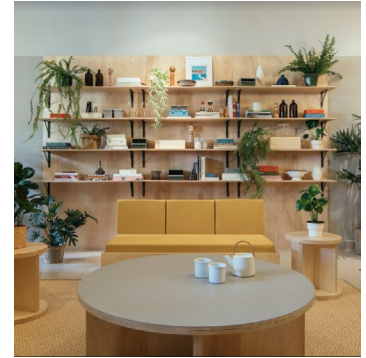


The logo for Figment, featuring the word "figment" in a lowercase, serif font, centered within a solid teal rectangular background.

## FIGMENT ADDS NEW HOMES IN JOO CHIAT TO CASE STUDY HOMES SERIES



Since the launch of their first flagship properties in February, Figment has been making its name as a champion of shophouse living and local craftsmanship. This November, Figment revealed its latest additions, MONOCOT HOUSE & DICOT HOUSE, in the diverse and quirky neighbourhood of Joo Chiat.

For the redesign Figment reached out Mikael Teh of Monocot Studio to transform the two conservation shophouses on Tembeling Road and adapt them for shared living. The architecturally trained spatial designer, who has worked on notable projects including Singapore's National Gallery, founded Monocot Studio in 2009. In the ten years since its inception, Mikael's clean-lined and unpretentious aesthetic has won his Studio both recognition and countless clients from all over the region.

The two shophouses, which bookend a row of five adjoining terraces, share similar dimensions and layouts. Each shophouse stands at around 3,250sq ft and holds six bedrooms - two on the first floor, and the other four on the second floor. In adapting the shophouses for co-living, a communal area was created on the first floor for residents to mingle in.

With Mikael's signature modernist-inspired touch, the lofty interiors of the shophouses' communal areas, 12 rooms and suites, are stylised with two-toned walls, custom furniture, and curated Nordic-inspired fixtures and plush French linen bedding. The floral inspiration of the shophouses' names - Monocot and Dicot refer to the two main groups of flowering plants - also extend to the suites, which are named Magnolia, Begonia, Palm, and more.

In the myriad custom furnishings that decorate the houses, Mikael showcases his characteristic partiality for pared-down textures like unfinished plywood, raw concrete and unpolished steel.

## **Communal space**

The communal space on the first floor has two distinct areas: a lounge area and a kitchen. Set closer to the entrance, the lounge area is filled with plush sofas, coffee tables and bar stools that make the space perfect for leisurely conversation and work alike. Just beyond is the kitchen, fully functional and neatly contained in a monolithic unit that Mikael designed to hold all the necessary kitchen and laundry appliances.

## **Suites**

Not one to shy from using colour, Mikael had the walls half-dressed in tones from his signature palette of navy, burnt orange, forest green and sky blue. Like the communal space, plywood is a recurring motif that can be found in the custom bed frames, side tables and wall-mounted open shelves. The open shelves, which are height-adjustable, were so designed to invite residents to display their personal knick-knacks to make their suites feel as much like their own home.

## **Neighbourhood of Joo Chiat**

Like the rest of Figment's shophouses, the neighbourhood in which MONOCOT HOUSE and DICOT HOUSE are found is a rich and storied one. Joo Chiat is both a food lover and culture vulture's paradise. Abutting Tembeling Road, Joo Chiat Lane is lined with famous local fare like Ah Yee's Soon Kueh, Kim Choo Kueh Chang and Joo Chiat Lane Fried Kway Teow. Walk a little further and one will discover other firm favourites such as Katong Laksa, Quentin's Eurasian restaurant and hipster joints such as Sinpopo and Forty Hands.

A slew of cultural attractions are also just a stone's throw away, including Peranakan home-museum The Intan, Hindu place of worship Sri Senpaga Vinayagar Temple, and for a great photo backdrop for the 'gram, the colourful shophouses on Koon Seng Road.

Appealing to locals and visitors alike, MONOCOT HOUSE and DICOT HOUSE are refreshing additions to Figment's flagship Case Study Homes.



## ABOUT CASE STUDY HOMES

Case Study Homes are the flagship properties in Figment's repertoire that have been extensively reimagined by a local designer for modern co-living. Each designer is commissioned to create distinctive interiors and furnishings that respond to the unique heritage of these historic buildings. The latest additions of MONOCOT HOUSE and DICOT HOUSE bring the present number of Case Study Homes to five.

The first three Case Study Homes were launched in February: CANVAS HOUSE, SHANG HOUSE and STILL HOUSE.

Earliest to launch was CANVAS HOUSE, designed by Colin Seah of Ministry of Design. The concept for the three-storey shophouse in Tanjong Pagar was a blank canvas, which rendered a dramatic whitewashing of the pre-war building's interiors. Interspersed in the layer of white are momentary peeks of old timber and revealed brick exposing the shophouse's past. In erasing much of its historical bearings, it so prompts visitors and residents to similarly disentangle themselves from their pasts and invites them to dream up their futures on a white canvas.

Homegrown furniture and homeware label Scene Shang was asked to transform the second Case Study Home, a pre-war terrace house in the Balestier Conservation Area. Named SHANG HOUSE, the design team took pains to honour the location's rattan manufacturing history, weaving the material into the custom-made furniture for the house. SHANG HOUSE is also softly furnished with brass and marble as well as handcrafted porcelain vases made by Middle Kingdom kiln in Jingdezhen, China.

Studio Juju helmed the redesign for the third shophouse, STILL HOUSE on Koon Seng Road. Colour is used to delineate the private suites and communal spaces - zesty hues make for an inviting dining area to foster interaction. Each of the home's four bedrooms are distinctively designed: two contain their own private living room, while the third has a study-like chamber sporting a full-height storage shelf, and the last has a tatami lounging area.

**About Mikael Teh, Founder of Monocot Studio**

An architect in a former lifetime, Mikael once worked with award-winning architectural firms SCDA and StudioMilou before striking out on his own with Monocot Studio in 2009. The spatial designer and architectural stylist has gone on to win multiple awards for his projects, both residential and commercial, including the Loma Hotel in the Maldives.

**About Figment**

Figment turns houses into homes by working with local creatives to design full-furnished co-living suites that are inspired by the culture and heritage of the dwelling, neighbourhood, and city. Figment was founded in Singapore in 2019 by Low Fang Wei and Cai Wei Xian. As of November 2019, Figment has 15 properties in its collection.

[www.figment.live](http://www.figment.live)