



Project type:  
1-bedroom  
condominium unit

Floor area:  
517sqft

# A MINIMALIST SHOEBOX HOME

With clean lines and minimal furnishings, this tiny apartment designed by Hock Hoon is both roomy and understatedly stylish.

TEXT ANGELA LOW



## Negative space

As the homeowners aren't regular television viewers, designer Ng Ci En of Hock Hoon left the living room wall bare, and did away with the space-consuming console and equipment that usually accompany the TV. Instead, a thin ledge, displaying various ornaments and a projector, sits across the sofa. It includes drawers and an extendable mid-section that facilitates the use of the projector, while hiding the cables.



## New light

It's easy for shoebox apartments to come off as dark and claustrophobic due to the lack of space. Thanks to the floor-to-ceiling glass windows, a minimalist design, and a half-height wall separating the living area from the kitchen, this tiny residence enjoys loads of natural light, great airflow and a more spacious outlook.



## Sleek surfaces

The highlight of the house is the cantilevered breakfast bar, a simple yet multi-functional surface on which the couple can dine and work. While they originally wanted a kitchen island to divide the two areas, it would have been too hefty a feature. Made from EDL Compact panels, the much thinner solution extends out from an L-shaped partial partition.



## Simple storage

A major concern for the couple was the need for more storage space. Despite the challenge to create additional compartments to stow away everyday items, Ci En managed to fit a built-in cabinet into the compact abode. Clad in white laminates that blend harmoniously into the pristine apartment, this storage solution covers the length of the wall opposite the open-plan kitchen and features a lit display recess to house decorative items.





#### Clear frames

The wall separating the bedroom from the living area has been replaced by metal-framed glass sliding doors. These partitions help to open up the apartment and make it feel more spacious while retaining some semblance of spatial separation between the private and communal areas.



#### Floating features

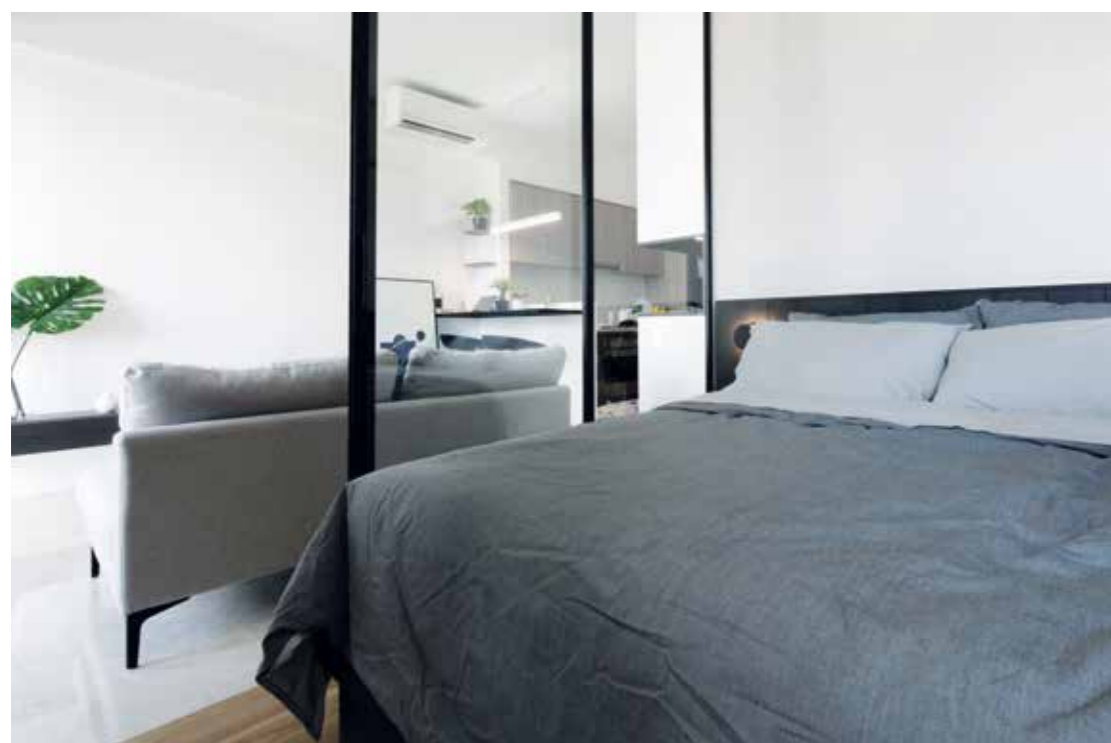
(Left) The designer converted empty spaces into subtle focal points, which help inject character and a personal touch into the home. In place of bulky furniture items, mini cantilevered shelves are installed to display plants and other curios. The pop of foliage also lends colour to the cool and monochrome apartment.



#### Toned down

(Right) The minimalist bedroom features a no-frills bedside ledge and headboard, clad in black laminates with vertical grooves. Steering clear of any elaborate statement designs, the designer went for a wall-mounted bedside lamp with a simple silhouette from Sol Luminaire, which serves as a reading light.

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#### THE BRIEF

The young couple who own this one-bedroom apartment had a clear vision for their first home, favouring a minimalist design that reflected their simple lifestyle. Ng Ci En, the designer at Hock Hoon, thus streamlined the apartment and eliminated all unnecessary elements for easier upkeep.

An unostentatious palette of white and black was chosen, along with understated furniture pieces and custom carpentry. At 517sqft, this one-bedroom apartment also ran the risk of feeling highly confined. To remedy the situation, the designer knocked down the bedroom wall, putting up glass sliding doors to separate the living room from the private space.

To top it off, almost everything, from the lights to the curtains, has been automated in this smart home, making this a highly functional yet chic abode that will stand the test of time.

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