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HOMEOWNERS' CHOICE

- A Lavish Treatment by The Interior Place Pte Ltd
- No Place Like Home by Groove Interior Design Pte Ltd



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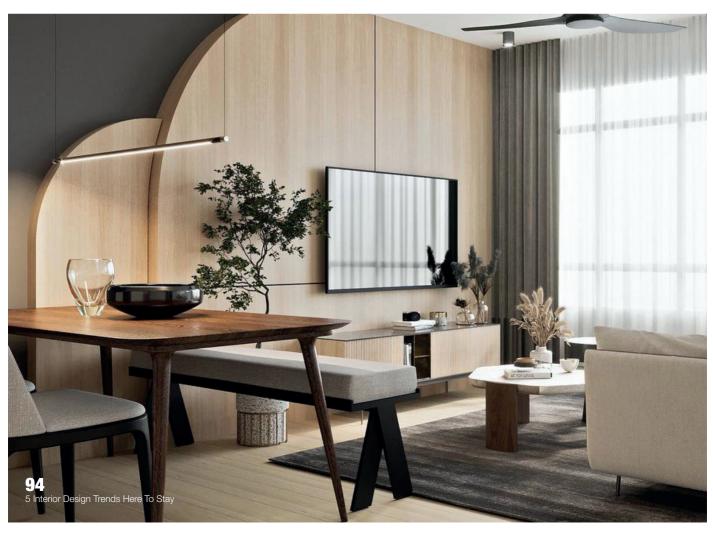
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DIRECTORY

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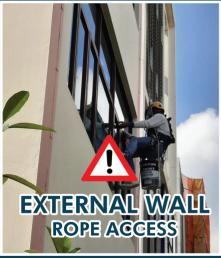


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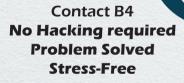






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RCMA MILESTONES

新加坡装修同业商联会里程碑

The RCMA journey began in 1980, even before the committee was officially formed. Over the years, we have helped to make many eventful and impactful changes to Singapore's history. In 2023, more than four decades later, RCMA continues to be a defining presence in the interior design and renovation industry.

1980年,在委员会正式成立之前,新加坡装修同业商联会的发展之旅早已开始。多年来, 我们致力于创建重要和具有影响力的改变,为新加坡历史撰写灿烂篇章。历经40多年后的 今天,新加坡装修同业商联会将持续为室内设计和装修行业发光发热,做出贡献。

19 83

Successfully appealed to Government to allow homeowners to use CPF for payment of home renovations.

向政府建议 允许屋主使用 公积金支付房 屋装修费用。 此建议成功 获得政府采



19 84

Spearheaded legislation that allowed only qualified renovation contractors to be registered as HDB Approved Contractors.

带头立法,只允许合格的装修承包商注册为建屋发展局认可的承包商。



19 85

Participated in the seminar on "The Development of the Renovation Industry". It was covered by Lianhe Zaobao.

参予"装修行业发展研讨会"。此研讨会获《联合早报》关注报

Participated in the formation of the Renovation and Decoration Advisory Centre

(RADAC). 参予装修咨 询理事会的 创建。



88

RCMA officially formed.

新装业会成成局联式。



Spearheaded push for publication of the Singapore Directory of Accredited Renovators. Development of standard contract between renovators and homeowners. RCMA/RADAC cooperated with 12 banks to introduce

the Reno Loan



19 95

Appealed to MAS to relax differentiation hetween personal loans and renovation loans. Appeal was successful. Local Chinese papers Lianhe Zaobao published two editorials in support of RCMA's stance.



•

19 96

Launch of the official RCMA website.

website.
新加坡装修同业商联会官方网站正式上线。



In response to the financial crisis, RCMA led proposal that homeowners be allowed to pay 30% of renovation costs upfront and the other 70% only when old flats are sold.



RCMA VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

使命宣言

Unite our industry, progress with times to create harmonious and pleasant homes

> 团结同业,与时并进, 建设一个和谐愉快的家园。

Opened dialogue between **RCMA** and CASE. RADAC, People's Association and Bt Purmei Community Club, with more than 400 participants in

Held RCMA

"Rights and

liabilities of

renovation

contractors".

新加坡装修

同业商联会

举办了名为

"装修承包

商的权利和

义务"的研

讨会。

seminar

titled

attendance. 新加坡装修 同业商联会 与新加坡消 费者协会、 装修咨询理 事会、新加 坡人民协会 和武吉宝美 社区俱乐部 联手举办公 开对话,吸 引了400多 人参加。



Held RCMA's 20th Anniversary Dinner Celebration on 7 January with more than 100 tables of guests including representatives from RADAC, SHDC. Singapore Building Materials Suppliers Association and

CLSMA. Event

was covered by

Lianhe Zaobao.

于1月7日举办了 新加坡装修同业 商联会20周年 庆晚宴,有超过 1000人出席,嘉 宾包括来自装修 咨询理事会、上 海申康医院发展 中心、新加坡建 筑材料商公会 和CLSMA的代 表。晚宴获《联 合早报》的关注 报道。

Published 20th anniversary commemorative publication.

出版20周年纪 念刊。



Integrated collaboration between City Gas and RCMA for a programme that encouraged search. more HDB homeowners

City Gas. 新加坡装修 同业商联会与 城市燃气公司 携手合作,鼓 励更多组屋 屋主使用城市 燃气。

to use

Assisted with the launched of RenoQuote, Singapore's first online renovation quotation service and directory

协助推出 RenoQuote -新加坡首个 线上装修报 价和目录搜索 服务。

RCMA became an Approved Training Organisation (ATO) under the National Skills Recognition System (NSRS).

新加坡装修同 业商联会成为 全国技能鉴定 制度下的技能 资格认定培训 机构。



RenoQuote became available on MyHomeTown.sg, a Singaporean portal that aimed to increase the 'kampong' spirit in our heartlands.

RenoQuoteiF 式与MyHome Town.sg网站挂 钩。MyHome Town.sg是新加坡 一个门户网站,旨 在发扬新加坡邻 里社区的"甘榜" 精神。



Held a legal talk addressing common problems faced by contractors.

举办法律 讲座,深入 探讨承包商 面临的常见 问题。



Pilot run of Skills training course on demolition of concrete structures in HDB flat.

开展试验 性培训课 程,灌输拆 除组屋混 凝土结构 的技能与 知识。









20

20 13

Continuation of Skills training courses on demolition of concrete structures in HDB flats.

持续开展拆除组屋混凝土结构技能 与知识的培训课程。





Signing of MOU between CASE and RCMA on the establishment of CaseTrust and RCMA Joint Accreditation Scheme for Renovation Businesses.



20 16

Official launch and press conference of CaseTrust RCMA joint Accreditation Scheme.

举办新闻发布会,正式推介消协一装修同业商联会保证标志鉴定计划。

Published the first edition of the Singapore Renovation Guidebook, and distributed it at HDB Sales Department, HDB Branch Offices, Town Council Offices, BCA Academy and more.



20 17

Implemented the Renovation Deposit Performance Bond by CaseTrust Accreditated members.

由新加坡消费者 协会认可的会员 实施装修存款履 约保证书。

RCMA
Secretariat
was relocated
to the Trade
Association Hub
(TA Hub) at 9
Jurong Town
Hall Road and
was officially
opened by
Prime Minister
Lee Hsien
Loong
on 22
November 2017.

November 2017. 新加坡装修同业商联会秘书处迁至位于裕廊镇大会堂路9号的可中心,中心于2017年11月22日由李显龙总理正式揭幕。

RCMA members took part in management courses conducted by Kaplan, to promote lifelong learning.

新加坡装修同业 商联会会员参为 新加坡楷博教育 学院开办的管理 课程,以促进终 身学习。 RCMA sponsored the complete renovation of fire-damaged flat in Jurong East on August 2017.

2017年8月,新加坡装修同业商联会赞助了裕廊东区受火灾烧毁的组屋单位的全面翻新。

Published second edition of 2017/2018 RCMA Renovation Guidebook.

出版第二本《2017/2018新加坡装修同业商联会装修指南》。

RCMA co-organised Asia Pacific Furniture Fair together with Singapore Furniture Association (SFA).

新加坡装修同业 商联会与新加坡 家具商会联办" 亚太家具展"。

Worked handin-hand with CaseTrust to educate Singaporeans on the importance of choosing the right renovation partner.

与新加坡消费者 协会通力合作, 灌输并教育新加 坡人如何正确选 择装修商。



20 18

Published third edition of Renovation Guidebook 2018 with RCMA as the only renovation association in Singapore.

作为新加坡唯一的装修行业商会,新加坡装修同业商联会出版了第三本《2018 新加坡装修指南》。

RCMA co-organised the Beijing Mission Trip with Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SMCCI) from 10 to 13 July 2018 on developing crossborder business opportunities.

2018年7月10日至13 日,新加坡装修同业 商联会与新马工商联 会联合组织了北京特 派团之旅,以发展跨 国商业合作。

Revamp of RCMA website and portal.

新加坡装修同业商联 会官方网站进行改 版。

Collaboration between RCMA and HDB on the longterm participation in HDB series of My Nice Home Roadshows for new BTO flat owners.

新加坡装修同业商联 会与新加坡建屋发展 局开展长期合作,为 新的预购组屋屋主举 办 "我的美好家园" 路演活动。



Organised Inaugural **RCMA** Consultation Fair.

举办首届新加坡 装修同业商联会 咨询会。

Attended several prominent renovation events and dinners of the vear.

参加了几项重大 的装修行业活 动与晚宴。

Upgraded our digital presence by attending SME Digital LEAP Awards and completing the WSO Digital Marketing Course.

通过参加SME Digital LEAP Awards和完成 WSQ数字营销 课程提升了我们 对于数字化的 接触。



To publish fourth edition of Renovation Guidebook 2021 with RCMA as the only renovation association in Singapore.

作为新加坡唯 一的装修行业 商会,新加坡装 修同业商联將 会出版了第四本 《2021新加坡装 修指南》。

Media interviews on combating COVID-19 challenges in the renovation industry

媒体采访有关在 装修行业应对冠 状病毒病挑战。

Took part in community service during pre-election.

预选举期间参加 了社区服务。



Officially launched the RCMA Academy Opening ceremony on 5th February. It was officiated by SMS Mr Tan Kiat How, RCMA Advisor and MP Mr Ang Wei Neng, and RCMA President Dr Sky Tan Keang Leng. 干2月5日举 办新加坡装 修同业商联 会学院开幕 仪式,并邀请 通讯及新闻 部兼国家发 展部高级政 务部长陈杰 豪先生、新加 坡装修同业 商联会顾问 兼议员洪维 能先生,以及

新加坡装修

同业商联会

会长陈锦龙

博士担任特

别嘉宾。



RCMA Academy conducted its first run of the 'RCMA Certified Renovation Practitioner Course' with over 100 students on 25th May. 于5月25日

首次开办《 新加坡装修 同业商联会 专业装修从 业员认证课 程》;超过 100名学生 报名参加。



Participated in the resumption of HDB MyNiceHome **BTO** Webinar and physical roadshows.

与建屋发展 局重新联办 "温馨我家" (MyNiceHome) 预购组屋网 络讲座和路展 活动。



Finally held the 'RCMA Mid-Autumn **Festival** Dinner 2022' after a long hiatus of 2.5 years, due to the lifting of Vaccination-Differentiated Safe

Management Measures (VDS).

随着新加坡 政府解除疫 苗接种差异化 安全管理措施 (VDS)的限 制,新加坡装 修同业商联会 终于继两年半 之后,再次举 办了"2022年 新加坡装修同 业商联会中秋 晚宴"。



To publish the fifth edition of the Renovation Guide Book 2023-2024 with support from HDB, BCA, CASE, NTUC and various trade associations.

在建屋发展 局、建设局、 新加坡消费 者协会、新加 坡国家职工总 会和各商会的 支 持 下 ,出 版第五期的 《2023年 -2024年装修 指南手册》。









15

Message



Mary Mark
PRESIDENT
RCMA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

I would like to express my greatest appreciation to our Immediate Past President, Dr Sky Tan, as well as our advisor Mr Ang Wei Neng, for their support and advice during the pandemic. Many in the renovation industry were affected by it, with their livelihoods threatened by the sudden Covid restrictions. The suspension of renovation works, supply shortages and lack of manpower were huge blows, and now the industry is facing price hikes from 20 to 50 percent for renovation costs. Despite these harsh business obstacles, the foresight and wisdom displayed by Dr Sky and Mr Ang have helped our RCMA members and fellow peers to tide through these difficult times.

With our trusted acquaintances in other associations, agencies and ministries such as MND, HDB, BCA, BCA Academy, CASE, SCCCI, NTUC and ESG, there is strong support to work on these challenging issues together. The association also took a proactive approach; we initiated dialogues with government entities to address these challenges with viable solutions.

One of our proudest achievements is launching the RCMA Academy, which has received a positive response with its strong enrolment. This training institution not only caters to aspiring renovators, it aims to broaden the skills and knowledge of renovation practitioners of all levels. Learning is a lifelong journey, and constant upskilling will lay the groundwork for future generations of renovation practitioners to be at the forefront of

their businesses. Having more certified renovation practitioners will certainly raise the level of professionalism and create more skilled talents in our field.

The renovation industry is facing a pivotal turning point as we embrace the digital era. The pandemic has made it very clear that our businesses need digital transformation, and we need to adapt to the fast-paced demands of digitalisation to achieve a firm footing in this post-pandemic world.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our RCMA management committee and all our members for staying united and resilient, and for their tireless support in our cause to uplift the standards of renovation in Singapore. We will continue to work towards our goals in bringing more engagements for our members in the coming years.

Last but not least, my most sincere thanks to everyone who has offered their resources, guidance and support to our association.



麦凤仪 新加坡装修同业商联会会长

同舟共济, 众志成城

我们最引以为豪的成就之一,就是创办了新加坡装修同业所, 反等院的报读反应踊跃, 反响极在立,加坡装修同业两人才院的成立的形成。新加坡装修同业商联会学院的成立业,和发修人上,有关修从业者的技能的,为该行业的未来奠定更扎实的,为该行业的未来奠定更扎实

的基础。随着越来越多的装修从业者 接受培训,该行业的整体专业水平必 将提升;与此同时,我们也能为装修 领域培育更多专业人才。

随着数码时代的到来,装修行业正面临着一个重大转折点。我们在疫情期间就已清楚意识到我们的行业急需进行数码转型,以更好地适应这个快节奏社会的数码化要求,进而在后疫情时代站稳脚跟。

在此,我要向新加坡装修同业商联会管理委员会和所有会员表示衷心感谢,感谢大家团结一致,坚持不懈地支持我们推进提升新加坡装修水平的目标。展望未来,我们将继续努力,为会员创造更多商机。

我也由衷感谢所有为我们商会提供各项 资源、指导和支持的朋友们。谢谢!

Message



Ang Wei Neng

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF WEST COAST GRC (NANYANG)
ADVISOR TO RCMA

洪维能议员 西海岸集选区议员(南洋区) 新加坡装修同业商联会会务顾问

"If everyone is moving forward, then success takes care of itself." This inspirational quote by Henry Ford, founder of Ford Motor Company, reflects the spirit of RCMA's effort to propel the renovation industry to a greater height.RCMA has displayed great camaraderie between its committee and members, who in turn provides a platform for networking, giving back to communities and sharing invaluable expertise.

Their passion and enthusiasm for refining the standards of renovation in Singapore has been institutionalised in the successful launch of the RCMA Academy. This renovation-based learning institution allows their fellow peers to upgrade their skills and knowledge with relevant courses and receive certifications. This integrated system of education and training means RCMA can better respond to constantly evolving needs. With the RCMA Academy, we are confident that our renovation practitioners will be better trained. Together, we can set a higher benchmark for the renovation industry.

I am glad that RCMA has kept up the good work of meaningful engagements with new homeowners through their active participation in HDB BTO roadshows. The latest fifth edition of the RCMA guidebook is a fitting recognition of their commendable efforts in continuing these initiatives with a strong sense of purpose.

With the above initiatives, I trust RCMA will be able to attract more

credible members and meet the renovation needs of homeowners of today and tomorrow.

新加坡装修同业商联会学院的成立更是体现出他们对提升新加坡装修水平的强烈热忱和使命感。该学院专门提供装售方面的培训课程,旨在帮助装修业者提升技能和掌握专业知识,进而获得完全结合,和实际培训,让新加坡装修同业商联会学院相关结合,我们家信,我们将出一批具备更高水平的装修行业树立更高的标杆。

此外,新加坡装修同业商联会也积极参与建屋发展局的预购组屋路展活动,并通过这些活动与新屋主开展有意义的沟通和交流,这令我深感欣慰。最新出版的第五期《2023年-2024年装修指南》就是新加坡装修同业商联会在不忘初心、牢记使命的努力下的心血结晶。

我深信,新加坡装修同业商联会将能凭借上述的各项创举吸引更多有实力的会员,满足现今和未来屋主们的各项装修需求。



Lim Ah Bah

With the government ramping up more construction projects, that means a greater demand for renovation services as well. Even with the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic, the renovation sector is able to maintain its industry standards. And with more BTO housing projects coming up, the renovation sector is making progressive strides as well.

We are pleased to see more renovation practitioners take up courses at RCMA Academy to upgrade their skills and keep up with the current industry standards. Through these courses, the future generations of renovation practitioners will be up to mark.

RCMA has been established for 43 years now, and one thing that remains unchanged is our quality assurance. Our strength doesn't lie in an extensive number of members, but rather cultivating a strong team of players. This way, the senior members can set a stellar example for our younger members, and pave the way to greater success for our association.

As a non-profit organisation, RCMA protects the interests and reputation of the renovation industry. Our association can help in addressing conflict issues between renovation practitioners and homeowners and with government boards like HDB. As the Chinese saying "上情下达,下情上达" goes, a bad situation can be turned around with proper communication. Therefore, we step in as the middleman to find common ground

between these three parties. One of the recent examples was during the pandemic, where restrictions halting renovations caused major disruptions to the renovation sector. We opened a dialogue with the government through our RCMA associates and were able to release some of the restrictions at an expedited rate.

That is what makes RCMA a remarkable association to connect and collaborate with, as we plan, lead and guide our next generation to advance the standard of renovation practices. My role as an advisor is only part of the bigger picture. Our association welcomes fresh ideas from younger members and I believe our joint endeavours will resolve the common issues we face in meeting the new demand for quality renovation standards.

随着新加坡政府加紧实施更多建筑项目,国人对装修服务方面的需求也日趋增加。即使受到新冠疫情的影响,装修行业仍秉持着良好的行业标准。而随着本地预购组屋项目的增加,装修行业也在精益求精的路上不断前进。

越来越多装修从业者借助新加坡装修同 业商联会学院推出的课程来提升他们的 技能,以及深入了解当前的行业标准, 这无疑让我们深感欣慰。我们相信这些 课程将有助打造一批专业且与时俱进的 装修从业者。

新加坡装修同业商联会成立至今已有43 年,但我们的品质保证始终如一。我们 的优势并不在于我们的会员人数众多, 而是我们培育了一支强大的团队。我们 的资深会员不但为年轻会员树立榜样, 更为商会奠定了坚实的基础,让我们能取得更大的成就。

这就是新加坡装修同业商联会存在的价值和必要性,而我们将继续建为工作的、而我们将够从业者导下一代的装。我作为是这大局的一种。我作为非常的人。我们实是这大局的一种,我们深深是出新的想法;我们的共同努力下,我们定能满足和化解市场对装修标准的要求逐渐提升的普遍问题。



Russell Chin
HON. GENERAL SECRETARY
RCMA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

陈顺发

新加坡装修同业商联会秘书长

It is an absolute honour to be part of this incredible journey for the past six years.

I am able to share my knowledge and expertise at the MyNiceHome Roadshows, where I have had the pleasure of addressing topics that range from renovation tips and design themes to the latest renovation trends. But it doesn't stop there; my responsibility extends to educating homeowners on how to select a reputable interior designer and to be vigilant about identifying rogue contractors, preventing any potential scams or frauds.

I am truly passionate about my work, and what keeps me motivated year after year is the happiness and satisfaction I witness in the smiles of homeowners who make informed choices for their renovation needs. We, at RCMA, strive to uplift the standards of the renovation industry, and we are deeply grateful to our dedicated members who voluntarily participate in events like the MyNiceHome Roadshows and other RCMA initiatives.

We firmly believe that our profession deserves respect and acknowledgement, as we play a significant role in building our economy and creating beautiful homes for all. In this endeavour, the RCMA Certified Renovation Practitioner program serves as a crucial recognition for contractors and designers alike, enabling homeowners to make informed choices amidst the vast industry offerings. We call upon more

contractors to join this scheme so that together, we can collectively uphold the high standards we set for ourselves.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to agencies and associations such as HDB, MHD, CASE, BCA, SFIC, and all our trusted acquaintances who have supported RCMA throughout our journey. Your unwavering support and confidence have been instrumental in our progress and achievements thus far. Together, we stand united in overcoming challenges, scaling greater heights, and fortifying the renovation industry.

With our passion, dedication and collective efforts, I am confident that RCMA will continue to thrive and create better homes for all. Thank you all for your attention and support. Let us continue working hand in hand to shape a vibrant and trusted renovation industry for the benefit of our community and our nation.

我深感荣幸能够与新加坡装修同业商联 会在过去的六年里共同创造许许多多难 忘的美好回忆。

我有幸能在"温馨我家 (MyNiceHome) 预购组屋路展活动上与众人分享我的专业知识和专长,如装修贴士、室内设计主题,以及最新的装修趋势等。当然,我的责任还不止于此,我也负责教育房主如何挑选声誉良好的室内设计师,并提醒他们要时刻提高警惕,识别不法承包商以防止任何潜在骗局或欺诈行为。

我对我的工作充满热忱,每当屋主们就自己的装修需求做出明智选择时所展

露的幸福笑容,就是我不惜辛劳,年复一年努力至今的巨大推动力。新加坡装修同业商联会致力于提升装修行业的标准,而我们也非常感谢那些自愿参与"温馨我家"路展活动及其他新加坡装修同业商联会旗下活动的热心会员。

我们不但在国家经济建设方面发挥着重要作用,也积极为众人打造美丽家园,因此我们坚信,我们的专业值得被尊重和认可。新加坡装修同业商联会旗下的装修同业专业人士认证计划就旨在为承包商和设计师等装修同僚提供专业认证,帮助业主在众多选项中做出明智的选择。我们呼吁更多的承包商加入此计划,共同维护我们为自身专业所设的高标准。

在此,我要由衷感谢建屋发展局、重大危险局、新加坡消费者协会、新加坡建设局、新加坡家具工业理事会等机构和协会,以及所有给予我们支持的朋友们。你们对新加坡装修同业商联会坚定不移的支持和信心,是我们茁壮成长并取得不凡成就的关键。我们将团结一致,攻坚克难,勇攀高峰,继续巩固装修行业的地位。

凭借我们对该行业的热忱、奉献和共同努力,我相信新加坡装修同业商联会将继续蓬勃发展,为众人打造更优越、美好的家园。再次感谢大家的关注和支持。且让我们继续携手合作,共建一个活力四射、信誉良好的装修行业,造福我们的社区和国家。



Patrick Puah
HON. TREASURER
RCMA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

潘添明 新加坡装修同业商联会财政

With more consumers wanting better designs, higher quality materials, and skilled craftsmanship, the renovating business must adhere to professionally controlled standards. Our committee is facilitating this by allowing fellow peers to upgrade their skills and stay current on industry standards and practices, through courses offered by our affiliation, the RCMA Academy.

