

# INTHEXYZ

LED BY THREE YOUNG PARTNERS, THE NEW FIRM (X,Y,Z) BRINGS HOMEWORKS AN INDUSTRIAL MEETS NORDIC DESIGN IN TAL-IBRAG

**Design:** Janice Florentino, (X,Y,Z) Architecture & Design

**Photography:** Alan Carville

**Styling:** Janice Florentino using @milleriparismode, Gray & Adler

**Words:** Elisabeth Cardona

**Site manager & main contractor:** Steve Kutsovski

**Custom carpentry:** Alan Debatigian, Chilis Chilli

**Indoor and outdoor flooring:** Brands International

**Custom marblework:** Lautier Workshop

Custom-designed by the Architect, the kitchen consists of a sharp masculine island in brushed dark grey stone, which is balanced by the natural oak backdrop of the back mass. The clients' love for steel and functionality was also translated into a walk-in pantry combined with an exposed multifunction vertical black steel mesh



**I**t's an exciting time for Architects Daniel Miccari, Janice Fiorentino and Diana Camilleri at (X,Y,Z) Architecture & Design. They have knocked the ball out of the park with their first feature in HOMEWORKS with this cleverly designed, contemporary home that has so much style that it actually pulls off having character, despite it's relatively new build. ►



The homeowners' brief was a concoction of warm spaces accentuated by their love of natural wood, retro and distinct one-off pieces, whilst retaining maximum practicality and functionality

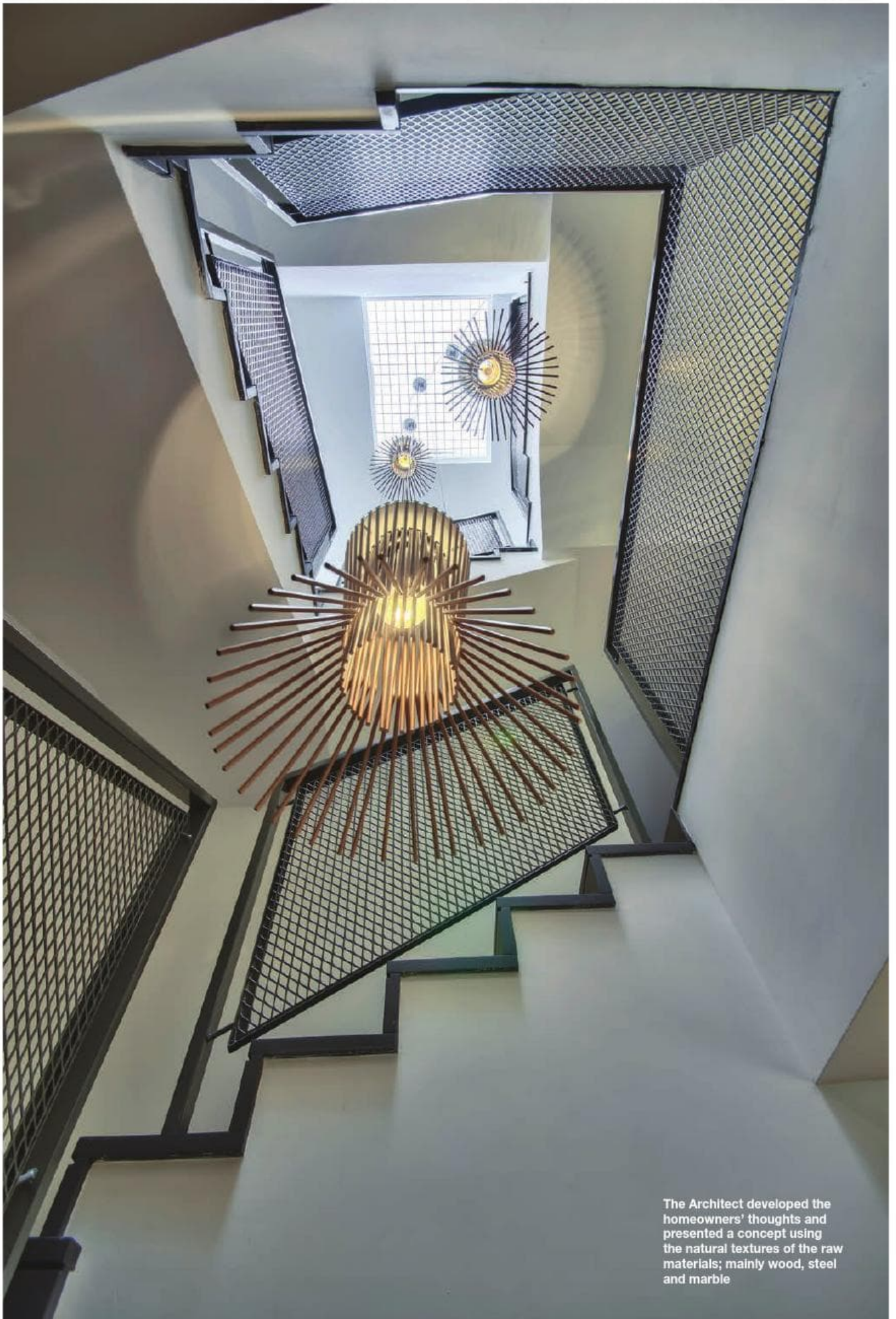


The homeowners' brief was a concoction of warm spaces accentuated by their love of natural wood, retro and distinct one-off pieces, whilst retaining maximum practicality and functionality. The architect's and homeowners' mutual respect for steel and natural materials was exploited while the architect carefully introduced hints of Nordic and industrial design.

