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FENGSHUI
BENEFITS FOR
YOUR HOME-
OFFICE

VOL 7

FOR ACTOR LAWRENCE WONG, LESS IS MORE

AIR-CON
EXPERT SHARES
MAINTENANCE
AND OTHER TIPS

MATTRESS MATTERS

It's more important to your health than you think

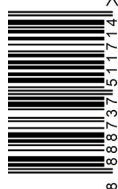
AUTHOR-BAKER SUSANNE NG

Her kawaii chiffon cakes are too cute to eat

THE ART OF DECLUTTERING

Tidy up and keep calm

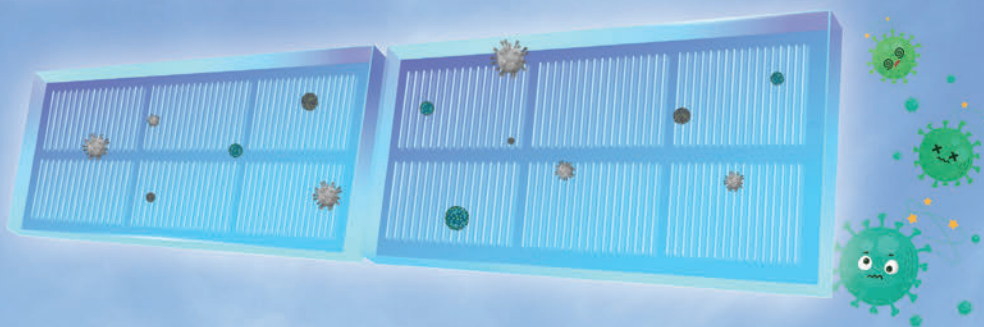
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VOL 7 • 2023



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Design Award for
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
SR series – SRK-ZSX
Air-conditioning unit



**Next Generation
Refrigerant R32**



Allergen Clear Filter
(Inactivates Covid-19 Virus)



3D Auto
(Vertical + Horizontal Multi Motors)



24-Hour ION



**Wireless
Control System**



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The ONE for
Coffee Lovers



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Actor Lawrence Wong keeps things simple yet sophisticated.

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Wong Wei Liang

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PHILIPS

TV and Sound

No. 1 European Ambilight TV



Philips OLED807 Series 4K UHD OLED Android TV with 4-sided Ambilight

- This is what lifelike feels like. Philips OLED TV.
- Whatever you watch, a picture so real.
- Cinematic vision and sound.
- Available sizes: 55", 65", 77".

 **OLED** **AMBILIGHT** tv  **AI Intelligent Picture Engine** **IMAX ENHANCED**



Philips Fidelio TAFB1 Soundbar 7.1.2 with integrated subwoofer

- Philips Fidelio. Natural sound, timeless design.
- Dolby Atmos. Heighten the excitement.
- IMAX Enhanced certified. Immersive.





The perfect pair

The Philips OLED TV and Soundbar are simply good together.

For the ultimate viewing and gaming experience from the only European brand in the market, make the Philips OLED 4K UHD Android TV and the Philips Fidelio Soundbar 7.1.2 Integrated Subwoofer your top picks.



VIBRANT, LIFELIKE IMAGES

With unique Ambilight technology, the incredible experience of watching Philips OLED Android TV (Model: 807 Series) gets even better! The back LED lights on all four sides of the TV glow and change colour in perfect sync with the colours of the onscreen action or your music.

P5 PICTURE ENGINE WITH AI

Philips P5 processor with AI delivers a picture so real it feels like you could step right into it. A deep-learning AI logarithm processes images in a manner similar to the human brain. What you get is lifelike detail and contrast, rich colour and smooth motion.

SUPERB SOUND

The Fidelio Soundbar 7.1.2 Integrated Subwoofer (Model: TAFB1) is the ultimate companion for your TV, as it fills any room with dramatic effects, rich soundtracks, and crystal-clear dialogue, thanks to the built-in subwoofer and custom-built Fidelio speakers – including two up-firing speakers – that let sound flow above and around you.

With new levels of detail for movies and music, you'll enjoy immersive, heart-pounding audio with the IMAX Enhanced certified feature. Whatever your preference, the Soundbar supports Spotify Connect, Bluetooth, Apple AirPlay2 and Chromecast. Intelligent room calibration means perfect Fidelio sound in any room.

With anthracite Muirhead leather trim offsetting the fine metal mesh on the top and front, the soundbar makes a handsome addition to your home theatre.

Fidelio FB1

Soundbar 7.1.2 Integrated subwoofer



Scan here to find out more



Scan here to find out more

AT HOME WITH...

Spare and sophisticated

Actor Lawrence
Wong's home shines
in its simplicity.

AT HOME WITH...

In his home tour for City Living, actor Lawrence Wong opens up about his home's aesthetic and design philosophy, and shares his creative and entrepreneurial endeavours.

TEXT
Sean Yee

PHOTOGRAPHY
Wong Wei Liang



His minimalistic abode

“Life in general can be really hectic...a home should be a serene sanctuary away from all of the hustle.”

Local actor Lawrence Wong truly embodies “less is more” in the purest of senses. His home brims with a charming sense of vastness that is both ironically profound and simplistic, almost like an empty canvas decked with artistic accompaniments to accentuate its raw beauty. With an organic design scheme that seeks to expound on the relationship between the abode and its owner, Lawrence’s interpretative masterpiece of a home achieves an impeccable austerity which is especially befitting of a minimalistic and timeless architectural living space – an apt personification of his creative aspirations.

A living space that is simple and authentic.

AT HOME WITH...

The branch which fell off his first tree is now upcycled into an art piece for his dining table.



10

As you can tell from our reactions, we're quite wowed by your home. Could you share some of the design philosophies that have inspired your minimalistic abode?

Minimalism is a philosophy that I embody with pride! My skincare line, GRAIL, embraces beauty in simplicity, and so does my

own abode. Life in general can be really hectic, and I believe that a home should be a serene sanctuary away from all of the hustle, be clutter free and a space representative of the owner. Every ornament, adornment and fixture I have here is meticulously picked as I want to carefully curate the most fitting living space for me.

Some of my embellishments carry immeasurable amounts of sentimental value despite their plain

appearances. This branch art piece on my dining table, for example, is a relic of my first attempt at gardening – I had grown my first tree, only to have this one branch fall off at some point. Some of the ceramics on my coffee table are also hand-made by my friends.

Three words to describe your home.

Minimalistic, calm and peaceful.

The entirety of your place is strikingly white. What is it about this colour that appeals to you?

Back when I was still renting an apartment, I had always leaned towards an interior painted in lighter colours, white being the exemplar of them all.

Fun fact – when I was designing this place, I had actually intended to have a darker shade as I wanted to try a design scheme that differed from my past living spaces. Somehow, it turned out brighter than what I had originally intended!

Still, it's a silver lining! Many assume that an interior painted in white is hard to maintain. My personal experience is quite contrary; it's fuss-free and it feels authentic.

The cosy pocket of space in his attic is perfect for reading, and relaxing, reflective introspection.

AT HOME WITH...

Which room or space in your home do you most enjoy being around?

The living room for sure! I fall asleep easily in my living room, especially when the lights are dimmed! I do have trouble sleeping at times so my living room helps alleviate some of the struggles of my sleeping woes!

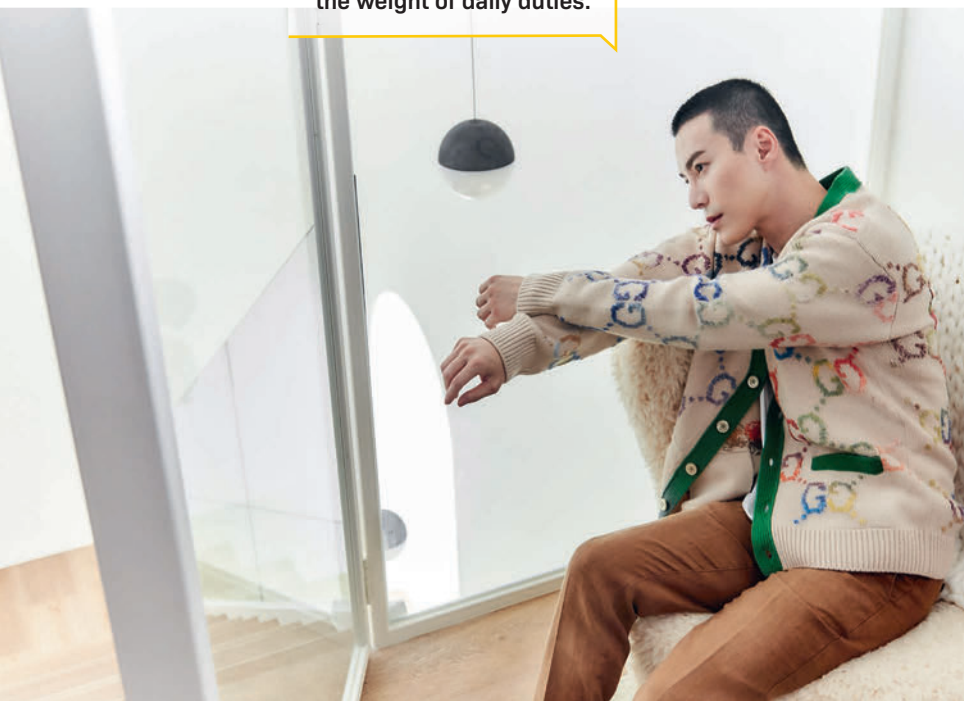
What were you most excited about when you secured this property?

I had always stayed in small residential apartments. Upon my first encounter with this home, I was just blown away by the generous amount of space I could work with! In fact, this was actually the first property that I came across as I was searching for a new home. There was just something about this space that resonated with me; so much so that I could not stop thinking about this place even as I was viewing other alternatives.

Given your current schedule, how do you keep the house well-maintained while you're away?

I do have a helper, as well as the occasional assistance from my family, who live nearby! On the topic of maintenance, I think it helps that my home's design strayed away from being automated. I can appreciate the convenience and novelty of smart homes, but I do think many neglect the amount of maintenance this design approach requires in the long run. With my work and travel schedules, I cannot afford to invest time fixing malfunctions or technological disruptions at home.

For Lawrence, empty spaces bring a sense of relief, unencumbered by the weight of daily duties.





Meticulous spatial planning blends aesthetics with practicality.



Has your career inspired the design of your living space?

My schedule is typically fully packed, with very few breaks in between my pursuits. I want my living space to be a deviation from the perpetual hustle that is my everyday life. Empty spaces are more than just vacant rooms – they symbolise a vastness for new emotions, inspirations, and ideas, where my vision is unoccupied and unencumbered by the heaviness of everyday responsibilities. The feeling is almost akin to a physical catharsis; I feel cleansed of my stress when I see these empty spaces, almost like being in my own personal pocket realm.

“ There was just something about this space that resonated with me. ”

His impressive turn in *Story of Yanxi Palace* turned him into something of a superstar in China.



What do you think you would have been if you weren't an actor?

I find animals to be incredibly endearing (as you can tell, I love animals) so I would have loved to be a veterinarian! To be given the important responsibility of providing unconditional care for animals, where I can make a difference no matter how big or small, will truly be a blessing.

The minimalist theme extends to the kitchen, of which a standout feature is the refrigerator, his prized acquisition.

“Many assume that an interior painted in white is hard to maintain. My personal experience is it’s fuss-free and authentic.”



Which attribute(s) of yours do you think greatly contributed to your current success?

Determination and painstaking perseverance. I am not one to give up amidst overwhelming odds; in fact, giving up isn't even an option for me given how much is at stake. There is always this tenacious drive in me to keep pushing through, to work past the string of hurdles in pursuit of a bigger agenda. Stamina is crucial in this push, as it's all about the long game. Of

course, it definitely helps to be passionate about the venture as well.

Tell us about your skincare line, GRAIL.

Given my own personal foray into skincare, the eventual launch of GRAIL was a pretty natural one for me. When I first started my acting career in Singapore, I often got made fun of for my fair complexion. Strangely enough, what was once a sore point of mine turned into a personal distinction as I began embracing this unique feature of mine.

Essentially, the brand is a personification of my own experiences with skincare – entailing the lessons I have learnt in my own beauty regimens, and how they have complemented my life's pursuits.

What has it been like, having to balance your creative, personal, and entrepreneurial aspirations?

The journey so far has been unbelievably amazing! People are

especially complicated and multi-faceted beings, with an array of sides often left unexpressed and unnoticed. I'm not just an actor, and it is so fulfilling and therapeutic to indulge in my other aspirations and interests (such as my skincare line), some of which may seem unrelated to my main pursuit. In the grand scheme of things, however, my aspirations are all interlinked, spurring one another on by providing me with novel experiences beyond acting! This empowers me to refine my craft with unique twists, perspectives, and nuances from my other ventures!

AT HOME WITH...

“ Having your own place is an absolutely exciting endeavour, and it is very easy to overembellish. ”

Zen-like tranquillity pervades every room of his house.

Back to your gorgeous home. In terms of creative direction, what are your future plans for it? Any redecorating in the near future?

Not at this current moment! The home, however, is inherently adaptable as it has very minimal built-in furniture. Most of the spaces are interchangeable, apart from its fixtures, resulting in a home that is largely accommodating and flexible.

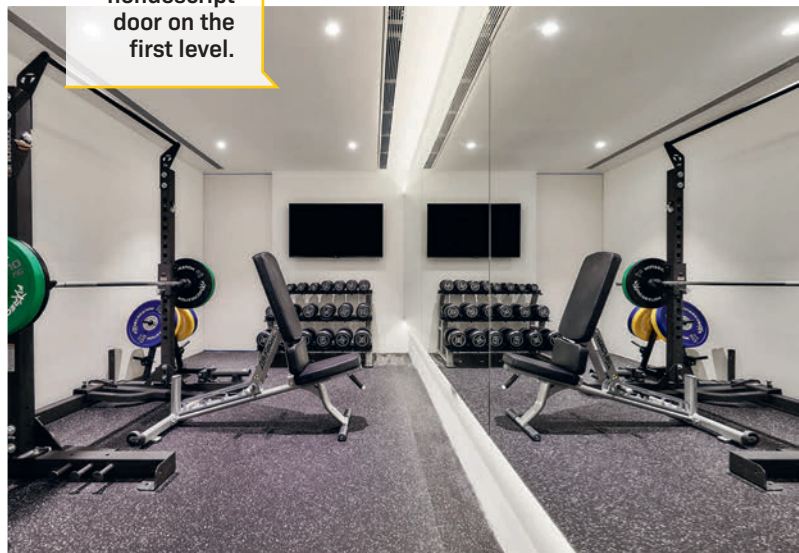


For future homeowners intending to create a space like yours, what advice would you give them?

Restrain yourself!

Having your own place is an absolutely exciting endeavour, and it is very easy to overembellish your home's interior design due to impulse. Always consciously remind yourself to restrain yourself and keep to your original artistic vision.

The personal gym is discreetly concealed behind a nondescript door on the first level.



Lawrence's thoughts on...

▪ Unique chills

My fridge would be the most unique appliance in my home! It was always a dream of mine to have this Rolls-Royce of all fridges. Practicality wise, it would likely be my water dispenser. Unlike most water dispensers, it takes up a minimal amount of space and it comes with varying temperature choices.

▪ Music to his ears...

On my wish list would probably be a music stereo system that is connected to the entire house! I love music (as well as candles) as it accentuates the home's ambience.

Breathe easy

New Air Purifying filters that improve the air quality in your home.

As we spend most of our time indoors, indoor air quality should be a concern. The pollutant level in our homes can be two to five times higher than outdoors; and poor indoor air quality has been linked to respiratory illnesses, lethargy and other long-term health issues.

REDUCE POLLUTANTS, ALLERGENS AND ODOURS

Mitsubishi Electric Starmex features a range of filters to help improve the air quality in your home.

Our standard Nano Platinum filter utilises nanotechnology which absorbs odour, pollutants and allergens effectively. Better dust collection than conventional filters is also ensured.