The renovation industry revolves mostly around skilled labour. Tradesman professionalism and competency are critical components in assuring excellent workmanship. Maintaining professional standards, in my opinion, can only be accomplished through course certification and continual learning. A minimal standard of certification must be stressed upon. As a result, in addition to my duties as Treasurer and Chairman of the RCMA Academy, our team will curate courses relevant to the renovation sector in order to boost its profile, improve expertise and professionalism.

We also anticipate RCMA engaging with relevant trade agencies in order to stay current on standards and design trends.

Being a member of a professional trade organisation will benefit our members.

现今消费者对装修房屋方面的要求日益提高,他们不但希望获得更精湛的设计,也对材料和工匠的手艺颇有要求。 因此,装修行业更应遵守专业标准以确保其服务品质。考虑到这点,新加坡装修同业商联会积极通过旗下学院为业界同僚提供相关课程,协助他们提升技能,同时进一步了解当下最新的行业标准和最佳实践。

装修行业主要依靠技术熟练的工人,而工匠的专业水平和技能更是确保整体工程质量良好的关键因素。依我所见,唯有通过不断学习以及参加相关的认证培训课程,才能保持个人的专业水准。因此,我们必须强调装修同行满足最低标准认证的重要性。除了履行作为财职和者加坡装修同业商联会学院主席的取职责之外,我和我的团队也将策划与装修行业相关的一系列课程,以提升装修行业同僚的声望、专业知识和水平。

此外,新加坡装修同业商联会也将会与 更多相关行业机构合作,以充分了解行 业标准和设计方面的最新趋势。

若能成为专业贸易组织的成员之一,也 将让我们的会员受益良多。



Kho Choon Keng

PRESIDENT
SINGAPORE CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
& INDUSTRY

高泉庆

新加坡中华总商会会长

With 90 per cent of our population owning their own homes, Singapore is one of the countries with the highest home ownership rate in the world, and this naturally results in a strong demand for the renovation and interior design sector.

The Singapore Renovation Contractors and Material Suppliers Association (RCMA) plays an integral role in the development of the industry, helping and uniting its members to expand their network and explore new business opportunities, as well as strengthening cohesion within the industry.

Since its inception, RCMA has made significant and innovative efforts to improve the standards of the renovation and design industry in Singapore. The CaseTrust RCMA Joint Accreditation Scheme for renovation businesses was officially launched in 2016 to protect consumers' interests through information sharing and education as well as promoting an eco-system for fair and ethical trade practices.

The RCMA Singapore Renovation Guidebook is professionally curated and serves as an effective platform for accredited member companies to showcase their diverse range of products and services. It also covers a broad spectrum of relevant topics such as home ownership, home decoration and renovation tips from designers and industry practitioners. This guidebook has become one of the most reliable reference materials for local homeowners.

On behalf of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations on the successful publication of the RCMA 2023-2024 Singapore Renovation Guidebook and am confident that RCMA will continue to make greater contributions to the renovation industry in Singapore.

My best wishes to all at RCMA!

新加坡国人的住房自有率高达90%,是全球住房自有率最高的国家之一。这也意味着国人对室内设计、装修翻新等服务的需求相当庞大。

新加坡装修同业商联会致力于协助商会会员扩展人脉和探索新商机,同时积极强化同业之间的凝聚力,对促进装修行业的繁荣发展扮演着举足轻重的角色。

自成立至今,新加坡装修同业商联会为了提升本地装修业水平不懈努力,适时做出重大、创新的改进,如在2016年正式推介专为装修业而设的"消协 - 装修同业商联会保证标志鉴定计划"(CaseTrust - RCMA Joint Accreditation Scheme)。该计划旨在通过资讯分享和教育,保障消费者的利益,同时打造公平且具商业操守的营业环境。

由新加坡装修同业商联会精心策划、出版的《2023年-2024年装修指南》不仅为旗下获得专业认证的会员提供一个供他们展示系列商品及服务的平台,其丰富、实用的内容更是让屋主获益良多。该装修指南不但涵盖购买新屋的相关信息,也汇集了多位设计师和业界人士的专业见解及装修和室内设计方面的实用贴士,是本地屋主不可或缺的重要参考资料。

我谨此代表新加坡中华总商会,恭贺新加坡装修同业商联会成功出版《2023年-2024年装修指南》,希望贵会继续为新加坡装修行业作出更大的贡献。

衷心祝愿贵会攀登新高峰、会务兴隆!



Yeo Wan Ling
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL
DIRECTOR, U SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
DIRECTOR, U WOMEN AND FAMILY
NATIONAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS

Congratulations to Singapore
Renovation Contractors & Material
Suppliers Association on the
continuation and tremendous success
of your biennial RCMA Renovation
Guidebook. As the Director of NTUC
U SME, I am proud to witness the
remarkable achievements of the
Singapore Renovation Contractors
& Material Suppliers Association in
advancing the renovation industry and
providing invaluable resources to both
professionals and consumers alike.

Over the years, your association has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to excellence, professionalism, and industry growth. The renovation guidebook has become a handy and helpful tool, offering comprehensive information, expert advice, and practical insights for all stakeholders involved in the renovation process. This achievement reflects the dedication and expertise of your members, and it is a testament to the association's unwavering pursuit of excellence.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the collaborative efforts between NTUC U SME and the Singapore Renovation Contractors & Material Suppliers Association. Our past partnerships have been fruitful. Looking ahead, I believe there remains tremendous potential for further collaboration and partnerships between our organizations. In particular, I would like to emphasize the importance of partnering NTUC U SME in the formation of Company Training Committees, which plays a vital role in fostering continuous learning and skills upgrading among employees. By working together, we can develop more robust training programs, provide access to industry-leading expertise, and equip our workforce with the necessary skills to stay competitive in an ever-changing market.

Once again, congratulations on the success of your biennial renovation guidebook, and thank you for your invaluable contributions to the renovation industry in Singapore. I am confident that with continued collaboration and partnerships, we will further elevate the professionalism and standards of the industry, benefiting both businesses and consumers.

Wishing you continued success in all your endeavors.

Message



Ivy Ang
PRESIDENT
SINGAPORE FURNITURE ASSOCIATION

The latest launch of the Singapore Renovation Guide Book by the Singapore Renovation Contractors and Material Suppliers Association (RCMA) deserves much appreciation.

This guide has garnered strong interest from our members and the public, highlighting its pivotal role in connecting trusted industry practitioners to homeowners. Its meticulously curated content, featuring a wealth of professionals, services, and insights into emerging trends, serves as an invaluable compass for homeowners navigating the complexities of renovations and material selection.

The partnership between the Singapore Furniture Association (SFA) and RCMA has consistently yielded mutual benefits, aligning efforts toward our members' common goals. With optimism, I foresee our continued collaboration shaping a promising future for our industry and communities.

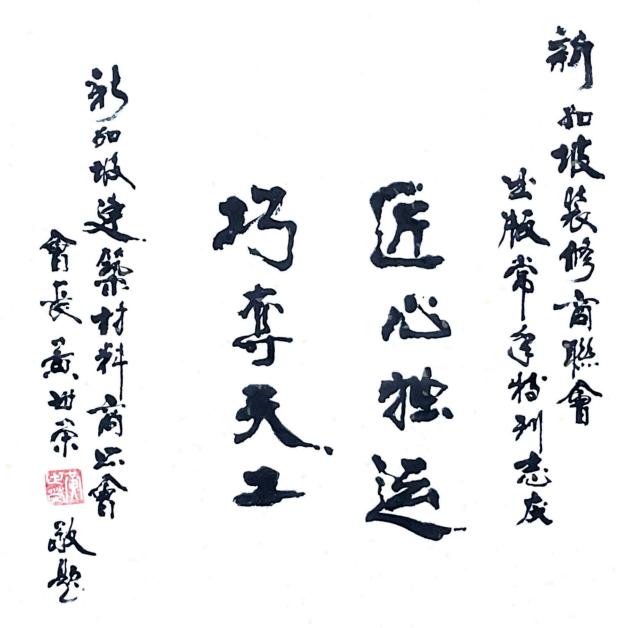


Phua Boon Huat
PRESIDENT
SINGAPORE FURNITURE INDUSTRIES COUNCIL

Renovating spaces, whether commercial or residential, is a transformative journey. It holds the power to shape the way we live, work, connect with our surroundings and create spaces that inspire. In Singapore, where innovation and design excellence converge, the importance of having a comprehensive guide to navigate the renovation process cannot be overstated.

The Singapore Renovation Contractors and Material Suppliers Association (RCMA)'s unwavering dedication to compiling this essential resource is truly commendable. The guidebook will serve as an invaluable resource, empowering consumers and homeowners to make informed decisions and embark on successful renovation ventures.

As SFIC, we are delighted to be a part of this meaningful initiative and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with RCMA. Together, we can further enhance the renovation experience and the positive impact it can have on individuals and communities.



A calligraphy written by Mr Ng SOY NG,

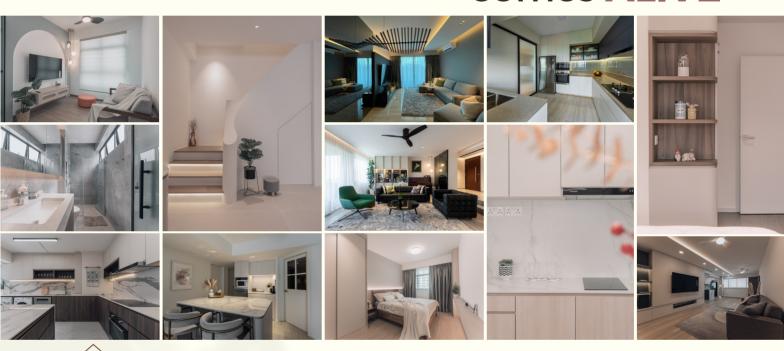
President of Singapore Building Materials Suppliers' Association



where your

DREAM SPACE

comes **ALIVE**





HDB License No: HB-05-3498-H BCA Registered Window Contractor RCMA Certified Renovation Practitioner Contractor | Interior Design & Build



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ABOUT US

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OUR SERVICES

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In-House Carpentry | Space & Concept Planning
All Kinds of Maintenance, Roofing, A&A Works



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2023-2024 新加坡装修同业商联会理事2023-2024



From Left:

Asst. Welfare Secretary: Mr. Richard Yea (Design 4 Space Pte Ltd),
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Patrick Puah (Lian Seng Hin Co (Pte) Ltd),
Asst. Hon. General Secretary: Mr. Michael Ong (The Two Big Guys LLP),
Committee Member: Mr. Vincent Li (Starry Homestead Pte Ltd),
Vice-President: Mr. John Foo (Rezt & Relax Interior),
President: Mdm. Mary Mark (Wing Khiong Renovation & Trading),
Committee Member: Mr. Eric Lim (Eight Design Pte Ltd),
Welfare Secretary: Mr. Kaden Choa (Excel Hardware Pte Ltd),
Hon. General Secretary: Mr. Russell Chin (Inspire ID Group Pte Ltd),
Committee Member: Mr. James Lee (MJS Interior Pte Ltd),
Committee Member: Mr. Marcus Ng (Lian Hin Pte Ltd) &
Asst. Hon. Treasurer: Ms. Candy Ng (The Interior Place Pte Ltd)

RCMA COMMITTEE MEMBERS





President **Mdm. Mary Mark** Wing Khiong Renovation & Trading



Vice-President **Mr. John Foo** Rezt & Relax Interior



Hon. General Secretary
Mr. Russell Chin
Inspire ID Group Pte Ltd



Asst. Hon. General Secretary
Mr. Michael Ong
The Two Big Guys LLP



Hon. Treasurer Mr. Patrick Puah Lian Seng Hin Co (Pte) Ltd



Asst. Hon. Treasurer

Ms. Candy Ng

The Interior Place

Pte Ltd



Welfare Secretary Mr. Kaden Choa Excel Hardware Pte Ltd



Asst. Welfare Secretary **Mr. Richard Yea** Design 4 Space Pte Ltd



Committee Member Mr. James Lee MJS Interior Pte Ltd



Committee Member Mr. Marcus Ng Lian Hin Pte Ltd



Committee Member
Mr. Eric Lim
Eight Design Pte Ltd



Committee Member Mr. Vincent Li Starry Homestead Pte Ltd

RCMA ADVISORS 会务顾问



MP Advisor Mr. Ang Wei Neng Member of Parliament for West Coast GRC (Nanyang)



Legal Advisor **Mr. Raymond Lye** (BBM)



Associate Advisor **Mr. Lim Ah Bah**



Associate Advisor **Dato' Sri Ang Chee Guan** (PBM)



Associate Advisor Mr. Tan Boon Sang



Associate Advisor **Mr. Chua Chwee Cheok**



Associate Advisor **Mr. Wong Sang**



Associate Advisor **Mr. Richard Koh** (PBM)



Associate Advisor **Mr. Tan Chim Hoon**



Associate Advisor **Mr. Lim Long Huat**

RCMA HONORARY DIRECTORS

名誉董事



Dr. Sky Tan Sky Creation Design Pte Ltd



Mr. Dean Lim Ciseern by Designer Furnishings Pte Ltd



Mr. Kelvin Lim Vegas Interior Design Pte Ltd



Mr. Carlson Tan Add Space Werkz Pte Ltd



Mr. Randy Tan Image Creative Design Pte Ltd



Mr. Andy Tan Unimax Creative Pte Ltd



Mr. Gary Wee One Design Werkz Pte Ltd

RCMA ACTIVITIES - 2022-2023

Resuming the usual activities for the coming two years, the representatives from RCMA were back at conducting BTO roadshows every weekend with renewed enthusiasm. They also attended celebratory dinners to lend their presence and support.





RCMA members sharing valuable renovation insights and tips.

HDB MyNiceHome BTO Roadshows

Organised by Housing Development Board (HDB), new homeowners attending the HDB MyNiceHome BTO Roadshows would have spotted respective RCMA members as guest speakers. These experienced renovation experts offered valuable advice and tips for first-time homeowners during these roadshows. RCMA has been a regular fixture at these roadshows almost every weekend, beginning from 2016 till now which shows their utmost commitment in educating homeowners islandwide.





Strong attendance at various HDB MyNiceHome BTO Roadshow locations.

Activities









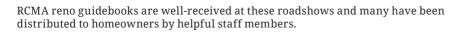






Catching up with agency representatives and ministers.















Held at Jubilee Garden Restaurant at SAFRA Toa Payoh on 8th September, RCMA celebrated the midautumn festival with 280 guests. Mr Ang Wei Neng, Member of Parliament for West Coast GRC (Nanyang) was the guest-of-honour.

RCMA Mid-Autumn Festival Dinner 2022













Activities





MND Huddle 2022 Organised by the Ministry of National Development, the MND Huddle was held at Flower Field Hall, Gardens by the Bay on 1st November 2022. The host of this prestigious event at the beautiful Flower Dome was Ms Indranee Rajah Leader of the House, Second Minister for National Development, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, and Second Minister for Finance.









OUR PUBLICATIONS: PAST & PRESENT

我们的出版物: 过去和现在

Starting from our 20th Anniversary Commemorative Issue published back in 2000, RCMA went on to publish five more editions of our Renovation Guidebooks. Here's a look at all our committee members and advisors through the years.

从我们的二十周年纪念特刊开始,新加坡装修同业商联会又接续出版了五本新加坡 装修指南的版本。回忆过去和现在我们所有理事会员和顾问。











RCMA Renovation Guidebook 2016 (First Edition) 新加坡装修指南 2016 (第一版本)































OUR PHILOSOPHY

Our core principle revolves around translating concepts into tangible realities and we are deeply committed to crafting innovative solutions that are uniquely tailored to each client's needs. Apart from Singapore, we also have presence in the region through partnerships. This has fostered a sense of loyalty among our clients, solidifying our position in the industry.



OUR TEAM

Our team of highly skilled and imaginative designers remains consistently updated on the latest design trends. They take pride in presenting avant-garde yet enduring designs to our clients. As one of the long-standing and reputable interior design firms in Singapore, we firmly hold the belief that our exceptional craftsmanship, friendly service, and on-time project completion distinguish us from our competition.









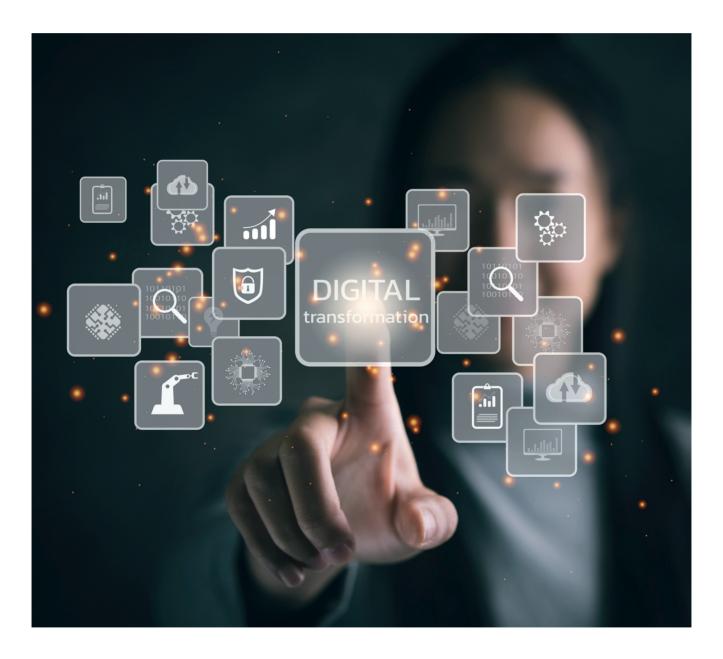






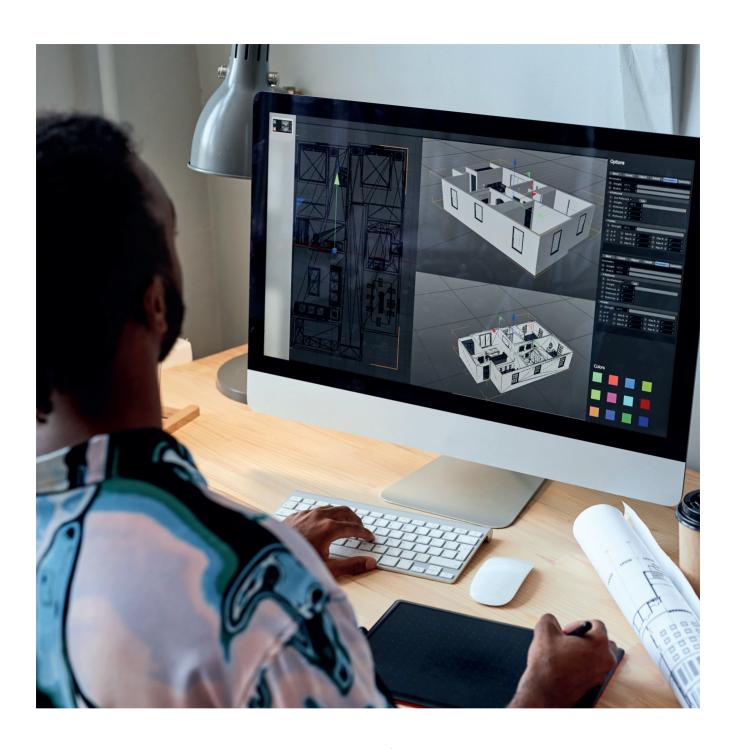
RCMA INTERNAL FORUM DISCUSSION

What does the future of the renovation industry hold? Committee members and other key figures from RCMA give their take on the critical trends poised to shape the future landscape of the industry.



Led by RCMA's President Mary Mark, the RCMA committee members had an illuminating discussion on the past, present and future of the renovation industry. Amongst the topics discussed was the evolution of the industry, where this supposedly 'brick and mortar' business is entering

the digital age. The digital push is accelerating and most of the members agreed the time is now to develop a real digital strategy. Here are the key takeaways from each of the committee members, and from advisors Lim Ah Bah and Sky Tan, whom were invited to share their thoughts:





Eric Lim from Eight Design Pte Ltd

Homeowners are much more informed through the exposure of social media and digital marketing these days, but that information can be a double-edged sword. Based on online information which is not

the most accurate, some might be misled into thinking certain renovation ideas and budgets might be easily attainable.

Digitalisation has streamlined our business model and kept our administrative staff costs lean. By using online business tools and software, we are able to keep track of all important operation matters and make executive decisions on the go and remotely.



Lim Ah Bah from Sin Hong Lee Pte Ltd

It's concerning to learn that there is a yearly increase in consumer complaints against home renovation renovators. Unsurprisingly, none of

our peers in the RCMA association have received any complaints for their services so far, due to our stringent criteria in recruiting reputable members. We want to maintain this membership standard of enlisting only the best renovation practitioners for our association. Consumers should also take responsibility in engaging certified renovation practitioners and not take a risk in hiring unlicensed contractors.

Activities



Russell Chin from Inspire ID Group Pte Ltd It's about time for consumers to

move past the outdated thought that the design profession is a lowly-skilled industry. We may be creatively trained but our expertise actually covers a lot of ground. From project management to ensuring our sub-contractors are working hard, many of us are deeply committed to churn out successful results for our customers

To cut out the black sheep in our industry, it is important for consumers to recognise the importance of engaging certified renovation practitioners. Always ask for their accreditations, and that will save consumers a lot of trouble.

As we transition into an interconnected digital age, we have noticed not everyone, like independent contractors, are techsavvy enough to keep up with the demands of the digital era. In order to thrive in this new landscape, all businesses need to rethink their models for digital transformation.



Kaden Choa from Excel Hardware Pte Ltd

In the ever-evolving landscape of

commerce, our digital transformation, initiated 13 years ago, has propelled our B2B business model to new heights. Leveraging platforms like Shopify, we streamlined our invoicing and inventory management processes, ensuring unparalleled efficiency for our clients. This digital shift not only met but exceeded customer expectations, offering a seamless, swift, and secure experience. Beyond operational efficiency, our online venture dismantled geographical barriers, enabling effortless expansion to diverse global markets. With a steadfast commitment to cybersecurity, we've eliminated potential challenges, fostering a worry-free shopping environment. Embracing e-commerce has redefined convenience and accessibility, allowing us to offer a borderless, secure, and delightful shopping experience. Our journey illustrates the transformative power of digitalisation, enhancing customer satisfaction and global reach, marking a milestone in our commitment to excellence.



