

The Benchmark Magazine Feature

Home Concept Magazine - July/August 2012



"THE COLOUR PALETTE USED IN THIS PROJECT IS SIMPLY REFRESHING. TONES OF WHITE, LIGHT GREY, GREEN AND WOOD TONES... COLOURS THAT WE FEEL WILL ACCENTUATE THE ZEN CONCEPT FOR THE HOUSE."



ABOVE: A natural warmth comes courtesy of colours that be found in nature. Floors are filled with deep grey floor panels for a zen-like appeal.

LEFT: Though one will not be able to spare from the outside, the designers have managed to include an extra floor in the originally one-storey terrace unit.

Though it looks every bit the standard single-storey terrace house from the outside, the new height gave way for an additional floor to support an extra bedroom. The walls of the original master bedroom on the other hand were broken down to open up space, with a new living room in its place. "We tucked the living room away (into an alcove) to make way for the grand foyer. Besides, the living room is always cooler if it is tucked in somewhere with a regular height ceiling," Rebin checks. "I personally like it that way for this particular house."

Apart from the new height, Benchmark Design also explored the unit's horizontal axis. "We extended the house right until the very end at the back to make room for the new master bedroom and some space for the dry-courtyard laundry area on the side parallel to length of the master bedroom." The horizontal courtyard serves as a garden within the house, offering a visual connection to the freshness of the outdoors for the master bedroom and dining area. Along with the sliding glass doors by the balcony upstairs, the generous courtyard windows bring in natural light to further accentuate the abode's new dimensions while adding to its warmth.

ALONG WITH THE SLIDING GLASS DOORS BY THE BALCONY UPSTAIRS, THE GENEROUS COURTYARD WINDOWS BRING IN NATURAL LIGHT TO FURTHER ACCENTUATE THE ABODE'S NEW DIMENSIONS WHILE ADDING TO ITS WARMTH



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Acknowledging that strong lines will work against smaller spaces, the designers went with a more natural spectrum. "The colour palette used in this project is simply refreshing tones of white, light grey, green and wood tones," reveals Rebin. "Reason being, those are colours that we feel will accentuate the Zen concept for the house. Basically, these are colours you will expect to see in nature." The nod to nature is further expressed by the fern wall print from Goodrich Global that defines the living room as well as by the picture frames by the foyer wall.



"OUR CHALLENGE WAS TO GIVE THE HOUSE EXTRA NATURAL LIGHTING, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY COMPLEMENT THE EXTRA SPACE THAT WE WILL ALSO PROVIDE IN ITS NEW LAYOUT AND MUCH LIKE A PHOENIX RISING FROM THE ASHES, THE NEW HOME IS NOW A REMARKABLE REBIRTH OF WHAT IT ONCE WAS

ABOVE: The predominantly white kitchen was fitted by M&R Kitchen with their appliances and solid surfaces from Germany.

PHOTO LEFT: The designers fully extended the length of the unit to house the dining area and the master bedroom parallel to the courtyard.



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CLOAKHOUSE FROM SUN ROOM
A peek into one of the bathrooms, with natural light from the sun room.

The daughter's bedroom bathroom is built with materials from Goodwin Global.

The master bedroom downstairs looking directly into the courtyard.

Renovation for the terrace unit took 6 months and was completed in January of this year. The new home now measures approximately 1910 sq ft, housing three bedrooms and just as many bathrooms. "For this project, we decided to give the house an entire make over," Robbin remarks on the early stages of the renovation. "As it is a single story intermediate terrace house, lighting and space was the core concern then. Our challenge was to give the house extra natural lighting, which will eventually complement the extra space that we will also provide in its new layout." And much like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the new home is now a remarkable rebirth of what it once was. *ic*

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ABOUT
The small bathroom is natural light being in natural light through glass doors.

TIP
A view from loft area looks into the living room tucked away in an alcove, where the original master bedroom was to be built.

