

Case Study: Contemporary Tropical Design for the Screened House

The main architectural feature of this terrace house proves that practical design can be visually stunning, too



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To the uninitiated, this minimalist terrace house may seem like a simple, three-storey house with two windows. However, there is more than meets the eye. Upon closer inspection, the facade of the house is clad with full-height, powder-coated aluminium screens which, seen together with the bare concrete elements, give off a cool, mysterious vibe.



The 3,500 sqft home was designed by Robert Cheng of Brewin Design Office, and it won the Gold award of the IDCS (Interior Design Confederation - Singapore) Design Excellence Awards for Residential Design.

The use of the screens on the facade of the house may be aesthetically unique, but there are practical reasons behind it.

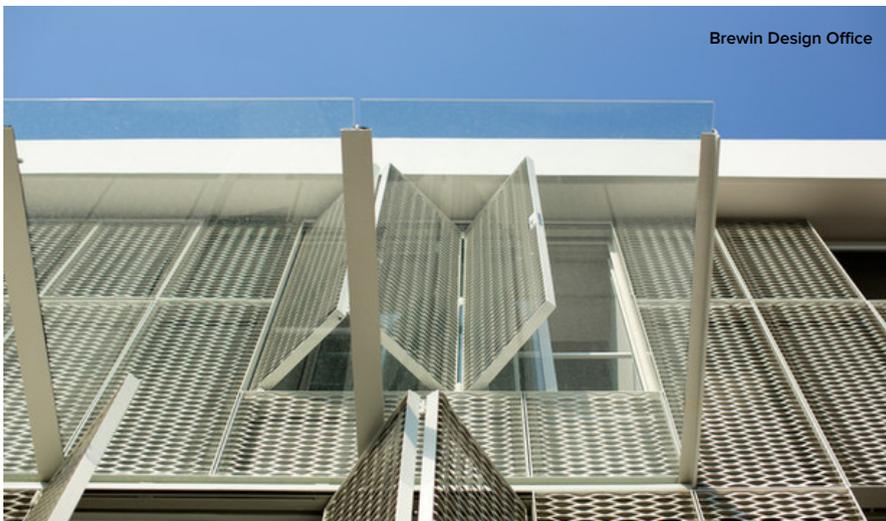
Passive Cooling

When windows are opened on both ends of the home, the screens promote a consistent wind flow throughout all the interior spaces.

Natural light

The full-height windows on both ends keep the home bright and well-ventilated. The screens also filter natural light into the house, negating the need for any other type of window treatment.

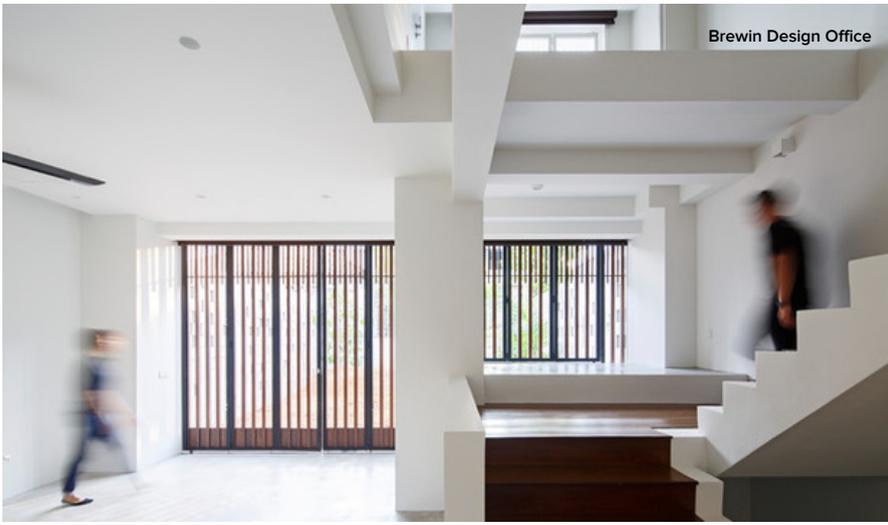
This is perfect for a terrace house as the windows are only found in the front and back of the home, rather than on all sides of the house.



The metal screens, with their lattice-like pattern, may seem difficult to clean, but much thought has been put into the installation and maintenance of the screens.

Low-maintenance

“The screens are mounted with an air gap of 20 cm from the wall, to make accessing the back of the screens from any window easy. Also, because the metal is a powder-coated aluminium, hosing it down from the front is also an alternative,” explains interior architect, Robert Cheng.



Brewin Design Office

Privacy

The open concept throughout the house is juxtaposed with the use of the screens on the exterior, which conceal the house like a box and provide privacy to the homeowners inside, from curious passers-by.



Brewin Design Office

At the back of the house is a well-manicured lawn and lush green bushes. This is almost a stark contrast from the entrance, which features more concrete. Here, the ground-floor screen by the garden, is made of timber, lending a warm touch to this outdoor space.

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