

S I N G A P O R E T A T L E R

# HOMES

*Living . Luxurious*



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TREASURES

A TRIBUTE TO GLOBAL STYLE AND  
OUR EDIT OF MILAN DESIGN WEEK

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BY MICHELE KOH MOROLLO IMAGES COURTESY OF METAPHOR STUDIO



# *NATURAL DIALOGUE*

WITH NEUTRAL COLOURS AND A REFINED PALETTE, THIS FAMILY HOME BY METAPHOR STUDIO IS A STYLISH, WELCOMING ABODE THAT MAKES THE BEST OF ITS TROPICAL CONTEXT

For the owners of this expansive three-storey house with an attic in Jalan Suasa in the Bukit Timah area, it was important that their new home meet three criteria. First, the property should have enough rooms to comfortably accommodate all of its occupants—a Singaporean professional athlete and his wife, an Australian horse trainer, as well as their two teenage sons and toddler daughter. Second, the home should complement Singapore’s warm tropical climate with a resort-like feel. Third, it should be homely, rather than ostentatious.

“The owners aren’t impressed by design gimmicks and aren’t fans of fanciful, over-the-top architecture,” says Angela Tantry, founder and principal designer of Singapore firm Metaphor Studio, who worked with her design partner Stephen Goh on the architecture and interiors for the project.

#### SUNNY PERSPECTIVE

Elevated from the street level, the house seems to rise from a platform, which sets it apart from other abodes on the same street, giving it additional height. To take full advantage of Singapore’s year-round sunshine, the blueprint began with a west-facing facade that would greet the morning sun. This frontal structure of the house is clad with quartz stone from the ground to the roof, giving the exterior a distinctive textured appearance.

“Since this house is long and tall, we used the natural textures of the stone wall on the exterior and the laminated wood-cladding staircase in the interior for a uniform language that marks the beauty of the form,” says Tantry, who kept to a natural material palette, with granite and marble floors for the living and dining areas, and timber strip floors for the bedrooms and staircase. A sloping roof was used on the west-facing side of the house to help protect the roof terrace from the heat of the powerful afternoon sun. Tantry opened the east-facing rear facade of the house as much as possible so the owners could enjoy the precious green views at the far eastern end of their property.



