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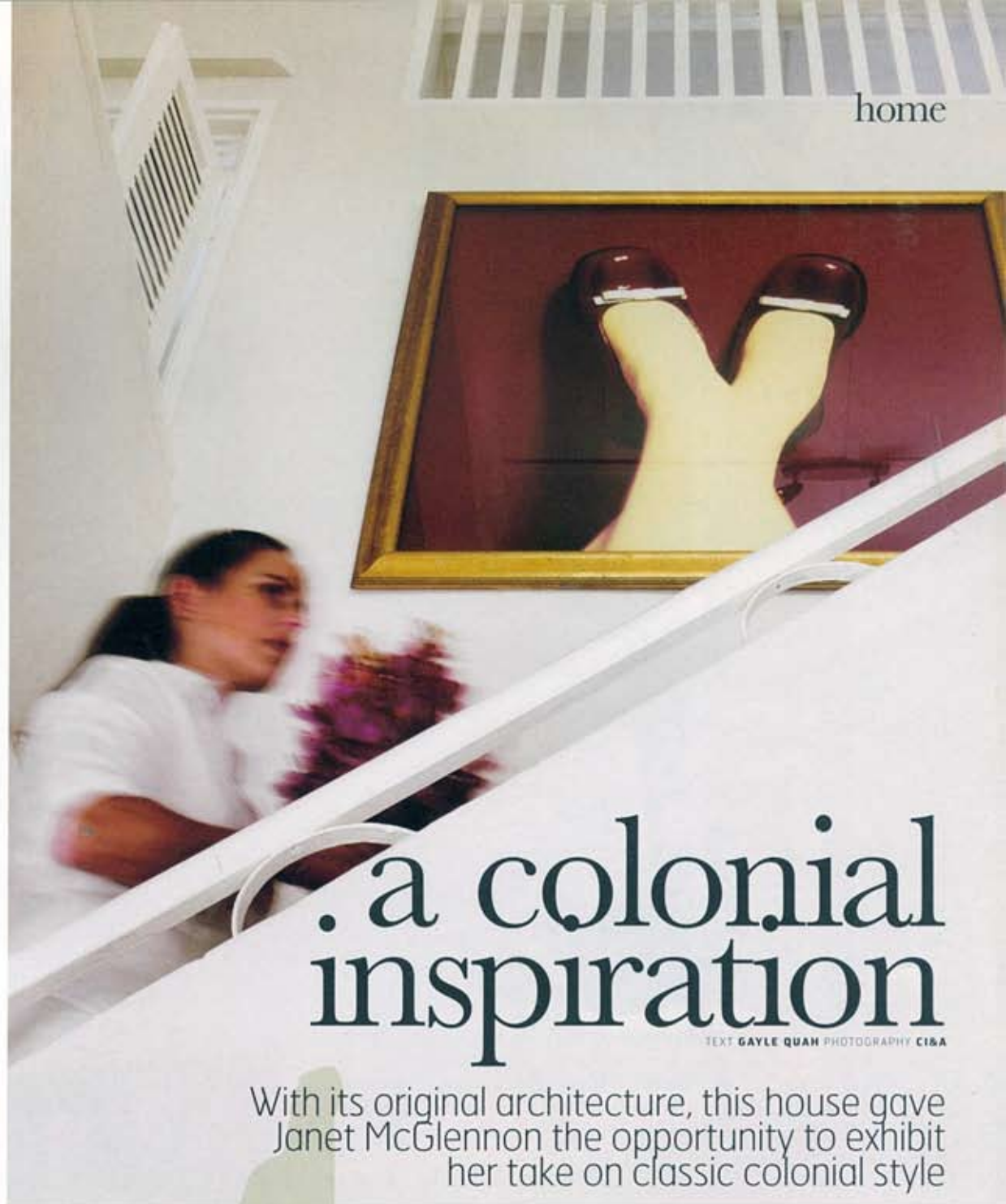
new spaces, new desires + a fresh new look!



