandfather, Felicing H. Constantino, directed. Rich shares, “My lolo made 78 movies including hits such as *Bakekang*. The screenplay of *Lollipops and Roses* was by him. He worked with legends such as actress Nora Aunor. I was only able to research 50 titles and asked a friend to lay them out for me. My grandfather was amazing. Even with

To address the sharp angles, decorator Cynthia used three types of flooring to create harmonious lines. Since Rich loves wood, the tiles were delegated to the dining and kitchen areas only for practicality. In the dining area, illustrator and graphic artist Gigi Lapid from Artinformal Gallery steals some of the limelight through her Red Riding Hood painting. Another arresting piece is the customized lighting fixture Rich and Cynthia developed from shoe molds found in Marikina during one of their shootings. Since Rich is an animal lover, one of the items he brings with him wherever he goes, is the cat gifted by his aunt ten years ago.



In the master bedroom, olive green was chosen to create the feeling of tranquility. For more a relaxing ambiance, no white task lights are in sight.

the technology today, it is difficult to accumulate a portfolio such as his." Rich never saw himself following his grandfather's footsteps. He admits that he never saw directing in his cards but after finishing his four-year Computer Science course in the Ateneo de Manila University, Rich decided he didn't want to be in IT and took a couple of years off. In his short stay in the States, he enrolled in a few short film courses in UCLA and worked as an intern at NBC Studios. When he returned to Manila, he scored his first job the very next day working for Director Chito Roño and the rest was history. Since then, he directed *Party on Five*, *Club TV*, *Shall We Dance* and the American franchise *Bet on Your Baby* for different major television networks.

Sanctuary on the second floor

The only thing Rich and Cynthia retained from the existing design is the kitchen counter. Everything else was revamped including the bedroom on the next level. The standard loft offered by the Grove reveals an open layout that is half exposed. Rich decided to totally enclose the space and leave a window for air circulation. He adds, "With the smaller space, I no longer have to spend on air conditioning with 3.5 horsepower; 1 hp will suffice." To ensure enough rest due to the erratic

schedule of shooting, the designer also opted for black out blinds for the jalousies. Cynthia adds, "We used jalousies as the window treatment to fit the New York-inspired look we were aiming for and painted the door a bright yellow, similar to the taxi cabs driving there." When asked about his favorite room, Rich readily answers, "The bedroom. During the holidays, I don't want to spend to stay in a hotel. I have everything here already: clothes, food, cable television. I believe it is important to have a home that you love so it feels like a staycation everyday."

Rich shares, "I worked really hard in my 20s and early 30s. I had a post productions company for 15 years before I decided to move on to other things even though it was the most lucrative. That was a big decision on my part." At his age now, he just wants to do things that make him happy. Everything in the loft relaxes him like the memories of New York and childhood collections of comic books and toys. He regularly reminds himself to relax and create a less stressful lifestyle. After losing friends to illnesses, he realized the importance of health. He adds, "I am trying to remove everything that gives me stress and I am lucky to be able to have that option. I do not have this ambition to buy all these massive lots. I am happy with my home. I was able to just let go of the stress because in the end, it is all about levels of contentment." ¹⁰

Glass and grays. Vertical lines and a sleek scheme of grays, whites and blacks make this flat the quintessential city hideaway. The high ceilings and the geometric details create a calm and cool sky high oasis.

URBAN AERIE

MODERNITY AND SERENITY ARE THE CATCHWORDS IN THIS HIGH-RISE FLAT

BY LEAH PUYAT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO

THE EXPERIENCE BEGINS in the high-rise condominium building's lobby. It is in the center of one of Makati's most upscale districts, and the lobby is all shine and minimalism; it is also fairly capacious for a modern real estate development. There is a quick ride up to the flat and the owner welcomes us with a warm smile. A quick look around the clearly well-loved and new but lived-in flat adds up to an impression of a stylish yet unpretentious home, with a friendlier, homier version of city chic.

"Modern, darling, modern," coos the owner turned interior decorator when asked what was her vision for this flat. "I knew what I wanted from the start. Brokers tell you to look at many places as you want, but from the moment I saw it, I knew I wanted this place. And I knew what I wanted to do with it. Usually, the dining table is near the kitchen and the sofa is at the far end. But this place was all about the view. I didn't want the sofa against the window because I wanted that from all parts of the apartment, I can enjoy the beautiful view."

And so she placed the sofa against the loft steps, and positioned the dining table by the window so that when she and her friends sit down to eat, they can enjoy the view of the city all the way to the airport.

This engaging, extremely friendly lady confesses, "Ever since I was young, the career I wanted was to be an interior decorator but somehow I ended up in business. So when I finished this place, my feeling was that I was able to release my artistry and creativity. And that was also the reaction of my friends and family!"

She punctuates her sentences with a hearty laugh or an easy, genuine smile. If there is love at first sight, surely there must also be kinship at first greeting, and she is the kind of person who must make friends very easily. One of her dear friends, interior designer and **Metro Home & Entertaining** contributing editor Tessa Alindogan, helped her in the design process, but Tessa quickly asserts, "It's all her. I just gave her a little advice."



Yin and yang

The owner concedes that she couldn't have done it without her architect, Paul Bejar. He notes that the most important factor in their harmonious working relationship was that his client definitely knew what she wanted. She says, "But it's not as if I just dictated to him. I learned from him, and he learned from me."

Prodded to reveal what they learned from each other, she quips, "I learned from him that if it can't be done, then it can't be done." Another round of lusty, raucous laughter. He quips back, "I learned from her that if she wants it, she wants it."

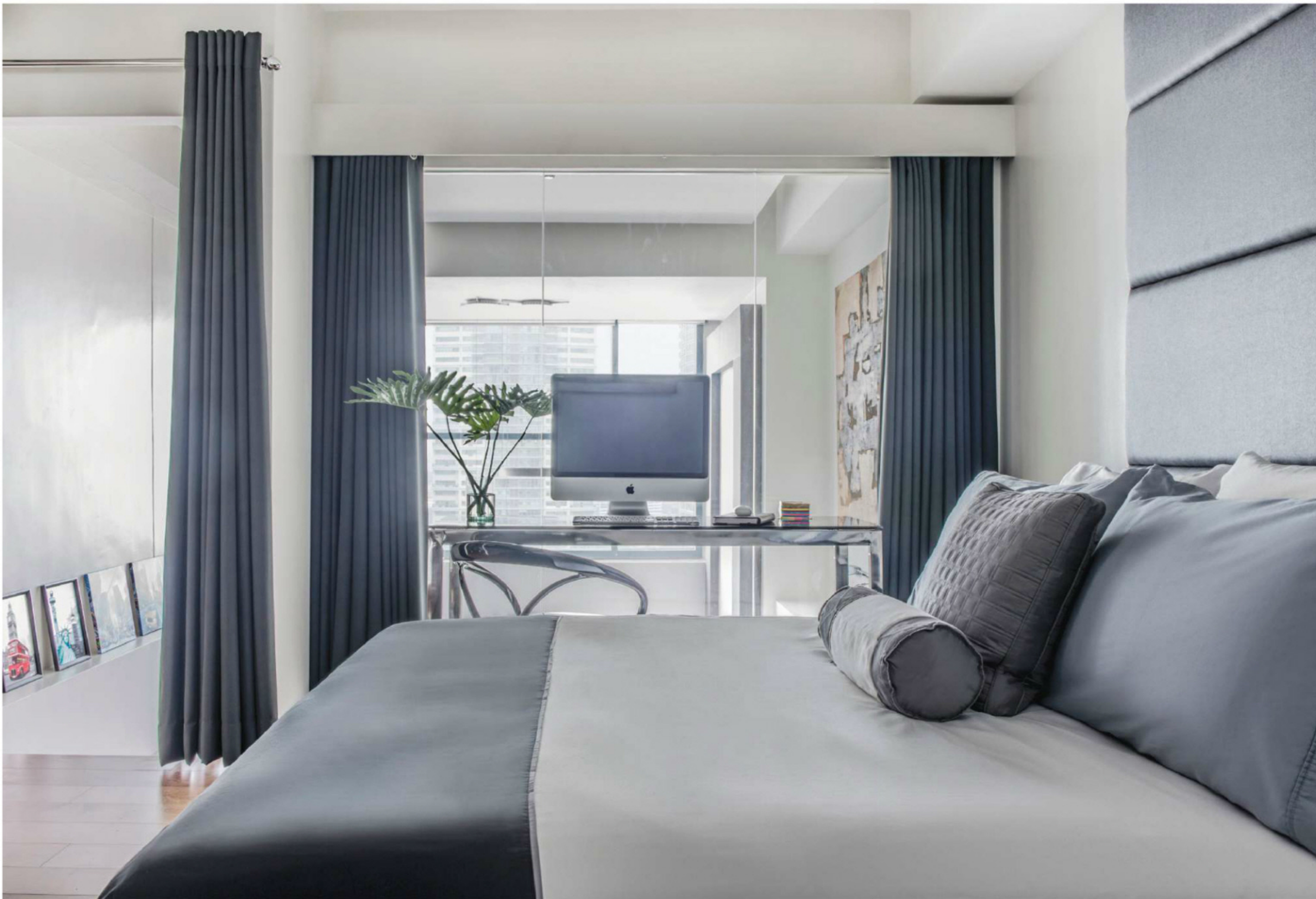
The clearest example of the owner's perseverance and determination was the walk-in closet in the bedroom. "It was really my dream to have a walk-in closet. Imagine how small the closet in a condo can be, but that was what I really wanted. So Architect Paul was able to clear the existing closet to its limit and create a private place where I can look at my things and change, even if my husband is in the bedroom or in the bathroom."

