

# HOME SINGAPORE & DECOR

Clutter-clearing  
tricks for the  
laundry area

5 things every  
home-seller  
should know

Decorate your  
home... with  
lights!  
page 140

work smart

Kit out your kitchen with everything  
you need to prep, cook and serve



Watch the video on our digital edition. Turn to page 16 for how to download.



TAP FOR VIDEO

# A TOUCH OF THE ORIENT

An old house is transformed with light and elegant Oriental pieces that harmonise with its contemporary surroundings.

WHO

A couple and their two children

HOME

Three-bedroom terrace house in Bukit Timah

SIZE

2,400sqf

RIGHT  
Upon entering the house, a sense of spaciousness and calm is felt, achieved through its open layout, light colours and sophisticated furniture. ▶



Looking at the spiffed-up home of Allan Norton and Sharon Ho-Norton, you'd never guess that this is actually a 33-year-old terrace house. "When we purchased the house, it was in fairly original condition, obviously in need of a facelift," says Sharon. The interiors lacked natural lighting, and had dark parquet flooring. "I could see a lot of potential in the space, though my husband was less convinced," she laughs. The couple worked with Ed Ong of Dwell Interior Design, who made minor but effective structural alterations to completely upgrade the look of the house.

The first, most obvious thing to do was to give the house new flooring. Ed stripped away the existing dark timber floor and replaced it with concrete-look tiles. The staircase was also changed to one with open risers, which allows for visual continuity from the living area through to the open-concept kitchen on the split-level. Glass sliding doors were added to the air well next to the kitchen, turning the previously unused space into

**BOTTOM LEFT**  
Adjacent to the living room, the dining area is located outside by the garden.



**BELOW**  
The vibrant red hue of the Chinese armoire makes it a focal point.

**BOTTOM RIGHT**  
Homeowner Sharon, who adores Ming dynasty-style furniture, with her daughter.



The open-concept kitchen sits on the split-level, and is now bright and airy after glass sliding doors were installed next to the air well.



a "courtyard". This made a big difference to the interior – letting in a good amount of light to the once dark and gloomy zone. Ed also removed a low wall next to the staircase and created a skylight above, so light now floods in from all directions.

Sharon, who has a background in art and design, admits to "being particularly fixated" on Ming dynasty-style furniture, and this is evident in her furnishing choices. The home has a light-coloured, almost minimalist design, letting the dark furniture pieces and accessories stand out in contrast. The oriental furnishings, some of which were from the couple's previous home, bring warmth and personality into the understated interiors.