Microparticle Catching filter is also a standard filter for all



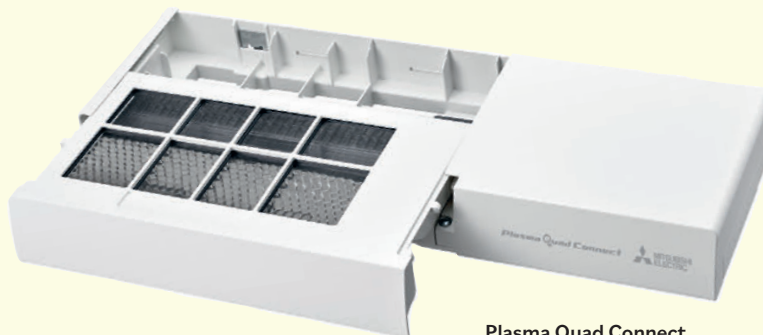
Microparticle Catching Filter



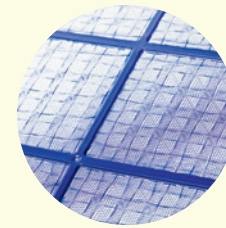
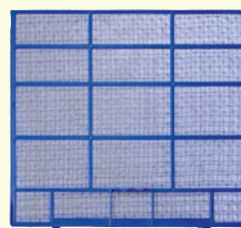
Anti-Allergy Enzyme Filter

wall-mounted indoor units and is effective at eliminating PM2.5 particles to maintain clean air. It's especially useful when it's hazy outside.

Anti-Allergy Enzyme filter is an optional filter to replace the Microparticle Catching filter when desired. It catches dead mites and their droppings, pollen and other allergens on the filter filament and decomposes them with artificial enzymes. The result is healthier and purer air.



Plasma Quad Connect



Nano Platinum Filter

THE PLASMA QUAD CONNECT

Mitsubishi Electric's new advanced Plasma Quad Connect is an optional accessory that utilises electric discharge to catch and neutralise microscopically small particles, bacteria, allergens, mould and viruses (including SARS-CoV-2). This improves air quality indoors and ensures a cleaner living environment.



Scan here to find out more

To mum
with love

Because mothers
deserve the best
this Mother's Day
and every day.

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BEST NEW FINDS

BEST NEW FINDS



Showcasing the future

Can't get enough of bigger screens and sharper images? Check out the latest cutting-edge technology from the market leaders.

TEXT Azfar Hashim

At this year's edition of the world's largest electronic and IT show, Consumer Electronics Show (CES) held in Las Vegas, two major TV players showcased their latest innovations to keep buyers at the edge of their seats.

Samsung MicroLED CX

MicroLED TVs are known to be costly as they are typically beyond 100-inch, so with Samsung's announcement that they will be introducing 50-, 63-, 76- and 89-inch options, buyers in the premium TV segment are in for a treat.

Here's what we know so far: The South Korean brand's first offering for 2023 is the 76-inch MicroLED CX. Compared



to current LCD TVs, the CX promises better picture quality that movie fans and gamers will appreciate, thanks to the 240Hz variable refresh rate, and 2 nanosecond response time. The impressive 99.9% screen-to-body ratio is also set to stun viewers.

The CX will also be Samsung's first MicroLED TV that does not require professional installation.



To check
out the full
range of TVs
available,
scan here

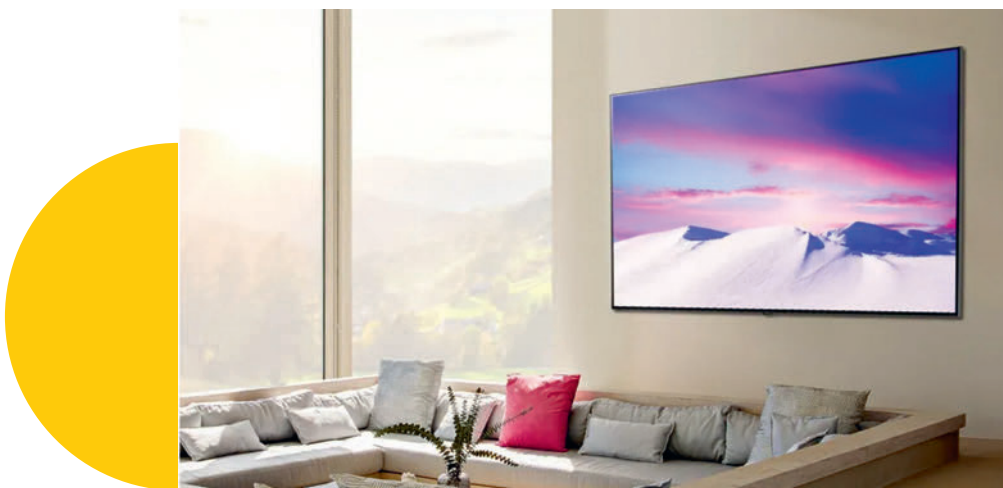


LG Signature OLED M3

LG brought out its innovative 97-inch M3 OLED smart TV to impress, and they surely did more than that. The M3 won the 'CES 2023 Innovation Award' in two categories: Video Display and Embedded Technologies, not only for its 4K 120Hz resolution OLED display, and no doubt for being the first consumer TV to feature wireless video and audio transmission.

Users can directly and conveniently plug in their cable, satellite or console connections to the Zero Connect Box – which then connects wirelessly to the TV. The connection can be done up to 9 metres away while transmitting picture and audio in real time. It even works with compatible soundbars, cable-free.

For skeptics concerned about a lag in transmission and interrupted TV, LG assures that the connection strength between the Zero Connect Box and TV is three times the speed of Wi-Fi 6.



LG G3 OLED evo

The G3 sees the introduction of Brightness Booster Max, a brand new technology that incorporates new light control architecture and light-boosting algorithms to increase brightness by up to 70 percent (applies to 55"/65"/77" G3 models). Hence, sharper and more realistic images can be expected this time around.

It also features an improved processor designed to detect depth and deliver more realism,

along with more accurate colours. The AI Super Upscaling Pro will enhance resolution and reduce noise levels.

Especially important for gamers: the G3 is capable of supporting 4K at 120Hz, together with Variable Refresh Rate (VRR) and Auto Low Latency Mode (ALLM). Then let's not forget that it gets four HDMI ports. For better accuracy, Dolby Vision for gaming is standard.

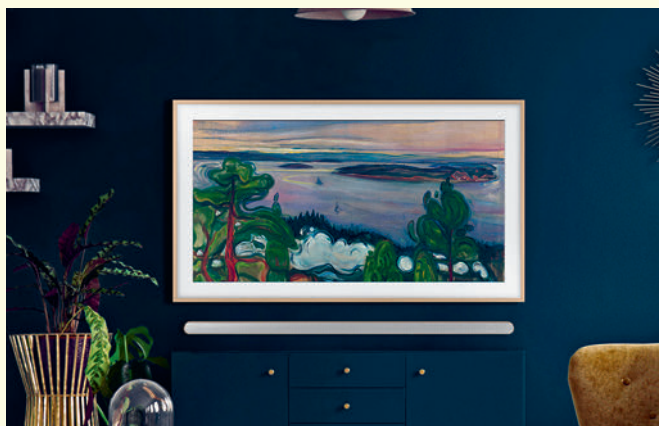
LG's G3 OLED evo will be available in 55-, 65-, 77- and 83-inch options.



Go from TV to Art with The Frame

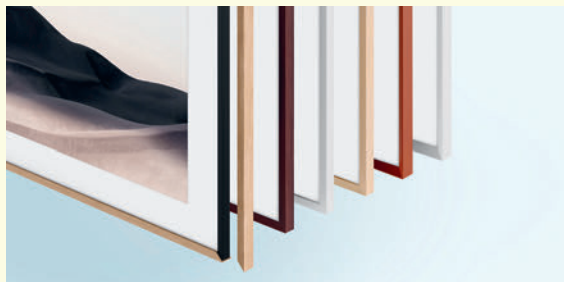
Besides delivering exceptional visual quality, this TV elevates your living environment with artistic masterpieces.

What better way to enhance your home than with an artwork display? The Frame from Samsung is more than a state-of-the-art TV. Its Matte Display drastically reduces light reflections¹, so you see what's onscreen – including works of art – clearly and in all their splendour.



DESIGNED TO ENHANCE YOUR SPACE

With its customisable bezel design⁴ in a variety of colours, The Frame complements any interior and may be mounted on the wall or on the Studio Stand. With the latter, no drilling is needed and perfect for those who want to display their art in a more unique way. It also includes Samsung's Quantum Processor 4K which delivers vivid details onscreen. In addition, the One Connect Box² keeps your home clutter-free by eliminating messy TV cables.



MASTERPIECES ON SHOW

The Frame owners are able to enjoy high-resolution Southeast Asian masterpieces from National Gallery Singapore in the comfort of their home via Samsung Art Store³. The innovative art store subscription service allows owners to browse, discover and download images from an expanded library of artworks from leading international galleries. The artworks, which range in style and medium, include pieces from prominent artists like Raden Saleh and Richard Walker. Their works join more than 1,600 others from over 50 museums and galleries worldwide, including the Louvre Museum in Paris and the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. Bragging rights are par for the course when cultured friends come to visit and you can wow them with your wide range of art pieces.

The Samsung Art Store has recently added more artworks from National Gallery Singapore in an effort to expand the collection of Southeast Asian art globally.



Scan here to find out more

⁴ Customisable frame bezel sold separately. Availability of bezel styles and colours may be different according to TV size.

SAMSUNG

16[~] 8²
YEARS YEARS
Global No.1 TV Global No.1
Samsung is ranked No.1 TV brand for 16 years Soundbar
Samsung is ranked No.1 Soundbar brand for 8 years



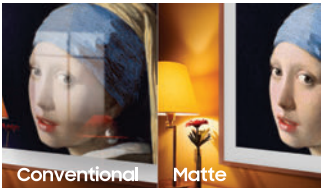
The Frame LS03B

TV When It's On, Art When It's Off



Scan to learn more

Matte Display¹



Enjoy what's on,
not the reflections

One Connect Box²



Add beauty to the
clutter-free solution

QLED Technology



Bring more than a
billion colours to life

Art Mode³



When The Frame is off, beautiful
works of art are displayed

¹Conventional product refers to the previous model of The Frame. ²One Connect Box Jack Port design may vary by region. ³Art Store subscription required to access full selection. Fees apply to subscription service. Art pieces in the Art Store are subject to change without prior notice. All images shown are for illustrative purposes only. Information is accurate at time of print. Source – Omdia, Jan-2022. Results are not an endorsement of Samsung. Any reliance on these results is at the third-party's own risk. *Source: "Worldwide Home Audio Quarterly Tracker" Worldwide Soundbar Market Share by manufacturer – Annual units and value basis.

Make a statement in the kitchen

Let your personality come through with these Samsung Bespoke home appliances.

We are so accustomed to our home appliances looking nondescript or even boring that we rarely give them a second look. But Samsung has introduced a range of Bespoke home appliances that stand out for all the right reasons – and reflect your personality to boot.

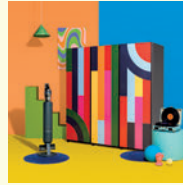
EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Bespoke line of refrigerators lets you choose from eight fashionable colours to suit your tastes. If that's not enough, the Bespoke Wallpaper Collection offers a selection of patterns for the truly individualistic.



Bespoke Refrigerators – with a choice of 8 colour panels.

The Pop Art design injects playfulness into your kitchen, while for nature lovers, the Verde design with its lush botanicals creates a calming indoor environment and brings the outside in. You can also opt for the Swirl design to complement your monochromatic kitchen and give it a modern, sophisticated vibe. Whatever your kitchen style, Bespoke lets you choose a design that blends in with your decor.



Pop Art



Verde

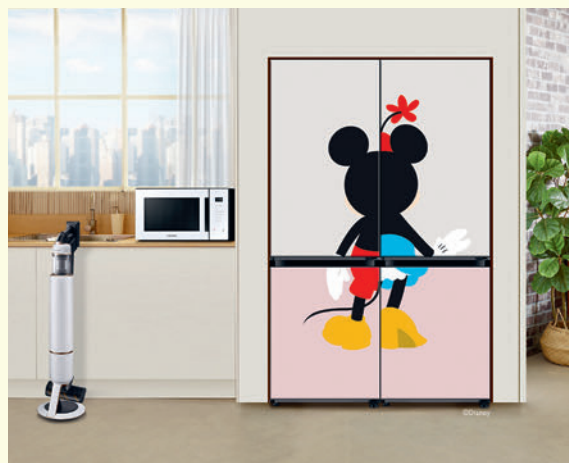


Swirl

Other home appliances include the Bespoke Microwave Oven, which comes in four colours that are designed to stand out in style, and the Bespoke Jet™ Handstick Vacuum in Midnight Blue, Misty White or Woody Green, and comes with an All-in-one Clean Station™ for an all-round clean.

DISNEY-THEMED PATTERNS

For the young at heart, nothing says fun like a Disney-themed kitchen. The Samsung Bespoke Disney Collection lets you express your love for Mickey and Friends in design themes that will complement your kitchen. Bid farewell to the traditional boring kitchen and step into a whole new world with the Samsung Bespoke Collections¹.



Bespoke Home Appliances – featuring the Bespoke Jet™ Handstick Vacuum, Bespoke Microwave Oven and the Bespoke Disney Collection refrigerator.

¹ Additional cost is required for the customisation options for the Bespoke Collections Refrigerator designs. Check in-store for more details.



Scan here to find out more

SAMSUNG

BESPOKE Home



Make it monochrome
#BespokeMyHome



**Your home is your
canvas, make it
uniquely yours.**

The value of a colour is what really defines the ambience, your style. The monochromatic colour scheme is the latest fad in interior design and the Bespoke home appliances with their bold colours enable you to make a statement in every part of your home. For the latest range of Bespoke home appliances, visit your nearest Gain City retail outlet.

Gifts for mum

Spoil her with these stylish and practical gifts for Mother's Day.

TEXT Melanie Wong



Photos: iStock

26

For chef-like results

With this, Mum will never undercook or overcook a meal again. The Perfect Sensor induction hobs from De Dietrich come with the Perfect Sensor Probe, designed to continuously measure the core temperature of food and control all cooking settings. Cooking zones, like Sear, Simmer, Keep Warm, Boost and Boil, and pre-programmed functions like Expert, Fondue, Sous Vide, Keep Warm, Slow Cook and Boil, allow precise temperature adjustment.



Full steam ahead

For healthy steamed dishes, the Toshiba Steam Oven offers three steaming modes: Quick Steam, which steams food quickly to retain the original flavours; Pure Steam, which simulates cooking on the stove with accurate power; and Slow Steam, which stews food slowly. The steam functions also keep food juicy and tender, so Mum can cut back on the use of oil or fat to make meals even healthier. Available in three models: MS1-TC20SF(BK), MS1-TC20SF(GN) and MS5-TR30SC(BK).

Health companion

With a rotating bezel and vivid screen, the Samsung Galaxy Watch4 Classic has a refined design that looks sophisticated and elegant on Mum's wrist. The Ridge Sports Band is made from fluoroelastomer material for durability and sweat-resistance, making the watch ideal for active lifestyles. Mum can use the smartwatch to track her fitness progress, body composition, activities and even sleep, helping her manage her health goals. And the Samsung BioActive Sensor measures her ECG and blood pressure in real time. Model: LTE SM-R885FZSAXSP, LTE-42MM-SILV.



Let's drink to that

Protect Mum's wine collection with the Whirlpool Wine Cellar ARC1501. It can store up to 48 standard bottles, and features a compressor cooling system that keeps the internal temperature stable and an anti-vibration design that protects wines and lets them rest. The low thermal emissivity glass has a special coating designed to block the heat generated from infrared and UV



sunlight, providing protection against 75% of UV rays while maintaining good visibility. The risk of condensation on the glass is also reduced.



Straight talking

The Philips Hair Straightener BHS530/00 uses ThermoShield technology for a more consistent temperature from hair root to tip, less heat damage, and healthier looking hair. With 2x Ionic Care, hair looks shinier and feels smoother, allowing Mum to create beautifully frizz-free styles. The straightener also has a fast heat-up time so it's ready to use in just 30 seconds.



