The design brief for the renovation of this apartment was remarkably simple: to design a modern home imbued with a classy Italian feel. Apart from this skeletal brief by the clients, interior designer Dave Ng from ID Emboss was given free rein in conceptualising the 92-square-metre apartment. "This was a fulfilling project, as the owners trusted me to make the decisions on all aspects of the project, from the choice of furniture and finishes right down to the styling elements," says Ng. "More importantly, the clients are very happy with the end result."

COOL CAT

The designer stripped away almost everything in the dull and worn-out two-bedroom apartment, retaining its original layout and existing marble flooring in the living area. Working with a dusky palette consisting of grey, black and brown tones, he focused on colours, finishes and form of the furniture and fixtures to give the space the suave yet understated feel of Italian design.

The living area is a starting point within the home, one that features a rectilinear sofa in grey fabric, picked out deliberately to blend rather than contrast with the wall it stands against. Opposite, a wall-mounted cabinetry is designed to fully conceal the television and sound system. Of note, too, is the row of framed photographs featuring photos of olden-day Singapore, strategically lit up by sleek wall-mounted lighting.

Nearby, the dining area holds a compact dining set for four. With walls painted in grey, an oil painting from Vietnam proves to be a striking choice, its vivid splash of red a strong contrast against the walls.

BACK TO BLACK

Next up is the kitchen, fitted with high-end built-in appliances that contribute to the sleek feel of the kitchen. With a galley configuration, where kitchen cabinets are built on facing walls, the kitchen has been outfitted as an efficient space despite its modest floor area. This kitchen also leads out to a petite backyard where the homeowners can spend some time outdoors during their free moments.

Unlike the timber flooring used in the bedroom and study, the bathroom, as well as the kitchen, have been clad with Zimbabwe black granite for both practical and aesthetic reasons. This not only makes the space easy to maintain, but the black and white combination endows the bathroom with a masculine yet pared down look that would appeal to any urbanite.

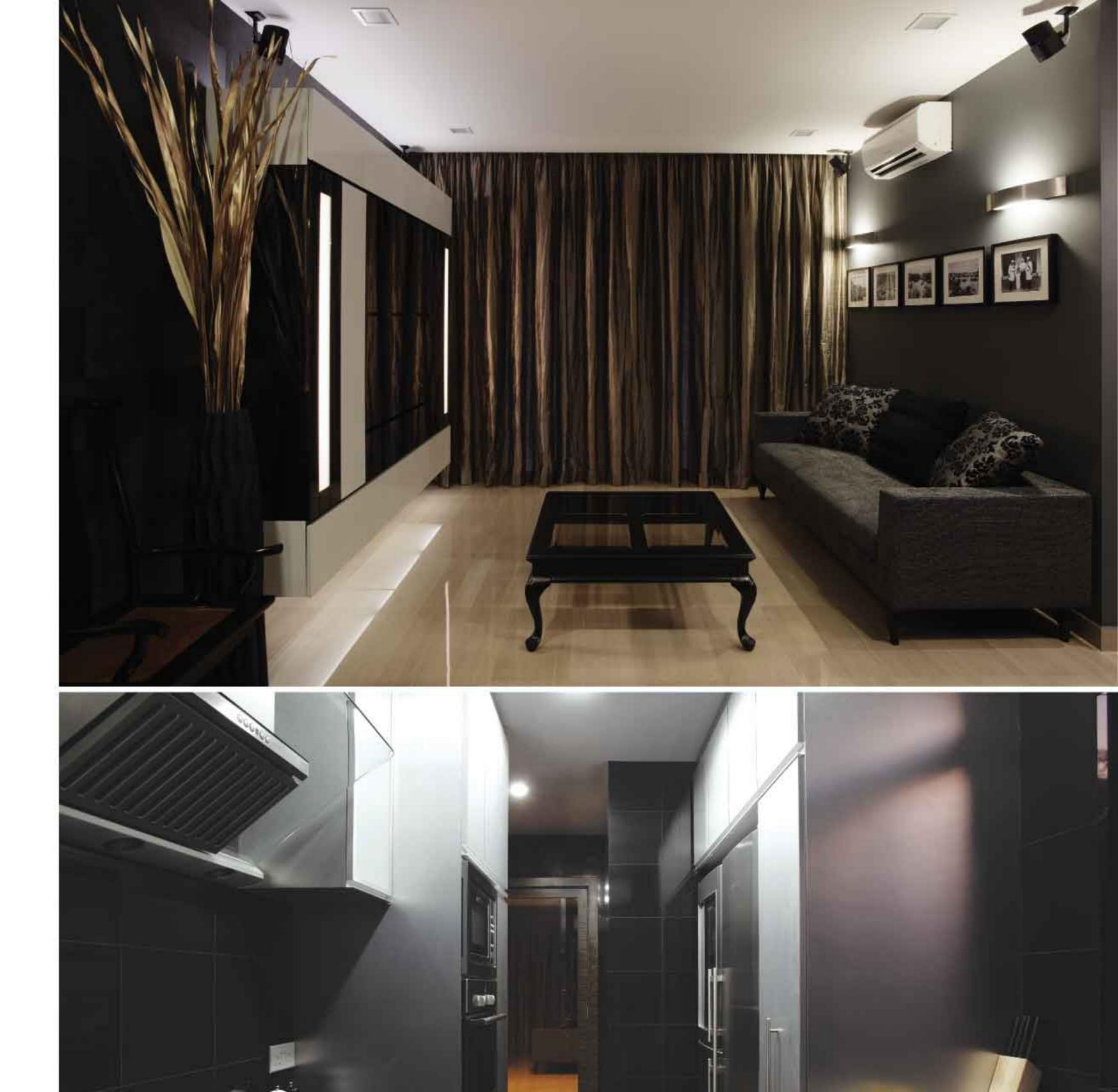
ROOM FOR STYLE

With two bedrooms available, one has been delegated as the study, where the colour palette used in the living and dining areas has been reprised. This space features a large circular mirror that bears a relatively elaborate pattern which instantly embellishes the otherwise restrained ambience.

It is in the bedroom where the designer deviates in terms of the colour scheme. While the bedroom certainly bears the same stylish ambience, red as the dominant colour in the bedroom is an uncommon move. This passionate colour is tempered by the simple addition of a wall-mounted cabinet that also houses the reading light.



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