**WHERE TO GO**

Dwell Interior Design,  
TEL: 6883-1005

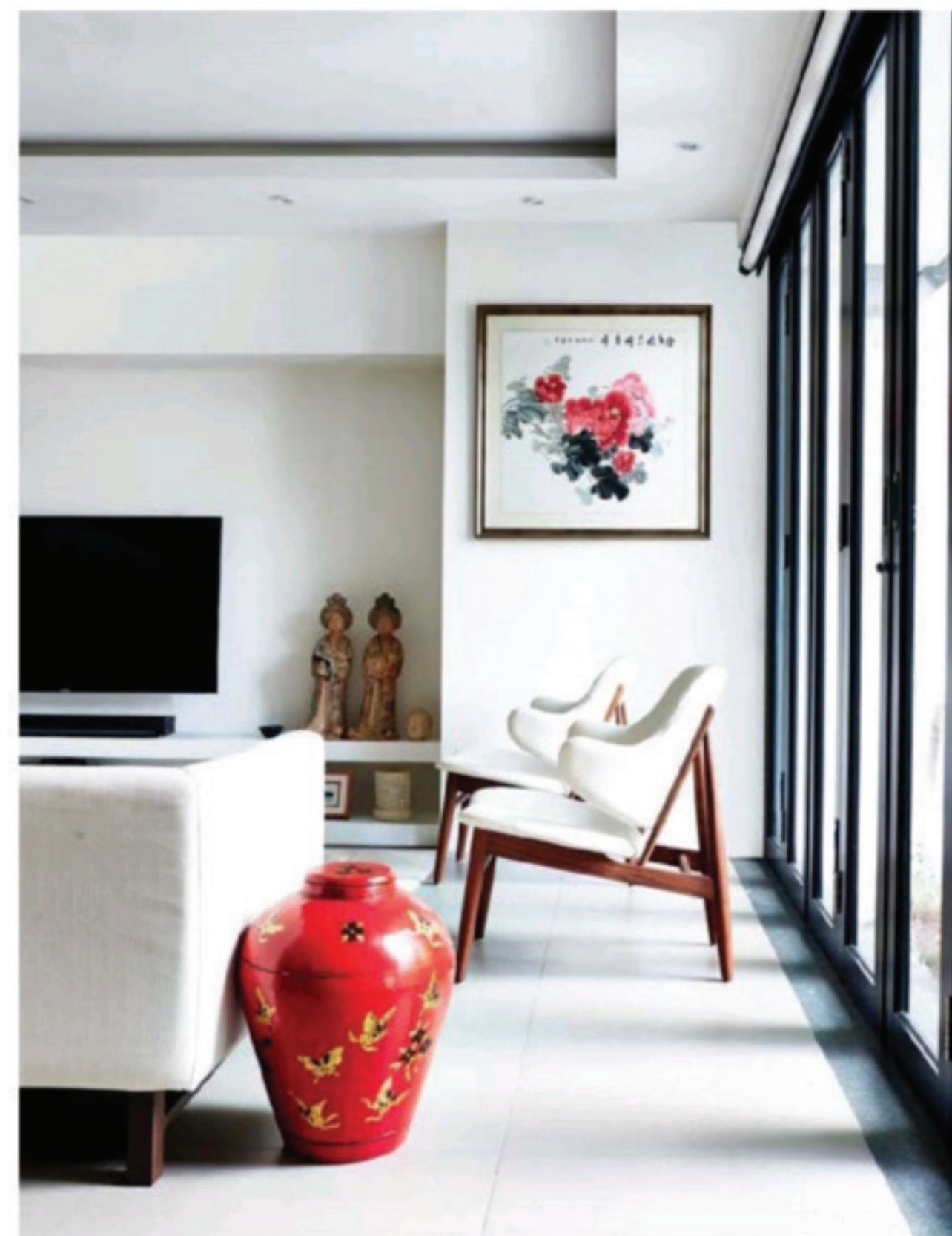


**RIGHT**  
The home has a basic colour palette of white, grey and black. The wood tones add a touch of warmth.

**[OPPOSITE]**  
**TOP LEFT**  
A triptych depicting a past era and lantern-style lamps add character to the entrance area.