How handy

Mum will appreciate the Karcher Handheld Vacuum 7.2V VCH2, which is perfect for quick clean-ups in the car, home and office. Although small, lightweight and compact, this battery-powered vacuum cleaner is powerful on just about everything, from crumbs and dust to hair and fur. It has a two-step filter system and is easy to clean, and has a HEPA 12 filter so it's suitable even for allergy sufferers.

27

An efficient combi

Multitask with this kitchen helper.

EF combi-steam oven BO GE 1770SA M incorporates the advantages of a steamer and oven into a single appliance. Steaming retains nutrients whereas steam-assisted baking enhances the natural flavours, texture, and moisture of foods. Equipped with 13 functions and Meat Probe for precision, the oven lets you prepare delicious and nutritious meals at home in an energy-efficient manner.



Scan here to find out more



DEGREE PRECISION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CULINARY RESULTS

An exclusive
technology
recommended by
Three-Michelin-star chef

PIERRE GAGNAIRE

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De Dietrich 



Cook like a professional chef

**This range of induction hobs
delivers expert results in the kitchen.**

The Perfect Sensor induction hobs from De Dietrich's Fascination Collection features technology that cooks your food perfectly.

PRECISE RESULTS

The Perfect Sensor probe, delivered with your hob, continuously measures the core temperature of your food and controls all cooking settings. It even relays this information to your hob in real time via the digital display on the control panel, which displays the room temperature to the closest degree.

Choose between Sear, Simmer, Keep Warm, Boost and Boil to increase efficiency while you cook. Just touch the keys to access your preferred Zone. Each cooking zone has 20 cooking power levels which allows precise temperature adjustment.

COOK LIKE A BONA FIDE CHEF

The induction hob and its probe let you choose between two modes of operation. In manual mode, the appropriate temperature is set on the digital display to within one degree of your selection. As soon as the temperature has been attained, the hob emits a beeping sound. Alternatively, get direct access to pre-programmed functions like Expert, Fondue, Sous Vide, Keep Warm, Slow Cook and Boil, which allow for temperature adjustment so you get professional chef-like results.

*Available in three models:
(DPI7570XT) – 65cm (3 Zone)
(DPI7684XT) – 65cm (4 Zone)
(DPI7884XT) – 80cm (4 Zone)*



Scan here to find
out more

TOSHIBA

RC-10IRPS (1L) RC-18ISPS (1.8L)

LOW GI RICE COOKER

"I help to lower your sugar level, eat healthily with me"



STEAM OVEN

"I can steam, bake and ferment your craving food"



MS1-TC20SF(BK) MS1-TC20SF(GN)

Kitchen essentials

This steam oven and rice cooker are just what you need to prepare healthy family meals.

Toshiba offers a range of kitchen appliances to help you live a healthier life.



ONE OVEN, MULTI USAGE

Choose a steam oven that suits your needs [MS1-TC20SF(BK), MS1-TC20SF(GN) and MS5-TR30SC(BK)]. Each oven has an internal dome-shaped design.

Select from three steaming modes: Quick Steam, which steams food quickly to retain the original flavours; Pure Steam, which simulates cooking on the stove with accurate power; and Slow Steam, which stews food slowly.

Cut down on the use of oil as the steam and convection functions help to keep your food juicy and tender on the inside.

The MS5-TR30SC(BK) Turbo Steam Oven has a built-in Vapor

Lock which "locks up" steam produced during cooking and discharges it into the waste water tank directly.



MAKE LOW-CARB RICE

The Toshiba Low GI Rice Cooker Series [RC-10IRPS(1L) and RC-18ISPS(1.8L)] creates fluffy and tasty rice quickly, thanks to the Induction Heating feature. It also features the sugar-removing basket, which isolates up to 41% of unhealthy starch from the rice while still retaining nutrients, as well as an optimal simmering process at 300 KPA which increases the amount of resistant starch in the rice by up to 79%. Resistant starch is healthier and does not convert into fats or sugar easily.



Scan here to find out more



Scan here to find out more

The quintessential baker's kitchen

New to baking? Here's our list of items you really need and might be worth investing in.

TEXT Sasha Gonzales

Whether baking is your hobby or home business, you probably have a collection of tools and equipment that you use regularly, to whip up cakes, bread, cookies, pies and the like. You may even have a few specialty appliances or utensils that you bring out once in a while for more unique or complicated creations.

Here's our shortlist of must-haves for any home baker's kitchen.

De'Longhi Sfornatutto Maxi Oven 32L

This large-capacity electric oven has upper and lower heating elements so you can be assured of consistent results every time. And the gratin function is ideal for perfectly browning dishes topped with breadcrumbs or cheese. Because the oven needs

little or no pre-heating and circulates the heat generated for completely even cooking, it's great for bread and food that needs to be tender on the inside and well done on the outside.





Philips Hand Mixer 300W HR3705/11

Beat eggs and cream, mix cake batter and more, with this nifty device. It has a five speed and turbo setting, includes strip beaters and dough hooks, prepares cake mixes and batters up to 20% faster, and has a lightweight, ergonomic design to make mixing easy and comfortable.

Rubber or silicone spatula

Use this to fold dry ingredients like flour into wet ingredients, or to scrape down every last bit of cake batter or cookie dough from the mixing bowl.

Oven mitts

Slip these on when handling pans on the stove and when taking scorching-hot baking trays out of the oven.

Measuring cups and spoons

Precision is crucial in baking, so you'll want to measure dry ingredients and liquids accurately. Store these tools together and within easy reach, as you'll be using them often.

Digital kitchen scale

Like measuring cups and spoons, a scale will give you accurate results for both dry and wet ingredients.

Baking pans and sheets

Stock up on pans in different sizes, for loaves, pies, cookies, and round, rectangular or square

cakes. Non-stick pans make turning out baked items quicker and easier.

Pastry brush

This versatile tool is good for greasing pans and coating pies and pastries with egg wash, milk or cream.

Silicone baking mat

Besides providing a non-stick surface so that cookies and pastries are easier to remove after baking, silicone mats help your baked items brown more evenly on the bottom.

Bosch Chopper 400W MMR08A1

This is a compact and handy tool for chopping herbs and nuts. It also has a beating disc for beating cream and egg whites.



My top baking must-haves



Sheila owns Pastry Love by Sheila J (<https://pastrylovesg.com/>), a home bakery business that specialises in cakes and cookies inspired by her travels. Here, she shares her top four baking essentials.

- Cookie rulers: "These allow me to cut every biscuit and cookie evenly."
- British biscuit cookie cutter: "I use this for my English biscuits. It gives my custard creams that lovely classic pattern."
- Disposable piping bags: "These are super useful for piping cream onto cakes and cookies. They don't need a nozzle and can be discarded after you're done with them."
- Rolling pin: "A long and hefty rolling pin is perfect for rolling out cookie dough evenly. I also use my rolling pin to crush cornflakes and cookies into crumbs."



Brandt



Your partner in the kitchen

Baking, roasting and steaming are a breeze with this attractive self-cleaning oven.



temperature, cooking time and type of cooking required.

Want to steam your food? You can, with three new functions (Fish, Poultry and White Meat) that automatically combine traditional cooking and steam cooking to preserve the nutritional value of your dishes and shorten the cooking process.



Create delicious meals with the Brandt 60cm Pyrolytic Oven with Full Color TFT Display (Model: BOP7568LX).

COOK WITH EASE

The French-made oven features several functions and modes, allowing you to create a successful dish every time.

The 12 Flavor Guide Dishes function selects the appropriate cooking parameters for you, depending on the food to be prepared as well as its weight. Meanwhile, the 15 Autocook Dishes function constantly measures the degree of humidity and temperature variation to automatically calculate the

SELF-CLEANING AND EASY TO USE

The pyrolysis function uses residual heat from the previous cooking cycle to pyro-clean the cavity. Depending on the degree of grease accumulated, choose from the Clean 39', 1.5Hours or 2Hours program and all that is left is a thin layer of ash that can be wiped away easily with a damp cloth. Other impressive features include a soft-close door, Smart Assist, and Quattro Pulse Technology that diffuses the heat with a new patented grill.



Scan here to find out more



KÄRCHER

BRING BACK THE WOW TO YOUR STAGE.

Spotlights on, dirt out.

Introducing the all-new FC 7 Cordless Premium electric floor cleaner. Removes all kinds of dry and wet everyday dirt, thanks to the four-roller technology and integrated LEDs. Discover the star of Kärcher floor cleaners at karcher.com.sg



A speedier clean

Swap your vacuum cleaner and mop for this cordless device that removes dirt from floors, faster.

When it's time to clean your floor, you don't have to vacuum before wiping it. The Kärcher floor cleaner FC 7 Cordless Premium removes all types of dry and wet dirt in a jiffy and delivers better results.

ROLLERS THAT PICK UP ALL KINDS OF DIRT

The device features four universal, counter-rotating cleaning rollers, which are constantly wet with fresh water and cleaning agent. The rollers wipe the floor in forward and backward movements while

picking up wet and dry dirt, and even hair and large particles like cornflakes. The drying time is just two minutes. And there's no need to vacuum your floor beforehand.

The two-tank system keeps the clean and dirty water separate to prevent the dirty water from getting onto the floor.

HANDY, CONVENIENT AND EASY TO OPERATE

Use the device on any type of floor, including laminate, tiles, PVC and even oiled parquet. It's also designed to clean right to the edge and under low furniture. LED lights on the floor head help you



see dirt easily in dark rooms and at night. The Boost function is ideal for stubborn dirt.

Fully charged, the device runs approximately 45 minutes and covers up to 135 sq m. It's also self-cleaning for fuss-free maintenance.

The FC 7 Cordless Premium comes with accessories like stone rollers, which clean stubborn dirt, crevices and joints; specially developed cleaning agents; and a cleaning and care agent for sealed or oiled and waxed wooden floors.



Scan here to find out more



Suck it up

Is bigger always better for vacuum cleaners? From robots to handheld ones to the more traditional models, we look at the best options for all your cleaning needs.

TEXT Leslie Ong

Robot

Robo-vacs free you up as they do the work for you. Simply place them in a corner of your home and programme them to clean at a time that suits you. The autonomous device usually features spinning brushes and a rolling brush and uses sensors to move around. As it moves, the brushes collect dirt, dust and hair, which are then sucked up and stored in a removable dust container. Some drawbacks: cleaning isn't always efficient or thorough, and the device is usually noisy and requires frequent emptying.



Try: *The Samsung Jet Bot+ with Clean Station cleans more efficiently and thoroughly thanks to its Lidar Sensor, which calculates its location accurately and optimises its path. It also has a high-efficiency brush, and a clean station for convenient emptying of the dustbin.*





Handheld

Compact, lightweight and versatile, these are great for spot cleaning or for removing crumbs, dust, hair, sand and the like in small areas. Because they are small and portable, they can also be used for shelves, drawers and cupboards. Additionally, they are easy to clean. Unfortunately, due to their small size, they may lack the power and capacity of full-size vacuum cleaners.

Try: *The Bosch Cordless Handheld Vacuum Cleaner BHN20L can be kept close at hand for a quick clean. Rechargeable, it's good for small surfaces and upholstery.*



Upright

The large vacuum head cleans large spaces rather quickly. It's also easy to use, store, empty and clean, and works well on both hard floors and carpeted areas. Unfortunately, upright models do not come with many attachments for tight corners. They may also be difficult to manoeuvre, particularly under sofas and cupboards.



Try: *The Karcher Stick Vacuum 1600W SC2 is an upright steam cleaner. With its preset and easy-to-operate steam flow control in two stages, it removes up to 99.999% of coronaviruses and 99.99% of all common household bacteria from hard surfaces. The steam cleaner heats up in an instant and is immediately ready for use with a fillable and removable fresh water tank, including descaling cartridge.*

Stick

Use a stick vacuum for quick clean-ups, especially on hard floors. Light and small, they are almost effortless to use and work fast, plus they are convenient for tricky areas such as the stairs. You can also adjust their height and they are easy to store as they don't take up much room. On the flip side, they don't clean thick carpets very well.

Try: *The Toshiba Hand Stick Vacuum Cleaner VC-CLX50BF charges in 2.5 hours, is lightweight, features an innovative 6-cyclone structure, has a powerful dust compressor, and comes with a replaceable battery pack.*



Canister

These are popular because they can be used on a variety of surfaces and have small, easy-to-maneuvre heads that are great for cleaning around furniture. As they are usually fitted with wheels, they can be moved from one room to another, and most models come with attachments for upholstery, small corners

and more. Cons: they are harder to store than upright or stick cleaners, and have poor carpet cleaning performance.

Try: *The Philips Bagless Vacuum Cleaner 1800W FC9350/61 is compact yet powerful, featuring PowerCyclone 5 technology, a 1800W durable motor and a MultiClean nozzle.*

To check out the full range of vacuum cleaners available, scan here



Beyond cooling

The Panasonic X-Premium Inverter R32 series of air-conditioner units does more than cool your home.



Kee your indoor spaces comfortable and the air clean with Panasonic's latest X-Premium Inverter R32 Series of air-conditioner units.

LOWER YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Like all Panasonic air-conditioners, the X-Premium Inverter R32 series uses R32 refrigerant, which efficiently carries heat, leading to greater energy- and cost-effectiveness with lower environmental impact.

The nanoE™ X air purification system is good news for families who care about the air quality in their home. Activate nanoE™ X all day long for cleaner air, 24/7. nanoE™ X effectively inhibits the novel coronavirus and various types of pollutants like mould, pollen and allergens, as well as reduces unpleasant odours and moisturises skin and hair.

COOL UP TO FOUR ROOMS

Install one outdoor unit and cool up to four rooms, each with independent operational control via the Panasonic Comfort Cloud app, which connects to the units' built-in Wi-Fi. Use the app on your mobile device to turn on nanoE™ X when you're away from home, schedule the timer according to your lifestyle needs, or monitor energy consumption from wherever you are.

In addition, the series is compatible for voice control with Google Assistant-enabled devices.

For a peaceful night's sleep, switch the air-con unit to Quiet Mode, which ensures low noise levels. If the room is too hot and you need to cool it down quickly, select Powerful Mode, which cools the room faster by decreasing the setting temperature by 2°C and operating the indoor fan at a higher speed to create powerful instant cooling during start-up.



Scan here to find out more

COOL STUFF

37

Be your best

The right mattress can mean the difference between a variety of ailments and a healthy disposition.

COOL
STUFF

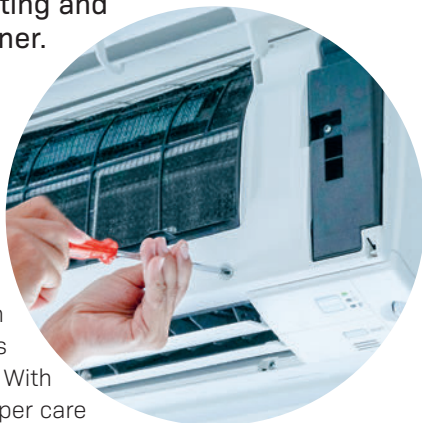


Make your air-con work for you

Insider tips on troubleshooting and caring for your air-conditioner.

TEXT Hong Weixi

With Singapore's hot and humid weather, the air-conditioner is something most households cannot do without. In some homes, the air-conditioners get cranked up all day and night. With such heavy usage, they need proper care and maintenance to make them last longer. So how can we care for our air-conditioners? We get advice from Li Guorong, Gain City's Air-con Specialist, who has more than 13 years of experience under his belt.



Q: How often should I service my air-con?

Generally, for newly-installed units, we recommend carrying out servicing every six months within the first year of installation. For units that are more than a year old and are in operation for at least 8 hours daily, for example the air-con in the master bedroom, we recommend servicing every 3 to 4 months. For units that are used only occasionally, servicing can still be done every 6 months.

Q: What is involved in a regular servicing?

