It's the people, not the space

FOR the average working individual in Singapore, a palatial bungalow is hardly a realistic investment.

The majority of our population lives in subsidised housing – arrangements which come with an extensive list of rules. The best consolation is that these restrictions at least come with an increasing structural attractiveness of HDB flats.

But it is a shame when practical functions of a residential community are compromised for new designs. Minimalist rain shelters do little to shield residents from torrential downpours native to Singapore.

Roof-top gardens intended for additional aesthetic value become every resident’s nightmare when perpetual neglect turns them into potential mosquito-breeding grounds.

The price premium undoubtedly comes with a degree of exclusivity. But it is possible to attain unique housing accommodation sans the hefty price tag for superficial exteriors.

In many other cities such as Hong Kong or New York, space is equally scarce, and clustered living is a must. But living in a shoebox is not impossible with a few great interior design ideas.

In the end, it’s the people you live with that make a house your home.

Alicia Ng, 23, is a final-year accountancy student at the Singapore Management University