

I. Background and Overview

A home is more than just a space to live. For this family of art collectors, their Mid-Levels home is a place of story-telling through art and decor.

The homeowners wanted to turn their home to be a space for entertaining friends and family, a sanctuary to be enjoyed with the company of loved ones. Rowena Gonzales, founder of Liquid Interiors, had carefully assessed all of the aspects the homeowners wanted to integrate into the space: a connection with nature, sophistication in sustainable living, and fine art.



Photo: Tracy Wong
Rattan-backed chairs from Décor 8.

II. Design Concept

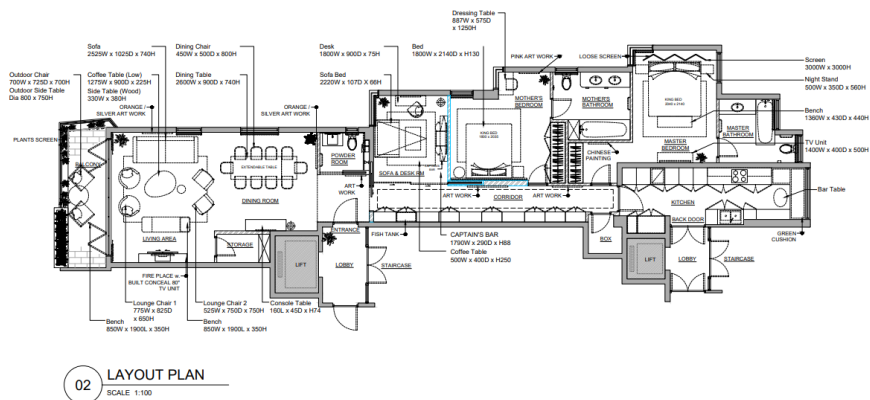


Photo: Handout

The concept that the homeowners wanted to capture was the serene feeling of discovering a quiet stream in a tranquil forest. Since the home had an existing classical touch to it before its renovation, the clients wanted to add some elements of modernity while emphasizing their love for art and nature. So what the designers of the home had done was to integrate natural materials into the decor. For example, the dining table incorporates natural stone patterns with textures accentuated by biophilia in the same space that may bring you to an image of a forest. The design of the fireplace reminds one of the pebbles found next to a stream.

Even as the interior designers saw many outdated elements in the home before the renovation, there were still some that were kept. The home's existing floors were dark red oak, for instance. Liquid Interiors proceeded to sand it down to expose the natural oak to compliment the bright space. The outdated chandeliers and golden handles for the doors and cabinets were replaced with black marble to give a more modern and masculine feel. Although the space had a totally classical feel, it changed the mood. Touches of the home were replaced with clean lines and sleek decor that added modernity to the space. The homeowners also donated their original antiques to charity.

"One of the challenges of this project was definitely the powder room and the barrier free shower," says Rowena Gonzales, the creative director and founder of Liquid Interiors. "We had to figure out how to make that small room look elegant and spacious."

The other challenge, according to Gonzales, was the balcony. It is no surprise that privacy is difficult to attain in a country such as Hong Kong. The designers took on the challenge while keeping the balcony space comfortable and sustainable.



Photo: Tracy Wong

“I love how we were able to incorporate the inside space with the outside,” says Gonzales as she discussed her favourite highlight of this Mid-Levels project. Connection with nature was an important concept the homeowners wanted to keep in their sanctuary, which resulted in the unique mix of biophilic designs and classic modern decor that told the story of discovering a quiet stream in a forest.

Part of their view overlooks gentle trees and the occasional cockatoo, which is the reason why the balcony becomes a beautiful relaxation spot for the homeowners.

III. Room To Room with Healthy and Sustainable Features

Living Room



Photo: Tracy Wong
Chair and sofa from Manks

The living room of this Mid-Levels home was the “centrepiece” of the scene of a tranquil forest and stream. The designers wanted to accentuate the space with light coloured furniture, as seen in the sofa and chair from Manks. Big windows and bi-folding doors were installed to support natural cross-ventilation.



Photo: Tracy Wong

The room comes together with biophilia decorated to connect the outdoors to the inside space, with an eco-smart fireplace to complete the modern look of the space.



Photo: Tracy Wong
Extendable dining table and rattan pendant lights from Forth Furniture.

Dining Room

The dining room extends the scene of the stream in a tranquil forest. Natural materials were integrated into the furniture, such as the rattan-backed chairs and rattan pendant lights.



Photo: Tracy Wong
Console table from Forth Furniture.

The console table that stands in close to the common areas provides the beauty and practicality of storytelling through decor as it displays beautiful artwork and plants to compliment.



Photo: Tracy Wong

Balcony

Since the balcony area was exposed to neighbours and city dwellers outside the home, the designers installed bamboo roller blinds to provide privacy for the home's residents.

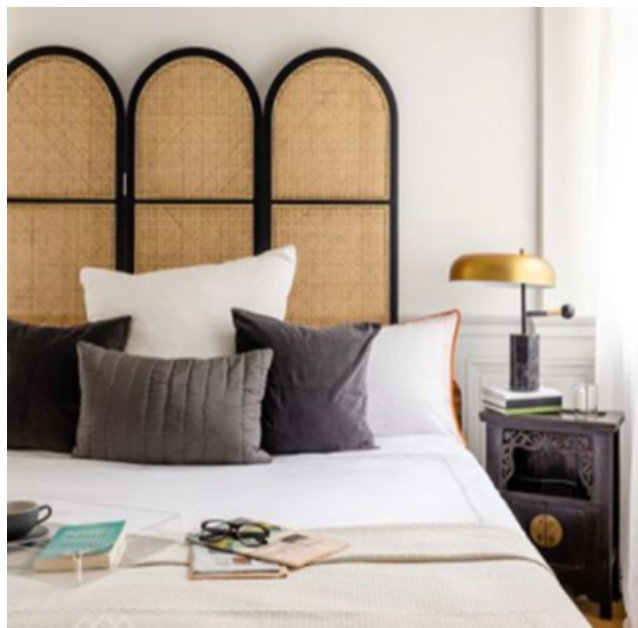


Photo: Tracy Wong

The rattan bed from Indigo Living. The cane partition from Décor 8. The bedside table and TV unit from Forth Furniture. Gold lamp from CB2.

Master Bedroom

The master bedroom consists of a beautiful mix of history and art together with antiques and modern pieces. The residents' Chinese heritage is told through its furniture. To add a modern touch to the space, the designers added a gold modern lamp on the bedside table.



Photo: Tracy Wong

Kitchen

Fondly known as the Nook in the Kitchen by the designers of this home, the kitchen area faces the greener side of the home, with green furniture to pull the design concept together.



Photo: Tracy Wong

Solid wood sideboard from Décor 8. Sit-stand desk and ergonomic chair from Ergo Seating

Work-From-Home Station

The work-from-home station is the occasional guest bedroom and workspace. This multi-purpose room is a display of both sophistication and practicality. Beautifully made artworks from a family friend are framed on the wall, putting emphasis on the sit-stand desk with an ergonomic chair. The recess sofa bed transforms into a pull-out bed which guests can use when they stay over for the night.



Photo: Tracy Wong

Powder Room

Out of the whole project, this was the most challenging space because the client wanted a nice powder room but also wanted a shower. It transforms from a spacious powder room to a wet room with a shower. “We wanted the powder room to be more elegant,” says Gonzales, “it needed to be more roomy for a person to get in and out easily.”

This sliding mirror door conceals the hidden shower and the mirror makes this room look like a spacious powder room rather than a cramped bathroom.