

SANCTUARIES

68

New Beginning

This abode pairs minimalist details with eclectic artworks

78

Jewel of the Sea

An opulent penthouse inspired by its nautical surroundings

96

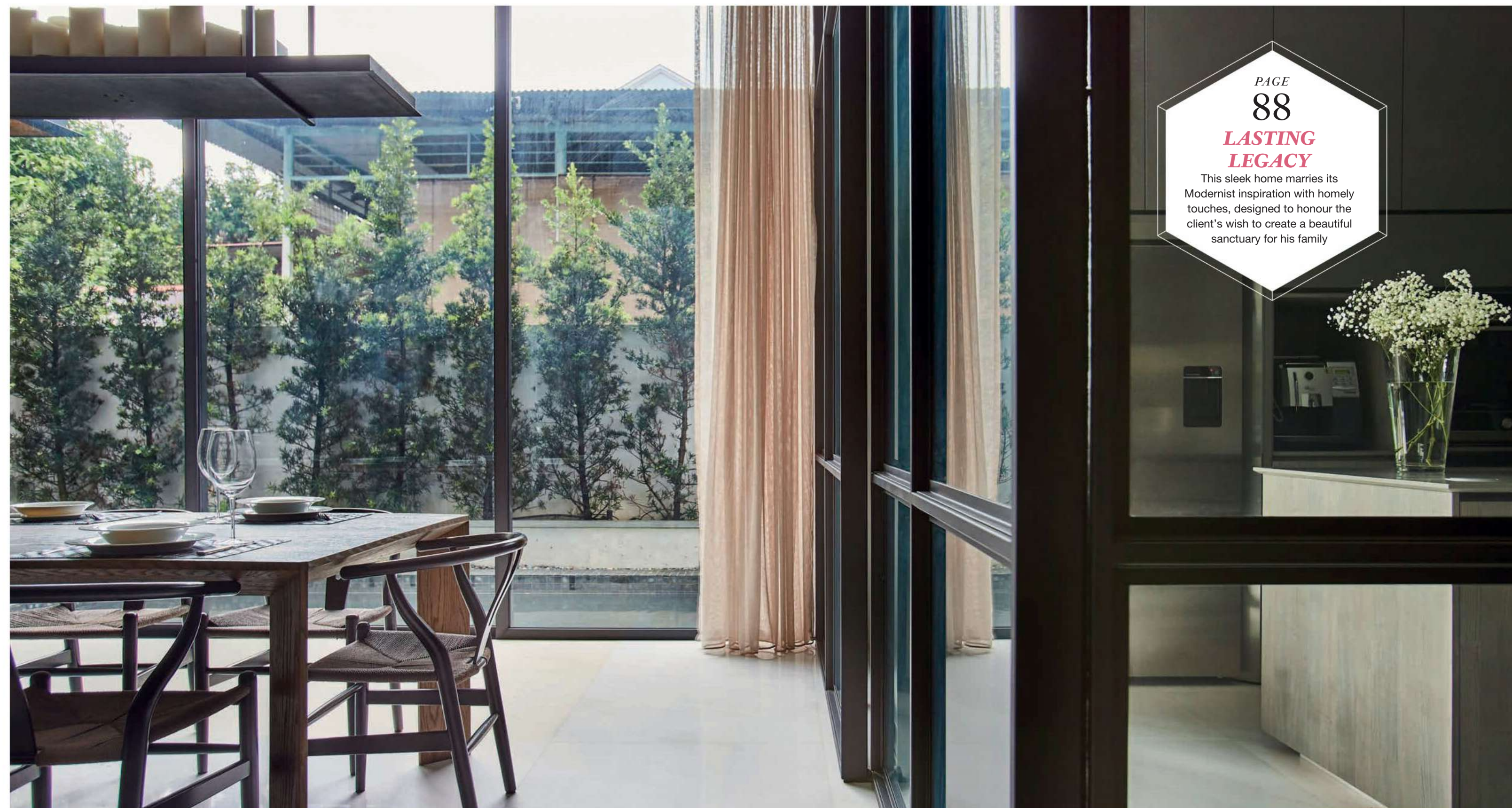
Artful Sanctuary

A living space that shows off its owners' beloved art collection

104

Living Colour

Tory Burch's home is a vibrant space filled with joyful textures



PAGE

88

**LASTING
LEGACY**

This sleek home marries its Modernist inspiration with homely touches, designed to honour the client's wish to create a beautiful sanctuary for his family

