

**IN DETAIL**

**Home:** 3-bedroom condominium unit  
**Who lives here:** Ben and Josephine, and their baby boy  
**Where:** Upper Thomson | **Floor area:** 1,100sqft

# THE PLEASURES OF HOME

With a strong and masculine colour palette, and smart design details, this brand new condo apartment has been transformed into a comfortable and stylish space that a young family can be proud to call home.

**TEXT:** JARVIS SEOW | **PHOTOGRAPHY:** WONG WELLSING  
**ART DIRECTION:** BETTY WONG

**W**hen young married couple Ben and Josephine bought a new 3-bedroom condominium apartment along Upper Thomson Road, and hired Denise Chng and Li Yanling from Habit to design their space, the brief they gave was one that many interior designers in Singapore would be familiar with. The couple asked for storage space, and for a larger, functional kitchen for cooking.

The team from Habit however, have taken that standard directive and responded with beautifully thought-out design solutions that address the way the homeowners go about their daily lives.

The original kitchen was enclosed and situated to the left of the long foyer. "As you entered the home, the space felt very tiny," Denise recalls. "The owners cook a lot and entertain quite a bit, hence the need for a larger kitchen space," she continues.

Denise and Yanling broke down walls to create an open-concept kitchen, and incorporated thoughtful design details such as easily accessible open shelving,



#### DESIGN NOTES

(Top right) Shelves right at the dining table put books within easy reach. Instead of hanging art on walls, a ledge gives you the flexibility to move things around as you wish.

(Left) An Original 1327 Angripose wall sconce above the sofa screen as a reading light. The see-through fluted and chicken wire glass screen creates a clear separation between the living and dining areas without blocking the view.

(Facing page) The foyer walls are clad in black veneer panels, as well as mirrors, with the latter helping to brighten and visually enhance the sense of space. Some panels also open up to reveal storage.





and a tray that pulls out from the kitchen counter to offer an extra work surface. Intent on making efficient use of every inch of space, the designers also turned a narrow, unused corner in this area into a mini storage cabinet.

At 1,100sqft, the apartment is fairly modest in size, but it also has two balconies in the living area that draw in a good amount of natural light and ventilation. In this context, Habit's choice of a dark and muted colour palette – black, greys and warm browns, with touches of turquoise – works to create a masculine and stylishly modern interior, without any sense of claustrophobia.

A black veneer framed fluted and chicken wire glass screen has been installed to create a clear divide between the dining and living area. "The screen is a very important design element in this project. Along with the dining bench, it really helps to break up the space," Yanling explains.

While pendant lamps are commonly used in dining areas, the owners did not want a false ceiling. The solution came in the form of a wall sconce, which lights up the dining table more intimately. The designers have also incorporated shelving for books that can be accessed from both the dining and living area. "Ben loves to read," Denise shares. "We wanted to avoid the bulky look, and so designed open shelves." Another narrow pocket of shelf space was created along the hallway leading to the bedrooms, for the couple to store their newspapers.

The master bedroom isn't very big, yet feels comfortable and spacious thanks to the selection of clean-lined furnishings and the avoidance of heavy built-in cabinetry. On the rather uncommon choice of a tiled headboard, Yanling explains, "Ben and Josephine wanted a headboard but didn't want it in fabric as it could get dusty." Given the overall concept of hard geometric lines and the liberal use of tiles in the public areas, the designers decided to create a headboard in the same design language. Situated next to the bed, a custom-built dresser takes up a small footprint but comes with deep storage and features pop-up lids for easy access to makeup and everyday essentials.

The brief may have sounded simple and pretty basic at the beginning, but the designers from Habit have gone above and beyond to give Ben and Josephine a place that truly corresponds to their lifestyle and needs. Soon after they moved in, the couple had a baby boy and can now enjoy their new home with the latest addition to the family.

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STYLE KIT

#### DESIGN NOTES

A pop of colour can go a long way in enlivening an otherwise muted palette.

(Facing page, top) The designers kept to a controlled colour palette of greys and black with accents of turquoise. Geometric lines are repeated everywhere, from the cabinetry to the steel walls and the TV feature wall.

(Facing page, bottom) The wardrobe in the master bedroom features a pullout tray where the owner, Josephine, can easily place and access her bags as needed.

#### DESIGN INSPIRATION

Homeowners Ben and Josephine reveal what they love most about their home.

##### WHICH AREA IN THE HOME INSPIRES YOU THE MOST?

We love our open-concept kitchen. Habit has transformed the space to make it look bigger, brighter and more spacious without any compromise to the design.

##### WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE FURNITURE PURCHASE?

Our coffee table from Pomelet! It's the perfect size and design for our living room. We love how sleek the table is.

##### WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO HAVE IN YOUR HOME, IN THE FUTURE?

We would like to have a bigger living area in future so our son will have more space to run around, and also to host our guests!