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EPITOME OF SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
NUS SCHOOL OF DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENT 1 AND 3

restorative retreat
in karuizawa
SHISHI-IWA HOUSE NO.02

NEW CHAPTER FOR ART AND
CULTURAL SCENE
SYDNEY MODERN PROJECT



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urban retreat

This apartment on the fringe of Orchard Road looks and feels like a luxurious sanctuary but with plenty of personal and bespoke touches.

Text by Sasha Gonzales
Photography by Studio Periphery

Stepping into this elegant and uncluttered duplex unit known as EJ Residence, you would not think you were in the heart of the city, just on the edge of Singapore's bustling Orchard Road. Instead, with its surrounding lush greenery, spacious outdoor terrace, high ceilings and bright and airy interior, you get the feeling of being in a tropical retreat.

And that was the exact experience that interior designers Jay Liu and Alex Liu were going for; the brothers are co-founders of the Singapore-based interior design firm Right Angle Studio.

a sanctuary-like home

The occupants of the 223 sqm home – a family of three – wanted a space with a timeless interior style, that was visually soothing and that they could look forward to returning to at the end of a long day. Their only special request was to connect the study to the master bedroom, but apart from this, Jay and Alex were given creative license to execute their own design strategy.

“When designing this duplex apartment, we sought to achieve a perpetual essentialism, working in tandem with its architectural qualities,” says Jay.



design

“The house was minimally composed to ‘flow’ with its leafy surroundings, eliminating all forms of clutter and distraction. An open-plan configuration blurs the barrier between indoor and outdoor, conveying a continuous experience for the homeowners and their guests.”

EJ Residence is located on the ground level in a quiet estate. From the terrace, one gets a close-up view of the tranquil pool and landscaped outdoors, which only enhances the feeling of being in a private villa, miles away from civilisation.

soothing colours. natural materials

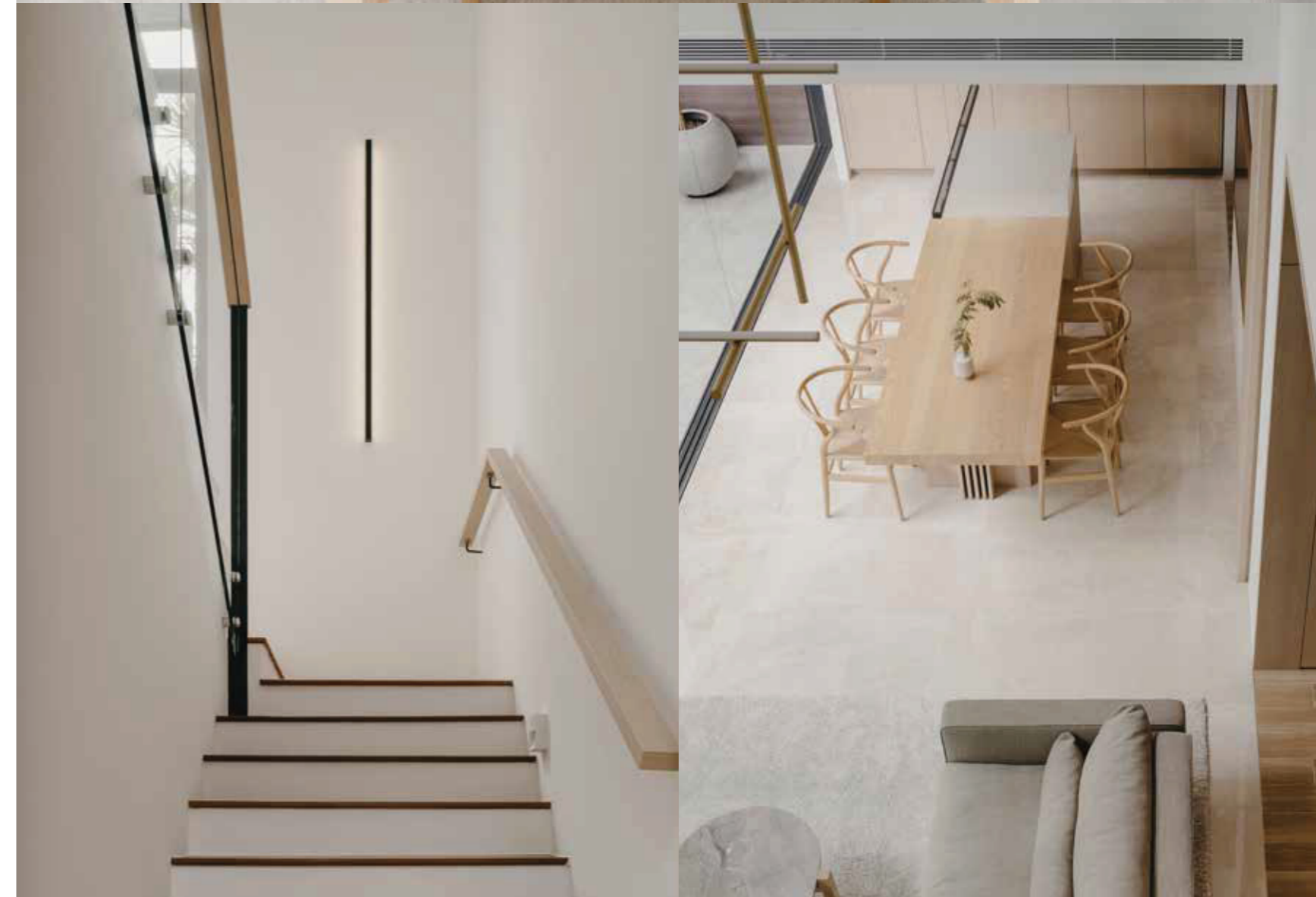
Jay and Alex worked on the living room, kitchen, and private quarters – made up of the master bedroom, study and children’s rooms – located on the second level.

