

Kampung modern

Traditional style meets simple materials to award-winning effect

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6 SUNSET PLACE
WINNING PROJECT FOR THE
8TH SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS'
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AWARDS, 2006
INDIVIDUAL HOUSE CATEGORY

WHILE some architects prefer using materials such as glass and steel to create glossy residences, architect Yip Yuen Hong of ip:li design prefers the matt appearance of wood and concrete instead.

He calls these materials "simple", eschewing "chi-chi ones such as marble and granite". He adds that using materials such as wood, concrete and steel, as he did in this two-storey bungalow in Sunset Way, are also cheaper.

While the building components may be cheaper, this is neither a cheap house nor a shoddily constructed one. Construction work, which took a year, cost \$850,000. The house also won an award at the 8th Singapore Institute of Architects' Architectural Design Awards this year, under the Individual Houses category.

While Mr Yip feels that the home is just a shell for the owners – a German husband and his Singaporean wife – to turn into a home, there are still touches of his signature style.



One is the kampung feel of the home with a modern touch, which he says is reflective of Singapore's culture and suitable for the climate.

From the outside, the house looks like it is built on stilts (above). There are open spaces on the ground floor that extend to the outside. A timber deck doubles as an alfresco living area and a passageway into the garden. The living area's open nature also makes it well-ventilated and breezy.

And while mild steel is traditionally used for rooftops, Mr Yip used a sheet of rusted steel for one living room wall. The steel's wave-like form adds texture to the wall and, because it has been coated with epoxy, is protected from further oxidation.

On the opposite wall in the living room is a concrete wall which has been treated with recycled wood formwork to resemble timber. Mr Yip says: "The owners like a mix of timber with modern touches, so this wall has an earthy, tactile feel."

The award-winning home has attracted many curious visitors to come by and admire it.

"Maybe I should start charging a viewing fee," says the home owner with a laugh.

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