The architect developed the homeowners' thoughts and presented a concept using the natural textures of the raw materials; mainly wood, steel and marble. The real wooden floor planks act as a warm canvas for what lies above.

On entering the home, a relatively vast space greets the visitor, flaunting the kitchen as the main focus of the space. The kitchen, custom-designed by the architect, consists of a sharp masculine island in brushed dark grey stone, which is balanced by the natural oak backdrop of the back mass. The clients' love for steel and functionality was also translated into a walk-in pantry combined with an exposed multifunction vertical black steel mesh. The architect introduced contrasting shiny hammered-brass touches – another natural material reminiscent of industrial design – within the kitchen handles and light fixtures. The homeowners spend a lot of time travelling around various cities, both for work and for leisure. The selected materials, together with the organised melange of exposed artefacts bestow that desired urban feel to the space.

The guest WC on the same level takes the guest by surprise – to a certain extent. The black Venetian plastered walls provide a backdrop to another expanded steel mesh; a turquoise sheet metal basin and a signal orange movable storage unit. Playing on the urban theme, the architect covered an entire wall ►



The Architect developed the homeowners' thoughts and presented a concept using the natural textures of the raw materials; mainly wood, steel and marble



▲▲ The large playroom is fun for both adults and kids to mingle with a large wall-to-wall white timber unit which wraps round the windows, forming yellow and red reading alcoves with ample natural daylight and greenery from the apertures behind

▲ A fun but elegantly fitted bunk bedroom with ample storage, accessorised by bright blue and orange fabrics for children's sleepover



▲ The cinema is a warm cocoon in itself but peculiar, as it subtly hints to a retro LA feel with striking red accessories, dark Chesterfield sofas and playboy photographs from the 60s

with one of the client's treasured portrait photographs taken in Hong Kong, depicting the city's characteristic synchronicity, yet apparent chaos and confusion.

The matte dark Iroko-dad staircase paves the way to the upper sleeping quarters. Shiny copper tubes, echoing the brass in the kitchen spaces, form the light fixtures down the central core. The dark sprayed expanded steel mesh (used holistically in different ways throughout the whole house) also forms a simple railing round the stairs providing the desired lightness with this seemingly crude material.

The upper level consists of three bedrooms and a nursery. The master bedroom was designed to be relatively austere and cryptic using darker colours. As a result, the black fireplace flue was purposely retained naked. The introduction of the visually light leather bed, mustard yellow accessories, coupled with an antique mirror are welcoming hints of femininity into the space. The master ensuite is then a combination of textures reaching an apex of the urban mood. Two parallel brushed Statuario marble masses and custom slate basins are a sculpture within the space abutting to textured dark plaster and white city subway tiles. Accessorised by cage lights and concealed cross taps, the bathroom accentuates the raw and industrial ambience. ►