The architect also initially suggested a dining table for four or six, but it was not to be. "I said no, I want all my friends to come here, and so we were able to fit in eight dining chairs!" And the laughter ensues again.

Architect Bejar says calmly, clearly the yang to her yin, "The important thing was that we were able to maximize the space and to do so with a play of volume and textures." The architect is proudest of the glass wall they created in the bedroom and the kitchen. The bedroom was open to the rest of the flat, but the owner wanted to enclose it without compromising the view. So Bejar created a glass cube and a sliding door that give an illusion of a floating space.

LEFT: The geometric pattern on the bedroom's accent wall adds a punch of verve to the space. Travel souvenirs on the shelf add some personal whimsy. **ABOVE:** The streamlined and efficient kitchen makes the most use of the small kitchen, echoing a ship's galley. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** To dine with a view. The customized silver gilt chairs add some Old World charm and formality to the modern and casual space. "I really wanted to enjoy the view while I eat with my friends," confessed the homeowner turned decorator.





The bedroom floats like a glass cube over the living and dining areas and has a breathtaking view of the city skyline. The heavy curtains soften the geometric lines of the room, and the monochromatic gray scheme is a very relaxing, cocooning one.

He is also proud of the slim, vertical pantry he installed in the kitchen, and the storage space he carved out of the area underneath the stairs. A glass screen divides the kitchen from the living space and echoes the glass cube on the loft's second floor. "The high ceilings and the natural light are the best parts of the space," he reiterates. "Those are what really make the difference."

The flat's black, white and gray scheme, a classic combination for city spaces, has always been the owner's favorite color scheme. For that requisite pop of color, she put in travel photos on the ledge that runs across the side of the flat's steps.

"Travel is really my luxury, that's why I put the photos there," she says. "My husband is Spanish, but I met him through my best friend who is married to his best friend, and they live in London, so we try to go to Spain and England as much as we can. I also have lots of friends in Australia. But I like Asia. I just really love to travel."


She balanced the linear feel of her sofa (a customized sofa bed that folds out to a roomy queen-size bed) and her lofty ceilings with a set of curvy, silver gilt neoclassic dining chairs. She loved choosing fabrics, lighting fixtures and accessories. Her fabrics for her bedroom and the wallpaper and her accent wall are geometric, which echo the city skyline just outside the window.

Inner peace

The vivacious and seemingly carefree lady of the home admits, "I am actually a very harassed, stressed out person." It is not difficult to understand as she is an entrepreneur in a very technologically dependent, demanding field. Decorating this flat proved to be a form of therapy for her. "Shopping and researching, looking for things and then finding them; these were the happiest parts of the process for me."

She says, "We leave the curtains open so we can see the night lights, and the view is just so beautiful. When I sit here at night and I see the lights and the planes taking off, I feel that I have found my inner peace."

She points to a sinuous, graceful sculpture of woman in deep thought with her eyes closed, and her body in a variation of the lotus pose. "I found that piece in an antique shop, and I like to imagine that's me, when I am sitting here, someone who is so relaxed."

But that doesn't mean she's done. She is now planning to change her current wooden banister with a glass one, and she wants to paint her stairs black. "Just so everything goes together more." 

The Colors of Feng Shui

EACH SECTOR OF YOUR HOME HAS ITS OWN PRE-SET LUCK ENHANCERS

BY NANA NADAL
PHOTOGRAPHS OF KIPS BAY SHOWROOMS
COURTESY OF MAYBELLINE TE OF METRO SOCIETY



The blue walls can bring in good luck in terms of one's career and wealth. Designed by Gideon Mendelson. BELOW: International feng shui consultant, Marites Allen.



"THERE IS NO SPECIFIC color assigned to a particular room," clarifies international feng shui consultant Marites Allen. Instead, auspicious colors are determined by identifying the compass directions of the home. Each of these so-called sectors correspond to a life aspiration and has its own pre-set luck enhancers.

"Everything that is covered by the roof comprises the whole home. Ideally, the house should be square. There are missing sectors when a house is L- or U-shaped, and sometimes you can really see that something is out of place in the lives of the residents. That's why when I do consultation, it's

always better for me to start from scratch," she points out.

Career and wealth

The north side of the house is for career. The element that is linked with it is water. "Permissible colors here could be black, blue, and gray," Marites states. If you go down south, that's for fame and recognition. Because the it's a fire element sector, recommended colors are red, pink and purple.

"You have so many choices, so the shade doesn't matter as long as it belongs to the same color family," assures Marites. For health and longevity, pay attention to the



ABOVE: The green and brown colors make up the wood elements that are said to bring good health and longevity. Designed by Kirsten Kelli. BELOW: For the descendant's luck, you can apply the white silver colors in your room. Designed by Carrier & Company.





Red is often associated with love or romance, but in feng shui, it can also bring fame and recognition if placed in the south part of the house. Designed by William Georgis.



LEFT: Attract travel and education luck by using neutral colors such as cream, beige and off-white. Designed by Carrier & Company. RIGHT: The use of brown in this living room can attract health and longevity if it is located at the east side of the house. Designed by Juan Montoya.



east side of the home with the wood element. "The recommended colors here are green and brown," Marites says.

On the west side sits the descendants' luck. "This is for your children or if you are looking for children, you can activate this," Marites advises. "This is metal so you can apply white, gold, and silver."

Love and marriage

For the secondary directions, the southeast sector, which corresponds to wealth, is also a wood element so, just like the east side, green and brown are suited for it, too. The southwest portion represents the mother of the house and is also for love and marriage.

"This should ideally be a dining room or living room or a bedroom. For a woman who resides in a house where the southwest sector is missing, the chances of marriage is very low or very challenged," she warns. "This is where you can put neutral colors such as cream, beige and off-white, because it's an earth element. The northeast is another earth element sector so the same colors are best to attract travel and education luck."

"In our home, I activated this for my kids," she reveals. The father's corner can be found at the northwest. It's a metal element so some of the best colors for this area are white, gold, silver, yellow and yellow gold.

