

SINGAPORE Tatler Homes

SINGAPORE / JUNE-JULY 2020



Future Perfect

Inspiring homes, interior designers to watch and ingenious ways to transform your space



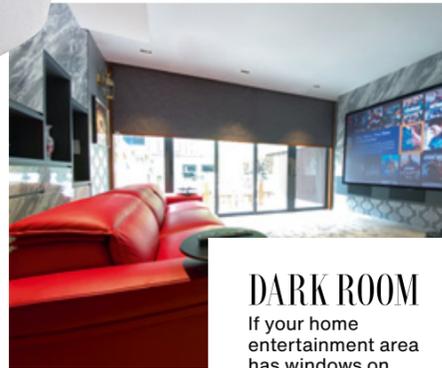


ALL IN ONE
 Designed by Iriam Bettera for MisuraEmme, the Urban collection is a sleek option for your entertainment area. The customisable system features freestanding and wall-mounted compositions that can be fitted with various storage units as well as an in-built LED lighting and display shelves. Opt to include sliding doors, so that the TV and selected shelves can be concealed when it's not in use. Available at Marquis QSquare



“Use soft materials to increase physical comfort and improve soundproofing.” Larry Lim, managing partner at Summerhaus D'zign recommends choosing larger sectionals with deeper seats if you have enough space in your living area or entertainment room. For rooms with large windows or floor-to-ceiling doors, Lim suggests investing in curtains or blinds to keep sun glare off the screen. “Soft, indirect lighting sources such as wall sconces or cove lighting with dimmers work particularly well in entertainment areas,” he says. Terrence Quah, co-founder of Architology Interiors, agrees. “Being able to black out a room is the first step in creating a cinematic mood, and nothing gives the sense of a purpose-built experience like home automation and lighting control,” says Quah. “Dimming the lights to a specific setting and having the curtains close at the touch of a button create the anticipation of a great movie.”

ROUND THE BEND
 When the lights go down, tables with sharp corners can be a hazard. Avoid accidents with curved pieces such as the Fat-Fat and Lady-Fat collections by Patricia Urquiola for B&B Italia. Shaped like Moroccan ottomans, these coffee and side tables are made from upcycled PET bottles and covered in fabrics, leather or pony skin. Underneath the metal traytop is a storage space, where you can stash remote controls out of sight. Available at Space Furniture



DARK ROOM
 If your home entertainment area has windows on one or more sides, sun glare can make watching television in the day a squinty affair. Solve this problem with the 100 per cent block-out blinds from local brand Altex. The first of their kind in Singapore, these fully motorised smart blinds have frames that can fully prevent light penetration as well as reduce noise from the outdoors, so you can relax and enjoy a movie even in the afternoon. Available at Mc.2

| Living Room |

Show Time

Furnish your abode with smart pieces and stylish furnishings designed for the ultimate home cinema experience

By Michele Kob Morollo

Plato's allegory of the cave may have envisioned the first instance of the television and modern cinema—the ancient Greek philosopher described people watching projections on the wall, as an analogy for mistaking appearances as reality. While it's debatable what Plato would have thought about entertainment media, its importance is especially poignant at a time when we're glued to our screens during the Covid-19 pandemic. Elevate your viewing experience by designing your living room or a guest room as the ideal cocoon for a night of solo streaming or family movie marathons. Comfort is key, according to Fiona Ho, associate design director at The I.D. Dept. “The home cinema should be a comfortable and relaxed environment with minimal distractions,” says Ho.

