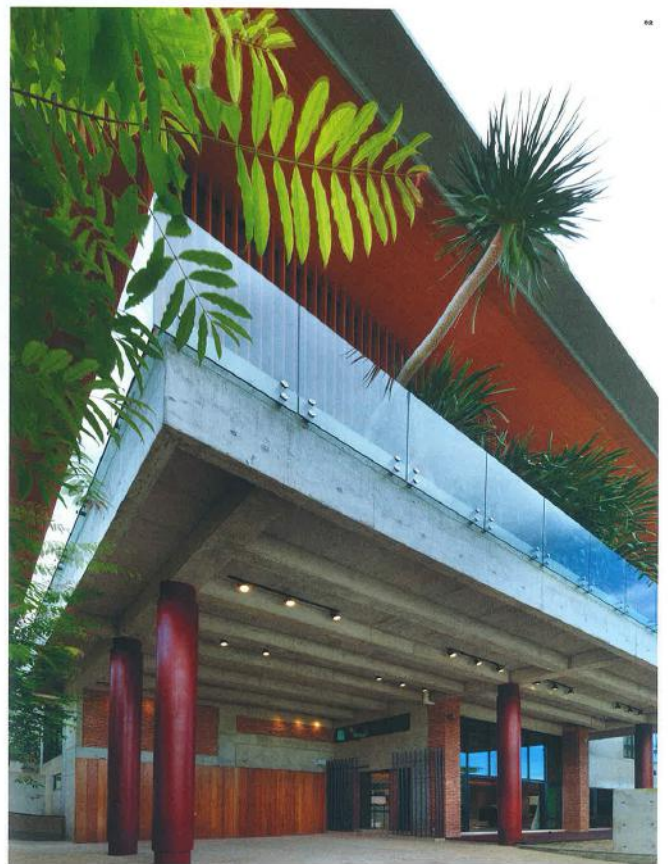


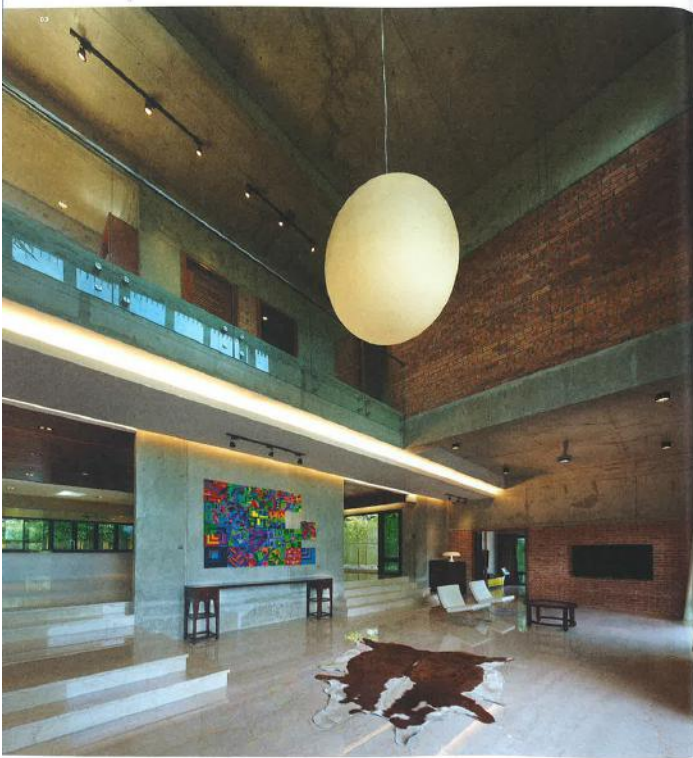


BLOCKS AND BOXES

A series of mindfully-placed modules compose a versatile and spacious interior that provides ample public and private spaces for a large family



