

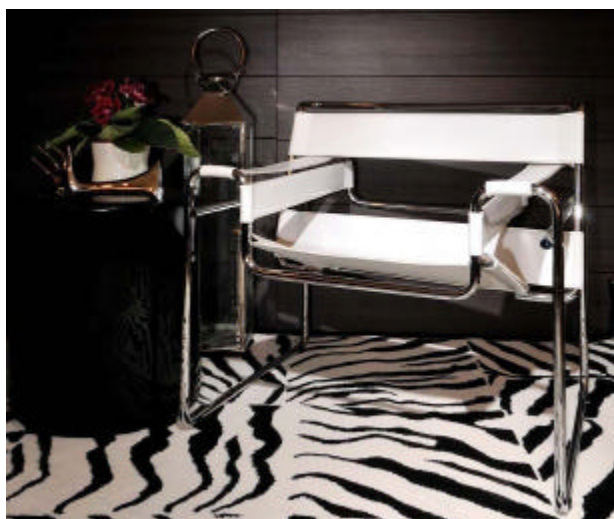


Room for Memories

THIS SUNLIT APARTMENT HAS A MOTIF
THAT THREADS THROUGH EACH OF
ITS SPACES - PHOTOGRAPHS THAT
EVOKE NOSTALGIA AND JOY

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THE FIRST THING that strikes you about this 140sqm Gilestead Mansion apartment located along Thomson Road is the number of photographs lining almost every wall of the home. Take a closer look and you will notice that each photo has been digitally enhanced to give a lovely sepia tone as if to pay tribute to a time long past.

Ask L H Chan, Design Director of TDC & Associates, about his inspiration and he will tell you firmly that a home is about two key things – resting and interacting with the ones you love.

"Nowadays, we spend so much time at work or in school and due to the stresses of our hectic schedules, tempers fray easily. So it's good for a home to have reminders of the good times shared by a family to ease any tension," he muses. And photographs, Chan believes, are perfect for improving a family's quality of life not just aesthetically but emotionally as well since they often evoke pleasant memories of happy times.

Engaged by a family of two working parents and their two teenaged children to create a home that was simple and functional (read: plenty of storage space), Chan, together with interior designer, Rollen, and the rest of his team decided to push the envelope and turn this 20-year-old apartment into a home that was not only utilitarian but also full of character.



A WALL OF HAPPY MEMORIES IS A CLEAR VISUAL CENTREPIECE IN THE MONOCHROMATIC DINING SPACE. ABOVE IN THE FOYER, A DISCREET SLIDING DOOR LEADS TO A WALK-IN SHOE CLOSET BEHIND THE HIGHLY TEXTURED, TRABER VENEER WALLS.



In the living room, Chan used a warm shade of grey, instead of stark white, as the base colour. "Because this unit is located on the ground floor, it gets lots of sunlight so going completely white will make the space too glaring and bright. I also included accents of black, seen in the monochrome rug, lamps and photo frames, to jazz up the room and give it an added 'lift'," Chun explains.

The living room also conceals plenty of storage space. Behind the sofa, for instance, is a row of sleek cabinets that appear like a feature wall, thanks to the photographs hanging on them. The TV console in walnut veneer stained black also hides cabinets but what is more surprising is what is laid above. The apartment's high ceiling allowed Chan to build a cosy little nook on the console for the family of avid readers to store their precious tomes. "We took care not to give all the cabinets the same colour but



tried instead to blend them into the walls where possible. If we were to build the same full-length black cabinets on both walls of the living room, the space would look cramped and dark," Chan says.

Hanging in the dining room is the home's visual centrepiece – the 'Happy Memories Wall', as christened by the family. Covered with a dozen neatly lined photographs taken during past vacations, the wall is easily a conversation starter for guests and family members alike. Because the photos are hung on a wall linking the bedrooms and the entrance, Chan hopes that whenever the family members walk by, they will be reminded and cheered by an image of a happy moment.

The master bedroom is a picture of restfulness and efficient space planning. Because the lady of the



house works in the fashion industry, she required plenty of room for her clothes. With the wall in front of the bed lined with cabinets, not much room was left. So Chan innovatively built a wall feature behind the bed that contains more cabinets. The feature also hides a window that is revealed with a slide of the two panels in the middle, which are neatly 'camouflaged' by framed photos.

A careful selection of lighting completes the look. White light, deemed too harsh to be used on its own, is kept as recessed and cove lighting peeping from behind feature walls while yellow light, which gives the place its warm, ambient atmosphere, dominates via spotlights and lamps. **hc**

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