Main image Architology Interiors Other images courtesy of respective brands



QUIET GLOW

Combining sound-absorbing textiles with a soft light source, Feel is a modular suspension lamp that also reduces noise pollution. Created by Sara Moroni for Penta, the lamp's metal structure comes in three sizes and eight colours to mix and match as you like. **Available at Studio 216**



IN THE ZONE

Separate the movie-viewing spot from other functional zones in an open-plan space with the Folding Screen by Eileen Gray for Classicon. Comprising perforated metal panels, this foldable structure has a cool 1980s industrial aesthetic. **Available at Space Furniture**



DRINK IT UP

"Incorporating a built-in mini bar can make your home theatre more enjoyable for you and your guests," says Ho of The I.D. Dept. Keep your wines perfectly chilled with Liebherr's GrandCru WKes 653 wine cabinet. It can be placed on top of a sideboard or wall-mounted, and stores up to 12 bottles at your preferred temperature setting. **Available at Liebherr**



SOUND STAGE

A powerful speaker that will please the most discerning audiophile, the Formation Wedge by Bowers & Wilkins boasts a unique elliptical shape that promises a high-fidelity, room-filling aural experience. Featuring the brand's exclusive Formation wireless technology, the Wedge can be combined with other products from the Formation range for a state-of-the-art home audio system. **Available at Bowers & Wilkins**



SILENCE PLEASE

"Acoustic wall panelling and heavier fabrics help to keep the cinema experience inside the room," says Ho of The I.D. Dept. The Grès and Cannet upholstery textiles from Casamance and Zimmer + Rohde's Night Bloom fabric have high sound absorbency ratings and are smart choices for improving room acoustics. **Available at Cetec**

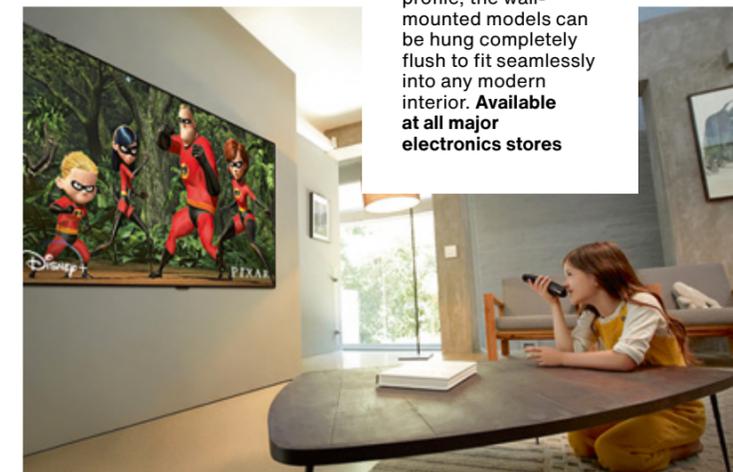


SETTLE IN

"Home cinemas are akin to a slumber party-like environment; the furniture needs to be plush enough to fall asleep on," says Quah of Architology. Take, for instance, the Juul 101 sofa by Jens Juul Eilersen, a modular sofa which scores high marks for cosiness and is incredibly easy to lounge in for movie marathons. **Available at Danish Design Co**

EYE CANDY

LG Electronics' three new art-inspired GX Gallery series of Ultra HD TVs include advanced core technologies such as the new (Alpha) 9 Gen 3 AI Processor, which uses AI to improve picture quality. Designed with an ultra-thin profile, the wall-mounted models can be hung completely flush to fit seamlessly into any modern interior. **Available at all major electronics stores**



WALK THE LINE

"The TV console should help you stow away cables and have good ventilation to disperse heat," says Lim of Summerhaus D'zign. Opt for the Riga TV unit from Porada, a solid canaletta walnut TV console with ribbed drawers and central drop-down compartments. **Available at Marquis QSquare**





| Inspiration |

A Perfect Canvas

The walls of your home can be much more than just space dividers—elevate the look of your abode with these creative ideas

By Hong Xinying and Michele Koh Morollo



Main image: CEDIT - Ceramiche d'Italia Rilievi collection / Florim Other images courtesy of respective brands



Left to right: The CEDIT - Ceramiche d'Italia Rilievi collection by Zaven comprises three-dimensional ceramic tiles with a retro influence, while the Policroma collection by Cristina Celestino features textures inspired by marble and Marmorino plaster; both collections are available from Florim

“The walls of your bedroom are essentially a canvas, not only for artwork or colour but also for your experience in the room,” says Alexandra Champalimaud, founder of Champalimaud Design. More than just a backdrop to your interior design scheme, a feature wall can, for instance, dramatically change the mood and look of a room and elevate the overall aesthetic.