**TOP RIGHT**  
An artful pairing of Oriental and contemporary elements give the living room its appeal.

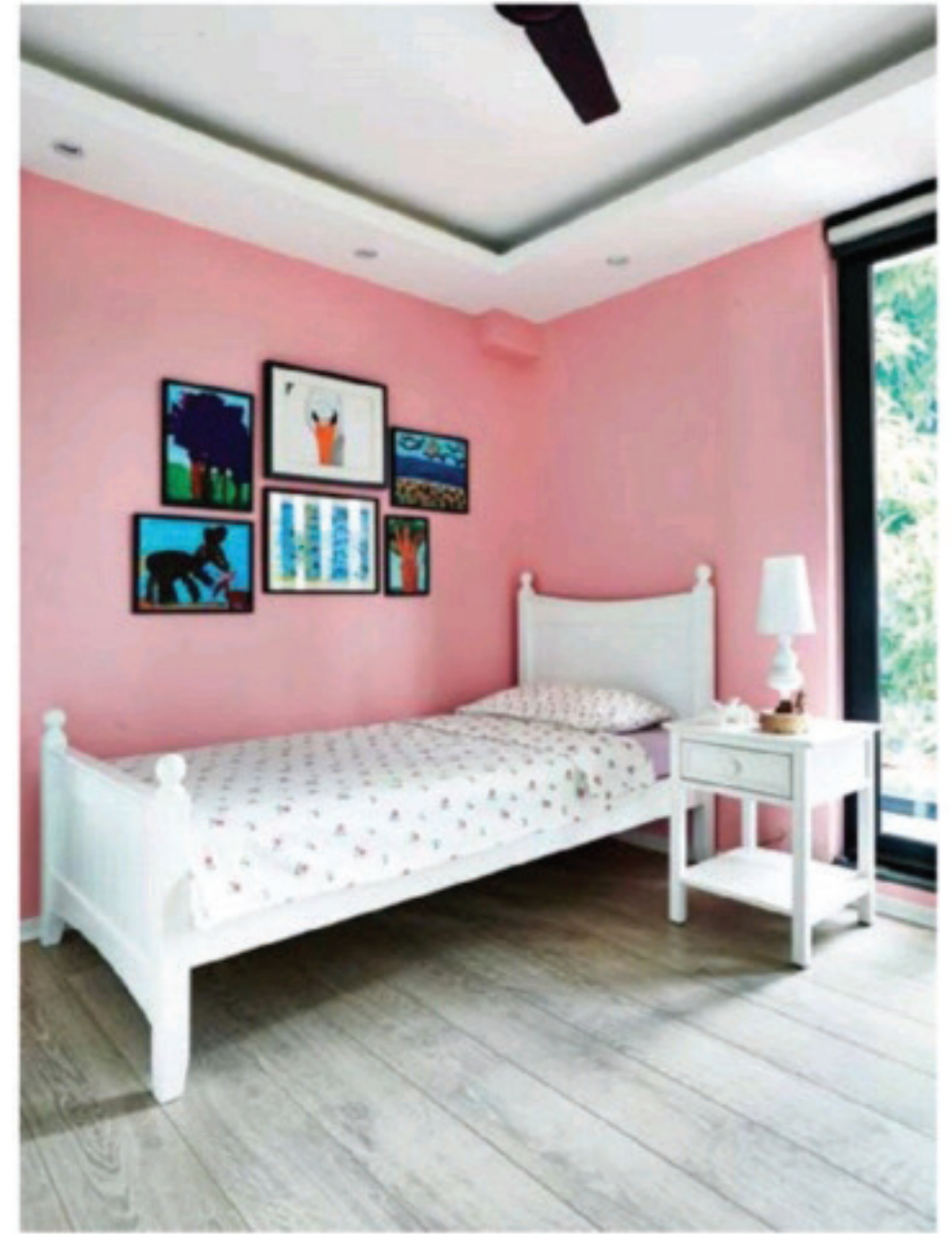
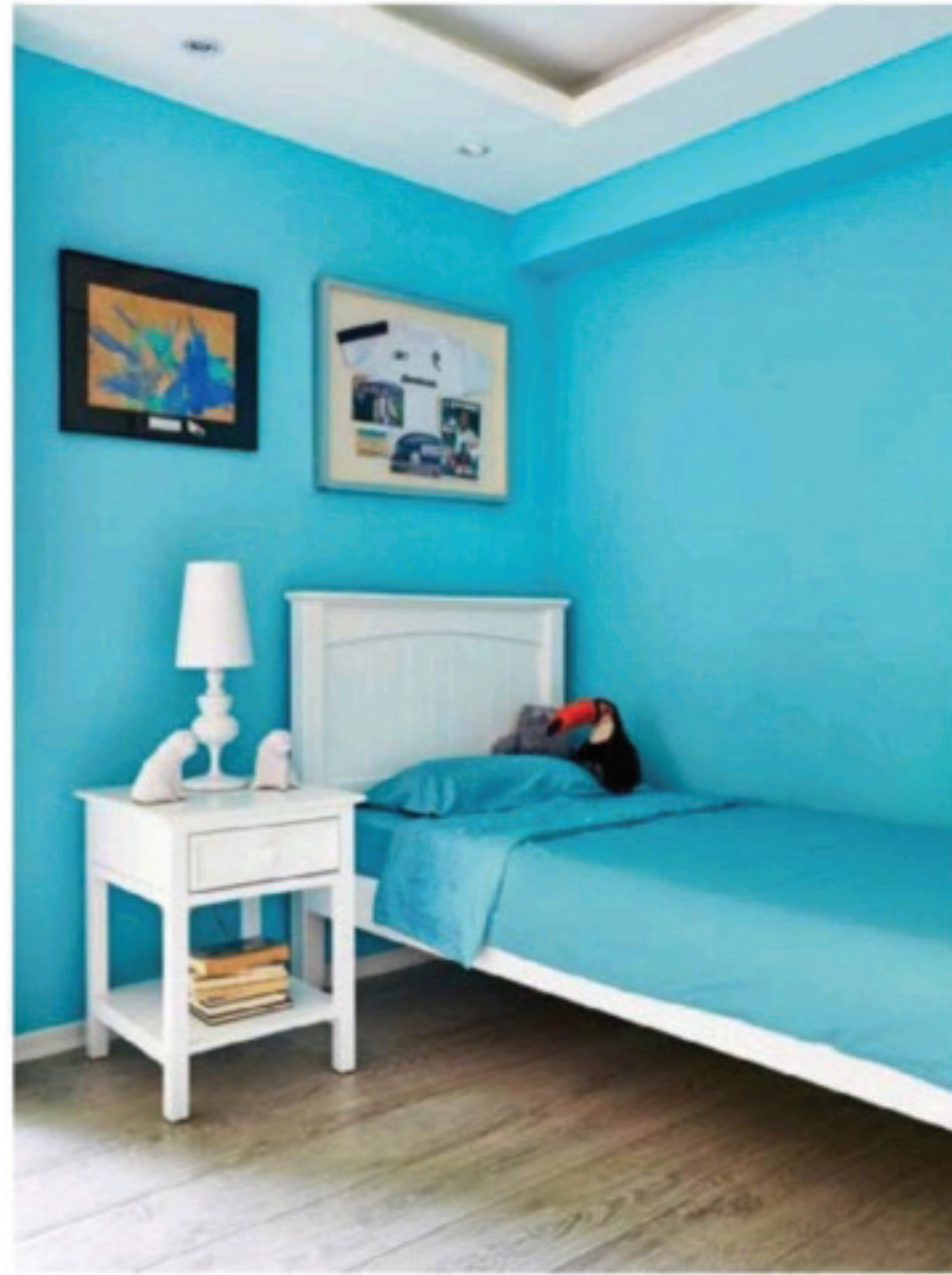
**BOTTOM**  
Upstairs, the master bedroom is kept almost bare to enhance its spaciousness.



**RIGHT**  
The son, whose keen interest in cycling is attributed to his triathlete father, has a breezy blue and white room.

**FAR RIGHT**  
The daughter's artwork is displayed in a collage of pieces above her bed.

**BELOW**  
A free-standing bathtub is the finishing touch to the private roof terrace, only accessible via the master bedroom.



The unique layout of the home and its luxury of space is played up through simple but effective structural alterations and additions. ●

