



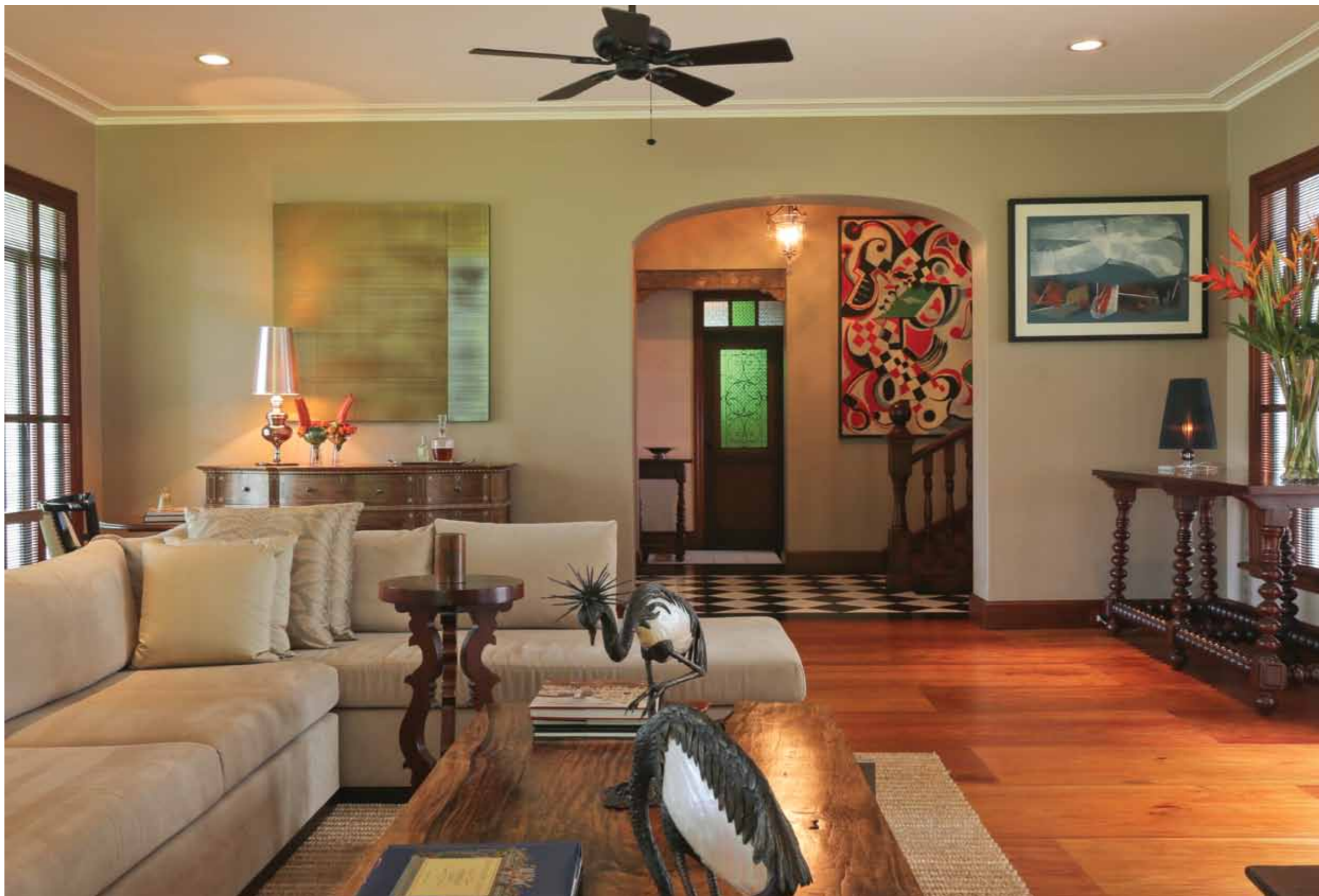
# *A DREAM HOME*

The residents of this charming, breezy Spanish-Filipino property prove that home is where the heart is

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*Together, the young couple's collection is a mix of personal purchases, wedding gifts, and family heirlooms*



**N**estled between the vibrant cities of Makati and Taguig is this quiet suburb brimming with loving stories of family homes. Its wide streets are lined with beautiful residences paying witness to generations old and young building stories and memories within their walls.

A few ways down the village gate, right where a street and the main avenue named after regal trees intersect, stands a Spanish-style residence with a story as dotting as its owners. Home to newlyweds and their newborn baby girl, the four-bedroom corner property was originally built in 2010 as a prospective home for the young couple who had been planning a future together. After marrying in 2014, the lady of the house moved in, joining her husband in building their family and their dream home.

Built over a span of four years, the house exudes the charm of a classic Spanish-Filipino home. The structural design down to the little details was the brainchild of the man of the house. "He wanted something nationalistic and appropriate for our climate," says the owner of her husband's vision, which was brought to fruition with the help of an architect.

Recycled *azucarera* (sugar mill) bricks in rustic shades pave the expansive driveway leading to the entrance. The bricks extend to the mini patio by the doorway, patterned in between panels of old wood. The codes engraved from their previous industrial haunts add an intriguing quality to the space. Providing main access to the house are

**(FROM LEFT)**

The foyer and the living room serve as a backdrop to the couple's collection of *objets d'art*; a pair of animal tusks is one of the highlights in the living room

**(PREVIOUS PAGE)**

Leading to the home's entrance are recycled bricks from a sugar mill





majestic double doors—one of two prominent entryways inside the house that have been crafted out of aged wood from old homes.

