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MALAYSIA TATLER HOMES

JUNE - JULY 2016

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FENG SHUI BASICS • BEDROOM TRICKS AND TIPS



BY TAN XI VOON PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS LEONG

# HEARTH AND SOUL

Gerardine Loggere mixes her most meaningful possessions with decor and furnishings from her own store. The result is a home where style meets soul



**FROM LEFT**  
A set of chairs from Marie's Corner surrounds the dining table while the Buddha statue originates from Myanmar; the tulip vase made by a Dutch artist

**PREVIOUS PAGE, FROM LEFT**  
Gerardine Loggere getting cosy in the family area; the entryway features a wall covering from Arte, a console from Cravt and vases from Guaxs

**T**he first time we met, Gerardine Loggere was standing in the middle section of Tatum showroom at Jalan Telawi, Bangsar, diligently making notes. Folders of material samples were strewn over the long table before her; some flipped wide open to reveal their interesting contents. Caught in the mellow light that fell from the ceiling fixture overhead, her expression was earnest.

It was mid 2013; Tatum – which Gerardine owns and serves on board as an interior decorator – was less than a year old. But even then, it was clear to me that interior design is her vocation. To her hands, the mixing and matching of different colours, patterns and textures comes as natural as breathing. That afternoon, as she enthusiastically showed us around the cosy, informal little shop where beautiful European fabrics and wallpapers,



**THIS PAGE**  
Accessories in similarly sunny hues tie the look together in this living area filled with furniture from Élitis, as well as the Verden collection by Linteloo



furniture and accessories pervade and seem to take on a life of their own, I was truly mesmerised.

“I used to be a fashion designer,” the lady opens up about her past, by way of an explanation. We are lounging on the cool-grey tuxedo sofa that is snugly tucked in a nook of her apartment she refers to as the family area. Over coffee, we converse on various topics ranging from her former experience to her thriving business and, naturally, her personal interior preferences. Having once worked with renowned couturier Frank Govers, then venturing out on her own as a wedding

**ABOVE**  
In this apartment, the wall colours and coverings run the gamut from light to dim grey

**OPPOSITE**  
Cushion covers from Élitis give a subtle reminder of nature

designer, the graduate of Amsterdam Fashion Institute admits that she has always been creatively driven. Thus, when her sister invited her to be a part of her interior product trading enterprise 15 years ago, Gerardine decided that it was an opportunity well worth diving into. “I began establishing networks and learning the tricks of the trade. It was the best lesson I could get.”

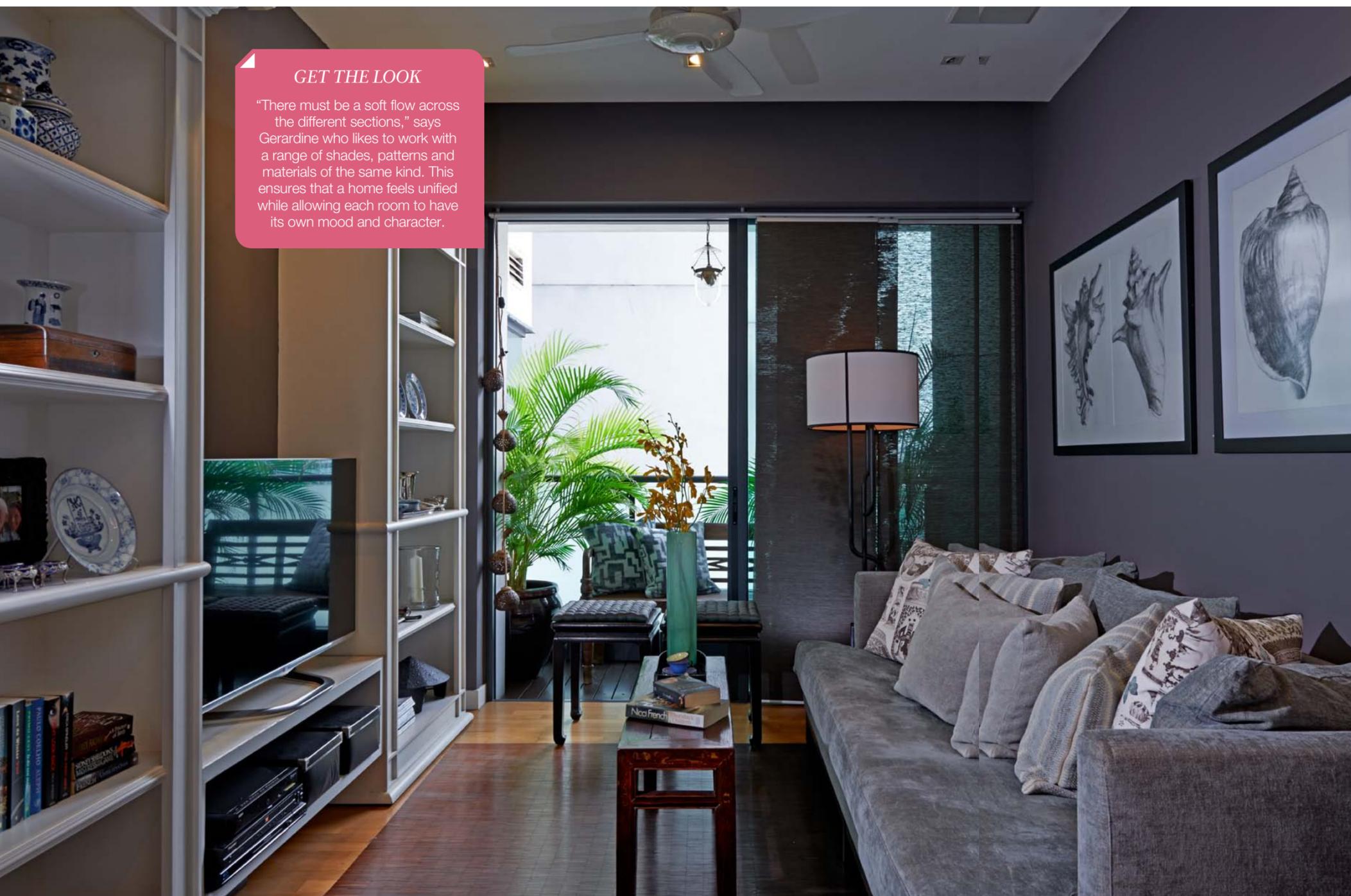
And, fortunately for her clients, she is one who is ever ready to share her knowledge. The Dutch expatriate who makes her home in Malaysia with her husband, since half a decade ago, has been preaching the art of



