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IN LIVING COLOR



Perched on a hill in an exclusive village in Cainta, Rizal, the 628-sq.m two-storey home Nove-Ann Tan shares with husband and finance guru Chinkee, speaks volumes about how a little creativity, a topnotch carpenter, and a good dose of love can make a home.

LIVING AREA

Nove-Ann isn't a fan of putting in pieces of furniture just for the sake of it. The purple couch in the living room is a reupholstered couch they've had for more than a decade. The blue sideboard was passed on to her by her dad. She recounts, "I painted it blue because that was my dad's favorite color. I remember him when I see it. I grew up in a house na yung furniture naka-plastic, madilim. Pati yung furniture, yung dating traditional talaga."

Her previous color choices of beige and white also mirrored her penchant for being on the safe side. "May pagka-sigurista ako that way." Now, she reveals her favorite color is, "Lahat! Color gives meaning to the space." And blue is not just her dad's favorite color, but husband Chinkee's as well.

To help ground the colorful space, an oversized armchair from BoConcept (1/L MOs Design Building, B2, Bonifacio High Street, 9th Avenue, Taguig City, 632 856-2745) was recently reupholstered in a black-and-white striped fabric.

The graphic sofa bed from Décor (14 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, 632 716-0655) is often used by the kids. "At the end of the day, I want my kids not to be intimidated by the furniture. I want them to be chill lang," Nove-Ann says. She also encourages them to rearrange the furniture or change the pillows if they want to.



DECOR IDEA

Nove-Ann says, "Diyan ko unang na-try yung color sa door. Sa tingin ko dati, parang masydong bright, pero nung nagawa na, okay pala." From that point on, "hindi na ako natakot, siges go!"



KITCHEN

The green and yellow ombre bar stools tucked under the kitchen island were a DIY project of Nove-Ann and 9th Liberty Home Accessories Co. (9th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City, 63906 473-4662). It took a while to get the shade just the way Nove-Ann preferred, but it was well worth the effort, as the bold colors tie in this cozy kitchen with the living and dining areas.

DECOR IDEA

Can't decide on a color? Go ombre and get all the colors you want!



INDOOR/ OUTDOOR SPACE

Down the hall, a former patio is now a converted indoor/outdoor space. This is where the family hangs out together, playing board games, and, devoting time to daily prayer. Nove-Ann says, "We call it 'Daddy Lo's Terrace,' because most of the furniture here are from my dad's house." The once heavy narra armchairs have been given a cheery update with light blue paint and fabric from Ikea. "Binili ko 'tong fabric na 'to kasi puwede siyang i-color ng mga bata."





MASTER BEDROOM

On the second floor, a bright and airy master bedroom is both functional and relaxing. Clear glass boards are found in their work areas, where Chinkee reviews his notes for speaking engagements. Almost all of the rooms had the same customized bookshelf filled with books. Nove-Ann explains, "Our family is all about books. Hindi kasi ako mahilig mag-digital o mag-Kindle." A carpenter made several bookshelves based on a design found on the Internet. Books ranging from biblical, home design, financial, and the kids' favorite novels speak of this family's favorite pastime. It is also that love for books and words that gave birth to the idea of decorating most of their walls with their favorite biblical passages.

Matching bedside tables, also from Heima, were bought at a discount because they had minor damage. The tables' color complements the dreamy sky bedcover and a custom-made shelf shaped into a cloud.

A sunny walk-in closet, which was previously an attached veranda, adjoins the bedroom. A surprise gift from Chinkee. "It was done with love!" says Nove-Ann. "Chinkee saw my need for space. Before kasi in our former house, I used a small mirror while standing up to do my makeup." The shelving and closets were later purchased online from Ikea Taiwan and assembled by the couple. She adds, "Parang naging bonding moment namin ni Chinkee yung paggawa ng closets." They added mirrored sliding doors as a final touch.



BUDGET IT!

The king-size bed and headboard were both purchased from Focolare. "They had this huge sale, so we got it! Hinihintay ko lang yung sale sa mga stores. Ayoko kasi yung masyadong mahal," says Nove-Ann.

GIRLS' ROOM

Nove-Ann's daughters, 14-year old Kayla and 10-year old Destiny, took inspiration from their mutual love of theater and requested a "Theater Chic" room. Kayla is a budding artist whose paintings and sketches adorn the walls. The predominantly black-and-white color of the room was intentional, so that the girls could grow into the room through the years. Says Nove-Ann, "I just painted the ceiling para may konting color. The girls wanted to paint it yellow and white, but I said masyado atang bright para sa bedroom, so I chose this instead para dreamy."

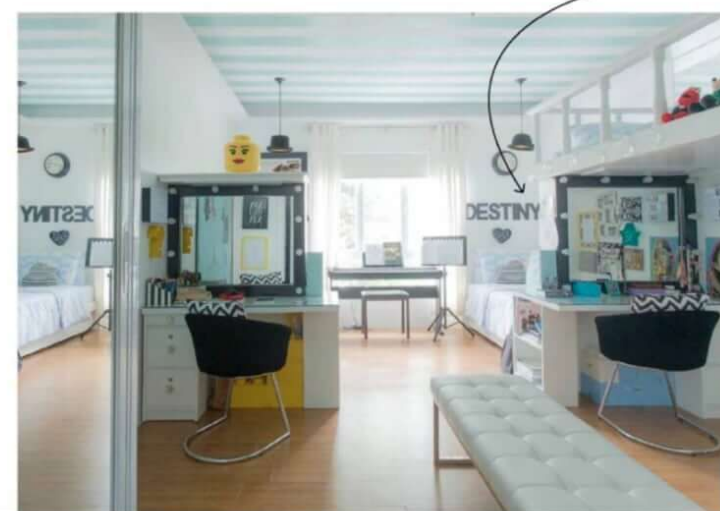
LOFTY IDEAS

Nove-Ann had their trusty carpenter build a mini-loft in the girls' room, which doubles as a makeshift stage. Underneath are theater-inspired vanities for each of the girls.



STYLE TIP

The pieces in her wardrobe are grouped by occasion (everyday wear, casual gatherings, formal events); then by kind (skirts, tops, dresses); and then by color.





INSPIRATION
The table was designed to match this light fixture from Triboca Bay (Suite 115, 210 LRI Design Plaza, Nicanor Garcia Street, Makati City, 632 658-4819.)



DINING AREA

"I love different chair designs. I usually buy in pairs," Nove-Ann says. Mismatched chairs, bought from Dimensione (One Parkade, 7th Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, 632 736-3728; Play & Display (3/L, Glorietta 4, Makati City, 632 729-6497); and Mandaue Foam (Ortigas Avenue Extension, Cainta, Rizal, 632 656-6804), flank the custom square glass table. This was designed by Nove-Ann and rendered by the Focolare Carpentry Training Center (Don Celso S. Tuason Avenue, Valley Golf, Cainta, Rizal, 632 658-4819). Nove-Ann adds, "I love wooden art fixtures, so I took that as inspiration and customized it accordingly." The wooden elements of both the light fixture and the table anchor the space and act as a relief from the myriad of colors in the living and dining areas.

Right beside the dining area, a wall mounted with a wide array of colorful frames, a yellow clock, the family's pictures, and an arrow from Typo (2/L Greenbelt 5, Makati City, 632 501-3060) highlight a vibrant console table with mismatched drawer pulls from Heima (Suite 229 LRI Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia Street, Makati City, 632 798-0027). It keeps the family's bills, letters, pens, keys, and various odds and ends from cluttering up the entryway.

