

Green Escape

Before reaching this two-storey penthouse in Singapore, one passes through the condominium's luxurious garden conceived by Japanese monk and landscape designer Shunmyō Masuno. As one approaches the building, the sensuality conveyed through the bubbling miniature waterfalls, meandering rock-lined footpaths and textured foliage slows the pace, settles the soul and softens the modern lines of the architecture by SCDA Architects. The serenity continues into the home thanks to genteel interiors by design firm MASSONEONG and bucolic landscaping by This Humid House.

'The owners wanted to create a calm, botanical sanctuary for the family, a warm space their two sons could grow up in and where the family could create memories together,' says Vanessa Ong, who founded the boutique design studio with Elisa Massone. The first step to crafting this environment was to reset the bones of the apartment, weaving gathering spaces into the daily domestic rituals of resting, eating, sleeping and playing. A bedroom abutting the dry kitchen was turned into a play area, for example, and the former main bedroom is now a family room, where an arched doorway frames the greenery on the balcony.

The swimming pool on the terrace was decked over, and in its place is a flourishing garden that forms a dense tropical screen for privacy from the neighbours. Even inside the home, one is never too far from this view, bringing to life the designers' vision of a 'treehouse in the city'. In the foyer, light shines through the leaves onto a once-dark palette now lightened with golden-beige travertine and a coat of alabaster paint to the staircase. The foyer gives way to a commodious living room where comfortable furniture in timber, stone and rattan invites lounging, and a pair of Andrew Neyer-designed lamps draw the eye up the double-volume space.

Inspired by the works of Brazilian architect Marcio Kogan, Ong employed an abundance of natural materials, such as sandblasted oak, textured linen wall coverings, unfilled Navona travertine and burnished brass, and the kind of cinematic quality that Kogan, a former filmmaker, promotes in his work. Alluring mise en scènes around the home include the bulbous Cloud pendant from Apparatus Studio floating above organically shaped dining chairs from Ceccotti Collezioni, and in the powder room, one of Singaporean artist Dawn Ng's *Perfect Stranger* text works is paired with customised wallpaper of painterly flora and a petit Viabizzuno brass and glass lamp.

The owners' art collection adds depth to the green narrative. 'In many ways, we view the landscape around our space as art and the windows the frame, as evident in all the plants around the home,' the homeowner says. 'It's not surprising that we chose pieces like Dawn Ng's *GRASS, EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED IS RIGHT HERE*, which captures the beautiful and wild landscape of a place we're familiar with.'

On the upper level, timber-clad walls enhance the natural palette, while mesh- and timber-screened sliding doors between rooms make the spaces permeable to light, breeze and the reassuring sounds of family life.

Text
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This two-storey Singapore penthouse designed by local practice MASSONEONG was conceived as a botanical sanctuary for a family of four

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A former swimming pool area on the terrace was decked over and turned into a flourishing garden by This Humid House, and furnished with an ensemble of outdoor pieces from HAY



Flooded with natural light, the living space features a mix of Brazilian furniture pieces, including the Rio chaise by Oscar Niemeyer, the Ipanema lounge armchair by Jorge Zalszupin and the Hauner sofa by Sergio Rodrigues


THE GRASS IS
TOO GREEN ON
THE INSIDE

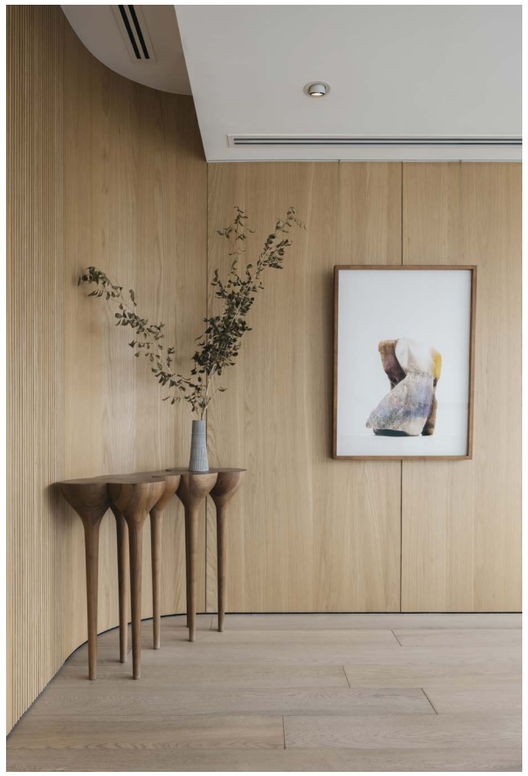




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Surrounded by artworks, the dining space revolves around a table and chair set from Ceccotti Collezioni, with the Cloud pendant from Apparatus Studio adding a touch of lightness

