

# BOULEVARD

M A G A Z I N E

THE  
*LAUNCH*  
ISSUE

NOVEMBER 21 — ARCHITECTURE / INTERIORS / REAL ESTATE

Gold & glamour at  
*SOUTH BEACH*  
Residences

Singapore-based interior designer Elliot James Barratt gives Boulevard the inside story on a sophisticated sanctuary in South Beach Residences, complete with whiskey library and covetable walk-in wardrobe for two serious collectors.

BY SELINA ALTOMONTE

*Photography*

BY JIN CHENG WONG



*Opposite: Dining table & chairs, bespoke in Misia Paris fabric; lighting by Serip.*

INTERIORS LOVERS WITH a discerning eye and an affinity for art are no stranger to Elliot James Barratt's work. Here, the award-winning founder of Elliot James Interiors talks us through one of his latest accomplishments: a haven for a couple in South Beach Residences that's rich in style and escapism – and which just won the APAC Interior Design Scheme at the International Design and Architecture Awards.

**BOULEVARD:** We've seen from your previous projects that you go the extra mile to bring the homeowners' passions to life in their surroundings. Can you share the inside story on this home?

**ELLIOT:** Going the extra mile often means removing any ego from a project. The finished article must represent the client and their passions and personality traits, and not our own style preferences. That is why you'll see throughout our broad range of projects, no two ever look the same. We obviously help steer between tasteful and beautiful, but we ultimately take our clients' dreams and make them a reality that work harmoniously through the interiors.

For this project, the clients are a glamorous couple who appreciate fine details, fabrics and finishes. It was our job to create a calm, warm environment that could show a level of finish and inject areas of fun, glamour and sophistication; a space that can be formal but at the same time incredibly inviting and welcoming.

**BOULEVARD:** The whiskey library is such a personalised touch. What was the brief and how did you take it beyond imagination?

**ELLIOT:** Upon appointment, we always spend a great deal of time with our clients to understand their needs and what they like to do in their spare time. Do they collect art, wine, watches, or

whiskey? On this occasion the client expressed his love for whiskey, so we wanted to create a personal space for his collection that would also work with the rest of the entertainment space.

