

SPACES *senator chiz escudero*

Gray slim fit coat (P5495) by **Topman**,
Blue and red checkered polo (P2445) by **Topman**,
Dark yellow slim fit pants (P2990) by **Zara Man**,
Brown suede loafers (P4790) by **Zara Man**

Senator Chiz Escudero proudly sits in his living room, stating that his home is energy-efficient. He installed an inverter to their appliances, including the fridge and the air conditioning units. "*At mayroon din akong binili na parang malaking voltage regulator,*" he adds. "They call it the IntelliController. *Nire-regulate niya 'yong pasok ng kuryente para walang power surges.* It saves about 10-30% of electricity, depending on the nature of consumption."

As Simple As It Gets

Senator Chiz Escudero opens up his classy Filipino-themed home

Words *Michelle Angela Carag* | Photography *John Daryl Ocampo*
Art Direction *Renee Joy Basa* | Styling *Jear de Mc Cuttac* | Styling Associate *Kat Valdez*
Grooming *Jo Chan* of *Creations Salon* | Hair *Erny Glenn* of *Creations Salon*

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Almost all of the furnishings in the senator's home was custom-made by his good friend and interior designer, Tito Estrada

LOOKING AT SENATOR CHIZ ESCUDERO, IT IS NEVER QUITE EASY TO IMAGINE HOW SOMEONE LIKE HIM MANAGES TO JUGGLE THE VARIOUS ROLES THAT HE PLAYS WHILE MAKING EVERYTHING LOOK SO EASY. But then, cliché as it may sound, his only secret is classic time management.

"My day starts at 5:30 in the morning and ends at eleven in the evening," shares the father of two. "I don't believe in sleeping eight hours a day because so much time is being wasted."

Indeed, given all the daily commitments that he has to meet—from his responsibilities as a public servant to his hosting gig in *Kris TV*, all while gearing up his preparations for the

upcoming 2013 elections—he still has all the time in the world to play with his twins, Joaquin Cruz and Maria Cecilia and watch them grow in their all-Filipino home situated in a quiet townhouse subdivision in New Manila.

An old house in the midst of the metro, every inch of its three-story structure echoes the young senator's personality. "I like to think that I am simple," he remarks. "I don't like to own a really big house because it's impractical. Everyone wants to have a big house, but when you think about it, you'll realize that it's not ideal at all because of the unnecessary expenses that come with it."

The first impression left by the plain white exterior of the house leaves one unprepared for the interiors



Senator Chiz shares that, among all the paintings in his house, the painting by Conrado Mercado is the only one he bought

The Alibata painting in dining area was crafted by Ivi Avellana-Cosio



Even though he does host dinners for guests often, Senator Chiz always tries to make it a point to share meals with his children

that await inside. Upon entering the front door, guests are immediately greeted by a flight of wooden stairs and the cool air coming from the centralized air conditioning unit. Lining up a wall are three wooden decorative masks that are reminiscent of Incan and Aztec cultures. But what commands interest the most is the wall mosaic that faces the stairs. Designed by esteemed interior designer

Tito Estrada, the floor-to-ceiling mosaic is inspired by stone rice mills.

"It is Tito who designed the whole look of the house," Senator Chiz says. "My ex-wife and I just gave him our vision and he executed it. I have always liked the look of old houses and the combination of wood and stone because it is timeless. *Kahit anong mangyari, hindi nawawala sa uso.*"

"May partner 'yan dati pero tinanggal ko na," he says with a chuckle, referring to his portrait by Rafael Popoy Kusi adorning his office wall. "That is a gift from my mom"



Beige polo shirt (P1990) by Zara Man, Maroon pants (model's own)

Above: Aside from the coffee nook by the garage, his office is his most favorite part of the house. He says, "I like hanging out in my office. But I don't do Senate work there. When I'm there, I do other types of work, like preparing for my campaign and arranging our schedules"

Left: The mural of the map of the Philippines painted on the ceiling is inspired by the dining room ceiling in the Aguinaldo Shrine. "Pinagawa ko 'yan sa UP Fine Arts students," he says

Below: Dressed as abstract wall paintings, these are actually functioning speakers that Senator Chiz bought from a friend

The new look of the interiors has truly gone a long way from the modest setup that it used to have when he and his ex-wife first moved in back in 1999. "Dati, pati itong loob, plain white lang lahat," he shares as he gestures around. "Under house rules, we were not allowed to change anything in the exteriors. Kaya lahat ng units dito magkakamukha ang hitsura ng labas."