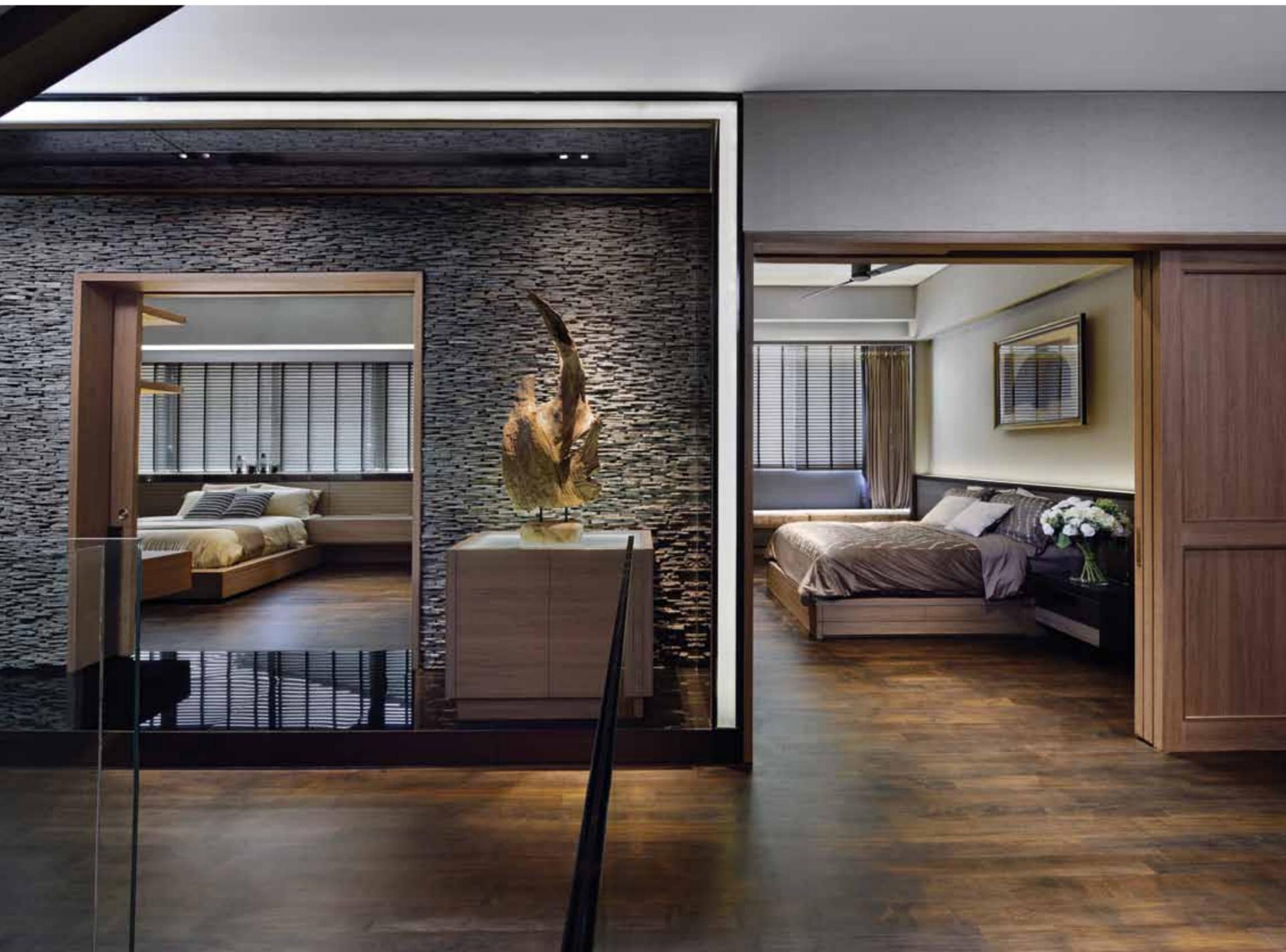
**THIS PAGE**  
Wood furniture pieces and a monochromatic colour scheme help create an atmosphere of Zen-like serenity



**OPPOSITE PAGE**  
The dining zone’s pivoted doors allow for the space to be extended outwards for large gatherings and garden parties



*“We made the interiors as modest and natural as possible so the overall look is harmonious, elegant and practical”*



**THIS PAGE**  
Consistent use of natural materials keeps the look cosy and warm throughout

“We made the interiors as modest and natural as possible,” says Goh. “This minimalist approach helped us achieve the clarity needed to organise the spaces so they best serve their functions in the purest way. We maintained our chosen materials and colour tones throughout the various zones and rooms, so the overall look is harmonious, elegant and practical.”

#### TROPICAL BEAT

The first level of the house features the open-plan living and dining zones. Large family gatherings and parties are frequently held here, so the design team decided on a series of pivoted doors along the entryway, which allowed the common areas of the home to be opened up when the family has numerous guests over for a garden party or barbecue. “The first level is completely open from the front all the way to the rear for plenty of transparency, light, and a connection with the outdoors,” says Tantry. “This also maximises the views of the greenery along the garden areas that flank the property.”

Built-in solid and laminated wood cabinetry line the walls of the living and dining areas on the first floor, serving not only as storage space, but also as part of the natural dialogue between stone and wood that dominates the design language of the project. These built-in cabinets also





function as partitions that separate the dining room from the utility area.

The bedroom and private areas are located on the second and third levels, and all bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms featuring walk-in closets with mirrored doors. Automated sun screens are used for the bathrooms, so they can be opened up when not in use, for increased connectivity with the outdoors and the sunshine.

**COHESIVE LANGUAGE**

“Consistency of form and function is applied throughout the house vertically,” says Goh. “Other than the quartz stone cladding on the facade, the main interior element that connects all levels of the house is the

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Wood and leather lend warmth to the monochromatic setting

**OPPOSITE PAGE**

Mirrored cabinets give the bathroom a spacious feel; the pool area’s light-catching mosaic tiles; a sloping roof helps to shield the roof terrace from the afternoon sun

solid and laminated woods, which all have the same grain.”

