



UrbaneSpaces, a new boutique real estate outfit, distinguishes itself through its design-centric approach. Catering to a design conscious crowd and with a tagline of 'Unique Properties for the Aesthete', UrbaneSpaces seeks to present properties with that extra edge- the ubiquitous shophouse façade belying ultra-modern loft-like interiors, the black and white colonial bungalow restored to its original splendour, sleek pied a terres for the urban sophisticate and the modern tropical bungalows versed in the kind of neo tropical language that is forming the vernacular of Singapore's architectural vanguard today.

The commentary on the UrbaneSpaces website is sharp and opinionated:

"A maisonette frequently recalls images of grand Doric columns, petit bourgeois furniture and imposing chandeliers..." and not uncritical, with a commentary on the relevance of colonial architecture in post colonial times. The company seal, imprinted in sealing wax on the back of every promotional folder sent out by UrbaneSpaces is a cheeky 'urbanites uber-alles', a playful allusion both to the original wax seals of royals and the first stanza of the National Anthem of Germany- the now unsung, 'Deutschland, Deutschland uber alles'. Leaning towards the political, the eccentric merging of the political and the commercial continues in the website editorials. The preservation of black and white houses has been critiqued as a form of neo-colonialism and, while modern design is appreciated, the reviews for modern interiors in a conservation property are especially conflicted, with expressions of reservation about the discordant note struck in creating an ultra-modern space that belongs more in downtown Manhattan than the original Peranakan dwelling. There is concern and hesitation as to the possibility of obscured genealogy, of having a 'conservation effort so thwarted'.

Overall, UrbaneSpaces adopts the frank(albeit a tad politicized), insider approach that luxury boutique travel guides have taken with design hotels and destinations- there are recommendations on the best facings for units in different developments, comments on the atmosphere for most developments and residential neighbourhoods and opinions on the practicalities and quality of the design and finishes of the properties featured.

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