It was five years ago when they finally decided to renovate their unit's interiors instead of pushing through with their plans of building a house in Alabang. He says, "We decided to stop paying for the lot that we





Senator Chiz plans to convert the play area into his five-year-old son Joaquin's bedroom when the twins get older

were trying to buy because we noticed *na pataas nang pataas 'yong* interest. We figured that it would take us forever to pay for it, so to be practical, we just offered the owner of this townhouse a good deal. Whatever money we set aside for building the house, we just used it to improve our townhouse. And then it was also that time *noong nabakante 'yong katabing* unit, so we bought it and then merged it with our own."

As we continue walking around the house, we notice various paintings that adorn almost every area. We ask if he is an art enthusiast.

"No," he admits. Then with a hearty laugh he adds, "*Regalo lang lahat ng paintings dito*. When it comes to painters, *hindi ko alam kung sino ang buhay pa at patay na*. It was just Tito who suggested hanging the paintings."

Among all the areas of the house, it is the living room that gives off a distinct tribal energy. Furnished with woven rattan chairs, throw pillows in dynamic patterns, a hardwood center table and a wooden chandelier with

intricate horned details, the collaboration of the different pieces celebrates the Ifugao culture. Various ethnic trinkets and accessories are also put out on display. "*Lahat ng mga ito ay rega-regalo galing sa mga pinupuntahan kong mga probinsya*," Senator Chiz tells us.

Connected to the living room is the dining area which is a far cry from the highland feel that the living room offers. Exuding a classic Filipino look, it boasts a dark wooden dining table complemented by tangerine-upholstered seats, a vintage ceiling fan, a grandfather clock and a wooden display cabinet where all their fine china are stored.

Senator Chiz then leads the team to the unexplored side of his home, which comprises the original structure before it was renovated. Striding past the pantry, he opens a set of doors that reveals a spacious room. It has a homey countryside setup that is mostly characterized by the inviting sofa, club chairs and a bookcase propped against the wall. While it resembles a



Located in the play area is a flight of stairs leading to the master bedroom and the children's bedroom

Light blue pinstriped long sleeves (P1990) by **Blue Inc.**, Gray slim fit pants (P2450) by **Blue Inc.**, Beige lace shoes (P3790) by **Zara Man**

"When I'm at home, I bond with my kids by playing with them. It's the best relaxation for me because it keeps my mind off things"

living area, the throw pillows bearing cartoon character designs, the rubber mats and the abundance of toys occupying the floors say otherwise.

"This is the twins' play area for now," he shares with a warm smile. "When I'm at home, I bond with my kids by playing with them. It's the best relaxation for me because it keeps my mind off things. Whenever there are gaps in my schedule, I make it a point to come home. I always hold my meetings in Tomas Morato *para malapit lang dito sa bahay.*"

Senator Chiz may not have the luxurious home that politicians of his calibre are almost always assumed to possess, but he still does live grand by maximizing what he has. "And besides, what I like best about this house is the fact that it's small *at dahil diyan, madali kaming magkita-kita ng mga anak ko,*" he concludes. "I always know exactly where they are." 🏠



Above: Senator Chiz could not ask for more from his home because not only does it offer convenience—being situated in the middle of everything—the security is also reliable. "The guards call first before they let anyone in," he says • (inset) *"Tunog 50s din ito,"* Senator Chiz jokes about the screeching sound coming from the antique gramophone as he demonstrates to the team how it works
Right: This area of the house serves as a bar and pantry. Opening a pantry door, he says, *"Ayan, puro pagkaing pambata ang laman"*