*“Where I came from, we prefer darker-toned walls. They keep our rooms looking cosy, especially in the depth of winter”*

**GET THE LOOK**

“There must be a soft flow across the different sections,” says Gerardine who likes to work with a range of shades, patterns and materials of the same kind. This ensures that a home feels unified while allowing each room to have its own mood and character.



**FROM LEFT** Cushion covers of various textures and patterns made of fabrics from C&C Milano and Manuel Canovas dress up the neutral sofa brilliantly; tropical decoration from Koh Samui

interior decorating through Tatum. “I do see a growing interest in this area among Malaysian homeowners. There are days when I think of setting up a class to inform them of all I know,” she smiles a gentle smile; her eyes alight with dedication.

Gerardine’s own home would have made the perfect classroom, I thought. At first glance there is a kind of simplicity that is soothing to the senses, though, upon closer inspection, it really is made up of many layers of sophisticated details. The living area, for instance, is a beautiful blend of ivory, beige and taupe. Some houses would have risked looking lifeless and dull in these neutral shades, but Gerardine offsets the possibility with pops of yellow and gold such as those found in the rug, the Buddha statue, as well as the chinoiserie dressing the built-in shelves.

To add depth and dimension, she also took time to scout for pieces that are outstanding in form. Spontaneously, my eyes settle on the nubuck bench with a faceted, jewel-like seat which caught my fancy earlier on. “It is from



**ABOVE**  
The grey wall covering from Élitis provides contrast to the warm-coloured flooring and decorations of the guest bedroom

**OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT**  
Souvenirs from India and Koh Samui; antique plates and silver inherited from Gerardine's grandparents; antique silver mat and bowls from Myanmar

Élitis," Gerardine points out; Élitis being one of the brands Tatum presently carries. "Many of the items you find here, you would also find in my shop," she quips.

