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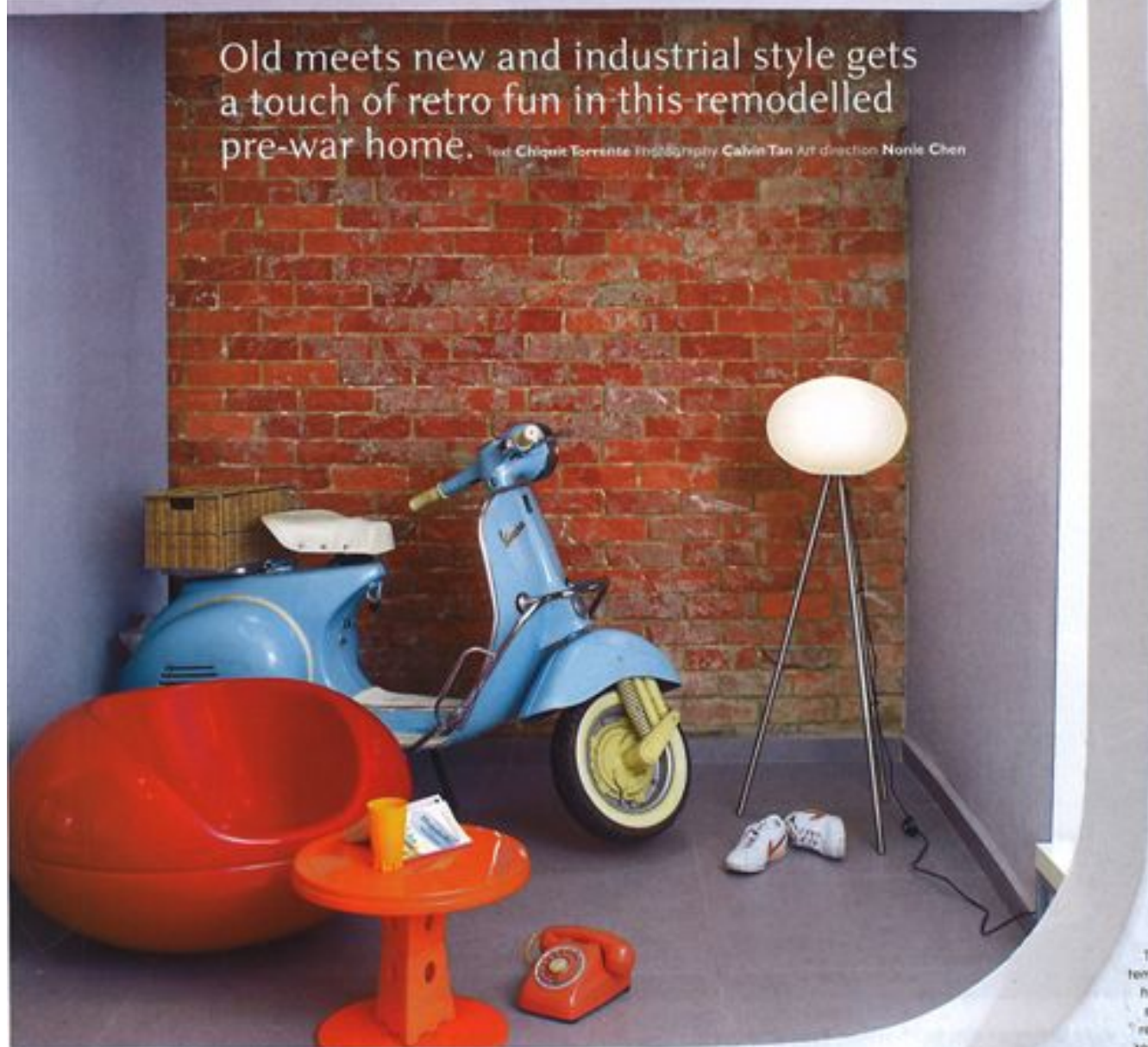
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BALANCINGACT

Old meets new and industrial style gets a touch of retro fun in this remodelled pre-war home. Text Chiquit Torrente Photography Calvin Tan Art direction Nonie Chen



The powder blue Vespa temporarily parked in their house by a friend who is selling it, completes the retro setting of the spare room. **OPPOSITE ABOVE** Cate Blanchett as Queen Elizabeth in a movie poster watches over an Eames rocker and other vintage pieces. **OPPOSITE BELOW** The corridor gets its own signage — "New Bridge Road", to indicate it is a major passageway.



