

ITALIAN SENSIBILITY

Designed by EDMUND NG ARCHITECTS, this three-storey penthouse gets a touch of Milanese style



LEFT TO RIGHT
The L-shape sofa system visually elongates the living area; a foliage-like artwork draws attention to the grand height of the double volume foyer; potted plants and an array of artworks enliven the dining space

WITH ITS SCENIC VIEWS AND GENEROUS SIZE, this three-storey penthouse at Leedon Residence was already an opulent abode but its owner wanted more—something original that would make it stand out from other apartments in the neighbourhood. The property developer, GuocoLand, appointed interior architect Edmund Ng and his team, who were given the freedom to conceptualise whatever they thought would bring about the grandeur of the home as a show apartment. The realised concept celebrates contemporary Italian style, as represented by Milanese architecture—a pleasing blend of the modern and avant-garde.

As the existing architecture is spacious and well-planned, the team faced few obstacles in the design process. “The apartment’s generous size gave us the freedom to explore edgier design details which we thought could bring our client’s vision to life,” says Edmund Ng, founder of his namesake firm. Within two months, the team swiftly transformed the skeleton space into a welcoming home outfitted with discernment.

Beauty of Timber

To sculpt the interior architecture of the apartment, Ng and his team applied cladding to the walls of rooms and corridors, while keeping in mind the apartment's epic proportions. As such, they were able to redefine spaces and create an impression of grandeur. "We wanted to maintain the richness of the space while bringing in a human dimension to the interior," explains Ng. Timber veneer was chosen as the key material to clad the walls of the home. This is a similar finish to that of the bespoke contemporary Italian furniture chosen for the apartment, to create the overall effect of harmonious elegance. This wood veneer is paired with custom-made cabinetry in dark wood, alongside shades of grey, bronze accents and marble surfaces. "The small details that we put into the design completely transform the ambience of the house, allowing it to truly live up to our concept of a bespoke design," says Ng.



LEFT TO RIGHT
A tactile mix of textiles, natural stone and wooden furnishings fill the interiors with a sense of warmth

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EDMUND NG ARCHITECTS

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A graduate of National University of Singapore, Edmund Ng's forte lies in visionary and impactful concepts with streamlined details that stand the test of time. Founded by Ng, the eponymous architecture and interior design firm has completed a number of projects locally as well as internationally, including the Montigo Resorts Nongsa in Batam, Indonesia, and luxury condominium One Rosyth in Singapore; the latter project exhibited at the prestigious Venice Architecture Biennale in 2014. The firm has been listed as one of the 50 most influential in Singapore design by Singapore Tatler Homes, and has received multiple accolades including the Best Modern Minimalist Design and the Best Architectural Design awards presented by the magazine in 2015 and 2016.



A Sense of Levity

The main living spaces were strategically partitioned and the furniture positioned such that the entryway of the house appears elevated, creating a subtle sense of drama. "Apart from providing a sense of airiness and levity, the double-volume living room creates a smooth flow into the other spaces, establishing the open-plan layout that drives the design of the penthouse," shares Ng. In a bold move, Ng and his team chose to conceal one of the double height windows with a tall bookshelf, to enhance the feeling of height in the living area. Produced by an Italian furniture maker, the bookshelf serves as a charming way to display beloved books and art objects. Above it, a leaf-shaped artwork draws the eye upwards to the vertical height of the space. To remove awkward nooks from the master bedroom, the design team inserted a wall into the space to create a separate study area, which added visual texture and interest. They also carved an entertainment room out of a pocket of space in the house to maximise the spatial area. "In my practice, I enjoy creating solutions through creativity and design, and this time it was no different," says Ng. "I wanted to ensure that the finished design would marry both visual gratification while fulfilling the client's spatial and emotional requirements for their living experience." ❶