Accent walls present homeowners with a wonderful opportunity to mix and match various surface materials, colours and textures. By combining bright glazed tiles with marble, wainscoting, stone, or metallic-effect surfaces, Hong Kong-based design duo Vincent Lim and Elaine Lu of Lim + Lu have transformed bathrooms into alluring spaces. “Combining two types of materials in contrasting colours can really give a space a burst of energy. The juxtaposition of textures and colours brings a high level of excitement to the space,” says Lim.

“Combining two types of materials in contrasting colours can really give a space a burst of energy”

When choosing your paint and wallpaper, be mindful of your emotional response to colours and prints. “Choose any colour or pattern that makes you feel good,” says Champalimaud. “Make sure you’re certain about how you want to integrate a wall feature with the space. Do you want it to dominate, or is it an accent? Is the purpose of your choice to give the room personality, or not? What is it that you want to enhance?”

Ultimately, your interior should represent the things you love. A bold wall sporting a vibrant print may

be off-putting if you’re accustomed to minimalist interiors, while neutral schemes might seem dull to people who prefer maximalist styles. “You must feel connected to what you decide to do, as it will impact the emotional relationship you have with the room; you want it to draw you in, let you focus and feel rested,” says Champalimaud. As she sums it up: “It’s important to consider those things in your choices and make the decision for yourself.” Stumped on where to start? Get design inspiration from the following pages.



1. MATERIAL: WOODEN WARMTH

Organic walls of stone, wood or concrete bring the beauty of nature into your home. When choosing such materials for feature walls, co-founders Naoko Takenouchi and Marc Webb of Takenouchi Webb say it's important to remember that

natural surfaces will change with time and require care to maintain. "Don't expect a feature wall of natural materials to be perfect, but appreciate the beauty in the imperfections," says Takenouchi. "Integrate them into your space so they can take on a patina and change with time."

In its Marina One showflats, Takenouchi Webb has created textural juxtapositions by setting a flat-panelled wood wall adjacent to a wood wall with a ribbed pattern. "By creating a wall with contrasting sections, your eye can focus on different elements," says Webb. "Either select two highly contrasting materials and colours, or use the same material with a different treatment. For example, do up one section in glossy wood and the other in a matte-finished wood."

This page:
The Marina One showflats designed by Takenouchi Webb combine wood panels in different textures to create visual interest



2. STYLE: BLANK CANVAS

Even off-white walls can be made intriguing with a clever mix of textures and materials, as evident in Canvas House, a shophouse with refreshed interiors by Ministry of Design (MOD). Crafted as a co-living space for leasing firm Figment, the four-storey structure was imagined as a "proverbial blank canvas" with its deliberate lack of colour. Yet its white walls are anything but boring; the firm created various installations and wall features to add tactile details to the abode.

One of its most distinctive elements is a neon artwork encased in an aluminium box, featuring a quote by Thomas Jefferson, the third American president, which encapsulates the concept of this shophouse. "We love wall features that actually communicate an idea or convey a concept," says Colin Seah, creative director of MOD. "The quote, 'I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past' summarises the attitude of the house—it is a neutral white canvas for the future to be dreamt upon, rather than a wholesale homage to the past."





3. MATERIAL: TACTILE PANELS

A fabric-clad wall is a great way to create a tactile atmosphere. "Softening the walls with stretched fabric panels, or adding cladding such as silk wallpaper to a feature wall, will create a warm and inviting feeling of sophisticated intimacy," says British designer Katharine Pooley.

According to Winnie Wong, managing director of upholstery brand Cetec, you shouldn't use silk or fabrics with low lightfastness in rooms with strong sunlight. "Thin fabrics aren't suitable as wallcoverings because they are too transparent and the backing of the fabric will be visible," she says.

