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the people issue

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Presenter of HD Expo, a hospitalitydesign event

hd Presenter of  
**expo+**  
**conference**



### **Fang Low, Founder and CEO Figment**

Some ideas take time to germinate while others reveal themselves immediately. Within 45 minutes of touring the site, Ministry of Design's (MOD) founder and director Colin Seah knew exactly how he wanted to convert a former Singapore shophouse into Canvas House. His inspired idea for the co-living space was to blanket the entire 3,800-square-foot interior in white.

Guests, Seah says, should see the space as a blank canvas for their personal journeys within it. "We can imagine they will live out the drama of daily life and begin to fill their suites with more personal elements and belongings," he explains. "The canvas is meant to be just the beginning and provide a backdrop for the future."

The three-story building and roof garden is the family home of Fang Low, founder and CEO of Figment and developer of a collection of intimate co-living homes in Singapore that includes Canvas House. Growing up in a shophouse in the Tanjong Pagar area, "having my home be plugged right in a vibrant neighborhood was something really special for me," Low says. He established Figment in response to the cookie-cutter new developments that greeted him upon returning to his native Singapore after studying and working in the U.S. "I wanted to facilitate more meaningful face-to-face interactions," he says. "I truly believe that community starts from home."

While the pandemic has temporarily paused Figment's expansion plans, Low is now looking at ways to transform the common areas of his 12 houses into coworking spaces. "It was never our intention to create an adult-style dorm," he says, noting each house maintains a comfortable density that never goes beyond six individuals.

"Figment is doing something innovative with its boutique co-living concept," he says. "We remain committed to curating homes that have a sense of place and offer a refreshing take on city living that celebrates Singapore's local art and built heritage."

A historic Singapore shophouse was overhauled into co-living concept Canvas House

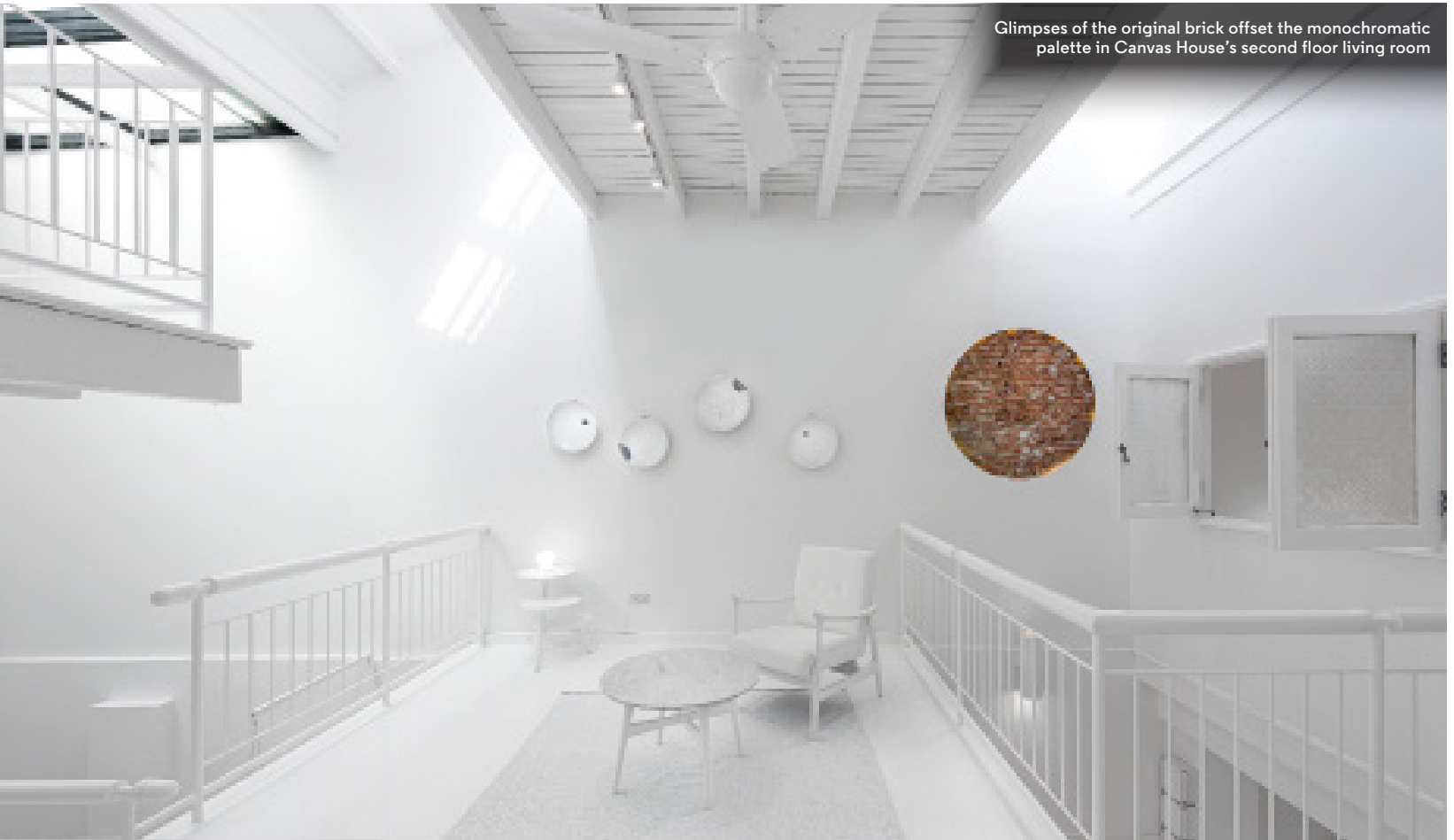




Canvas House is entirely wrapped in white, from the staircase to the floors and the walls



Part of the wood floor is left exposed in Canvas House suites



Glimpses of the original brick offset the monochromatic palette in Canvas House's second floor living room

Photos by EDWARD HENDRICKS OF CISA PHOTOGRAPHY