Barefoot Luxury

Shermaine Maena Ong of Mosh Interior reveals how you can transform your balcony into a relaxing urban oasis



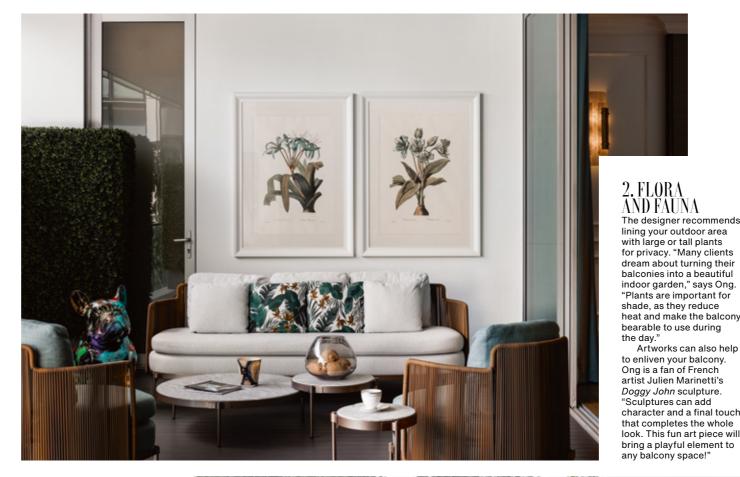
This page: Shermaine Maena Ong, founder of Mosh Interior; the B&B Italia Tobi-Ishi outdoor table by Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, available at Space Furniture

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: A balcony designed by Mosh Interior featuring a sculpture by Julien Marinetti; daybeds upholstered in outdoor fabrics from Sunbrella; Kartell Audrey chair by Piero Lissoni, and B&B Italia Fat-Sofa and Husk armchairs by Patricia Urquiola, all from Space urniture; Capri candle from Tod's; Beosound 1 speaker, from Bang & Olufsen

"I have two rules of thumb when I design: the first is understanding the proportions of a space and how the right furniture can fit within it. The second is about attaining a well-balanced design: layering colours, textures and shapes together for the best results," says Shermaine Maena Ong, founder of Mosh Interior. These principles can be applied to balconies, too. A well-designed balcony can inject elements of the outdoors into your interior; an especially desirable quality when you're spending more time at home.

There are numerous reasons to make the balcony more than just an afterthought in your abode. "Balconies can become an extension of the living room," says Ong. "You can install a bar counter with high stools that can double as a working area as well as a space where you can entertain your guests."

She advises selecting weatherproof pieces that combine style and durability, so your furnishings will be able to withstand sudden rainstorms as well as hot and sunny days. "The rain and the sun are always factors that affect semi-outdoor spaces. Good-quality materials such as Sunbrella outdoor fabrics will help to mitigate these issues." Here, the designer shares more tips for transforming your outdoor space into a stylish haven.



balconies into a beautiful indoor garden," says Ong "Plants are important for shade, as they reduce

Artworks can also help

3. GOING OUTDOORS a spacious outdoor area can consider turning it into an alfresco-style zone for cheerful, casua meals. Ong recommends using the versatile Kartell Audrey chairs by Piero Lissoni in such an arrangement, as "the minimalist white chairs will complete your table

Creating the right mood is also important—the designer suggests scented candles and soft lighting to bring a calming feel to your balcony. She adds: "Wall lights and candles play a big role when it comes to crafting a relaxed

bedrooms into cosy areas for meditation or reading with the right furniture. Ong highlights the B&B Italia Husk armchair (left) and Fat-Sofa couch below), both designed by Patricia Urquiola These furnishings feature rounded proportions. offering comfort and style in equal measure. Ong particularly admires the capitonné design of the Husk armchairs. "The plush upholstery is a plus point; it looks quite different from the typical outdoor furniture.



5. MOVE TO THE BEAT

Don't forget the impact the right tunes can make: a wireless speaker will allow you to stream your favourite songs as you unwind, elevating the idyllic atmosphere of your balcony Among Ong's top picks is this stylish speaker: "The Bang & Olufsen Beosound 1 speaker has a sleek design that blends in with any



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