

Step into this 4,000 sq ft terrace house in the Bukit Timah district and you'll feel as if you've stepped into a luxurious modern hotel. The owners had started off using the home as a weekend getaway for the family, and their brief to interior design firm TDC & Associates was to do up the house with a classical theme, a style favoured by the lady of the house. "We had to consider the practical, functional aspect of the décor before the aesthetics," says the designer. So in order to incorporate classical décor into a comparatively small space, a lot of space-consuming classical elements were toned down, and a modern twist was incorporated.

Done up in a soft beige colour scheme, the living room brings across the classical theme, but does not overwhelm. The designer had made the living room feel more spacious by creating a mirrored feature behind the sofa to make the space seem wider. To bring across the classical feel, cornices were done up and a chandelier was installed to give the living room a grander feel. Plush sofas and an intricate coffee table from Manhattan Collection completed the look. A customised carpet with floral motifs and tasselled curtains add a luxurious and glamorous air to the living room.





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The dining room features a wood-paneled wall that conceals two doors leading to the kitchen and guest bedroom. It forms an attractive backdrop against the dining table which seats six. As classical design is all about detailing, the designer chose dining chairs that feature intricate details on its wooden back. More fine detailing can be found in the wall treatment: "We used line-works to give the wall more texture and dimension," says the designer. An abstract artwork hung above the sideboard adds a vibrant splash of colour to the dining room while a shaggy carpet softens the feel.

In designing the master bedroom, the designer set out to create a restful haven for the owners. To create a soothing ambience, soft colours such as cream,

beige and pink were used. The room was carpeted and a fabric wardrobe was built behind the bed to soften the feel of the room. The owners had wanted a four-poster bed, but the ceiling was too low to accommodate one, the designer compromised by installing curtains on both sides of the bed. A floral motif wallpaper and a crystal chandelier lend a subtle touch of opulence, while a plush armchair and ottoman sitting area brings to mind a sense of idyllic indulgence. The master bedroom has a walk-in wardrobe to save space, a dresser was placed on one side of the wardrobe. A patterned red carpet which adds a touch of grandeur and colour to the room.





The room belonging to the six-year-old daughter oozes sweetness and girly charm with its pink-and-white colour scheme. "The owners had wanted a room which could grow with their daughter, up to her early teens," says the designer. And indeed, the room would be the perfect fantasy of any young girl. A platform was built to create an innovative "wishing well", a round sunken pod upholstered in sponge, fabric and velvet for the little girl to sit inside to play or read. The bed was tucked against the wall to maximise the floor space for the girl and her friends to play. A small decorative canopy installed above the bed adds a whimsical touch, making it fit for a little princess.

This stately Bukit Timah home is an example of how a classical theme can work in a terrace house. At the end of the day, it is really all about toning down over-the-top elements and modernising the heavy classical theme with more muted colours and the use of interesting but less ornate fixtures.