For regular servicing, we will first remove the front panel to access the inside of the unit. We then remove the air filter, the blower and water tray and so forth, and do systematic examination and cleaning of all parts. As dirt accumulated in the drainage pipe will form "jelly" when in contact with drainage water and cause blockage, we will also vacuum the drainage pipe. We also check on all electrical components and the compressor. For units that are more

than a year old and heavily used (more than 10 hours every day), it is highly recommended to carry a chemical wash every one to two years depending on the condition of the unit.

Q: What might happen if I don't get my air-con unit serviced regularly?

Skipping regular service may cause the FCU (fan coil unit) to become dirty, resulting in blockage. Subsequently, the air-con system will have to work harder to achieve the desired temperature and this means higher electricity consumption and, ultimately, a higher electricity bill. The blockage may also cause water leakage and cause the compressor to rust easily. What is even worse is that it

may shorten the lifespan of the compressor.

Q: Can I do my own air-con maintenance?

Yes, you may perform a cleaning of the outer panel and air filter yourself. However, we do not recommend cleaning the FCU and other components yourself as it is complicated. It is best to leave the job to a professional.

Q: Why is my air-con leaking water? What should I do to address this problem?

Water leakage can be caused by a dirty FCU or blockage in the drainage pipe due to the "jelly" formed. In such

“ **Skipping regular service may cause the FCU (fan coil unit) to become dirty, resulting in blockage.** ”

situations, you have to get a professional to do a servicing. Another possible reason is low fan speed. We notice many customers often set the temperature at 25 degrees Celsius but set the fan speed to "low". This can cause heavy condensation on the copper piping due to low temperatures on the copper pipe. To avoid condensation, set the fan speed higher.

Q: Why does my air-con unit smell bad sometimes?

In many cases, this is due to lack of proper air circulation in the room, resulting in high humidity which can encourage the growth of mildew. As residential air-con units do not have fresh air inlet, if we eat or smoke in an air-conditioned room, the smell of food or cigarette smoke, combined with mildew and dirt from the FCU will cause a bad smell when we run the air-con.



Li Guorong has more than 13 years of experience in the air-conditioning industry.



Q: Why is my air-conditioner not cooling?

If the air-con is not cooling even when set at a lower temperature, chances are there is a problem with the FCU and you will need to get a professional to check and find the root cause.

Q: I mainly use the air-con during the hotter months. How can I get it ready for this heavy usage period?

In Singapore, the hotter months are between March to August every year. We recommend that you carry out regular servicing before the start of the hotter months. In the other months when the air-con is not used regularly, it is highly recommended that the air-con be turned on at least once a month and left to run for at least 20 minutes, so as to keep the unit functioning properly. Opt for regular servicing when you feel that the air-con is not cooling as expected.

Q: Why is the light on my air-con unit flashing?

At times like these, you will need a professional air-con technician to check out the unit to see what

the problem is. We always advise our customers to take a video of the flashing light. We can actually identify the root cause based on the frequency of the flashing light. The flashing light can be the air-con's way of telling you that it needs to be serviced or it can be due to a pre-set timing to remind its owner to clean the unit.

Q: Can I leave doors and windows open while my air-conditioner is turned on?

No, because this will actually cause more problems than skipping regular servicing. Allowing the cool air to escape means that the FCU will not be able to achieve the desired room temperature. This will cause stress to the compressor as it has to run at high speed in order to achieve the desired room temperature. Not only will this result in high power consumption, the unit will also emit more noise and this may eventually shorten the lifespan of the compressor. The compressor is akin to the heart of the air-conditioner and changing it is complicated and costly.

“Getting a warranty plan for your newly-installed air-conditioners can save you lots of money in the long run.”

Q: Any other advice?

Getting a warranty plan for your newly-installed air-conditioners can save you lots of money in the long run. Gain City has three types of warranty plans

which run from five to eight years, covering unlimited repair, parts and labour and product replacement. My colleagues and I find these plans so worthwhile that we recommend them to our family and friends too!



Let the professionals help

Gain City provides air-con servicing for both residential and commercial premises at reasonable rates. Call us for a quote today!



Scan here to find out more

Panasonic



X-Premium Inverter

PANASONIC BRINGS COMFORT
AND SAFETY INTO YOUR HOME

Make your home a safe haven for your loved ones with quality air. Panasonic X-Premium Inverter Multi Split air conditioners are equipped with nanoe™ X technology which effectively inhibits up to 99.7% of Novel Coronavirus in 24 hours*. nanoe™ X keeps you and your family safe indoors with 24-hour active air protection. Smartify your air conditioner anytime, anywhere with Comfort Cloud App and cool your house before reaching home.

Panasonic Air Conditioner, giving you quality air for life.

*Research by Texcell SA(France) in January 2021. Test conditions apply.



INHIBITS VIRUSES, BACTERIA,
AIRBORNE PARTICLES



CLEAN & FRESH AIR

QUALITY AIR FOR LIFE

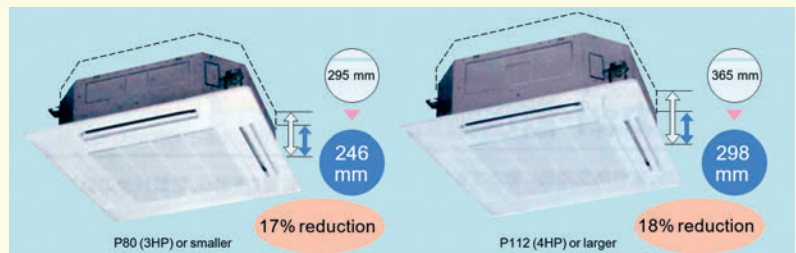


COMPACT DESIGN, EASY INSTALLATION

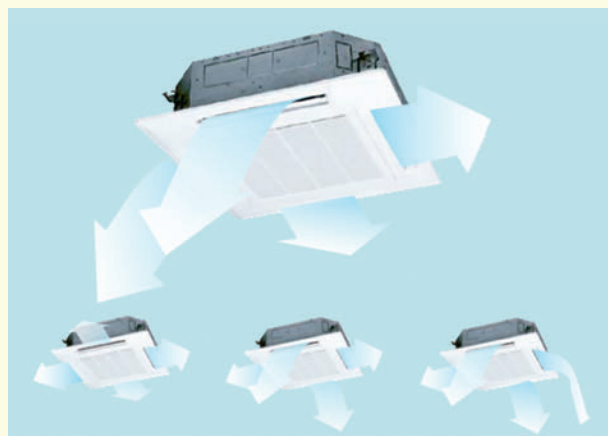
The unit is the slimmest available in the industry, so it provides more flexibility for installation and can easily fit into narrow ceiling voids as it is lower than a conventional unit. Additionally, it is easy to replace and also maintain on a day-to-day basis.

A cool change

This innovative air-con unit is easy to install, good for the environment and high-performing.



With global warming and climate change having become major concerns, it's more important than ever to switch to air-conditioners that do the job while limiting damage to the planet. To this end, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) has developed the Ceiling Cassette Four-Way Type Indoor Unit, which is compact, light, easy to install, and helps maintain a comfortable indoor environment.

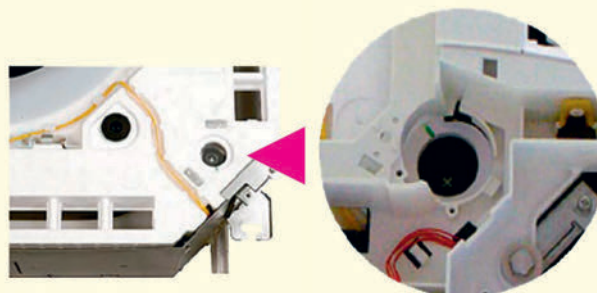


EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE

The reduced size of the unit does not affect its performance. The louvre flaps can move in four directions independently, so you can adjust the flap angles for specific purposes or according to room layouts for more flexibility during and after installation. Using the wired remote control, you can also control the pattern of airflow to ensure a more comfortable indoor environment.

IMPROVED MAINTAINABILITY

Conventional air-con units are difficult to clean as they often require disassembly before the drain pan can be inspected. But the new model is equipped with a transparent window to make inspection easy without having to remove the panel or the controller.



Scan here to find out more

acerpure

Keep Your Home Clean And Cool!



**Acerpure
Clean V1**
Cordless Vacuum
Cleaner

**Acerpure
Cool C2**
2-in-1 Air Circulator
& Purifier

**Acerpure
Pro P2**
Air Purifier

**Acerpure
Cozy F1**
Air Circulator

**Acerpure
Clean V1 Lite**
Cordless Vacuum
Cleaner



Clean up your act

Maintain a more hygienic home with Acerpure appliances.

Looking after your home has never been easier with the latest household vacuum cleaners, air purifiers and air circulators by Acerpure, the lifestyle brand of technology company Acer.

CLEAN FLOORS, CONVENIENTLY

The Acerpure Clean V1 features a cordless design with cyclonic suction technology that ensures consistent and powerful cleaning without losing suction.

The Acerpure Clean V1 Lite is compact, lightweight and portable. It has a 90-degree angled brush with 180 degrees of rotation, making it easy to clean difficult-to-reach corners.

BREATHE PURER AIR

Eliminate airborne allergens, viruses, dander and odours with the Acerpure Cool C2, which uses a powerful 2-in-1 air circulator and purifier that comes with a 4-in-1 HEPA 13 filter. With a room coverage of up to 70 sq m, it easily circulates and purifies the air in the living room.

The Acerpure Pro P2 is a standalone air purifier that has similar features to the Acerpure Cool C2 but without the air circulator.

The Acerpure Cozy F1 air circulator has 12 different speed settings, so you can opt for a soft breeze or a more powerful airflow. The fan uses 3D airflow technology to generate a stronger breeze than a standard fan to ensure rooms are well-ventilated.



Scan here to find
out more



NEW

Setting the stage for comfort design

Fujitsu Air Conditioners' latest series, AIRSTAGE, features enhanced technology.



AIRSTAGE is Fujitsu Air Conditioners' improved series of air-conditioners, allowing consumers to enjoy the most cooling power while consuming the least energy (weighted COP at 6.22kW for system 3). Rated top in the industry, AIRSTAGE offers a wide range of indoor types for residential premises – from wall-mounted units to cassette and ducted types to suit any home theme and design.

COOL BEAUTY DESIGN

The exterior design harmonises beautifully with any decor and adds comfortable elegance to the room. The light, elegant and three-dimensional expression achieved by the curved surface is beautiful from any angle. You will be spoilt by the choices, from Silver Gray and Pearl White wall types to cassetted or ducted models which will fit into any decor.

ANTI-VIRUS FILTER

The optional anti-virus Silver ION filter can effectively minimise the growth of viruses by up to 99%. Bacteria and fungus are trapped on the filter

together with dust or droplets. The virus is tested based on JIS L1922 standard and virus type JIS R1706 (bacteriophage QB). Results show that the anti-virus material inside the filter inhibits the increase of viruses.

SMART CONTROL

The air-conditioner can be controlled remotely through your smartphone, thus facilitating more convenience and optimal energy-saving. If you forgot to turn off your air-conditioner after leaving the house or want to feel cool as soon as you arrive home, the optional Wi-Fi function makes this convenience possible.



Scan here to find
out more

FUJITSU

AIRSTAGE



*Rebecca Lim
Mediacorp Artist*

“Experience Beyond Expectations”



Sole Agent:

WINfinity

Winfinity (S'pore) Pte Ltd

19 Greenwich Drive, #03-00 Kerry Logistics Centre-Tampines, Singapore 534021
Tel: 6844 2220 Fax: 6844 2221 www.winfinity.com.sg

Slash your electricity bill

This high-performance insulation system saves energy and optimises your air-conditioner for more comfort.

Poor air-con insulation products result in condensation, which may affect insulation performance and increase energy consumption. The ArmaFlex® insulation system by Armacell comprises three products to enhance condensation control, reduce heat loss and conserve energy in our tropical climate.



THREE PRODUCTS, ONE SYSTEM

ArmaFlex Class 0 is a flexible, closed-cell insulation material, with built-in Microban® antimicrobial product protection to reduce mould and bacteria growth. It offers reliable condensation control, and is energy saving and easy to install.

ArmaFlex Shield CX features an insulating closed-cell structure with built-in PVC skin jacketing engineered for durability in our climate. Its tough skin is resistant to UV and humidity, plus it protects against thermal loss, thus saving energy, and provides an innate barrier against water ingress.

The third product in the system is ArmaFlex 520 adhesive, an air-drying contact adhesive that is excellent for joining seams and butt joints of ArmaFlex pipe insulation for line temperatures up to 105 deg C.



CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE CENTRE

Visit ArmaLive – ASEAN's first experience and application training centre by an insulation manufacturer like Armacell. The newly-opened 16,000 sq ft space houses a classroom and in-house application training facility as well as an interactive experience centre that showcases an extensive range of thermal and acoustic products. Four new product line-ups are also on display: ArmaPET®, a structural core material based on recycled PET bottles; ArmaComp™ engineered foams; ArmaFix® pipe and duct hangers; and ArmaProtect® passive fire protection range.



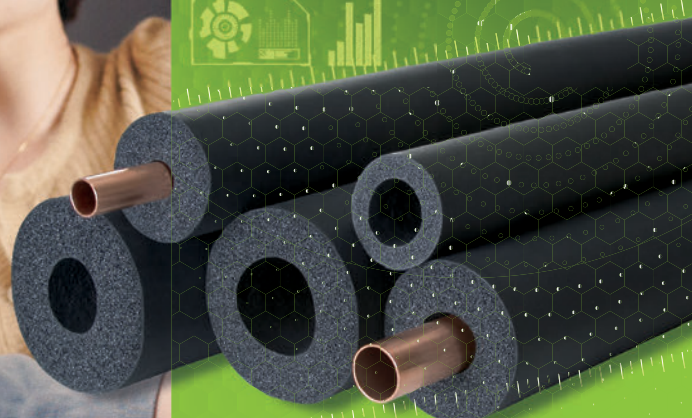
CAN WE CREATE AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT ENVIRONMENT AT HOME?

ABSOLUTELY.

Discover how ArmaFlex® insulation solutions help you save energy through reliable condensation control and thermal loss performance.



Visit
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PERFORMANCE BEYOND BETTER

 **armacell**®

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD



Photos: iStock

Sleep Well, Stay Healthy

The right mattress shouldn't leave you with a bad back or respiratory conditions. We ask experts for tips on choosing the most suitable one.

TEXT Sasha Gonzales

It's said that your mattress may be one of the most important investments you can make. Indeed, when you sleep well, you enjoy better mental health, feel more refreshed every morning, and wake up with a spring in your step. A good mattress is one that's comfortable to sleep on, even if you're a restless sleeper who tosses and turns often throughout the night; and if you have skin or respiratory allergies, the right mattress will not trigger flare-ups.

A good-quality mattress also won't worsen a back condition if you have one; instead, it will be kind to your neck and spine, preventing aches and pains.

"Your mattress should last 10 to 15 years," says Alec Liong, Product Development Head, Mattress, King Koil.

"And since we spend about a third of our lives in bed, you shouldn't settle for the lowest-cost option."

"Research shows that sleeping on a good-quality mattress can help us develop better sleep efficiency and increase the likelihood of deep sleep, which may in turn have a positive impact on our life," adds Janette Teh, a physiotherapist at Heal360 Physioclinic.

"To find the perfect mattress for your physique and needs, you should test the different ones out there, since everyone has different preferences."

Whatever your health concerns, here's how a well-chosen mattress can help. Plus, some tips on selecting the best mattress for yourself and your family.

How to choose a mattress if you have...



Photos: iStock

Problems with your spine

"Our spine is naturally curved and needs to be supported during the night, because all our muscles relax and lose tension when we sleep," says Janette.

"A non-supportive mattress causes our deep spinal muscles to work all night to support our spine, and this may result in body aches in the morning.

"A soft mattress can cause your spine to curve into a C shape at night, which stresses the back of the spinal disc, while a rock-hard mattress will not distribute your body's pressure evenly and may cause pain in parts of your body.

"Over the long term, sleeping on a poor-quality mattress may lead to chronic pain and muscle and joint stiffness."

