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4 features

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What a woman wants, she gets at Eastwood City

It's refreshing to meet a woman who, even after living a couple of decades in the United States with a successful career, still considers her stay overseas as "temporary" and the Philippines as her home. Gina Santiago, an alumna of Maryknoll College, moved to the US to study in the prestigious Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and pursued her career there. She is currently a fashion production manager for Coldwater Creek apparel and based in Idaho, for now.

In one of her business trips in this part of Asia recently this month, Gina stopped for a few days in the Philippines recently to visit her family and also to see the final product of a purchase she had made in 2003—a three-bedroom unit at Eastwood Excelsior, one of property giant Megaworld Corporation's posh condominiums in Eastwood City.

As someone whose hectic business schedule requires her to travel all over the world, Gina needs her home to be calming and rejuvenating. She shares that her refuge in Idaho is surrounded by nature that lets her relax whenever she comes home. And the same goes for her new condo unit in Eastwood.

For the interior design, Gina enlisted the help of her friend, contractor and designer Jun del Rosario. "I believe in his taste. We sat down and talked about it, and I told him all about who I am and what I want in the design. He's a genius and he transformed this

into gold," she says in all conviction. "I did not really follow up on this one—we just spoke around 3 times since I had turned this over to him. I gave him all my trust. I'm really very happy about it," she remarks about the results.



Looking around the unit, it's very warm and cozy, yet has several points of interest from one room to the next. Gina's passion for wood and stone



The dining area's drop ceiling gives off warm red light - helping spread the love during family gatherings.

is incorporated seamlessly into the design. "I believe in granite and marble with the combination of wood—it gives you both warmth and coolness," she says, pointing out the marble and stones on the walls. "I like putting in Filipino products and some of the knickknacks I have picked up in my travels."

Another thing that Gina

wants is space. To maximize the floor space of the 89-square-meter unit, Jun knocked down the wall of the third bedroom and made it into a formal dining area. The room is made to appear much bigger by the im-



The third bedroom's walls were knocked down to give way to a more spacious living and dining area.



Fil-Am Gina Santiago says her Eastwood unit is a gift for her mom Paulina.

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