



**A DRINK WITH...
CHERIN TAN**

Inspired by the stories of her clients, the interior designer redefines business and living spaces with unique emotive designs

THE PERANAKAN-TILED FLOORS, DARK WOOD furnishings, Jazz Age-style pendant lights and pops of deep emerald have become an instantly recognisable aesthetic of all Violet Oon Singapore restaurants. The brains behind the iconic look is Cherin Tan, co-founder and creative director of boutique interior architecture firm, Laank. She conceptualised the design after months of visiting the veteran chef's home, listening to her stories and flipping through old photo albums.

"I try to understand my clients by getting to know them on a personal level—their hopes and experiences. That way, I can better relate to and translate their expectations [into design]," explains the Generation T 2018 honouree, who studied interior architecture at Curtin University and cut her teeth at architectural, design and furniture agencies such as Woha, Asylum and WTP – The Furniture Company.

Cherin's artistic vision was recognised when National Kitchen by Violet Oon scored gold in the AkzoNobel Colour Award category at the Interior Design Confederation Singapore's Design Excellence Awards 2017. Her five-year-old firm has since designed such establishments as The Marmalade Pantry in Ion Orchard and The Boathouse Phuket in Thailand. She is currently working on a new upcycled furniture line, slated to launch by year end, with good friend and artist, Alvin Tan of Phunk Studio. 📍

GEN.T

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INSIDE OUT

"I'm a typical Taurus: strong-willed, stubborn and fiercely loyal—maybe too much for my own good. My friends sometimes describe me as an Amazonian woman—physically and mentally strong. By contrast, my husband once told me that I have this other side that's emotional, soft and introverted—he's also right!"

DEFINING MOMENT

"I never thought of setting up my own design firm, but my aha moment came when I was working at Asylum. Founder and creative director Chris Lee showed me how design is not limited by boundaries and taught me to connect it back to the client in an innovative and considered manner, instead of purely for a functional reason."

**CHERIN SAYS...
CREATIVES I ADMIRE...**

Jaime Hayon and Kelly Wearstler, who are both doing crazily beautiful work.

MY FAVOURITE WORD...

Hedonism, because it's simply about pursuing your own happiness.

MY FAVOURITE DRINK...

An Old Fashioned or Martell on the Rocks.

A SPACE I WOULD LOVE TO DESIGN...

A religious space, which when designed well, can be transformative.



BUILT TO LAST

"At Laank, all that we do must have an intrinsic value for our clients, ourselves and the larger community. Interiors are where we make memories, so my job is to make the experience memorable. We're driven to create spaces based on how we move, feel and live."

LOCAL MOTION

"My new line of upcycled furniture means a lot to me because we'll be repurposing waste and unwanted materials into one-of-a-kind tables, chairs, floor lamps, jewellery boxes and the like."

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