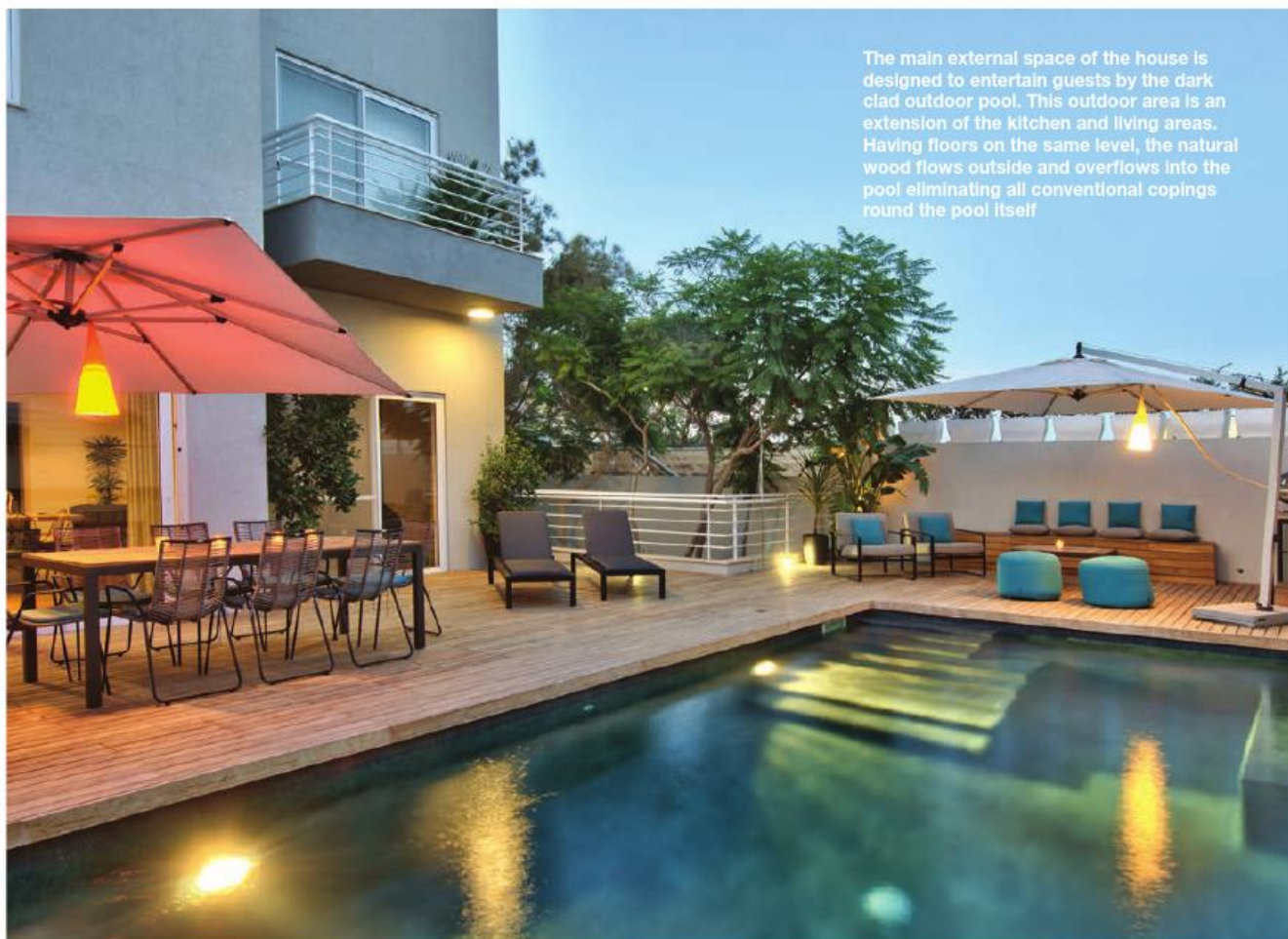


▲▲ The guest WC on the entrance level with black Venetian plastered walls which provide a backdrop to an expanded steel mesh; a turquoise sheet metal basin and a signal orange movable storage unit. Playing on the urban theme, the entire wall was covered with one of the client's treasured photographs taken in Hong Kong

▲► The master ensuite, which is a combination of textures reaching an apex of the urban mood. Accessorised by cage lights and concealed cross taps, the bathroom accentuates the raw and industrial ambience

► The master bedroom was designed to be relatively austere and cryptic using darker colours

Apart from all the above, the home also has its softer side, evoking the playfulness, cheer and vibrancy of children. The architect designed a fun but elegantly fitted bunk bedroom with ample storage, accessorised by bright blue and orange fabrics for children's sleepovers. The home also has a nursery and a large playroom, which is fun for both adults and kids to mingle. A large wall-to-wall white timber unit wraps round the windows, forming yellow and red reading alcoves with ample natural daylight and greenery from the apertures behind. ►



The main external space of the house is designed to entertain guests by the dark clad outdoor pool. This outdoor area is an extension of the kitchen and living areas. Having floors on the same level, the natural wood flows outside and overflows into the pool eliminating all conventional copings round the pool itself



Blue planes and the linear concealed directional light within the custom timber handrail lead the way down to the cinema room. The cinema is a warm cocoon in itself but peculiar; as it subtly hints to a retro LA feel with striking red accessories, chesterfield dark sofas and playboy photographs from the 60s.

The main external space of the house is designed to entertain guests by the dark clad outdoor pool. This outdoor area is an extension of the kitchen and living areas. Having floors on the same level, the natural wood flows outside and overflows into the pool eliminating all conventional copings round the pool itself. Black frames form armchairs, loungers, and customised outdoor counters complementing the materials in the adjacent indoor spaces. The same teak material paves the way along the side of the house, and neatly wraps each step to lead to the main entrance. The rooftop is an intimate outdoor area for the homeowners. An inset hot tub within an elevated deck, a couple of armchairs round an ethanol fire table over a plane

“Overall, we are extremely happy with the result and often have to pinch ourselves that this is really our home. We currently look forward to rain so we have an excuse to stay in and enjoy our new home.”

of artificial turf create the perfect setting to sip a glass of wine whilst unwinding after a hectic day.

The project had a tight deadline and was finished and furnished in just seven months. The homeowners speak of the end result:

“We wanted a well-designed, contemporary style that wouldn’t out of date in a couple of years. Whilst we were very focused on design, we also wanted the house to feel like a home. We have a young family that we expect to spend time growing with the house and the house needs to reflect that. What was also important for us was the changing of the seasons. We clearly set up the outside areas for summer living, but we wanted them to be equally well used in winter (except for the pool!) and the house to provide the same standard of living in winter as in summer. We also adore our dogs and the design really allows them to share the home. HW