

# breaking away

[ designer: **id emboss**  
project type: **3-room hdb flat** floor area: **764 sq ft** ]

An old, gloomy three-room HDB flat at Lorong Liew Lian has been gutted and overhauled to make way for a warm, cosy nest.

TEXT BY ROSSARA JAMIL | IMAGES COURTESY OF ID EMOSS



Handed the reins to make over an HDB unit that is more than three decades old, ID Emboss was not only quick to see the potential of the space, but never lost sight of the homeowner's needs. The team took into account several little but important details during the design process. One of them is the use of three shades of purple, the owner's favourite colour, throughout the home, which has been enhanced by varying lighting options.

Before all that could be implemented, however, the design team needed to demolish the walls, leaving no trace of what it used to be. The team also went about reconfiguring the spatial layout to create three distinct sections: the living-cum-guest room, the pantry-cum-dining area and the master bedroom.



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#### Works Like a Charm

Upon entering the house, one is faced with the living area, a cosy setting of sofas in a space awash in a soft, purple hue. Bi-fold doors to one side indicate that the space can be closed off. These doors help to turn the living area into the guest room as and when needed. In addition, one of the sofas is a sofa bed that can be converted to meet the purpose of a guest room. By combining the living area and guest room, the design team gave the 764-sq-ft interior some needed breathing space.

#### Built with Purpose

To the back of the apartment, the dining area acts as a transition to the private spaces. The homeowner, who lives on her own, indicated that she rarely cooks. Without the need for cooking equipment, all she needed was a simple pantry with storage units for dried foodstuff, household cleaning equipment and miscellaneous items like books. To fulfil that need, the design team built a tall storage unit as well as drawers along one wall. Concrete-like laminating for the built-in furnishings gives a surprising edge to the feminine shades of purple throughout the apartment.

Since the homeowner did not need a full kitchen, the design team had leeway to conceptualise a space that breaks away from the norm. Doing without the hood and hob in the kitchen presented the opportunity to configure the apartment such that the master bedroom can be accessed via what is now the pantry. Interestingly, a vanity area takes centre stage here in the pantry.

#### Going Purple

The master bedroom has been designed for privacy and rest, thanks to the deep, sensuous shade of purple that dominates the space. Everything else has been kept uncluttered too. Inspired by Japanese tatami, the team placed the mattress on a platform. This bedroom is also connected to a walk-in wardrobe – yet another surprising addition in the petite apartment. **115**



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