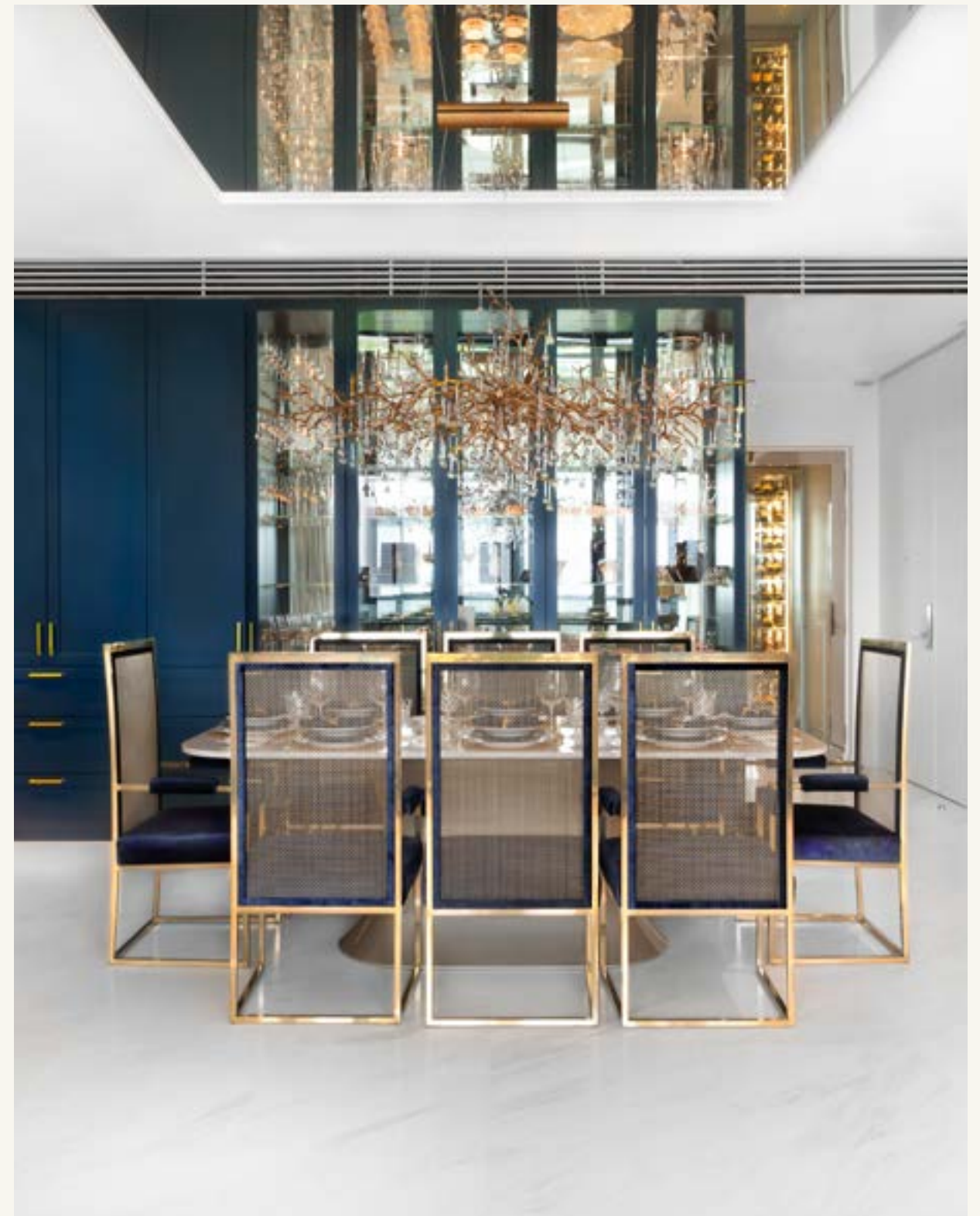
The brief was to maximise the space, and there was a ledge with a huge window that looked on to a solid wall. As soon as I entered the apartment I knew we had to make better use of this space.

My team and I fell in love with the idea of having two large doors that could lead somewhere special. They look as though they should open onto another grand room, but in my opinion, they open into something far more interesting. We upholstered the seat in a burgundy saddle leather, we have speakers in the ceiling and light sensors to add to the atmosphere. Now the clients can sit and enjoy the aromas of leather, cigars and whiskey, and take in cool jazz music under atmospheric lighting.

**BOULEVARD:** What are the more subtle details in this home that you created to give the owners that extra bit of pleasure?

**ELLIOT:** For us the fun is in the subtleties. We love to watch people sit in a space for the first time and discover new details. We commissioned bespoke door handles with a very special pattern that's meaningful to the owners. We commissioned a crystal waterfall lighting installation in collaboration with Swarovski that again has a personal story about how our clients met.

Every space, every drawer, every storage configuration is created to make our clients' lives easier and that little bit more enjoyable. We spend hours understanding how our clients use a certain area so we can ensure everything is positioned within reach and functions in a way that is intuitive to the way they live.





“  
Balance and  
symmetry  
is extremely  
important to  
us when  
trying to create  
a relaxing  
environment.  
”

*Opposite:* Wallpaper by de Gournay;  
handles by Philip Watts; seats in Stolz  
saddle leather by Bode.

**BOULEVARD:** We're drawn to the subtle variety of patterns and textures throughout what brings it all together for you?

**ELLIOT:** Our core style is 'less is more' and making our interiors as timeless as possible. We like to give key features room to breathe, so we'll generally design with a muted and clean palette then add the textures, injection of colour or interesting form into the foreground. We have our base layers that are calm, subtle, simplistic in form, then we begin to layer with more detail such as the hand painted wallpapers, brass detailing, fluted glass and then finally we add the statement pieces such as the chandelier, the brass table lamps, the gold and velvet dining chairs.

**BOULEVARD:** We get a peek of the kitchen what were the clients' must-haves in this space, and can you share your favourite elements in this zone?