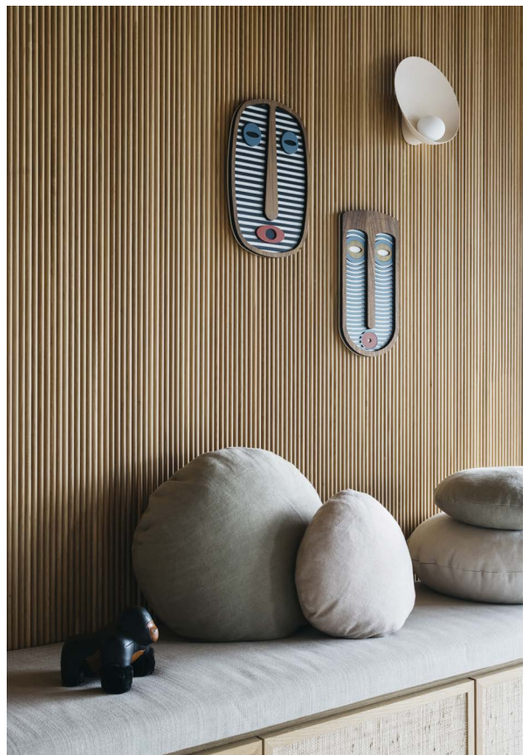
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In the double-height living room, seating arrangements are assembled around the LOB coffee table by Christophe Delcourt and the Quadrado coffee table by Marcio Kogan

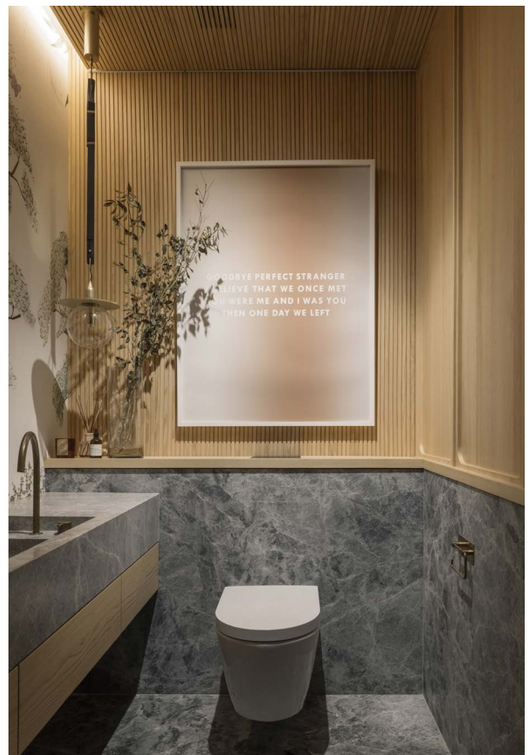


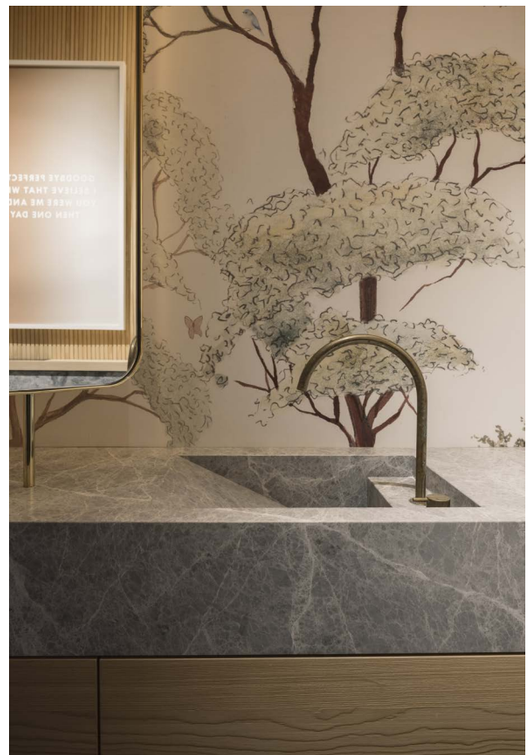


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To lighten the volume of the staircase, its original dark timber cladding was replaced with matt white paint, creating a modern contrast with the internal threads and risers in sandblasted oak and the new leather handrail

This page
In the corridor on the second floor, the Esgrimas console by Agrippa stands against curved sandblasted oak wall panelling, with a piece from Dawn Ng's *Clocks* series completing the composition











Textured details in a palette of natural materials, such as rattan wallpaper, sandblasted oak, Italian terrazzo, burnished brass and custom tan leather add depth to the interiors, complemented by art and objets