

128G CAIRNHILL ROAD

Striking A Balance



Owner:
Mr Richard Ireland

Architect:
RichardHO Architects

Engineer:
J S Tan & Associates

Contractor:
THL Building Construction Pte Ltd

This charming two-storey pre-war transitional terrace house with a discordant layout has been eloquently revived. Today, it is a spacious and stylish family home that embraces the heart of contemporary living without losing its vintage soul.

Finding The Flow

This project is an eloquent display of how a pre-war terrace house can be reinvented as a contemporary family home that is functional, stylish and true to its origins. While the party walls and the façade were retained and restored, a large part of the building's interior had to be reconstructed to accommodate the increase in loading. Despite the introduction of new load-bearing structural beams and columns, careful design has rendered them inconspicuous.

Within the home, the clever layering of spaces serves to highlight key elements such as the party walls and the airwell, which are important to the terrace house typology. The previously disharmonious ground floor space has been carefully reconfigured into a seamless living-dining-kitchen volume in keeping with the spatial quality of houses of its era.

Peace at the Core

At the heart of the house, the central courtyard has been cleverly rejuvenated into a naturally illuminated sanctuary with a koi pond and water feature. A modern retractable skylight does the double duty of keeping the rain out on wet days, and reflecting the heat on



Restored terrace house with garage under the front terrace

warmer days. They keep the interior spaces cool and reduce the need for air-conditioning and artificial lighting. Wrapping around the circulation spaces of the airwell is the staircase that takes the occupants up to the more intimate places of the house.

The upper floor plan has also been beautifully reconfigured with the choice of glass balustrades for the staircase, adding to the openness and connectivity. The architect has managed to create both intimate and family spaces anchored by the staircase and skylight.

Updated Elegance

The unmistakable feeling of living in a shophouse is apparent everywhere. The new extension has been cleverly constructed to interact effortlessly with the old on every floor. Authentic elements, such as the exposed timber structure of the floors and roof, subtly echo the house's architectural legacy, as do the original floor tiles on the second storey balcony. Enlargement of the

house's first storey casement windows into doors serve to bring even more light into the home with skillful subtlety.

Taking advantage of the elevated site, a garage under the front terrace was introduced with great care and precision without damaging the neighbouring walls.

The project demonstrates a successful modern interpretation of the terrace house and celebrates its historic character.



Roof terrace



Original patterned floor tiles at second storey balcony



Master bedroom at second storey and ensuite bathroom as one space



Central courtyard with retractable glass roof and water feature



Naturally lit second storey nursery cum bedroom



Seamless first storey living-dining-kitchen space