**ELLIOT:** Initially the kitchen was made up of a bland island where the dining table now is. Then there was a dark and narrow wet kitchen. So we removed what was a helper's room and bathroom and took down the walls, which allowed us to push the kitchen back.

The client is an amazing cook, so it was important for her to have the necessary space, but also to be able to close off this area when entertaining. So I am particularly proud of the sliding fluted glass panels that turn this open-plan kitchen into a private space. The diffused light still comes through, giving the impression of space, but dirty dishes or glasses can't be seen.

The colour is also an element I am immensely proud of. We changed the shade of blue twice to get it just perfect, and the contrast against the white and brass is just incredible.

**BOULEVARD:** The colour palettes in the dining and living zones are particularly striking. How did you arrive at these combinations?



*Opposite, above:* Consort table & lamps by Kelly Wearstler; rug by Hassan's Carpets; coffee table, sofa, cushions, bespoke. *Below:* Stools, bespoke in Misia Paris fabric; light switches by Buster + Punch; panels in glass & brass, bespoke.

**ELLIOT:** We wanted to keep the core of the apartment light and simplistic, but we love to create contrast. Black would have been too harsh; a dark blue sets off the brass and gold beautifully. The blue we finally settled on was particularly rich and again the contrast between the matt of the paint and the reflections of the brass, gold and glass complemented each other perfectly.

**BOULEVARD:** We also can't keep our eyes off the sculptural lighting above the dining table...

**ELLIOT:** The lighting is from a company here in Singapore called Serip. We wanted to form a canopy above the dining table as a showpiece, but also to create a sense of intimacy for dinners and parties. With so many straight lines and white elements, we wanted to create something more fluid to break up the space. The random configuration of the chandelier works so well when reflected in the mirrored ceiling panel above.

**BOULEVARD:** There is striking symmetry in the living and dining zones: do you have any rules for structuring a living space?

**ELLIOT:** For this space we looked at the most important features and in this case it was the view. We tried to maximise the view from wherever one is sitting. We created an area to watch television on one side of the two L-shaped sofas... but the TV was not the priority. When looking at the space, you can clearly see how the intimate sofa area faces the Singapore skyline.

**BOULEVARD:** The bedroom is dreamy; one can imagine an entirely different atmosphere for unwinding in the evening and waking up.

**ELLIOT:** For the master bedroom, we wanted the clients to feel like a king and queen in a truly impressive bed that is intimate, cosy and romantic.

With incredible views over the Pedang and Raffles Hotel to the right, we knew we couldn't obstruct one of the views by placing the bed against one of these windows or walls, so we created a 'floating' bed enclosed with the canopy and sheers to give that sense of intimacy and grandeur.

**BOULEVARD:** Tell us more about the bathroom, and about those beautiful light fixtures – what was the theme for this space?

**ELLIOT:** The original layout and finish was in no way grand or glamorous enough for a master bathroom suite. Again, we wanted this space to be beautiful but relaxing. We designed a bespoke sink unit with Claybrook marble, chose a textured marble tile for the walls and then set the bathroom off with matt brass taps and fixtures by Samuel Heath and pendant light fixtures by Eichholtz. We created bespoke vanity lights and under-counter LED lighting.

**BOULEVARD:** Which feature, for you, set the tone for the rest of this home?

**ELLIOT:** I think it has to be the kitchen and dining room. We included so many features and uses, and it's such a vital part of the house. I'm so pleased with how it came out – it functions superbly. It merges the kitchen with the dining room so well, and the colours, finishes and materials reflect the Elliot James core simplicity, but it's also beautifully paired with some of the most glamorous features we've ever created.

GO FURTHER...

Elliot James Interiors  
+65 6727 7535

SCAN FOR VIDEO, PHOTOS



# BOVET

1822

*Engineering Brilliance®*

BOVET 1822 X ROLLS-ROYCE  
A UNIQUE COLLABORATION



THE SHOPPES AT  
MARINA BAY SANDS  
2 BAYFRONT AVENUE  
#B2-200