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

The entrance leading into the living room makes for a great outdoor-to-indoor area. Like this outdoor gate or landing to the grill area. When an indoor party gets going, guests can sit and relax down to the wooden deck table. *—Sara Hill*

Just across a year of living up a light of blue, where one of Australia's most popular artists, Deborah Finlayson, "Lasso Your Heart" with a spot of color and design. *—Sara Hill*



. a colonial inspiration

TEXT GAYLE QUAH PHOTOGRAPHY C1&A

With its original architecture, this house gave Janet McGlennon the opportunity to exhibit her take on classic colonial style

A short distance away from Holland Village's bustling streets sits a maze of black and white colonial houses surrounded by sprawling greenery and small winding roads. Tucked comfortably within this maze is the new home of Joseph and Janet McGlennon. To the couple and their two daughters, Georgia, 10 and Madison, 8, it offers a new lease of life.

The family has been in Singapore for 12 years and for most of that time, they lived in a shop house on Blair Road. They moved here wanting to experience the colonial style of living in the black and white houses that were built for British officers before the war.

Most of the design and décor of the home was envisaged by Janet, 36, who runs her own interior design firm. Affable, vivacious and hospitable, Janet speaks of her home with much gusto. "This home is a combination of modern-classic colonialism and so I was very sure of the direction I wanted to take," she says. "Because it is a rented PREMAS house, the architecture of the interior led the path when it came to furniture planning."



The symmetry of the French doors at the front and back of the living area allows for a central arrangement of cushy George Smith sofas, white lilies and Chinese chests. “The chests are an impulse buy from Hong Kong’s Hollywood Road. They work perfectly as coffee tables and are useful for storing the Christmas tree decorations,” says Janet.

A large black antique mirror from France creates a further sense of space, while drawing attention to fascinating aspects of the room in its reflection.

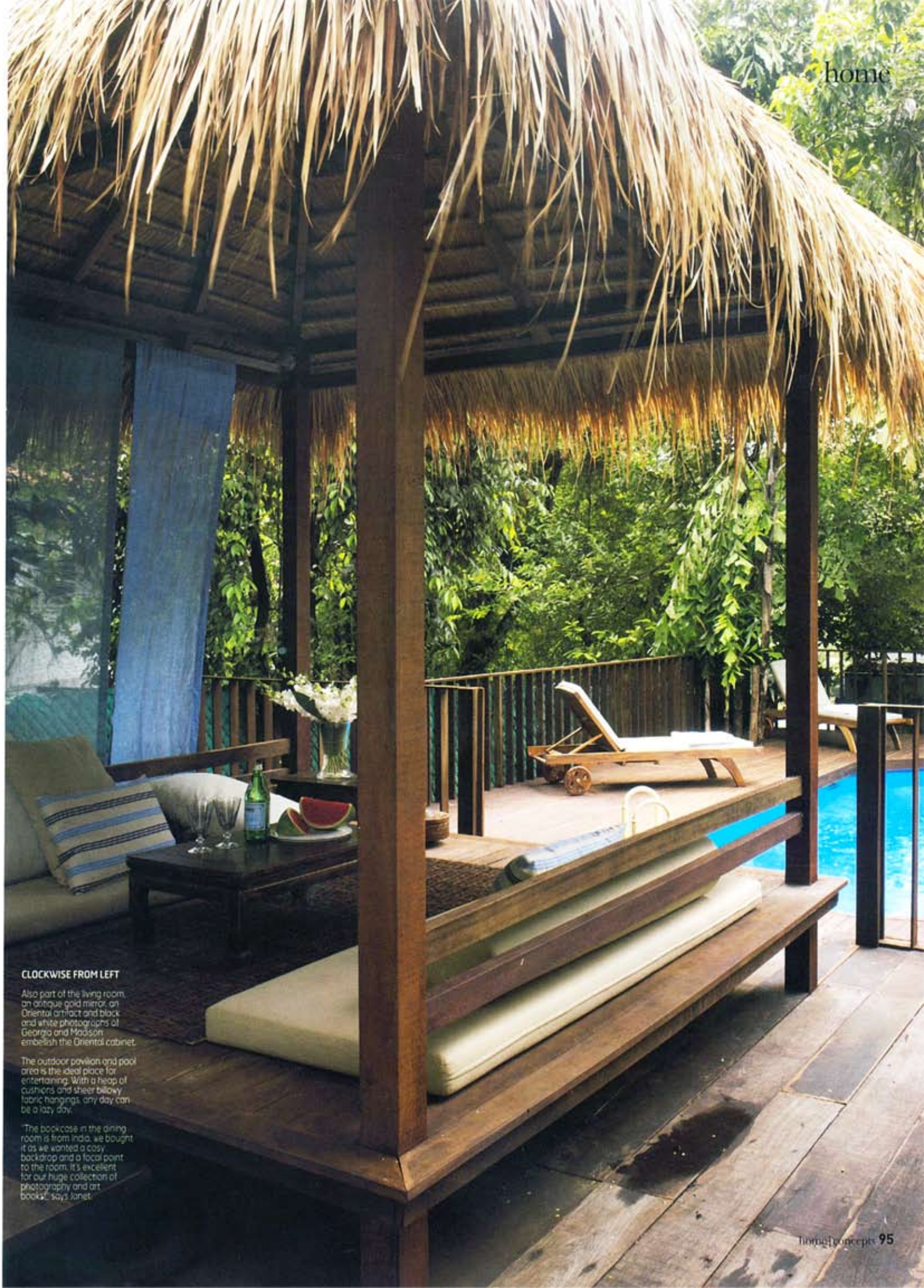
“I admire the architecture and furniture design of Christian Liaigre and am totally inspired by his new book, *Maison*,” Janet adds. Liaigre, a renowned French architect, is known for his style and for his use of the neutral palette. A similar colour palette of black, white, variable tones of taupe and dark elm woods meld together like a creamy cocktail in the house.