James Lee from MJS Interior Pte Ltd

We are facing increased difficulties in sourcing and hiring skilled labour, both domestically and from abroad. There has been

a notable increase in salary expectations among skilled workers, especially with the rising costs of living and inflation.

To stay competitive and meet consumer expectations, it is important for interior designers and renovation contractors to undergo ongoing professional development. This need for upskilling should be met with the establishment of a more structured training regimen tailored specifically to the renovation sector.

Furthermore, our company is also adapting to the digital age. We have transitioned from traditional face-to-face consultations to virtual consultations and discussions. This shift not only aligns with the new digital direction of the industry but also reflects the changing attitudes of homeowners, who are becoming increasingly tech-savvy.

To continue exceeding customer expectations, MJS Interior Pte Ltd is committed to staying at the forefront of industry trends and technological advancements, ensuring we evolve as swiftly as the needs and preferences of our clients.







Patrick Puah from Lian Seng Hin Co (Pte) Ltd Before the COVID pandemic, manpower, cost and material essentially

were manageable, due to efficient supply chain and sufficient labor supply, therefore costs could be contained. Post-COVID, there were severe disruptions, so costs rocketed. Essentially, costs have gone up by at least 20%. In terms of manpower and material supply now, we see some semblance of normalcy, albeit some sectors still facing tight supply, like carpentry.

While digitalisation can take care of many aspects of our business, there are still some things that can't beat physical interaction. For instance, touching the product and seeing it up close; our customers still want to be able to do that. We do see more zoom meetings, online invoicing and scheduling, and off-site project management. However on-site physical meetings and material selection cannot be totally eradicated even in advanced stages of digitalisation.



Vincent Li from Starry Homestead Pte Ltd In these digital times, the success

of your business can pivot on the technology and online services you use. By having online payment platforms, cloud storage services, a strong social networking strategy, cybersecurity solutions and online customer support systems in place, our operations have been running much more smoothly. We have seen bad debt being reduced significantly, as well as scams.

However, digitalisation comes at a hefty price, software systems can become obsolete easily and switching or updating software providers can be a large investment. Hiring an in-house IT personnel can be incredibly costly due to the current competitive market demand.



Sky Tan from Sky Creation Design Pte Ltd Consumers are

getting more internet-savvy and soon enough, we will see AI taking over traditional 3D renderings with more professional results. Homeowners are also more demanding these days as they become more involved in the renovation process while doing their own independent research.

We hope to see more renovation practitioners become empowered to digitalise their business for continuous success. That will mean constant upgrading and attending courses to undergo training.

We are looking into a sophisticated customer relationship software (CRM) to digitalise our business and adopt a paperless approach. In line with AI technology down the pipeline, we can offer a fully-digital package for our customers.

MEDIA SHOWCASE

新加坡装修同业商联会媒体活动

Things are returning to normal with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, but homeowners are still facing unpleasant renovation hiccups with their renovation practitioners. Several RCMA members have weighed in on why these problems persist, and how to identify the black sheep of the industry through these media interviews.

随着新加坡政府逐步放宽防疫措施,民众的生活也依序恢复正常。然而,不少屋主仍在房屋装修方面受阻。新加坡装修同业商联会的数名会员在接受媒体采访时分享了装修工程持续受阻的原因,以及如何识别装修同业中的害群之马。

Showcase #1

"Spent \$20,000 on renovations, but outraged by incompetence"

Channel 8, 8world Frontline/Aired 18th February, 2022

Most renovation works have resumed with the lifting of restrictions due to the COVID-19 virus. Homeowners are looking forward to moving into their newly-renovated homes without delays. However, some homeowners are still experiencing delayed renovations as well as shoddy workmanship and unprofessional services from their commissioned interior design firms.

RCMA attributed the source of these homeowners' complaints to the lack of certified training in some renovation practitioners. The association is working towards changing the situation with the launch of the RCMA Academy, which offers courses in becoming a certified renovation practitioner.

RCMA Associate Advisor Mr Lim Ah Bah cited an example: "Someone once asked: "Why do these problems keep arising in the renovation industry, and how can we resolve it?" The way to improve the industry is to conduct proper renovation training for those entering or are in the renovation business. We decided to launch the RCMA Academy which has seen more than 400 students graduate from their courses, and I believe in the next two or three years, we will see a marked improvement in the industry with more certified renovation practitioners."

媒体活动#1

"花2万元装修 不料换来一肚子气"

8频道《前线追踪》/于2022年2月18日播出

随着新加坡政府逐步放宽防疫措施,大部分的装修工程已陆续复工。屋主更是满怀期待能尽快搬进装修好的房子。然而,部分屋主仍遇到工程延误、委托的室内设计公司偷工减料、服务欠佳等问题。

新加坡装修同业商联会认为,装修从业者缺乏相关认证培训是导致屋主投诉的主要原因。故此,新加坡装修同业商联会积极借助旗下学院为装修从业者提供专业的认证课程,以提升本地装修业的专业水平。

新加坡装修同业商联会会务顾问林亚峇举例说明:"有人曾投诉:'为什么你们装修行业一直都会出现这些问题,你们要怎么去解决这些问题呢?'所以我们认为只有提升装修从业员的基本水平,才能改善这个行业。于是,我们决定开办新加坡装修同业商联会学院。目前已有超过400名装修从业员从这个学院毕业,假以时日,我相信在未来两三年内,整个装修业将得到明显改善,出现更多获得专业认证的装修从业员。"





"It was a nightmare' – Why are renovations still such a minefield for homeowners?"

Channel News Asia/Published 16th April, 2022

The renovation sector has been plagued by complaints such as delays, shady practices and shoddy workmanship for years. It is said that the core of these perennial issues is due to the lack of regulation on who can enter the industry, and how they operate within it.

On this topic, RCMA Asst. Hon. General Secretary Mr Michael Ong said: "This industry doesn't have any authority or any body to manage the whole lot of (renovation companies). The overall lack of regulation means there is no standardised training nor service guarantee." He then suggested: "The problems of contractors scamming and all, have largely to do with the quality of people in this industry."

He continued: "Not having proper experience can lead to issues, such as over-promising customers – without understanding if their ideas are actually feasible."

媒体活动#2

"这简直是一场噩梦"——房屋装修为何仍 是屋主们的雷区?

亚洲新闻台/刊登于2022年4月16日

装修行业向来与工程延误、违规行为和偷工减料等投诉"纠缠不清"。据知,这些长期存在的问题核心是由于该行业缺乏对从业者的资质认证和运作模式设置相关的监管措施。

对此,新加坡装修同业商联会助理秘书长王振宁表示:"整个装修行业没有任何监管部门或机构负责监管(装修公司)。装修行业缺乏监管机制也意味着,装修从业者没有接受过标准化的培训,也无法给予服务保障。承包商的欺诈行为等问题在很大的程度上与这个行业的人员素质有关。"

他补充道: "装修从业者没有适当的工作经验也会导致问题产生,例如在没有充分了解客户的想法是否可行的情况下,就对客户夸大承诺等。"



SCAN ME

Showcase #3

"How to avoid a renovation nightmare: Tips from homeowners and experts"

Channel News Asia/Published 16th April, 2022

CNA took a deep dive into why complaints like poor workmanship and unprofessional services remain rife in the renovation industry. They got experts and homeowners to share tips on how to prevent a renovation nightmare.

RCMA Asst. Hon. General Secretary Mr Michael Ong shared these tips in the article:

"Get quotes from different types of companies, such as a large firm, a smaller set-up and even a two-man company."

"When it comes to a huge price difference, it's also highly possible that they use a cheap material, then ask you to do a top-up."

"I dare say there is no free lunch. Whatever is a freebie has also been worked into the cost of the package."

"When you want to engage a service, you pay a small deposit like 10 percent."You see someone going down to do work, you pay the next 10 to 20 per cent, you see more work, then the next instalment comes. This is so even if the company closes down, (consumers) don't take on too much loss."

"When work starts, all verbal agreements get thrown out the window, and it will not hold in a court of law."

媒体活动#3

"来自屋主和专家的装修建议:如何避免装修噩梦"

亚洲新闻台/刊登于2022年4月16日

亚洲新闻台深入探讨为何装修行业常被投诉工艺拙劣、服务欠佳等,并邀请专家和屋主分享避免装修噩梦的贴士。

新加坡装修同业商联会助理秘书长王振宁在该报道中分享了以 下贴士:

"向不同规模的公司询价,如大规模的公司、小型公司,甚至是仅两人经营的公司。"

"当报价相差悬殊时,极有可能是该公司拟议选用廉价材料, 并在日后向你索取额外费用。"

"我敢说天下没有免费的午餐。无论对方答应赠送什么赠品, 其物品的成本早已被算进报价里。"

"当你决定聘用某公司的服务时,你仅需支付少量定金,如10%。当你看到有人来工地施工时,你才支付下一笔约10%至20%的费用;随着工程完成的进度越多,你才陆续支付下一笔费用。如此一来,即使该公司倒闭,(消费者)也不会承担过多损失。"

"一旦装修工程正式启动,所有口头协议 均会被抛到九霄云外,而且口头协议没有任何 法律效力。"



🗓 SCAN ME

"Easing of COVID-19 restrictions has led to less delays in renovations"

Channel 8 News Tonight / Aired 8th June, 2022

With the restrictions of the COVID-19 measures loosened, that has led to less delays for homes undergoing renovations. According to renovation platforms, renovation delays have been reduced from four weeks to only two weeks. However, the industry still faces shortage in manpower and inflated costs in materials.

RCMA stated that their investigation shows that renovation costs have increased by 20 percent. RCMA Associate Advisor Mr Lim Ah Bah said: "We can speak to our material suppliers about this inflation issue and hope they will not raise the prices too much, as that can be unbearable for us."



媒体活动#4

"防疫措施放宽 装修工程延误时间获改善"

8频道《晚间新闻》/于2022年6月8日播出

随着防疫措施放宽,装修工程的延误时间获得改善。受访装修平台表示,一般组屋的工程延误时间从四个星期,减少到两个星期。目前行业仍面对人手不足和通货膨胀的问题。

新加坡装修同业商联会进行的调查显示,装修成本近两个月 内上涨了两成。

新加坡装修同业商联会会务顾问林亚峇说:"我们会和材料商 洽谈,希望他们不要将装修材料的价格涨得太高,这样的话真的 是吃不消。"



Showcase #5

"Complaints against renovation contractors up due to unsatisfactory workmanship, delays"

The Straits Times / Published 28th July, 2022

The Consumers Association of Singapore (Case) reported a total of 807 complaints against renovation contractors in the first half of the year. This was an increase of 28 per cent from the 627 complaints Case received about the industry in the same period last year, said the association in a statement on Thursday, July 28th 2022.

Minister for Home Affairs and Law K. Shanmugam said in a written reply to a parliamentary question earlier this month that renovation fraud generally involves renovation contractors inducing victims to make payment for promised renovation works, which are either partially completed or not carried out at all.

He also added that homeowners who intend to carry out renovation works can consider engaging contractors with a good track record, such as those accredited by Case and Singapore Renovation Contractors and Material Suppliers Association RCMA.

媒体活动 #5

因装修工程质量不理想、工期延误等导致对装修 承包商的投诉增多

《海峡时报》/刊登于2022年7月28日

新加坡消费者协会在2022年7月28日(星期四)的一份声明中表示,今年上半年共接获了807起针对装修承包商的投诉,较去年同期的627起投诉,同比增加了28%。

内政部长兼律政部长尚穆根就本月早前在国会上的提问的 书面回复中提到,装修商欺骗案一般涉及装修承包商诱导受害 者支付装修费用,却没完成或开始任何装修工程。

他补充道,那些打算进行装修工程的屋主可考虑聘用备有 良好记录的承包商,例如那些在新加坡消费者协会和新加坡装 修同业商联会合力推出的保证标志鉴定计划下的承包商。



Written Reply to Parliamentary Question on Whether There is an Increase in Renovation Contractors Who Take Deposits Without Intent to Carry Out Renovation Works

Ministry of Home Affairs / Published 4th July 2022

Mr Murali Pillai asked: "To ask the Minister for Home Affairs (a) since January 2022, whether there is an increase in criminal cases involving renovation contractors taking deposits for renovation works without any intent to carry out such works; (b) what is the aggregate subject matter value for these reported cases between January 2022 to date; (c) what steps have been taken by the Singapore Police Force (SPF) to deal with this problem; and (d) in particular, how much monies have SPF recovered from the perpetrators for the corresponding period."

Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam answered with the following:

"Renovation fraud generally involves renovation contractors inducing victims to make payment for promised renovation works, which are either partially completed, or not carried out at all. In most of these cases, the contractors become uncontactable after collecting payment, or provide excuses to explain why they were unable to complete the promised works."

"Contractors who deceive victims into placing deposits for renovation works without any intent to carry out such works can be charged for cheating offences under section 420 of the Penal Code."

"Between 2019 and 2021, Police investigated 100 cases involving errant renovation contractors. So far, 72% of these cases have been prosecuted in Court. For cases that occurred this year, we are unable to provide details at this juncture, as investigations are ongoing.

"Some other cases may involve fraudulent intent, but it may be very difficult to prove that in Court. I have asked my Ministry to study if there is scope to amend the law to make it easier to establish fraud in such cases."

"Recovery of monies can also be difficult. The culprit may no longer have the money. Then, while he could go to jail, his customers may not get the money."

"Homeowners who intend to carry out renovation works can consider engaging contractors with a good track record, such as those accredited under the joint accreditation between the Consumer Association of Singapore and Singapore Renovation Contractors and Material Suppliers Association (RCMA)."

媒体活动#6

针对在国会上问及本地装修商欺骗案是否有所增 加的书面回复

内政部/发布于2022年7月4日

议员穆仁理提问: "请问内政部部长: (a)自2022年1月至今,涉及装修商欺骗案,包括装修商诱导受害者支付费用,却不打算开始任何装修工程的案例是否有所增加; (b)自2022年1月至今,上述举报案件所涉及的金额总数是多少; (c) 新加坡警队采取了哪些措施来解决上述案件;以及(d)新加坡警队在相应期间从犯罪者那里成功追回的金额是多少。"

内政部长兼律政部长尚穆根的回复如下:

"装修商欺骗案一般涉及装修承包商诱导受害者支付装修费用,却没完成或开始任何装修工程。在大多数此类案件中,承包商在收钱后不是失联,就是找借口解释为什么无法如期完成所承诺的工程。"

"承包商如果蓄意欺骗受害者支付装修定金,却不打算 完成任何工程,可在刑事法令第420条下被指控犯有欺诈行 为。"

"介于2019年至2021年期间,警方调查了100起涉及装修商违例的案件,当中有72%的案件已在法庭被起诉。由于今年所发生的案件的调查工作仍在进行中,因此我们无法提供详情。"

"部分案件或涉及蓄意的欺骗行为,但要在法庭上证明 这一点可能相当困难。我已要求内政部仔细研究是否能修改 相关法律,以便在此类案件中更容易证实欺诈行为。"

,追回被骗的款项也很困难,因为罪犯很可能已经把骗来的钱花光了。如此一来,即便他能被判刑坐牢,他的客户也可能拿不回钱。"

"那些打算进行装修工程的屋主可以考虑聘用备有良好记录的承包商,例如那些在新加坡消费者协会和新加坡装修同业商联会合力推出的保证标志鉴定计划下的承包商。"



"Renovation Woes: Can We Avoid Them?" "我们能否避免陷入装修困境?"

Showcase #7

"Renovation Woes: Can We Avoid Them?"

Channel News Asia/Aired 20th November, 2022

The renovation industry receives an average of 1,300 complaints every year. This 'Talking Point' segment investigates why problems persist and how the promise of a dream home could turn into a nightmare.

On why the industry keeps receiving complaints, **then RCMA President Dr Sky Tan** said: "There's a low barrier of entry, so anyone can easily enter this industry to start a business overnight."

He added: "For those renovation contractors without a HDB licence, they cannot renovate a HDB flat. But, there are grey areas. Firstly, now there are a lot of BTO (Built-To-Order) flats, so not all renovation works require you to apply for a HDB permit. For instance, I can do up a HDB flat which includes tiling, ceiling work, painting, carpentry, electrical work and lighting. But if no structural changes are done, such as demolishing walls, there is no need to apply for a HDB permit. There are also loopholes for resale flats, as I can get an experienced firm to help me apply for the HDB permit. This is one very common practice in the industry."

媒体活动 #7

"我们能否避免陷入装修困境?"

亚洲新闻台/于2022年11月20日播出

装修行业平均每年会收到1,300起投诉。本期"Talking Point"将来探讨该行业的根本问题,以及打造理想家园的美梦如何会变成一场噩梦。

问及该行业为何频繁收到投诉时,新加坡装修同业商 联会前会长陈锦龙博士表示:"由于进入装修行业的门槛 很低,因此任何人都可以在该行业轻松创业。"

他补充道:"那些没有获得建屋发展局批发的装修准证的承包商是不能装修政府组屋的,但不少装修从业者仍游走于灰色地带。首先,目前有很多预购组屋项目,而并非所有的装修工程都需要向建屋发展局申请装修许可证。例如,我可以(在不申请装修许可证的情况下)进行地砖的铺设、安装天花板、油漆、木工、电工和安装灯饰等装修工作;只要我没有对组屋的结构进行任何改动,如拆墙,我就无需向建屋发展局申请装修许可证。其次,装修转售组屋也同样漏洞百出,例如我可以寻求一家有经验的公司替我申请相关的装修许可证。这在业内其实是一项极为普遍的做法。"







"Before you renovate your home, watch out for contractors with these red flags"

Channel News Asia/ Aired 10th December 2022

More than 1,100 complaints were made against home renovation contractors in the first nine months of this year, compared with 1,300 complaints last year. This 'Talking Point' segment lists out five ways to better navigate this minefield.

One of which is to engage an appropriately licensed person. To renovate Housing and Development Board (HDB) flats, a contractor must be listed in the Directory of Renovation Contractors.But unlicensed contractors have found a loophole: Home renovations that do not require an HDB permit.

Doing up Build-To-Order flats, for example, may often involve things such as carpentry, painting, lighting and some other electrical works, cited **Sky Tan, then president of the Singapore Renovation Contractors and Materials Suppliers Association (RCMA)**.

媒体活动#8

"在你决定雇用承包商装修房屋之前,记得留意 这些危险信号"

亚洲新闻台/于2022年12月10日播出

装修行业在今年首9个月收到了超过1,100起投诉(去年全年共收到1,300起投诉)。本期"Talking Point"将与观众分享五个有助于避开装修雷区的方法。

Showcase #9

"548 complaints made against renovation contractors in the first 5 months of this year, about 9 percent more in the same period before the pandemic"

Channel 8 News / Aired 4th June, 2023

There have been several online posts about alleged fraud cases by renovation contractors. According to data given by the Consumers Association of Singapore (Case), there were 548 complaints against renovation contractors in the first five months of this year, which is about 9 percent more in the same period in 2019 before the pandemic broke

RCMA stated that the association has been providing proper training to renovation practitioners in the past two years. RCMA Associate Advisor Mr Lim Ah Bah said: "Our training courses offer different aspects of renovation knowledge, and how to improve renovations to better satisfy the needs of consumers, fellow associates and the society."

媒体活动#9

"今年首五个月有548起针对装修承包商的投诉 比疫情前同期多约9%"

8频道《狮城6点半》/于2023年6月4日播出

近期网上出现数起有关装修承包商涉嫌诈骗的贴文,引起关注。 新加坡消费者协会的最新数据显示,今年首五个月有548起针对 装修承包商的投诉,较2019年疫情前同期多约9%。

新加坡装修同业商联会表示,已在近两年积极为装修从业者 提供专业培训。新加坡装修同业商联会会务顾问林亚峇说:"我 们的培训课程为装修从业者提供不同层面的装修知识,并教导他 们如何改善装修工程以更好地满足消费者、同行和社会的需求。





SCAN ME

"Recent complaints of irresponsible renovation contractors make light of helpless homeowners"

"本地近期出现许多对装修承包商的投诉,他们不负责任的行为让无助屋主叫苦连天"

Showcase #10

"Recent complaints of irresponsible renovation contractors make light of helpless homeowners"

Mediacorp CAPITAL 958 / Aired 13th June, 2023

What should homeowners do if they encounter a renovation contractor or interior design firm that fails to deliver what was promised? How can they protect their own interests? On this radio show where **RCMA Associate Advisor Mr Lim Ah Bah** was invited to be one of its guest speakers, he was asked by the deejays if he had received similar complaints.

Mr Lim said: "For our association, we have not received any of such complaints. This is because we have been established in Singapore for 43 years. We currently have 130 members who account for less than 10 percent of all HDB-certified renovation contractors. In a recent residential development, one of our members actually managed to secure renovation jobs for more than 200 residential units, and it goes to show that our members can be considered the best in their field."

He then warned: "If the renovation practitioner you are planning to hire requests for more than 50 percent of payment before your renovation commences, that is a red flag. Payment should always be paid in instalments, and the first instalment should be below 50 percent."

媒体活动#10

"本地近期出现许多对装修承包商的投诉,他们不负责任的行为让无助屋主叫苦连天"

958城市频道/于2023年6月13日播出

当装修承包商或室内设计公司无法兑现承诺时,屋主该怎么办?屋主要怎么保障自己的利益?新加坡装修同业商联会会务顾问林亚峇是此电台节目的采访嘉宾之一。

电台主播向他询问是否有收过类似的投诉。对此, 林先生表示: "就新加坡装修同业商联会旗下会员而 言,我们不曾收到过任何投诉。我们在新加坡已成立了 43年,目前有130名会员,不占本地建屋发展局旗下受 认证的装修承包商的10%。然而,在近期的一项组屋开 发项目中,我们其中一名会员就成功获得了200多个组 屋单元的装修工作,足以证明我们的会员是该领域中的 佼佼者。"

他不忘提醒听众:"一个明显的警示信号是你预备雇用的装修从业者在开工前就试图向你索取50%以上的款项。装修费用应采取分期付款方式,而首期付款款项应低于50%。"



Natural window treatments 自然材质的窗帘

The return of bamboo blinds signifies the comeback of a nostalgic style accent.

复古创新的艺术品

By Ong Tian Kit 王天乞



With improvements in the quality of living, a comfortable living environment is synonymous with window treatments like curtains and blinds; with some homeowners using curtain design to improve the look of their home.

Timeless curtain designs lean towards natural materials as it is easy to pair with furniture, flooring and other design elements, while enhancing the comfort and ambience of the interior. The organic qualities of the traditional bamboo blinds draw out a quiet and relaxed atmosphere, and can enhance the overall artistic feel of the interior design.

