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Home to designer but showroom to others

Photos by **CHUA KOK HWA**

BEING an interior consultant is no easy task. At times, the job demands not only creativity, but also an innovative approach.



Yap... 'it was no easy task'

The characteristics are evident in Yap Lip Pien's 33rd floor suite at Vista Damai condominium. The architect and interior consultant has converted the area into a contemporary home, with influences from the 1960s and 70s, but with space for an office-cum-abode to entertain clients and customers. "I usually entertain them at my place on weekends," he said.

Yap, who has 12 years' experience in architecture and interior design, said he and a partner came out with the look for the home.

A visit revealed a wealth of design elements and an abundance in the use of clean lines, which worked well for the unit's contemporary theme.

White tones feature prominently, too, lending an urban touch to the place. Green, blue and white resin-based acrylic panels complete the picture.

Yap said the concept for the place was of "simplistic elegance". "The interior's architecture is conceived to be a simple shell in which beauty and elegance are derived within," he said.

Natural lighting is in all corners of the place. Lighting from one space to another is "controlled" by architectural planes of different materials, textures, tones such as coloured glass and acrylic panels. When light passes through or is reflected from these planes, different quality of lighting is produced.

The artful forms and basic construction belie the fact that the home has been planned according to Feng Shui principles.

Yap said he had employed a Feng Shui consultant to ensure everything about the place had a good balance of the *ying* and *yang*. That explains the elements of water and stone within the place.

There is a mini-pond in which Japanese Carp (Japanese Koi) swim alongside guppies for luck.

The water feature, besides being in a good location, is therapeutic. It was intended to not stand out, but be subtle among its surroundings.

A large mirror that adorns the wall above the pond is also for good Feng Shui. It is there to create a sense of space, too. Added to these are large crystal marbles and crystal frogs for good living.

“All in, the place took about six months to complete,” said Yap. “However, it was not all that easy as we needed to explain thoroughly certain concepts with the contractors.

“To me, beauty is in the detailing – from the coffee table to the lines of a wall and even the ornaments used. Personally, I think that we have achieved about 80% of what we planned for the place.



The water feature, besides being in a good location, is therapeutic.



Even the bedroom shares the same colour tone as most other parts of Yap's home.

“Being an architect and a designer, I guess we are fussy people when it comes to details. But, without the trait, one wouldn't get a beautiful place in the end,” he added.

Yap, who holds a double degree in law and architecture, said he was inspired by contemporary and urban designs.

“The condominium is definitely a good environment for clients and at the same time it also gives them an idea of how they want their homes to look like.”

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