

SINGAPORE

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HOME & DECOR

STYLISH LIVING MADE EASY

*get the
look!*

HOW STYLE-MAKERS
ARE MIXING VINTAGE
PIECES & MODERN ART

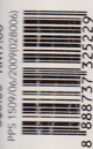
STYLE FOR LESS

NO-RENO BUDGET UPDATES
YOU CAN DO IN A DAY

40+ cool
kitchen ideas

TRENDS,
PRODUCTS &
COST-SAVING
DESIGN TIPS

SEPT 2008



Timeless creation - exquisite touch

*Embark on a journey with our interior designers
& be awed by our impeccable creations.*



The Cottage Crafts

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kitchen

REAL SPACES

text CHIQUIT TORRENTE
photography JUSTIN LOH
art direction YONG WOEEI NA



quicktip

WHITE MAKES RIGHT

"THE KITCHEN IS SO SMALL," SAYS TASNEEM, "SO WE WENT WITH A WHITE COLOUR SCHEME. PLUS IT'S EASIER TO GET THINGS THAT MATCH WHITE." CLEANING'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR THIS COOK. "MY HUSBAND CLEANS VERY WELL!"



left Open shelving makes it easy to see when it's time to replenish the pantry. below A vintage-style tap sink from Sim Siang Choon. opposite It's hard to imagine this breezy country kitchen is in an HDB flat.



who cooks here
GRAPHIC DESIGNER TASNEEM NOOR
what she cooks
SWEDISH SOUL-FOOD
AND BAKED GOODIES

SWEDE TREATS

A GRAPHIC DESIGNER TURNS A CRAMPED, OLD HDB KITCHEN INTO A SCANDINAVIAN HAVEN.

She was "sort of" soul-searching in Europe when local graphic designer Tasneem Noor met Swedish artist Joakim Hesham Smidhagen in 2006. A long-distance courtship and one year later, the young couple got married and set about creating a home in Singapore. The heart of the home, the kitchen, was "just finished this June", says Tasneem.

From the owner of their three-bedroom HDB flat – "my father" Tasneem reveals sheepishly – they inherited a grey-laminate kitchen with wood trim. Fortunately her father sprung for the kitchen reno, and Tasneem happily narrates, "let me design it my way." The redesign was inspired by images of all-white, country-style kitchens.

Budget constraints did not deter the

right A blackboard for menus and reminders occasionally features husband Joakim's cartoons. below Tasneem inherited the ceramic jars with Malay words from her mother.



JOAKIM'S CARTOON SAYS:

"I'M A REALLY AMAZING CHEF!
I CAN...HMM...WELL, I'M REALLY
GOOD AT HEATING UP WATER."

getthiskitchen

CABINETRY: THE COTTAGE CRAFTS

VENTILATION: ELICA CHIMNEY-
STYLE HOOD

STOVE: EF ITALIA 3-BURNER HOB

OVEN: TECHO

SINK: SIM SIANG CHOON

resourceful designer from achieving her dream kitchen. She retained some of the existing elements such as the fridge, flooring and oven, and engaged interior consultant The Cottage Crafts to install her mixed built-in cabinets and open shelving. She also scoured Ikea, craft and second-hand shops for complementary accessories. The chimney-style cooker hood, for instance, which she bought from kitchen and bathroom fittings shop Sim Siang Choon, was a display unit and is no longer in stock. "We were lucky to have that last piece!" the intrepid shopper says.

Tasneem also changed the cramped kitchen configuration to a more efficient work triangle

(ie, store-prep-cook). Now there are separate food preparation spaces for both cooking and baking. Little knick-knacks like candles and inspiring images like a cartoon by Joakim add warmth and a touch of quirkiness. The result is a charming Scandinavian kitchen where her specialities – Swedish meatballs, roasts and baked pastas – fit right in.

Developing Swedish inclinations, from her design style to her cooking, came naturally to Tasneem after her marriage. "I've just fallen in love with everything Swede," she smiles. ●

where to go

THE COTTAGE CRAFTS TEL: 6336-7588