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Comfort Zone

Nestled in the serene sanctuary of Mount Sinai Lane, the Glentrees brings nature right into residents' homes.

By **Valerie Chew**

Glentrees brings the beauty and tranquillity of nature to your doorstep

AD

*The inviting swimming pool
offers a cool respite*



With the sound of water trickling and the warm rays of light filtering through the curtains, we sat on the soft rug in the living room and chatted. We are ensconced in a cosy three-storey ground floor apartment with a garden terrace.

The owner tells us that this is her favourite part of the house – and it is no wonder why. Plush brown cushions beckon invitingly from dark mustard sofas, while a glorious chandelier hangs from a high ceiling. From where we were, a generous view of the garden stood on display.

“What really attracted me to this particular unit is the wall in the garden,” Lilian tells us. “I had the idea to use it as a water feature so as to bring the outside in. The garden ties in with the overall greenery of the place and with this mirror we have in the living room, the garden is literally brought into the home.”

Indeed, this was the idyllic vision for residents at the Glentrees: for every one- two- or three-storey unit to have a private garden balcony or garden terrace that integrates with the lush natural landscape. Big on nature, the Glentrees boasts a garden variety of trees sprawled across the compound, with everything from eucalyptus to bamboo. Elsewhere, the landscape is a bucolic picture of regal tall oaks, hardy Australian brush, and stone paths; even the air is fragrant with the subtle perfume wafting from pockets of pretty floral bushes. Together with alluring water elements and other stone-inspired design structures, the entire residence exudes a sense of peace.

Glentrees is the first condominium development in Singapore to offer a private garden for every unit. With this unprecedented concept, garden enthusiasts are given a great canvas to showcase their creativity: these gardens can be fitted with ponds, timber



The garden terrace, a perfect place to chill out

decking or tufting with tropical plants. The owner's garden alone has a wall with cascading water, beautiful plants and timber flooring. The overall ambience is one of sheer tranquillity.

"I like the greenery and the idea of a ground floor. This place makes you feel as if you're staying on a landed property, without the hassle that comes with up-keeping one," she says.

This point rings true, for not only do residents enjoy a garden of their own, they also have the convenience of a private car park. Add to this the many amenities that come with condominium living: gym, lap pool, children's pool, games court, function room and even a jacuzzi tucked away in a secluded corner surrounded by bamboo trees. There are even designated gardeners to care for the many themed gardens (Secret Garden, Bamboo Maze, Misty Rock Garden, Water Garden) around the Glentrees.

Glentrees' unique back-to-nature concept has not gone unnoticed, in fact, it's been lauded with a clutch of awards. These include Best Development (Singapore) Category, International Property Award 2006; SIA Design Awards (Residential Projects), Singapore Institute of Architects; ULI 2006 Awards for Excellence: Asia Pacific, Urban Land Institute; and Gold Award, SILA Professional Design Awards 2006, Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects.

What I also like about the place is the double volume: the high ceilings, together with the tall glass windows make the place very welcoming. Every floor is very bright. The whole house receives natural lighting because of the glass.



The jacuzzi is tucked away in a cosy corner surrounded by bamboo trees

A high ceiling and lots of glass lure in plenty of warm, natural lighting into the elegant living room

Another unique feature of the Glentrees is glass. The windows of the homes, the elevators that lead to the private underground car parks, and even the lift that brings residents from the swimming pool to the gym, are all made of glass. This lends an expansive view of the lush greenery outside and creates a sense of spaciousness. "What I also like about the place is the double volume: the high ceilings, together with the tall glass windows make the place very welcoming," adds the owner. "Every floor is very bright. The whole house receives natural lighting because of the glass." Even in the

basement, light shines through from another garden balcony fitted with glass parapets. In fact, this is the haven of the owner's daughter – the entire floor is hers.

The room is awash with bold, glamorous shades of purple and silver, right down to the cupboards, with framed portraits of the teenager gracing the walls. "The reason my daughter insisted on this place is because she can have her own room and her own entertainment area. From the colours to the design, they're all her ideas. And in a way, it's pretty much self-contained," she says. "Her



*The perfect combination:
a comfy sofa and a garden view*



*A teenager's basement
haven filled with
personal touches*

friends love to come over and they will just hang out to watch movies and chill."

One area where the family enjoys gathering is the study room on the third floor – often you'll find mother and daughter chatting while the latter is on the computer. The master bedroom, also found here, is immaculate – luxurious sheets spread across the bed while a sleek entertainment set lies concealed behind sliding panels. The other room on this floor, also known as the 'multi-purpose room', acts as a gym as well as a music room, containing both a treadmill and an impressive drum-set, which her daughter plays.

Elsewhere, exotic wall hangings and ceramic vases on the third floor suggest an oriental touch, offset by elegant chandeliers and alabaster lamps on the ground floor, which together create an ambience that is both cosy and cheerful. An effect which the owner had hoped to achieve.

"I wanted a home where people would feel at ease; a home that is stunning, but not imposing like a show-room. In my previous house, my friend actually asked if she could sit on my sofa! I didn't want this present home to give people that feeling so I opted for a more soothing feel."

To give that sense of serenity, muted colours are used liberally: walls are splashed in beige complemented by earth-tone furniture. Here and there, bright decorative items add colour to the place. It's especially mesmerising at night, with the warm lights dancing from the lamps and chandeliers, and the cool breeze breathing through the

windows. From the lush exterior and the soothing garden balconies to the comfy interior, it's a harmonious flow in and around the home.

"I wanted a house which, after stepping in, you don't want to leave," she says. And that's exactly how it felt when we reluctantly put on our shoes and said goodbye. ■



*The study room
is a favourite family
gathering place*