

LOOKBOX LIVING

The ultimate blueprint for a well-designed life

THE LUXE ISSUE

LUXURY LIVING FOR *MODERN TIMES*



EXTRAORDINARY
KITCHENS

Stunning ways to cook
and entertain in style

MAXIMALIST &
MINIMALIST

Nail the look of
your dreams

SAVVY HOME
INVESTMENTS

Your guide to living it up
in comfort and style

ARTFUL EXPRESSIONS

A carefully considered and curated amalgam of art, bespoke furnishings, textures and details is intrinsic in the design of this luxury apartment.

TEXT LOUISA CLARE LIM PHOTOGRAPHY WONG WEILIANG
ART DIRECTION BETTY WONG

A smart and sophisticated living area is achieved with the use of light colours, accented with contrasting tones and lustrous metallics.

IN DETAIL

Home: 4-bedroom apartment | Floor area: 2,030sqft |
Who lives here: A couple in their 50s | Where: Orchard

Located just a few turns away from the hustle and bustle of the Orchard shopping belt, this apartment on the 32nd floor affords its occupants – a couple who are business owners – the luxury of a soothing environment to escape to while still being in the proximity of places they frequent. The unit appealed to the homeowners because of its expansive windows that create an airy openness in the interiors, and that it provided different views from almost all the rooms. In addition, none of its walls are shared with other units, which allows for more privacy. Building on these desirable traits, designer Elliot Barratt of Elliot James Interiors created a dwelling the couple could truly feel at home in.

Finishes, furnishings, details and art were central in shaping this stylish abode. Elliot shares that the idea was to have a gallery-like space that conveyed modern luxury; it was to be formal and sophisticated but also cosy and inviting. An elegant colour palette composed of warm neutrals and vivid hues sets the tone of the apartment, while hints of gold through the decor and light fixtures give an eye-popping effect and lend a touch of luxe. “It’s about creating a calm environment and then injecting some key ‘wow’ pieces,” says Elliot of the design firm’s methodology.

Already evident upon entering the apartment, the layering of textures and juxtaposing of elements in the interior design make for fascinating compositions and viewpoints at every angle. For instance, in the dining area, the emerald green velvet dining chairs are poetically striking against a monochromatic setting. And in the lounge, fur-finished throw cushions play up the fine weaves of upholstered armchairs, while brass-tone accents complement the subtle sheen of a silvery velvet sofa. Grounding the sitting area is a large rug, which also mirrors a bi-tone abstract geometric painting hung beside it. Adjacent to the lounge, a monolithic peninsula counter finished in rich-hued, delicately veined marble adds visual depth to the open-concept space and defines the kitchen zone. In diverse and creative ways, the designer establishes focal points in each space while still having them adhere to the overarching style.

Bold artwork and well appointed details come into the picture to further elevate the apartment’s design, which Elliot describes as “eclectic contemporary”. A key example of how these two aspects are symbiotic is in the aforementioned painting that backdrops the living room. The homeowners who are music and movie buffs wanted to have a large TV that could be concealed when they entertain. Elliot came up with the idea to have two paintings that appear as one slide in opposite directions, with an effortless movement, to reveal a recessed wall-mounted TV. “We like to inject a little fun where possible!” says Elliot, “This solution for concealing the home theatre system gives little moments of pleasure every time one slides the ‘panels’.” Other artworks, many of which were commissioned by the designer, pepper the home and add to its character.

Elliot adds that it is important to include elements of the homeowners’ personality so as to avoid having a cold show home feel. In this case, the couple’s love for fur was played up. In the master bedroom, for which the goal was to infuse a feeling of comfort and glamour, soft alpaca rugs cover the entire floor. The finish is also extended into the roomy walk-in closet, which features a backlit vanity unit, and a generous amount of storage for clothes, bags and shoes. Elsewhere, individual pieces were custom-designed or procured, and in entirety curated to create a home full of interesting vignettes. “They were very well considered and placed so as not to clash or compete with each other and overload the senses,” explains Elliot.

“We now spend a lot more time in than in the past, as we can draw more joy in kicking back at home without plans than going out. We seem to be at one with the space,” say the homeowners with a smile. They initially intended to live in this apartment for only a couple of years, they tell, but because of the positive experience and outcome of the renovation, they are now more likely to want to live in the home for longer. After all, a luxurious space does compel one to want to linger.

Elliot James Interiors
www.elliottjames.com

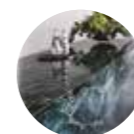


(Top) In the dining area, a sculptural pendant lamp is offset against a subtly textured painting, while chairs in a rich green hue add colour to the otherwise monochromatic space. The dining table is from UK label Julian Chichester.

(Right) A classic scheme of black and white sets the tone of contemporary elegance for the apartment, seen upon arrival in the lift lobby.

SHOP THE LOOK

Get the look of modern luxury with these sophisticated designs.



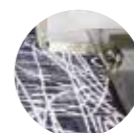
Verde Alpi green marble, similar from MONDO



Float Wide pendant lamp from Ladies & Gentlemen Studio



Rakk hand-sculpted brass side table from The Artling



Luxe Collection Hand-knotted Kate fine weave rug from Rugged & Co.





“Little aesthetic and functional details constantly surprise and remind us of specific moments.”

— the homeowners



DESIGN NOTES

As seen in the lounge, sliding ‘panels’ – two paintings that appear as one – are an aesthetically pleasing and clever way to conceal the entertainment unit.

(Left) Bursts of colour through the books and objects on the shelving unit make for a focal point in the study.

(Facing page) The sofa and armchairs were specially designed by Elliot James Interiors, using quality fabrics from Bode that add texture and contrast in the living room.





LUXE LIVING

Elliot Barratt, Managing Director of Elliot James Interiors, on modern luxury at home.

What is the most important thing to consider when creating a luxurious looking home?

It is important to choose complementary objects and textures, and make sure every item is well considered. Ensure that objects, especially statement pieces, are well made and made using high quality materials and finishes as this is what people will notice. It is true of the saying “You buy cheap, you buy twice”. If you go for quality, not only can you see the difference, it will last you so much longer.

What are some great ways or methods to convey a luxurious look?

First, using materials like velvet, high quality wood veneers and natural stone is always a great start. Second, look for ways to give the impression of space; allow each item its own space so it can be admired and appreciated without being overshadowed by another piece. Third, it’s important to make a space look ‘natural’ as opposed to a showflat with no personality. The objects within should have been carefully collated over a period of time

and not appear like they were all purchased on the same day. We like to create a story throughout a home, showing the clients’ history, personality and tastes.

When it comes to luxury, what’s a worthy investment?

Art is a great investment. It will hold its value, and last forever if cared for properly. If you choose a well-known emerging artist, your purchase will likely appreciate over time. Many galleries will also buy the pieces back should you wish to change out your purchase at some point.



DESIGN NOTES

To give the master bedroom a cosy and sumptuous feel, fabric was integrated into the design of the bed’s headboard. Low-hanging pendant lamps on both sides help to visually balance the vertical proportions of the sleeping area.

(Facing page) The master bedroom was combined with one of the other three common bedrooms to create a bigger suite complete with a large walk-in wardrobe with plenty of storage space for the couple.