"You can use these basics for your interiors

without consulting a feng shui master," Marites advises. "If a person works with this formula, it's going to be beautiful. There's so much you can do, there's a lot of variety available. You can be creative and make do with simple things. You don't have to make the house like a World of Feng Shui shop," she says, referring to the retail franchise that she heads.

"If you don't do anything at all, then you are not activating the good energy. That's a shame because you're throwing away one-third of the luck that you have. There's nothing to lose but everything to gain."

For professional consultation, contact Marites Allen at (0920) 9509390 or www.maritesallen.com.

Tasteful Hues

KITCHEN CABINETRY DESIGNS BY
SCAVOLINI INSPIRE WITH COLOR

BY ANZENNE ROBLE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOVEL LORENZO



ABOVE: The Urban kitchen designed by Vuesse, the Research & Development Department of Scavolini. RIGHT: Modularity, Inc. general manager Brian Hontiveros. OPPOSITE PAGE: Flux unit, designed in collaboration with Giugiaro Design.

THE KITCHEN IS PROBABLY the least colorful part of a house, mostly because owners tend to focus more on its functionality rather than the aesthetic possibilities. But with the rise of the interior design consciousness, more and more people are breaking away from the traditional neutral-colored look, transforming their kitchens into a stylish space. This resulted in the need for newer styles and designs for the kitchen. “The trend in the local market now is veering towards what the Europeans are doing. So they are more avant-garde, more modern - slim counters and straight lines. It’s more on the minimalist side,” says Brian Hontiveros, the general manager of Modular Inc., the company that brought the famous Italian kitchen brand Scavolini in the Philippines last year.

With over 40 varied models, Scavolini has taken the bar of designer kitchens to the next level. Offering a wide array of styles in collaboration with famous and respected designers in Italy (the likes of industrial designer Michael Young, Giugiaro Design, and Diesel Living, among others), clients now have the ability to customize their kitchens. “We’re trying to match certain types of kitchen to certain personalities and taste of our clients,” says Brian.





Design Smarts
COLOR IN THE KITCHEN

- 1. For lively effect, if you have a white kitchen, try painting exposed cabinet interiors in bright, bold colors.
- 2. Create a colorful focal point in your kitchen. After deciding on what color to use, choose an area (it can be a wall, or the cabinets) where you can introduce color. You can also choose a variety of tiles for this purpose.
- 3. Bring out select colorful dishware and collectibles and put it on display! Aside from adding color to your kitchen, they also add a personal touch to the area.
- 4. Break away from the dull and boring in your kitchen appliances. Manufacturers continually add fresh color stories to their collections.
- 5. Maximize your kitchen space by utilizing the walls. Instead of storing items on your counters, use hooks and shelves to hang your stuff.
- 6. "We recommend adding a splash of color in little amounts. We can't get too aggressive with color because it might run out of style in the future, or you might get tired of it then you have to change the whole kitchen," Brian Hontiveros of Scavolini Manila advises.



The Diesel kitchen, designed in collaboration with the lifestyle brand Diesel. RIGHT: (Top) Belvedere kitchen designed by Raffaello Pravato. (Bottom) Tetrix kitchen designed in collaboration with Michael Young.

Finishes with Flair

CABINET FINISHES can change a kitchen's atmosphere depending on which type and color will be used. Here's a rundown of the different types of finishes you can use to tone down or add a pop of color to the hearth of your home.

Wood veneers are thin slices of wood laminated to a substrate (usually plywood, marine grade for coastal areas) to emulate the look of solid wood. It looks richer and more distinctive than plastic laminate.

Lacquer gives a high-gloss appearance to the cabinets. It is moisture resistant and easy to repair, but standing water will damage it. Aside from the glossy look, the trend now is moving toward its matte counterpart.

Laminates, also referred to as high-pressure decorative laminate (HPDL), is the cost-effective counterpart of veneers. Available in hundreds of designs, it's low-maintenance, and is heat- and impact-resistant.

Rhapsody in blue. Blue is considered the world's most favorite color. Mixing blue with white is a classic combination that somehow remains fresh, contemporary, polished and sophisticated. This combined living and dining space looks large and expansive with this scheme. The typical masculine color has been made more glamorous and stylish with metallic accessories, pretty floral arrangements and the bold white touches.



WONDERFUL, COLORFUL WORLD!

THERE'S A COLOR OUT THERE
THAT WILL MAKE YOU SMILE...

BY LEAH PUYAT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO



Cynthia Almario based this color scheme on a Chinoiserie wallpaper. Tiffany blue is one of the most iconic shades, as it is associated with tradition, quiet luxury and a sense of well-being. The main character of the novella turned movie *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, Holly Golightly, declares, "Nothing bad could ever happen to you in Tiffany's." This sense of optimism and delight is achieved by this color in this girl's bedroom. LEFT: Mirrored side tables and bird cages add to the feeling of romance and escape.



AS I ARRIVE AT THE SHOOT, interior decorator Cynthia Almario is already a whirling dervish of focused frenzy. Her assistants are putting the finishing touches to a wall, and she is on her way to rearranging some books and accessories. When I exclaim how much I love this particular space, she enthuses, "Yes, I can imagine you moving right in here. Oh no, wait until you see the other bedroom, it's Tiffany blue!"

When we do finally get down to the actual interview, her energy has not wavered one bit. She shows me a quote she has saved on her phone: "Everyone has a color that makes them smile." She then flashes her own megawatt, movie-star smile and says, "Isn't this true?" When asked why she has this affinity for color, she is quick to use "we" as she reminds me that her sister, Ivy, the other half of Atelier Almario, is as passionate about color as she is.

"It is a way of translating our personality into design. Color is really our passion. You know us, we're bubbly, and it just makes sense that our designs have color. Don't get me wrong, we also do beige, but it's as simple as the air I breathe. Color is in our DNA."

Cynthia says that she has always loved color, but she does concede that it took a while for their clients to become comfortable with it. "Before, it would just be the kids who want color in their rooms, but now people have traveled more and they see more."

Taking the bold leap

What does Cynthia tell clients who may be afraid to make that bold leap into a life lived colorfully? "Be open to it, don't go halfway, go the full monty!" She then adds, "Well, if at first, you really can't imagine a lot of color, try mixing the basic taupes with the deeper caramels. That is simple. As your eye gets used to the stronger or more saturated hues, you will, in fact, look for more color."



Going green. This citrusy chartreuse is lively and bright, the perfect color for a dining room, to complement happy family gatherings. The dark brown furniture and the printed fabric keep the energy vivid and young, as befits a family that travels often and thus, are eager to imagine a vacation vibe.



Tips to living with color

1 Work within a color family for visual unity. For example, if you like green, use it in varying shades throughout a home: a lighter green in the living room and corridors, and a darker green in the bedroom and den.

2 Contrasting white against a dark color, such as the classic navy, keeps a room fresh and young.

3 Fashion can be a great inspiration. If you have a favorite fashion designer, try and translate their signature colors into your space. Some of Cynthia's fashion inspirations are Ralph Lauren, Lily Pulitzer, Christian Dior, Kate Spade and Tory Burch. All are masterful mavens who have made strong color a signature design gesture.

4 Color can come from books, personal mementoes, pillows, linens and collections. Do look first at the objects you already have to build on a color scheme.

The traditional way of using color was to have stronger colors in the public spaces and subdued colors in the private ones. But Cynthia loves to use bold color even in bedrooms. She does concede that most master bedrooms have to be in neutral colors.

"Most men still can't imagine unusual or strong color in a room for sleeping," she admits. She jazzes up lighter colors with lots of metallic touches and luxe fabrics. In fact, she considers metallic tones a wonderful way to have color in a subtler way and recommend champagne and bronze for master bedrooms.

She also suggests finding a seamstress or a supplier who can customize beddings, curtains and pillows so that a color scheme can be fully realized. "It is very frustrating if you cannot get the exact shade for your linens or drapes, that's why I just have it made. I have hand-carried fabrics from all over! It haunts me if I let a fabric go and then can't find the same one here."