PROJECTS
HOUSE NO. 18, MALAYSIA



02 The front facade of the house is clad in a metal louvers screen to fend off glare from the sun.

03 Deep red columns and rows of lights along the porch ceiling welcome the arrival of guests and dwellers.

04 A large pearl-like pendant hangs from the ceiling, emphasizing the overhead scale of the foyer.

05 A low frangipani stands guard over the pool pond.

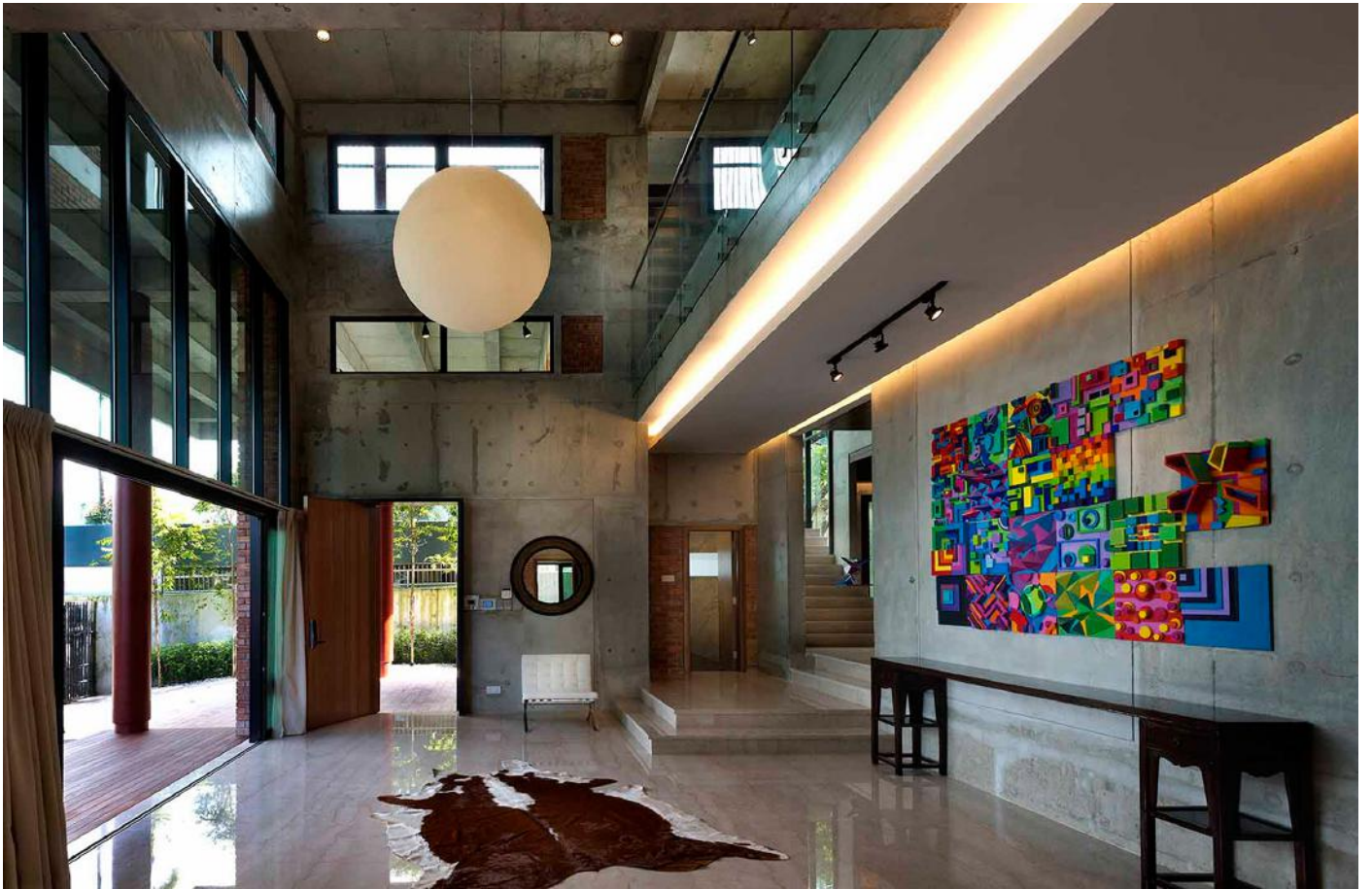
06 The lush greens of plants add dashes of bright colour to the muted earth palette generally used throughout the house.

While the House No. 18 designed by architect Dr Tan Loke Mun is constructed by connecting a series of six square meter modules vertically and horizontally, the boxes are shifted around, with spaces cut into and out of them.