The apartment boasts an elongated space plan, which facilitates an extended connection between the living and dining zones.

“In addition, the apartment opens to a double-volume space, providing a liberated expression of the open plan,” Alex points out.

(Below) With its surrounding lush greenery and spacious outdoor terrace, EJ Residence gives one the feeling of being in a tropical retreat.

(Facing page from top) Ash wood was used throughout the apartment; the neutral colour palette reflects the property’s pared-down vibe; the bespoke dining table was crafted from solid ash planks



design



(Above) Lime-washed walls provide an authentic and unfinished treatment to the overall soft, minimal look.

Overlooking this double-volume space is an unobtrusive portal, which is neatly anchored to conceal entrances to the common washroom and back-of-house, offering additional depth to the rectilinear profile; the portal is a reference to Right Angle Studio's earlier works.

The fluted oak screen in the living area was strategically positioned to align with the stairs leading up to the private quarters. The idea, says Alex, was to restrict the line of sight into such an intimate space.

EJ Residence was deliberately designed to look minimalistic and "clean". To this end, Alex and Jay utilised wall panelling, which doubled as access points to different spaces, thereby "cleaning" up the entire apartment visually. Cabinets, closets and other storage systems followed the same principles.

The colour palette was carefully chosen to reflect the property's pared-down vibe, with shades of cream, brown, grey and white featuring throughout the rooms and living spaces.

"To create a calm and composed environment, and to 'lighten' the space, we selected ash wood as the primary material for this apartment," Alex adds. "Lime-washed walls provide an authentic and unfinished treatment to the overall soft, minimal look."

Complementing the interior space are a range of understated furnishings and artworks, many of which had been in the client's possession for a long time and had a special significance to their family.

Take the B&B Italia "Charles" sofa on the terrace, for instance. Although it had been part of their furniture collection from their previous residence, the client



(Above) The occupants wanted a place that they could look forward to returning to at the end of the day.

project

EJ Residence

location

Central Singapore

Site area

223 sqm

Year of completion

2022

Architect/design firm

Right Angle Studio

Lead architect/

designer

Alex Liu, Jay Liu

Design team

Alex Liu, Jay Liu



wanted to discard it, but Alex and Jay recommended re-upholstering it and converting it into an outdoor piece. "This not only reaffirms its perpetuity but makes for a beautiful visual reminder for the family of their previous home," Jay explains.

A couple of other pieces were designed especially for the family, including the bespoke dining table, crafted from solid ash planks and made to fit the dining area perfectly, and the coffee table in the living area, which was designed by Right Angle Studio and comprises a solid ash base and a table top finished in Venetian grey marble.

Alex and Jay were mindful to incorporate their client's interests, like travel and fine art, into the interior space, too. For example, the floating cloud lamp in the children's room was picked up in New York, while the works of artists like Lim Tze Peng, Takashi Murakami and Nai Swee Leng grace the walls.

"Every room was carefully considered [with] the family's preferences, lifestyles and interests [in mind]," Jay shares. "The result is a home that exudes warmth, comfort and understated elegance, and that seamlessly incorporates the personality and style of its occupants."