Media professional Fenfei's new home is chock-full of personality. The pre-war abode in Tiong Bahru estate has bits of history mixed in with film and travel memorabilia, not to mention a neighbourhood visitor in the form of an insistent cat.

"I used to live in a similar type of home before I got married, and I like how the pre-war houses have this raw and minimal type of design," Fenfei narrates. The bare, industrial feel is also a good canvas for her colourful furnishings, which include art film posters, retro furniture and quirky accessories.

Fenfei and her husband moved in just a few months ago, after a three-month renovation by interior designer Kelvin Giam of Intent. "We were shopping for a designer because my previous designer had become too expensive," Fenfei laughs. The search ended with a copy of *Home & Decor* and one appointment. "Kelvin's project was featured in one issue. We liked his work, so we gave him a call. We decided to work with him as we established an instant connection in our first meeting."

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Paying homage to the 1930s housing estate, Kelvin's interior renovation incorporated a clear visual differentiation between the old and the new. The original, load-bearing walls were given a smooth finish, while the new walls have rough surfaces. The coarsely finished walls with their curved windows and arched doorways are reminiscent of adobe homes in the Spanish Mission style of architecture, but a glossy white coating keeps it looking industrial. Textured floors demarcate some spaces like the kitchen, dining and living areas from the hallway to the bedrooms, so there are fewer walls and hence more light and ventilation to go around. Interior windows were cut into the walls too, making the cavernous house brighter despite the brick, cement screed and bare concrete finishes. The furnishings and lighting fixtures are mostly from Fenfei's previous house and her existing collection. "I asked Kelvin to keep it spare because we were bringing in a lot of our old things."

Retro furniture set the stage for Fenfei's childhood collectibles. **BELOW LEFT** A built-in bed in the master bedroom has a concrete hollow block-finished headboard and frame. **BELOW RIGHT** Beetle-inspired wire chairs balance the heaviness of the concrete dining table.



A dining room featuring a rustic brick wall on the left, a skylight at the top, and a modern chandelier with multiple glass shades. An open white door with a decorative pattern leads to a balcony. A dark table with a wire chair and some items is in the foreground.

AS AN ODE TO THE HISTORY OF THE TIONG BAHRU ESTATE, THE RENOVATION PLAYED UP THE SMOOTH OLD WALLS AGAINST THE ROUGHLY-FINISHED NEW ONES.

A bare brick wall adds colour to the kitchen and dining room. The skylight lets in natural light, as does the open back door, through which the neighbourhood caf visits.



Fenfei plays up her sleek new bathroom with the quirky sign outside. **RIGHT** An arched door and portholes add fun to the bare white walls.

Fenfei says there is a lot of room for growth in the 1,100sqf residence – a spare bedroom should the in-laws choose to move in and a study area that can be turned into another bedroom “when we decide to have children” are already in place. With the fun vintage pieces and the subway station look, it’s easy to imagine children having a blast growing up in and running around this house. Of course, the stark white walls would be a convenient and tempting canvas for a child’s crayon doodles, but they would simply add even more character to Fenfei’s home.

WHERE TO GO

INTENT, tel: 6296-9559, e-mail: enquiries@intent.com.sg



Ideas We Love

SHOW ME A SIGN Fenfei picked up this cool toilet sign on one of her retreat trips to Johor Bahru. “I always buy something when I travel, whether it’s far overseas or just nearby JB, to remind me of that particular trip.” So, does every trip to the loo remind her of that little mall in the outskirts over the border?

HISTORY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS It’s easy to tell which are the original walls and which are the newly-built ones – all you need to do is feel the surfaces. Designer Kelvin Giam kept the new walls roughly finished to contrast with the smoothness of the originals.