Indoors, the walls are painted in pale green and cream complemented with elegant wooden baseboards. The cool colour palette lends a relaxed atmosphere to the interiors, a pleasant respite from the outdoor metropolitan heat. Striking black and white checkered floor tiles deck the foyer while an old wooden armoire stands across the doors to greet guests upon entry. The antique piece is just one from the couple's large collection of rare old articles "lovingly chosen and collected through the years."

Some pieces have been in the house since its completion in 2010, personal properties of her husband since his bachelor days, like the painting of his grandfather's plane hanging by the powder room just past the foyer. Made by a Spanish artist, the painting of the aircraft—which was the first to fly from Manila to Madrid—is one of the couple's favourites. "It reminds us to try to have a sense of adventure and leap of faith every now and then."

Upon moving in, the lady of the house brought "the woman's touch" into the home through her very own *objets d'art*. Together, the young couple's collection is a mix of personal purchases, wedding gifts, and family heirlooms. "They are unique pieces and all contribute to a beautiful lovingly built home," she explains.

From the foyer, walking down the hall and through an archway, the hip checker-tiled floor shifts to multi-toned panels of rich brown wood in the living room. The space is set with a mix of contemporary and antique wooden furniture decorated with one-of-a-kind artworks and accessories such as sculptural animal tusks and bird statuettes made from ostrich eggs and bronze. One of the couple's favourite pieces, a turn-of-the-century commode carved from *balayong* wood, accentuates the left wall by the archway. Above it hangs a textured painting by celebrated artist Norberto "Lito" Carating. Meanwhile, on the opposite side hangs one of contemporary expressionist Elmer Borlongan's masterpieces. The room glows with natural light passing through wide windows accentuated with

**(THIS PAGE)**  
Inviting plush  
loungers await  
guests at the  
verdant lanai

**(OPPOSITE  
PAGE)** A striking  
painting by the  
contemporary  
painter Elmer  
Borlongan in the  
living room







plantation-style shutters.

An intimate open area in between the living and dining rooms has been transformed into a snug courtyard. With two tall palm trees at the centre and more greens sprawled around, an inviting breeze circulates, inviting guests to take a leisurely seat for afternoon tea on one of the woven rattan chairs set in the space. The courtyard's floor is tiled in *azucarera* bricks similar to the driveway.

The dining area, on one wall, is decorated with a collection of botanical prints and paintings—candleholders and a tea set perched atop another of the couple's antique commode in inlaid wood. At the centre of the room is a long *balayong* and *narra* dining table. It is here where their young family often indulge in home-cooked meals including tasty Korean dishes—a speciality of the household. On the day of *Philippine Tatler Homes*' visit, the table is set in a neutral palette—black, white, beige, and silver—but quirky little details like red hot chilli pepper chopstick rests and bright floral bouquets keep it youthful.

The kitchen features a stove and oven enclosed in an eye-catching case of bricks. Lined with vibrant yellow and green Machuca tiles, it is here where the lady of the house contributes most of her homemaking touches. "Now we actually enjoy eating in instead of eating out all the time," she quips.



**(FROM TOP)**

The dining room features a solid *balayong* and *narra* table; in the charming kitchen, a modern oven is encased in bricks; a spread of Korean fare, the speciality of the house, includes fish cakes, spring rolls, and smoked duck

**(THIS PAGE)**  
Floral bouquets brighten the table that is set in neutral palettes







**(CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT)** The patio where the couple likes to entertain, looks out to a lush landscape; black and white checkered flooring leads to the staircase; a sterling silver tea set sits atop an antique commode in the dining room; the botanical painting is by Dindon Cordova

**(OPPOSITE PAGE)** At the heart of the home is a Spanish-inspired courtyard





*Built over a span of four years, the house exudes the charm of a classic Spanish-Filipino home*



**(FROM LEFT)** Immaculately white tiles and rich wooden hues give the powder room a timeless appeal; pretty hand-painted walls adorn the nursery

**(OPPOSITE PAGE)** A door opens to the pretty guest room, with its cool green hues and traditional wooden shutters



On the second level, the nursery is a sight to behold: light pink walls with hand-painted branches and flowers in pastel tones, curtains in a variant of the rosy colour, and an heirloom white wrought-iron crib with a canopy of sheer white fabric, all coming together in one bedroom fit for the young couple's princess.

It is in the *lanai* where the owner, who has been working from home since the arrival of their daughter, enjoys spending time the most. "It offers such a nice opportunity for us to spend quality time outdoors in comfort," she says. Her husband, who is a businessman, leaves early for work daily but is able to come home regularly in between meetings as the office is just nearby.

The *lanai*, their favourite area in the house, overlooks a lush garden. A field of carabao grass stretches until the edge of the property where it meets a generous landscape of native flowering trees, ferns, palms, and stag horns. Converging with some of the age-old trees from the church nextdoor, the landscape forms a natural fence surrounding the breezy space. An inviting

medium-sized brick-rimmed rectangular pool is tucked away into the cascading shades of green. The expanse is the perfect playground for the sprightly family dog, which who enjoys running around the breezy space.

The couple like to host gatherings with relatives in the outdoor space, often serving refreshing cocktails such as sangria and Limon Basilica slush—a signature family recipe.

Entering this charming home, one is immediately immersed in the affectionate atmosphere brought out by its residents. Talking about the many art pieces and antiques that give the space their personal touch, the owners are keeping their eyes peeled for more elements to complete their collection. "It's an ongoing work in progress and labour of love," says the wife.

The young couple is content in this beautiful residence, but now they are constantly building it as a loving sanctuary for their family. One can only be inspired to think about all the memories yet to be created in their dream home. 🏡