



“Creating that visual sense of space in the environment that he can feel inspired in was our objective, and which we would feel is the design highlight of his home.”

– Artistroom, designer

Aaron picks out paintings to speak to him, rather than just the price or the provenance. The one directly above the sofa, for example, called Vermeer Macchietto-Formento is “the most important of my life: deadlines and deadlines,” he says.

Design and travel books provide a sense of place with antique and modern designer decor.

Light: Aaron likes antiques that tell a story about the culture they come from.



Home
3-room HDB flat
Floor Area
850 sqft

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PHOTOGRAPHY EDWARD HENDRICKS
(WHERE INDICATED) AND COURTESY OF
ARTISTROOM
ART DIRECTION BETTY WONG

It was a match made in heaven when freelance luxury-lifestyle journalist Aaron De Silva met design studio Artistroom. He had been looking for an interior designer to transform his 50-year-old resale flat from a typical three-room HDB into a home where he can also work and entertain in. The interior designers he had earlier met seemed not to understand or provide solutions for what he wanted. At their first meeting, Aaron shares that designer Katy Chong of Artistroom summed up his requirements: “You want a home that’s set up like an art gallery.”

“My jaw dropped,” Aaron says. “Katy knew exactly what I needed, and I didn’t even know that that was the concept that would neatly tie up all my design requirements cohesively. When she said that statement, it was no question that Artistroom would do my renovation.”

Aaron’s design requirements included a workspace where he could write, and because his assignments cover design and luxe living, he wanted to be surrounded by things that would inspire his writing. Immediately he knew that one bedroom had to be converted into his home office.

Another design requirement was a sizeable walk-in wardrobe as he travels a lot and needs space for cold-weather clothing and luggage. Aaron wanted ample space for entertaining, too, as although he’s not a cooking hobbyist, he enjoys hosting dinner parties.

While Aaron lives alone, 850 sqft was already turning out to be a challenging space to fit all his daily activities in – and this did not even include reconfiguring the oddity that is a circa-1965 three-room flat’s bathroom configuration, where the washbasin is piped outside of the toilet and shower enclosure. After that initial meeting with Artistroom, however, he trusted that his renovation was in good hands.

Above: Aaron works surrounded by items that inspire him. Photography by Edward Hendricks