Outdoor bamboo blinds are also suited for indoor gardens and are elegant and practical with its sun-blocking function. A unique choice amidst other outdoor products, these natural materials offer a softer and delicate sense of elegance and high functionality.

Another variation is indoor bamboo curtains made of original bamboo with silk thread textiles. Exquisitely produced, these artistic-looking curtains are the epitome of timeless tradition that will never go out of style.

Cotton fabric blinds project a soft and dreamy ambience and differ from the rigidity and harshness of plastic and wood blinds. These soft blinds are made of cotton fabric which are easy to roll up and can block any unwanted outdoor views. From subtle to bold and stylish colours, these blinds work well with daylight through two light-control features of light-transmitting and light-blocking.



随着生活素质的提升,温馨、舒适的居家 环境与窗帘的巧妙搭配密不可分,屋主更 是能借助窗帘的设计展现创意巧思。

简约时尚的窗帘设计趋向自然材质,除了易与各种家具、地板等设计原素相互搭配之外,也起着画龙点睛之妙,能顿时提升家居环境的视觉享受和氛围。

传统竹帘的有机性能有助于缔造宁静舒 适氛围,提升室内设计的整体艺术气 质,是设计师心仪的必备窗材之一。

室外竹帘适用于家居庭院,不但能突显祥和、淳朴之美,还具备防晒遮雨功能,是同类室外产品中望其项背的独特首选。其自然材质散发淡雅、柔和的设计美感,并且具备遮阳、保护隐私等功能,既实用又性价比高,是公寓式和有地住宅不可或缺的温馨素材。

室内竹帘的素材取自原竹材,配置精致 丝线紡织加工制成,犹如一件高格调又 具现代美感的艺术品,是传统与潮流相 结合的结晶品,百看不厌。

绵质布片百叶窗帘具有一帘幽梦的特殊 幻觉,有别于木片和塑料百叶窗帘的硬 性单调,可隐匿窗外景观,备有透光和 遮光两种布料用途选项。

采用绵质布片百叶窗帘,转动轻便,柔美画面,光合作用,富丽姿彩, 艺漫生动。



新合成簾業

Sin Hup Seng Bamboo Chicks & Blinds Block 1090 Lower Delta Road #01-13/14 Singapore 169201

TEL 6271 2233 FAX 6272 8708

EMAIL enquiries@sinhupseng.com.sg **UEN NO.**: 09987700K www.sinhupseng.com.sg

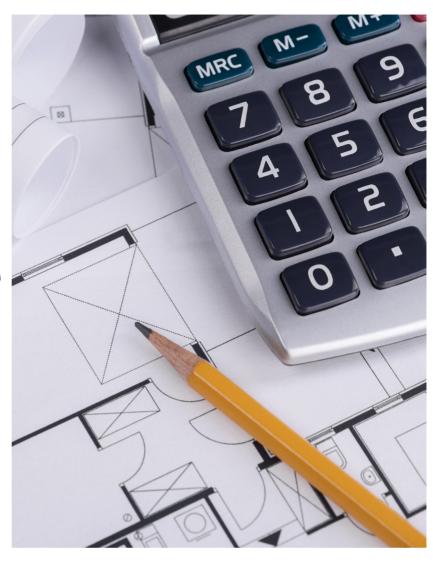
Renovation Deposit Performance Bond

You would have made a very wise decision if you had signed up for a renovation package with a CaseTrust accredited Business. Such businesses have undergone a certification process to ensure that it possesses good sales practices and standards. In line with the accreditation, the Business has also taken concrete steps to protect your deposit collected by them through the procurement of a CASE directed performance bond. CASE will call on the bond in the unfortunate event of an unexpected closure of the business. In this instance, the guaranteed sum will be the outstanding deposit you have paid.

The key coverage of the bond are as follows:

- Insolvency, compulsory liquidation and bankruptcy of the Insured.
- Death or permanent disability of key partner or director of the insured rendering it impossible to keep the business financially or economically viable, which lead to insolvency, compulsory liquidation and bankruptcy of insured.

For the purpose of this policy, the meaning, intention and definition of insolvency, bankruptcy and/or compulsory liquidation shall be defined as the inability to meet their financial and trade obligations as and



when they fall in the usual course of trade or business.

This Policy shall be activated and claims shall be payable when the insured is unable to fulfil their obligations to their Insured Person for more than 30 days on a continuous basis and where is evidenced that all physical function of Insured has ceased for more than 30 working days.

Objective

CASE launched the CaseTrust Accreditation for Renovation Businesses with a view to allowing committed companies to distinguish themselves by committing to the following standards:

- clear FEE Policies: Clearly articulated and documented policies on fees and fee refund. These must be fully disclosed to their customers.
- WELL-DEFINED BUSINESS PRACTICES AND SYSTEMS:

A redress system with proper and clearly defined dispute resolution mechanisms for the business and consumers. This will include mediation by the CASE Mediation Centre.

WELL-TRAINED PERSONNEL:

The business has trained sales staff who do not practice unethical sales tactics and are able to provide accurate information regarding the renovation.

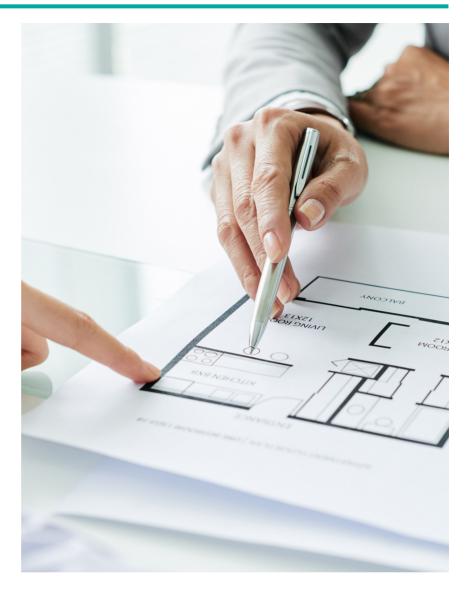
Having received feedback from the general public, CASE implemented the performance bond requirement in order to boost consumer confidence and improve the industry's image.

The Mechanism of the system

- A master policy will be issued
- The approved limit will be set in the customised system which the business operator will have access to
- The operator will have to issue a certificate to ALL customers who have paid the deposit
- The limit is on a drawdown basis
- The operator will have to top-up the limit once it runs low
- The operator will not be able to generate a certificate if there is insufficient limit
- The consumer will be able to call for compensation for the un-utilised portion of deposit from the insurer (closure of the operator)

Claims handling

- The consumer will lodge a complaint to CASE for un-utilised portion of the deposit upon Insolvency, compulsory liquidation and bankruptcy of the Insured organisation
- The appointed loss adjuster by bolttech will assess the matter and make a decision whether the bond called is valid
- If the bond is valid, bolttech will assist to facilitate the issuance of the cheque payment
- The cheque will be issued in favour of the consumer within fourteen (14) working days



Conclusion

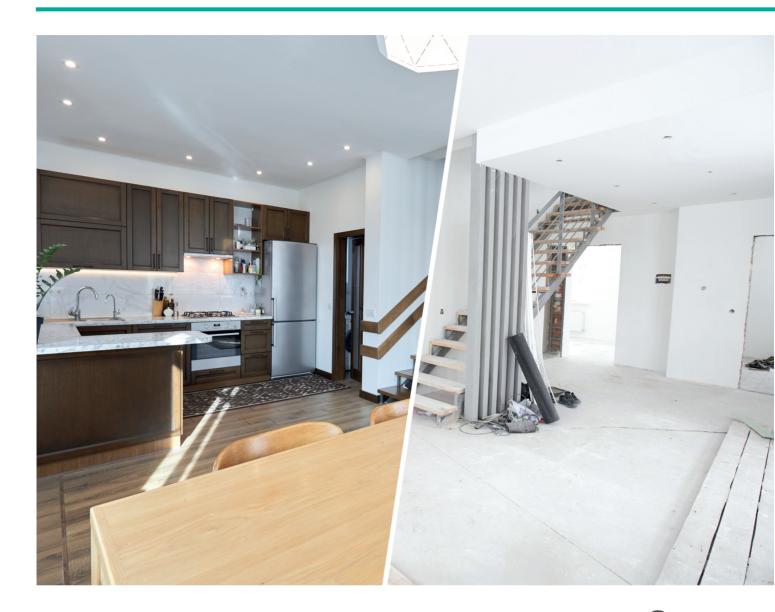
Our key focus in arranging the performance bond is to ensure that consumers' deposits are appropriately protected in the unfortunate closure of a CaseTrust accredited business.

The approach we take is on a proactive and collaborative basis – we have taken into consideration the interest of CASE, the business operators and most importantly the consumers in all areas of deliberation.

We are confident that consumers will be protected in all possible ways based on the accreditation scheme. Our philosophy is to adopt a fully integrated approach to the functionality of the pre-paid system. To ensure that the system will not be abused and to achieve a fair and transparent operating procedure in the industry.



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Community Building,
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EMAIL casetrust@case.org.sg
WEBSITE www.case.org.sg/casetrust



Importance of regular home maintenance and renovation



By Ong Han Boon Property Valuer

From a general perspective, a home or HDB flat will become outdated and worn-down over the years, much like a vehicle. Therefore, regular maintenance is necessary. For homeowners who are financially stable, they may want to renovate their homes every few years to keep them in good condition. Homeowners can look into these following pointers to make sure their homes are up to date:

#1 Safety and liveability of your home

Whether you live in your own home or rent it out, the safety of the occupants is definitely a top priority. A well-maintained house is pleasing to the eye and offers a warm, safe and comfortable living condition. For this reason, it is common for homeowners to spend a large amount of money decorating it to fulfil the needs of their family. A house that lacks maintenance for an extended period of time can pose various dangers. If the electrical appliances or wires are faulty, it may cause a fire, or in serious cases, death or injury.

#2 Maintaining or increasing the value of your home

For the average salaried person, a home is the most expensive asset and

investment they will ever make. Therefore, everyone wants to get the best possible return on this investment and effort. A home that is regularly maintained, renovated, or refurbished can effectively maintain or increase its property or rental value. Without regular maintenance, the condition of the home will depreciate in value, making it challenging to rent or sell.

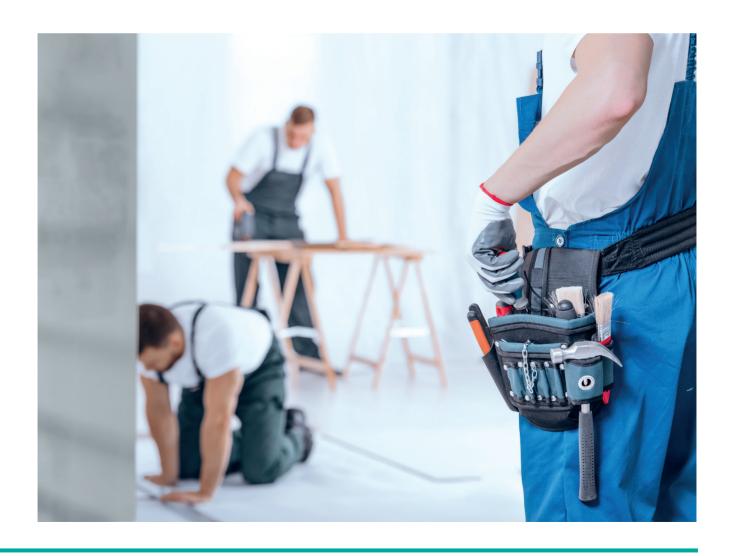
#3 Saving money and reducing energy consumption

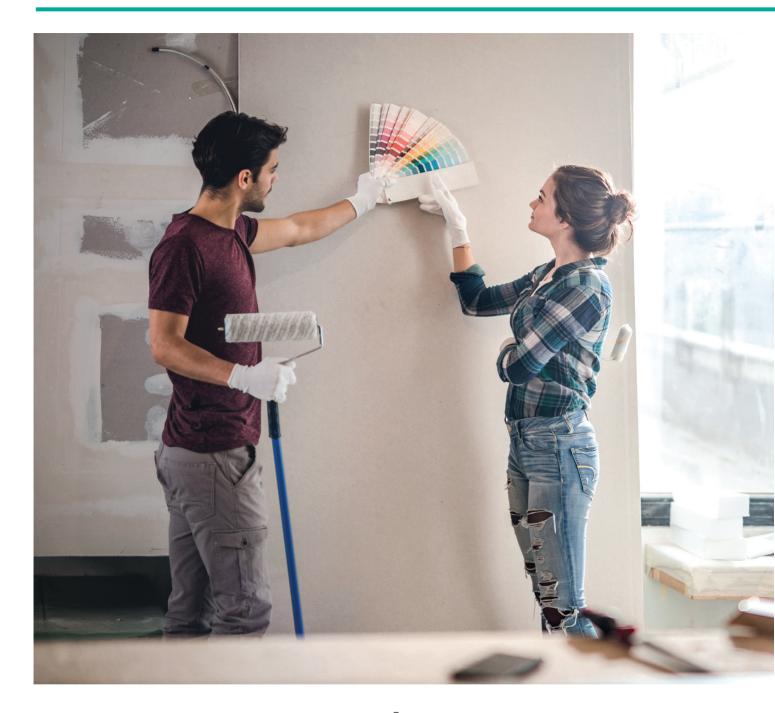
When a house is not well-maintained, the homeowner will have to spend a lot of money on repairs once it becomes old and rundown. If you want to enjoy a comfortable indoor temperature while trying to conserve electricity at home, you should pay attention to the biggest causes of

energy wastage.For instance, checking whether the doors and windows of your home are tightly sealed or and in need of repairs. Damaged doors and windows can cause your airconditioning to leak. Do also check whether electrical appliances and air-conditioning systems are operating efficiently – as to achieve higher energy efficiency.

#4 Creating a beautiful and comfortable home

Most homeowners want to live in comfort and style. Through renovation works, this gives homeowners the opportunity to refresh and reorganise their old home. What are the major factors to pay attention to for your renovation? In general, homeowners should consider practicality, comfort, safety, aesthetics and durability.





房屋/组屋定期维修与装修的重要性



翁汉武 房产怙价师

一般而言,房屋或组屋也和汽车一样都会阥着岁月的流逝而变得陈旧损坏。因此,需要做定期的维修。经済情况好的业主,每隔几年还要装修一番,以保房屋能处于良好状况。

定期对房屋进行维修或装修对业主的重要性包括下列几方面:

一、保持房屋的安全可居住性

房屋是用耒居住的,无论是自住或出租,居住者的安全当然是头等大事。维修良好的房子誏人赏心悦目,给居住者有一个温暖、安全、舒适的家。因此,一般人购买了房屋后还要花一大笔钱把屋子装修的美仑美奂,以满足家人需要。长期缺少维修的屋子,可能造成各种危险。如果电器失修或电线漏电等造成失火,严重者也可能造成人命伤亡的事件。

二、保持或增加房屋的价值

対一般受薪人士而言,房屋是他们一生

中最昂贵的资产与投资。因此大家都希望这项投资及努力能获取最好的收益。定期维修,有装修、翻新的房屋就能有效的保持或者增加房屋的出售与出租的价格。没有维修的房屋,房屋状情将会变差,出租或出售都会比较难。

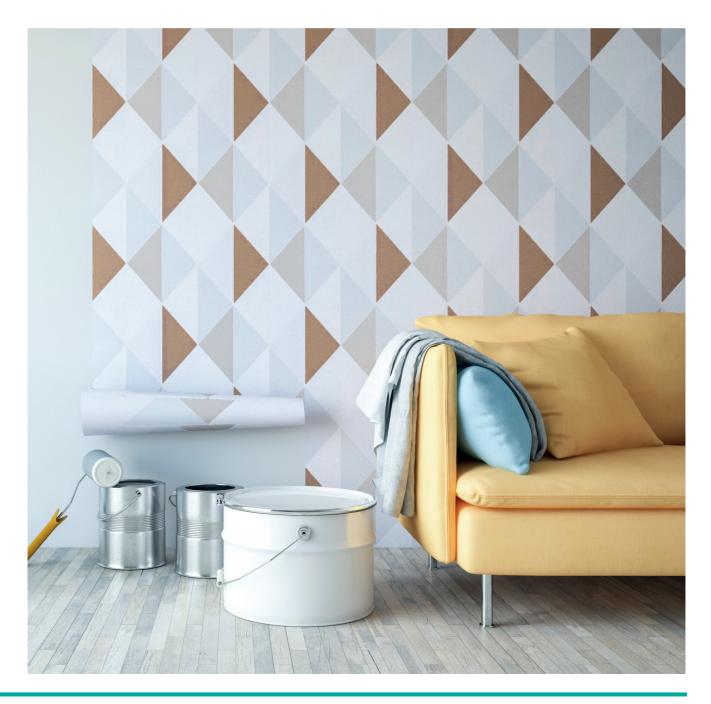
三、节省金钱,减少能源的消耗

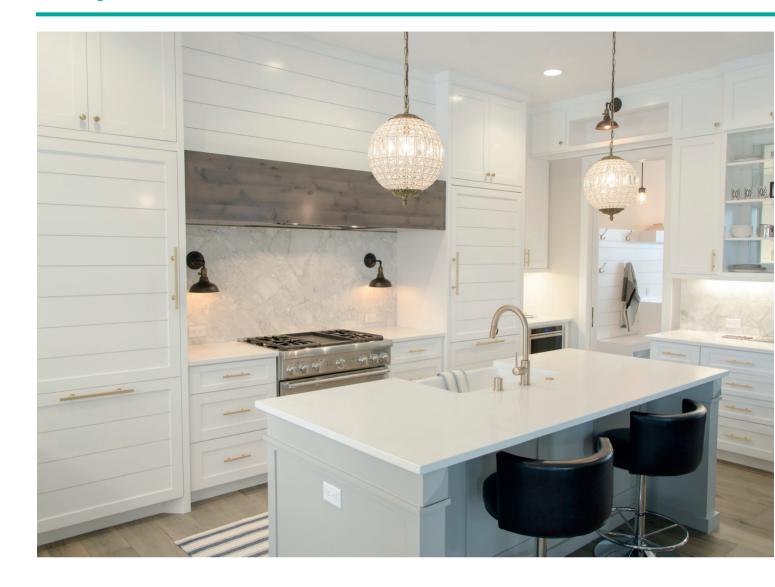
没有良好维修的房屋,一旦屋子陈旧不堪,屋主就得花大笔钱去维修。如果屋主一方面要保持舒适的室内温度,而另一方面又要努力节省用电时,应该注意一下防止造成浪费电的原因。比如可以

从检查家中的门窗是否有失修或损坏, 因而造成漏掉冷気呢? 经常维修家中的 电器及冷気系统,检查是否操作有効,方 能更好达到节省能源的目的。

四,打造美观,舒适的家居

大多数的屋主都希望居住的屋子是舒适, 美观和实用。因此, 通过装修可以对居住空间的设计, 给业主有机会进行重组, 装修完毕之后; 一般而言都能给你一个清新新的家居。房屋装修设计应注意那些事项呢? 总的耒谈, 实用、舒适、美观、安全及耐用,可以说是屋主们都应考虑的重要事项。





Chic countertops for everyday life

Lian Hin's outstanding range of surfaces offers a timeless style and quality that stands up well to time and daily wear and tear.

Images Lian Hin

In these modern times, the kitchen is no longer a backroom but rather, the centrepiece of the home. You'll see many kitchens thrust in the limelight with beautiful open-concept or island counter styles. The bathroom is also no longer an afterthought as more homeowners are placing prominence on a powder room to better cater to their guests. With these usually neglected areas now playing major roles, you would want to look for high-performance surfaces to deck out these spaces.

Here's where Lian Hin comes in, this provider of multi-faceted surfaces such as granite, marble, quartz and sintered stone is committed to delivering quality aesthetics with practical functionality. Their product ranges are versatile as well and can be applied as countertops, feature walls and vanities. Here are three of their noteworthy collections to elevate different areas of your home.

Natural stone classics from CANDEO

Natural stones impart timeless elegance, which explains why it's often considered for sophisticated styles. CANDEO by Lian Hin is a collection that offers one-of-a-kind granite and marble surfaces. These are carefully sourced and precisely cut to fit any space.

Boasting heat- and scratch-resistant attributes, the granite series in CANDEO makes a great choice as countertops for kitchens, bathrooms and even as vanities. Granite itself has a natural toughness that protects the surface from abrasions, making it one of the most durable natural surfaces available.

Colour versatility with ARCUS

Looking for something with more design variety? ARCUS will satisfy all design desires with its custom-made engineered surfaces such as Quartz.

Quartz collection comes in a vast range of colours and designs, making it a trendy choice for countertops in kitchens, bathrooms and as vanities. Classico showcases the all-time favourite, quartz slabs. Choose from neutral plain slabs to keep things sleek or shimmery slabs for that wow-factor. Go upscale with the Eternal series with premium quartz slabs sporting a more natural, raw and sophisticated marble-look styles.

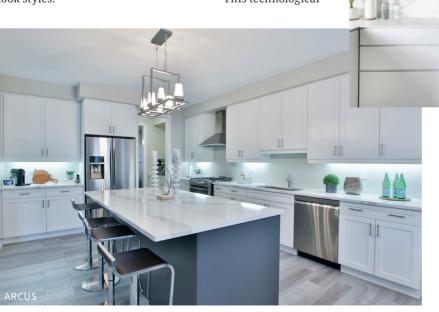


High-tech, higher resistance with VULCAN

A technological material manufactured from sophisticated Italian machinery, VULCAN is a collection of large-format sintered surface slabs. This high-performance surface fares

well in kitchens and bathrooms due to their strong resistance to household chemicals, high heat and colour wear. This technological innovative material also saves time and effort in maintenance with its easy-to-clean surface. A top contender with its outstanding performance and aesthetics, VULCAN can easily satisfy any demanding needs of modern living.

VULCAN





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At Lian Hin, we keep it simple. We weave quality aesthetics with practical functionality to create products that last and delight, ranging from feature walls to worktops and vanities.

We have come a long way since our establishment in 1989 as a humble granite and marble dealer. However, unchanging is our commitment to high quality and exceptional service.

Today, we have grown to become the leading expert in multi-faceted surfaces like Granite, Marble, Quartz and Sintered Surface in Singapore.

We deliver our promise through CANDEO, ARCUS and VULCAN.



