

REFINED

RESPIRE

Secretlab co-founder Ian Ang's triplex penthouse is both homely and sophisticated—a welcoming haven from his busy work life
By Luo Jingmei. Photography by MarcusL Photography





As one enters Ian Ang's penthouse unit, it is the light and views that are immediately arresting. Ample glazing invites daylight into the capacious, double-storey open living-and-dining area, where an angular Minotti sofa defines a cosy area for conversation. Beyond the windows, a line of landscaping offers respite to urban living, and panoramic views serve as a picturesque backdrop to the refined home.

This is where the co-founder and CEO of ergonomic gaming chair business Secretlab retreats from his bustling work life. Ang's entrepreneurial journey, marked by a slew of business accolades, is well known: at the age of 22 in 2014, the competitive gamer left university to start Secretlab with fellow gamer Alaric Choo, who is the company's chief strategy officer. From a homegrown start-up, the company has now become globally synonymous with e-sports, selling to customers in over 50 countries worldwide and expanding its offerings to include desks as well as accessories.

SKY-HIGH HOME

This 7,007 sq ft penthouse in Leedon Residence is a famous S\$15 million purchase he made in 2021. Ang also spent S\$36 million on a 23,424 sq ft Good Class Bungalow (GCB) that is now being rented out. The penthouse ticked a long list of criteria he had that had led to a two-year-long search.

"I wanted to see ample greenery but did not want to be directly beside it; I wanted to be in a central location but not [right in town]; I didn't want to see other buildings as much as possible and I didn't want a sea view, but I wanted privacy, security, noise control and easy parking; I wanted a double-volume ceiling in the living area and for the development to be new," Ang elaborates.

When he finally found this home, which comes with a private lift lobby, he engaged K2LD Architects for the interior design. The Singaporean firm is known for its luxurious, well-crafted houses. "I like modern designs: clean lines, enough negative space, with [well-finished] details that make the spaces feel [complete]. That's why I picked K2LD Architects, as they are the masters in this," says Ang.

WARM WELCOME

In his brief, Ang wanted to avoid anything too pristine and "executive looking". He also eschewed the dark and moody interiors that



PHOTOGRAPHY SECRETLAB

This spread, clockwise from top left: Furniture with curved lines was chosen to maintain a fluid feel in the living area; the carpet's organic shape can be appreciated as one looks down from the study and second-level walkway; Secretlab co-founder Ian Ang at home

Previous spread: The apartment's majestic triple-volume living room overlooks an equally stunning view





are trending today. “Your home will lack warmth. That will also subconsciously affect your mood [in a negative way]. It was very clear to me that I wanted this home to be homely, practical and clean—not one that just looks good but feels cold,” Ang comments.

The abundant natural light certainly brings an uplifting quality to the home. “I believe it helps immensely with one’s well-being—and that’s coming from a hardcore gamer,” reflects Ang. At one side of the living area, a screen of woven brass-coloured aluminium mesh stretches seven metres, mitigating the heat and glare from the western sun. In the evening, it imbues the space “with a warm golden glow”, describes Leong Lai Peng, a senior associate at K2LD Architects who worked on the home.

The element takes a page from one of the firm’s best-known projects, Golden Box, which deploys the mesh as a building skin. The subtle feature shimmers against a general monochromatic palette of brass and cognac brown accents. “Dark-stained timber panelling with stainless steel skirting along the living area’s passageway counterbalances the rich colours of the mesh,” Leong shares.

FUTURE PROOFING

The five-bedroom triplex penthouse houses the common and serviced areas on the first level, bedrooms and a study on the second level, and an entertainment space on the rooftop with a 17m-long lap pool. When asked if he swims there often, Ang says that it is mostly



This spread, clockwise from top left: A book-matched Calacatta marble wall acts as a backdrop in the dining area; the master bedroom’s TV lounge was formerly another bedroom; the master bedroom study’s elegant carpentry; the dry kitchen’s display shelving incorporates a wine bar



used by his guests, as the avid badminton player spends more time on the courts for his exercise.

The spacious abode is certainly an upgrade from his former three-bedroom condominium apartment, with separate zones for entertaining and living in. Although it was much smaller, Ang was happy with that home. This eventual purchase came about as his entrepreneurial acumen pointed him to the wiser decision of investing in Singapore’s resilient property market.

With no need for all five bedrooms—Ang stays here alone—Leong enlarged the master bedroom wing and converted an adjacent bedroom into a personal TV lounge, accessible from the sleeping area via fluted glass sliding doors. A collection of guitars here offers a clue as to his musical interests, as does the Yamaha baby grand piano in the living area downstairs which Ang sometimes plays.

CONNECTING SPACE

The original study room was improved as Ang sometimes works from home. “The wall facing the double-storey living area was removed for a view to the lower level, replaced with a black steel-clad frame with glass infill to evoke an industrial aesthetic. Metallic mesh within the laminated glass panel adds to the luxurious ambience,” Leong explains.

While the pandemic has disrupted many businesses—Secretlab included—Ang shares that things have now stabilised. “We’re back to having breakout results, on top of having a more diversified yet still on-brand range of products. We’re still working on a long list of future products that we think will delight fans while still being commercial successes, so stay tuned for those.”

The appreciative Ang gives much credit to the staff who work alongside him. “Every day, I think of how it is a real privilege to work with these guys, making innovative and commercially successful products, and building a brand beloved by millions around the world. All while being a commercial success,” he says. And what of his GCB? “It’s been too chaotic and busy for me at work, so I haven’t been able to spend time [renovating it]. Besides, I love this current penthouse too much to even bother for now.”