



The Anderson Gates which were salvaged from another colonial shophouse and restored at the Arlene Terrace.



The courtyard with its British-era clay bricks before the restoration.

culture of Ipoh, Perak, and Malaya-Malaysia era.

“3D trick art photo-play entertainments were popular in Malaysia in 2015. Upon the completion of the restoration work of Arlene Terrace that year, we were receptive to the establishment of a Funtasy House Trick Art gallery-museum to promote the creative arts by Malaysian 3D artists.

“Its set-up provides the public the opportunity to admire, explore and appreciate the building’s inspiring architecture, built-heritage designs, fixtures and fittings while enjoying the 38 trick arts displayed,” said

Chan, adding that it is also one of the largest 3D gallery-museums established in a heritage building in Malaysia. More importantly, Chan hopes that his effort can play a role in encouraging similar preservation projects.

“This colonial heritage shophouse was neglected since its business closed in 2000, and became dilapidated due to the absence of proper care and maintenance.

“But we appreciated its unique architectural design and values. Under close scrutiny, you can appreciate its intrinsic charm and beauty.

“With commitment, research and resources to undertake the required conservation-restoration process, you can discover the fascinating historical-heritage legacy of Ipoh, ‘the city that tin built’.

“We hope to inspire, share and encourage owners, stakeholders and our government to love and take due care of our built heritage.

“Evaluate and consider the options of preserving, conserving and restoring them for adaptive reuse activities in meeting modern-day use, requirement and enjoyment,” he urged.

In the near future, Chan has one more project to pursue.

“We have preserved and documented the artefacts, historical findings, fascinating stories and inspiring legacies of the shophouse.

“Having come this far, there may be one more task to be executed, and that’s to enhance the gallery-museum’s historical-heritage attractions to restore the soul of this shophouse for the benefit of future generations,” he said.

later became one of the famous elite members of the ‘Flying Tigers’ of the Chinese Air Force, piloting the B-25 Mitchell Bomber to fight the Japanese invasion in China during WW2.

“Captain Winkie Ho will be turning 103 years ‘young’ this year! We wish him well and the best of health,” he said.

Chan added that Ipoh’s famous Danish architect, Berthel Michael

Iversen, was also a customer of Heng Woh who had special shoes made for his deformed foot after an accident.

“We are grateful to have the opportunity to save this inspiring built heritage to tell of its fascinating historical-heritage legacy, or else it would be forgotten and lost forever with its demolition.

“Looking back, it was worth the journey. We have been rewarded with the joy and happiness of visitors who have come to love and appreciate our work and activities,” said Chan. – **Wong Li Za**



A pair of vintage ladies heels were among the findings at the former Chop Heng Woh Shoe Maker & Tailor shoplot.

By KATIE LAUGHRIDGE

AFTER the past few years of non-stop neutrals trending, in 2023 we’re anticipating a return of colour in home decor, paint colours and bedding.

With the return of colour, we’re seeing that creating sumptuous, inviting spaces is top of mind for designers and homeowners alike.

There’s a focus on creating restorative rooms, with a big trend toward creating luxurious bedrooms and reinventing modern takes on classic textiles.

Here are a few of our takes on the trends you’ll see popping up like crocuses this spring season.

Bold colours in living rooms

Introducing colour to your living room can sometimes feel as daunting as it does dazzling. While many might first run to throw a new can of paint on the walls, you might instead look to your furniture. A colourful sofa (or chair or accent table) is an exciting way to liven up a living space.

In this bold and beautiful design, a fern green sofa pops against the warm neutral tones in the pillows and rug. Typically when introducing colour, I carry the theme throughout the design.

But in this case, this statement sofa is bold enough to act alone. This earthy colour story is the perfect backdrop to the dash of blue found in the skirted swivel chairs, artwork and tabletop vignette.

Because these colours are all muted in tone, they don’t feel overwhelming to the eye. It’s a perfect introduction to colour without going over the top.

Keeping it New Traditional

Bringing traditional into modern day, New Traditional style emphasises the comforts and conveniences of modern life while still maintaining the refined elegance of traditional design.

New Traditional furniture tends to favour shapes and styles that have stood the test of time, but often in a more streamlined presentation and lighter or more practical fabrics (enter: my love of performance fabrics).

In this inviting New Traditional design, the colour palette is refreshed with lighter shades of classic blues and creamy off-whites to keep the look familiar but updated.

I find the painted wicker coffee table to be so interesting. This piece gets points for creativity and versatility. The shape could range from preppy to eclectic, depending on the space. This fantastic piece carries classic lines, a hallmark of New Traditional, but the scalloped

Spring interior trends



Contrasting wood tones add depth to this New Traditional living room. – Photos: Handout/TNS

detailing adds a dash of whimsy.

A texture-rich space

It’s all about luxe spaces and touchable textures this season, though we’d argue that’s a hallmark of good design that’s never gone out of style.

In this look, the wooden texture of the spool chair and cocktail table add dimension to what could have been a textile-heavy space.

If you’re feeling more daring in your design, contrast may actually act as your friend.

It may seem counterintuitive, but going for high-contrast wood tones can actually work seamlessly. Playing with contrast adds visual interest and gives a design more depth while repeating shades gives the space a feeling of continuity.

If your wood tones are all over the place, it can be helpful to create flow with your colour palette. Pops of pinky-reds and blue are the anchor to this bold and refreshing living space.

Freshening up the tabletop

Black and white are a first-class combination. These colours have a classical appeal that adds instant sophistication, depth and character to any space. But what happens when we add a little green?

When paired with black and white, green creates a wonderfully

fresh, modern and energetic environment instantly.

This design is a flawless example. A block-printed runner in lime is the perfect pair to the texture found in the hand-painted dishes found at each place setting.

A pop of light green in the stack of dishes is enough to carry the colour through the space, but not enough to overwhelm the design. Carrying the lush verdant colour throughout the tablespace is the addition of a fresh fern. The colour palette is expertly finished off with natural wood tones, lending to the casual modernity of the space.

A delicate designer bed

Shining like a crown jewel, this month’s designer bed is created by our lovely designer, Anne. It features crisp neutrals with just a dash of colour, which can be found in the Asian toile and tape trim.

Luxe bedroom living

While we prepare for spring as the weather remains chilly, we love to play up neutral plaids and pop them with an earthy yet rich mossy green. A dash of cow hide (a printed fabric, not the real deal) adds a touch of whimsy in this otherwise sophisticated look. – Tribune News Service



Furniture is a creative way to add colour to a room. The muted tones of the green and neutrals keep the design feeling cohesive.



White, black and green make a stunning and modern colour combination.