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Crystal MILESTONE

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DESIGNS FOR ALL SEASONS

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Our roster of design professionals
who put the Philippines on the map

Minds Behind Homes

Notable interior designers share their
favorite residential projects

100+

DESIGNS FROM
15 TIMELESS
TRENDS





Photographed by Carina Santos

Imperium (2014)



Photographed by Ed Simon of Studio 100

CONTEMPORARY ARTS

RYAN VILLAMAE

Imbuing life into paper and bringing this medium to uncharted territory

Written by Miko Ilas | Photos courtesy of Ryan Villamael

When we were young, most of us cut paper into shapes and snowflakes for art projects. Ryan Villamael used to be one such child—only he brought that art to a stratospheric level that won him this year's Ateneo Art Award, and international residency grants in esteemed art institutions in Australia, Singapore, and the U.K.

"Truth is, initially, I wanted to make sculptures and maybe even paint," admits the University of the Philippines alumnus, who fell into the medium of paper accidentally. "As an art student, I was just experimenting with the material and got some encouragement to keep working with the medium. All along, I thought maybe after a year or two of exhibiting my paper cut-outs, I'd be done with the medium and move on to something else."

Ryan would eventually be at home with paper arts, beginning with his "Cut Felt" exhibit in 2011, which was comprised of intricate designs spanning up to 13 feet on the wall. His art, which draws inspiration from his childhood dream of following the footsteps of his biologist mother and his interest in Filipino culture, among others, has been featured

in nine shows (three being solo exhibits) for Silverlens Gallery. Ryan expanded his craft from wall displays to three-dimensional, sculpture-like works such as those in his award-winning "Isles" exhibition last year that featured mesmerizing standing figures on maps and in bell jars.

On the cusp of expanding his horizons to new lands, Ryan appreciates but downplays the accolades. "Awards are definitely appreciated, but they're not why I'm an artist," he says. "The thing that excites me is producing better work, truer and braver to the things I want to say." 🏠



Photographed by JL Javier



Isles Series IX (2014)

"There's really no fixed procedure in art-making," says Ryan Villamael. "Our minds work in countless and oftentimes unpredictable ways—artist or not—leading to different interpretations and expressions of things."

BEST OF THE BEST

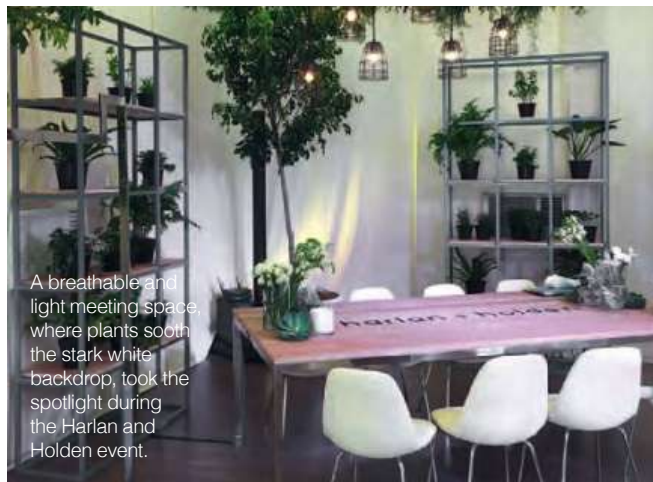
A mix of green accents and a sea of white sofas, this eclectic yet comfortable setup during the Jo Malone London launch in Manila attracted utmost attention.



EVENT DESIGN



All event designs conceptualized by sisters Happy and Cyndi, who bank on spontaneity and individual global tastes, result in remarkable interiors.



A breathable and light meeting space, where plants soothe the stark white backdrop, took the spotlight during the Harlan and Holden event.

MOSS MANILA DESIGN HOUSE

Creating standout interiors in moments that call for it

Written by Miko Ilas

Photos courtesy of Moss Manila Design House



"We are always mindful of how clients will use our pieces in their homes and where these will be placed," says Cyndi Fernandez-Beltran, pictured above with sister Happy (right). "We don't want to create something so precious and abstract that it will never be touched or used in any way."

The interior design knowledge and event styling expertise of sisters Happy and Cyndi Fernandez have been translated into Moss Manila Design House, a successful enterprise that began in 2008. Taking inspiration from the style of their grandmother, Dr. Felipa Flores, the interior designer siblings developed a keen awareness of design through the encouragement of their parents as well.

"Our grandmother's style always seemed to find its way in our conversations about fashion and furniture because it was mostly how we became aware of what design is at an early age," share Happy and Cyndi.

The duo went on to earn their interior design degree at the University of Santo Tomas and hone their craft in the US, where they adapted cutting-edge and eclectic ideas that they could carry back home. Along with this newly acquired knowledge are furniture pieces and accessories accumulated over Happy and Cyndi's travels across the globe. Happy

shares that décor-buying is a planned process that gives importance to the background story of each piece, while Cyndi points out that furniture is bought more spontaneously. "Travel," says Cyndi, "inspires us more than anything else we do. We interpret what we see or experience and turn them into new pieces of furniture."

The creative sisters take pride in the way they "create bold and dramatic interiors with the use of patterns and textures." Their mix of spontaneous inspiration and planned execution earned them recognition from luminaries such as Tessa Prieto-Valdes, who took home pieces from the sisters' collection after they worked together on an interior styling project. All other collections are showcased in Happy and Cyndi's boutique home store called Moss Manila Home, where selections of framed art, obelisks, and original furniture designs reflect the sisters' penchant for elegant styles. 🏠