To add to the fun, when stocking even the mundane rooms of a space, such as the laundry area, or the kitchen, she looks for pasta sauces, salad dressings, chips, towels and detergent bottles to go with her color scheme. She laughingly shares, "Sometimes, I'm at the grocery and hoarding this product, and they ask me if I want to look at the other brands or flavors, and I just say, 'No, I only like this color.'"

Finding the 'hero fabric'

How does Cynthia concoct her color schemes? She has personally imposed a "no repeat rule"! "Can you imagine not repeating your color schemes? But I really try to do that for each client!"

She reveals, "At first, of course, are the primary colors. You cannot get away from red, blue, yellow. So blue and yellow always look good together. Mix the yellow and red, you get orange, and blue and orange also work well. Put them against white, introduce white into a space, and that neutralizes everything. Some of my favorite combinations are blue and green; black, white and yellow. Robin's egg blue is also easy to live with; that's a good color to start with if you're not used to living with color.

"But the truth is that all colors can look good together. There are no colors that will not go together. You just have to be open to it. Once you decide that you will use color, be ready to have your eyes opened to all the possibilities."

When she is putting together a color story, she looks for what she terms a "hero fabric." It is a fabric that ties together all the colors she wants to bring into a room. She says that finding that fabric and putting it against all the tones and shades she wants to combine in a space helps the client visualize how it can all come together. 📌

The color of your room speaks a lot about your personality and style preference. Red feels romantic, while pink looks soft and feminine. **LEFT:** The black staircase matched with white and apple green accents creates a visually interesting design.



POP-UPS

A COUPLE'S SCANDINAVIAN-STYLE INTERIORS GET A TOUCH OF COLOR FROM THE RIGHT ACCENTS

BY MAAN D'ASIS PAMARAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



WHEN THERINNE GOYENECHÉ'S FATHER first saw the apartment in its raw state, he asked, "Are you sure you want to live here?" His puzzlement was understandable. The complex has been around for two decades, and the apartment itself had seen better days.

The 20-something newlyweds Mark and Therinne had their hearts set on moving to their new home, though. For one, the location was more convenient for them. It takes only a few minutes for the upwardly-mobile couple to get to their respective offices.

Construction began, and to polish the look of their first home, they enlisted the help of longtime friend Misty Floro of Morfosis Design. The couple already had a look in mind, and they showed Misty and her design partner Pai Edles some pegs from the Internet. "I didn't even know that they had a name for the look – Scandinavian. We just wanted something timeless and understated, and it was all about neutrals."

Misty defines what she calls Scandi-style: "It is about using natural materials such as light wood and wool that are suited to the climate in the area, where they have short days and long winters."

A cheerful door

Today the renovated apartment is a testament to what creativity and planning can do. While the couple, who has practically just settled in, is yet to install their unit number outside, it can easily be identified by its cheerful door, painted in Dunn-Edwards' signature "Teal Me No Lies." This is a wonderful harbinger of the visual delights that wait inside the cozy home. The size in no way cramps the style, as the space is fully utilized and furnished in a way that comes off as homey and snug.

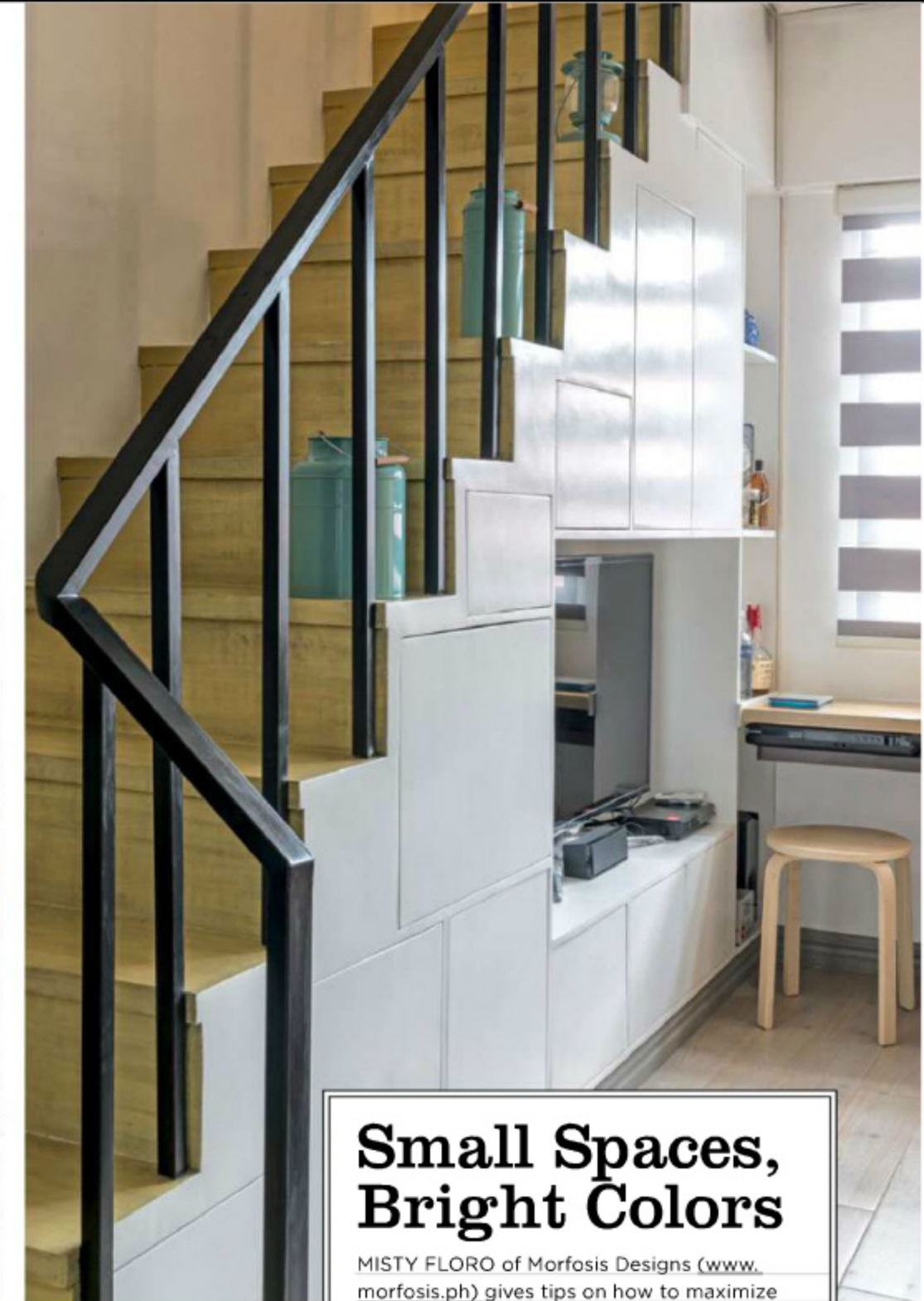
A challenge that was effectively addressed is how to maximize space. "For small spaces such as this, we looked for items that are multifunctional," Misty says. At approximately 21 sq.m. per floor for three floors, the apartment is small for those used to living in single detached



Styling neutrals: The muted grays of the couch and rug are set off by colorful throw pillows and fresh flowers in cylindrical vases. A mini bar sits to the side, ready for hosting guests on weekend gatherings. Even the horizontal lines on the window treatment align with the Scandi-style interiors preferred by the couple.



Peek-a-boo space savers. (Clockwise, from opposite page) The table has a drop leaf that can be extended to accommodate an extra diner or two. The stairs are utilized as a cubby hole catch-all for items such as the couple's instant food stash.



Small Spaces, Bright Colors

MISTY FLORO of Morfosis Designs (www.morfosis.ph) gives tips on how to maximize space in smaller homes.