Fabric panels don't always have to be applied in angular proportions, either. Takenouchi Webb has created a scalloped wall feature with brass-trim edging and covered it in a pistachio-hued faux-suede fabric to create a sumptuous effect in the living room of a Marina One showflat (pictured).

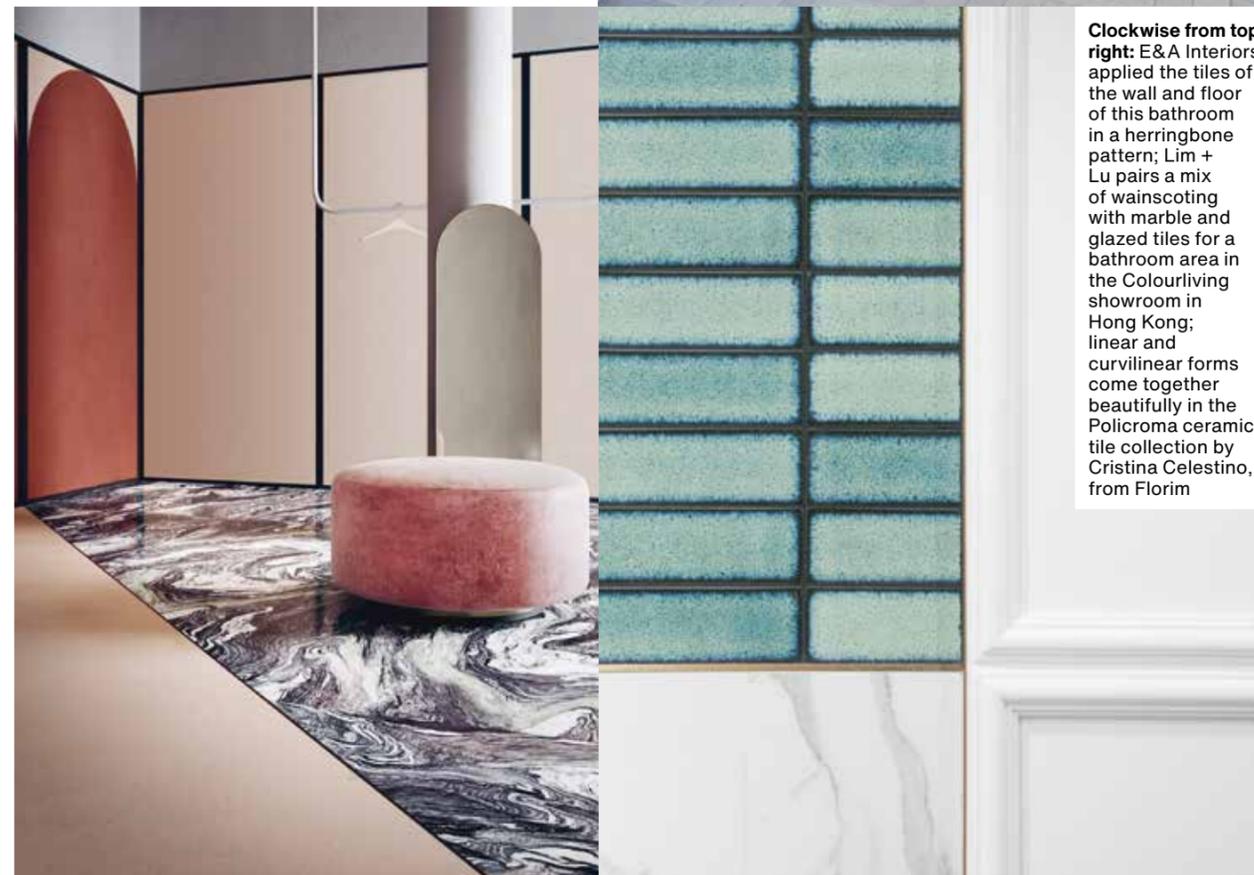
4. STYLE: PATTERN PLAY

Whether you use them for a section of the kitchen wall or on the floor, graphic tiles are a great way to spice up your interiors. Inspired by traditional Spanish tiles and their intricate floral and curvilinear motifs, these patterned ceramic tiles can add a dose of Mediterranean charm to your home.

