

Identity

Resorting to individualism

So comfortable is this resort home that the owners have no reason to go on vacation!

Familiarity breeds contempt comes to mind after listening to the owner of this double-storey bungalow located in the upmarket residential enclave of Sierramas in Sungai Buloh, Selangor.

"I dislike repetition," he says. "If this can be avoided, I'll do so."

"That's why I wanted the various spaces in my home to each have individual qualities and different ceiling heights."

"I also wanted them to be separated from each other so my family members can carry out their activities without disturbing one another."

Faced with this design brief, architect Almaz Salma had no choice but to create something very unique. The result: a nine-bedroom house fashioned from 6,500sq ft that is unlike any other.

The distinctiveness is apparent even from the exterior, where the main entrance has been positioned at an angle to face East, compared with the neighbouring residences.

The rationale behind the

decision was beyond cosmetics - it was so the home can enjoy the morning sun and avoid the harsh afternoon glare; an attempt that also involved reducing the number of windows facing the main road to prevent sunlight from entering the main living area.

The tropical plants that form the home's lush landscaping and give it a resort feel has been introduced indoors to stunning effect.

Based on discussions between the architect and the owner, the consensus was that the interior should effuse a local style through its design fittings as well as the use of wood such as Cengal in the framework of the windows and doors.

A part of the upper floor and the staircase have also been treated to wood to soften the overall look of the space, as has a 6ft by 13ft-long corridor decorated in Balinese style.

This part of the home is most cherished by the owner as it seems to possess a positive energy all its own.

All around the home, refreshing views of the outdoors have been invited to seep inside, creating a balanced and peaceful environment. Aiding this is the high ceiling, with its Cengal wood panelling providing a traditional touch.

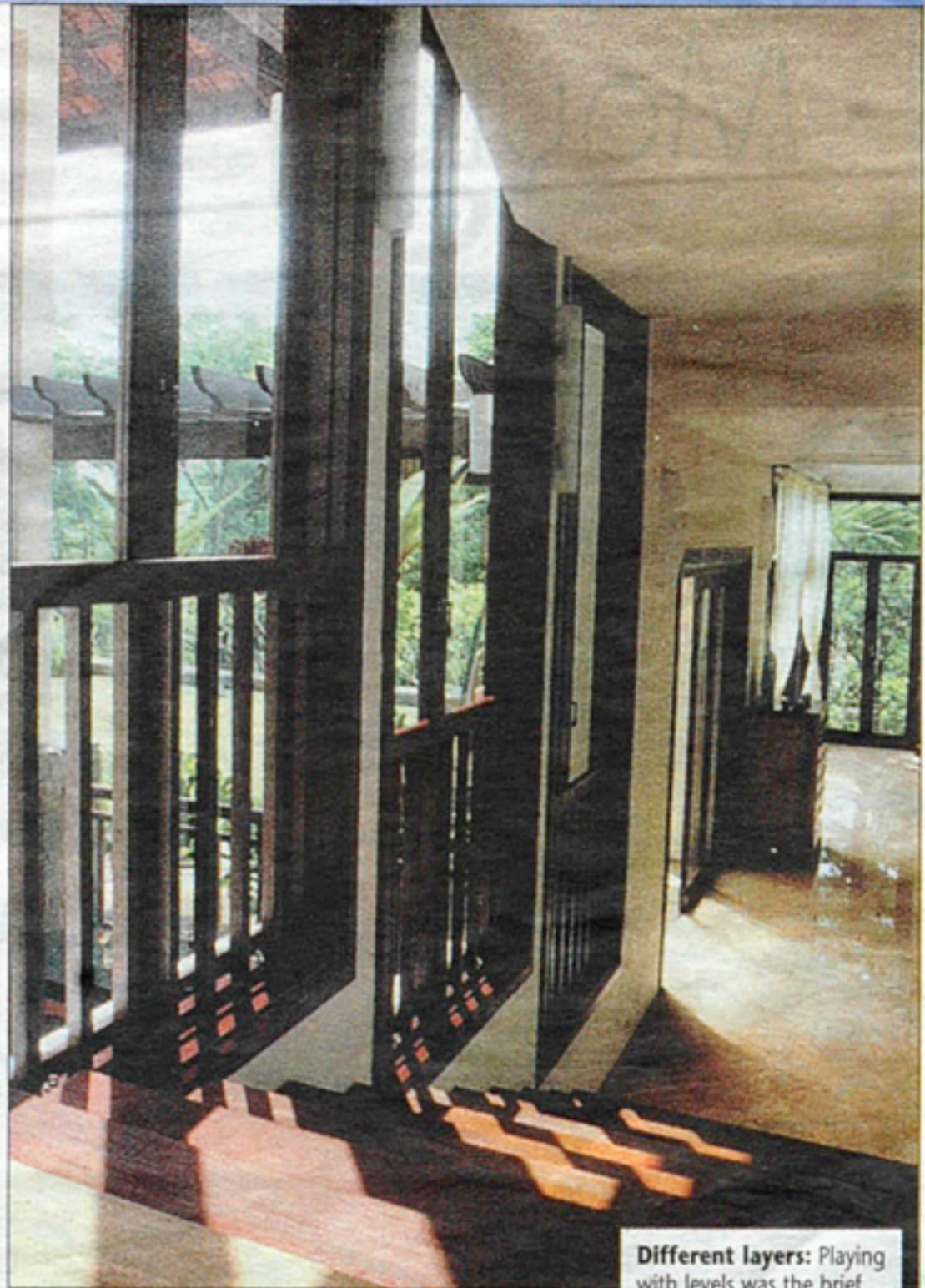
A stone's throw away from the living room is the guest quarters, and even here too there is the option of inviting the outdoors inside by simply opening the folding doors.

Just beyond the guest room is the main garden that comes complete with a pond filled with Japanese koi.

This is the family's favourite retreat - a place that puts them in a relaxed mood and which makes them wonder why they need to go on holiday when they already have a private resort that caters to all their needs.

"A home needs to address the needs of its owners and I think I've achieved that," says the owner.

<http://www.karangkraf.com.my/emajalah/impiana>



Different layers: Playing with levels was the brief given to the architect of this bungalow.



Natural touch: Wood plays an integral role in this tropical resort home as seen in the flooring and furniture elements.

Tropical home: A generous glimpse of the outdoors is made possible with the use of full length windows.