- Many homeowners want to go for timeless neutrals. To make the look more interesting, match the neutrals with accents. You can go with pastels for one season and move on to jewel tones the next.

- Add spots of color in small décor. If your furniture is neutral, incorporate brighter hues with fresh flowers, plants, vases, and throw pillows.

- Potential storage can be found in places that are usually overlooked. Utilize the space under the stairs, look for furniture with hidden compartments such as pull-out drawers. You can also go vertical with shelves.

- All the books advise using mirrors as a way to give the illusion of larger space. It is also a good idea to place one near the doorway, so the occupant can have a last look before heading out for the day.

houses. "I had to leave some of my clothes and shoes behind," Therinne moans, jokingly.

Whatever items they had were put away quite efficiently. "One of our requirements is to have a place for everything. This is the first time that it is just the two of us, so we have to keep things tidy. *Dapat nakatago*. That is also why we had to minimize things we brought in." The third floor, which they use as an attic of sorts (at least for now, until the time when they are joined by a little one), houses a low shelf for shoes as well as their laundry items.

Their bedroom is preceded by a nook that the couple uses as a workspace, in which more bric-a-brac reside. In keeping with the color scheme, their bed is covered by a throw in black and white. The upstairs bathroom, surprisingly, used to be a balcony. "They wanted to have a bathroom upstairs, and we found the idea feasible, when we saw that the piping can be placed there with no problem," Misty says.

Interpreting neutrals

Neutrals can be interpreted as "bland," but this is not the case with the finished product. "With Scandi-style, colors are light, mostly



Room for two: A small workstation leads to the couple's bedroom. The transition from each area is seamless, with clean lines and light wood incorporated in the look. Their third floor serves as an attic of sorts, where clothes and shoes are stood—for now.



It's all in the details. Little accents add interest to a neutral space. Here, potted plants and bric-a-brac catch the eye, along with a scarf thrown on a wall mirror for effect. The resulting look is light and lovely.



neutrals, but balanced with spots of bright color," Misty says. Some of the splashes of bright hues come from the knickknacks that sit on a shelf in the living room. Therinne says some are souvenirs from their travels, something that she and her husband delight in. To offset the gray sofa are throw pillows with geometrical shapes.

The Ikea sofa is something special—it opens up to reveal hidden storage space, which is used to stow items like a woolen throw and a few more colorful pillow covers. More hidden gems include hinged hidden cabinets under the stairs, hiding, among others, pantry items that don't fit in the kitchen cabinets.

Their dining table has a drop leaf, handy for when they are entertaining friends. For that purpose, they also have a small bar table, in a corner by the window, for mixing some spirits. "We have intimate gatherings every other week; the largest number we have hosted so far is eight. People were sitting on the stairs, but nobody minded," Therinne grins. It is clear that the couple is truly enjoying their first address.

While more homeowners today must make do with smaller abodes compared to the family home that they grew up in, this apartment shows that space should not be a constraint, and the choice to go timeless with neutrals is not the least bit boring when the right pops of color are in place. ❶

Kid-tested

SPLASH COLOR IN YOUR CHILDREN'S ROOMS. HERE'S HOW

BY ANNA M. ROSETE
PHOTOGRAPH BY NORMAN LLESES



THE EXUBERANCE OF CHILDHOOD is best expressed through color. Memories of running around as a child, carefree with a box of crayons, using practically every surface as a canvas are filled with mirth and wonder. It is said that every child is an artist. And there is no better way to celebrate this through the use of color in your children's spaces.

ON THE WALL: Paintings by Anna Rosete. Newgate milk bottle wall clock, P2,200, Heima. **FROM LEFT:** Daybed, P60,000. Geo Floral pillow, P2,700. Googoo & Gaga pillows, P1,750 each. Fox plushie, P750. Live Happy and Dance pillows, P2,400 each. All from Heima. Square pouf, P5,999.75. Wooden bird, P1,299.75. Both from L'Indochine. Wild @ Hearts chair, P27,660. Owl plushie, P750. All from Heima. Yellow bird cage, P3,099.75, L'Indochine. Ceramic bunny décor, P1,900, Heima. Mural by Kris Abrigo.

DESIGN SMARTS: Don't be shy with color. Here are ways to incorporate them into your children's spaces.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: *Bold Star* by Jof Sering. *Hankie* by Migs Villanueva. *My Journey of Love and Music* by Carlo Ongchangco.

1. Parent-approved artwork. Framed colorful artworks are available in handmade markets. Galleries nowadays also represent artists who have a flair for representing the child within. Even the Museum Foundation's event with numerous galleries and artist groups in attendance, is a veritable resource for artwork for children. The past two years have seen Ang I.N.K. (*Illustrador ng Kabataan*), the local organization of children's book illustrators participate in the show. Recently, artist Carlo Ongchangco's show, *Revenge of the Cute*, exhibited artwork that was made expressly with children in mind. Similarly, artist Migs Villanueva is popular with parents for her interpretations of children in a style that is uniquely hers. Watercolor artist, Jof Sering, who also teaches sessions in Craft MNL branches, created Felice, the happy-go-lucky beach bum, rendered in cheerful, tropical back-grounds. Sources: See Where to Buy.

2. Color-coded storage

When kids come into your life, the semblance of order is immediately palpable with the accumulation of toys, games, and clothes. Consider using color-coded storage. The association of color to the assigned item designated for the particular storage device is a wonderful way to help your little ones identify things in their lives and keep order in their space.



CLOCKWISE: Storage doll, P898, Pylones. Baskets, Barcelona Weavers' Cooperative. Prices range from P50-P300. Ceramic storage, P1,250 (small) and P1,350 (large), Heima. Monogrammed baskets. Embroidered Bin. Prices upon request, both from Pottery Barn.



RIGHT: Batik elephant, P1,099.75, L'Indochine. *A Boy Named Ibrahim*, P73, Adarna House. **CLOCKWISE:** Tassels, P1,399.75 each, L'Indochine. Pantone postcards, P1,100 per set, Heima. Animal door stoppers, P499.75 each, L'Indochine.

3. Use your child's favorite book as pegs for their room décor.

Often filled with lyrical fantasy and memorable characters, children's books make delightful references not just for facts and words, but also for the beautiful art that go into them. Use them as pegs for color scheme and decorating. Here, **Metro Home & Entertaining** chose Adarna House's *A Boy Named Ibrahim* by Sitti Aminah "Flexi" Sarte and illustrated by awarded artist, Aaron Asis. We have assembled a mood board in the spirit of the book, hoping to inspire you to do the same with your children's spaces. If not a reality soon, a mood board will help you aspire to the ideas represented in it, in the future.

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gardens

Southbound

Hanging planters are not only fabled (think Hanging Gardens of Babylon), they are also perfect for maximizing your limited space. Put a twist on potted plants by placing them in an inverted hanging plant, like the Sky Planter, making your room a playful green haven. Sky Planter is made out of ceramic and uses the Slo-Flo Internal irrigation system. Available at Kish, tel. 896-8366.



Flower Power

Add a pop of style in your garden toolbox with this Wild & Wolf metal hand trowel, inspired by the Victoria & Albert Museum's unrivalled decorative arts collections. This one was patterned after a fabric designed by Charles Raymond for Edinburgh Weavers Ltd, Britain, 1960. Available at Heima, Unit 103, Three Brixton Bldg. #3 Brixton St., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig.

Groundbreaking

Crumbling the soil in your garden is made easier with Gardena CS Two Star Tiller. The bright combination of blue and orange is a break from the usual boring colors of gardening tools. Use it for your seedbed preparation, and loosening the soil around closely spaced plants or small beds and boxes. Available at ACE Hardware lawn and outdoor section, www.acehardware.ph.