Use a single solid colour for your painted wall if you're selecting patterned tiles for your flooring; this will make the colour on the wall appear richer and more vivid. "Think of patterned tiles as a piece of artwork

hanging on your wall; you should always make sure that the background is unobtrusive enough so the artwork can shine," says Lim.

Another suggestion is to use similar patterns for a variety of tiles in the same space. "Consider the different ways of laying the tiles to create varying patterns," says Chloe Elkerton, founder of E&A Interiors. For plain tiles, try laying them diagonally, as this will cast the eye out to the longest dimensions of the room and make the space appear bigger than it is."



Clockwise from top right: E&A Interiors applied the tiles of the wall and floor of this bathroom in a herringbone pattern; Lim + Lu pairs a mix of wainscoting with marble and glazed tiles for a bathroom area in the Colourliving showroom in Hong Kong; linear and curvilinear forms come together beautifully in the Policroma ceramic tile collection by Cristina Celestino, from Florim



5. STYLE: FLORAL FLAIR

Patterned wallpaper or fabric panels can also create a similar, mural-like effect. Botanical prints in particular continue to be a hit. When selected in subdued tones, these elegant motifs will add a graceful touch to any interior.

"I love to use Fromental or De Gournay's hand-painted silk wallpapers on

feature walls; they install impeccably and add a real 'wow' factor to an interior," shares Pooley. Terri Tan, design director of Designworx Interior Consultant, agrees. "Wallpaper provides colour, pattern, sheen and texture. Handmade wallpaper is best as the handiwork gives the end result an unparalleled quality," she says.



From top left: A bedroom designed by Katharine Pooley features floral wall panels lined with gold trimmings; the Uccelli wallpaper from Cole & Son's Fornasetti Senza Tempo collection, from Goodrich Global; a wall mural in shades of blue livens up a room in the Waldorf Astoria Chengdu hotel, designed by Champalimaud



6. STYLE: WALL ART

A wall mural is an elegant way to bring a personalised touch to your room. "If you opt for a mural, consider having the design start from the bottom of the wall and move upwards," recommends Alexandra Champalimaud, the founder of Champalimaud

Design. "It's also important to make sure the colour of the ceiling corresponds to the colours in the mural as well; you could even consider doing a partial mural on three walls. Whatever the subject matter is, it needs to have depth and a story, and it needs to mesmerise you."



7. FORM: BEAUTIFUL BONES

Add a graceful touch to your home with mouldings, which can instantly jazz up any space. Inspired by heritage homes, these decorative elements are making a comeback. They easily augment the charm of a newly built home, which may feature bare walls and angular proportions.

"Mouldings are used to emphasise certain characteristics in a room," says Champalimaud. "You don't want the mouldings to be

too shocking or too strong. For instance, well-designed baseboards can establish geometry in the room and frame the space beautifully."

Apply rectangular mouldings that run the full length of the wall, or opt for wainscoting—recessed or raised wooden panels that cover just the lower third of the wall. Besides contributing to the visual impact of the interior, these panels can also add to the seamless look of your home.



From top left: Tranquil Dawn, the Dulux Colour of the Year, adds a calming touch to this bedroom; in this project by Champalimaud Design, the floral plasterwork goes beautifully with blue wainscoting in the Presidential suite of Raffles Hotel Singapore; Katharine Pooley uses a soothing mix of pale blue box mouldings with grey fabric panels in this bedroom



8. FORM: DISPLAY SHELF

A full-height bookshelf is not just a dream feature for bibliophiles; it can also visually heighten the sense of space in an interior while showcasing decor objects. Located within the Conrad Hangzhou hotel in China, the Li'an restaurant designed by AB Concept is a shining example—the Hong Kong-based firm was tasked to craft the overall interiors of the hotel as well as this establishment. "As the Li'an restaurant has a high ceiling, using a full-height display amplifies the scale and also creates visual interest at different eye levels," say Ed Ng and Terence Ngan, co-founders of AB Concept.

