

Designarè

The Arbiters of Designer Living | October 2010

**A FINE
FETISH**
MODERN
SEXY
GLAMOUR WITH
MARC JACOBS
& POMELLATO

**ALL THAT
GLITTERS**

SPECTACULAR SPARKLERS
AND ULTRA LUXE JEWELS

COUTURE MAESTRO
A FASHION ICON
KEEPS COUTURE ALIVE

OCTOBER 2010 | Vol. 17

ISSN : 1793-9658



8 88862 100104

SGD 2.00 | USD 1.50 | EURO 1.00



AN INSPIRED **EDEN**

Witty grandeur and easy comfort mark this beautifully restored terrace house in the East. By JAFRI



The home of Wendy Smith, a partner at interiors firm Design Intervention, is a gorgeous and utterly comfortable mix of East and West elements. Certainly, it is infused with contemporary drama amidst a revitalized historic backdrop.

The vivacious Smith, a discerning gourmet, martini connoisseur and of late, aspiring tai chi exponent, explains that the 1930s house, initially offered much tighter living, dining and basement areas. The designer, who hails from the US, had the basement made three times as deep, such

that the height variance went from just under 1.5 metres to nicely over 2 metres. There are also 2 spacious bedrooms and 3 bathrooms as well.

Amazingly, while it spans three and half stories high at the back, the frontage of the conservation structure blends in perfectly with the rest of the street.

Smith, who has lived in Singapore for more than 10 years, says that her home decorating theme, essentially based on an Adam and Even theme, drew inspiration from a Tamara de Lempicka painting she has in her living room. There are also colonial world accents reminiscent



THERE ARE ALSO COLONIAL WORLD ACCENTS REMINISCENT OF THE BLACK AND WHITE BUNGALOWS OF OLD IN THE INTERIOR SPACES, LARGELY THROUGH THE STRIKING BLACK-WHITE CHECKERED FLOORING IN MANY AREAS.

of the black and white bungalows of old in the interior spaces, largely through the striking black-white checkered flooring in many areas. Lush arrangements of blooms and leaves impart a garden feel everywhere.

Holding court in the wonderfully high ceilinged living area are two striking oil painting by a young South African artist Ryan Hewit. The artworks, purchased from a holiday there 2 years ago, face each other from opposite walls bordered by strikingly oversized gold-tinged frames. But look closer and you will realize that the generous expanses of white bordering the works are actually part of the walls themselves and the large frames are not part of the actual artworks. It is a simple but very effective decorating trick, and the end result is that the initially much smaller works attain a much larger and immediate prominence in the living area.

Also displayed throughout the house are witty oversized ceramic fruit pieces, as well as an





eclectic mix of artifacts picked out by the world traveler on her many sojourns – sculptures from South Africa, hunting paraphernalia from Wales where her uncle and cousin are gamekeepers, and imposing Georgian cabinet and dramatically oversized furniture pieces lacquered white for a more soothing overview.

The dining area, for instance, is an eye-catching floor to ceiling mirrored assembly of solid wood furnishings softened with plush animal hides and a cascading metallic chandelier that reminds Smith of an elaborately constructed necklace. And just before the dining area, there is a part of the original house structure still in place – a quaint mosaic-laden balustrade.

The cozy basement den cum study and wine cellar, where Smith and her husband spend quite a bit of time for work and leisure, is a visual departure from the rest of the house, being awash in darkened tones, solid leather and wooden furnishings, and vintage maps and sturdy





bookshelves. Almost masculine in feel too, yet it ties in beautifully with the other interior spaces, being extremely comfortable and quirkily eclectic like the other living spaces. It is also a lounging hotspot for their two little dogs.

The master and guest bedrooms both exude soft romanticism. Four poster bed columns and antique pillars from India make their presence felt in both room. The columns, in particular, are also used in the den as well and while appearing to have a structural role, are actually just decorative embellishment. And Smith's narrow kitchen is as charmingly quirky as it is a well planned and effective cooking area.

The spaces, awash both in whites as well as cheery hues of lime green and the like, invigorate Smith's home even more. As she advises, it is all about a balanced use of colour and scale, like toning down oversized pieces with neutral hues. As well, one can revitalize a sofa with new upholstery and dull walls with inspired wallpaper. Indeed, it is all about imbuing spaces with a vibrant personality, and Smith's home is clearly as engaging as she is.

THE SPACES, AWASH BOTH IN WHITES AS WELL AS CHEERY HUES OF LIME GREEN AND THE LIKE, INVIGORATE SMITH'S HOME EVEN MORE.

