

FINE & dandy

Making a bold statement with deep hues and extravagant surfaces, this bachelor's pad is definitely one that astounds

TEXT Ho Pei Ying

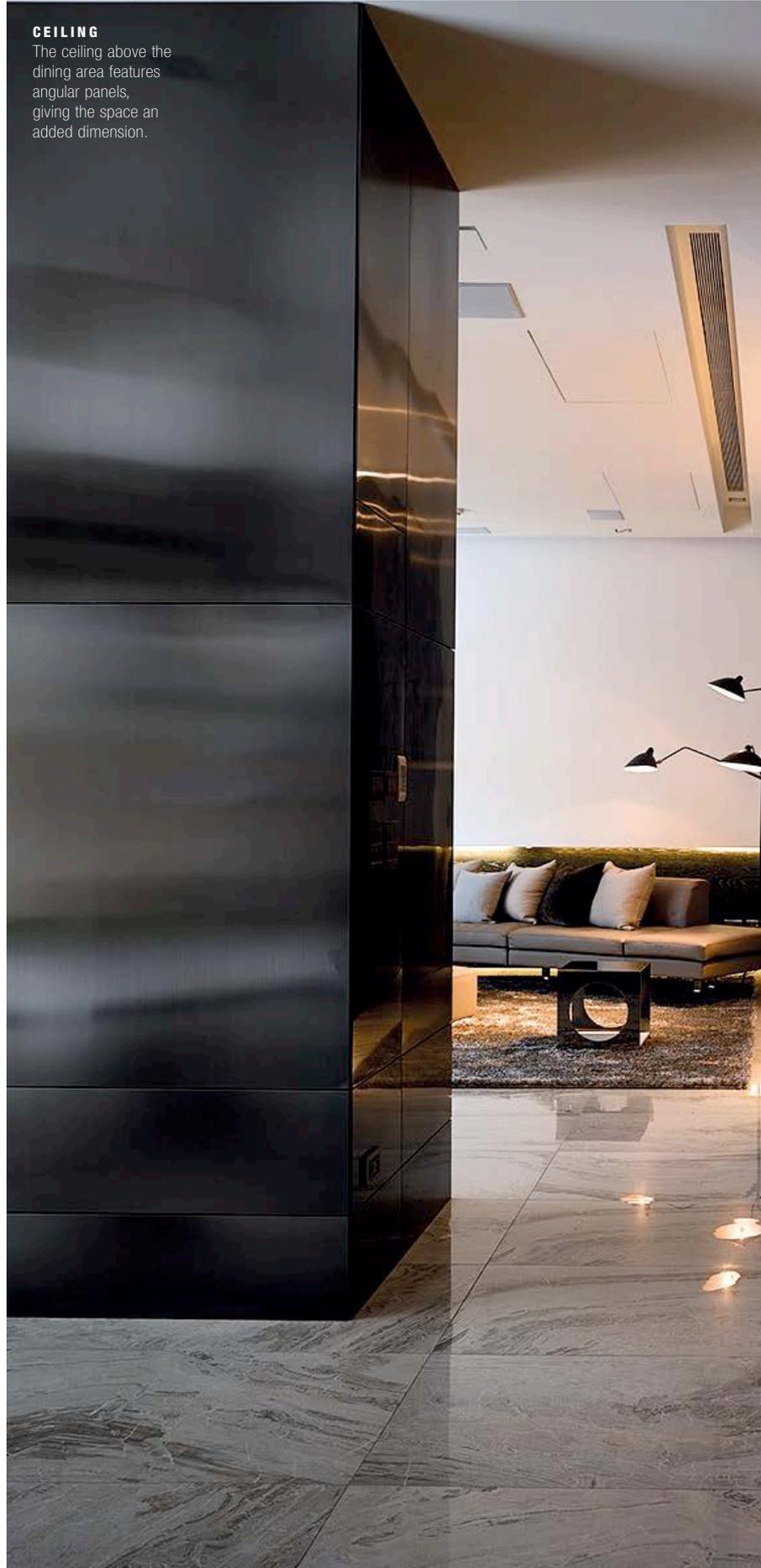
PHOTOGRAPHY Figure x Lee Kuo-Min Studio

Looking at the interiors, some might say the home borders on being overly extravagant. But to Chen, the forty-something owner of this two-storey apartment in Taipei, the renovations turned out exactly as he wanted. Designer Tang Chung-han of Design Apartment says of the brief: "Chen told us to use dark colours and materials that made a strong impact."

And his wish was the firm's command. Chen—a bachelor working in the tech industry—had hired Chung-han to do up the design for his new home back in December 2012. The project

CEILING

The ceiling above the dining area features angular panels, giving the space an added dimension.





