

The Zimmerman home spreads out horizontally, creating an illusion of space and lightness



Cathy Griffin

SPACE: Paul Zimmerman, below, was impressed with the high ceilings in the MacDonnell Road apartment, but almost everything else was revamped, including glass doors, such as these leading to the kitchen, bottom right. Photos: C Y Yu

on the 15th floor of a MacDonnell Road apartment block, overlooking sea, vertical view of opposite towers and other things. Inside, however, is a suit to everything be windows.

the one-metre wide entry to the glass walls and cupboards, this flat fit, rather than up. Even the walls have been changed to a horizontal frame to the view.

As we set out, our concept was light and space. Everything had to be floating," Paul Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman and his wife, Margaret, bought the flat in 1998 after years of renting and million to turn what was a warren of corridors and rooms, into a rambling

checked out all the non- walls and hired architect to look after the detail. The result received an mention in the magazine of the Asia-Pacific Design Awards this

entrance area alone there 12 doors chopping up the flat. These were pared just the kitchen door, it is possible to see the "bed" at the opposite of the 2,500-square-foot

lights and stainless steel, wood and sparse furnished to create an open

ishings sound a bit con- pany, Carthimer Asia, communications pro- as annual reports and imitations for the hand- its at Tamuz, and they t be able to see home

Afloat in their own spacious world



They also wanted a home with character. They were impressed by the high ceilings of their block and especially the large kitchen.

"We do a lot of entertaining and this place gives us different areas to entertain in - the kitchen,

entrance door is made of glass etched with big smoky circles. The kitchen is completely fitted out and hanging cupboards do not touch the side walls or ceiling to give the appearance they are floating.

The bar and stools sit at the



its stone floor and glass and wood railing.

The sliding glass doors that lead in to it stop about half a metre below the high ceilings and extend the length of the living room wall, giving a stretched-out, hori-

spill into each other and are free of clutter. Built-in drawers hang about half a metre off the ground and two large stuffed sofas stand on thin legs to continue the floating illusion.

A structural wall cuts off the

ends in open space and is hung with large, dramatic paper clay pictures by Gerrit Knebel, former general manager of the Grand Hotel who quit to become a full-time artist.

The Zimmermans were able to keep their home clutter-free because they brought little with them. A traditional Chinese bed in the study-guest room off the dining area - a room with a glass wall and curtain for privacy - is one of the few prominent pieces from their previous home.

"We just packed our suitcases, three or four pieces of furniture and part of the stereo. Everything else, like the furniture, bathroom, kitchen fittings, were designed by the architect," Mr Zimmerman said.

Even the chest of drawers in the master bedroom was designed to fit in with the overall look of the flat, with a glass top, stainless steel and wood. The walk-in closet is open-ended, created by installing a wall behind the bed and hanging clothes on either side.

As befits a flat that looks ultra-modern, new technology was incorporated into the plan. In the en-suite bathroom - decorated with a slate floor and a shower area built in the path next to the bathtub - music can be piped in at the touch of a button through an integrated music system.

A fibre optics system also has been installed, connecting all rooms to a central unit. Should they want to sign up for something like interactive television, the connection only has to be made to that unit, rather than each room or television.

"With new technology, you never know what's going to happen, what wires will be coming in. Now, we have spare capacity in all the rooms, you just pull through what you need and everything hooks up to a central unit," Mr Zimmerman said.

He is also hooked up to his office and if his sons are too noisy, they can play in their room and a sliding door can be pulled across the hall leading to the two bedrooms to act as a noise buffer. This had been especially useful when they entertained, he said.

"There's nothing more fun than creating your own space. It took six months to produce it, get ownership of the space and put everything into place," he said. "It