

Limited Edition

Frills of luxury are balanced with ecologically-conscious living in this intimate metropolitan apartment

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THIS PAGE: The split level layout of the home creates character and visual interest. The opening overlooking the dining room is mirrored by a photograph of a doorway on the adjacent wall. For a similar ceiling light, try the Cosmic Angel suspension light by Artemide, available at Lightcraft and if you like the sofas, try the Soho Sofa by Poliform available at Space Furniture.



THIS PAGE: The lamp hanging over the dining table is Citrus by Vibia – an appropriately-named pendant light for the dining room. Grace dining chairs are paired with the equally elegant Concorde dining table, both by Emmanuel Gallina for Poliform available at Space Furniture.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The Alea kitchen cabinets by Varena available at Space Furniture form a seamless backdrop to the dining room. In a distance to the right, the sunny living room is visible; Dark timber strip flooring grounds the room and gives it a sense of cosiness; A mise-en-scène of cooking utensils and ingredients sits atop the kitchen counter.

With the incessant drive towards all things modern, there has been a steady exodus to Kuala Lumpur since the late 19th century. Over the years, the city centre has gradually become congested with ambitious droves. Naturally, they need somewhere to stay. Low-rise shop houses and old buildings are making way for massive apartment blocks of immense heights, as developers scramble to make the most out of increasingly limited land. These buildings are populous; nevertheless every resident gets a slice of the capital's vista in addition to a set of shared facilities.

By and by, realisation is dawning upon developers that there is a niche (but growing) clientele who desire the perks of living in both landed houses and luxury apartments. They want five-star amenities, personal gardens they can cultivate, terraces from where they can watch the fairytale lights of Kuala Lumpur twinkling below, and above all, tight security and seclusion.

One such place that fulfils all these requirements is the Amarin Wickham, located on Jalan Wickham in Kuala Lumpur. The name Amarin translates to mean heavenly in Sanskrit. The word pretty much summarises the Amarin Group's aspiration for each of their projects, with Amarin Wickham being no exception. From the start, Amarin Wickham makes no effort to introduce itself as a residence for the masses. With just 21 units of duplexes and triplexes spread over five floors, the apartment oozes exclusivity. >



Seven penthouse units, each with private infinity pools, sun decks and immaculate rooftop gardens, make up the apartment's polished crown. The rest of the units are hardly less luxurious, being fitted with outdoor Jacuzzis and water features. Even the ground floor pool, shared among the residents of the non-penthouse units is a private retreat in its own right. Yet, for all its splendour, Amarin Wickham has a surprisingly amicable relationship with the environment.

Green features are not added on as afterthoughts but are threaded into the core of the building, becoming an inevitable part of the residents' lives. Penthouse gardens double as heat insulators and water catchment areas. Surface runoff from the roofs is then harvested in tanks for irrigation and cleaning purposes. The Amarin Group even received a government subsidy to integrate photovoltaic (PV) cells into the building to generate its own electricity. Inside the individual units residents can tailor the interiors at will, provided they choose materials with low-VOC finishes and adhesives.

Going beyond mere cosmetic modifications, interior designer Benson Saw from Designstream worked closely with the project's architects and developer to design >

THIS PAGE AND PAGE OPPOSITE: The contemplative nature of the artwork in the stairwell as well as white, grey and turquoise furnishings reflect the calm atmosphere of the apartment unit.

THE UNIT'S INTERIOR SPACES METAPHORICALLY RESEMBLE A PAIR OF WELL-DESIGNED, PERFECTLY-CUT JEANS -
the priority is on comfort and versatility, and yet it remains hip and contemporary.



TOP: Books by authors like Agatha Christie, Robert Burns and Tony Parsons are stacked up for easy reading next to the Big Bug by Paola Navone for Poliform available at Space Furniture - all of them classics in their own ways. The Big Bug is interior designer Benson Saw's favourite piece of furniture in the unit - it is both an armchair and a daybed.

BOTTOM: Jalousie windows look neither old-fashioned nor jarring in the master bathroom.



the premier triplex unit, which occupies the first three floors of a standalone block. He envisions its residents as environmentally-responsible professionals in their late 30s to 40s, avid travellers with a passion for high living and appreciate the intimacy of boutique hospitality as opposed to the impersonal service of many huge establishments.

As a result of these guiding principles, the unit's interior spaces metaphorically resemble a pair of well-designed, perfectly-cut jeans - the priority is on comfort and versatility, and yet it remains hip and contemporary. Keeping with the nature of Amarin Wickham, locally-sourced materials and low-flow sanitary fittings are also incorporated into the unit.

One discovers eco-sensitive design solutions throughout the unit, like the unexpected jalousie windows in the master bathroom. Benson explains, "Function to us always supersedes forms. We are not afraid to introduce elements we deem appropriate. Louvers provide a great amount of control in terms of natural air ventilation and privacy - something which bathrooms constantly need." Practicality might have been the main reason for choosing frosted glass slats, but they also lend the bathroom an old school charm, complementing the golden-brown tones of the marble floor and walls.

Every room bears a distinctive character, from the tranquil turquoise-and-white ground floor bedroom to the atmospheric gallery-like lower ground floor lounge to the irregularly-shaped master bedroom with jolts of lively mustard yellow accents.

Design pedigree is not scarce in the unit as furnishings are chosen to flesh out the unit's luxurious scheme. Some of these fittings can be seen in homes of celebrities or in television shows and films. For example, the Alea kitchen system used in Amarin Wickham was also chosen by Kelly Van Patter, production designer for television series *The Apprentice*, for the *Apprentice House* (where Season Two's contestants stayed) in New York. The stainless steel finish she selected underlined the business-like premise of the show while the kitchen's pared down profile provided a quiet balance to the contestants' fast-paced schedule. ➤

Burnt ochre tones combine with shades of brown to create an earthy, comfortable bedroom.





ABOVE LEFT: A lounge chair beckons and beguiles one to spend a lazy, languid afternoon reading. An AJ Table Louis Poulsen lamp available at Space Furniture stands on the side table.
 ABOVE RIGHT: The lounge functions as a gallery to display a curated selection of artworks on its wall.



In the kitchen of Amarin Wickham's premier triplex, however, the Alea system's simple forms persist, this time finished in hardy, high-gloss white acrylic lacquer, evoking scenes of serene kitchens in resort penthouses or European lofts.

It is no wonder that the kitchen turns out to be Benson's favourite space. According to him, its layout is organised in such a way it becomes the household's activity hub – physically and figuratively. Rather than planning for the wet kitchen to be out of the way, it is designed in a galley-style for easy access and positioned in full view of the other areas on the ground floor. The usual solid swinging door between the dry and wet kitchen is replaced with a glazed sliding one, turning both areas into a unified space.

Interestingly, this apartment is only the second venture from the Amarin Group (a sequel to its highly-popular gated development in Mont Kiara). Nevertheless, Amarin's three-man consortium has vast experience in the property industry, and it shows through this project, where carefully selected facilities are teamed up with a collection of unique homes to create an urban resort that embodies measured indulgence. ▾

For more information about Amarin Wickham, contact the Amarin Group at 603-7729 1120 or visit www.amarin.com.my