

Lookbox

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LANDED PROPERTY ISSUE

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black and bold

ASIALAND ID CREATES A SUAVE AND MODERN HOME THAT BANKS ON THE COLOUR BLACK FOR PUNCH.

Many designers routinely avoid black, regarding it as harsh and daunting – a colour that does more harm than good in home interiors. In his design of this terraced house in Yio Chu Kang, however, Ron Leow of Asialand ID reiterates his affinity for the colour. He says, “Black is very effective in creating a sleek and modern look. In a home, it makes a bold statement too, quite unlike white.”

BLACK REFRAINS

In the lofty living area of this three-storey house, Leow lets a good dose of black in to compose the desired urban setting. The sombre hue features prominently on the main wall and furniture, but in a restrained fashion so that it does not really overrun the place. The feature wall, for example, has been cropped to almost a square, and is flanked on either side by white panels carved with three-dimensional, geometric pop-out profiles. This classic juxtaposition of black and white, Leow said, creates an immediate visual impact.

Poised low-slung just a few feet away is the other all-black statement piece – the sofa. “We brought in a low-backed set to relax the space,” Leow explains. “Its matt leather upholstery and clean lines bring to the space an understated luxury.” Finally, but not least, giving the living area its shot of energy is a blood red rug that underlines the coffee table.

DINING IN THE DARK

Sitting adjacent but elevated to the living area is a dining area, set just at the foot of the staircase. Seeing how this space is located deep in the house and quite compact, Leow proposed to demarcate the area with low glass panels so that the dining here still comes with a view of the living area. Black continues to be the primary colour choice here, expressed in the dining set and in the twin pendant lamps which, when in use, shed ambient lighting to balance the dark tones in the overall set-up.

UNDERGROUND ENTERTAINMENT

If this dining area seems a little subdued, that is because the real entertaining usually takes place somewhere else. Just one floor down, a larger cooking and dining scene plays out impressively, with two kitchens – one wet and one dry – occupying the entire basement. The monochromatic scheme upstairs is reiterated here. In this comparatively spacious area, however, Leow takes black one step further and features it even more prominently on a whole island and down the full length of wall cabinets.

Layout-wise, the kitchen can be doubled up, literally, as an entertainment venue when the occasion calls for it. The space is separated only by glass sliding doors that can be fully retracted to combine the interior and exterior into one large party space. Having a deliberately small island within a large area also means leaving clear spaces for human movement – a key factor to successful entertaining.

KEEPING IT PERSONAL

While the communal areas are impressive and party-friendly, Leow made sure that the master bedroom functioned as a private retreat for the homeowners. A plain, light-toned wallpaper backdrops the room to induce a restful atmosphere, while a considerable dark grey rug spreads itself at the foot of the bed, easily warming up the whole room. To the side, dark curtains give off a slight sheen and imbue the room with a hint of glamour.

Similarly, the ensuite bathroom boasts a simple but nonetheless effective design. Blessed with large windows, and consequently, a healthy dose of natural light, the bathroom feels bright and airy in spite of the charcoal grey tiles that were chosen for the space. Handsome tiles are matched with other materials such as a sleek glass partition and a fuss-free mirror to form a decidedly sophisticated bathroom. III



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