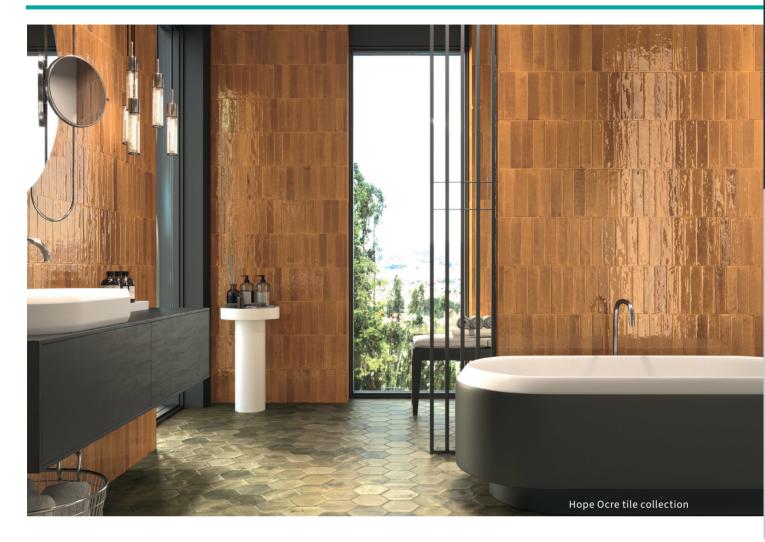












The Next Tile Trend

On-trend styles and new features on tiles, according to a tile specialist.

By Patrick Puah, Business Development Director, Lian Seng Hin Trading Co Pte Ltd

Tiles have always been a crucial element in interior design, setting the tone and style of a space. Ever evolving, exciting developments in tile design trends, preferred looks, and new features have transformed the way we perceive and utilise these versatile materials.

Exciting design trends

Contemporary and eclectic styles have become prevalent design trends in the tile industry. Even though squarish and rectangular sized tiles are the preferred sizes, the use of



geometric patterns have gained popularity for their modern and dynamic appeal. In trend are also biophilic designs that create a connection to nature. Additionally, there is a growing interest in natural materials and earthy tones, as eco-consciousness drives the appreciation for sustainable and organic design.

Large format tiles above 60x120cm size have gained popularity as they minimise grouting lines, creating an expansive look in big areas.















Is your floor really clean?

It may look clean, but microbes and harmful bacteria lurk everywhere. Introducing GuardTec, the anti-microbial protection for tiles. Using zinc oxide nanoparticles with its antibacterial properties through a special formulation, tiles with GuardTec coating effectively can kill up to 99.9% of microbes and bacteria.

Our world today is filled with all kinds of microbes and bacteria that can be harmful to our bodies and detrimental to our health.

How Nano Zinc Oxide (ZnO) destroys bacteria

Nano Zinc Oxide (ZnO) disrupts bacteria cell membrane and penetrates bacteria cell via diffusion .

The wing like surface of Nano Zinc Oxide (ZnO) is covered

nc Oxide

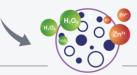


When bacteria contact these faces, the membrane of the cells expand causing a production of sugar, DNA and protein, thus effectively killing bacteria.





Process B



Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) + zinc ior (Zn2+) will also enter the cell membrane, thus killing the cell.

Zinc is a reactive oxygen species (ROS) that generate superoxide, hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) and zinc ion (Zn²⁺) during mitochondrial electron transport and metal catalytic oxidation.



dCervinia Bianco



SHOWROOMS

Balestier Road 568A Balestier Road. Singapore 329885 +65-6252 2222 (6 Lines) **Crocodile House** Crocodile House, 3 Ubi Ave 3. #01-01, Singapore 408857 +65-6747 2522

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Perennial styles

Classic patterns with a modern twist are currently making waves in tile design.

Subway tiles, for instance, have undergone a transformation from basic white rectangles to a diverse range of sizes, colours, and finishes.

Bevelled edges, textured surfaces, and vibrant glazes have revitalised this timeless design, offering limitless creative possibilities.

Marble-look and timber-look tiles continue to be the evergreen choice due to their luxurious aesthetics and appeal. Technological advancements have enabled manufacturers to replicate the unique veining patterns and textures of natural marble and timber, while maintaining the benefit of affordability. These tiles exude elegance and warmth in any space.





New features

Manufacturers have been innovating in tile design, introducing new features to enhance their functionality and performance. Anti-slip technology has been integrated into tiles designed for wet areas, reducing the risk of slips and falls. This specialized surface treatment provides improved traction when tiles are wet, eliminating the need for tiles to be textured to provide the grip, easing maintenance works.

A significant development is the integration of functional technology within tiles. Some companies have

introduced tiles embedded with Negative Ions and Anti-bacterial properties, offering functional elements rather than purely aesthetic prints. This enhancement resolves consumer needs for a cleaner and safer environment.

There is a growing emphasis on sustainable production methods and eco-friendly materials. Tile manufacturers are adopting recycling techniques to create tiles from recycled material, or using cleaner fuel to fire the kiln. These environmentally conscious tiles contribute to sustainability and are becoming a norm in project specifications.

Future of tiles

The tile industry is constantly improving to meet the demands of modern interior design. From technological advancements to the constant evolution of new design trends, the innovative features in tiles are now more versatile and creatively inspiring. Going forward, the focus on sustainability and eco-friendly practices will further drive the future of tile design, ensuring a harmonious blend of aesthetics and environmental responsibility.



Neotech tile collection



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Bus No: 49, 52, 99, 105, 188, 333, 502, 990







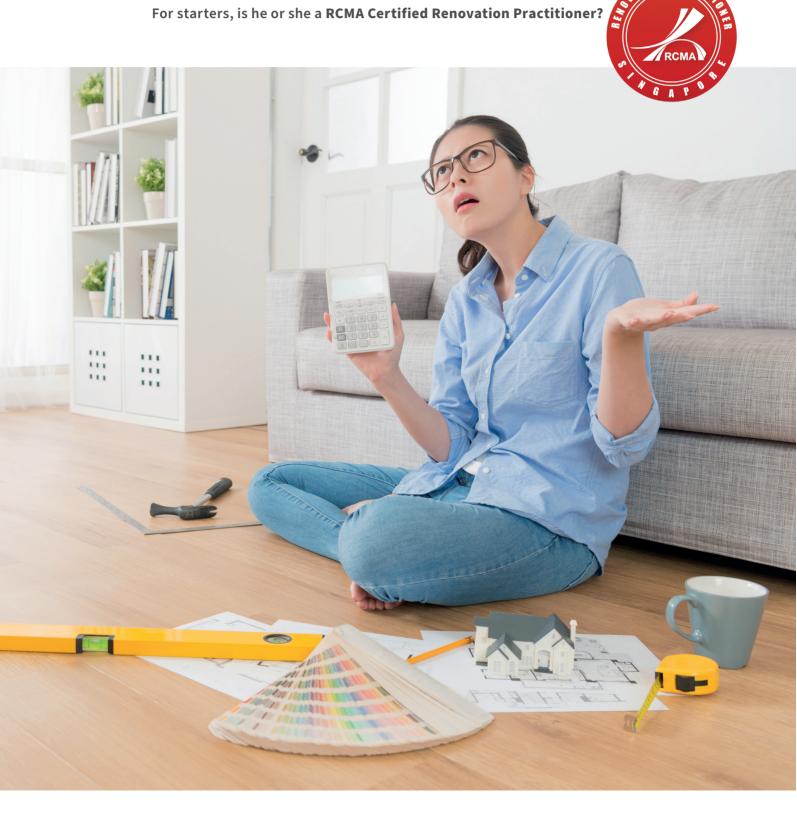








HOW TO ENGAGE AN INTERIOR DESIGNER YOU CAN TRUST



Shoddy workmanship, unreachable interior designers and contractors, and broken promises, these are some of the renovation nightmares that you could fall prey to. Knowledge is power, and here are some important considerations when it comes to selecting a reliable renovator for a peace of mind.

#1 RCMA Certified Renovation Practitioners

One certification that a highly qualified renovation provider should have under their belt is the "Certified Renovation Practitioner" also known as CRP awarded by the RCMA Academy. A certified renovation practitioner has a profound understanding of their roles and responsibilities to their clients, along with clear knowledge of the relevant laws and regulations as far as property renovations are concerned. They would be well-acquainted with residential and commercial structures, project management, safety regulations and more. This certification is jointly launched by

RCMA, with BCA and HDB support to allow new and existing renovators to be at the forefront of industry standards. Emphasising on ethics and competency in the industry, providing you with the best.

#2 Look for companies with registration and official licenses

Always engage registered interior design companies or contractors that are HDB-licensed. You can check the validity of license via HDB's official website. Do ask the company on the employee credentials, certifications and licensing before hiring.

#3 Do more independent research

Now that you've shortlisted some reputable interior design companies or contractors, you should visit at least three IDs or contractors for quotation. Receiving multiple quotes will allow you to gain a better understanding of how much these companies will typically charge for your renovation needs. As a potential client, you can also request to inspect

their work by visiting their showroom or an ongoing renovation site of their current client's project.

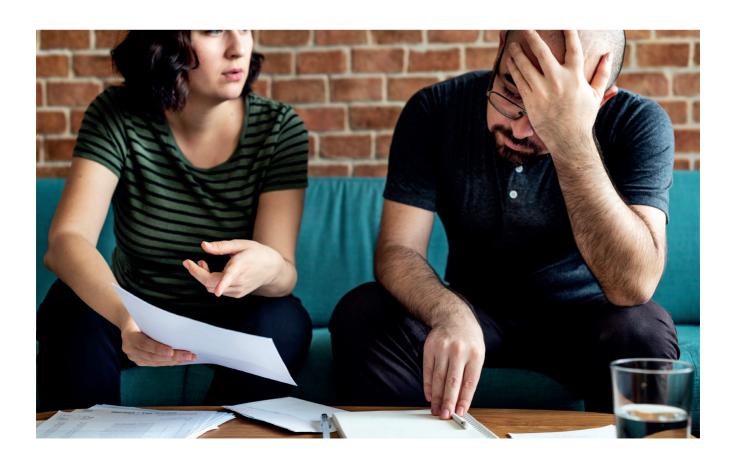
#4 Make sure the contract is fair and renovation is a partnership

A good and detailed contract should list out the full nature of the renovation works to be done. Most importantly, this renovation project contract should also highlight mutually agreed deadlines for the completion of various project stages, as well as the amount you have to pay before or after the completion of each stage.

The contract should highlight tangible outcomes for your renovation provider's failures in meeting the agreement terms. You will be more assured knowing you can be compensated for any aspect of the milestones that falls short of the stated expectations.

Understand that the renovation process is a partnership where your renovator works to execute your dream home.

As a client, do your part to ensure a smooth process and communicate clear expectations.

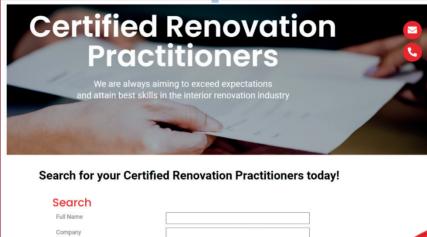


HOW TO IDENTIFY A RCMA CERTIFIED RENOVATION PRACTITIONER

Verify your CRP by running a search of their registered CRP ID or full name.









Otherwise, spot a RCMA Certified Renovation Practitioner easily through their issued identification with a registered CRP identification number (see right). You can also check their name card or website to see if it carries the CRP logo for further verification.



INTERESTED TO BECOME A RCMA CERTIFIED RENOVATION PRACTITIONER?

Here are the course highlights of the 7-week modular E-learning course with industry veterans:

- A deep understanding of the role and responsibilities to clients and the company.
- A clear knowledge of relevant laws to abide by
- A basic understanding of residential and commercial structures
- · Safety regulations
- How to communicate with customers, neighbours and relevant authorities to minimise potential issues and disputes
- Importance of project management, renovation project's goals and constraints
- Good ethics in renovation projects and legal requirements in renovation workplace
- Application of renovation permit
- Renovation guidelines in public and private projects
- · Concept of quality management
- Quality and workmanship benchmark

Testimonials from RCMA Certified Renovation Practitioners



"After being in the interior industry for so many years, some (interior designers) will remain in their comfort zone and not keep up with market standards. Constant learning is therefore a must to keep ourselves competitive."

(top right) Damien Koh, One Design Werkz

"The reason why we need to constantly upgrade ourselves is because this industry is ever-changing."

(top left) Tina Liu, One Design Werkz

Want to learn more? Scan this QR code to access more details on enrolment and course outline information.





"RCMA engages industry professionals to conduct the Certified Renovation Practitioner courses. We have learnt a lot from the course content and it has helped us methodically solve problems that we come across in projects."

Marcus Ooi. Sky Creation



"We strongly believe that maintaining quality services to homeowners is important. As our designers are the frontline of Fifth Avenue Interior, we want to ensure they are up-to-date on their performance and knowledge. We do our part to maintain our credibility and this is the primary reason why we had our designers join RCMA courses."

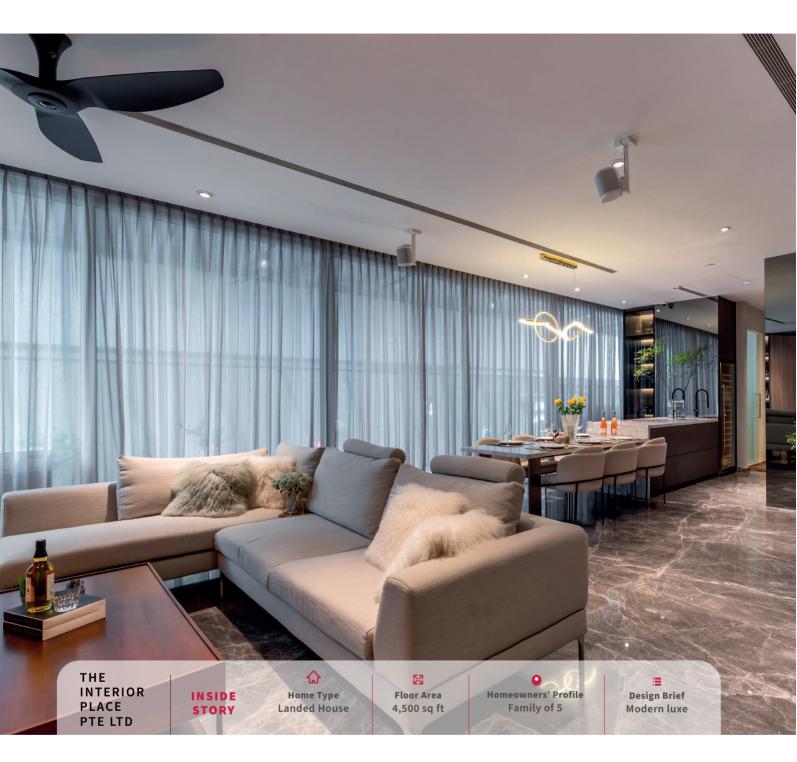
Derick Ong, Fifth Avenue Interior





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A lavish treatment

A discerning palette of upscale finishes and sleek furnishings creates a timeless sense of sophistication for this family home designed by The Interior Place.

Effortless elegance

Home to a family with three sons of various ages, the brief given by the homeowners to the designers from The Interior Place was to conceive an ambience of modern elegance. The look of modern luxury has been achieved by a carefully-curated colour palette leaning towards neutral tones of sophistication, and gorgeous marble flooring accented by high quality Arova laminate finishes.

Spacious endeavours

To better set off a spacious outlook, the designer initially proposed to remove all the walls. That could not be executed as one of the walls is a structural beam and therefore, they turned to clad the beam in dark tinted mirror strips to conceal it discreetly. The mirror feature also adds a sense of spaciousness and works well with the island counter decked in a marble slab worktop.





Wake up to luxury

Hotel-worthy grandeur enters the master bedroom which boasts a bold open-concept bathroom amongst other indulgent amenities. A long dresser decked in a beautiful natural stone surface links the vanity to the dry bathroom zone. Anchoring the sleeping space is the use of recessed lighting in streamlined strokes to usher in sleek modernity.



Dressed to impress

To accommodate a walk-in wardrobe, the designers had to reconfigure the master bedroom and hacked away several walls in the process. Tea-tinted glass doors were then used to enclose this dressing area. Together with the open shelving and glass sliding wardrobe doors, the open-concept closet showcases the homeowners' clothing and accessories with a stylish boutique-style flair.















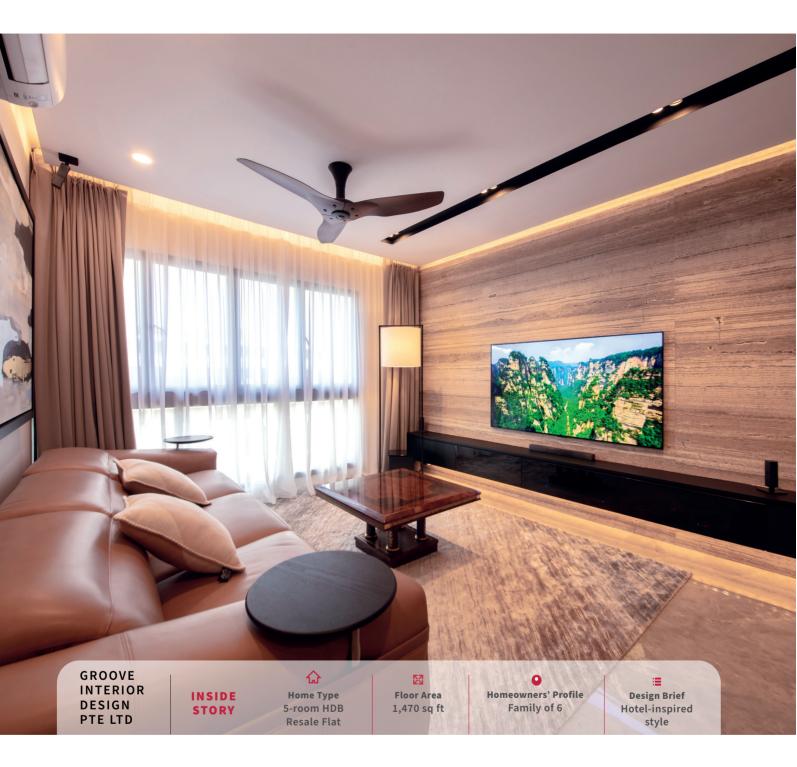


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No place like home

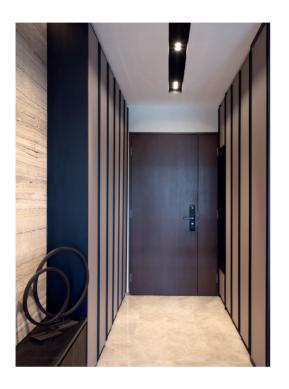
Transformed into a relaxed hotel-worthy sanctuary, this 5-room HDB flat by Groove Interior Design allows its occupants to truly rest and recharge.

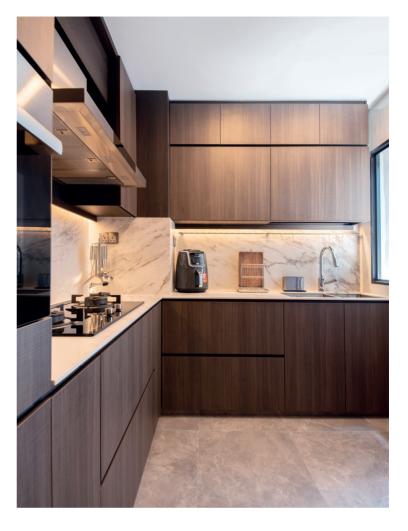
Everyday staycation

Home to a family of 6, the homeowners wanted to luxuriate in their HDB flat with hotel-like comforts. Designer Shiin Wong from Groove Interior Design was roped in to materialise their dream home and she turned to a palette of luxury stone finishes and earthy hues. In the living room, huge slabs of marble have been installed as a head-turning feature wall. Shiin says: "There were difficulties transporting the marble slabs because of the hefty weight, and we had to manually move them by climbing the stairs." The living room is hooked up with a smart home system, with automated curtains that enhance the stay-home experience.

Beautiful symmetry

The foyer is decked with two rows of carpentry works that conceal the doorway to the bomb shelter on the right, and shoe storage on the left. A thoughtful design detail that Shiin included is a settee for the homeowners to put on their footwear in comfort. The cohesive design treatment of laminate wall cladding also warmly welcomes the homeowners home.





▼ Pampering sessions

Following the luxury hotel theme to a tee is the master bathroom, which is swathed in sophistication. Glossy neutral tones reflected on the stone-look tiles conceive a perception of depth that makes the surroundings feel like a real getaway. Soft, recessed lighting further adds to the beautifully intimate feeling of a personal wellness sanctuary.

Small turned spacious

Clever space planning comes into place for the original kitchen, which was not large to begin with. Shiin proposed to separate it into two zones – dry and wet– and she hacked away the internal wall. This paves the way for a more spacious kitchen conducive for cooking, food preparation and serving the entire family.









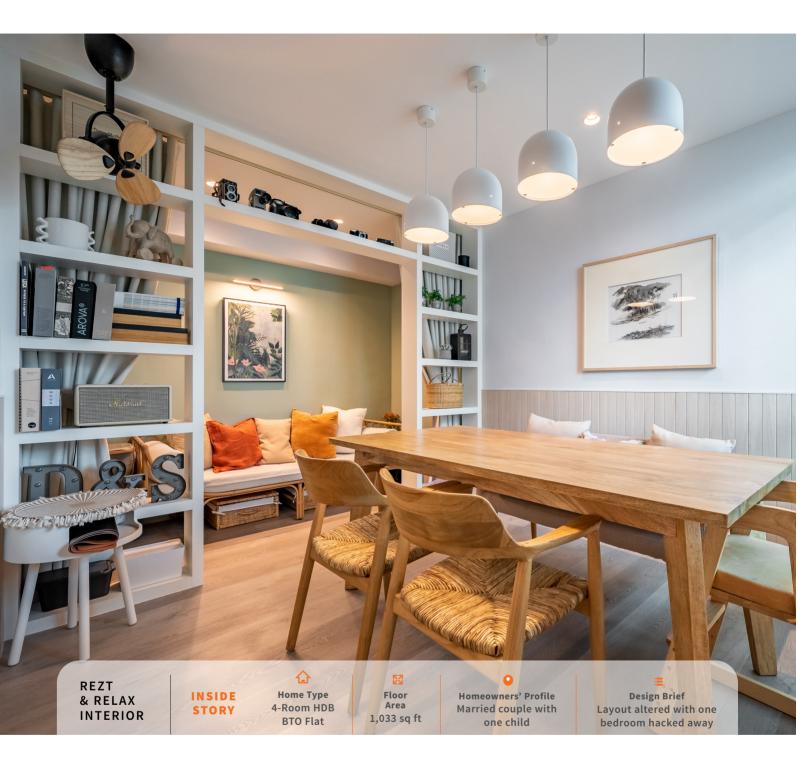
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Country home in the city

Melding contemporary elements with cosy farmhouse accents, this HDB flat unit by Rezt & Relax has more character than most homes.

Double the function

Dining area by day and snug sleeping quarters by night, this flexible arrangement for the main dining area was conceptualised by the design team from Rezt & Relax.

They say: "We saw potential for a fluid layout where it functions as a nexus for dining and entertaining and also a bedroom for their helper." A custom divider of shelves now separates the main dining area from the daybed serving as the helper's bedroom.

