



THE BLACK GLASS 'SKIN' WALL ON THE LEFT SERVES AS A STORAGE SPACE FOR OVER 100 PAIRS OF SHOES  
RIGHT 'RIBBED' SHELVES CONCEAL THE ENTRANCE OF THE HOUSEHOLD SHELTER AND DOUBLE UP AS A  
DISPLAY AREA AND FEATURE WALL

# HIDDEN PLACES

INNOVATIVE STORAGE SPACES FORM AN INTEGRAL  
PART OF THE DESIGN OF THIS FLAT IN TAMPINES

TEXT MICHELE KOH PHOTOS NOTA DESIGN



**ALL IT TOOK** was a little creative ingenuity to turn the interior of this 100sqm, five-bedroom HDB flat in Tampines into a stylish pad with smart storage space. Madam Doo Suet Chan, who lives here with her two daughters, had wanted a modern and contemporary home that would be both simple and cosy. As a frequent traveller, Madam Chan has amassed quite a collection of memorabilia from her trips abroad and one of her requirements was for a neat and aesthetically appealing storage space within the flat that would allow her to also display items from her collection.



**LEFT** A DARK COLOUR SCHEME AND SOFT LIGHTING ADD SOPHISTICATED ELEGANCE TO THE MASTER BEDROOM  
**BELOW** THE BED IS MERGED WITH THE BAY WINDOW LEDGE, WHICH CONNECTS TO A DISPLAY SHELF AND STORAGE AREA TO MAXIMISE SPACE



Though the unit was relatively small, under the hands of the skilful designer from Nota Design, the various rooms were transformed to maximise space and optimise functionality. Working within a tight three-week period, the designer included unusual elements like false ceilings and ribbed shelving to open up the various zones and add more texture and character to the place. The unit has three bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room with a balcony attached, and a household shelter – a spare closet where most people would store cleaning appliances and home supplies.

What is most unique about this apartment is the way the designer has transformed the household shelter, what in most HDB flats is a purely utilitarian storage area, into a feature wall. It was created using a 'rib and skin' concept, and is a key highlight of the living room. The 'skin' layer was made out of black painted glass and serves as a shoe cabinet, which stores more than a 100 pairs of ladies shoes. This glass casement also serves to conceal the entrance to the household shelter, and was extended to the living area to form part of the TV feature wall and console. The exposed 'ribs' that face the living and dining area were open shelves created specially for Madam Chan to display her books and collection of personal artefacts.

WHIMSICAL DETAILS WERE ADDED TO THE KID'S ROOMS



GIVEN THE SPATIAL CONSTRAINTS OF THE ROOMS, AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM WAS PROPOSED TO COMBINE THE FUNCTIONAL ELEMENTS

A false ceiling running through the living and dining area links the two zones visually, and also creates the illusion of an extended hallway. The choice of angular furniture in grey tones and the marble dining table gives this area a clean, cool and formal ambience. A touch of metal complements the black glass 'skin' of the household shelter and the overall effect is both pristine and refined.

Madam Chan's daughters had requested for bedrooms where they could work, sleep and relax in. Given the spatial constraints of the rooms, an integrated system was proposed to combine the functional elements. The edge of the bed is asymmetrical at the foot, allowing the bed to merge with the bay window ledge. The window ledge connects to a display shelf and storage area in one room and a display shelf and workstation in the other to maximise space. Customised stickers and quirky clocks add some fun elements and personal touches to the bedrooms. By contrast, the master

bedroom takes on a darker colour scheme and veneer was used to create a more cosy and sophisticated ambience.

When the renovation was completed, what Madam Chan got was a home where unusual design elements work as the perfect façade to hide ample storage space. **hc**

**NOTA DESIGN INTERNATIONAL**  
422 JOO CHIAT ROAD  
TEL: 6345 9182  
EMAIL: CARE@NOTIONVAGUE.COM  
WWW.NOTIONVAGUE.COM



Feng Shui is a metaphysical science which aims to help an individual achieve life goals by harnessing the qi of his living environment.

Feng Shui was originally known as 'Kan Yu', roughly translated as 'the way of Heaven and Earth'. This describes the very foundation of Feng Shui: the assessment of qi as it flows in the natural elements and in man himself, and the actions of tapping into this energy for the well-being of the individual.

Feng Shui also involves forecasting. This is not fortune-telling nor is it supernatural divination. Because qi is cyclical, a master can gauge outcomes of certain events and seasons by calculating the influence of qi on a particular person and environment, thereby helping the individual

make informed decisions.

#### How does Feng Shui work?

Like modern science, ancient Chinese belief holds that the universe works in a knowable pattern. Studying these patterns, scholars devised a system of complex numerical codes which formed the foundation of most Chinese thought.

Authentic Feng Shui, or 'Classical' Feng Shui, is based on these codes and has two main techniques: Landform Feng Shui and Formula Feng Shui. By taking into consideration elements of location, direction, time and an individual's particulars, and calculating them accordingly, a master can make a precise analysis of the qi structure of an individual and his particular environment.

Feng Shui is not about interior design. Nor is it about putting 'good luck' objects around your home or workplace. Qi flows and interacts differently for different individuals so a proficient master will use a combination of Classical Feng Shui techniques for an accurate personalised audit.

#### Benefits of Feng Shui

When applied by a trained and professional master, Feng Shui helps you to achieve balance and compatibility amidst the multiple courses of qi in your work and living space.

Whether practiced at home or in the office, Feng Shui identifies the best way to harness qi, leading to a higher quality of life expressed through improved health, increased prosperity, beneficial relationships and a greater sense of well-being.

#### FENG SHUI LEARNING

Adelina Pang believes in helping audiences gain a better understanding of classical Feng Shui. Hence she travels worldwide, speaking at seminars and conferences.

For information on Adelina's 2008 teaching programme, please contact our office at (65) 6252-5423 / [consult@adelinapang.com](mailto:consult@adelinapang.com).

To engage Adelina to speak or conduct a workshop, please contact our office at (65) 6252-5423 / [consult@adelinapang.com](mailto:consult@adelinapang.com).

**AdelinaPang**  
Fengshui Consultancy Pte Ltd

13 Braddell Tech #06-04 Toa Payoh Lor 8, S(319261)  
T: (65) 6 2525 423 F: (65) 6 2525 201  
E: [enquiry@adelinapang.com](mailto:enquiry@adelinapang.com)  
W: [www.adelinapang.com](http://www.adelinapang.com)

Winner for Spirit of Enterprise Award 2007