

what character!

A terrace house at Sennett Avenue illustrates that introducing character to a home is but the tip of the iceberg

text: gyle quah photography: edward hendricks, CIA photography



The application of stainless steel wrapped around the TV console's display shelves makes for a sleek finish.

Neatly condensed, four main components – scale, form, colour and texture – are what are needed to define the character of a home. Taking each into consideration during the design process gives the designer an essential yardstick to implement ideas and concepts that can complement or enhance any project. All of which are encompassed in this project at Sennett Avenue.

Cecilia Huang's first impression of this terrace house located in the East opened up her mind to an abundance of opportunities. The designer at Ultimate Interior Creation could only think of the endless possibilities. "When we started

designing this house, we aimed for a total makeover with minimum impact on structural changes," says Cecilia. "The owners and I had discussed and gone through limitless good ideas before finally concluding at the best and most suitable one," she adds.

The result is a lush green environment coupled with a contemporary thread, though Cecilia prefers to let each individual decide for himself. Each part of the home embodies individual characteristics that are not necessarily found in the other parts but is held together by a consistent colour palette and the use of innovative materials – a combination that has shown itself well here.

The rich colour of dark timber grain conveys a sturdy masculine feel but is suitably offset with the pale offerings from the stone flooring and whitewashed walls.

Take the ground level of the 245 sqm residence as an example. Composed of a living, dining and kitchen, the team was even able to cordon off a section of the living area to fit a library. "The owner has a large book collection and so a library and reading corner became a significant need," says Cecilia. And what's even more appealing about this timber wall of shelves is that it comes attached with a moveable ladder – a trait that is both functional (for added convenience) and aesthetically interesting. The rich colour of dark timber grain conveys a sturdy masculine feel but is suitably offset with the pale offerings from the stone flooring and whitewashed walls.



A section of the living area was cordoned off to form a library with a reading area.



A roof extension was included in the backyard to create a comfortable space for the family's outdoor activities.



A pebbled pool of water at the front of the house is accented with lush foliage and natural stone.

Key Ideas

- Many interesting materials work for you in the different parts of the home. Shell mosaic tiles, mirrored crushed and cool stainless steel when applied in appropriate settings can enhance and make an interior shine.
- Look to the natural for inspiration and decoration. Opt for easy-to-care-for potted indoor plants that instantly light life into a sparsely room.
- Offer each room in the home a special characteristic of its own. Keep the overall look and feel consistent with a strong theme or colour scheme.



The tropical theme is carried forth into the guest bedrooms accentuated by the colour scheme and lamps made of natural materials.



Creating multi-level ceiling heights and a long island offers a sense of height and depth in the kitchen.



A study area is sectioned off by a full-height glass panel without hampering on the sense of spaciousness.



The master bath is a vision of black glossy tiles and played up with bright red lights in the mirror.

Another area worthy of mention is the kitchen – a vision of cool, dark tones oozing with masculinity, complemented by sleek materials and finishing. But what is prominent is the polished granite-topped island that instantly becomes the focal point of the kitchen. As your eyes begin to wander, a lava rock wall makes its presence known and is beautifully softened by mirror finished stainless steel on borders and frames. For a characteristic design feature, the team opted for multilevel ceiling heights, intended to create a sense of height and depth in this part of the home.

As you make your way upstairs to the second level, a textured feature wall makes for an aesthetically pleasing highlight along the staircase landing that leads in to the private quarters. The master bedroom was

reconfigured to accommodate a walk-in wardrobe and study area. Positioned just next to full-height windows, the study area is segregated from the bed by a full-height clear tempered glass panel. Though not entirely blocked off, it visibly partitions each section off without hampering the spatial feel and offering a streamlined effect to the overall bedroom layout. Once again, texture comes into play here, but in the form of stylish shell mosaic tiles in varying shades of creamy beige framing the bed's headboard frame.

Even with scale, form, colour and texture, the relationship between designer and homeowner is highly evident in this project. As Cecilia succinctly puts it, "It is important to engage the client in each project, especially in interior design, as it will impact their daily lifestyles." ■