2 STOREY UNIT | **3,985**^{sqft} | **RENO PERIOD** 8 MONTHS  | **TAIPEI, TAIWAN**  | **HOME TO** 

SPACES



STUDY *(top, left)*

A corner area on the second storey was reserved for Chen's workspace. A large study table, made from wood with iron legs, takes up most of the room.

Custom-built open and closed shelving provides the storage space he needs.

STAIRCASE *(top, right)*

Black marble is used for the staircase's feature wall.

A diagonal strip inserted with lighting cuts across the marble surface, standing in place of an actual handrail.

was such a massive undertaking that it took eight months to complete.

The interiors certainly stun. Most of the surfaces in the home are swathed in either natural marble, solid wood or metal. Even the walls—and we are not talking about feature walls here—are decked out in luxurious materials.

Take the master bathroom on the first floor for instance. The entire space, save for a few areas, is decked out in white marble. This includes the walls, flooring, vanity top and the shower area. Using a borderless mirrored vanity cabinet was also a clever design move. As it reflects the marble surfaces in the rest of the bathroom, the area looks like it is covered in marble too.



The rest of the home is equally luxe. Showing that it doesn't take just natural stones to bring up the glamour, the master bedroom's wall and flooring are clad in rustic-looking smoked oak. Chung-han explains his choice: "Unlike the communal spaces in the rest of the home, I wanted this intimate and private space to feel cosy." The dominance of wood certainly adds a sense of warmth to this bedroom, but he didn't want it looking too dim, which led the designer to construct a feature made from wood spray-painted white. The structure is not just for design purposes, as it also doubles up as console for the television.

While the rest of the home is a picture of modernity, Chung-han leaned towards a

A photograph of a modern living room with a dark, masculine aesthetic. The room features a dark sofa with cushions, a low coffee table, and a fireplace with a fire. The floor is made of large, light-colored tiles with a dark, swirling pattern. A large window on the left side of the room provides natural light. The overall design is minimalist and sophisticated.

“Our brief was to use dark colours and materials that made a strong impact.”

Tang Chung-han, designer

LIVING ROOM

Dark hues grant this bachelor's home its requisite masculine character. Cushions on the sofa and a large rug help to soften the look.

SPACES



Bloomingville T-Light Holder from STYLODECO

DINING ROOM *(right)*

Clad in the same black marble from the staircase's feature wall, this less formal dining area—for breakfast and casual meals—radiates beauty and exclusivity.

MASTER BEDROOM *(opposite, bottom)*

The smoked oak wood adds warmth, but Chung-han opted not to cover the entire space with it for fear of darkening the room. He thus chose to break up the visual by incorporating a continuous bedroom feature piece.



more vintage vibe for the guest room and en-suite bathroom upstairs. He was mindful to keep them just as glamorous, which saw him employing a wainscoting effect on the bedroom's walls. The primary hue here is an elegant dark grey. A recessed ceiling heightens the drama. Even more striking is the adjoining bathroom with black-and-white marble mosaic tiles covering the walls. The rest of the surfaces are black marble, while the furnishings are wood.

Smoked oak wood reappears in the study—carved from an empty and unused area in the second storey—in the form of

a table and shelving. This is where Chen works from home, but it also serves as a leisure space where he can unwind, relax and do a bit of light reading. To invite daylight, Chung-han chose full-height glass sliding doors that lead out into an outdoor terrace. He also incorporated blinders for shade in case it gets too warm in the summer.

There is no denying the opulence in this home but the overall ambiance is also surprisingly restful and comfortable, and it's no doubt thanks to the designer's thoughtful touches.



GUEST BATHROOM

(left)

Arranged in a woven pattern, the mosaic tiles—made from black and white marble—introduce old-world glamour in the bathroom, reflecting the design scheme of the adjoining guest room. The vanity mirror seals the deal with its classic Chinese border.

MASTER BATHROOM

(below)

Here, white marble reigns supreme. For visual depth, an indented shelf was built and covered in black marble. Because of the unpredictable veins of the natural stone, each area in the bathroom conveys a different visual interest depending on where you are looking.



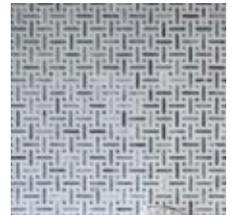
MATERIALS



**STUDY ROOM
SHELVING**
Solid smoked oak



**MASTER
BATHROOM
WALL + FLOOR**
White marble



**GUEST
BATHROOM
WALL**
Black-and-white marble
mosaic tiles