Furniture in earthy neutral colours—cream, beige, brown, grey and black—that has been sourced from XTRA, Space Furniture and P5 harmoniously combines with the homeowners’ collection of abstract calligraphy from Japan to create an atmosphere of Zen-like serenity.

“In order to establish an optimum sense of consistency, we used natural materials for the entire house, from the exterior to the interior,” says Tantry. “This humanistic design approach is our studio’s key philosophy, as we are always more concerned with creating a home that’s comfortable and useful, rather than just nice to look at.”



**THE brief**

**TYPE OF HOME**

Bungalow

**PROPERTY SIZE**

3,650sqft

**BUILT-UP AREA**

6,750sqft

**DESIGNER**

Metaphor Studio

**TIME TAKEN**

2 years



# STYLE, AMPLIFIED

It's time to stop playing it safe—this year's trends embrace bold prints, deep blues, and earthy materials such as cork and terracotta. Incorporate them into your living space in these clever and luxurious ways

BY MICHELE KOH MOROLLO MAIN IMAGE TIMOROUS BEASTIES/BODE OTHER IMAGES COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE BRANDS

## 1

### LOOK: JUNGALOW CHIC

Los Angeles-based designer and author of bestseller *The New Bohemians: Cool and Collected Homes*, Justina Blakeney's design studio and blog The Jungalow has spawned a trend of the same name that's all about decorating with wild colours, patterns and plants. "Jungalow is a fresh take on what we traditionally think of as a bohemian lifestyle," says Blakeney. "So many creatives work from home these days, and there's increasingly less of a distinction between work and play—those blurred lines have allowed people freedom to use their homes in new and exciting ways." Her suggestion for the timid is to start with a colourful wallpaper and a few potted plants.

In Singapore, Bode carries a stunning selection of jungalow-patterned home textiles and furniture from brands such as Timorous Beasties, Liberty Art Fabrics and Spring Rhythm. "Jungalow is a melding of several trends that have been increasingly popular over the past few years. These include tribal, botanical and kinfolk, which use fabrics made from natural fibres such as textured linens and colours dyed using artisanal techniques—plenty of greens, blues and earth colours," says Bode's owner, Jenny Lewis, who thinks that the trend might be a reaction against the controlled and formal spaces that most city-dwellers live in. "It allows one to be more creative when decorating. The foliage, botanical and forest motifs of jungalow are ideal for Singapore, as they bring the outdoors in."



*"THE FOLIAGE, BOTANICAL AND FOREST MOTIFS OF JUNGALOW ARE IDEAL FOR SINGAPORE, AS THEY BRING THE OUTDOORS IN"*

### THIS PAGE

Bode's selection of home textiles includes ethnic-inspired details such as paisley and ikat from brands including Spring Rhythm and Liberty Art Fabrics

### OPPOSITE PAGE

A jungalow-style print from Timorous Beasties, also carried by Bode



“WHEN USING TERRACOTTA, DON'T BE AFRAID OF CONTRAST—THE RESULTS CAN BE VERY INTERESTING”



2

**MATERIALS: CORK AND TERRACOTTA**  
Sustainability is a growing priority among designers and homeowners, so it's no surprise that eco-friendly materials such as terracotta and cork are making their way into living rooms in new, sophisticated ways.

Terracotta gets a modern makeover by lighting designers such as Pott, which combines traditional pottery techniques with contemporary lighting arrangements

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP**  
Pott's terracotta pendant lamps; Wicanders has a range of cork floor and wall coverings; Toni Grilo's eco-friendly furniture which pairs cork with wood and glass



for its popular Sponge and Flame pendant lamp collections. “People tend to use terracotta in earth-tone decor, but I've seen some really impressive combinations of our terracotta lamps with cold colour interiors and industrial themes,” says Pott's designer, Miguel Ángel Garcia Belmonte. “When using terracotta, don't be afraid of contrast—the results can be very interesting.”

Portuguese cork flooring manufacturer Wicanders' range of cork floor and wall coverings are a great alternative to parquet or tiled flooring. “Cork flooring reduces noise from walking by up to 53 per cent compared to other materials,” says the brand's marketing director, Pedro Pinho. “Its low conductivity assures optimal room temperature at any time, translating into energy savings. It provides greater walking comfort, and thanks to its inner flexibility, also reduces body tension, offers superior impact resistance, and has a longer life span.”

