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NEIGHBORS

Timely Wonder

Interior designer Rock Robins completes a full-on renovation in under three weeks

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The living room is characterized by clean lines by way of sleek and modern furniture pieces and shelving systems **Inset**: The design team retained the existing overhead cabinets in the kitchen, but added a geometric tile backsplash **Below:** "We added *faux* mirrors by the dining area to magnify the small dining space," explains the designer

or interior designers, renovation projects can be utterly unpredictable. While most home renovations take between four to twelve months to finish, it all boils down to how big the space is or what the renovation entails. Interior designer Rock Robins recently met his most challenging client yet, whose request was to renovate a 64sqm unit in Makati in only three weeks.

The client is an expatriate from a neighboring Southeast Asian country who currently has business dealings here in Manila. He chose to live in a condo unit in the meantime, where he can enjoy both security and convenience. Before the client settled in Manila, he reached out to Rock through his website for help in the renovation of his unit.





"Time was our biggest challenge. We only had three weeks to finish everything from design to execution."

Beside the living room is a wood and metal dresser which the client requested. The design team added a reading nook on the side to maximize the bedroom floor space **Opposite page**: The master bedroom maintains a neutral color scheme of browns and grays. The geometric wallpaper adds texture to the space

"Time was our biggest challenge. We only had three weeks to finish everything from design to execution," shares Rock. "That time frame already included creating design perspectives, coordinating with suppliers, sourcing the items, and construction." With a blank canvas to work on, the design team proceeded with the renovation following the client's wishes. The unit owner wanted to have a Singapore Modern design style, which the designer describes as a sophisticated look characterized by clean lines and a mixture of cool and tan shades. "We really wanted to do something modern yet homey," states Rock. "However, the timeline for move in for this condo prevented us from doing major construction." For the unit, Rock's design team was able to make minor upgrades such as adding textured wallpaper in the living area and bedroom, and incorporating a tile backsplash in the kitchen.

Since the team was limited by time, they sought out furniture pieces that were readily available in the market. However, they could not find some of the items that would fit in with the theme they wanted to achieve. "We couldn't find the specific size and design we wanted for the sofa and dining table. Luckily, with the help of furniture manufacturer Casa De Dios, the pieces were made ready in just two weeks," he shares.

The client also required a small office space, which the team built by the living room. For the bedroom, the client only requested for blackout curtains as he is mostly asleep during daytime.



After three weeks of rushing the renovation, the blank unit was transformed into the modern contemporary space the client wanted. Rock's design team used a lot of neutrals and geometric patterns to reflect the client's masculine personality. "He was very happy with the design. So he put his complete trust in my design studio to execute it and I'm happy we were able to deliver," Rock says.

"I would never have thought I'd be able to finish a unit like this in three weeks. But the client had the right budget, so we were able to speed up all the processes. So if you want to move in faster, you must be willing to pay for it," concludes Rock. Thanks to the design team's efforts, the client was able to move into his temporary home in the metro right away with every single thing in his design wish list achieved. •

