

SINGAPORE TATLER HOMES

THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO LUXURIOUS LIVING

NEUTRAL GROUND

Splendid settings
to soothe the soul



FEATURES: CLASSIC CONTEMPORARY FURNISHING • LUXURY BATH SYSTEMS • CHIC KITCHENS



Large windows help to draw the eye to the beautiful scenery around the home

SWISS SERENITY

Having relocated to Switzerland from Singapore, this couple found the perfect chalet in the Alpine region that could accommodate a blend of both Eastern and Western influences

BY ROSSARA JAMIL IMAGES COURTESY OF ANSANA



This holiday home is located in the heart of the alpine region

Like any other rustic Swiss chalet, Shala S's mountain family home in Switzerland originally had its walls, flooring and ceiling in timber. Such a space might appeal to many, but she knew it wasn't something they wanted. The couple also preferred an open-plan layout. Still, Shala felt its size, at 6,500 sq ft, was just right for her family's lifestyle. She says, "I was already visualising the house's potential, and knocking down walls and changing colours in my mind's eye."

The family had made the decision to relocate from Singapore to Switzerland and they had found their dream home. She also knew right away who would be designing the interior. "The decision to work with Ansana was an easy one for me. When we bought the house, I told my husband I only wanted one thing, that is, to have the team from Ansana work on this project. The team had done a fantastic job on our penthouse in Sentosa. I knew I wanted their expertise," she explains.

Shala described their style to be modern and minimalist yet functional. She loved the Hamptons home in the Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton film *Something's Gotta Give*, and wanted the look adapted to their new home.

Situated in the Swiss ski resort town



Shala S

of Crans Montana, surrounded by the Swiss Alps, the house appeals to her in other ways too. It is nestled on a quiet, private-access road, and the 37,000 sq ft land area it sits on includes a stream and a tranquil wooded area. Yet, the home offers great accessibility, with a 10-minute drive into the town centre where there are high-end supermarkets and specialty chocolate, cheese and caviar stores.

"Crans Montana is very cosmopolitan with a nice mix of different nationalities making this town their home. It is perfect for both winter and summer sports if you love the mountains. And we love being outdoors. As a family, we are very much engaged in sports," the retired private banker says. "We wanted to bring in elements of nature from our surroundings to the inside of the house so that it has a seamless connection. I like everything to be functional yet elegant, and for the lines to be clean."



The extended ceiling in the living area keeps the space open and spacious

The marble wall in the dining area becomes a spectacular feature element as well as helping to conceal the fireplace



The design team at Ansana knew the couple's aesthetic sense well, and planned a cool palette similar to their home in Sentosa. They were also careful not to create an austere feel, so the house is filled with textures and finishes upon the unifying colours of grey and white.

The 12-year-old house was overhauled, with the design firm conceptualising its details and fittings. A renowned architect based in the area, Patrick Renggli of Renggli Architects, was engaged to ensure the renovations went smoothly.

"The basement, kitchen, master bathroom and bedroom, as well as the family room, were changed," a spokesperson from Ansana says. What was once a large fireplace in the living area is now a third of its size to accommodate a large dining table. The white marble imbues visual texture, complementing the walls and rafters that have now been painted over in white. The living room is furnished with Minotti sofa and armchairs. For a

"We spend a lot of time in the living and dining areas, kitchen and winter garden area."

cosy feel, warm grey leather is picked out for the two chairs, complementing the coffee table, silk rug and wall clad with granite strips.

"We spend a lot of time in the living and dining areas, kitchen and winter garden area. I love to cook and entertain. These spaces provide the best canvas to have aperitifs and dinner parties. I really enjoy being able to interact with my friends while I am cooking," Shala says. "It is also ideal that from the kitchen itself I have a 270-degree view of all the other living spaces and the outdoors." For better comfort, a glass panel fitted on the counter at a lower height allows chairs, instead of high stools, to be used.



The entertainment den is appointed with a billiard table for the family and guests to enjoy



Dark colours help to keep the cooking area looking modern and sophisticated



The bedrooms enjoy scenic views of the surroundings

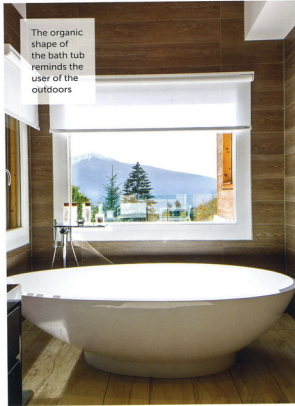


The designer optimised the sloping wall by adding windows to let the outside in

Muted tones evoke a sense of sensual comfort in the master bedroom



The organic shape of the bath tub reminds the user of the outdoors



The couple entertains frequently, hosting friends from around the world. It's not surprising to find Shala, who is an avid cook, preparing large feasts for guests. "At Thanksgiving last year, we had two very dear friends visit us. One is from New York and the other from Curaçao. I prepared a 4.5kg turkey, made my own cranberry sauce from fresh cranberries and pineapples, and my own turkey gravy with Jack Daniels. I even made lobster bisque to start," she says, adding that she prepared a host of side dishes, as well as apple pie and tiramisu for dessert, for the party of 10.

The entertainment room is another area where the family gathers, whether by themselves or with guests. This is where a billiard table and a ping pong table can be found. The wall tiles were chosen because they are reminiscent of the mountains. Energising orange hues balance the cool blues in the space. Upstairs, the family room is designed for lounging on the B&B Italia chairs. The space also looks up to a mezzanine level, where the couple's son and his friends play when they get together.

With brown hues throughout, the mood is decidedly cosier in the master bedroom and bathroom. The fabric headboard with its textures and patterns imbue warmth. Tiles depicting wood grain patterns sheathe the master bathroom walls. The son's room, however, is befitting his age. It is furnished with a vibrant blue headboard, a desk and plenty of storage space. A staircase also leads up to an attic. In one of the four guest rooms, there's an element of fun in the theme as seen in the canvas headboard. A skylight above the bed provides the visual feast of a star-filled sky at night.

Having lived in their new home for more than half a year, they have begun to settle into their new life. "We love everything about our house. We wake up each day and tell each other how much we love our home and that it is the perfect space for the three of us. I love my kitchen, living room and winter garden the best," she says. "I love the fluid wide open spaces, and the view of the Mont Blanc and Weisshorn mountains in the distance is simply majestic." **H**

THE BRIEF

Location:
Crans Montana,
Switzerland
Type of Home:
Landed
Property:
37,000 sq ft
Built-up Area:
6,500 sq ft
Residents: 3
Interior Design:
Ansana
Time Taken:
5 months