Consequently, the seven-bedroom, three-storey house features a variety of spaces - high-volume halls and bedrooms nooks, as well as landscaped courtyards and hanging gardens. Raw concrete cast against formwork and curvy clay brick screen walls link the modules together, allowing the spaces to share a common aesthetic.

In a way, the house's front facade precludes the minor elements integrated into its rugged yet refined design. Concrete, brickwork and timber are collaged to form a feature wall next to the main entrance, summing up the materials widely employed in the interior and exterior. These include lofty stiers red steel columns that support the arrival portico, as well as chunky light-lined concrete beams above the driveway that hint at the vast scale of the common areas like the living and dining rooms.

A box-louver sun screen, one of the numerous sustainable features, wraps around the west-facing front facade of the house as its warm-toned timber finish echoes the red columns below. Serving as a privacy buffer, the metal screen is placed a distance away from the wall





"NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT-CONSCIOUSNESS, WHICH IS A RECURRING THEME IN THE ARCHITECT'S OTHER PROJECTS, PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HOUSE NO. 18."

to ensure that the occupants do not feel claustrophobic. A rooftop garden dotted with leafy plants on the first floor interrupts the regularity of the louvers to soften the austere first impression of the house.

The car porch leads into the foyer and living room that fully opens on one side and connects directly to an enclosed front lawn. The grandeur of the two-storey void is amplified by a huge pendant light suspended from the ceiling. Providing a welcome dash of colour to the space is an intricate geometric art piece, whose parallel design is reminiscent of the house's modular design.

Several steps lead up to the open-plan dining and kitchen area, as well as the stairwell on one end of the space – the latter a sunlight-filled glass box illuminated at night with orbs of wall-hung lights. Keeping with the Zen-like atmosphere of the space, furniture is kept to a minimum in the interior, with occasional pieces such as a long, narrow table or a sculptural bed providing impact where needed.

Nature and environment-consciousness, which is a recurring theme in the architect's other projects, play an important role in House No. 18. The theme is manifested in many forms. »

106 The parallel design of the geometric art piece echoes the modular structure of the house.

107 Nature is hardly ever out of reach in the house, let alone out of sight.

108 The kitchen is designed to be extra spacious to accommodate the owner's preparator requirements of the owner's large family.

109 The view of the intricately sculpted ceiling garden has a calming effect on the spaces in the house.

PROJECTS
HOUSE NO. 16, MALAYSIA



10 Keeping with the contemplative nature of the house, the architect also included a spacious tunnel room on the upper floor.

11 In the evening, the stairwell is illuminated with glowing sides of light that reiterate the circular element introduced by the foyer's pendant light.

12 Circular wall-hung lights add visual interest to the framing glass-enclosed staircase.

from pebble-covered stipling groves and beautifully manicured garden terraces to the lot's pond accentuated with a lone frangipani tree. Even during the construction process, not a single tree was removed to cause its hindrance to the site's natural terrain as possible. Instead, the original trees are interwoven into the new design.

Far from being mere superficial additions, the green design approaches employed are an intrinsic part of the house. Apart from using local plants already existent around the house, the architect also included rainwater harvesting tanks, low-VOC paints, water-saving sanitary fittings and raw and recycled materials that were repurposed from the old structure and construction process. »





13 A rooftop garden on the first floor intercepts the regularity of the louvers to soften the austere first impression of the house.

14 Deep overhangs shade the outdoor gardens, allowing the occupants to enjoy the outdoors despite in the local tropical climate.



Energy usage is also kept to a minimum. Low energy lighting, solar hot water panels and photovoltaic panels on the roof that generate up to five kilowatts of electricity further increase the sustainability of the house's operation. Thanks to cross ventilation, sufficient roof insulation, a fully ventilated roof space and wind turbines, the house now barely requires air-conditioning to keep the temperature of the interior spaces at a comfortable level at all times.

Designing a suitable, aesthetically-pleasing house is in itself challenging. To have it comfortably accommodate a large family in a resource-effective structure presents a whole new challenge altogether, but it is one that surely has been eminently resolved in House No. 18. ■

PROJECTS
HOUSE NO. 16, MALAYSIA



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