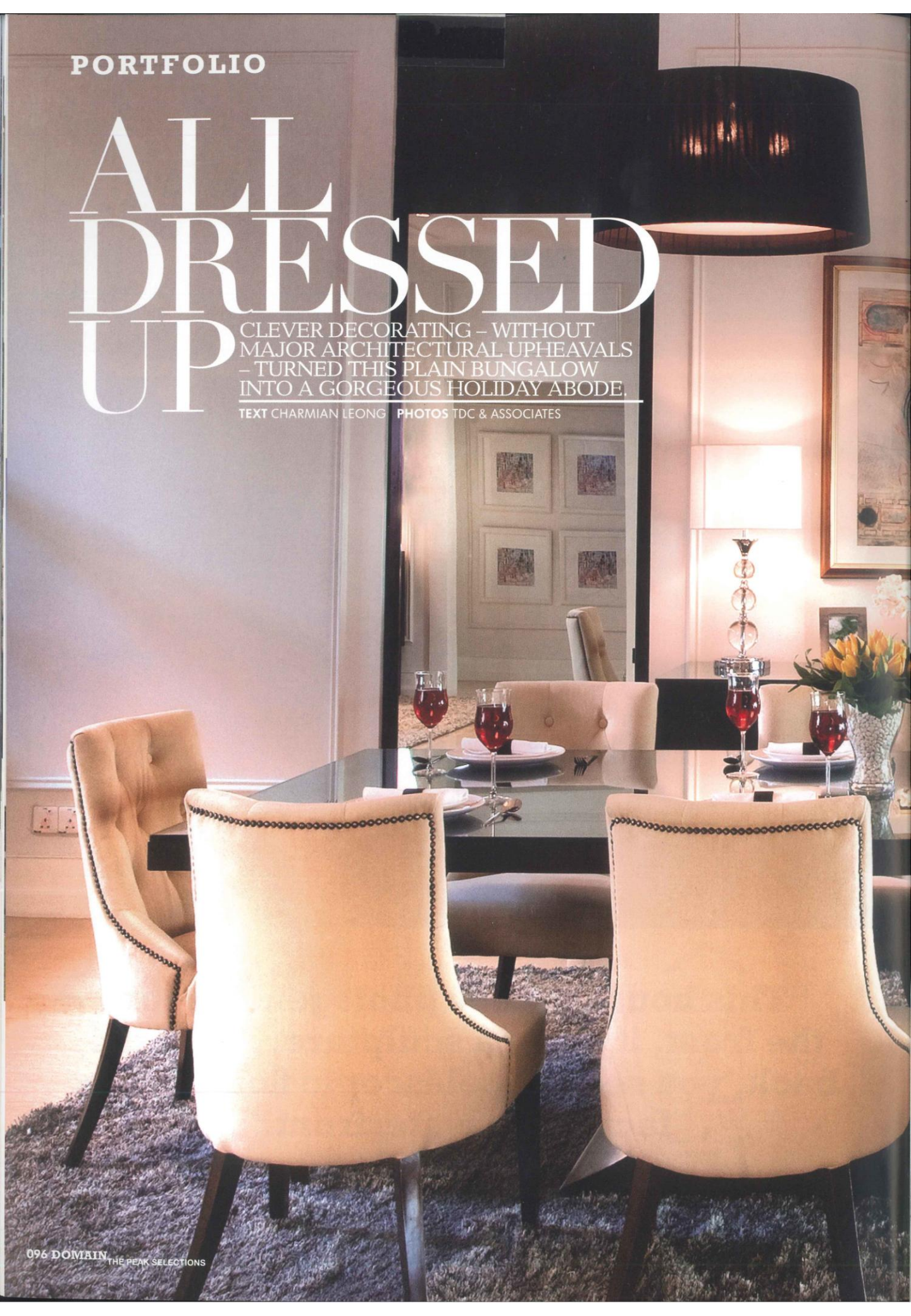


PORTFOLIO

ALL DRESSED UP

CLEVER DECORATING – WITHOUT MAJOR ARCHITECTURAL UPHEAVALS – TURNED THIS PLAIN BUNGALOW INTO A GORGEOUS HOLIDAY ABODE.

TEXT CHARMIAN LEONG PHOTOS TDC & ASSOCIATES



PORTFOLIO

A welcome reprieve from manic city life; one that is easy to maintain; and offers the kind of cosiness that trumps any hotel suite. A holiday home needs to be all these and more, so L.H. Chan, design principal of TDC & Associates, had his work cut out for him when he was commissioned to beautify a two-storey bungalow in Johor Bahru for a Singaporean couple and their two children. It was a task made all the more challenging when presented with a pre-owned residence with rooms in all the wrong proportions.

"Big spaces relax people, so I tried to create as much of it for each of the family members," says Chan. "Unfortunately, the previous owner – a relative of theirs – had created a family room upstairs that outsized the other areas for her pet dog to play in." Now that the family of four had taken over the property, Chan's first priority was to even out the spaces. Walls were taken down and moved, so that both children could enjoy queen-sized beds and walk-in wardrobes.

"I like creating spaces people can grow up with. When the children are older, they

should still be able to relate to this design," explains Chan. "But I've also kept the colours muted because he's a really active boy and I thought this colour scheme would calm him down a little," he quips.

The son spends his vacation time in a room painted in alternating stripes that bring to mind cafe au lait (decaf, presumably). Timber floors, a matching beige rug and a high ceiling give the room an airy, soothing atmosphere. Without the toys littered around the room, one wouldn't be able to guess that it belongs to a 12-year-old. His 9-year-old sister's has a similarly spacious configuration, with a carpeted platform with a hole in the middle to serve as a "reading well".

The rest of the second floor is divided into the study, master bedroom and the couple's walk-in wardrobe, which serves as a connecting hallway. "The study is actually my favourite part of the home," shares Chan. "It's intimate with just a touch of sophistication." Lamps cast a warm glow on the elegant writing desk and gold-framed pictures.

On the other side of the dressing room lies the master bedroom. Light from the hallway, >

LAND SIZE
10,000 sq ft
BUILT-UP AREA
6,000 sq ft
INTERIOR DESIGNER
TDC & Associates



The homeowners fell in love with a sofa set in a magazine and had similar ones custom made in a fabric that matches the rest of the living room.

Opposite: In the sophisticated study, an elegant writing desk takes pride of place.

