



## BENDING THE SQUARE

A bold design scheme turns a standard HDB unit into a one-of-a-kind abode.

TEXT BY YVONNE XU  
IMAGES COURTESY OF JIMMY LEE, FOCUS POINT IMAGE

Every now and then, designers come across clients who are willing to take home design to another level. The opportunity came to James Ng of Ideas Design, through a family who had asked him to design their Lorong Ah Soo maisonette and allowed him to propose any scheme he wanted. The starting point of James' design was to use a black-and-white scheme, but after discussions with his clients, they decided to build upon the simple palette into a bolder expression.



#### GETTING GRAPHICAL

On the common floor, large-format MDF boards in the form of square panels are placed over walls and even under the stairs, creating a powerful graphical effect. Over at the dining area, they form an intriguing wall feature that is reminiscent of crossword squares.

With black and white bands going across the feature wall in the living room, the design ante is undoubtedly high here. But James also made sure that the space stays comfortable enough for day-to-day living. This set-up, accompanied with a cushy sofa in white, makes up a space that sacrifices neither design or comfort.

#### FIRE UP

The black-and-white theme seen in the living area is repeated in the kitchen. For practical reasons, black is only used on cabinetry, while white, a colour that gives greater visibility, is used for the counter top. Seeing that a black-dominated scheme might be too severe for an enclosed space, James added a dash of colour in the form of a red crystal glass backsplash. He adds, "A kitchen with a glass backsplash is so much easier to maintain."



The black-and-white theme seen in the living area is repeated in the kitchen.



#### SOAR AWAY

Seeing that this is a family home, James also wanted the design to facilitate interaction. In addition to the living spaces, he's designed a mini library. "I wanted my clients to maximise and enjoy the double-volume space," the designer explains. "But because of the curved wall, it was hard to fit in ready-made furniture. So we customised the furnishings in this area." A velvet-clad bench follows the curvature of the space beautifully, as does the open bookcase.

#### TWO-FACED

Keeping things consistent, the master bedroom sees a black-and-white theme for the entertainment console. Space efficiency is key to the success of the room, as James planned for the console to double up as a desk on the other side. This way, not only is the room space maximised, rest and work spaces are kept suitably separate. For books and accessories, open shelves have been installed, allowing for visual continuity so that the room feels spacious. On this side of the room, the wall that faces the bed is painted green – a refreshing colour to wake up to, indeed. **115**