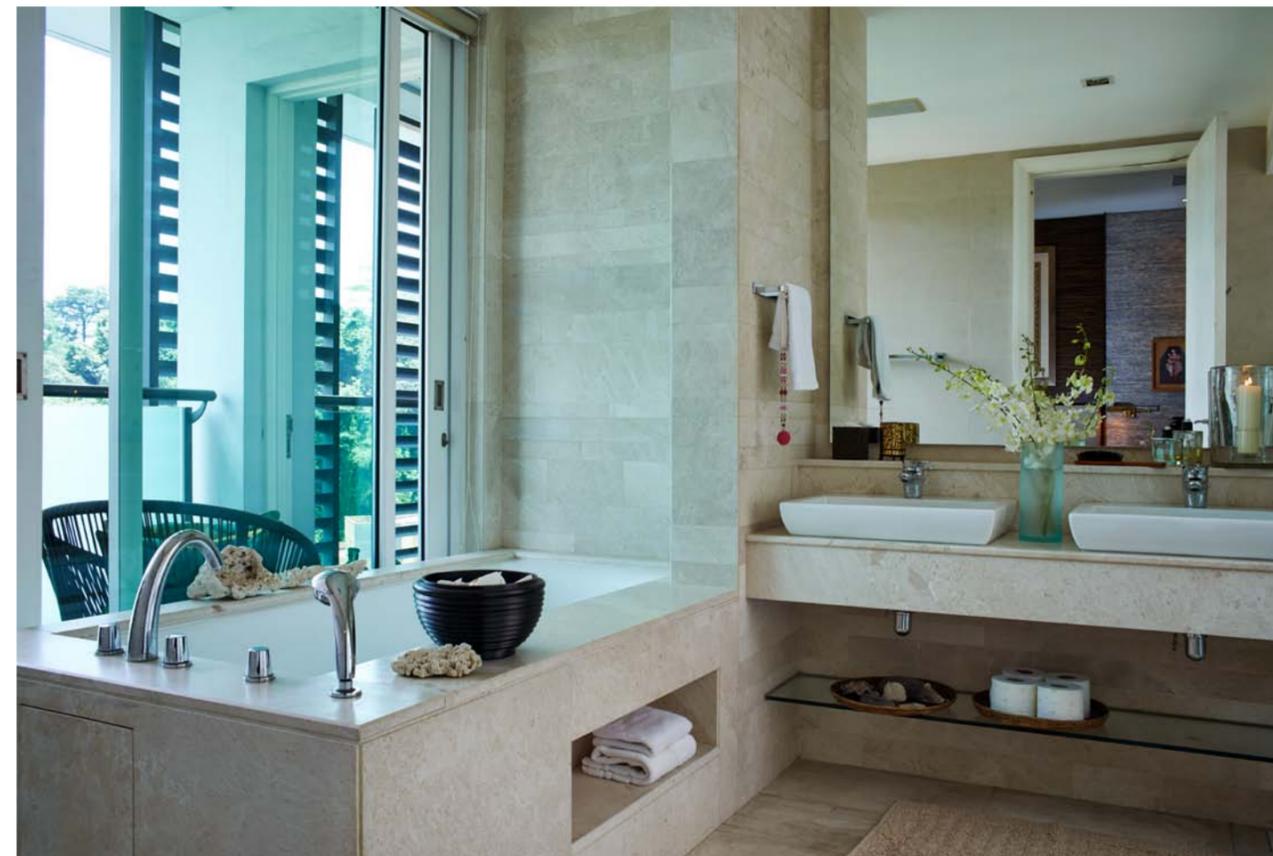
According to the interior decorator who has engaged in myriads of design and renovation projects over the years, all beautiful spaces share one fundamental quality. "Soul," she duly reveals. "Without soul, a house is merely a cold and empty shell. It is something that can only come from within ourselves, and possible to capture only if we start listening more to our guts and intuition about our own personal preferences." The philosopher Alain de Botton is clearly of the same mind though he has not said it in so many words when he



*"It is important to own something that reflects our lives. These possessions tell a story that is uniquely ours"*



*Amidst the mix of Eastern and Western flavours, Gerardine also brings in elements that embody her Dutch heritage*



**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT**  
An armchair from Akar De Nissim, as well as curtains made of fabrics from Lizzo add the finishing touch to the master bedroom; the master bathroom; a hand-painted vase from France complements the colours of the painting above which depicts Gerardine's childhood

defines a house as “a guardian of identity” in his book *The Architecture of Happiness*. Soul or identity, Gerardine’s abode surely isn’t lacking of any.

She has asked herself the very question she often asks her clients prior to an assignment: what are some personal pieces that you would like to keep? “I believe it is important to own something that reflects our lives, especially the past journey. These possessions tell a story that is uniquely ours.” In her case, the story is woven from the framed photographs of her loved ones, as well as the silver and porcelain she has inherited from her grandparents. A painting of a little Gerardine and her family hangs on one of the walls, whispering precious childhood memories.

Amidst the fascinating mix of Eastern and Western flavours, Gerardine also makes sure to bring in elements and objects that embody her Dutch heritage. That includes an intricate tulip vase originating from the Netherlands and the grey walls which she describes as “very Northern-European”. “Where I came from, we prefer darker-toned walls. They keep our rooms looking cosy, especially in the depth of winter.”

