

SECOND awakening

The most dramatic point in the renovation of this 20-year-old resale unit was not that everything was gutted; but a newly configured bathroom that made a world of a difference TEXT Disa Tan PHOTOS Artist Room

> hat's there to suggest when you have little room to play with? Though this tiny HDB flat affords few ways to configure space, its appointed design team from Artist Room had big plans. They looked past its narrow layout, worn-out condition, and the fact that it only has one bathroom. All it needed were the right cosmetic touches to look as good as new. Fortunately, the homeowner was on board with a clean-cut style as the bachelorette herself was not a fan of loud design elements and clutter. With both designer and homeowner on the same page looking to carve out a modern and clutter-free haven, the renovation was off to a promising start.

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SPACES



Merging the kitchen and living zones went beyond having the same homogeneous floor tiles and a shared cabinet fixture. The designers noticed the kitchen's ceiling was lower so they flushed the living

area's ceiling with the cooking space.

Besides offering a seamless effect,

the slightly lowered ceiling hides all

During the overhaul, the team was the most excited about altering the layout of the single bathroom. The classic 'open-concept bathroom' might immediately come to mind, but these ambitious designers really wanted to up their game. Since the bachelorette has to share this area with her tenant, they had to factor in privacy issues. Addressing this concern turned out to become the home's highlight: a communal bathroom with separate wet zones. Says Mark Chen, the team's project consultant: "We thought COMMUNAL SPACES it was really different to incorporate two backfacing sinks, instead of the usual double sinks. Creating two new entrances, one from the service yard and another from the master bedroom, also really opens up this space."

With this versatile bathroom system in place, the team proposed other fresh changes to bring the dated-looking home back to 2015. the unsightly wiring in the living area. Save for the enclosed toilet and shower stall, the



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entire home is laid with 750mmx750mm grey homogeneous tiles. Mark explains that these wider tiles display less grout lines, and therefore lend a more spacious and uniformed appeal to the entire space. True enough, when teamed with the whitewashed walls, the home does appear larger than its 968 of square footage. The former swingin bedroom doors were then replaced with sliding doors in favour of its space-minimising ways. Aesthetically, these new woodgrain patterned doors improve the look and serve as a warm visual a cabinet fixture which literally covers almost the

contrast to the cool white walls. The designers opted for an exposed track, as opposed to a hidden one, to add more texture and character to the living space.

The woodgrain patterns also make an appearance as laminate finishes on the kitchen cabinetry. It complements the sliding doors fittingly and highlights the fact that the cooking space has been integrated with the living area. After hacking away the boundary wall, the designers installed

LIVING

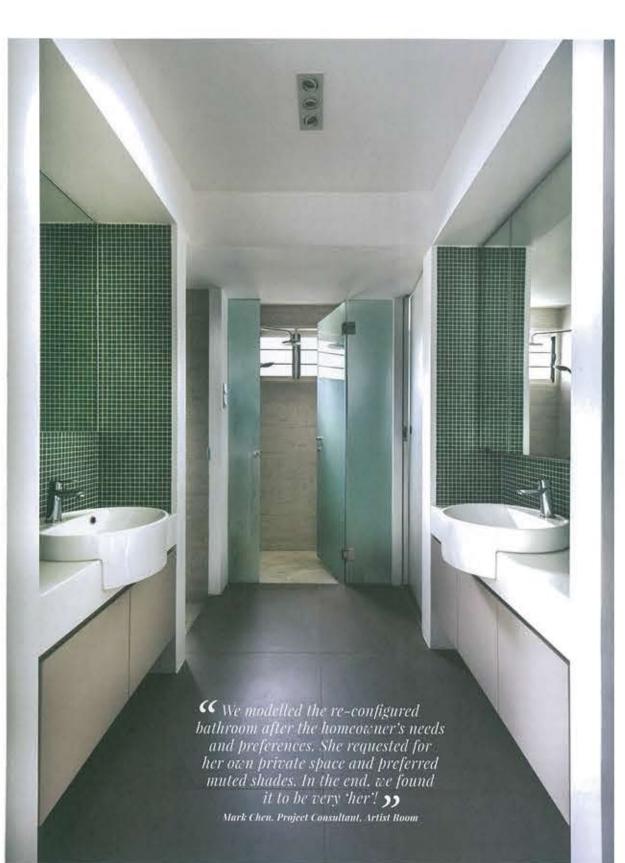
Once the boundary wall between the living and kitchen was taken down, the designers merged both areas to make the best of the long and narrow layout. They sealed the deal with an elongated cabinet fixture, which embraces the two zones with its dual-functionality as storage and a counter base.

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PACES

DRY BATHROOM

or the homeowner and ar tenant to enjoy their in private space in the shared bathroom, the signers conceptualised back-to-back sinks. The cleverly-separated vanities allow the two cupants to use the dry area at the same time and at their own pace.





MASTER BEDROOM

A secret door was created towards the en suite bathroom. When closed, it is flush with the walls and is subtly hidden with its whitewashed finish. The existing bedroom layout did not provide direct access to the bathroom so the designers worked it in for the homeowner to have her own semi-private bathroom.

WET AREAS

Enclosed with frosted glass doors, the toilet and shower stall are outlitted in different tiles of a light, sandy tone. The change in tiles indicates a visual demarcation between the wet zones and the main dry area. Also seen here is the other bathroom entrance from the



MATERIALS

BATHROOM FLOOR 750mmx750mm from Milano Ecru

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

WALL TILES

Bisazza Mosaics

Green mosaic tiles from





entire width of the newly merged living-kitchen area. Serving as the TV console at the living zone, the laminate fixture in a matte white finish trails down towards the kitchen as a counter

Adding lustre and colour to the cool white and soothing brown hues in the communal zones is the dark green tile backsplash. The

base with pull-out drawers.

striking mosaic tiles serve as form of visual demarcation for the open-concept kitchen from the living area. For design consistency, they also serve as a backsplash for the bathroom vanities. This was the final design breakthrough the designers were pursuing as they reckoned the space would look too flat and dull with the same old design details.



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