Furnished with floor-to-ceiling glass walls and doors, the dining area is a space that drinks in the natural light

LASTING LEGACY

FULFILLING THE WISHES OF AN AILING CLIENT BECAME THE FIRST PRIORITY FOR EDMUND NG WHEN HE BUILT THIS STYLISH HOUSE

For architect Edmund Ng, working on this Serangoon residence proved to be particularly poignant. In 2013, Ng and his team were hired by the aesthetically driven homeowner Mr Sng, who had terminal cancer. He came to them with a simple wish—to create a beautiful home that his wife, Candy, and their two children, Joycelin and Benjamin, would be able to enjoy after his passing.

Sadly, Mr Sng didn't get to see the end result, but the architect recalls with fondness the numerous hours that they spent together poring over plans and making adjustments to ensure that the family's needs were met. "I was aware from the very start that what we were really creating was a legacy, rather than simply a house with four walls and a roof," explains Ng from his East Coast studio. "Mr Sng had a very clear wish list of what he wanted for his family and he remained entirely involved right until the very end."

LEFT TO RIGHT
Glass doors and sleek cabinetry creates a clutter-free space defined by clean lines; pale blond wood flooring brings a sense of warmth to the cosy living area

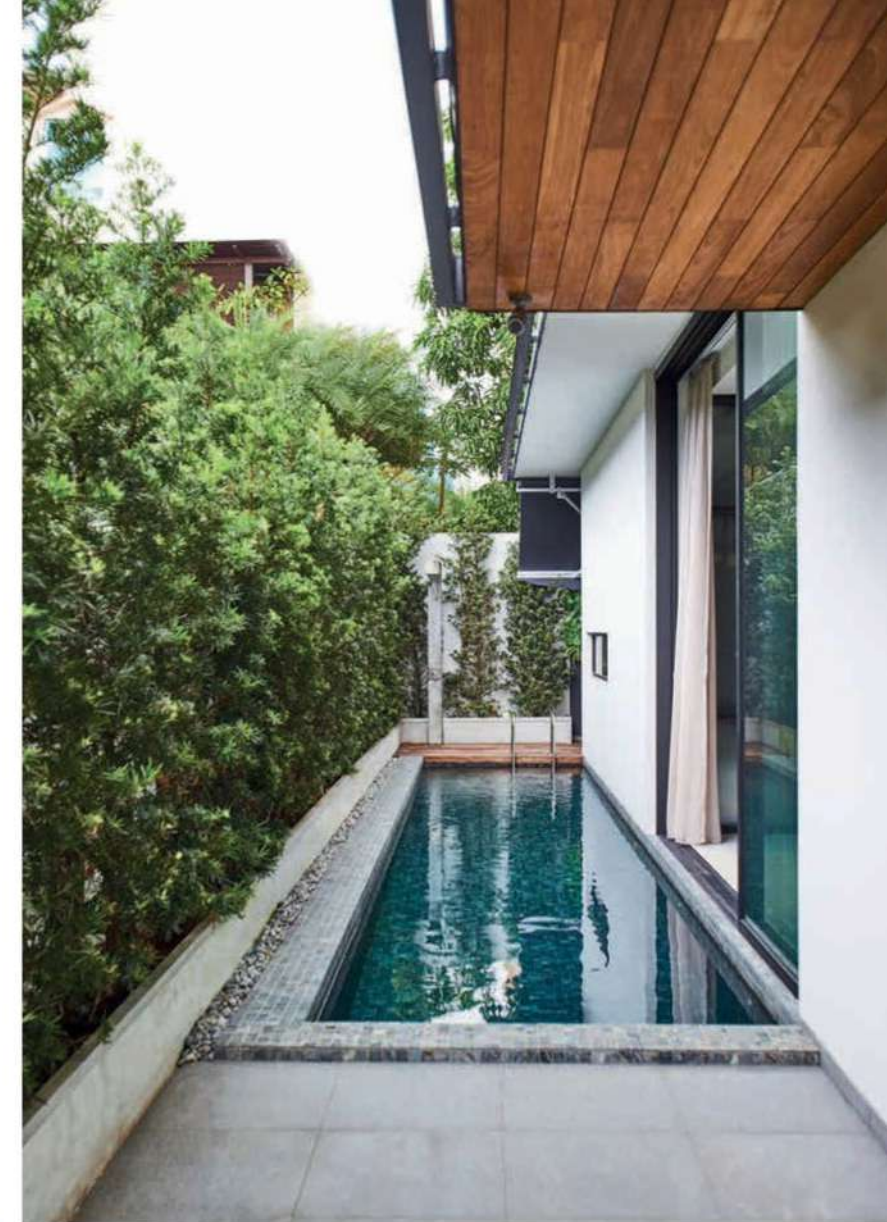




MODERN APPROACH

Because of Mr Sng's passion for vintage cars and his sizeable collection, atop the priority list was a carport that could fit six to 10 vehicles at any given time. Thus, the first notable feature of the property—once it is accessed through the matte-black steel gates that guard it—is an oversized concrete garage that could easily double up as a football pitch if you so desired. Clad in sleek teak timber panels, it perfectly captures Ng's design style, which favours raw materials and clean lines, often in surprising yet effective combinations.

"I am very much into the modern style of architecture, as pioneered by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier," says Ng. "It was a response to the overembellishment of the 19th century and for me, it is refreshingly simple." He adds that it's the exacting proportions and the lack of unnecessary frivolities that make this less-is-more style so attractive. Throughout the house, there isn't a single curved wall or an angle that isn't at 90 degrees.



The colour palette and materials are just as restrained: wood, marble, cement, glass, aluminium and steel dominate, and they are in either black, white or their raw state. Only the steel elements have been painted, to avoid rusting; and even the cement blocks that were used to form the external walls have been left bare.

