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DREAM THEMES

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LITTLE TWEAKS FOR A BIG IMPACT



MAR 2015

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LIVING ROOM
Leon wanted a more natural look, so he went for teak strips, brick walls and screed to get a more rustic feel.



CREATIVE CANVAS

Home to an interior designer and his wife, this flat gave the owners free reign to bring their best ideas to life

TEXT: Tuen W. Yung | IMAGES COURTESY OF Free Space Interiors

HDB BTO
4 ROOM
FLAT UNIT

1,001 sqf

📍 MONTREAL LINK,
SEMBAWANG 🧑🧑

BUDGET
\$65K

(INCLUSIVE OF FURNISHINGS)



Round stool from Courts

CHALKBOARD WALL
(right)

This lets the couple come up with their own creative works beside the ones they hang up nearby.



DINING AND STUDY

The attention-grabbing wall sections off and partially hides a little office corner and the dining space.

As the Associate Director of Free Space Intent, Leon Luo has worked his magic on countless homes, and when it finally came time to design the dream space he shares with his wife, Leon was bursting with ideas. The couple knew they wanted something cosy, but more importantly, their house had to be different from other apartments he'd completed. "I didn't want to do things I'd done before," Leon tells us.

Unlike projects with regular clients, the designer didn't have to conform to timelines or requirements, so he could be as adventurous as he wanted. Inspired by the retro look and

colours, he took two months to come up with his plans. The renovations then took four months. The result is a lovely blend of styles that let wood, art, colours and patterns bring the home to life.

As avid art lovers, the owners wanted their collection to feature prominently throughout the flat. They'd sourced artworks from around Asia and even went as far as planning the decor of the rooms around the pieces they intended to display.

To increase wall space in the living room for paintings, a low console was built with mirror panelling to break up the bulkiness



BAR COUNTER
(above)
A kitchen wall was torn down to install the bar, which extends a little into the living room to tie both spaces together.

KITCHEN
(top right)
To avoid overpowering the pale wood laminates on the cabinets, Leon stuck to grey accents on the backsplash and timber tile floor.

of the shelves. Despite the colourful canvas that hangs on it, the brick wall itself could be considered a one-of-a-kind piece of creative work. Using veneers sourced from different retailers like CraftStone and All-Well Trading & Transportation, Leon combined them to give the wall a unique look. Beside, an equally eye-catching cement screed tree helps to hide an awkward recessed corner as well as wires for the TV and lights.

Another bold feature that you can't miss in the hall is the curvy purple wall that guests never fail to ask about. Leon had wanted to

move the dining area away from the main door as he felt it would improve the flow of the house and create a roomier feel. The couple also entertains a lot, so having a more spacious living area would make the place seem more welcoming. The decision was thus made to partially knock through an adjacent room, creating a cosy eating nook further inside the house. Of course, Leon took this opportunity to do something special, and he decided to create a feature wall that would not only hide the support beam on the ceiling, but also add character to the space.



BATHROOM
Graphic tiles from Hafary make the otherwise neutral bathroom pop.

MATERIALS



LIVING ROOM FLOOR
Teak timber strips in varying tones



LIVING ROOM WALL
Brick veneer from various suppliers



KITCHEN FLOOR
Tri-tone laminates with a woodgrain finish from Hafary

Carrying the artsy theme through the home, patterned tiles were used as accents to spice up the different rooms, but Leon was always mindful to keep the overall look from becoming overwhelming. In fact, he admits his biggest challenge working on his own home was stopping himself from doing "too much", as ideas kept flowing in but he had to keep everything tasteful.

Packed with his best ideas, this home not only lets Leon bring his dreams to life, it accurately exudes the couple's fun and creative personality from every room.