

SQUARE ROOMS . COM . SG

Square Rooms

MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROOMS

Create flexible spaces for work, play and relaxation

KITCHENS YOU'LL LOVE FOREVER

Designs and products with staying power

GARDENING BLISS

Chic finds for your green corner

SEP 2021
ISSUE 196
S\$5.50/RM10



Chic serenity

Trusting their designer's vision gave this young family a joyful and comfortable dwelling with great views.

Text YUEN YI YING Images ANDREY BEZUGLOV





The Brief

From their first meeting, designer Julia Baydyk of Alta Idea Design Studio could see how much the lady of the household, a charismatic theatre professional, cared for the comfort and happiness of her beloved family. Drawing inspiration from this infectious energy, Julia had big plans for this 1,140sq ft apartment located in Kyiv, Ukraine. As a top floor unit with a balcony and sweeping views of lakes, city lights and incredible sunsets, this flat had a lot going for it. Julia wanted to maximise views of the panorama, creating a contemporary and relaxing environment where the family could enjoy the morning rays and end their day with the gentle flickering lights of the city. However, the original floor plan was problematic. The layout was cramped with an "incomprehensible corridor that absorbed the entire space," the designer reveals.

Convincing her clients to demolish the central walls of the apartment took a long time as the owners had doubts, Julia admits. So to assuage their concerns, Julia's dogged team presented eight layouts to choose from before finally getting the green light to execute their plans. "We really like the idea of an open and joint kitchen, living room and dining area," Julia shares. "We are not adherents of the scenario where the hostess prepares food alone in the kitchen while her husband and children rest in another room. By removing all unnecessary walls, we have changed the way the family interacts, and by opening the space for communication,

we've helped the family embark on a new chapter and fill it with new rituals."

Wood surfaces along with grey and blue tones conjure a peaceful atmosphere, but with little distractions, everything had to be just right. To this end, the team spared no effort in tweaking and perfecting ideas, meticulously overseeing the execution for flawless results that would justify their clients' trust. The parquet, for example, was repainted nine times before the designers got the soft brown shade they were after. "Not too brown, not too red, and not too green." It also took the team a while to figure out the ideal sofa. As a sizeable piece of furniture, it needed to fit in with the elements and hues of the interior without overloading the senses. "At first we considered options with a very bright relief fabric, but in the end, we came to a calm palette," Julia shares. "It turned out to be a very large 3m-long sofa providing enough space for everyone."

Through all the hiccups that occur with every renovation, the clients had good faith in the team, Julia tells us. "We were lucky enough to meet people who love black humour, are ready to experiment and are not afraid of colour," she shares. "This project is another story about family love, the constant laughter during repairs, the customers' nervous giggles and twitching eyes over mistakes by builders and contractors. The most important thing is that this story ends successfully." For the family enjoying their refreshed digs, their new life is just getting started.

AT A GLANCE

Space PENTHOUSE APARTMENT **Location** KYIV, UKRAINE

Home to A FAMILY OF THREE **Reno period** ONE YEAR

FEATURE

This page

Communal space

Removing walls to connect the kitchen, living room and dining area served to create a brighter, roomier and more inviting environment. Though clad in calm grey tones and wood surfaces, the mix of shades and textures helps to keep things visually interesting. The carpet and tables are from Sophie Decor.

Opposite page

Dining area

Mostly utilised when friends and family come over, the dining set is positioned by large windows for wonderful views at mealtimes and sits under a large and commanding Vistosi chandelier.



Upcycled works by Tasha Dro adorn the mostly neutral dwelling, adding diversity to the understated interiors.





FEATURE



Above

Kitchen

Now opened up to the rest of the home to facilitate interaction and movement, the kitchen features striking blue cabinetry which gives the decor a jolt of energy. The design team created the island as a spot to enjoy a quick light breakfast or snack, but the family loves it so much that they use it constantly. The pendant lamps overhead are from Vistosi.

Opposite page

Balcony

This sitting area positioned just off the cooking zone is a nice spot for the homeowners to enjoy a cup of coffee in the morning or take in the city lights at night.