“My favourite part of the house has to be the living room for its symmetry, light and the view of the terrace. The room has interesting vistas from various angles and the light is extraordinary at all times of the day,” reveals Janet.

Even with guests getting invited over ever so often, the McGlemons’ really have no problem with entertaining. “The outdoor pavilion and pool area is great for entertaining, especially with loads of cushions and sheer linen fabric hangings.”

Throughout the house, furniture pieces from the family’s global travels offer elements of interest and work as excellent icebreakers during their regular house parties.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

Also part of the living room, an antique gold mirror, an Oriental artifact and black and white photographs of Georgia and Madison embellish the Oriental cabinet.

The outdoor pavilion and pool area is the ideal place for entertaining. With a heap of cushions and sheer billowy fabric hangings, any day can be a lazy day.

The backcase in the dining room is from India; we bought it as we wanted a cozy backdrop and a focal point to the room. It's excellent for our huge collection of photography and art books," says Janet.



TOP
The living room echoes a soft comfortable boudoir with its wooden four-poster bed, lounge sofa, and flowing curtains.

BOTTOM
A large black antique mirror from France creates a further sense of spaciousness, while flanking fascinating aspects of the room in its reflection.

DON MCGULLIN



"The bookcase in the dining room is from India. We bought it, as we wanted a cosy backdrop and a focal point for the room. It's excellent for our huge collection of photography and art books," says Janet whose husband has a passion for photography.

Janet chose to customise bookshelves for the study-cum-entertainment room, as it is virtually impossible to find bookshelves that fit into the niche. The simple white bookshelves wrap around an antique Chinese elm wood desk. Here, Joseph (who is in advertising) goes about his work while Georgia and Madison enjoy TV, milk and cookies. Making no effort to conceal her pride, Janet declares: "Joseph took all the black and white pictures in here."

Still, despite the apparent perfection of the picture, Janet believes that it's too early to tell how her efforts will finally come together. "Homes should evolve and mature. You can't possibly throw a real home together in a few weeks." Consequently, in reflection of its rich history, this 'black and white' has certainly found new life with the McGlemons.



TOP
A simple white bookshelf wraps itself around an antique Chinese elm wood desk in the study-cum-entertainment area.

BOTTOM
The kitchen is where you'd find Georgia and Madison at breakfast and snack times.