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# How They Pulled It Off: A Faux Skylight and Fireplace in the Middle of a Duplex Apartment

JINNIE LEE

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The Residence

Jinnie Lee  
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In Singapore, where public housing renovations have mandates, an architecture team cheated the system with artificial design tricks.

Welcome to How They Pulled It Off, where we take a close look at one particularly challenging aspect of a home design and get the nitty-gritty details about how it became a reality.

In Singapore, the vast majority of citizens live in high-rise apartments built by the government called Housing & Development Board (HBD) flats. So, as one can imagine, there are plenty of limitations to how you can renovate a public housing unit. When Alex Liu acquired his maisonette-style HBD flat—a maisonette is similar to a duplex in America—in the central-north region of Singapore with his wife and children, he and his brother Jay Liu, both co-founders of the interior architecture firm Right Angle Studio, knew they wanted to reconfigure the previous blockade layout.

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