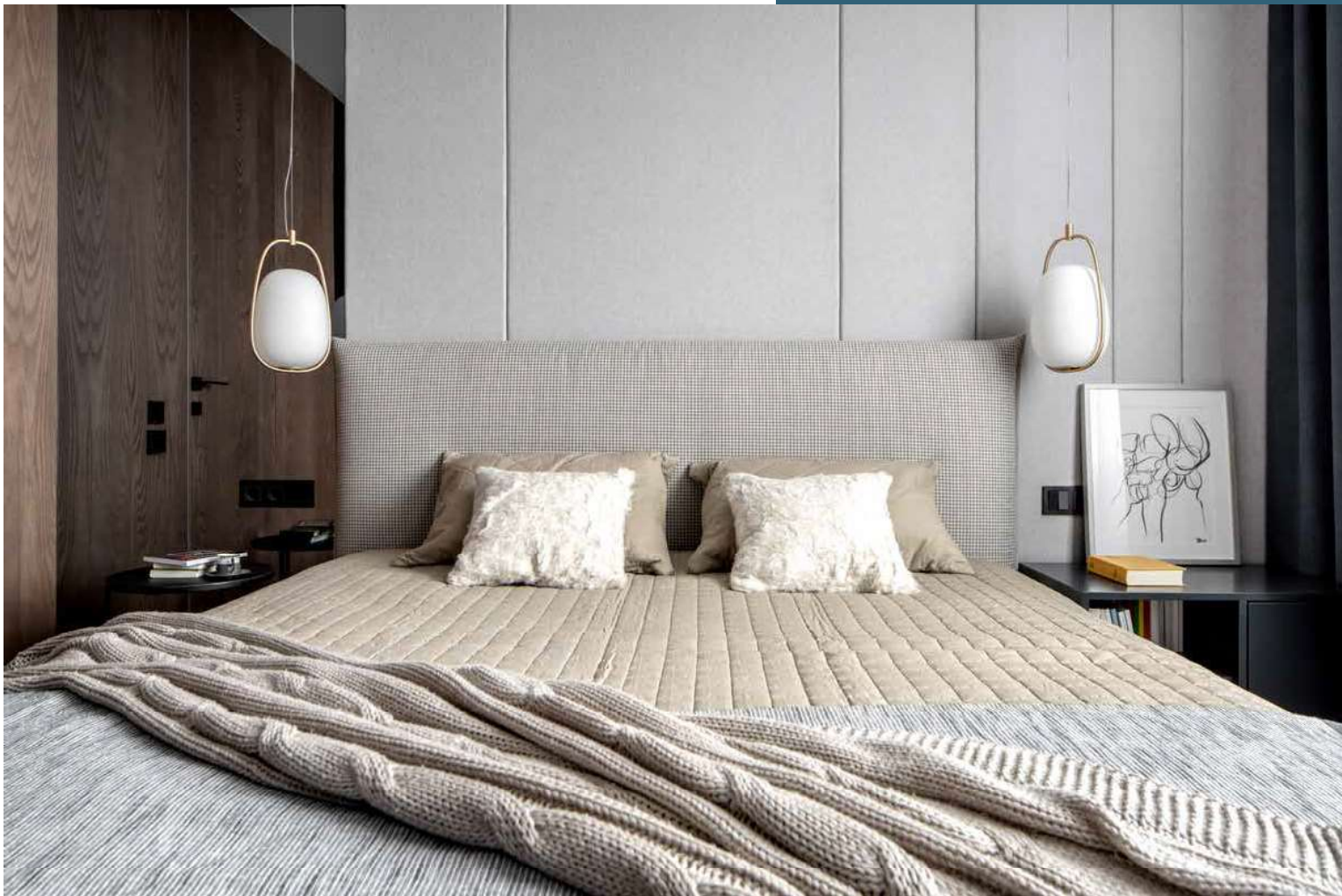
↪ *The mirrored doors turn translucent when the lights within are turned on, adding a surprising and stylish element to the kitchen.*



FEATURE

Principal bedroom

The bedroom should be a real place of rest, Julia shares. To achieve this, the team used a combination of pleasant-to-the-touch fabric coverings, wooden wall panels, high-quality bed textiles and simple lamps to evoke a sense of comfort. The illustration on the bedside table is by Elena Savelyeva. Besides a low-key vanity and media wall facing the bed, the room was deliberately kept sparsely furnished for a calming atmosphere.





Bathroom

Indirect lighting casts a flattering glow, while stone surfaces create an organic and relaxing environment.



Decorating with art

Three points to consider:



Size

Don't be afraid to go with a large piece which will expand and add drama to any space. That said, a small yet interesting artwork can also draw viewers in and provide the same stunning effect.



Framing

Don't worry about having all your frames match. Just as you would dress for yourself, find the best frame that suits your artwork. By consistently picking only the things that appeal to you, you'll be surprised how well disparate items work together as a group.



Dimension

If your walls are feeling lacklustre, consider sculptures and other three-dimensional artworks which will vary things up and make the surroundings feel more dynamic.

FEATURE





Son's room

This room has everything a child could want including a house-shaped bunk bed, climbing ladder and slide, discreet yet easily accessed storage, a study desk and seats by the window to enjoy the view.