Also innovating with cork is Portugal-based French designer Toni Grilo, whose Cut and Ypsilon collections of avant-garde furniture designed for Portuguese brand BlackCork are great conversation pieces in any living room. “Cork is a charismatic and versatile material,” says Grilo. “It is environmentally friendly, improves acoustic quality, and is available in a multitude of finishes and colour variations.” She suggests using cork in combination with wood, stone or metal to bring out its natural warmth.



3

**COLOURS: MIDNIGHT AND DUSKY BLUES**  
The spotlight is now on dusky and midnight blues, which are calming colours that balance our hectic lives.

Norwegian paint manufacturer Jotun offers the youthful Retro blue that, when combined with warmer colours such as orange, can really energise your living room. There's also the slightly muted Evening Light, which works well with relaxed, earthy materials such as cork and terracotta, and the modern and sophisticated St Pauls Blue, which is ideal for interiors that incorporate finishes such as velvet or brass.

Jotun's special-effect paints, such as its Sophisticated Blue, glazed over with Majestic Design Pearl, can soften the ambience of your living room. “Glazed over with the pearlescent effect, this mysterious dark shade evokes the calming feel of morning mist,” says Kimmy Lim, regional colour manager of Jotun Southeast Asia Pacific. “It's great for feature walls, and for adding texture and depth to a room. Psychologically, blue is a calming and relaxing colour. It's also a colour that encourages productivity.”

4

**LEFT TO RIGHT FINISHES: HINTS OF LUXURY**  
A wall clad in the youthful Retro blue by Jotun; Akar de Nissim's Iris coffee table is made with marble and buffalo horn marquetry, and paired with either a Tahiti shell or lacquer finish; Loaf's velvet curved sofa range comes in lively colours  
This summer, luxury whispers softly through finishes such as velvet, brass, marble, marquetry and lacquer, as seen in UK sofa brand Loaf's voluptuous velvet sofas and armchairs, which are available in a variety of lively colours.

You could also introduce a touch of luxury with complex pieces that tell a story. “Some finishes, like marquetry, may require several months to complete,” says Marianne Fabre, co-founder of Singapore design studio Akar de Nissim. “Nowadays, people are more appreciative of objects with stories behind them.”  
The brand's Art Deco-inspired Facet floor lamp and its Iris coffee table are perfect examples of these sorts of pieces. “Use luxury finishes sparingly,” says Fabre. “Brass accents will give a stronger personality to interiors. A unique slab of rare marble could be the focal point in a living room. A touch of luxury in one place is more effective than using it in large quantities in too many areas.”



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xtra.com.sg  
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**THE JUNGALOW**  
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**TONI GRILO**  
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# CHECKING IN

Bring the convenient, everything-in-one-place feel of a luxury hotel guest room into your own bedroom



BY MICHELE KOH MOROLLO MAIN IMAGE DE LA ESPADA OTHER IMAGES COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE BRANDS



Grande Lakes, and W New York - Union Square—it is important to know what you need. Some people require a more spacious work area, whereas others may desire a larger wardrobe or lounge area. “As you travel, you discover through your own experience what works best for you when it comes to using the in-room facilities,” he says. “Once you’ve determined what you need, study the flow within the space to create a good balance between the various zones.”

Tommy Pao-Watari, who is the founder and creator of Little Tai Hang, a new design-centric boutique hotel and serviced apartment development in Hong Kong, believes that details must be well thought out.

**ABOVE**

Draw decor inspiration from the refined rooms of hotels such as The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes, which feature distinct zones for work, rest and entertainment

“Things like the convenient placement of switches, outlets, storage and ample Wi-Fi bandwidth are small but surprisingly complicated provisions—these may be very subtle, but they make a big difference to the overall user experience,” says Pao-Watari. “This way, you can let your accents sing, and avoid the risk of an unbalanced or clearly overdone design.”

Here are some ideas to help you replicate the comfort of a hotel in your own home.