Floral motifs applied to the interior walls draw cues from the traditional Chinese dishes served at Li'an, contributing to its design narrative. "Artistic elements, such as the floral wall, resonate with the delicacies served in the restaurant."



This page: Designed by Takenouchi Webb, potted plants liven up the living room of a showflat in Marina One; the grey wall serves as a graceful canvas for the artwork and colour furnishings in this bedroom by Designworx Interior Consultant

Opposite page: The full-height shelves draw the eye upwards in the Li'an restaurant by AB Concept; the Dulux Tranquil Dawn paint colour on the wall complements the use of light wood in this room

9. ACCENT: INDOOR GREENERY

Indoor plants can also be used to add more life along walls. "Plants can dramatically change a space by adding life and colour to it," says Marc Webb, co-founder of Takenouchi Webb. "Plants require regular care and maintenance, so if you want to have them along your walls, it's more practical to use shelving where you can place many potted plants rather than a built-in vertical green wall," he adds. "That way, it's also easier to move your plants around or update your wall-shelf with new plants when needed. Speak to a nursery or a landscape designer to choose plants that are most suitable for your home."

10. ACCENT: ARTWORKS

"For a long corridor, stairwell or a huge room, a gallery wall is perfect to add that personal touch in any home," says Terri Tan, design director of Designworx Interior Consultant. "To prevent mould forming on artworks or photographs in our humid climate, they should be framed with acid-free boards and covered with clear glass. A good alternative is to opt for oil paintings as these withstand humidity well."

Wallcoverings can also enhance the impact of your gallery wall. "Wallpaper acts as a great backdrop to a collection of art, whether for framed photographs, maps or a mixed collection of art pieces; they offer a layered and eclectic look," says Chloe Elkerton, founder of E&A Interiors.



11. STYLE: MAKE BELIEVE

Inject a sense of whimsy into your interior with a tapestry-like wallpaper depicting idyllic landscapes and fantastic scenes. It can create an instant statement in a dining area, or a social zone where a greater visual impact is desirable; it also creates an indelible impression on visitors to your home.

In petite areas such as powder rooms, a bold pattern can make a big impact. "Wallpaper is a great way to add character and enhance a bathroom, particularly a powder room," explains Elkerton. "Powder rooms often have no

windows, and are dark and lacklustre, therefore wallpaper can give that instant pop of colour—it also means you can use that fun wallpaper you've been longing to use."

For added impact, Elkerton recommends creating contrasting accent walls in a powder room. "Combine an accent wall of wallpaper with striking wall tiles—use wallpaper on walls that are not next to the sink for the toilet. These glazed, emerald-green scallop wall tiles add bold colour, shape and pattern, and combine well with this Leopard wallpaper from Cole & Son."



Clockwise from top right: The scalloped wall tiles and the Cole & Son Leopard wallpaper add a playful touch to this bathroom designed by E&A Interiors; the Macchine Volanti wallpaper from Cole & Son's Fornasetti Senza Tempo collection, from Goodrich Global; designed by local studio Farm, this bathroom area at Red House Seafood restaurant is animated with marine life motifs on its walls



12. COLOUR: TRUE BLUE

When you're choosing paint colours, consider the effects of the hue and the function of your room. The restful effects of blue shades make them particularly suitable for the study and bedrooms. "If you'd like to create a space that lets you focus deeply on your projects, introduce an ombre blue wall," shares Windy Santosa, brand marketing manager at Akzonobel, which carries Dulux paints.

Take inspiration from the Blue Willow all-day restaurant in Conrad Hangzhou (seen here). Designed by AB Concept, this dining area features a navy blue wall accentuated by a golden band and a metal screen; the use of blue was inspired by Hangzhou's tranquil landscape and the storied art of Chinese ceramics.