Layered Chic

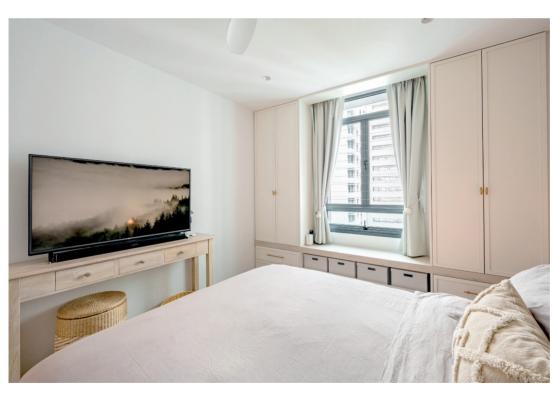
Featuring a multi-tiered ensemble of a quartz countertop in terrazzo design and wooden wall panels, the kitchen counter area brings an unmistakable country chic into the heart of the home. Metallic handles and hardware usher in a striking contemporary contrast.





Hide & Seek

Standing out like a sore thumb in the communal zones was the doorway to the bomb shelter. The team says: "We couldn't hack away any part of this structural element and therefore, decided to conceal it with laminates of a limewash finish." Shelves on this laminated door serve as display storage.



Extended Functionality

Noting that there was a recessed wall in the master bedroom which was quite unsightly, the team decided to regulate the look with two full-height cabinets. Installed along the windows, the fixtures are integrated with the bay window to create more storage for the bedroom.



















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Featured PROJECT



Warm & Cosy

Hoon Hoe Bros Renovation & Trading is an interior design firm offering renovations of quality and consistency at affordable prices.

Hoon Hoe Bros Renovation & Trading has been specialising in interior design and renovation works since 2004. We have a solid reputation in the renovation trade for over 40 years under Mr C.H. Tan. We thank our loyal customers who have grown with us over the decades.



Our every project shall be rendered the highest level of quality at competitive rates. We strive for consistency and practicality based on customers' budget and taste. No project is too small or large for us.



Our design firm has its own in-house factory offering fully customised furniture and carpentry works. Over here, you're free to explore a wide variety of themes and concepts.

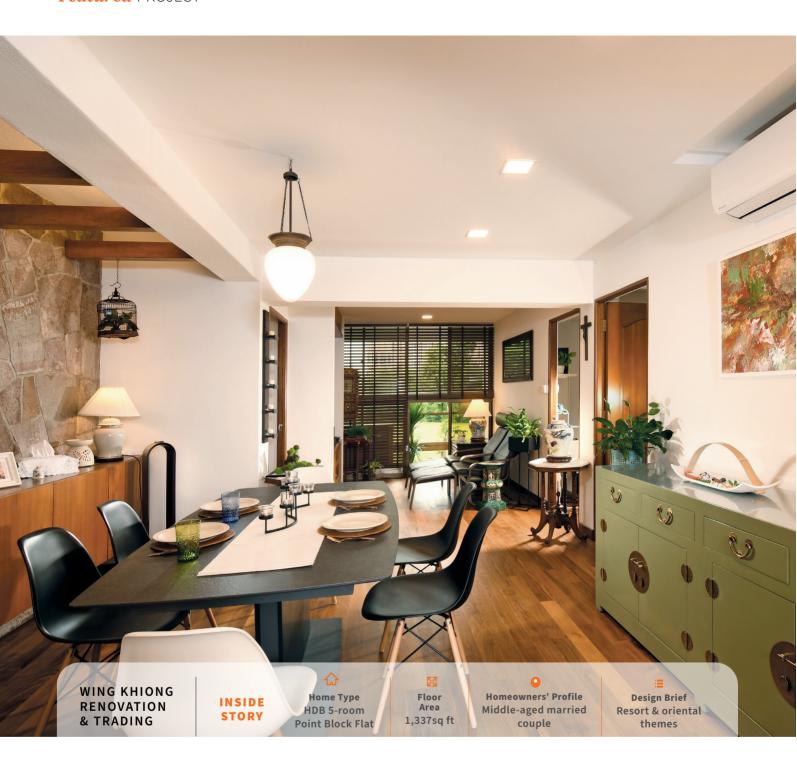






HOON HOE BROS RENOVATION & TRADING

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Heritage & art

Designed by Wing Khiong Renovation & Trading, Oriental style elements meet artful strokes in this resale flat for a charming space to revel in.

A fine appreciation

With a curated selection of art pieces and decorative ornaments, the homeowners' appreciation for culture and heritage can be keenly felt in the communal zones of this flat unit. To create a welcoming atmosphere for them in the dining area, the designers from Wing Khiong Renovation & Trading turned to the warmth of wood elements. Bold woodgrain details line the flooring as well as on the ceiling beam for an inviting and tasteful flair.



Cosy quarters Instead of the usual full-height feature wall to house the TV, the designers created a cosy niche to accommodate the entertainment peripherals. Wooden blinds have been installed and the wood finishes work well with the parquet flooring and decorative touches



Modern monochromatic

Engaging a classic black-and-white colour scheme, the team turned the bathroom into a timeless and modern private space. They even painted the piping in black and this similar colour scheme creates a cohesive look with the backdrop in dark wall tiles. This monochromatic colour theme also offers a versatile style to accommodate eclectic decorative pieces.



Biophilic influence

Taking reference from the outdoor scenery of lush foliage, a soothing influence of nature-inspired touches sweeps over the master bedroom. There are wood-look finishes on the wardrobe which are paired with sleek mirror strips to double the visual scale of the room.









WING KHIONG RENOVATION & TRADING

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Colour Therapy

A happy home begins with the right colours. Here are 5 top room colours to deliver a mood boost to your living spaces.



#2: Soothing Green

Green marks the colour of spring and renewal and is the shade we most associate with the tranquility of the outdoors.

Style tip: Earthy muted tones such as sage green are soft and calming, while deeper shades such as brunswick green or emerald green offer a more sophisticated touch.

Perfect for: Living and dining rooms, kitchens and study rooms. It's particularly stimulating for those striving for personal growth.

Not so perfect for: It's an evergreen colour that works well everywhere.

#1: Sunny Yellow

Yellow is the ultimate revitalising feel-good colour and as the colour of sunshine, it creates a feeling of warmth in homes.

Style tip: Consider using bright yellow in small doses such as a feature wall to highlight dim corners.

Perfect for: Spaces of high energy such as a kid's playroom. A darker shade of yellow promotes concentration and is ideal for a home office.

Not so perfect for: A children's bedroom or nursery as darker shades of yellow have been shown to make babies cry more often.



PHO IO DESEN

#3: Grounding Blue

Blue has enjoyed a resurgence in popularity over the last couple of years and is a flattering and comfortable colour to live with.

Style tip: Like grey, certain shades of blue can evoke an element of coldness and sadness. Do opt for warmer shades that have some green in them to avoid that.

Perfect for: A jewel-like and velvety tone of blue will create a grand-looking dining space, while a brighter shade of blue when used in bedrooms, is a happy colour to wake up to.

Not so perfect for: Blue is so versatile you could theoretically use it anywhere in your home.



#4: Cheerful Pink

In colour psychology, pink is the colour of hope and empowerment. It is also cocooning and feminine, and is the essence of grace, purity and elegance.

Style tip: All pinks will work beautifully if your home has plenty of natural light or warm LED lighting.

Perfect for: It adds a touch of playfulness and even flamboyance to kitchens and dining rooms.

Not so perfect for: White hues will make pink tones look more pronounced, so try not to use it in rooms with a lot of white.



#5: Statement Purple

Purple is commonly associated with luxury and relaxation, and has clinically been proven to reduce stress and enhance wellbeing.

Style tip:

Introducing a richer shade of purple into a space with lots of natural light will create an intriguing interplay of light and dark.

Perfect for: Gentle lavender and heather shades are a good look for

IOTO RUG SOCIET

relaxing, lounge-worthy zones like the living zone or bedroom.

Not so perfect for: Dark purple hues can draw out a cocooning effect, which is not so ideal for small spaces as it will close the space in.

HDB Glowups

Move over cookie-cutter styles, these amazing HDB transformations will have you lusting after all their stylish interior ideas.



A 5-room HDB BTO flat in Punggol

Style Tweaks

- Unsightly structural beams were made to appear less awkward by adding a false beam to render more visual balance.
- Different material treatments such as the wood-effect vinyl flooring and stone-look flooring are used not only as a form of visual demarcation. Wood is applied for lounging areas like the living space whereas stone signals a transitional space like the hallway.
- Rattan accents lend a relaxed vibe to the space and effectively softens the cold-like demeanour of the stone finishes.
- Folding doors allow the kitchen to be easily turned into an open-concept or enclosed space, depending on the homeowners' needs.



• A common room has been turned into a more private living area by hacking away the entrance. • The service yard was merged with the kitchen for a larger cookspace.

DESIGN SALT STUDIO PHOTOS MARCUS LIM

A resale maisonette in Potong Pasir

Style Tweaks

- Modelled after tropicalstyled heritage buildings, this maisonette has familiar blackand-white bungalow features like a monochromatic colour scheme and a breezy open floor plan.
- All of the original walls and sliding doors along the balcony and corridors have been removed to create two semi-outdoor verandahs.
- The kitchen was replaced with sliding glass doors to establish better cross-ventilation and visual connectivity between the communal zones.

 Two verandahs at both ends of the unit have been turned into chill-out spots that overlook outdoor greenery.





FLOOR PLAN EDITS

Lover facer



 The first bedroom at the lower level has been turned into a study. Window grilles have been removed at the verandahs and these open windows manage to lower the unit's indoor temperature.



DESIGN AND PHOTOS VERSIFY STUDIO



A 4-room HDB BTO flat in Bedok South

Style Tweaks

- A common bedroom has been hacked away and is now merged with the communal space for a larger living and dining space.
- This 1000-square-foot home looks far more spacious than it is, especially after expanding the communal spaces.
- A large communal zone
 was important to the
 homeowners as they enjoy
 entertaining friends and
 family on a regular basis.

- Eye-catching curves like the oblong island counter and an arched display niche serve as focal points of the home.
- Having an open kitchen enhances the flow of natural daylight and circulation in the flat.





DESIGN AND PHOTOS COZYSPACE

A 5-room HDB BTO flat in Compassvale

Style Tweaks

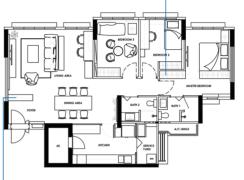
- Unique design features like glass partitions enclosing the kitchen and a stucco-finished feature wall create a truly remarkable HDB dwelling.
- There's even a mesh detail on the glass doors for added industrialstyle character.
- A lush green wall greets guests at the dining space and offers an uplifting splash of colour and visual interest, much like the inviting ambience in a cafe.
- More edgy elements can be seen in the kitchen which features a

full-height checkered steel plate outlining a black chalkboard panel. This conceals the doorway to the bomb shelter.



FLOOR PLAN EDITS

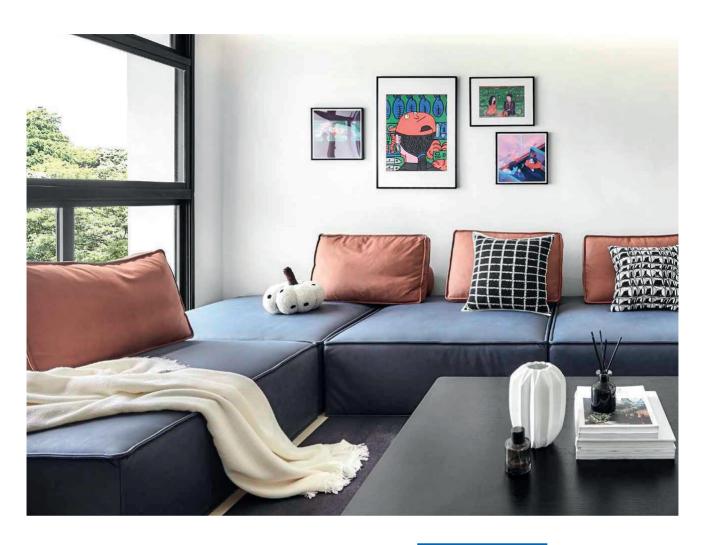
• To fit in a walk-in wardrobe in the master bedroom, a section from the adjoined common bedroom was reconfigured and added to the room.



• At the front entrance, a shoe cabinet has been installed to block prying eyes from sweeping into the home.



DESIGN AND PHOTOS JUZ INTERIOR



A 4-room HDB BTO flat in Bedok North

Style Tweaks

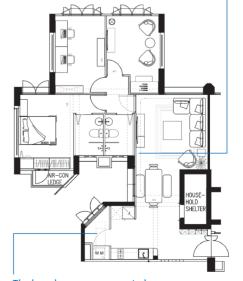
- A minimalist style
 was chosen so that the
 homeowners could explore
 adding on different design
 accents, colours and
 patterns.
- Different zones have been clearly demarcated, such as shifting the dining area away from the living area to create a larger loungeworthy space.
- Everyday meals are now taken at the separate dining area which brings a sense of formality.

• The previously enclosed kitchen was also hacked away to create a longer and wider hallway to the living room. That lets more light in for a spacious and airy home.



FLOOR PLAN EDITS

• The kitchen was decked with a false wall that extends towards the end of the living room to hide the fridge and the TV bracket and cables.



• The laundry room was created by separating it from the kitchen with a reeded glass partition. DESIGN AND PHOTOS HAPPE DESIGN ATELIER

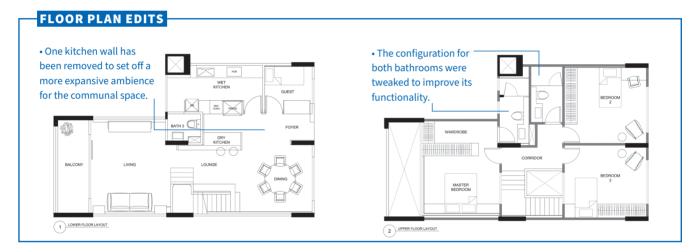
An executive maisonette in Balestier

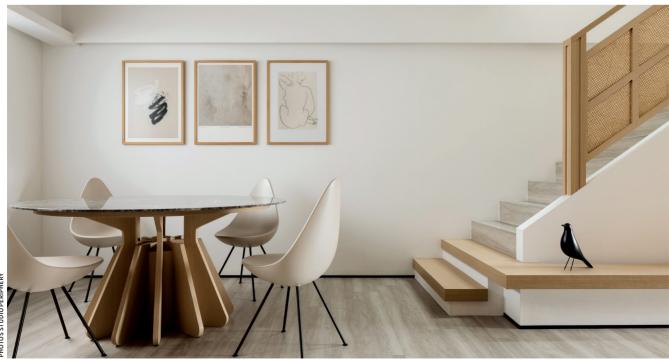
Style Tweaks

- An origami-inspired design concept was applied for the bespoke furniture in this maisonette.
- A new handrail has been added for the staircase and one of the steps is integrated with the structure to link to a seating bench.
- To invite more light and air into the central stairwell, the designers took to

- inserting larger window openings at the upper level. They also created artificial daylight using LED lighting to evoke a serene effect.
- A limewashed finish has been employed for different accent walls, namely the living room which is modelled after a peaceful Japanese ryokan. It even features sliding screens and a minimalistic setup of furniture pieces.







DESIGN RIGHT ANGLE STUDIO

Choosing countertops: What you should know beforehand

7 considerations to keep in mind before you make the ultimate decision in getting the right kitchen countertop.

Countertops are easily the most important part of your kitchen as it is much needed in terms of function and form. It's where you prepare food, serve meals and where you spend time with your family. This heavily-utilised surface also sets the tone in terms of aesthetics for your kitchen. You definitely want a countertop that can endure frequent usage and is timeless in the long term. Here are the essential questions you should ask your countertop provider.

#1 Is it strong and durable?

If your kitchen is regularly used for cooking sessions, you would want an enduring material that can take heavy wear and tear. Engineered quartz is an ideal surface choice with its tough resilience to heat, scratches and impact. That means it is less likely to chip or crack.



DESIGN & PHOT



#2 Is it stain and UV resistant?

A tough countertop material should also be able to take spills, hot pots and pans, and still look good as new at the end of the day. If your countertop is installed near the window, whether it has UV resistance should be an important consideration as well. For instance, KompacPlus is resistant to most components, but prolonged exposure to the sun can lead to discolouration to the surface. Direct contact with hot objects might incur cracks too.

#3 Is it easy to maintain and clean?

For most busy working folks, the last thing they want is a kitchen countertop that is difficult to clean. Choosing non-porous surfaces like engineered quartz, KompacPlus, laminates and sintered stone which are sealed will not allow liquid and air to pass through, thus minimising stain residue. Natural surfaces such as butcherwood, marble and granite however are porous, therefore the cleaning and maintenance processes are definitely more tricky.





#4 Is it food safe?

It's hard to run away from food in the kitchen, especially with all the food preparing needs and meals being served. As kitchen countertops will often come in direct contact with food, you should check if the material meets the National Sanitation Foundation - Food Equipment Material certification for it to be suitable for use in direct contact with food and food moisture.

#5 How can the material fit the proposed kitchen design?

Not all materials are suited for more complicated kitchen designs, like a waterfall countertop. The unique profile of a waterfall countertop edge means the countertop should look like it's made from one continuous material. As engineered quartz can be customised in terms of design, it is able to emulate the matching veining for a cohesive cascading waterfall effect.



#6 Does it have a broad design range?

Most surface materials like engineered quartz, laminates and sintered stone have a wide range of designs to choose from. You can easily match your kitchen's colour and design scheme with the countless styles and textures offered.



#7 Does it meet my budget?

In terms of affordability, laminates and KompacPlus are the most wallet-friendly choices. However, it does not have a high level of resistance against daily wear and tear as engineered quartz or sintered stone do, and which can cost a lot more. Natural stones such as marble and granite are also more costly and are higher in maintenance too.



HOTO MYFACE

Which countertop material should you choose?

It all boils down to what kind of a cook you are and your budget. Here's a guide to help in finding the right surface for your kitchen.



Most fuss-free: KompacPlus

These slimline surfaces are so easy to install; it can be mounted over your current countertop saving much time and effort. It is resistant to most harsh elements in the kitchen but is unable to withstand long-term exposure to the sun and high temperatures. This will result in cracks and discolouration.



Most budget-friendly: Laminates

Available in a large array of designs that emulate the look of natural materials like wood and marble, laminates are a good choice if you do light cooking. That's because while it is non-porous and easy to clean, it is not able to take heavy impact or high temperatures for the long term. It can become warped over time if there is heavy usage.

Most resistant to heat: Sintered stone

Unlike quartz, sintered stone is made with purely natural minerals without pigments or resin. That gives it additional resilience in withstanding hot cookware - so much so you probably won't even need a coaster. It is also weatherproof and easy to maintain, but will cost a lot more than the other countertop options.



PHOTO CAFFE LATI

Most beautiful: Natural stone

Nothing beats the luxurious undertones of natural stones like granite or marble. The unique veining and grains will easily draw out a highend look for your kitchen. It is durable but you need to maintain it regularly to make sure of its lasting beauty. It is also pricier than most countertop surfaces.







Most durable: **Engineered quartz**

This hard-wearing contender is impact, scratch and stain resistant and is non-porous and hygienic. It therefore is wellsuited for those who cook and do food preparation regularly as it is unlikely to chip or crack. That said, you will be paying a premium price for this high-performance countertop.



Most rustic: Butcherblock

Want that gorgeous American farmhouse look? The butcherblock will definitely deliver with its handsome and rich wood veining and grooves. However, it is susceptible to water seepage and that can create more water damage issues in the future. You do need to take extra care when using this high-maintenance countertop.

8 THINGS YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE ON YOUR COUNTERTOPS

Get rid of countertop clutter once and for all by removing these items:

#1 Rarely-used appliances

Save your kitchen countertop space for the appliances you use most often.

#2 Olive oil

Olive oil should be kept in a cool, dark place as sunlight and heat from your stove can make it go rancid faster.

#3 Cookbooks

Food splatters can easily soil your favourite cookbooks if you keep it in the open.

Don't let junk mail or any mail pile up on your counters. Throw it away or keep it somewhere else.

#5 Servingware

Keep all your serving utensils, bowls or platter out of sight until the next dinner party.

#6 Dry goods

It can be tempting to keep things like flour and sugar within easy reach on your counters. Truth is, it can be a waste of precious countertop space so keep it stowed neatly in drawers instead.

#7 Wine bottles

Wine bottles just look better on an overhead wine rack or a bar cart.

#8 Knives

Knife blocks can be so clunky and take up so much countertop space. Keep your knives in drawers instead.

The right lighting plan

Illuminating ways to transform your space.

Cool light or warm light?

From creating a cosy mood to providing practical task lighting, these two types of light have varying colour temperatures, which have specific effects on spaces. Here's what the lighting design experts recommend in different areas of your home.





Kitchen

Cool lighting is great for performing specific tasks and carrying out functions that require attention to details. With certain dangers such as high heat and knives lurking in the kitchen, make sure there is ample illumination for food prep when the natural light flow is low. However, if it's an open-concept kitchen where socialising is done, mood lighting is necessary as well. Therefore, the ideal lighting is a combo of warm and cool lights.

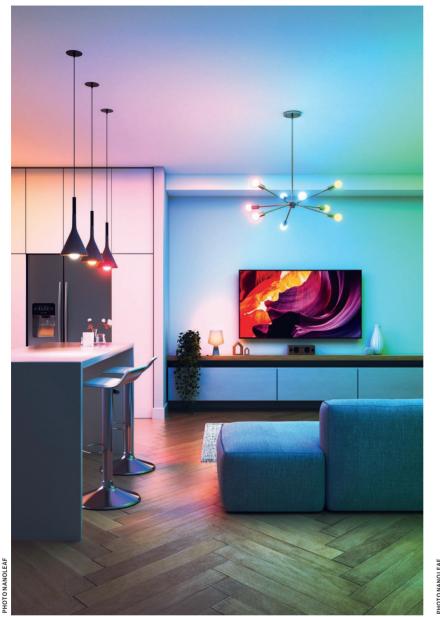


Living room

Mainly a hub for lounging and casual conversations, the living room should welcome a warm lighting scheme for these relaxing functions. Task lighting such as reading lamps can also be added for easier reading and cleaning purposes.

Bathroom

With this space used for getting ready for the day ahead, or to unwind after a long day, the ideal ambience created in the bathroom should be a calming one. Warm light is preferred as it makes one feel more relaxed and comfortable.



Automated lighting for a forward-thinking home design

Automated or smart lighting is one of the most convenient ways to control the brightness and mood of your home. Layering smart lighting treatments can do wonders for your mood, and add flair to your home decor by highlighting key features.