Photo: Darrell Giam Photography Studio

设计师将“暴露”美学贯穿整个空间，暴露的电线沿着墙面诉说一个典雅淳朴的时代。



“藏”向来是简约家居装潢的一大策略：将电线、冷气管、水管，一切碍眼的东西藏在衣橱后、假墙和假天花板内，眼不见为净。近年新加坡室内装潢和建筑却崛起另一股“与其藏，不如露”的思潮。《品味居》之前介绍过建筑师张秉德设计的总统设计奖得奖作品“幸运店屋”（Lucky Shophouse）便大费周章地把自多半年来不断的装修后，附在墙面上的油漆、灰泥等除掉，以展现红砖墙百年前的风貌。

新加坡不断的拆除和重建急速抹去了我们许多共同的记忆和历史。因此，这不单只是“藏”或“露”的装潢术语，而是更深一层的心理上的渴望，让被时代和人为活埋的过去浮上台面，重见天日。

这个位于中峇鲁地面层的战前老屋便是如此。屋主是一对享受二人世界的年轻夫妇。两人喜欢老东西，怀旧风，收集了意大利Vespa小绵羊、60年代的家具、老时钟等大大小小的物件。他们要求室内设计师将屋子从门前延伸的部分到厨房后门的长砖墙还原，成为聚集视线焦点的特色墙。

人们普遍以为这个过程很简单，但并非如此。

Free Space Intent事务后负责这



拱门和圆角窗灵感来自电影《星球大战》。两间睡房的半圆拱门带出怀旧风，客房的圆角窗打开可增加透视图。

工程的设计总监萧文杰说：“人们以为不就是把表面的一层除去罢了，但工匠要用铁锤，用手一点一点地把附在墙面上的油漆、水泥等慢慢除去，比平时只是上一层水泥、刮平、上漆还要耗上两三倍的时间。”萧文杰原想在赤裸的砖墙上上一层保护膜，但看上去会像粘了一层胶，加上屋主喜欢粗犷的原始感，所以维持原状。唯一的缺点是砖粉不时会掉在地上，因此要勤打理与保养。

如果只暴露一面墙，整体空间看起来会有点突兀。萧文杰与项目设计师将“暴露”的美学贯穿于1300平方英尺的空间里。以往隐藏欲藏的电线管漆上黑色，尽情暴露在外。萧文杰说：“有些电线管不用绕过的地方，我们也会让它们转过墙角，而不是急促地在半途停住。让它们勾画过墙约线条，再画美丽动感的线条，创造出流动的图腾。”萧文杰说他会有这奇想是因为建筑局规定不能隐藏电线管，“我们就把限制变成创意的源头，我个人也觉得这暴露的美学是很有诗意的。”设计团队也同样把厨房和浴室的水管和冷气管道暴露在外，延续流线美感。

两间睡房采用半圆拱门更带出怀旧风情。由于走廊狭窄，客房还开了

扇圆角窗，平日可以打开来增加透视图，减少屋子的压迫感。萧文杰说他的灵感来自电影《星球大战》里卢克 Skywalker（Luke Skywalker）的家。这建在梦幻沙漠星球“塔图因”（Tatooine）上的房子，在造型上融合爱斯基摩人的冰屋和地中海风情的白屋。拱门和圆角窗是其建筑特色。

萧文杰也将“塔图因”建筑元素贯穿全室。在卫浴间的墙上开窗窗口，有助通风。屋内的墙壁也效仿“塔图因”屋，采用高质感的粗墙面。即使是主人房的墙面也是如此，连床尾的电视墙和床边的小柜台也都是采用空心水泥砖板。这种粗质感的美学和客厅那面特色砖墙是相互呼应的。

萧文杰说：“要打造出原始粗犷的质感其实不比光滑的成品便宜。光滑的表面只要上一层水泥，刮平就行，要让墙面有质感反而需要花更多的人工和时间。弄粗一面墙需要三四天。至于用空心水泥砖板砌墙，要投入更多的精力才能确保墙壁整齐美观，不是说质感粗糙，手工就能粗枝大叶。质感墙面制造出来的感觉非比一般，与众不同，尤其受不落俗套的业主们欢迎。”



床尾的电视墙和床边的小柜台都采用空心水泥砖板，与客厅的砖墙相互呼应。

家，心灵所在。每月一期走入别人家，从装潢布置与设计，看居住者的生活状况与个人品味。



（左）“马赛克”（mosaic）地砖与空心水泥砂浆墙，从材质到配色，都说明设计师与屋主对装潢的考究。

（右）创造性的破坏需要更多的人工与时间。把墙面磨粗其实比抹平还要更困难。



报道◎林方伟 图片提供◎Free Space Intent

60年代的粗糙美

新加坡不断的拆除和重建急速抹去了我们许多共同的记忆和历史。因此，这不单只是“藏”或“露”的装潢术语，而是更深一层的心理上的渴望，让被时代和人为活埋的过去浮上台面，重见天日。



不加掩饰的电线与粗糙面，加上线条简约复古的老家具，唤回60年代的旧时光。