One of the best things about checking into a luxury hotel is knowing that you have everything you need at hand—a work station, an entertainment zone, storage spaces, a proper

bathroom, dressing areas and a mini lounge with bar. However, such amenities need not be confined to the realm of travel. With some careful planning, you can bring the holistic convenience and comfort of a hotel pad into your very own bedroom.

According to Edmund Kok, design director at Wilson Associates—the global interiors and architecture studio that has worked on the rooms of hotels such as Sofitel Dubai Downtown, The Ritz-Carlton Orlando,

*“STUDY THE FLOW WITHIN THE SPACE TO CREATE A GOOD BALANCE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS ZONES”*



**SWEET DREAMS**

Tuck yourself into a sleek, streamlined bed that feels like a cosy nook in the wall. Conceived by Italian designer Luca Nichetto and manufactured by De La Espada for the Nichetto brand, the Dubois Nichetto is a bed system constructed out of premium hardwood and luxurious fabrics. The upholstered wraparound headboard, available in tall or short options, creates a sense of privacy, while the exposed timber frame lends a light, Scandinavian appeal. Built-in side shelves offer a simpler, more compact alternative to bedside tables.

**BRILLIANT TAKE**

A thoroughly modern, glamorous crystal chandelier, Scotty by Windfall is a majestic ceiling lamp made with thousands of Swarovski Strass jewellery stones, encapsulated within mouth-blown borosilicate glass tubes. Available in 40 different colours, and in a choice of either a minimalist futuristic design or an ornate baroque design, Scotty brings the glamour of a five-star hotel into your bedroom.

**DRINK AND PREEN**

For an unobtrusive minibar, store your wines, spirits, ice buckets and snacks in Armani Casa's Riesling storage unit (right). Its minimalist design makes it a sleek addition to any space too. Transformable pieces such as the Antoinette coiffeuse (below), help minimise clutter in your room, with its compact and multi-functional design. The seat and mirror of this furniture piece can be tucked away when not in use, transforming it instantly into an elegant cylindrical side table.



**BRIGHT IDEAS**  
The Chipperfield w102 desk lamp, created by British designer David Chipperfield for Swedish brand Wästberg, is a classy, mid-century-inspired brass lamp with a clear angular distinction between the base, single arm and lamp head. Shaped like a single bent brass rod, the lamp has no visible joints, but it has a head that tilts for task illumination exactly where it is needed.

*PUT BUSINESS IN THE RIGHT PLACE WITH DEDICATED AREAS FOR WORK AND PLAY*



**DOWN TO BUSINESS**

Created by US industrial designer Todd Bracher, the Distil Desk by Herman Miller helps you bring your work into the bedroom without allowing it to dominate your resting space—or your mind. By refining the idea of a workstation to its bare minimum with a moulded plywood top, eased edges, slim solid-wood legs, and discreet solutions for wires and storage, this approachable and lightweight work/study desk helps you distil your tasks and put “business” in the right place.



**BEDAZZLED BEAUTY**

One of the best things about hotel-style bedrooms is that they're always great for hunkering down to watch the morning news or a movie. Why not place your TV and its related electronics in a storage system that's just as attention-grabbing even when the set isn't on? Shaped like a multi-faceted gem, the Diamond Sideboard by Portuguese brand Boca Do Lobo—available in amethyst, emerald and chocolate, with gold leaf interiors—brings a sensual, cosmopolitan allure to any bedroom.



**DRESS TO IMPRESS**

An important component for a holistic bedroom is a wardrobe or walk-in closet with good circulation and plenty of well-organised racks, shelves and drawers for clothes, shoes and accessories. The Combi system wardrobes and walk-in closets by German brand Zalf offer high modularity with excellent engineering—so getting dressed is never a chore; it's always a pleasure.



**LOUNGING AROUND**

When checking into the presidential suite at a hotel, guests can expect a lounge area where they can meet with clients or simply unwind with a book away from their sleeping zone. Create a similar chic miniature living lounge in your bedroom with Christopher Guy's scalloped-back, Art Deco-inspired Iribe two-seat settee and armchairs, combined with his sensual, curvy Parisian Graffiti coffee table (pictured) with its tempered glass top.



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**BOCA DO LOBO**  
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