Maintaining a proper posture while you sleep is therefore important, adds Christine Lim, Senior Marketing Executive at Maxcoil.

"If back pain is your main concern, you should invest in a supportive mattress like a hybrid mattress, which has the feel of a medium-firm mattress but is made from soft materials."

Mattress pick: The MaxCoil Botany Tencel Tenesea Mattress, with its hybrid foam layers, provides responsive support and a medium firm comfort feel. The Tencel and natural latex offer long-lasting softness and excellent breathability properties that help the body stay cool and comfortable, while the individual pocketed spring system promotes natural spine alignment with excellent relief for pressure points.

“Invest in a supportive mattress like a hybrid mattress, which has the feel of a medium-firm mattress but is made from soft materials.”

Recurring back or neck pain

If you suffer from chronic back or neck pain, your mattress should support your spine and not leave a gap between your spine and the mattress, especially in the lumbar and pelvic region, says Janette.

You should also choose a good pillow that supports your cervical spine. If the pain is disrupting your sleep, you may need to seek professional help from a physiotherapist before purchasing a mattress or pillows.

Mattress pick: King Koil is the only mattress manufacturer that is endorsed by the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) to help promote proper spinal alignment and a healthier night's sleep since 1967. Their Posture Sleep Super Mattress has a Specialised 5-Zone Spring System – the individual pocketed springs are pre-compressed to give more specific effect, greater resilience and better support for your back. Individually encased coils and independent coil action minimise disturbance, ensuring a peaceful night's rest.



Skin or respiratory allergies

When you have allergy symptoms, it's hard to fall and stay asleep, says Christine.

"Snoring may be caused by nasal congestion and an obstruction of airflow. Insomnia may result from general discomfort caused by allergy symptoms, and allergy sufferers are more likely to experience disturbed sleep.

"Hypoallergenic memory foam beds and latex mattresses are denser, thus leaving less room for bacteria to grow. But sometimes, the chemicals used for foam production may trigger asthma, and some people are allergic to latex. That's why it's important to read the fine print and find out what materials were used to produce the mattress before making your purchase."

Mattress pick: MaxCoil manufactures the foam used in its mattresses and thus can ensure low VOC (VOCs are a specific by-product of the synthetic foam manufacturing process), says Christine. On top of that, MaxCoil mattresses come with Swiss Sanitized® Antimicrobial Protection, which makes them Anti-Bacteria, Anti-Dustmite and Anti-Mould. The revolutionary Swiss Sanitized® Actifresh technology assures that the mattresses are refreshed, providing a hygienic sleep environment that is clean and safe.

Photos: iStock



Trouble sleeping

A supportive mattress is essential for restless sleepers, says Christine.

"On beds of various firmness levels, your comfort will also be affected by the position you typically sleep in. Mattresses with a softer feel are preferred by side sleepers, while back and stomach sleepers may prefer something firmer. Of course, not everyone has these exact preferences, but it's a good place to start when considering getting a new mattress."

"When testing mattresses, your body should feel aligned and balanced," says Bobby Li, Product Development Executive, Mattress, King Koil. "There must be no stress on your spine or other parts of your body."

Mattress pick: For a comfortable night's sleep, try the King Koil Grand Elegance Super Lifestyle mattress, which is handcrafted with the finest natural fillings of cashmere, cotton and silk. The deep box top offers a luxuriously plush and comfortable sleep experience while the 4,000 pocket springs in the mattress and base combined help support your body.

To check out the full range of mattresses available, scan here



ICE Sleep reICE

Sleep In Cool Comfort



FREE

•EXCLUSIVELY•
at gain city

- 2 x Ice Sleep Pillow Protector* worth up to \$258
- 2 x Pillow*
- 1 x Assorted Fitted Bedsheet Set
- 1 x Mattress Protector

*Free gifts quantities are based on Queen/King size mattress. Terms & conditions apply. While stocks last.

Cool slumber

Get better sleep with a mattress that regulates your skin temperature for a comfortable sleep environment.

If our hot and humid weather keeps you up all night, the MaxCoil ICE Sleep ReICE can help you enjoy a more restful sleep. This 14.5" euro pillow top mattress is also perfect for people who prefer a soft mattress but do not want to compromise on back support.

UNIQUE FABRIC AND FOAM COMBINATION

The mattress boasts a unique fabric technology that wicks away moisture and promotes heat dissipation, ensuring that the surrounding sleep temperature is kept cool and ideal for deeper, quality rest throughout the night.

It also comes with Swiss Sanitized® Antimicrobial Treatment for extra hygiene protection. The top comfort layer comprises premium Belgium natural latex foam that offers gentle contouring and cushioning support, promoting natural spinal alignment and relieving tension from the joints and lower back.

Need extra support? The high-density, medium-soft convoluted foam provides pressure relief, especially for the neck, shoulders and hips.

FOR SIDE AND BACK SLEEPERS

If you sleep on your back and side, you'll be pleased to know that the



individual barrel pocketed spring system prevents motion transfer, with a high-tensile edge guard for enhanced stability and to reduce the likelihood of falling over.



Scan here to find out more

Which home style are you vibing?

Scandi, Japanese or vintage boho – you can't go wrong with these when deciding on a décor theme for your home.

TEXT Leslie Ong

If you're a first-time homebuyer, you're probably excited about decorating your home and putting your own unique spin on it. But with so many types of furniture, ornaments and accessories to choose from, it can be tough deciding on a style that looks good and is easy to achieve yet functional. These three interior design options check all those boxes, and more.





Get the look:

- Display modern art in vintage picture frames, which you can source online or at thrift stores. A vintage mirror looks equally stunning.
- Give your bedroom or living room an eclectic touch with one or two pieces of antique or mid-century modern furniture, like an armchair, love-seat or bench.
- Enhance your space with vintage-style fittings – think copper cabinet pulls and bronze door handles.
- Antique lighting is a great way to make your home look vintage-inspired. If a decorative iron chandelier

Vintage-Boho

This style is all about making the old, new again. Vintage elements include plush fabrics like velvet and corduroy, handwoven throws, antique lighting, one-of-a-kind heirlooms, and furniture and accessories that look a little worn but are still well-loved. A vintage-inspired home needn't look like something out of the past; bring yours up to date by upcycling old items or modernising the space with a few key contemporary pieces.



is too much for you, go for a retro standing lamp or pendant lights in burnished bronze or beaten metal.

- Create open shelves on which to display vintage knick-knacks, mementoes and collectibles, like a small antique clock or old black-and-white photos.
- For an organic vintage look, opt for neutral colours like cream, moss green, clay and grey. Or, go loud and bright with colourful florals, pastels and jewelled tones.

Scandi Style

This design movement emphasises simplicity, minimalism, functionality, openness and calm. It first gained popularity in the 1950s, particularly in the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland but has found a renaissance among millennial and Gen-Z homeowners. Light and space are key when it comes to Scandi style. Rooms are clean, neat and organised, and there is no over-decorating. The final result is nothing short of beautiful and elegant, with just a few cosy and natural touches.



Get the look:

- * Bring nature in by placing potted plants and fresh flowers throughout your home. For an artistic statement, try a sculptural flower arrangement.
- Open the windows to let natural light in and to keep the rooms bright and sunny. Use voile or sheer curtains rather than blackout ones, or avoid using curtains altogether.
- Layering adds cosiness and warmth. In your bedroom, use a combination of sheets, blankets and pillows, and in your living room, use throws, floor rugs and cushions. Try a mix of textures and fabrics, too, like leather, linen, wool and cotton.
- * Don't be afraid to play with colour. While Scandi style is associated with neutral and earth tones, it's perfectly fine to include pops of colour. Try an area rug in a rich hue like royal blue, a colourful wall hanging, or flowers in various bright shades.
- Untreated light wood like pine, beech and oak feature prominently in Scandi style homes. Light wood furniture, flooring and ornaments are all good investment options.
- Purchase furniture with smooth and rounded, rather than hard or sharp, edges.

Japanese Minimalism

Inspired by the aesthetic of Zen Buddhism (a dominant form of Buddhism in Japan), Japanese minimalism is best described as “pure”, “clean” and “uncluttered”. Instead of materialism, the style focuses on paring things down to just the essentials. Less is definitely more, so don’t feel like you need to fill every room in your house.



Get the look:

- Make an effort to declutter. Get rid of items you don’t need or want and store or hide away the rest, in chic storage boxes, cabinets and closets.
- Maintain serenity in your living and sleeping spaces. This means sticking to soft, neutral colours like white, cream, light grey, black and wood tones. These shades have a soothing effect while at the same time giving your rooms an open and airy feel.
- Include natural products such as a bonsai plant, a rock garden or even a tranquil bamboo water fountain. For wooden furnishings, raw wood works best for that organic touch.
- Being close to the ground and connected to the earth is central to Japanese minimalism, so remember to choose sofas, beds, coffee tables, and other pieces of furniture that are close to the floor.
- Use wood sliding screens where you can. These save space as they move from side to side, compared to doors that swing back and forth. Choose screens made with translucent rice paper (as is done traditionally) to allow more natural light into your home.
- Add interest to your home with sculptural lighting, made from light wood and washi paper. Look for pieces inspired by the lantern-like Akari lamps by Japanese designer Isamu Noguchi.

Integrated & Intelligent Laundry Solution

Designed to enhance user convenience, the LG WashTower™ is a sleek and vertical laundry solution that combines both washer and dryer into an integrated unit with a strategically placed center control panel.

LG WashTower™



*For illustration purpose only.

LG Objet Collection WashTower™

This sleek washer and dryer unit reduces laundry time while caring for your clothes.

Featuring a modern colour palette of nature green and white, the LG WashTower™ is the newest laundry solution that offers advanced cleaning performance.

ONE STREAMLINED, INTEGRATED UNIT

The vertical unit combines a 21kg AI Direct Drive™ Washer and 16kg HeatPump™ Dryer in a single vertical unit. With a strategically placed central control panel, you can access both the washer and dryer controls conveniently. In addition, the lowered stacking height*

makes loading and unloading your laundry convenient.

BUILT-IN INTELLIGENCE FOR THE ULTIMATE CLEAN

The Smart Pairing function automatically sets the optimal drying course based on the washing cycle and the dryer is preheated to reduce laundry time.

Incorporating LG's advanced laundry technology, the WashTower™ delivers 18% more fabric care with AI Direct Drive™ by leveraging on over 20,000 big data to derive the optimal wash pattern. If you're short on time,

TurboWash™ helps to thoroughly clean your clothes in just 39 minutes.

PERFECTLY DRY CLOTHES

Reduce shrinkage and care for delicate clothing with the low-temperature Heat Pump technology.

The WashTower™ also has moisture and temperature sensors which automatically detect the moisture level to set optimal drying time.



Scan here to find out more

*Compared to individually stacked washing machine and dryer of similar capacity.



Flex your curves

The LG OLED Flex's remarkable display can transform an utterly flat screen into a dramatically curved one. Equipped with LG's OLED evo technology and a suite of advanced gaming features, the OLED Flex delivers next-level gaming immersion with first-class visuals and blazing-fast response time.

Visit www.lg.com/sg for more information.



LG OLED Flex

Curves ahead

This bendable 42-inch OLED TV takes your viewing and gaming experiences to greater heights.

The new LG OLED Flex will enhance your viewing and gaming experience like never before.

LATEST OLED TECHNOLOGY

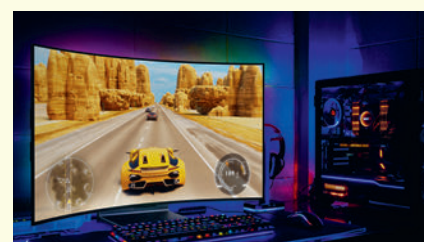
The TV boasts state-of-the-art backlight-free, self-lit OLED technology to deliver hyper-realistic game graphics and exceptional picture quality and performance. Couple that with a swift 0.1 millisecond response time and low input lag that allows you to be fully immersed in your gaming experience.

The screen is also kind to your eyes, reducing eye strain and providing

visual comfort, even if you spend extended hours in front of it. The super anti-reflection quality also means fewer visual distractions.

FLEXIBLE DISPLAY

The display can transform an utterly flat screen into a dramatically curved one, allowing you to customise your perfect arc using the remote control. Easily adjust the curvature to one of the two pre-sets



available or manually change the degree of flexure in five percent increments over 20 different levels.

The LG OLED Flex is not just for gaming, as it lets you easily switch between TV and PC or console.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY FEATURES

The height-adjustable stand can be moved up or down by 140 millimetres, tilted up to a 10-degree angle or moved to a maximum of 5 degrees away from you, guaranteeing optimal ergonomic comfort.

The customisable gaming UX lets you adjust settings quickly and easily.



Scan here to find out more

5 tips for the perfect tween's or teen's room

Whether you're creating a bedroom or a study for your older kids, make it cosy and relaxing so they'll want to spend more time there.

TEXT Andrew Y

Kids love having a space of their own, where they can play, read, study, spend time with friends, or just relax. When your tween (10-12 years old) or teen (13-19) has a bedroom or study that they feel good in, they'll feel more compelled to spend more time at home.

But how exactly do you create a fun yet serene hangout for Junior? We asked two interior design experts – Samantha Johnson from Hey Montgomery, which specialises in interior design for children's spaces, and Theodora Martinou from Irregular Lines – for their tips and tricks to putting together a sanctuary that your kids will be reluctant to leave.



1 Be open-minded when choosing colours

When deciding what colours to use in the room, let your child lead the way and create a colour palette from this to use in the new space, says Samantha.

"Neutral colours and pastel tones create a calmer setting, but I wouldn't say no to bolder, brighter colours throughout the room if your kid loves them. I suggest selecting three colours to work with. The primary one on the wall can be a muted neutral, such as white, cream or a similar tone. Complement this with two other colours your tween or teen loves.

"These two colours, whether they are soft or bold, can be introduced in the form of paint on one of the walls and décor and accessories like decals, cushions, bedlinen, picture frames, rugs, and so on."

Samantha adds that you don't need to use these two colours liberally everywhere; just subtle touches will do. For example, if your kid likes pastel green and pink, buy a pink fitted bedsheet and place pink and green scatter cushions on the bed.

If Junior can't decide what colours to use in the room, Theodora says that blues, purples and greens are considered calming, while reds, oranges and yellows are more energising. It's good to find a balance between the two groups.



2 Zone the space

If the room is fairly spacious, Samantha recommends "zoning" the room into Sleep, Play and Creative areas.

"Their Sleep zone can have a forward-facing bookshelf next to the bed so that your child can easily access their books. Remember to add a reading light by their bedside.

"The Play zone is where they can stash their toys and games. Store them neatly in boxes and label the boxes so your child knows what's in them.

"The Creative zone may be a good place to put a

small table, where your child can draw, write, paint and so on. Hang some jute string up on the wall and add a few hooks and wooden pegs so that Junior can display his or her 'masterpieces'."

If the room isn't big enough for separate zones, you can just create a Hobby Corner, says Theodora. In this space, your child can play video games or a musical instrument, watch a movie, exercise, or just disconnect from everyone. Add bean bags, soft rugs and colourful LED tape lights for extra colour and fun.

3 Create a defined study area

If your tween or teen usually studies in their bedroom, why not create a little study space where they can concentrate better?

To define it and keep it looking separate from the rest of the bedroom, Samantha suggests painting it a completely different colour (or just using wallpaper).

If the room is very small, opt for a fold-down desk instead. Above the desk, hang a simple pegboard, a couple of shelves for books and paper, and pots for stationery. Add an inspirational quote in a frame and you're all set.

4 Hide the clutter away

"Storing items in closed cabinets is key to making your kid's room look clean and tidy," says Theodora.

"Choose a desk with small drawers in which your child can store their stationery after doing their homework, and include a small bookshelf for their books, laptop and school bag."

Samantha recommends keeping storage boxes and bins neutral-coloured, so that the room doesn't look too "busy".

"And be sure to utilise wall space," she adds.

