

There are many fields where men seem to dominate, but one unmatched talent that only women possess is the ability to turn a house into home. Nobody understands homemaking better than a woman does and exactly how to create the cozy comforts to make a family with children feel at home better than that special female touch. Providing the perfect balance between comfort and style is not easy as a glamorous lifestyle is far more hard work than what it appears to be at first glance.

designing duet a la *femme* *fatale*

STORY BY Dewald Haynes
PHOTO BY Bagus Tri Laksono



THE APARTMENT
OF THE
SUCCESSFUL
BUSINESS WOMAN
AND SOCIALITE,
VICKY SUPIT, IS
A DELIGHTFUL
HOME THAT NOT
ONLY HAS



impeccable style but also has room for two growing boys. Vicky's apartment in Darmawhanga was skillfully designed by the talented interior designer Nada Lahlou of Design Desk Studio. As close friends Nada and Vicky understand the intimate details of each-others lives and tastes and the design duet of these two creative souls make lavish living look effortless and as flawless as the femme fatale from the glamorous era of the silver-screen that brought Grace Kelly and Marilyn Monroe to life.



The entrance to the Apartment, with the fainting couch and mirrors covered in a monogrammatic resin grid with custom tailored door handles resembling a Chinese temple and concealed storage cupboards, creates a mysterious impression of grandeur about what awaits inside this home. The entrance directs a clear walk way into the living space of the home with its crepuscular lighting. At the same time providing an almost obscured passage way to the more private areas - such as the three bedrooms to the left, and kitchen and servants' quarters to the right. A large mirror in the hallway, on the way to the kitchen, frames the entrance to the guest's powder room with its dainty sliding door.

It often happens when visiting a beautiful home

FEMME FATALE
CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT
—
A custom made glass shelved console for the dining area
—
The entrance from the private elevator with a fainting couch and delicate decor
—
The main seating room with view of the outside play area
—
Carpeted television and activity room with a round play couch



that guests may use the excuse to ask "Where is the powder room" in order to get a sneak peak of the rest of the house. In the case of Vicky's apartment this requested visit to the powder room will surprisingly turn the powder room, with its eloquent design, into the highlight of the tour! Nada understands just how to optimize limited space and give it striking design features with the utmost attention to finer details. The powder room's basin is placed inside a cupboard with double glass-window doors that opens up and neatly closes again with all the storage needed for soaps, towels and other luxury necessities. The ambiance of the powder room reminds of a french boudoir, yet slightly more contemporary, where ladies can pamper themselves with luxuries surrounded with delicate decor.

The Living area of the home had to house two very important functions. Firstly it needed to accommodate two boys and secondly provide the

main feature DHARMAWANGSA APARTMENT

FEMME FATALE CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT

— The Teak dining table is an investment piece that can be handed down to the next generation

— Inside the powder room with its built in was tafel

— Florest, Fashion Designer and Femme Fatale - Vicky Supit at Visuu Gallery

— Animal prints and green color themes blend in to form a cosmopolitan ambiance



Project Data

Project Name

Darmawangsa Apartment

Location

Darmawangsa, Jakarta

Floor Area

400sqm

Client/Owner

Vicky Supit

Interior Design Consultant

Nada Lahlou

Interior Contractor

Design Desk Studio



necessary entertainment area for a mother that hosts many lavish private parties. To have enough space for this Nada innovatively enlarged the apartment by taking floor space from the original terraces and adding it to the indoor floor area. In order to do this in an apartment building's structure she had to keep the original railing and extend with glass walls as to not influence the outside facade of the building too



PHOTO BY BARBARA HAHJIARY

drastically. By doing this she added a significant amount of living space inside the apartment. Having an open plan living area also made the room very spacious with enough details to keep it very homey at the same time.

All the furnishings and fixtures in Vicky's home are custom made from locally sourced materials. Vicky briefed Nada by showing her pictures from books and magazines of things that she simply adores and Nada skillfully combined all her desires into a blended and balanced interior. Asian, Moroccan and even African design elements live in




harmony in an eclectic cosmopolitan apartment. Patterns and animal prints with colors ranging from red to turquoise blend seamlessly into a lavish display of modern living. Floral accents provide a feminine touch while added textures and wooden floors brings masculinity into the equation and a few “ooh lala” scatter cushions adds fun.

The placing of the furniture as well as the size of the coffee table and rounded edged teak dining table is very child friendly. No sharp edges and big areas to place valuable ornamental pieces safely, as well as the higher shelving for books, photos and fragile items keeps everything well displayed and safely out of the way at the same time. You can move around with ease as clutter is avoided and everything has its place. Even the televisions in the living area are concealed and can be neatly tucked away from sight. The ceilings (some mirrored and gridded) and sliding door to the television room makes the open plan easy to adjust into defined zones that provide privacy when required.

The flooring also creates a landscape inside the apartment, with an elevated sitting room and carpeted television room where the boys can play



video games and sit on a spacious round couch. The original terrace areas are tiled and arranged into seating areas where a book can be read or a cup of tea enjoyed while day dreaming. The sitting room also has a perfect view of the apartments baseball court, swings and lawn where Vicky can relax while keeping an eye on her boys while they are playing outside.

Turning an apartment into a home requires good taste, style and knowledge and a certain *je ne sais quois* that only a woman understands. This apartment combines all the elements for a lavish lifestyle without compromising comfort and family values. In Vicky’s own words: “Luxury is comfort”. 

FEMME FATALE
FROM TOP LEFT
—
Some fun design details
—
A small outside terrace to enjoy afternoon tea on

Nada Lahlou Composing Customized Comfort

The offices of Design Desk Studio in Sudirman is a very creative, functional and beautiful working space.

In fact Dewald Haynes of Indonesia Design was as impressed with Nada Lahlou’s office as he was with all the other projects, including Turquaz and Vicky Supit’s apartment, that has been featured in our pages before! Having some tea and discussing design with Nada in her office is both a treat and inspiration as her passion for Indonesia brings her creativity to life.

Custom designing and local material sourcing for one-of-a-kind interior pieces can surely not be easy, yet your product is perfect. How do you do it?

I have worked for many years in Indonesia now and have accumulated a design team of experts and artisans who I can trust with the tasks I do not personally do with my own hands. Indonesia is a country rich with creativity, possibility and beauty. Sourcing my materials locally enhances my design as the quality and workmanship here is as good, if not better, than anywhere else.

Most of the items that makes up the interior of Vicky’s apartment are custom, are these exclusive as well?

Absolutely, I offer my clients one of kind designs I do not replicate at any price. The



mold gets broken and what is inside Vicky’s apartment in nowhere else in the world. The perspex frames, lighting fixtures even the frog handles on the cupboard doors in the television room are one offs. Those frogs where actually inspired by a ring that Vicky has – so the interior items tells Vicky’s story and therefor is only for Vicky exclusively.

How is it that you know Vicky so well?
We have been friends for many years and I

have designed many of her previous homes. In fact this enabled me to reincorporate certain investment pieces, such as the custom made dining table and side board, into her new living space. I trust Vicky’s fashion advice and she trusts my decorating skills. Our bond of friendship made the understanding of her needs and lifestyle almost effortless. I could interpret her ideas correctly and affectingly so that the end result makes her happy and me proud. 