Awash in Freshness

A PRIMER ON GARDEN-FRESH CUT FLOWERS AND INDOOR PLANTS

BY GRACE LIBERO-CRUZ AND ANZENNE ROBLE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG
SHOT AT THE HOUSE OF PRECAST



WITH THE ADVENT of technology, manufacturers have come up with ways to make artificial flower home décor look very similar to the real ones. There are even designs with fake water droplets that seemed to glisten on the petals. Although some of us find these fake flowers useful as props, they can never recreate the uplifting effect fresh flowers have when used in the home. When a vase of fresh flowers is displayed in your foyer or living room, they exude a positive vibe that easily makes your guests feel at home. The sight and smell of fresh flowers can boost one's mood and even bring back fond memories (remember the garden roses you carried on your wedding day?). Of course, they make for great decor, too! Dress up your desk with fresh flowers, to ignite creativity.

Indoor alternatives

If fresh flowers are not your thing, you can try these indoor plants:

Rubber plants are good for cleaning the air and are one of the easiest plants to grow, as they thrive even in dim lighting and cooler climates. This low-maintenance plant is a powerful toxin eliminator and air purifier.

Snake plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen during the night (while most plants do

during the day). They don't need much light or water so maintaining these is hassle-free.

Red-Edged Dracaena, commonly called pleomele or song of India, is a perfect decorative plant and space filler because it can grow to be ceiling-height (many grow at least 15 feet!). Though it can thrive indoors, it requires more sunlight than other houseplants.

Lasting Impression

Make your fresh flowers last longer with these simple life hacks you can do at home.

1. Use warm water to fill a third to half of the plastic bottle or vase. It's believed that flowers take up warm water more readily than cold.

2. Cut the flower stems on an angle because a slanted cut allows a better intake of water. Remove all foliage from the lower portion of the stems that can stand under the water line.

3. Avoid over crowding your vases so the air can circulate better.

4. Before arranging your buds, place them in a bucket in a cool dark place for four to five hours, preferably overnight. This will let them have a "long drink," keeping them fresh longer.

5. Use a flower preservative to destroy bacteria in the water. You can buy these in garden stores or supermarkets, or you can use a capful of household bleach as a homemade alternative.





Sunshine for the Indoors

Bring a sunny feel into your home with a cut sunflower. No other flower can better evoke warmth of sunny days more than the sunflower, what with those bold yellow petals that surround a big, dark brown central disk. A cut sunflower is said to last between five to 12 days. But with proper care, and especially if it's homegrown, it may even last longer. To take care of a cut sunflower, you will need a vase whose height is about two-thirds of the stem's length. Fill the vase with water. Under running water, cut it about an inch from the bottom of the stem at a 45-degree angle. Place the sunflower in a vase and arrange it with plants in complementing colors like white, green, and red. For a more stylized take, you may place other flowers in smaller vases and place them beside your sunflower's vase, for a fuller and lush feel. The location of the sunflower vase should be cool yet bright (but not under direct sunlight). Make sure to check the water level in the vase everyday so the flowers are kept hydrated.

entertaining

A brighter shade of pail

Well, it's an ice bucket, actually, and it comes in vivid engine red and cobalt blue. The perfect punctuation to your table or buffet spread, this ice bucket will banish the days of boring table settings. Available at *The Stockroom*. www.facebook.com/thestockrm. Visit branches in *Tiendesitas and Greenhills*. Also available in *Therapy, 164 Maginhawa St., Teacher's Village, Diliman, QC*. —AMR, Photograph by Paul del Rosario



Papamelro-TEA

The prolific Robert Alejandro, of the ubiquitous gift chain, Papamelro, has done it again! Famous for his sketches that are in the style of The Sartorialist, his art that fuse drawings and dried leaves together, and his designs for his family's giftware enterprise, Alejandro is adept at creating the charming, the whimsical, and the imaginative. These teapot and teacup collection of postcards are quaint finds by him. Used as invitations or placeholders, they are sure to endear each one of your party guests. Available in *Papamelro* stores for P10 each for the teapots, and P5 for each of the teacups.

—AMR, Photograph by Paul del Rosario



Chicken joie

A symbol of luck, fortune, fidelity and protection, what better form can a woven basket take than that of the chicken? From the gifted weavers of Negros, these come in customized colors. Charming as hostess gifts, include fanciful napkin holders into your baskets. Multi-hued *inabel* napkins are welcome additions to this mix. Made to order by *The Handmade Gallery, 115 VSB Bldg., Lacson cor. 6th and 7th Sts., 6100, Bacolod City, Philippines*. Tel. No. (034) 435-2359. Email handmade.gallery@gmail.com. *Inabel* by Beth's Loomweavers at the Legazpi Sunday Market. —AMR, Photograph by Paul del Rosario

The perfect pair

A CHEF AND A BARTENDER TEAM UP TO CREATE EAT-AND-DRINK PAIRINGS THAT DELIGHT THE PALATE AND PLEASE THE EYE

BY MAAN D'ASIS PAMARAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO

AS THE OLD ADAGE SAYS, “We eat with our eyes.” Corroborating studies link colors, appetite, and taste perception. Bottom line: the more colorful and artfully presented a dish or drink, the more likely it will be enjoyed.

Rambla’s Giancarlo Mancino knows this fact all too well, and so prepares his drinks by using only the best spirits available *and* making sure the cocktail looks picture-perfect. Giancarlo, who calls himself a “classic bartender,” says he draws inspiration for his concoctions from experience.

In his 18 years on the job, he has noticed several changes in the way drinks are mixed. “Right now, we hear the word “mixologist”; it’s a nice word, sounds OK. The direction is towards presentation and showmanship, and you see on YouTube how these people make their drinks. But there are still some things you have to keep in mind, and it goes back to the basics of being a bartender.”

One of these, he says, is using the right spirits for your drinks. “The idea is not to be too commercial. If you see the product all over—from duty free shops and supermarkets to convenience stores—then you might want to think about big production and quality control.” He prefers products with a small batch production, such as craft spirits.

“There are now many Filipinos who travel abroad and they have become more knowledgeable when it comes to drinking,” he observes. When asked about his opinion of local customers, he grins and says, “Filipinos are party animals!”



The Cucumber Cannelloni with Prawns Ceviche best paired with the Vermouth Collins. OPPOSITE PAGE: (TOP) “Classic bartender” Giancarlo Mancino. (BELOW) The perfect combo of Tiki Something and Blue Cheese Salad.

Head off hangovers

SEASONED BARTENDER Giancarlo Mancino says that staying hydrated is key to avoiding that dreaded morning aftermath. Koreans have it down pat, he says. “They drink a glass of water after every two alcoholic drinks that they consume.”

This is good to keep in mind on your night-out, as he says there is no cure for a hangover. He cautions against taking medication for that pounding headache. “Think about it—your body is already feeling the effects of the alcohol, and then you add medicines to the mix.”

His advice to those who partied too hard? Just sleep it off.



Vermouth Collins

60 ml Mancino
Vermouth Rosso
30 ml lime
Badoit sparkling
mineral water

Tiki Something

100ml Hipnotiq liqueur
100 ml London No. 1
60 ml lychee liquor
80 ml pineapple juice

Old Crystal

80 ml Vodka
Crystal head
30 ml Galliano
cream

He gives another piece of advice: amp up the dine-and-drink experience with the right food pairing. It would be a good idea for the bartender to collaborate with the chef so there are no overpowering flavors for both the drink and the food, he says.

Taking Giancarlo's advice, the **Metro Home** team asks Rambla chef Pepe Lopez for the list of items that he will use for the photo shoot that day. The chef smiles and says he does not know yet, as he and Giancarlo have yet to discuss which drinks will be prepared.

When Giancarlo announces he will start with a Vermouth Collins (cucumber syrup, Mancino Vermouth, Midori Liqueur, and Badoit Sparkling Mineral Water), Chef Pepe hustles to the kitchen and comes up with a Cucumber Cannelloni with Prawns Ceviche. The next drink is another new creation by Giancarlo's. He prepares Tiki Something—Kwai Feh Lychee Liqueur, Hpnotiq Liqueur, The London N1 Blue Gin, and pineapple juice—poured into a cheerful Tiki glass. Chef Pepe then whips up a Blue Cheese Salad set off dramatically with a lighted cinnamon stick.

