

# HOME & DECOR SINGAPORE

**EXCLUSIVE**

**DJ Maddy  
Barber's cosy  
terrace crib**

**WHY PAY  
MORE FOR  
DESIGNER  
SWITCHES**

## STYLE UP YOUR SPACE

**EXPERT TIPS ON  
DISPLAYING ART**

**TRENDING LOOKS FOR  
SUBTLE LUXE APPEAL**

**GUIDE TO BUYING  
FURNITURE ICONS**

APR 2021







## A MODERNIST HAVEN

Inspired by the 19th-century farmhouse, this one-storey landed property in Israel is a minimalist dream come true. ASIHJENIE finds out more.

The pool is a neat continuation of 'the shed's' axis. It cools the air that flows inside the house.





Located at the strip of coastal plain close to the Mediterranean Sea, this home in Israel by Henkin Shavit Design Studio is a sleek, modernist take of the traditional 19th-century farmhouse. The single-storey, 375 sq m home sits on a 0.5-acre plot of land (approximately 2,023 sq m). Architects Irit Henkin and Zohar Shavit, who founded their eponymous studio in 2005, took inspiration from the surrounding farms for the design of the house.

The traditional coastal

Mediterranean farm comprises a constellation of residential buildings inhabited by landlords and their employees. Scattered throughout the farmland, these buildings feature diverse styles and materials depending on the importance. The house is home to a couple and their two adult daughters; each family member needs a private space to retreat, as well as communal areas for quality time together. Irit and Zohar catered to this brief by creating a home that comprises three parts: two rectangular main volumes connected by a

strip of lighter structure dubbed as 'the shed'.

One of the most challenging parts of the design is the site's shape, which is long, narrow and sloping. Most farmhouses near the area are located in larger plots that allow large windows overlooking the surrounding landscape. For this project, the architects must find a way to retain privacy while bringing in the landscape, natural light and air. Irit and Zohar drew the right proportion for the building volumes by plotting the buildable area as if they were



**ABOVE**  
The main entrance is an oversize pivot door that opens up to frame the view beyond.

**LEFT**  
Populated with iconic furniture pieces, 'the shed' contains the house's communal spaces.

**OPPOSITE**  
A courtyard occupied by an existing olive tree separates the master suite from the daughters' bedrooms.





**ONE OF THE MOST CHALLENGING PARTS OF THE DESIGN IS THE SITE'S SHAPE, WHICH IS LONG, NARROW AND SLOPING. THE ARCHITECTS DREW THE RIGHT PROPORTION BY PLOTTING THE BUILDABLE AREA AS IF THEY WERE FARMERS PLOUGHING THE LAND, DIVIDING IT NEATLY INTO STRIPS.**



farmers ploughing the land, dividing it neatly into strips.

Adhering to farmhouse typology, the volumes are kept as single-storey structures that are oriented inwards. The house's two main volumes feature all white-washed interior, concrete flooring and pitched ceilings with exposed structure. The shed connecting these two volumes is constructed from lighter materials, featuring timber cladding, timber flooring, and skylights that wrap around its perimeter. According to the architects, the idea of 'the shed' came from the humble sheds used by farmers to store agricultural produce or park various farming machines like ▶



**TOP**  
The neat, modernist form of the architectural shell creates a peekabo spatial framing.

**LEFT**  
The kitchen overlooking the pool sports cabinets with a dark finish.

**OPPOSITE**  
The dining room's timber finish and Moooi's Heracleum Endless chandelier frame the view to the kitchen.



tractors, harvesting machines and sowing machines.

Open to both the garden and the backyard pool, the house's shed serves as the main feature of the house, housing the living and dining area decked with iconic designer furniture, including Cassina's Utrecht armchairs and Vico sofa, Moooi's Heracleum Endless chandelier, Tom Dixon's Bell floor lamp, and Glas Italia's Atlantis coffee table.

The volume closest to the site's entrance houses the public and semi-public spaces, including a doctor's consultation clinic and waiting room, a guest room, and the kitchen. Meanwhile, the innermost volume contains the parents' master suite and the daughter's living quarters, the former is separated from the latter by a courtyard occupied by an existing olive tree. The daughters' bedrooms are sparsely furnished, featuring only key pieces like Bonaldo's Squaring Isola bed and Pianca's Dedalo side table. The main features in these bedrooms are the windows, which are strategically placed to best frame the vista outside.

The master suite, which comprises the master bedroom, master bathroom and the walk-in-wardrobe, is also sparsely furnished. Its few choice furniture, including some vintage timber dresser and Moorish rugs, stand out



**ABOVE**  
The door opens up to the ramp leading to the gate.

**LEFT**  
A corridor branching to the walk-in wardrobe and the master bathroom.

**OPPOSITE**  
View to the courtyard from the master bedroom.







against its high ceiling and all-white walls. The only luxury concession is a timber decking that juts out to the garden from the master bathroom, culminating in a circular whirlpool just for the parents.

The backyard is the designated area for entertaining and hosting, featuring a pool whose size rivals the house's main volume and a sheltered dining area. This large pool cools the air that flows on its surface into 'the shed', providing fresh air for the inhabitants. Simple in its execution and stark in its articulation, this modern farmhouse is a sleek, minimalist reimagining of a traditional typology that is more than the sum of its parts. ■

**ABOVE**  
View of the outdoor entertaining area from the pool.

**TOP LEFT**  
Moroso's My Moon My Mirror artwork complemented the view to the pool.

**LEFT**  
The pedestrian access to the house is lined with trees, providing shades and privacy.

**OPPOSITE**  
The sparsely furnished bedroom highlights the architecture and the view outside.