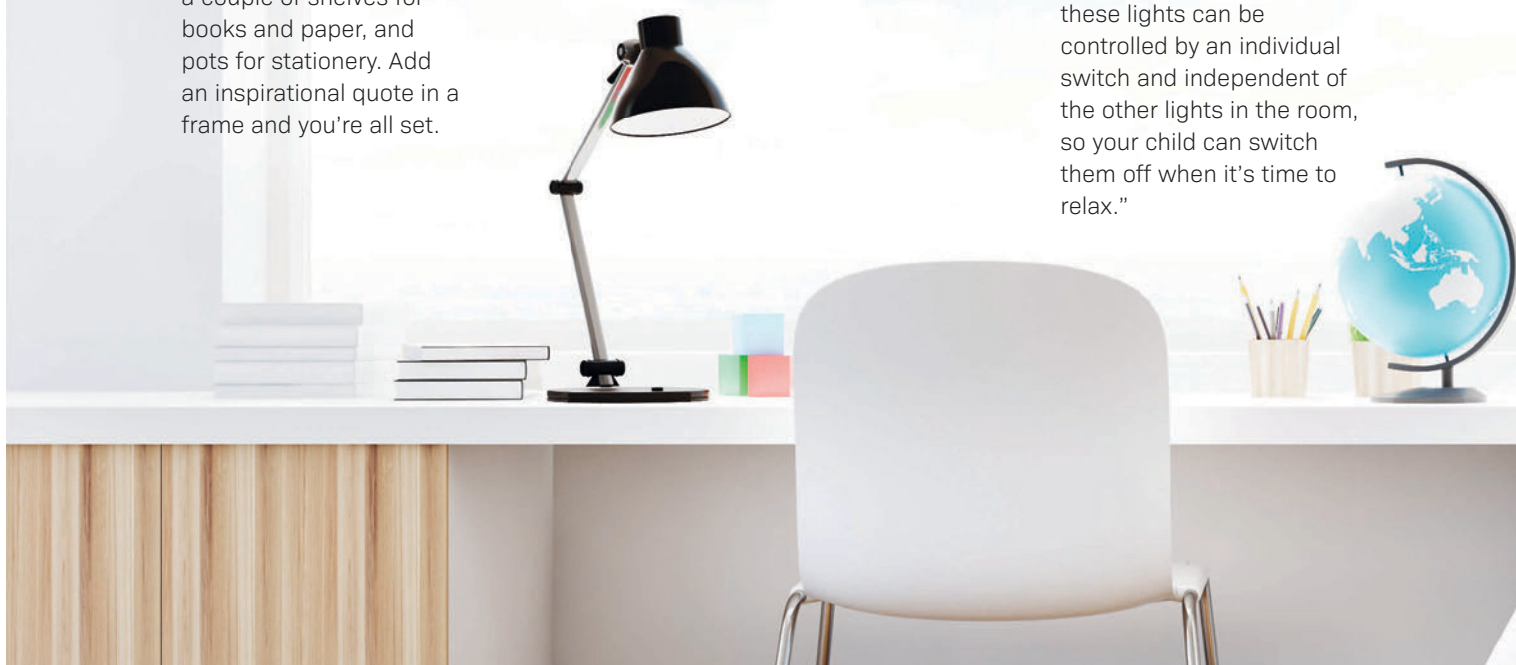
"In many kids' rooms, you'll see storage boxes and bins lined up on one side of the floor, but parents forget that they can install open shelves on the walls and place the boxes and bins on the shelves, too."



5 Think about lighting

"If your child has a separate study room, install an LED downlight or a desk light in cool white, which will help them stay focused," Theodora offers.

"If the study area is part of your child's bedroom, these lights can be controlled by an individual switch and independent of the other lights in the room, so your child can switch them off when it's time to relax."





comfortable beds loved
around the world



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America



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Waking up refreshed

Get quality, undisturbed sleep
with King Koil mattresses.



The average person spends almost 33 years of their life resting in a bed. That's why we believe that sleep is time that should be well spent. It's a personal space to think and dream, to relax and recharge.

As the only brand endorsed by the International Chiropractor's Association, our signature 5-zone individual pocketed barrel spring offers optimal lumbar support and ensure quality, undisturbed sleep. Our Excellent Edge™ Foam Encasement also provides a firm seating edge and ensures sleeping surface is maximised.

UPHOLSTERED WITH THE FINEST MATERIALS

King Koil mattresses are filled with luxurious comfort layers of Made

in Korea Micro-Gel™, 100% Natural Latex and Deep Visco Memory Foam. We upholster our mattresses only in the finest European designed mattress covers – each treated with Ultra Fresh to inhibit the growth of bacteria, mildew, mould and dust mites. This ensures that the mattress cover remains hygienic throughout its lifespan.

That's why we are the preferred brand of global hoteliers, service residences and educational institutions.

All King Koil mattresses are made to order in Singapore just before delivery.



Scan here to find
out more



AN ICON REPRESENTING AN ICONIC BRAND

Hollywood actor and director Brad Pitt is De' Longhi's latest ambassador and the face of its new global campaign. Bold and international but at the same time sophisticated and elegant, he is the quintessential embodiment of the De' Longhi spirit.

FOR THE PERFECT BREW

The Dinamica Plus is one of De' Longhi's best-selling automatic coffee machines. A must-have for any modern kitchen, it has a built-in grinder with 13 grind settings in order to create the perfect powder and the best aroma extraction.

The machine makes coffee and milk-based beverages with one touch, brews two espresso cups at



Flavour to savour

Elevate your daily coffee drinking experience with this state-of-the-art machine.



The De' Longhi Group is a world leader in small domestic appliances associated with the world of coffee, the kitchen, air-conditioning and home care.

Coffee machines currently represent the heart of the brand – in fact, De' Longhi is the No.1 brand in Espresso Coffee Makers, Coffee Makers (Filter + Espresso), Fully Automatic Coffee Makers, and Pump Traditional Coffee Makers. With their technology, design, and the option to customise beverages, the machines create unique coffee experiences to meet the diverse needs of coffee lovers around the world.



once, and includes the automatic LatteCrema System which whips up creamy, dense, long-lasting milk foam at the perfect temperature. You can also create and customise your own recipes (choose from 12) using the Coffee Link app.

The Dinamica Plus boasts a handsome titanium finish and features an attractive 3.5-inch full-touch display.



Scan here to find out more

In living colour

DIY painting your new home may not be as challenging as you think.

GET SMART



Photos: iStock

Smart home Appliances

The advent of AI (Artificial Intelligence) has dramatically elevated today's lifestyles.

TEXT Sean Yee

From self-operating robotic vacuums to refrigerators with voice assistants, technology has allowed us to reach unprecedented levels of convenience in an era of information wealth, catering to an ever-growing array of lifestyles.

For the absolute Smart Home, we have gathered a list of highly touted home appliances which have successfully integrated AI into the functionalities of urban home living.



Washing Machines

Toshiba T20 (TWD-BL160D4S) – Dual-Drum Washing Machine

Toshiba's T20 Dual-Drum Washing Machine is reinforced with Toshiba's hallmarked SenseDose™ function – a highly automated sensor that determines the optimal amount of detergent for your wash load. This allows for an efficient washing performance with almost zero waste!

It also comes with an upgraded drum capacity and alternate washing options to customise the wash for a particular age group which spans from infancy to adolescence.



LG's AI-powered WashTower Washer & Dryer

Modern washing machines are typically decked with a multitude of washing options designed for specific loads and garment types. This may prove to be rather complicated for even the most astute of users as it can be difficult to decide on the best option.

LG's Objet Collection WashTower™ removes this ambiguity in decision-making with contemporary AI technologies. Its responsive in-built sensor automatically detects the most effective washing pattern based on your current wash load, simplifying and streamlining the entire process once you press Start, including the drying process.

Refrigerators

Samsung Family Hub (RS62T5F04B4/SS)

Have you ever wondered how it would look like if a smart tablet and a refrigerator were to work together? You'd find yourself in the face of Samsung's cleverest creation yet – the Samsung Family Hub. In addition to the cooling and storing capabilities of a conventional fridge, it comes with a fully-fledged virtual platform which you access via

its 21.5-inch touchscreen. It contains one of the most extensive lists of utilities – from weather forecasts, a calendar you can sync to Google or Microsoft 365, a memo app which is highly customisable, to Spotify and more. If that isn't enough, it even comes with its own intelligent voice assistant which helps regulate and personalise your fridge's operations by learning your preferences, eating habits and routines.



Bosch 8 French Door Bottom Freezer (KFN96PX91I)

Integrated with a fully automated freezing function, this fridge has built-in sensors capable of studying and tracking both its internal and external environment. With this information, the sensors would perceptively adjust their temperatures to ensure the most optimal cooling conditions for your storage needs. In addition, it comes with a generous amount of space to accommodate large frozen produce.





Air Purifier

LG PuriCare AeroTower Air Purifier

Simply intuitive, highly adaptable, and thoroughly effective, this purifier is arguably one of the best variants you can possibly find in its class. Its ever-active filter guard is complemented with LG's signature UVnano™ technology to eliminate environmental bacteria and allergens. This is further reinforced with an in-built detector which informs you of your air quality via an LCD display as it monitors for airborne contaminants.



ASUS

ASUS Zenbook
14 OLED

Scan here to find out more

YOGA

Make Your Move
Yoga Slim 7i Carbon

Lenovo

Color may vary across markets.

Windows 11

Make the everyday easier with Windows 11

Scan here to find out more

LG
Life's Good

LG gram 17

Scan here to find out more

Microsoft Surface

Surface Pro 9

Scan here to find out more



Prevent up to 99% bacteria growth for the utmost hygiene care



6hrs Protection
after Drying Ends

Non-FreshCare⁺



Bacteria Presence

FreshCare⁺ Technology



Prevent up to 99%* bacteria growth



Alleviates 99.9% of all major allergens

Awarded the Allergy UK seal of approval, FreshCare⁺ is proven to alleviate 99.9% of major allergens including dust mites, pollen and pet dander.

*Tested against Whirlpool model without FreshCare⁺ option conducted by independent institute. Not compatible with: programs designed for delicate garments and duvets (FreshCare⁺ washers), delicate garments, extra dry and cupboard dry drying levels (FreshCare⁺ dryers).



FREE
Stacking Kit
KCL103
(worth \$110)

FreshCare⁺ HSCX90421
9kg Heat Pump Dryer

*Terms and Conditions apply. Gift with Purchase in single invoice receipt. (1) Free Gift is subject to availability / While stocks last. (2) Whirlpool reserves the right at its absolute discretion to substitute the Free Gift with that of similar value, at any time without prior notice. (3) The values of the Free Gifts are correct at the time of printing.

Whirlpool

Focus on what matters

Let Whirlpool FreshCare Heat Pump Dryer take care of your laundry needs for you.

Whirlpool, which has the No. 1 spot in the world's dryer market share, introduces the Freshcare Heat Pump Dryer, which embodies a mix of practicality and eye-catching aesthetic. Its intuitive and easy-to-use interface with large and functional display simplifies your interaction and delivers a pleasant washing experience.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND PRECISION DRYING

Thanks to Whirlpool's 6th Sense technology, the dryer is able to recognise the amount of laundry, and set the right drying time accordingly to ensure great drying performance together with maximum energy saving and care for your garments. With innovative features, the wool cycle has been specially designed to gently dry and protect the beauty of your finest wool clothing. The inverter motor, which calibrates the drum

movements, minimises fibre chafing and felting. The dryer has a filter that's easy to remove and clean, making it easy to maintain.

100% FRESHNESS UP TO 6HRS IN DRYER

Forgot or unable to unload your clothes while busy with your daily activities? Freshcare+ technology uses intelligent temperature control and delicate tumbling actions to prevent up to 99% of bacterial growth with bursts of steam for up to six hours to achieve 100% freshness, while reducing the formation of creases and odours.



HSCX90421



Scan here to find out more

GET
SMART



Photos: iStock

8 DIY painting tips

Everyone will think you hired a professional to do it.

TEXT Andrew Y

Painting your home can be costly. And, if you're in a hurry to get the job done, it's not always easy finding a professional painter who's available, not to mention reliable.

So why not DIY? Whether you're painting one wall or several, it will save you money and is something the whole family can enjoy together.

1

Protect everything you don't want painted

Avoid damage to your floor, carpets and furniture and contain messy drips and spills with canvas drop cloths or plastic sheets. Rosin paper is good for hard, vinyl and tiled floors. If you can't move your furniture to another part of the house, wrap them with plastic and tape them securely. Turn upholstered dining chairs and armchairs upside-down first, too, if possible.

2

Start with a clean surface

Clean dirty, grimy, oily walls thoroughly, otherwise the paint will not form a strong bond with the surface and may end up peeling or chipping. Use a lint-free cloth or abrasive pad and a special pre-paint cleaner for the best results (remember to protect your eyes and hands when working with the cleaning product).

3

Seal cracks and holes

Fill in nail holes, chips, dents, cracks and sealing joints with sealant and let these spots dry before sanding and painting the surface. There are many sealants available depending on your requirements – painters' caulk, which is cheap and good for indoor projects; silicone; putty; rubber; and spray foam.

4

Use quality materials and tools

For a professional finish, make sure you purchase the best quality brushes, rollers and paint that you can afford. Inferior tools and materials may leave you with unattractive, blotchy and streaky walls.

5

Wait for dry weather

Try not to paint when it's raining outside or when humidity levels are high, as this makes it difficult for paint to dry and bond properly. To speed up drying time, open the windows and doors or turn on the fan or air-conditioning to keep the indoor environment dry and increase airflow throughout your home.



Photos: iStock

6

Paint in good light

Natural sunlight is best when you're painting your ceilings and walls, as it provides the most accurate colour rendering. With proper lighting, you can also tell how many coats you'll need to get the effect you want and you're more likely to get a smoother, more consistent finish.

7

Work from top to bottom and paint from big to small

To prevent drips and splatters from ruining a fresh paint job, move your brush or roller from the top of the wall and work your way down. Similarly, paint large areas first, like ceilings and walls, before doing smaller areas like doors and trim.

8

Cut the tape before pulling it

Don't just pull the painter's tape off after the paint has dried – use a sharp box cutter knife to slice through the film of paint that would have likely formed between the tape and the wall (make sure the paint is completely dry when you do this). Then, pull the tape up at a 45-degree angle for a mess-free result.

Photos: iStock



To check out
our painting
service,
scan here



Make it a family project: How to get everyone involved

- **Choose paint colours together:** Look at colour swatches and get inspiration from magazines and brochures. Get the kids to choose colours for their bedroom, but guide them towards shades that work well with the overall furniture and décor theme.
- **Divide up the roles:** Depending on the size of your family, you can put one person in charge of mixing and stirring the paint, another to cover the floor and furniture with canvas cloths, another to paint the large walls, and so on.
- **Let the kids get creative:** Give each child a “feature wall” in their room on which to paint their favourite cartoon characters, animals, shapes and patterns.
- **Assign someone to check on everyone’s work:** Get one of the older kids to inspect the walls as they’re being painted, to make sure there are no streaks or blotches and that the paint looks smooth and consistent.
- **Keep an eye out for spills and drips:** It should be everyone’s responsibility to clean up splatters and spills as they occur. Have rags, turpentine, gloves and protective eyewear on hand for a safe and easy clean-up.
- **Tidy up when finished:** When the painting is over, everyone should do their part to clean the brushes and rollers, put away any leftover paint, and help move the furniture back into place.

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Candy products have an Italian sensibility that you can feel in the products’ design, their attention to detail and brand attitude towards home living and lifestyle in general.

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*According to internal tests, when compared to programmes without SpeedPerfect+, excluding pre-rinse and express settings. Picture for illustration purposes.

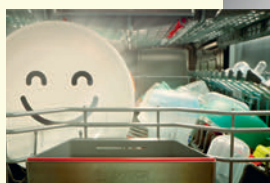
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completely dry? This dishwasher
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8 TIPS to declutter your home

With the pandemic came more acquisitions, as those of us working from home found we needed more stuff to work more efficiently. On the flip side, keeping your space free of distractions is key to a calmer, more organised life. Here's how to do it.