Taking on different lighting forms such as ambient, accent or task, smart lighting solutions can instantly enhance the atmosphere and purpose of a space. Task lighting over the bed can create the ideal place to curl up with your favourite book after a long day.

Whereas in the dining space, pendant lamps can add the wow-factor to the openplan kitchen by day, and also create a cosy dining setting by night.



4 BENEFITS OF SMART LIGHTING



#1 Energy-saving

Smart LED bulbs last much longer and generate less heat than incandescent or CFL light bulbs. It can save up to 90 percent energy as compared to a traditional bulb. It allows for automation and can be configured individually or as a group - that means you only need to use the lights needed.

#2 Home security

It can be turned on when motion is detected, especially at the front door or as entry lights when someone rings the bell. You can also set timers to have the lights come on at specific times of the day so it looks like you are at home.

#3 Mood-lifters

Changing the hue of smart lighting is easy and instant with an app or through voice commands. For instance, switching a light from cold white to warm white can cosy things up on a dark and rainy day.

#4 Minimal effort needed

No need to get up to turn on the light, which comes in handy if you are already tucked snugly in for bed. Just ask Alexa, Google, or Siri to do it for you through virtual assistant technologies.

5 interior design trends here to stay

Why these interior styles will thrive in our local homes.



Cosy Minimalist

Warm yet sleek enough to create the illusion of more space

Designers today have a more expansive approach on minimalism, championing a form of this pared back style that's warmer and to help create comfort, connection and belonging.

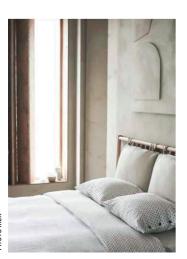


WHAT DEFINES

Cosy Minimalist?

Raw surfaces

Raw, unfinished surfaces such as stucco, cement screed or limewash are sure to add understated but nourishing textures to spaces.



DESIGN & PHOTO BUR RONDO

Clean lines

Simple and low-hanging lamps with clean lines help to keep the minimalist look on the right track.

No-frills furnishings

Going for furniture with minimal ornamentation; leg-free sofas and beds with clean-lined platforms are your best bet at getting this style right.



Featured STORY

Contemporary with character

Modernity with a beloved twist

Contemporary styles can often feel sterile and so often feel distinctly lacking in soul and character. By adding unique features and accents that feel special to you, that coveted 'lived-in' feeling comes naturally.



Contemporary with character?

Borrowed style elements

Work in distinctive accents from other styles like a country-inspired barnyard door to really add a cosy and personalised factor.



DESIGN & PH





Pops of colourUse striking colour to

highlight different areas to really set your home apart.

Warm lighting

The right lighting temperature can elevate the ambience of the space, turning it from cold to completely inviting.

Curved accents

A popular style to soften hard, angular corners

Curves are popping up everywhere – from hallway arches and island benchtops to furniture. The use of curves and rounded shapes help to create a seamless flow which can be utilised across the home.



WHAT DEFINES Curved Accents?

Statement feature walls

Think about where you want to direct the eye on entering a space. A feature wall is a good place to start as curved accents will definitely make a strong visual statement.



PHOTO CHELSEA BARRACKS

Beautiful headboards

Balance is important. If introducing curved elements on the headboard, balance it out with linear touches in the form of rectangular furniture.



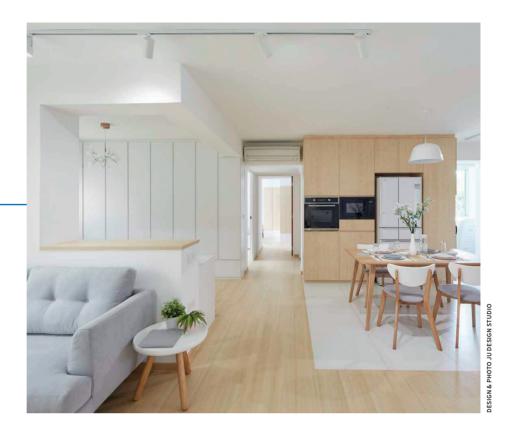
Whimsical ceilings

Rounded ceiling features are very popular, especially in the communal zones where they bring softness into a space that is generally full of hard edges.

Japandi

Scandi with an Asian touch

Essentially a mix of Japanese and Scandinavian home design, Japandi combines Japan's lowlying furniture and minimalistic interiors with Nordic warmth.



WHAT DEFINES Japandi?



Furniture in light wood tones and matching carpentry
Balance out the woody finishes with some neutral-coloured accents to avoid monotony.

Groove or fluted textures

This fluted style is often spotted in Japandi homes and it can be applied to headboards, feature walls and even to various fittings in your home.





Shoji doors

Typically known as Shoji, the Japanese door, partition or window is framed in translucent paper sheets mounted on wooden sliding frames.

Modern Farmhouse

Something old with something new

All about evoking simpler times, the modern farmhouse style is often seen as a Western look inspired by British cottages and countryside living.



WHAT DEFINES

Modern Farmhouse?



Rustic lighting

You won't go wrong with a charming chandelier with a few exposed lightbulbs. A rope base will make for an especially rustic look.

Shaker cabinets

Shaker cabinets have a cosy and traditional look about them, but require more work to clean because of the classic moulding details.



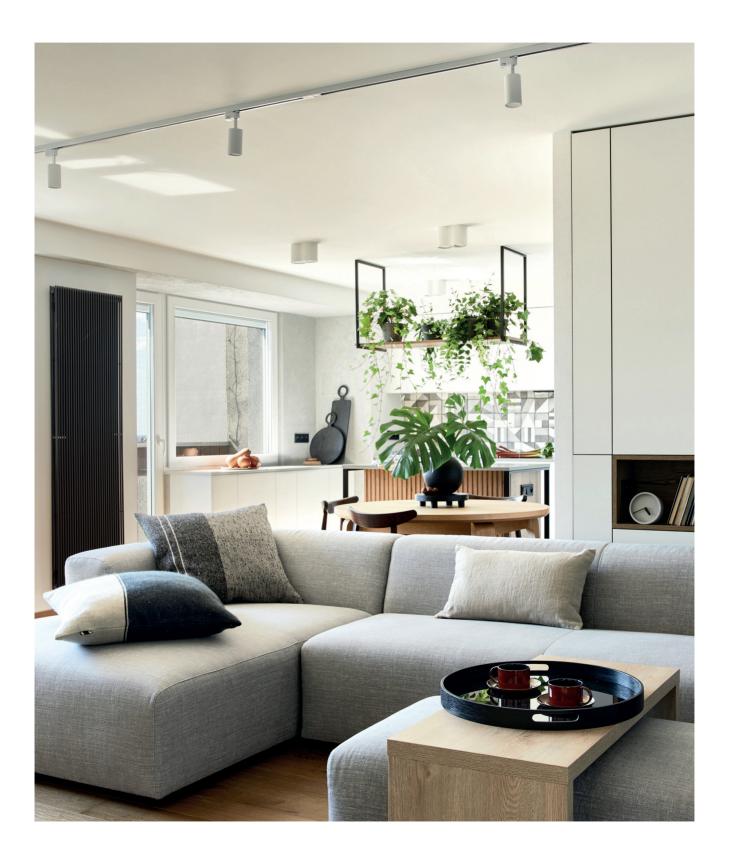
Wooden beams

In traditional wooden houses, wooden beams are part of the structure and ensure the integrity of the building but in Singaporean flats, they are purely aesthetic and can be applied as wooden columns.



Small space success

Conquer small space living with these innovative design ideas.



Living zone

As the space where your family and friends will spend the most time in, keeping the living area clutter-free and open will make it look more lounge-worthy for everyone.



Multi-purpose mirrors Small homes love mirrors. It not only doubles the illusion of space, having storage or hooks can expand its



Elevated access

Vertical storage can often maximise your wall space but reaching for the items on the top tier is another matter. Installing a rolling ladder will help solve the issue of hard-to-reach contents.



functionality in a small space.

Below deck

Do away with a coffee table in exchange for more floor space with a storage sofa. A really savvy one such as this piece can store all your entertainment essentials like remotes, headsets and books.

Featured STORY





Nesting tables

Selecting nesting coffee tables for the living area is a smart choice to create a larger floor area by hiding the smaller table. The set can also be separated and used as an accent or bedside table when needed.



Hidden clutter

Bench seating with hidden storage works wonders in introducing more seating, as well as concealing unsightly clutter.



Robot storage

Cater a small niche for your robot vacuum cleaner to rest and charge, and hiding it out of the way will make your home look neater.

Front entrance

Even a small and nondescript space like the front entrance or foyer can benefit from clever space-maximising ideas.

Hidden settee

Having a flexible hideaway bench can create more comfort for putting on shoes and without compromising on floor area.





DESIGN & PHOTO DESIGN NEU

More countertop space

Install a pull-out tabletop to increase food prep space and just slide it back when everything's done.

Kitchen

This hardworking space gets overwhelmed with food and appliances, so think about keeping the space organised with storage and space-smart solutions.

Well-packed pantry

A single pantry unit that holds a lot will save you much space when it comes to storing all your cooking essentials.





Personalised to your needs

A modular and minimalist design such as the classic String System can adapt to your kitchen habits and needs easily.

Featured STORY



Minimalistic statement

Rather than a large pendant light that will only overwhelm a small ceiling area, try a minimalist light instead to keep things sleek and easy.





Dirt-proof tones

While an all-white kitchen will no doubt make your kitchen look and feel larger, any dirt or grime will show up immediately too. Try a terracotta backsplash instead to mask those cooking stains and residue in case you haven't had the time for a deep clean.

Airy impression

An open kitchen will extend the space in the communal zones. If you're worried about heavy cooking smells, having folding doors and windows will keep it in the kitchen.

Extra countertop

A small kitchen does not mean limited countertop space. There are always clever ways to extend your workspace, like adding a sink cover.

Dining zone

No space for a large dining table? These smart and space-saving tables will show you otherwise.

Shelved away There are

foldable dining tables which can be tucked neatly into a shelving space and that is pure genius.



PHOTO EWINS





High contrast

Introducing various colours, materials and proportions will draw the eye around the room and this will give the perspective of a much larger space.

DESIGN & PHOTO D'MARVEL SCALE



Island hideout

Consider a custom-made dining table that can extend from the island so you can enjoy the freedom of having a smaller or larger table for different dining occasions.

Timeless bathrooms

Bathroom styles with staying power. These bath sanctuaries will lead you towards a space to unwind and decompress at the end of the day.





Sublime in white

For a colour palette that can withstand the test of time, that has to be an all-white scheme. You don't have to go for the same shade of white though, mix and match different hues of white to create a simply pristine but dimensional bath suite.

STYLE TIP!

In an all-white bathroom, clutter is the antithesis to a timeless space so keep the decor simple.



Rich textures

Textures are an inviting way to introduce warmth into a space and prevent it from being too monotonous. Plush towels, potted plants and wall art can work well in making your bathroom feel luxurious and welcoming.

Less is more

Tacky and over-the-top accents don't make for a timeless space, but clean lines and clearly defined forms do. Avoid filling your space with unusual shapes and elaborate patterns, but instead go for understated and sophisticated pieces that look chic always.

STYLE TIP!

Beyond the usual square and rectangular forms, circular and oval shapes can offer clean outlines that even help in visually softening harsh corners.



Daylight wonders

Natural light can make a space look larger, brighter and more welcoming. Try to redirect more daylight with mirrors or see-through surfaces as much as possible.

STYLE TIP!

Avoid installing lights directly above the mirror as it can cast harsh shadows across your face.



In flattering light

With most bathroom activities taking place at eye-level, install lighting at either side of the mirror or at adjoining side walls. This can set off a more productive and flattering glow.



5 STEPS TO AN ORGANISED BATHROOM

#1 Everything in place

Dedicate sections within your vanity to stash different items.

#2 Towel tips

Towels should always be hung on towel bars after use to prevent mildew and bacteria from forming.

#3 Squeaky clean

Keep a designated microfiber cloth at hand so you can give your mirror a quick wipedown when needed.

#4 Large format tiles

Larger tiles mean less grout lines and reducing the visible amount will keep your bathroom looking less grubby.

#5 Hanging storage

Keeping your toiletries on wall-mounted shelving will reduce dirt and grime built-up for a more spotless bathroom.

Hotel-worthy slumber

Why head to a hotel when you can check into blissful rest with these luxury bedroom ideas?

We spend a third of our lives in bed, so making bedtime feel special every night should be on the top of your list. Giving yourself the best experience and the highest quality rest is not that hard to do, just follow these steps into turning your regular bedroom into a top tier hotel suite.

Don't skimp on bedding

Toss out cheap and scratchy bedding. It will make such a difference to sleep in high-quality linen and better sleep means increased wellness.

GO FOR

TENCEL or French linen bed sheets. These cool and breathable materials work well in combating our hot and humid weather.



Say 'yes' to the headboard

Headboards are an unwritten rule in a gorgeous hotel suite and it can totally change your bedroom's ambience from bland to beautiful. Another plus point is that it will create a spectacular feature for your bedroom.

GO FOR

Padded or leather-finished headboards are not only sophisticated to look at, these can add an extra layer of comfort and support.



OF LANKSAS

Dress windows with dreamy drapes

Imagine being woken up by the harsh rays of the sun. Dreamy drapes can prevent this unpleasant scenario and make the room feel extra romantic, intimate and cosy.

GO FOR

Blackout curtains; everyone can benefit from less light exposure during sleep.







Dare to go dark

Dark hues just possess that seductive allure to make you want to unwind without a care. It has that inviting, cocooning feel to evoke feelings of calm and serenity.

GO FOR

An inky hue or deep blue for your walls or floors will create a look that's bold, dramatic and yet liveable.

Add a glam bench

Having a bench at the foot of your bed will make an ordinary room feel like a ritzy hotel suite. Plus, it'll make a luxurious spot to lay down your clothes and other bedroom essentials.

GO FOR

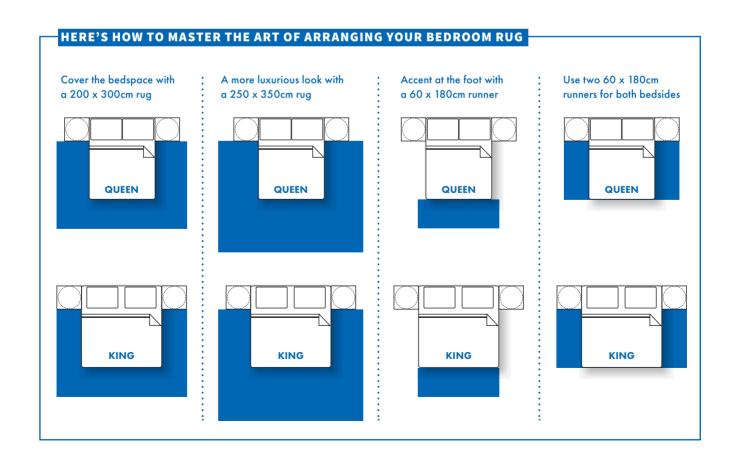
Padded benches or a bench with mirrored or acrylic legs will look more sophisticated.

A warm or fluffy mat underfoot

No one enjoys stepping on cold floors in the morning so plush things up with a gorgeous or fluffy floor rug.

GO FOR

Cotton, wool or jute rugs that are machine-washable.



Your happy place

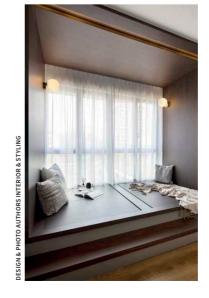
Draw out a feel-good space with these room ideas that will make you feel refreshed, relaxed and restored.





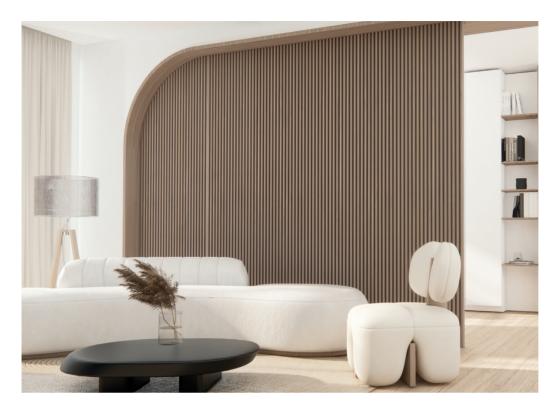
Biophilic connections

Compact gardens that take up minimal floor space or tabletop are the next best thing in introducing more greenery into small spaces.



Decluttered zen

Installing hidden storage underneath a raised platform keeps clutter in check and you can reclaim a clear spot for easy relaxation.



Relaxing palette

Neutral shades that emulate natureinspired tones like earth and wood can foster a sense of peace. Using these soothing colours in laidback areas like the living zone will slip you in a state of tranquility.

Soothing contrast

Create inviting vibes with an archway and a raised platform to really highlight your chill-out nook.



Tropical delights

Botanical motifs will make you feel like you are on a tropical island, and where better to work in this design detail than your personal sanctuary-the bathroom? Pretty tiles with botanical details are also much easier to maintain.





Special interests

Look into carving special zones that can cater specifically to your interests and hobbies. That can generate a positive impact on your health and wellbeing.



Walking on sunshine

A little daylight will chase away all the gloomy days. Be sure to direct pockets of sunshine into dark, poky corners to refresh your space.



A Guide to the Features of Your New HDB BTO Flat

Just collected your keys? Learn about the features in your new HDB flat, and how to maintain them.

Congratulations on collecting the keys to your new home! As you move into your HDB flat, you may have some questions about its features and how to maintain them. Get the answers in this guide!

Drywalls

The internal partition walls in your home are built of Severe Duty grade drywall system and are filled with sound insulation material for good sound-proofing. You can watch the video to learn more.



https://go.gov.sg/hdb-mnh-drywalls-v

A set of sample anchors, ranging from light to heavy duty, has been placed in your Household Shelter. You can use them for mounting fixtures such as wall cabinets and television sets. When selecting locations for installing anchors, please avoid areas with concealed electrical wiring.

To remove stains on drywalls, use a slightly damp cloth and a small amount of mild detergent. Wipe up excess moisture or soap along the way and avoid water pooling when mopping the floor, which may damage the drywall. Remember to ventilate your rooms to dry the walls and floor after cleaning!

Download your copy of the drywall user guide here:



ttps://go.gov.sg/hdb-mnh-drywall-us

Flooring and Skirting

Vinyl Strip Flooring

Pre-finished in factories to look like timber, vinyl strip flooring and uPVC skirting add warmth to your home décor.

Vinyl strip flooring is constructed using an interlocking installation system. It has good slip resistance and is also moisture resistant. uPVC skirting is made from strong and lightweight plastic building material with good water resistance. To keep them clean, simply sweep, or use a slightly damp mop. Remember not to use too much water!

To protect your floors from scratches, consider using soft pads for the base of your furniture legs. Also, take extra care especially when moving things around — lift, and not drag your furniture.

Tiles

Larger glazed porcelain tiles are commonly used for new BTO flats. The gaps in between the tiles are filled with tile grout which allow for slight movement of the tiles when there are changes in temperature.







Doors and Door Frames

The doors and door frames within your flat are made from uPVC. uPVC is a strong and durable material with good water resistance. For the toilet bi-fold doors, remember to use the recessed handles to open or close them!

To protect the doors from damage during renovation, you can request your renovation contractor to cover your doors and handles with corrugated cardboard or bubble wrap before works begin.

Sanitary Fittings and Dual-Flush Low Capacity Water Closet (WC) Suite

As part of our national water conservation efforts, HDB has installed water efficient sanitary fittings and WCs in your flat which meet the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELs) by PUB. The flushing effectiveness and volume have been tested in accordance with PUB's standards and requirements. These fittings will help you to conserve water and lower your water bill.





Noticed this device in your flat? This is a Home Fire Alarm Device (HFAD) – an

automatic smoke detector installed on the ceiling that triggers an alarm when smoke is detected.

You can test whether the HFAD is in working condition, by pressing the Test/Reset button located on the front face of the device. A light will blink and an alarm will sound to indicate that the HFAD is working. To reset the device, press the Test/Reset button until the alarm stops.

During renovation, you should place a temporary cover such as a plastic sheet over the HFAD to prevent dust getting into it. Remember to remove the temporary cover after renovation.

To learn more about the HFAD, read the instruction manual in your flat, or refer to the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) website at www.scdf.gov.sg.



TEST

BUTTON



Window Restrictor for Top Hung Windows

A window restrictor is installed at the top hung window between your kitchen and service yard. The window restrictor limits the swing of the window and helps prevent accidental knocks.

If you prefer a bigger window opening, you can simply detach or disengage the windows restrictor by following these steps:



We hope you learnt more about the features in your new flat.

Visit the MyNiceHome website at https://mynicehome.gov.sg for more useful articles and guides on renovating and moving into your new home!

A Guide to Renovating Your HDB Flat

Getting ready to renovate your flat? Get familiar with the steps involved to enjoy a smooth renovation process.

All ready to renovate your flat? Before you get started, familiarise yourself with these steps to enjoy a smooth and hassle-free process. Here are the top 8 things that you need to know!

1. Engage a Contractor listed in the Directory of Renovation Contractors

When engaging a renovation contractor, it is important to engage only those listed in the Directory of Renovation Contractors. This also applies to renovations which do not require HDB's prior approval.

The Directory of Renovation Contractors lists contractors who are familiar with HDB's renovation rules and requirements which are in place to protect the structural integrity of the building. You can view the Directory of Renovation Contractors on HDB InfoWEB, or via the Mobile@HDB app.

That said, HDB does not endorse or guarantee the quality of the renovations. The contractors will be fully responsible for the contractual responsibilities towards you, their client, including workmanship.

2. Submit a Renovation Application

You and your renovation contractor must obtain HDB's prior approval before starting any demolishing and/ or hacking of walls, whether partially or fully. This mandatory requirement protects residents' safety, as unauthorised demolishing and/ or hacking of walls may affect the structural integrity of the building.

For renovations works that require HDB's prior approval, ensure that your renovation contractor submits an online renovation application to HDB together with the acknowledgement form signed by you, the flat owner, before commencing work.

You will receive a Short Message Service (SMS) notification upon the submission of the renovation application by your renovation contractor. To view the status of your renovation permit application, log in to My HDBPage (My Flat > Purchased Flat > Renovation) on HDB InfoWEB.

Learn more about HDB renovation permits, guidelines and important information for works that can be done in your flat on the HDB InfoWEB.

3. Contact Other Agencies on Related Works

During the renovation process, you will most likely require other services such as air-conditioner installation.

If you plan to mount your airconditioner on the exterior of your flat, or if any part of the airconditioner will project from your flat, you must engage a BCA-trained air-conditioner installer. Once the air conditioning unit has been installed, you will also need to email the installation report to the HDB Branch managing your flat.

