



*Opposite: Cameron Woo draws inspiration from classic movies. In this Orange Grove Residences penthouse, he applied his design philosophy of contrasting the old and the new, imbuing the space with a sense of timelessness and sophistication.*

## CAMERON WOO CAMERON WOO DESIGN, FOUNDER

He considers himself an “editor” of his client’s “treasured possessions, lifestyle, baggage and memories”. In short, the Papua New Guinea-born Chinese, who studied interior design at the University of Technology, Sydney, creates spaces tailor-made to fit the person’s lifestyle in “three dimensions”.

And Woo is a perfectionist. To choose the right shade of paint for a room, for instance, Woo typically creates at least 15 different permutations and visits the space at three different times of the day to see the effect of the colour. “It’s so that I can understand the emotion I’m going to create for my client.”

His portfolio spans a wide range of high-end private residences across Australia and Singapore. He has also been the interior design consultant for commercial developers the likes of Capitaland Residential, Ho Bee Group and

the Wheelock Group, creating showflats for their luxury condominiums such as Scotts Highpark, Orange Grove Residences and Trilight.

Through the years, Woo’s work has garnered him a host of awards and accolades including Best Residential Interior Designer Award for Asia Pacific at the International Property Awards (in conjunction with Bloomberg Television). He has also been featured in the 2009 & 2010 *Andrew Martin Interior Design Review*, a publication showcasing the works of the best interior designers in the world.

“I love Hotel Splendido in Portofino, Italy and looking down at that emerald sea and those islands in the distance!” he shares. Spurred on by a deep sense of romanticism, he draws on the past experiences that pepper his life to evoke the same emotions in the spaces he designs.

### DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

To contrast the old and new; to give interiors a timelessness and sophistication.

### INSPIRATION

Travelling to exotic locales like Turkey and India, and movies such as *It’s Complicated* and older ones like *Giant* and *Three Coins in the Fountain*. He has also tried to recreate the feel from a scene in the movie *Only You* (starring Marisa Tomei and Robert Downey Jr): Tomei runs down a flight of stairs in a hotel in Italy as she heads out to meet her onscreen lover. “It’s that ethereal moment of anticipation that I try to bring out.”

### FIRST PROJECT

His parents’ home in Sydney, Australia. Done up in a minimalist yet cosy style, the double-storey house is up on a hill and reminiscent of his childhood abode in Papua New Guinea. “I’m happy to say it is still chic today.”

### MOST MEMORABLE PROJECT

A home in suburban Australia with a 30m-long swimming and play pool, inspired by the Shiv Niwas Palace Hotel in Rajasthan, India, which he visited. “I remembered getting out of the pool and the feel of low-relief stone engraving on the border of the pool against the sole of my foot. It was quite an unusual experience.”

### IN THE PIPELINE

A 180-apartment residence on Hong Kong Island that will have a lot of greenery – something rarely seen there – which will provide homeowners with a sense of being in a sanctuary.

### DREAM PROJECT

His own home near the sea where he will not be constrained by a client’s brief. “My home could be something traditional, like Oscar de la Renta’s tropical island home in the Dominican Republic, but with a modern touch.”