TEXT Sasha Gonzales

A clean and organised home not only looks good; being in it can help you feel less anxious and stressed, and may even boost your productivity and creativity. Plus, it's easier to clean, saves you from having to frantically search for items, and gives you the feeling of being more in control over your space and possessions.

Decluttering is the first step to getting your home neat, clean and in order. The task can feel daunting, particularly if you have a lot to sort and clear out. We asked three professional home organisers for tips to make it easier and more manageable.

1

Enlist a support buddy

"Finding someone who'll go through the process with you makes the task more enjoyable," says Rae Zhang, Certified Organisational Specialist and Co-founder of Orderly. "Put on some music, chat to each other while working, and look through old mementos together. Decluttering together is also a good chance to bond."

2

Be focused

Start with a space or a room, says Vanessa Yip, Certified Organisational Specialist and Co-founder of Orderly. This will help you stay focused. Choose a room that you spend the most time in, but if you can't decide which one to start with, she recommends going for your bedroom, since that should be the most comfortable and restful space in the house. Once you've decluttered one room, you'll be more motivated to do the others.

“Put on some music, chat to each other while working, and look through old mementos together. Decluttering together is also a good chance to bond.”

3

Tidy up by category or sub-category

“I declutter and organise homes using Marie Kondo’s KonMari method,” says Martini Constance, Certified KonMari home organising consultant and Founder of Minimize with Joy.

“Tidying up by category is a good starting point, especially if you don’t know how or where to start. Start with clothes, followed by books, papers, komono (miscellaneous items), and lastly, sentimental items. Taking a photo before you begin and right after you declutter will give you a sense of achievement and encourage you to keep going.”

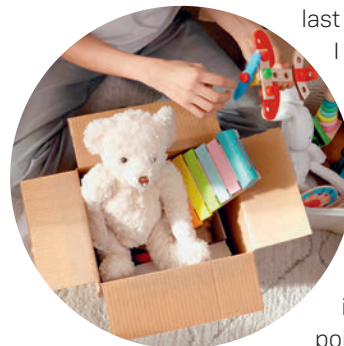
You can also break these categories up into smaller sub-categories. So, within the clothes category, for instance, you may have outdoor wear, sportswear, pyjamas, shorts, pants, shirts, and so on. After you’ve completed one sub-category, you can move on to the next.



4

Set realistic decluttering goals

Decluttering can be mentally and physically overwhelming, which is why it’s important to set realistic goals, says Rae. Even if you only managed to work on one drawer all day, think of it as a job well done.



5

Ask yourself these questions

When deciding what to get rid of, Vanessa says to consider these questions:

“Have I used it within the last 12 months?”; “Do I still like it?”; and “Would I buy it again?”.

“If the answer to all three questions is No, the item is unlikely to serve its purpose at this point in your life.

Donate it to charity or give it to someone who needs it more. But if you answered Yes to at least one question, keep the item and look at it again in a year.”



Photos: iStock

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6

Try to “let go”

It can be hard parting with items, especially sentimental ones. Martini suggests saying “Thanks” to it before you let it go.

“The item has served its purpose for you, and if it’s still in good condition, donate it or give it away. You’ll feel better knowing that it will continue to serve its purpose for others.

“Most of the time, we find it hard to let go of things because of an attachment to the past and/or a fear of the future – for example, keeping things ‘just in case’. You need to constantly remind yourself that you live in the present.”

Donate or sell what you no longer want or need

List unwanted items on platforms like Olio and Carousell. Rae says that these apps are free to use and buyers can pick up the items from your home or a location of your choice.

Alternatively, look for Facebook groups with active users who are keen to buy pre-loved items (Tip: type keywords like “SG give away” or “Free your stuff Singapore” to find such groups).

“You can also donate items that are still in good condition,” Rae adds.

“Some organisations collect used spectacles and even bras. Simply do a quick online search and take note of the types of items these organisations accept.”

If space allows, you can even consolidate items you want to give away and invite your friends and family to “shop” or take what they need from the pile.

8

Prevent your space from getting cluttered again

Give every item a “home”, Martini suggests. This way, you’ll know where to look when you need it and where to put it when you’re done using it.

“However, as simple as this sounds, some people find it hard returning things to their dedicated storage space. If this sounds like you, get into the habit of returning items to their respective homes and remind yourself that it’s easy to keep your home clutter-free.”

Rae adds that investing in bins, baskets, stackable drawers and other storage solutions can also keep your space tidy and organised.



Photos: iStock

HOMEINSIDER

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Baking with precision

Baker
extraordinaire
Susanne Ng
gives chiffon
cakes a lovable
twist.

The Heart of Their Home

Take a peek inside these stylish celebrity kitchens.

TEXT Su-Ying Chen

The kitchen is usually where all the action in the home takes place. It's where the day begins, meals are prepared and families gather and bond. Celebrities' kitchens are no different, just much more glamorous and instagrammable.

76



Photos: @joannepeh



Joanne Peh and Qi Yuwu

She played a dim sum chef in the Channel 8 drama *Heart to Heart*, and he learned how to cook both Cantonese and Western cuisine, so it's only fitting for the local entertainment industry's power couple to have a high-tech kitchen. Although it's comprised almost entirely of stainless steel, the professional-style kitchen still has a cosy feel to it. In a 2021 interview with *The Business Times*, Yuwu said: "I chose (the stainless steel appliances) because of their advanced technology and attention to detail... I remembered the kitchen scene in the movie *Mr & Mrs Smith*, and I really wanted the same look for my kitchen, so this was a dream come true."



Photos: @thedesmondian

**Desmond Tan**

One of Singapore's most popular actors keeps his kitchen simple – in fuss-free black and white. The marble countertop makes the space look larger than it really is, while the partition, made of metal and glass, gives the kitchen an edgy, industrial feel. The plants, flowers and overhanging green pendant lights help to break up the monochromatic colour scheme.



Photos: @vogue living

**Adam Levine and Behati Prinsloo**

The Maroon 5 frontman and his model-wife are living the luxurious life, and you can tell from peeking into their designer kitchen. Decked out in neutral earth tones and featuring natural materials like wood and marble, this ultra-glam space in their Los Angeles home boasts high-end appliances ranging from an integrated refrigerator to state-of-the-art dishwasher and oven. Their decorative accessories are equally chic – think Thomas Hayes Studio counter stools and Bruno Munari pendant lights.



Photos: @gwynethpaltrow

Gwyneth Paltrow

The actress and founder of the lifestyle brand Goop calls her kitchen the focal point of her home. The space features a high-end range, white cabinetry, a marble backsplash and countertops, and black hexagon tiles, which are trending right now. Also in her kitchen: a sleek coffee machine, packed bookshelves, a cosy table, and display cabinets and shelves that show off her tableware.



Master David Goh's home-office fengshui tips

Follow these 10 expert tips for success in your work or business in 2023.

TEXT Melanie Wong

With many of us still working from home, it's crucial to know how to create a home-office that enhances our energy and mood, inspires creativity, maximises productivity, keeps us feeling calm, and makes it conducive for us to get work done.

Fengshui can help you create a more balanced and harmonious workspace.

Sharing his fengshui tips with us is Master David Goh from Imperial Harvest (www.imperialharvest.com).

Master David is considered a leading authority in Imperial fengshui – an exclusive lineage of fengshui practised by the Chinese royal family. He is himself a third-generation Imperial fengshui master.



Photo: David Goh

Choose the right location

According to fengshui, the best location for a home-office may be determined using your personal Kua number. This number is calculated based on your year, month, date and time of birth and the San Yuan Xuan Kong flying star chart of the house.

Invest in the “best” desk

Master David says to avoid buying a desk that has sharp or angular corners, as these are thought to be “poison arrows” that create negative energy. A desk with rounded corners is generally considered to be more auspicious and harmonious.

“Second, choose a size

“Natural light is thought to be ‘nourishing and energising’ and can help create a positive and uplifting atmosphere.”

that’s appropriate for your needs and suits your space. A desk that’s too small may feel cramped and cluttered, while a desk that’s too large may feel overwhelming.

“Additionally, consider the materials and colour of the desk. Different materials and colours can have different effects on your energy. For example, a wooden desk is thought to be grounding and ‘nourishing’, while a metal desk is thought to be more energising.”

You should also consider other factors, such as the style and aesthetic value of the desk, and whether or not it meets your functional needs.

Position your desk in the “command position”

This is considered the most powerful position in a room, says Master David. To achieve this position, sit with your back against a solid wall and face the door. This lets you see who’s coming and going and allows you to feel more in control of your environment.

Add other furniture for luck and success

Besides a desk, think about other items that can help enhance your home-office.

A chair that is adjustable and offers good lumbar support helps you feel comfortable. You can also purchase an appropriately sized bookshelf, filing cabinet and/or storage unit to help you organise your paperwork and keep clutter at bay.

“A small table or sideboard may be useful for setting down a drink or snack, or for keeping office supplies and other small items organised,” Master David adds.

“Choose a piece that is the right size for your needs and fits well in the space.”

Use good lighting

Natural light is thought to be “nourishing and energising” and can help create a positive and uplifting atmosphere, says Master David.

“Try to position your desk near a window, if possible. If you don’t have access to natural light, use a combination of task lighting, such as a desk lamp, and ambient lighting, such as a floor lamp, to create a balanced and harmonious space.”

If these have adjustable intensity settings, you can adjust the brightness to your needs. Light-coloured window treatments, skylights and/or solar tubes can also help bring in as much natural light as possible. Master David suggests keeping the windows clean and free of obstructions.



Photos: David Goh

Incorporate plants and other “natural” elements

Adding plants to your home-office helps to purify the air and bring nature into your workspace. Avoid cacti or succulents, as these are believed to have “sharp, yang energy” that can be disruptive. Instead, Master David recommends choosing “softer, rounder plants with smooth leaves” that are easy to care for and can thrive in your home-office.



Add extra style with artwork

Artwork can serve as a source of inspiration and motivation.

“Surrounding yourself with artwork that you find inspiring or meaningful can help to spark creativity and drive as well as create a positive and energising atmosphere,” Master David says.

“The choice of artwork depends on your own preferences and the energy you hope to cultivate in your home-office.”



Photos: David Goh

Use calming colours

Choose calming, neutral colours to create a sense of tranquillity. Soft shades of blue, green and beige are all good choices. Avoid bright, bold colours, as these can be too stimulating, Master David points out.

Different colours can have different effects on your energy and mood. “For example, red is thought to be energising and stimulating, while blue is thought to be calming and soothing,” says Master David. “Choose colours that align with your Bazi chart, goals and the type of work that you do.”

Reduce clutter

“Clutter and disorganisation can be distracting and drain your energy. Keep your desk and workspace clean and organised to help keep your mind clear and focused while you work,” Master David explains.

Create a “wealth corner”

In the San Yuan Xuan Kong Feng Shui system, the wealth corner of a home is determined based on the Flying Star Chart of the house, says Master David. The Flying Star Chart of the house is determined based on the facing direction and period of the house.

Upon identifying the wealth corner in your home-office, follow the following steps to harness positive benefits:

- Keep the area clean and clutter-free. A cluttered space can block the flow of positive energy and wealth luck.
- Place a wealth-attracting symbol, such as a treasure trove or a wealth vase in the wealth corner.
- Avoid placing sharp or pointed objects, such as scissors or knives, in the southeast sector as they can disrupt the flow of wealth luck.

Master David's tips for 2023



To succeed in the economic climate of 2023, avoid making impulsive and greedy decisions. Instead, practise moderation and flexibility, and combine your knowledge with actions to excel in your career or business. In 2023, maintaining focus while avoiding pride and impulsivity will be key to achieving success.



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Since it was established in 1984, Sunshine Lighting has provided innovative lighting and electrical solutions to homes across Asia.

KEEPING UP WITH THE TRENDS

With new lighting products constantly being developed and lighting technology continuing to advance, Sunshine Lighting has kept up with the changes in order to meet the needs of its customers and maintain its position in the lighting industry. From energy-saving lamps to LEDs to smart home lighting, the company is committed to optimising existing products and actively expanding its new smart home series.

LIGHTING UP MODERN HOMES

A smart home – where essentials like lighting is connected to the internet and can be monitored, managed and controlled remotely – is not just convenient, it is also energy efficient and allows homeowners to manage their lifestyles more effectively.

Sunshine Lighting's LUMI smart home series was born out of this trend. Comprising 16 million colours, scene modes and timer switch functions, the ceiling lights, bulbs, light strips, string lights and light bars in the range can all be controlled via the Sunshine LUMI smart home app, to create the perfect ambience whenever and wherever you are.



Scan here to find out more

Gain City's culinary gem: Cooking Demonstrations

Try your hand at these
curated restaurant recipes
and impress your guests!

TEXT Sean Yee

The modest Demo Kitchen has recently revamped to become one of the electronic superstore's culinary attractions. Helmed by a passionate team of Demo chefs, Gain City has now gone further to share step-by-step cooking, in hopes of inspiring and guiding customers to take up home cooking.

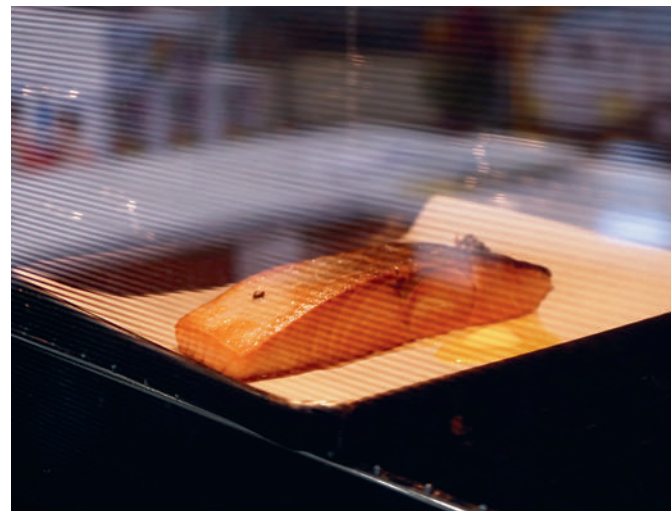
We sat down with Executive Chef Jeffrey Chua to find out more during one of their culinary training demonstrations.

What's on the menu?

Our menu revolves mainly around Western cuisine, though it is ever-changing and essentially adaptive to encourage customers to try these dishes at home. In fact, the curation of the menu is influenced by the team's culinary experiences and our "train-the-trainers" programme. At its core though, we hope to share restaurant-style cooking using kitchen appliances available at Gain City.



“ We hope to share restaurant-style cooking using kitchen appliances available at Gain City. ”



How long have you been a chef and what inspires you?

It's been 25 years and counting! I started as a corporate chef when I was 17 years old at Raffles Hotel, only to start my own catering business years after. Since then, I have led a kitchen in Fullerton Hotel and operated my own hawker stall before coming here!

My main culinary inspirations came from my mother and grandmother. I remember fondly the times I spent assisting them in the kitchen, learning everything I could about food.

Tell us more about the dish you'll be demonstrating today.

This dish – a seared salmon infused with lemon and thyme – is a culinary classic. It is beloved for its refreshing qualities, as the lightness of the fish is complemented with a lovely lemon cream sauce. The true hero of the dish is the crispiness of the fish skin, as it gives the entire dish that amazing oomph!



For today's demonstration, tell us a little bit more about your team.

Wai Han is a deeply passionate chef with over 10 years of experience! He is willing to share many exquisite recipes using modern appliances.

What will the team be showcasing today?

Aglio Olio, Hawaiian Focaccia and Salmon Lemon Thyme.

How can cooking be made more enjoyable for home cooks?

With the right appliances, and a can-do spirit, home cooks may find themselves eager to try new dishes and impress their family and friends. I cannot overstate enough how imperative it is for any home chef to cook with passion. Gain City understands this all too well, providing us the creative freedom and autonomy to expand on our culinary demonstrations.

What appliances are crucial for both aspiring and veteran home cooks?

A mini combi oven and definitely a good induction stove.