The third pairing is a Golden Cadillac made with Galliano Liqueur, a potent Crystal Head Vodka, and cream. To complement this, the chef presents a board of filled sourdough bread that is deep-fried and topped with lemon zest.

The typical Pinoy pairing would be beer and a sizzling plate of *sisig*, but the wet weather is a good excuse to try something new to ward off the gloom of rainy days. A splash of color does well to lift the spirits and celebrate by drinking and eating moderately. ❶



ABOVE: Deep-fried sourdough bread topped with lemon zest matched with Old Crystal. BELOW: One of Rambla's owners Uri Singla, Giancarlo Mancino and Chef Pepe Lopez.



Easy Entertaining

INTIMATE GATHERINGS
WITH A UNIQUE
PERSONAL TOUCH

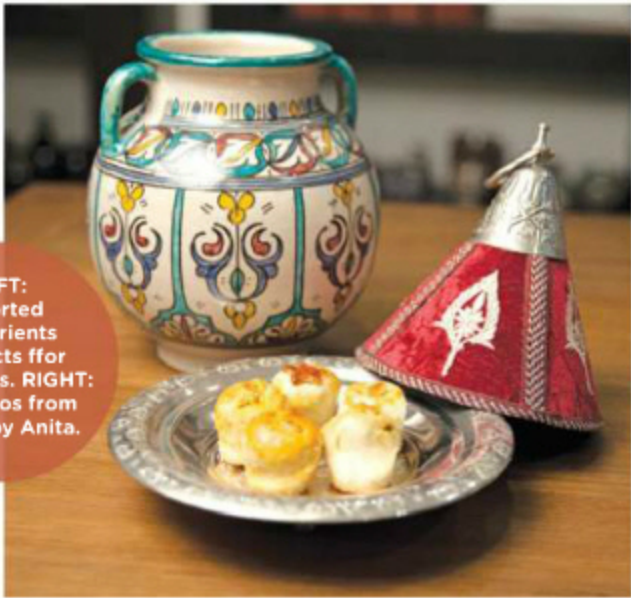
BY CARISSA COSCOLLUELA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY SIMON ALEX SANDOR



LEFT: The Greenhouse Inc.'s general manager Angela Dinglasan. RIGHT: Jim Thompson silk napkins, and heirloom plates and cutlery.



LEFT: Assorted Zenutrients products for giveaways. RIGHT: Bocaditos from Baked by Anita.



FROM HOME-COOKED Thai dishes to simple table arrangements, the elements of any gathering at Angela Reyes Dinglasan's home showcase her trademark elegance and relaxed style. Using tableware passed on by her mother to carefully curated accessories she has collected on her travels, Angela puts together a vibrant atmosphere that her guests enjoy.

1. Hosts: We like holding small dinners, inviting 4-6 people to our apartment, but if it's cocktails then we have a bigger group of 10-15.

2. Venues outside home: Anywhere and everywhere! We love trying new food, but if we want to be sure, definitely no-fail favorites such as El Circulo, Kikufuji, Milky Way and Vask would top the list.

3. Food: We lived in Bangkok for four

years so people always ask me to cook Thai food. I make a nice pomelo salad, steamed veggies, Phad Krapow Moo (beef cooked in basil and chili), crab in curry sauce and other very homespun Thai dishes. We took a French cooking class in our last trip to Paris, so I'll be test-driving my hollandaise sauce soon!

4. Food orders: Margie dela Rama of Ome Kitchen for EVERYTHING! Her beef belly, pansit, paella, and turkey are to die for. We ask guests to bring dessert, that's not my forte.

5. Drinks: Wine for dinner—I prefer a Chardonnay—and definitely a nice neat Scotch post-dinner!

6. Table settings: I have a lot of my mom's pieces from the '70s and mix them up

with items we got from living and traveling abroad. We use the Jim Thompson place settings and napkins a lot (very pretty, and so easy to clean). Lately, I like using her clear crystal cut floral setting, it looks very nice when stacked.

7. Flowers: The food is the star, so we do low, small groupings of flowers and fruits, like lemons in a bowl and cut eucalyptus sprigs.

8. Music: I leave that to my hubby, but hooray for Spotify and making it easy to have a playlist ready!

9. Giveaways: I run Zenutrients and Z, so I always give away my own products. It's usually whatever is new, and since we just launched the Z capsule collection, I've been using that as a gift; everyone loves a nice massage oil! ❷

Festive Ease

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR A SIMPLE AND STYLISH TABLE SETTING

BY ANTON BARRETTO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TERRY UY



A cheery ensemble for the table with the use of succulents, anastasia, astromeria and button mums. Miniature silver apples function as placecard holders.

Think out of the box. Use a variety of table accessories and reinvent their function. Here, the glass container on the left side of each place setting is an alternate for the bread plate.



The garden is evoked by the use of greens in the floral arrangement's color palette. Animal figurines reference nature and complete the tablescape.



FLOWER ARRANGING 101: A long container (here, we used 36" L x 5" W x 4" H) used for the rectangular table will hold two dozens of astromeria, a dozen anastasias, two dozens button mums, and seven succulents, plus the approximately 4 blocks of floral foam. Feel free to add figurines in the mix. Here, the Betossi birds are anchored into the arrangement.

A fast and chic alternative to the traditional style of folding napkins or using napkin rings is a quick and easy knotted version that gracefully rests on the plates.

Bitossi birds. Price upon request. Abitare.



Alessi plates. Price upon request. Alessi.



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ADVICE FOR THE PERFECT TOAST

ILLUSTRATION BY ARLENE SY



Gentle Reminders

- In a large gathering, everyone stands up during a toast. In parties of twelve or less, it is perfectly acceptable to remain seated.
- At a wedding, the Best Man usually gives the first toast. But if the couple wishes to defer to their parents or principal sponsors, they may do so. The couple does not raise their glasses or take a sip after the toast is given. They thank those who offered them a toast, and if they wish, they may offer their own toast.
- If you host a dinner, most people will expect you to make a toast to welcome the guests and reiterate the reason for the celebration. If you are the shy type, you can ask one of the guests to go ahead and do it.
- If you are a guest at a dinner, wait for the host to toast first, unless you have been asked to speak for the host.

CAT: You know I love weddings, right?

MS. DEMEANOUR: One of your more mysterious idiosyncrasies, yes.

CAT: But there is always a point that makes me cringe...

MS. DEMEANOUR: The bouquet throwing? Oh, just be a good sport.

CAT: No. It is the Best Man's toast. I don't know how this trend of humiliating the groom started, but I do wish it would end. They can do all the risqué trash-talking at the bachelor party. At the wedding, the family and in-laws are there. In formal clothes!

MS. DEMEANOUR: I have to agree. I'm surprised that couples now drink to the toasts. You're not supposed to raise your glass and take a sip if the toast is addressed to you, right?

CAT: Well, it does seem like common sense, but it's not a very common practice. As is common decency.

MS. DEMEANOUR: And how do you feel about drinking water for a toast? Kate Middleton did that when she was pregnant.

CAT: There is no written rule against it. The point is to be part of the spirit of the celebration. Whether one does it with champagne or water, the important thing is to raise your glass.

Some lines for toasting

"May our house be always too small to hold all our friends."

"May there always be work for your hands to do; may your purse always hold a coin or two; may the sun always shine on your windowpane; may a rainbow be certain to follow each rain; may the hand of a friend always be near you; may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you."

"May we always have old wine, old friends and young cares."

"Here's to friendship, the wine of life, let's drink of it and to it."