Check out the list of other works below to find out if a licensed worker/ contractor is required:

Types of work that require a licensed worker or contractor

Water services and sanitary works	Plumber licensed by the Public Utilities Board (PUB)
Gas service works	Gas service worker licensed by the Energy Market Authority (EMA)
Window works	Window contractor approved by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and listed with HDB
Electrical works	Electrical worker licensed by the Energy Market Authority (EMA)

4. Keep Renovations to Permitted Hours

Noise from renovation works can be disruptive to your neighbours, especially those who have young children, or are working from home. We can maintain harmonious relations with our neighbours by adhering to the following:

- Inform your neighbours staying within a radius of 2 units at least 5 days in advance before renovations begin. Do remind your contractor to put up the Notice of Renovation outside your flat early and throughout the renovation period.
- Only carry out renovation work between the stipulated timings below.
- Should you be carrying out DIY (Do-It-Yourself) works, do limit it between 7:00am and 10:30pm, and keep noise to a minimum with the tips below.
- When possible, close the main door of your flat while works are ongoing, to help reduce noise disturbance to your neighbours and do remember to inform them in advance of any works that may generate noise.



TYPE OF WORKS	ALLOWED ON	NOT ALLOWED ON
General Renovation e.g. Plastering, painting, and laying of floor screed	Monday — Saturday 9am — 6pm	Sundays and Public Holidays
Restricted Renovation e.g. Demolishing of walls, removing of wall/ floor finishes, and cutting of tiles	Monday — Friday 9am — 5pm	Saturdays, Sundays, all Public Holidays, and the eves of: New Year's Day Chinese New Year Deepavali Hari Raya Puasa Christmas Day

5. Manage Payment and Any Renovations Dispute

The renovation contract between flat owners and their contractors is a private one, and not regulated by any government agency. If there are disputes over the renovation such as pricing, costs, work schedule, type or quality of renovations, these should be resolved between both parties.

If you are facing challenges with settling the matter amicably, both parties may approach the Consumers Association of Singapore (CASE), Singapore Mediation Centre or the Small Claims Tribunals for assistance or seek legal redress.

6. Use the Lifts Properly

Renovating and moving into your new home is an exciting time for all

home owners! However, it can also be hectic, dusty, and noisy. Movers and contractors carrying bulky items will be a common sight, and lifts may take a slightly longer time to arrive.

Do your part by telling your contractors or vendors not to jam the lift doors when moving materials and furniture as this can damage the lifts, causing inconvenience and delay to other lift users.

7. Keep your Neighbourhood Clean

Unwanted items such as packing materials and renovation debris discarded around your estate can potentially create safety and health hazards, and will mar the image of your estate.

Do remind your delivery persons,

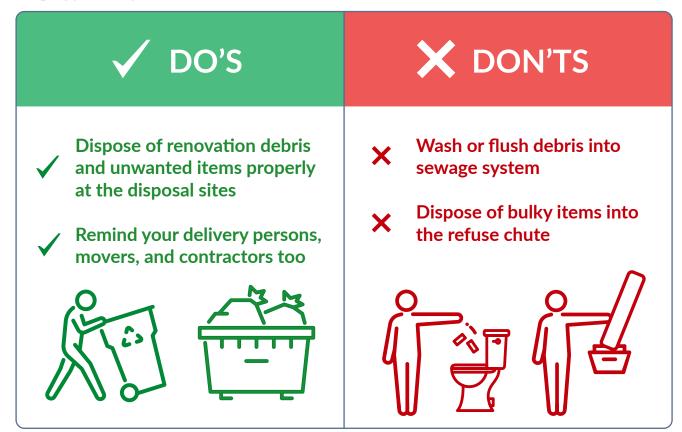
movers and contractors to dispose of renovation debris and unwanted items properly by carting them to disposal sites. They should not wash or flush debris into the sewage system or dispose of bulky items into the refuse chute, as this could cause damage and inconvenience you and your neighbours.

You may report instances of lift misuse and dumping of debris in the common areas via the OneService website or app.

8. Care for Your Home Regularly

Finally, it's important to carry out regular checks on the fittings and fixtures in your home. This can help you spot areas that require attention before they become serious and save you money on major repairs.

Keeping your neighbourhood clean



 $Read\ more\ useful\ maintenance\ tips\ on\ https://mynicehome.gov.sg\ or\ the\ HDB\ InfoWEB\ at\ https://www.hdb.gov.sg.$



SPRUCING UP THE HOME IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR HOMEOWNERS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE RENOVATION DEBRIS, AND UNWANTED CARDBOARDS, STYROFOAM OR OLD FURNITURE TO BE DISCARDED WITH EVERY RENOVATION PROJECT. TO UPKEEP A PLEASANT LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE, HOMEOWNERS SHOULD ENSURE THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF WASTE, BOTH LARGE AND SMALL!

BEFORE RENOVATION

Awaken the Marie Kondo in you

Make space for new and good things in life! Clear out old and unused items periodically. Do not leave bulky items in common areas, as they obstruct walkways (especially for pram and mobility-aid users), block emergency escape routes, and are potential fire hazards.

What to do with bulky items?

If you have bulky household items and old furniture, such as bed frames and sofas, to discard, contact your Town Council to arrange for collection and disposal. This service is free for up to three bulky items per month (please check with your Town Council for more details).



Keep noise levels down

Renovation works can be loud and disturbing, so it is important to spare a thought for your neighbours, especially those who may be studying or working from home. As a rule of thumb, noisy renovation works (such as hacking of walls and heavy drilling) can only be done from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays and eve of major public holidays (such as New Year's Day, Chinese New Year, Deepavali, Hari Raya Puasa and Christmas Day).

For renovation tips and guides, visit https://go.gov.sg/hdb-mnh-renovate-your-flat to find out more!

What to do with renovation debris?

For any renovation debris, ensure that your renovation contractor disposes of them appropriately at a National Environment Agency (NEA)-approved site.



Office's OneService app. Note that

Town Councils can take action against
errant parties for illegal dumping.











A fresh beginning

Dos and Don'ts

of using the chute

How does the

PWCS work?

Garbage disposed

into chute

With the completion of renovation works, it is time to move in! As you begin life in your newly renovated home, disposing of waste is part and parcel of daily living. While most people throw out garbage at the common rubbish chute every day, it is important to be aware of the items that should not be discarded down the chute.

How to use the chute system correctly

Using the chute incorrectly can cause the system to choke, which leads to sanitary and pest issues, and can even cause it to break down. When the chute is obstructed, it can pose a danger to maintenance staff clearing the blocked systems.

A simple way to use the chute system appropriately is to ensure that garbage bags are smaller than the hopper opening. The following items should not be discarded into the refuse chutes:

- Long objects, such as brooms and bamboo poles
- Semi-bulky items, such as cardboard boxes
- Heavy items, such as ovens and potted plants
- Renovation debris, such as tiles
- Flammable items, such as kerosene
- Burning objects, such as lit candles

When in doubt, please contact your Town Council to enquire on the appropriate ways to dispose of these items.

Have you heard of the Pneumatic Waste **Conveyance System (PWCS)?**

The PWCS is an automated waste collection system that uses a vacuum-type underground pipe network, which automatically gathers household waste and does away with the manual method of collection from individual blocks. Whether your estate is equipped with PWCS or not, it is important to adhere to the

abovementioned guidelines on how to use the chute correctly. Some benefits of PWCS • A more hygienic environment, as odours are eliminated and spillage reduced • Eco-friendlier • Reduces pest infestation • Waste decomposition is minimised Deposited into a centralised bin centre to be collected by truck Transported through underground pipes

- dislodge and cause injury
- Wear protective gloves
- Dispose loosened concrete at the centralised bin area of your estate

What do I do to prevent spalling concrete?

- Ventilate the damp areas of your flat (e.g. keep the windows and doors open)
- Paint ceilings regularly
- Treat cracked areas with sealant

• Moving parts are deformed or stiff

Check that fasteners are not rusty or loose Clean and oil joints or moving parts Change all rivets from aluminium to stainless steel by engaging a BCA-approved window contractor listed with HDB

What are the signs that my louvred windows require maintenance work?

- Broken or cracked glass panes
- Jammed adjustable lever, if any

Louvred window



Scan the QR code for more information or you may visit https://go.gov.sg/hdb-home-care-guide on how to maintain your HDB apartment such that it remains safe for the people inside as well as around it.



Casement window

What are the signs

Ceiling

Dampness or water droplets on ceilings, especially in damp areas (e.g. toilet)

How do I rectify ceiling leaks?

of a ceiling leak?

- Engage your upper-floor neighbour and hire a contractor to resolve the issue together while splitting the costs
- If you live on the highest floor of a block, contact your Town Council for assistance
- If you live directly above the void deck
 - where ceiling leakage
 has occurred, your
 Town Council may
 approach you to
 arrange for repair
 and split the costs

Ceiling leaks

Ceiling leaks are common due to wear and tear.



Falling windows are a serious safety risk.

Should windows fall due to a lack of maintenance, homeowners may face a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or a jail term of up to one year.

Flat owners are responsible for the maintenance of their own homes.

KEEPING YOUR HOME IN TIP-TOP SHAPE THE DIY WAY!

HERE ARE SOME TIPS AND TRICKS TO MAINTAIN YOUR HOME.

Home maintenance and upkeep is vital to ensure you have a safe and pleasant place to live, and this begins the moment you receive the keys to your flat.

As the flat owner, you are responsible for the maintenance of your own home! Here are some minor maintenance works that can be easily carried out on a DIY basis. Check out the following pointers.

Paint peeling and mouldy ceiling

Mould growth and paint peeling issues in HDB are generally related to moisture and humidity in the flat; at times, they are due to improper surface preparation before the coating of new paint.

What to do?

- Allow cross-ventilation in the flat. Keep windows, vents or doors open as often as possible.
- Check the ceiling to ensure that any holes or cracks are sealed to prevent moisture from entering.
- Repaint the ceiling regularly. If necessary, engage a competent contractor to do the job.

Floor traps

Your bathroom or kitchen floor trap may develop a foul smell, or have water overflowing from it due to clogging.

What to do?

- Remove solid materials that are causing the floor trap to choke. In severe cases, you may need to seek the help of a licensed plumber.
- Close the floor trap grating to prevent particles, such as hair, from clogging it.
- · Avoid pouring cooking oil down the floor trap as it may solidify and cause the floor trap to choke.
- Use a diluted solution of one part bleach to 99 parts water to clean your bathroom and kitchen regularly.

Floor finishes

Refinishing or repairing your floor can be costly and inconvenient, which is why it is advisable to prolong the life of your flooring as much as possible.

What to do?

- Use a stiff brush or old toothbrush to loosen grout and reinstate joints with suitable tile grout.
- Install rubber soles or paddings to legs of movable furniture to reduce damage to your floor.



Bathroom fittings

Everyone uses their bathroom multiple times each day, which makes it even more important to keep it in good condition.

What to do?

- Keep your bathroom door and door frame dry by installing shower screens or curtains at the shower area, ventilating the bathroom properly after showering, and wiping the door and door frame dry if they get wet.
- Replace your shower screen door sealant when it turns yellowish or black, and/or if water begins to leak through its joints.
- Clean bathroom fittings, such as basin taps, with a mild detergent to prevent corrosion.

MINIMISE NOISE WHEN YOU RENOVATE

With work-from-home becoming increasingly common, it is always good to show consideration to your neighbours, who may be working from home, by keeping noise disturbances to a minimum. Take note of the following to make your renovation journey a pleasant one for everyone:

- General renovation works that do not involve loud noises, such as painting or plastering, can be carried out from Monday to Saturday, 9am to 6pm.
- Noisy works that require excessive hacking and drilling must be limited to Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. They cannot be carried out on Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays, and the eve of New Year's Day, Chinese New Year, Hari Raya Puasa, Deepavali and Christmas.
- Simple DIY reno works, such as installing of lights and shelves, can occur outside of the above-mentioned time frames. However, you should limit such works to between 7am and 10.30pm, and keep noise levels to a minimum. One way to do that is to keep your main door closed and inform your neighbours in advance.
 - Download the Municipal Services Office's OneService
 App to get information, such as duration of
 renovations taking place in your block, via the Home
 Renovation Notice (HRN) this can help you plan your
 at-home activities ahead of time.
 - Works that do not affect the structure of the building do not require a renovation permit and thus neighbouring units will not be notified via the OneService App. However, it is still a good practice to be considerate and keep your neighbours informed of these works, so they can make their own arrangements.

Visit https://go.gov.sg/hdb-reno (under Guidelines) to find out the types of renovations that require a permit.

engage a contractor on your own. In the event that you do not have any available contacts, you may scan the QR code or go to https://go.gov.sg/hdb-minor-repairs

for a list of contractors who offer various home maintenance services.

If you require professional help, you may





Need more tips on home maintenance and basic DIY repair? Visit https://go.gov.sg/hdb-homecare-guide or scan the QR code to find out more.

Wall cracks

A result of natural expansion and contraction, wall cracks are a common occurrence in many homes.

What to do?

- Repaint the wall with a flexible sealant or elastomeric paint to seal hairline cracks.
- Engage an approved contractor to repair wider cracks.



Minimum Occupation Period (MOP)

 The MOP policy safeguards HDB flats for households with genuine housing needs and helps to deter speculative purchase of HDB flats. HDB flat owners are required to fulfil a MOP before selling or renting out their flat or acquiring other properties. This means that owners must physically occupy their flat during the MOP.

JUST FACTS

HDB flats are primarily for owner-occupation, and HDB is committed to upholding the Minimum Occupation Period (MOP) policy.



We follow up with every feedback received.

This includes inspecting the subject unit, conducting interviews with the flat owners/ buyers/ neighbours, and reviewing other supporting evidence or records indicating flat occupation.



We conduct an inspection for every HDB flat that is undergoing a resale transaction, which also allows us to identify if the flat was lived in.

If there are signs that the flat has not been lived in, HDB will withhold the resale application and commence investigations.

JUST FACTS

HDB takes action against owners who fail to live in their BTO flats during the MOP, without exceptional approval by HDB.

HDB may:



Compulsorily acquire the flats from the flat owners



Impose a financial penalty of up to \$50,000

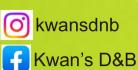


Issue a written warning

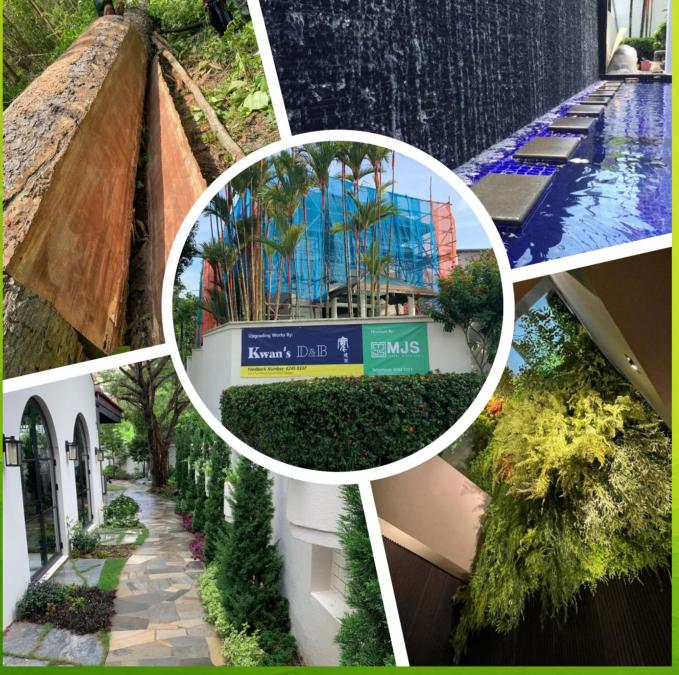
Come across a suspicious listing or suspect that a flat is being misused? Contact us at our toll-free hotline: 1800-555-6370

Specialization:

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SAFEGUARDING YOUR HOME AGAINST

保护住家免遭火患

LINDUNGI RUMAH ANDA DARIPADA KEBAKARAN தீ ஆபத்திலிருந்து உங்கள் வீட்டைப் பாதுகாத்தல்

FIRES IN THE HOME ARE MORE COMMON THAN YOU WOULD THINK. LIVING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EACH OTHER, RESIDENTS NEED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO KEEP THEIR HOMES FIRE-SAFE, BOTH FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS. AT THE SAME TIME, KEEPING YOUR FIRE INSURANCE POLICY ACTIVE WILL RELIEVE YOUR FINANCIAL BURDEN AND GIVE YOU PEACE OF MIND.

||||||





OVERLOADING OF POWER SOCKETS

Don't overload electrical outlets and only use products with safety marks. 不要让插座过载,只选用贴有安全标志的产品。

Jangan membebankan soket elektrik dan hanya gunakan produk dengan tanda keselamatan.

மின்சார சாக்கெட்டுகளில் அளவுக்கு மீறி சாதனங்களை பொறுத்தாதீர்கள். அதோடு, பாதுகாப்பு முத்திரை கொண்ட சாதனங்களை மட்டுமே உபயோகியுங்கள்.

COMMON FIRE HAZARDS

M UNATTENDED COOKING

Keep an eye on the stove... switch off if you need to step away.

烹煮时应有人照看炉灶。 如果你需要离开,就把 炉子关上。

Awasi dapur... matikan jika anda perlu melangkah pergi.

அடுப்பை கவனியுங்கள்... விலகிச்செல்ல வேண்டுமென்றால், அடுப்பை அணைத்துவிடுங்கள்.

~~~~~~~~



"DON'T TAKE CHANCES, BETTER INSURE YOUR HOME TODAY!"



·

Get your flat protected with fire insurance

买火险保组屋

Lindungi flat anda dengan insurans kebakaran

தீக்காப்புறுதியின் மூலமாக உங்களின் வீட்டைப் பாதுகாத்திடுங்கள்

Besides being vigilant about potential fire hazards, fire insurance provides an additional protection. As fire incidents cannot be fully prevented, insurance can help to relieve costs of repair works, depending on the policy's coverage, in the unfortunate event of a fire. If you haven't bought fire insurance for your home, do consider getting one. If you previously bought a policy, check that it's active and renew it if it is about to expire or buy a new policy if it has expired.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fire insurance is different from home insurance. Fire insurance usually covers the structural damages in a flat, and not the home contents like renovation, furniture and personal belongings. The HDB Fire Insurance, for example, covers the cost of reinstating damaged internal structures, fixtures, and areas built and provided by HDB, but not home contents. To get covered for home contents, consider getting home insurance from any insurer of your choice. Do check that its coverage meets your needs.



A

OVERCHARGING OF BATTERIES

Unplug when fully charged. Only use chargers and batteries from the original manufacturer.

充满电后应拔掉插头。只选用原厂<mark>商</mark> 的充电器和电池。

Cabut plag apabila sudah dicas sepenuhnya. Hanya gunakan pengecas dan bateri daripada pengeluar asal.

முழுமையாக

மின்னூட்டப்பட்டதும், சாக்கெட்டிலிருந்து அகற்றிவிடுங்கள். அசல் தயாரிப்பாளர்களிடமிருந்து பெற்ற மின்னூட்டிகளையும் பேட்டரிகளையும் மட்டுமே பயன்படுத்துங்கள்.







as of 29 November 2023

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5 Masons Pte Ltd

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AkzoNobel

Akzo Nobel Paints (S) Pte Ltd

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N

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Posh Interior Pte Ltd

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Posh Living Interior Design Pte Ltd

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Starry Homestead Pte Ltd

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Swift Interior Pte Ltd

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as of 29 November 2023





The Interior Place Pte Ltd

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The Mind Design Pte Ltd

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The Two Big Guys LLP

61 Woodlands Ind. Park E9 Premium #03-13/14 Singapore 757047 Tel: 6635 7195 Fax: 6635 7196 Email: sales@thetwobigguys.com www.thetwobigguys.com





U-Home Interior Design Pte Ltd

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Unimax Creative Pte Ltd

288 Balestier Road #02-02 Singapore 329731 Tel: 6226 0110 Fax: 6220 0110 Email: sales@unimax.com.sg www.unimax.com.sg

United Team Lifestyle Pte Ltd

301 Upper Thomson Road #02-19 Thomson Plaza Singapore 574408 Tel: 6452 1136F Fax: 6451 1195 Email: enquiry@unitedteam.com.sg www.unitedteam.com.sg

Vegas Interior Design Pte Ltd

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Vlux Lighting Pte Ltd

724-730 Geylang Road Singapore 389635 Tel: 6742 7288 Email: tan.sebastian@lightimage.com.sg www.vlux.com.sg

VNA Design Pte Ltd

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as of 29 November 2023



Weiken.com Design Pte Ltd

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Wing Khiong Renovation & Trading

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Woodcraft Interior Design Pte Ltd

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Xing Tek Flooring Pte Ltd

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Yujia Concept Decor Pte Ltd

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Yangs Inspiration Design Pte Ltd

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Partners



Bolttech Insurance Brokers Pte Ltd

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The Furniture Mall

10 Toh Guan Road Singapore 608838 Tel: 6298 1600 Fax: 6296 2355 / 6298 0028 Email: enquiry@sfa.org.sg www.thefurnituremall.com.sg





Testimonial

Melvin Yong

Casetrust President

30 July

Renovate with peace of mind

Did you know that it costs an average of \$40,000 to \$50,000 to renovate a HDB flat? Compared to 10 years ago, consumers are spending more these days to renovate their new homes. and some are paying large deposits upfront to their renovation contractors. This is certainly a cause for concern.

When consumers pay a large deposit upfront and subsequently run into disputes due to multiple delays, or encounter renovation contractors that become insolvent, it can be challenging for them to seek recourse.

What can consumers do then? Since 2004, Consumers Association of Singapore - CASE has been engaging renovation contractors to obtain the CaseTrust accreditation.

This afternoon, I visited Eight Design - TOP Residential & Commercial IDs. a local renovation contractor, to better understand how COVID-19 has impacted their business and what they are doing to give consumers assurance in these challenging times.

I'm glad that **Eight Design** has heen accredited with CaseTrust since 2016.

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2119479716

Raymond Teo

27 August

Communication was effective and prompt, and timeline was adhered to pretty well. Both were accommodating and flexible with angements, and were responsible for their work up till the minor adjustments required. We would like to thank them for a job well done, and for assisting our family to the best of their abilities!

Cui Yan

14 November

Great service from Eight Design. Despite the shortage of manpower due to the pandemic, they managed to complete the project exactly on time. The laminate and colours they chose, are in line with the overall style of our condo, which I like too. Highly recommend.





Showrooms

EAST SHOWROOM

140 Paya Lebar Road #01-04 AZ@Paya Lebar Singapore 409015

WEST SHOWROOM

26 Boon Lay Way #01-84 Singapore 609970

FACTORY (SINGAPORE) SHOWROOM

280 Woodlands Industrial Park E5 #02-12 Harvest@Woodlands Singapore 757322























What We Do





Commercial Interior Design











Supporting brand













为你开启一切可能!

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