“ With the right appliances and a can-do spirit, home cooks may find themselves eager to try new dishes to impress their family and friends. ”

Salmon Lemon Thyme

FOR THE SALMON

- 1 piece of salmon (roughly 160g)

LEMON THYME SAUCE

- Lemon (1 pc)
- Thyme (1 pc)
- Garlic (2 pc)
- Cream (40ml)
- Chicken stock (40ml)
- Butter (10g)
- Fine salt (2g)

MASHED POTATOES

- Instant mashed potato mix or peeled potato (60g)

MUSHROOM RAGOUT

- Mushrooms (20g)
- Water (10ml)

PREPARATION (SALMON)

- 1 Dry your salmon with a paper towel to remove any excess moisture.

FOR THE MASHED POTATOES

- 1 Boil your potato in boiling water. Ensure your water is heavily salted.
- 2 With a fork, mash your potato until the mixture takes on a puree-like texture.
- 3 Season the mixture with butter, salt and pepper.

FOR THE MUSHROOM RAGOUT

- 1 Heat up a hot pan and add in a splash of olive oil.
- 2 Once heated, add in your mushrooms. Season well with salt and pepper.

- 3 Add your water into the pan and stir gently.

FOR THE LEMON THYME SAUCE

- 1 With a hot pan, sauté chopped garlic until it turns golden brown.
- 2 Add cream, butter and chicken stock. Stir until the sauce thickens.
- 3 Season it with thyme, salt and pepper.

FOR THE SALMON

- 1 With a splash of olive oil, heat up your pan.
- 2 Gently place your salmon into the pan, with its skin facing upwards. Leave it there for 6 to 8 minutes.
- 3 Once the fish attains a golden-brown colour, turn the fish over to cook the skin for 4 minutes.



Hawaiian Focaccia

Ingredients:

- Canned pineapple rings (40g)
- Smoked chicken breast (60g)
- Mozzarella cheese (60g)
- Cheddar cheese (20g)
- Sliced tomato (20g)
- Cherry tomato (20g)
- Focaccia bread (100g)
- Green pea sprouts (10g)
- Barbecue sauce (5ml)
- Mayonnaise (5ml)

- 1 Lightly toast your bread. It should come with a crust on its sides.
- 2 Once toasted, spread the sides and top of the bread with mayonnaise.
- 3 Top with cheeses, smoked chicken breast, sliced tomatoes and pineapple rings. Place toast back into the oven.
- 4 Once the cheeses have melted, drizzle with barbecue sauce.
- 5 Garnish the toast with pea sprouts, cherry tomatoes, salt and pepper, served with some potato chips.

Baking The World by Storm

From researcher to viral chiffon cake baker, Susanne Ng reveals how a life spent in academia prepared her for the baking arts, and the inspirations behind some of her most popular creations.

TEXT Sean Yee

PHOTOGRAPHY Vernon Wong



Boasting over 134,000 followers on Instagram (@susanne.decochiffon), Susanne Ng's chiffon cake recreations have inspired a whole community to push past the creative boundaries of baking. Guided by her innate curiosity and unapologetic determination, she has since authored four best-selling cookbooks and her recipes have been featured in renowned publications worldwide. Here, she reflects on her culinary journey since her transition from academia and discusses her specialisation with chiffon cakes. She also shares the recipe for her Cloud Chiffon Cake.

Some of the characters you have managed to create are just amazing! Any personal favourites?

For sure it will have to be the cake I made in collaboration with Food Network! I made a SpongeBob SquarePants inspired cake in the form of a pineapple, which would reveal a caricature of SpongeBob inside once you cut into it. I remember being incredibly nervous when doing the 'big reveal', as I did not know for sure how the cake's interior would turn out!

Many of your creations are profoundly endearing, almost like Japanese cartoons. Are there specific inspirations which motivate these delicious art pieces?

My creative muses can be in the form of the plushies in my home, adorable gems I chance upon during my shopping trips, and creations around me! When my baking interests developed a professional side, collaborative opportunities with brands like Food Network and Nickelodeon gave me the opportunity to work with animated characters like SpongeBob, who I find to



be especially endearing as well. Really, I'm just super honored and stoked that these brands would entrust the creative elements of these beloved personalities to me!

You worked with Pusheen on your thematic cookbook Let's Bake! A Pusheen Cookbook. How did that collaboration come about?

It was the year 2016 when my Chiffon Cake creations started generating traction online, with my videos being circulated widely online! It was also being featured in reputable publications and media like Mashable and Good Morning America. Pusheen chanced upon my viral videos and had initially wanted it to be a social media collaboration, with me creating recipes which allude to their current and upcoming creations. We worked with one another so well that we decided to do our very own cookbook.



You graduated with a PhD in Biomedical Engineering, and spent time in the field as an academic researcher! What made you put away your lab coat in favour of an apron?

It all happened after I had my kids. My husband had to head to the United States for his academic pursuits, necessitating my transition from the role of a researcher to the role of a full-time mummy! Like every mother, I wanted my kids' experience with food to be both a healthy and nourishing one, so I avoided off-the-shelf products. That naturally led me to experiential baking, and I started out with the typical breads and pastries before advancing towards some of my more complex creations.



Did your scientific background prove useful in your baking creations?

Definitely! Baking can also be best described as a scientific discipline as well – measurements are especially precise, sequencing is imperative to produce the right reactions, and optimisation of both its methodology and ingredient utilisation is crucial for the most perfect bake!

Do you recall the very first time you attempted baking?

You'll be shocked but my first ever foray into baking happened after my first kid! Prior to that, I had never baked bread, let alone the cakes I'm making now. Strangely enough, my research background had already instilled in me the attributes necessary for the craft. The baking process is almost like analysing research papers – I study an array of recipes, compare the variations between them while picking up their nuances before concluding it with a calculated guess. Thankfully and consequently, my very first chiffon cake turned out great!



You handle your own social media content, from photography, copywriting to images. How do you manage it all on your own?

If you've noticed, I only post once a week. Just generating and delivering content, while ensuring its quality is truly representative of me and my work is a Herculean task. It is difficult, but it does help that I am passionate about the baking community we have here in Singapore as well as across the globe, and social media helps connect me with various baking enthusiasts!

What do people not see behind the camera?

The failed bakes! I experiment a lot with recipes, and they do not all turn out as polished as the creations you see online!

Any advice for aspiring bakers and chefs?

Make sure it is motivated by an authentic passion for the craft!

Cloud Chiffon Cake

(For 18-cm tube pan)

EGG YOLK BATTER

- 1 whole egg
- 27g caster sugar
- 53g vegetable/corn oil
- 51g soy milk
- 7g vanilla extract
- 80g cake flour, sifted
- 1 teaspoon (tsp) spirulina extract (½ tsp spirulina powder in ½ tsp hot water)
- Blue food colouring

MERINGUE

- 190g egg whites (around 5 egg whites)
- 1/4 tsp cream of tartar
- 65g caster sugar

- 1 Preheat oven to 140°C.

FOR THE EGG YOLK BATTER:

- 2 Whisk egg yolks with caster sugar. Add in oil, soy milk and vanilla extract and whisk well. Whisk in sifted flour and mix till no lumps are found.
- 3 Divide the egg yolk batter 1 (90g white): 2 (180g blue). For the blue portion, add spirulina extract and blue food colouring (optional). Mix well.

FOR THE MERINGUE:

- 4 Using an electric mixer, whisk egg whites with cream of tartar till frothy. Add in caster sugar in a few additions and whisk till firm peaks are formed.
- 5 Divide the meringue into 1 (white): 2 (blue).

Gently fold meringue into respectively coloured egg yolk batters.

- 6 Pipe or spoon the plain batter in cloud-like blobs at the base of the pan. Fill the surrounding spaces with blue batter. Repeat until batter is 2cm from the brim.

BAKING:

- 7 Bake the chiffon cake at 140°C for 55-60 mins, or until skewer comes out clean.
- 8 Invert immediately once out of the oven to cool.
- 9 Unmould by hand after the cake is cool.



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Know your rights

Just got the keys to your BTO flat? Here are some issues you may face and what you can do about it.

TEXT Su-Ying Chen

After what feels like forever, you've finally collected the keys to your new BTO abode. Now it's time to shop for furniture and move in, right?

Not so fast. Before you set up home, it's important to make sure that the flat is safe to live in and that there are no issues with the workmanship or the quality of the materials used.

If you do come across any problems, you have the right to raise them to HDB and submit a claim to get them rectified. We asked two BTO homeowners about their experience with the claims process.

“Problems fixed within a day” – Vienne Neo

“My husband and I got the keys to our new BTO flat at the end of July 2022. The first thing we did when we entered the property was check it from top to bottom – the flooring, doors, windows, drainage system and so on – to make sure that there were no major issues.

“We spotted a few defects. For instance, some of the doorknobs were loose, the flooring inside and outside of the house was uneven, which prevented us from opening the gate fully, and shoddy silicone work.

“As my husband and I had owned a BTO flat before, we were aware of our rights as BTO homeowners. For example, we

knew that we could lodge complaints and make claims or rectify issues if necessary. A temporary office had been set up under our block, so if a homeowner had any problems, they could speak to the staff directly about it.

“As we were one of the first BTO homeowners to inspect our flat, it didn't take long for the contractors to help us correct the defects. In fact, they came to the flat right away and got the problems fixed within a day.

“What I appreciated most was how friendly and approachable the HDB staff were. The process of reporting defects and lodging claims was also easy, quick and fuss-free.”

“Raising the issues to HDB was a breeze” – Lydia Woon*

“Having selected the Optional Component Scheme, I wasn't expecting a flat that was 100 per cent perfect, but I was still surprised by what I found.

“For one, the tiles in the dining room were scratched and cracked in a few spots. The defects weren't really noticeable but once I saw them, they were hard to ignore. Then I noticed that the wiring for some of the electrical outlets hadn't been done properly. And when I cleaned my brand-new toilet in the master bathroom about a week after I moved in, the toilet seat broke.

“Thankfully, that was all I had to contend with. Raising these issues with HDB was a breeze. I took photos of the defects and submitted a rectification request online to HDB, providing short descriptions of the different problems. I also asked to meet with a Building Service Centre (BSC) representative.

“Within days, a contractor designated by the BSC came by to inspect the defects; he corrected them almost immediately and I was pleased with the final result.

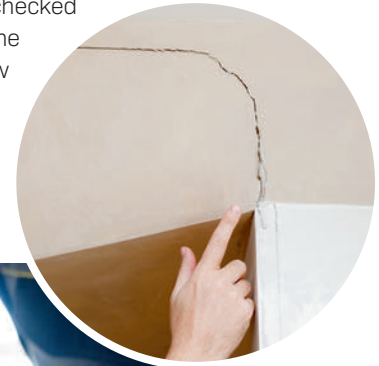
**Name has been changed*

Checking for defects

If your flat is new, you should be aware that you have a Defects Liability Period (DLP) of one year which starts from the date you collect your keys. After this year is up, you will have to hire your own contractor to address any defects. This is why it's so important to inspect your flat right after getting the keys. If you notice any problems, report them immediately and before you start any renovation works.

Some tips when inspecting for defects:

- Make sure your water and electricity accounts are active, so that you can test the plumbing and electrical sockets properly.
- Take photos and/or videos of the defects (use coloured masking tape to draw attention to the problems). Make extra notes separately – this will help you when you're filling out the defects feedback form.
- Inspect the flat on a rainy day, so you can check for leaks and water seepage.
- Check the floors to make sure they are even, and that the surface isn't broken, chipped or scratched. Use tapping rods to check for hollow tiles.
- Check all the plumbing – there shouldn't be any leaky pipes, corrosion or water damage.
- Check the electrical wiring. A shoddy wiring job may be a fire hazard. Switch covers must be installed properly.
- Don't leave any area unchecked (inspect the outside of the flat, too). You never know what you might find, so take your time and be thorough.



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JUST FOR
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A showcase of possibilities

It's easy to lose yourself in this refreshing, living space made cosier with home products from Gain City.

TEXT Sean Yee
PHOTOS Vernon Wong



The latest 3-room adaptation does away with traditional compartments, resulting in a space that feels alive and open. It is noticeably clutter-free, with fixtures that are often inherently minimalistic, and ever-accommodating given its wide living area.

You are immediately greeted by a capacious living room decked in a mosaic of contrasting tints, all of which accentuate the breadth of the living space. Interestingly, the main living area melds seamlessly with both the dining room and the kitchen. As a result, the vastness of the living space easily becomes the star of the show, as homeowners have a greater canvas to turn their creative visions into reality.



A Natural Thermostat

This quaint living space is well ventilated, as both living room and kitchen come with wide windows facing communal areas. Of course, you can easily fit in an air-conditioner on the upper walls – and because of the unit's design, that one air-conditioner can cover the entire living space!

Cook and Bake Away!

The space does not spare any expense catering to aspiring chefs who are especially passionate about food. With a generous array of cabinets installed within the kitchen, cooking and baking enthusiasts can look forward to a kitchen that allows them enough storage for their appliances!

Workplace by Day, Master Suite at Night

The main bedroom can easily fit both a queen-sized bed and a work desk – an increasingly crucial fixture as work-from-home arrangements become more and more popular. The multi-faceted space allows your professional ambitions to thrive, and your desire for rest to materialise. You can even go a step further and enhance the room with multifunctional fixtures such as storage beds!

A Second Bedroom as a Finishing Touch

The secondary bedroom can fit a charming single bed and a study desk. Interestingly, there is plenty of space for aesthetic embellishments. Put up his or her best drawings or have a gallery of pictures placed around the room – this ever-living space is only limited by your imagination. If there is no need for an extra bedroom, the space can also be converted into your personal gym, or an additional study space!

“Homeowners have a greater canvas to turn their creative visions into reality.”

PRODUCT HOTLIST

Shop for the home products used in this HDB showflat at Gain City, your one-stop destination for home appliances and more!

- LG 55-inch 4K ULTRA HD SMART LED TV
- LG FRONT LOAD WASHER (8.5KG)
- LG MICROWAVE OVEN (25L)
- BOSCH 2 DOOR FRIDGE + DOOR PANEL
- LG 43-inch UHD SMART TV
- EF SLIMLINE HOOD
- EF BUILT-IN 3 BURNERS HOB

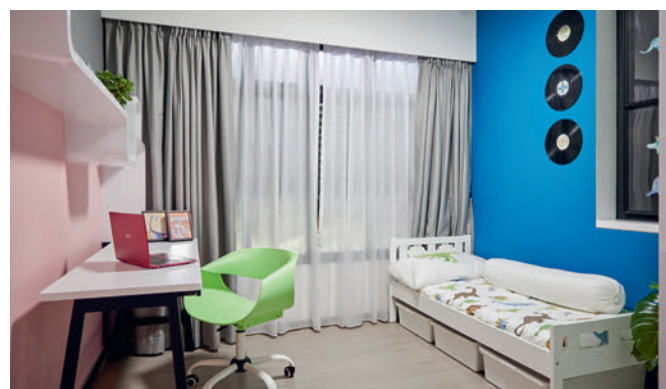
Total Package Price: (Before) \$5,169.00
(After) \$4,649.00

For more information, please visit
www.gaincity.com/groupbuy



Scan here to find out more

View more of this HDB showflat unit online at My Nice Home Gallery



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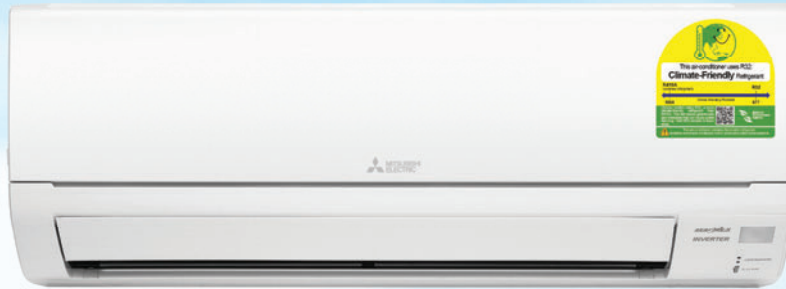
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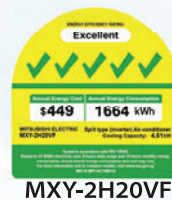
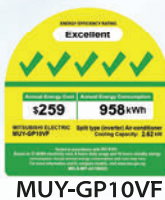


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