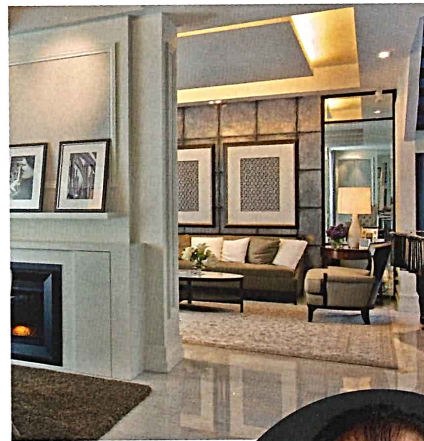
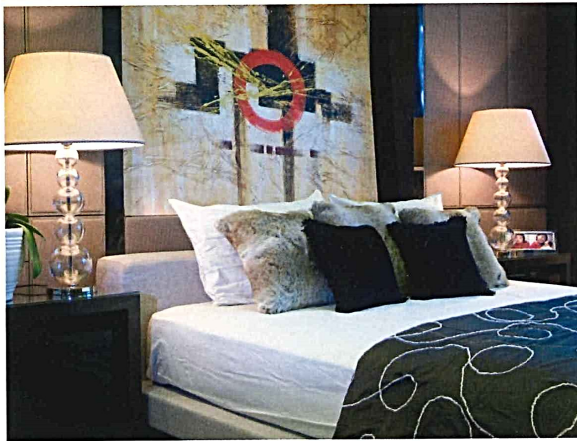


The Finer Points Of Design

L H Chan, Design Principal of TDC & Associates, shares his thoughts on elements of a well designed home and what homeowners look for in a luxurious space



space and their lifestyle habits. I prefer to think about getting all the functional aspects of a design right before moving on to thinking about its aesthetic. Aside from that, I believe a good design should project a distinct identity. You should be able to understand a little about the character of the homeowner by looking at the space.

And what are homeowners looking for in a luxurious space these days?

There is a growing importance of learning about and choosing the right furniture. Younger homeowners will take time to learn and understand the design concept behind a piece of furniture before purchasing it, so interior designers need to know what are the statement pieces that will go into a space when designing it. There is also a higher degree of customisation that goes into a high-end home design, and that's where attention to detail is crucial. This can be from creating a wardrobe design that ensures the hangers are evenly spaced, to creating the right compartments in a display shelf to hold the homeowner's collection of jewellery or timepieces. At the same time, we are also adding a lot of features to enhance the user experience, such as soft closing drawer systems and automated home systems. I believe true luxury comes when you really enjoy your home aesthetically and functionally. 

What was the journey you took to becoming one of the region's established interior designers?

My career began in the '80s, after my training in interior design. The company I worked with specialised in construction and I was deployed to their carpentry workshop. It was from there that I picked up the skills in joinery, carpentry and detailing. I spent four years learning about working with the different types of materials, wood and how intricate details are created. From there, I gradually moved on to focus on providing full-fledged interior design services.

How important is knowledge of furniture making and joinery to interior design?

It forms a key part of every home project the firm undertakes. Because of the valuable experience I gained in carpentry, I am able to offer my clients insights to achieving the

kinds of looks they want in the design of their homes. There is a significant amount of built-in cabinetry and customised furniture that goes into the design of a home, and it is in putting in the right detailing that effectively brings out the unique character of a home. Of course, there are other elements to take into account, such as how other materials and fabrics are used to complement the basic structure of the design.

How would you define a well designed home?

One of the aims we seek to achieve with all our home projects is in ensuring that the final design fulfills the needs of the homeowner. We need to understand the requirements of the space, who it is intended for, the number of people that are going to share the



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