Florentine Spectrum

IN THE MANNER OF THE SHEIKS, OPULENT SEMI-PRECIOUS STONE OBJECTS FOR THE HOME

BY ANA ROCHA



Joy Light collection by Leonardo Boni of Baldi Home Jewels and Elisabetta Cianfanelli. www.baldi.biz



THE USE OF COLOR CAN brighten any place. Giving you a breakdown of my favorite colors is tantamount to asking what my favorite objects in the world are... an impossible question!

I believe that when colors are introduced to a space in a calculated way, the end product is enhanced by leaps and bounds. To optimize this effect, I choose colors sparingly,

ly, hence, the objects of color that I introduce must be of utmost quality and design.

I was introduced to the Baldi brand several years back. This company, founded in 1867 in the Florence, specializes in luxurious home furniture and objects crafted from semi-precious stones. Think along the lines of the inner sanctums of the sheiks: bathtubs made of solid rock crystal and tabletops of malachite or lapis lazuli.

I visited the Baldi factory in Florence and was amazed to find amazing Italian artistry coupled with the latest technology. Young Italian artisans carved away with their own handmade tools side by side with the biggest 3D printer I have seen, replicating hand carved horses that were ready to be dipped in gold.

I was drawn to their contemporary line "The Joy Light Collection." These brightly colored objects are a collaboration of Leonardo Boni of Baldi and Architect Elisabetta Cianfanelli of the University of Florence. Together, they applied a new system of wireless lighting through the science of induction charging within a limited time period (no batteries required).

So, going back to the question of what my favorite color is...

My answer is simple: I covet them all. ☛

Abitare Internazionale, G/F Crown Tower, 107 HV Dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Tel. 892-1887; **ac+632**, 2/F, Greenbelt 5, Legaspi St., Ayala Center, Makati City. Tel. 758-2564, Fax: 758-2597. Email: ac632@pldtdsl.net; **Adarna House**, 109 Scout Fernandez cor Scout Torillo Sts., Brgy. Sacred Heart, Quezon City. Trunkline: 352-6765. Sales tel. 352-6765 local 1. Fax: 352-6765 local 125. Email: adarnahouse@adarna.com.ph; **Bleach Catastrophe**, 2/F Greenbelt 5 Legaspi St., Ayala Center, Makati City. Tel. 948-7617. Website: www.bleachcatastrophe.com; **BoConcepts**, **Ligne Roset and Natuzzi**, **Mos Design**, B2 Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Tel. 856-02748. Website: www.mosdesign.com.ph; **Carlo Ongchango**, Galerie Stephanie, Unit 1B Parc Plaza Building, 183 Eulogio Rodriguez Jr Ave, Quezon City. Tel. 709-1488. Website: www.galleriestephanie.com; **Celestina**, G/F, Greenbelt 5, Legaspi St., Ayala Center, Makati City. Website: www.celestina.co; **Ethan Allen**, G/F The Residences at Greenbelt, San Lorenzo Tower, Esperanza St. Makati City. Tel. 794-2095 to 97; **FURNitalia**, Crescent Park West, 30th St. cor. Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Tel. 819-1887; **Firma**, G/F Greenbelt 3, Esperanza St. corner Makati Ave., Ayala Center, Makati City. Tel. 757-4009; **Heima**, Unit 103, Three Brixton Bldg., #3 Brixton St., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City. Tel. 501-7588. Website: www.heimastore.com; **Jof Sering**, Website: www.hellofelice.com; **Kish**, 233 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air, Makati City. Tel. 896-8366, Fax: 896-8367. Email: info@kish.ph; **La Pomme**, The Collective, 7274 Malugay St., San Antonio, Makati City. 3/F Bridgeway, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati. Cel. No. 0919-9934795. Website: www.lapommehome.com; **L'Indochine**, 3/F SM Aura Premier, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Tel. 808-5420; **Migs Villanueva**, 1708 Tower B, The Grove Rockwell, C5 Pasig City. Cel. 0917-3269546. Galerie Francesca, Unit 2B Treasure Trove, 3/F Festival Supermall, Alabang. Tel. 659-2667. Email: info@galeriefrancesca.com; **NEST**, Jupiter St.

cor. Paseo de Roxas, Bel-Air 3, Makati City. Tel. 818-8811 and 403-3062; **Papemelroti**, 2/F Glorietta 1, located along the walkway to SM, Ayala Center, Makati Commercial Center, Makati City. Tel. 625-0359. Website: www.papemelroti.com; **Pylones**, 152 UG/F SM Aura Premier, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Website: www.pylones.com; **Republic of Fritz Hansen**, Unit 901 Quadrant 5 Block 6 Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Tel. 856-6756. Website: www.dimensione.com.ph; **Sifra Interiors & Objects**, 3/F Greenbelt 5, 3/F, Home Zone Glorietta 4, 2/F LRI Design Plaza, N. Garcia Bel-Air 2, Makati City. Tel. 501-3220 / 752-7174. Email: sifra.interiors@vahoo.com; **Stanley Ruiz Design**, www.stanleyruiz.com; **Takatak Project**, 96 Kamuning Road, Quezon City. Cel. no. 0999-3666786; **The Stockroom**, 2/F New Tiendesitas Mall, Pasig City; **Urban Abode**, CW Home Depot - Ortigas, #1 Dona Julia Vargas Ave., cor. Meralco Ave., Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City. Tel. 586-0026. Mobile no. 0917-5775683. Email: urbanabode.ortigas@gmail.com

A Gem of a Lady

JANINA DIZON HOSCHKA EXPANDS HER DESIGN SENSIBILITIES FROM CRAFTING JEWELRY TO FURNITURE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JC INOCIAN, COURTESY OF METRO SOCIETY



LEFT: Jewelry designer Janina Dizon-Hoschka. RIGHT: A natural progression of her jewelry line is her furniture collection. Part of her personal collection are these shoes with decidedly sculptural form.



BELOW: Dizon-Hoschka's coveted collection of jewelry, Janina for Jul B. Dizon.



WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT INSPIRATION (SOMETHING THAT HAS A PARTICULARLY STRONG INFLUENCE ON YOU AT THE MOMENT)? Water in all its forms. I would love to capture the fluidity and tactile strength of water through my designs.

WHO OR WHAT WAS THE DESIGN INFLUENCE OF YOUR CHILDHOOD? My mother, Jul Dizon, influenced me the most. With her quiet elegance, she imparted her knowledge of design and style, and I am grateful for that. Internationally, I am in awe of Alexander Calder's work. His mobile art has always captured

my attention in books, and it was such a pleasure to see it in person for the first time in Venice.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST COMMONLY REPEATED DESIGN MISTAKE? That you have to use one design for everything, including the kitchen sink. I love the idea of a commonplace item, whether it be a chair, a table or a lamp, made beautiful and unique with just one standout design element.

WHAT IS YOUR DESIGN INDULGENCE? Traveling. Inspiration comes easily when I am in a relaxed state of mind.

WHAT MADE YOU BRANCH OUT TO DESIGNING HOME ACCESSORIES? Why not a gem for the home? I've always thought that furniture is a natural progression for my stingray line. During the design process, I was inspired by my primary business: gemstones. As a gemologist, I know that symmetry plays a big part in the brilliance and fire of a gem. In designing my table, I have interpreted the symmetrical facets of a gemstone, skeletonized it and made it into a table.

A CURRENT FAVORITE IS YOUR COLLECTION OF TABLES. AS THE DESIGNER, WHERE DO YOU IMAGINE SEEING AND

USING THEM? I've seen them in my clients' and friends' homes scattered throughout the dining room amidst petrified wood, or nesting in sets of twos or threes in a gallery wall, or as side tables for the bed. I love how they easily assimilate into a home and instantly wake up the vibe of the place.

HAVING BEEN IMMERSED IN THE WORLD OF DESIGN, WHAT CAN YOU SINGLE OUT AS A VALUABLE LESSON THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS? The greatest reward is executing design in its highest form and making people feel joy. Visit her website www.janinadizon.com