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PERSONAL SPACES

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FOR TWO, MAYBE THREE

Ideal Design Interior turns a new HDB unit into a family-ready love nest.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALAN LEE, K STUDIO

“My clients are a young married couple who plan to have children in the future,” designer Johnson Chen explains. “So, one of our goals was to create a home that is sophisticated for my clients to enjoy, but that also needs minimal change when the little ones arrive.” For the designer from Ideal Design Interior, a well-designed home should equally provide for current household needs and accommodate future family plans, and that was the idea behind the interior of this Pinnacle@Duxton apartment.



[Ideal Design Interior] fronted the kitchen with a curved, dual-level counter that breaks up the strict lines of the interior.

THE BIG PICTURE

For a start, Johnson looked into spatial planning. He did away with walls so that the common spaces – the kitchen, living and dining areas – flow freely into one another. Taking down walls at the kitchen not only opens up the space and creates a sense of spaciousness throughout, but also allows for the possibility of children to roam freely and safely in the future.

The material palette was essential to Johnson's plan too. In the living area, impact-resistant laminate flooring gets the home ready for the rough and tumble of toys, even as it also imbues the room with a sense of warmth. In fact, wood grain laminating becomes an ideal choice for juxtaposing and softening the modern design of the feature wall. Lastly, Johnson made sure that the dining area coheres with the rest of the scheme. To do that, he simply backdrops it with mirror panels and glossy laminating that echo the living room's aesthetics.

COUNTER INTUITION

The third and last of the common space triumvirate – the kitchen – is an elegant answer to practical demands. "The given space may be squarish in shape, but that doesn't mean we have to do a square kitchen," Johnson says, explaining why he fronted the kitchen with a curved, dual-level counter that breaks up the strict lines of the interior. Here, bespoke cabinetry fitted in throughout the open kitchen is clad in a handsome black-and-white get-up. Notably, lamps overhanging the counter give the space a soft wash of warm lighting.



STUDY PLAN

The study room might look like a simple set-up, yet a curious design detail is revealed upon closer inspection – the leg of the desk is on castor. As its designer explains, "My clients share the study room but they wish to have their individual working spaces. The end of one table can be swivelled out so the work unit changes into a U shape, a comfortable configuration for two people to work without having to face each other. And of course, even if a third person comes into the picture, the U-shaped tabletop can easily be divided up into three work areas."

BIGGER PLEASE

Another notable area Johnson designed is the bathroom, a small but highly maximised space. Johnson redesigned the vanity counter as a white solid counter top with an extra-large sink. A wide mirror tops the space as a luxury, as it also visually enlarges and brightens this modest space. ■■