CONCEAL AND REVEAL

With the carport taking up so much of the ground floor, there was only just enough space left for a dining room and kitchen on that level, as well as an eight-metre lap pool that runs the length of the dining room. Despite space constraints, these rooms feel cavernous thanks to their high ceilings, glass walls and notable lack of clutter. Everything that the family might use on a daily basis is hidden behind wooden panels that cleverly conceal ample amounts of storage space. The only decoration on the ground floor is the chandelier, designed by Ng, which hangs above the dining table. Beyond that, there's no art on the walls, no colour and no superfluous fabrics.

THIS PAGE

An eight-metre lap pool runs along the length of the dining room; the karaoke room on the second floor

OPPOSITE PAGE

Powder coated steel banisters are applied on the lift shaft and all door frames as part of the abode's cohesive look



The second floor feels more homely and features Candy's beloved karaoke room, a gym and the breathtaking living room. Accessed through a glass door, the living room is a lesson in understated opulence, with its Nero Marquina black marble coffee table beautifully matching the baby grand piano and custom-made furniture. Joycelin and Benjamin's living quarters are located one floor up, which includes a vast walk-in wardrobe and an adjoining bathroom. A sense of flow is maintained across all the floors through the continuous use of pale blonde wood flooring and off-form cement walls, which are neatly lined with powder-coated steel banisters.

Finally, on the top floor is the master bedroom, with its impressive views of the entire neighbourhood. Glass inserts, added to the top of the four walls, heighten the bright and airy aspect of the room. There are no demarcations between the sleeping area and the oversized master bathroom; the result is a feeling of being adrift among the clouds. "I often liken being an architect to being an artist—except that an artist has total free rein over whatever it is that they create, while an architect still needs to ensure that he is responding to his client's needs," comments Ng, reflecting on the challenges of his profession. "In this case, though, I sincerely hope that we fulfilled all of our duties." 🏡

LEFT TO RIGHT

The open plan for the master bedroom and bathroom is a light-filled space with impressive views of the neighbourhood; a cohesive material palette unites the bedroom spaces across the floors



LOCATION
Singapore

TYPE OF HOME
Semi-detached house

PROPERTY SIZE
3,778sqft

BUILT-UP AREA
6,221sqft

ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN
Edmund Ng Architects

TIME TAKEN
4 years