

MY SPACE

Stomp Pick



Interior designer Nicholas Tay, 32, sent STOMP this picture of his home recently. He tells **Reema Jagtiani** how he converted the balcony of his five-room flat in Serangoon Central into a viewing gallery.

Do you have a favourite space in your home? Send us a picture. We will consider the pictures for publication in STOMP and The Sunday Times. MMS or e-mail your pictures to 75557 or 75557@stomp.com.sg with the key words "My Space"

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Balcony doubles as extra bedroom with a view

"WHEN I travel, I enjoy checking out the different sights of each city and so, I was inspired to capture the sights outside my home too.

I created a frame around the balcony windows to make it look as if I was looking at a picture of the outside. Anyone who steps into the house is drawn to look at what is captured by the rectangular frame. It's the centrepiece of the flat.

The spray-painted frame, made of medium-density fibreboard (MDF), is also useful because it's wide enough to place my drinks on it when I'm relaxing out here.

I mounted laminate boards onto the balcony walls and I replaced the old windows with white ones that matched the walls.

The design is a mix of Asian and minimalist themes. My wife likes a clean, simple look while I prefer something more traditional. The teak veneer platform strikes a bal-

ance between the two.

I also like the platform because I can use it for storage. The boards lift to reveal compact spaces good for keeping table mats or cloths.

The biggest compartment in the platform is for storing a mattress. I've designed the balcony such that it can also be turned into a spare bedroom with a foldable door.

By adding more laminate boards on the left wall, I created a cabinet for the foldable door. By opening the cabinet, I can pull out the custom-made door whenever I need to convert the balcony into a room. The door has a laminate finish.

My wife and I drag our bar stools or add throw cushions to the balcony whenever we feel like hanging out here. It's the perfect spot for reading or chatting.

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MR TAY AND WIFE JOSEPHINE chill out often on their balcony. Made of fibreboard, the balcony's window frame is designed to look like a picture of the outside, and is a hit with all their visitors.

PHOTO: ALAN LIM