

His Comfort Zone

Nelson Canlas opens up his QC refuge and explains his obsession with neutrals, clean lines and serenity

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Light blue pinstriped long sleeve top (P2990) from **Zam**
Gray slim fit pants (P1550) from **Folded and Hung**

BEING EXPOSED TO THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF THE SHOWBIZ INDUSTRY ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS HAS MADE GMA TV REPORTER, NELSON CANLAS, A COLORFUL PERSON. Onscreen, he is the vivacious reporter who adds flamboyance to the mix with his fun outfits and immense energy when interviewing celebrities. That is why first-time visitors are always surprised by the sheer calmness embodied by his Quezon City condominium unit. They often tell him, "*Parang hindi ikaw 'yong nakatira dito!*"

"Dito," of course, refers to Nelson's modest 41-square-meter unit that showcases nothing more than the union of neutrals and clean lines. "I want my place to be basic," he tells *Celebrity Living*. "I see a lot of colorful people everyday so when I come home, I want everything to be quiet. I want everything to look plain and simple. When I was trying to find a place, I kept thinking that I did not want it to look like our family house. *Kasi* you know how moms are—*marami silang tinatabing mga giveaways na galing sa mga weddings. Ayaw ko ng*

ganoon. I just want my place to be filled only with the basic things that I need."

Nelson's penchant for simplicity translated well into how he tastefully furnished his unit. The front door opens into a short hallway that leads to a pristine kitchen and into the dining and living areas. While the brick wallpaper covering the hallway makes the unit look like it is an actual New York loft, the minimalism projected by the rest of the walls painted in white perfectly plays out how Nelson wants his place to become—a true bachelor's pad.



The brick wallpaper is an actual photograph of the backstage entrance of a Broadway alley in New York City. He had to wait three months before he could have it installed in his unit because it had to be shipped all the way from the US



Nelson loves staying in the kitchen because he likes to cook

But he is quick to note that the walls now had a different whiteness when the unit was finally turned over to him. "We call it cemetery white," he says with a laugh as he refers to the bright shade of white—the color of liquid eraser—that used to cover his unit. "I didn't expect that my place would come in that color *kaya pinapalitan ko ng ibang shade ng white*."

His dining area is simply dressed with a glass top dining table that is flanked by two black stools and two modern black chairs from Dimensione. "Home-cooked meals are my specialty," he shares proudly. "That is why I love inviting friends over and cooking for them."

A beautiful large photo of the scenic nightscape of Batangas will catch any visitor's attention. Hanging

on the wall that separates the dining and sleeping areas, it adds an aesthetic element to the space. "I took that picture when we drove to Tagaytay," Nelson says, pointing at the photo. "It was Good Friday. We were in Starbucks and I walked over to the ridge and snapped a photo of the overlooking view."

Things get more interesting in his living area. The unit may be small but Nelson—with the help of his interior designer friend Jen Buluag—has made sure that his place exudes character. The area, which also doubles as his bedroom, showcases the unit's focal point, a built-in aquarium that is installed above the dividing wall between the dining and sleeping areas.

NELSON LIKES TAKING STILL SHOTS OF NATURE. HE PUTS THEM ON DISPLAY IN THE LIVING ROOM TO BRING LIFE TO HIS UNIT

"Sabi ko kay Jen gusto ko ng aquarium," he says with glee. "I told her that I wanted an aquarium that could carry the weight of two people. At first, hesitant *siya dahil masyado raw mabigat 'yon*. Kaya I told her *na bigatan nalang 'yong foundation*, which was the dividing wall."

Nelson admits that he had reservations about having his bed installed so high (it directly faces his aquarium). He reveals, "Jen and I argued about the raised bed. I wanted one *pero hindi ganoon kataas*. I wanted it to be the height of a regular sofa *kasi ayaw ko nang maglagay ng sofa* before. But she still had it raised to that height *kasi 'yong space sa baba ginawa niyang cabinet*."

Meanwhile, the living area is a neat affair that is proudly occupied by a sofa bed from Dimensione and an ottoman that was a gift from a furniture designer friend. Both pieces are dressed in custom-made brown and white covers respectively, which were sewn by Nelson's favorite seamstress. "I buy the fabric for a really cheap price in Kamuning," he shares with a smile.



Adding visual interest and texture to the area is the white shaggy area rug which he jokingly describes as something "kidnapped" because it used to belong to Jen. "*Noong una hiniram ko lang. Pero siyempre kapag hiniram, wala nang saulian!*" he quips.

Nelson's unit is also blessed with a small terrace which he dubs as his own café where he loves to hang out. "*Parang* all throughout the day, without the sun, I have my own Starbucks," he says. "*Hindi ako kailangang makikipagsiksikan* and I have my own Internet



NELSON
PURCHASED
THE DINING
TABLE SET IN
SHANGRI-LA
PLAZA

The dining table is witness to the many dinners that Nelson has hosted for friends. He says, "I like seeing my friends seated there as they wait for the food that I cook."

connection here. It's my own quiet place, e. I like sitting there around 4:30PM onward *kasi* it is nice to see the sunset from there."

Coming from a big family house, Nelson admits that it was a really big challenge to furnish his place, considering that his unit was about the size of his room back home. He shares, "In my old house, I had my own bathtub in my own *banyo*. That's why when I was about to move, I was negotiating with the developers because I wanted to have my own bathtub. *Balak ko sanang palakihin na lang 'yong banyo. Pero ayaw nilang pumayag kasi raw bawal baguhin 'yong plumbing system.*"

That is why when he was shopping for his home essentials, he made sure to get double-purpose appliances that would accommodate all his needs while at the same time save space. The best example of this would have to be his "combo oven"—a microwave oven that also serves as steamer and roaster. Another is his all-in-one desktop, which combines the computer's internal components (including the CPU) into the same case as the monitor. "This is what my friends and I use when we record covers," he says. "*Parang na rin siyang TV* because it can double as a video player. We also use this as a game console." But aside from saving space, Nelson is also all about saving energy. All of his appliances use inverter technology, including his refrigerator, air conditioning unit and washing machine.

Nelson is pretty much settled in his bachelor's pad, but he confesses that sometimes he still finds himself torn about the idea of getting a bigger unit. He says, "*Kapag may nagbubukas na bagong condo, kapag may nakikita akong bagong model,*

Because he has always liked water, Nelson insisted on having an aquarium installed in his unit and have it strategically placed beside his bed

you can change the color of the lighting in the aquarium!



On a normal day, it is Nelson's stuffed animals that occupy the sofa bed. From left to right: Fluffy (round dog), Roger (rabbit), ClauCla (small beagle), PaoPao (big beagle) and Donny or Donald Duck.

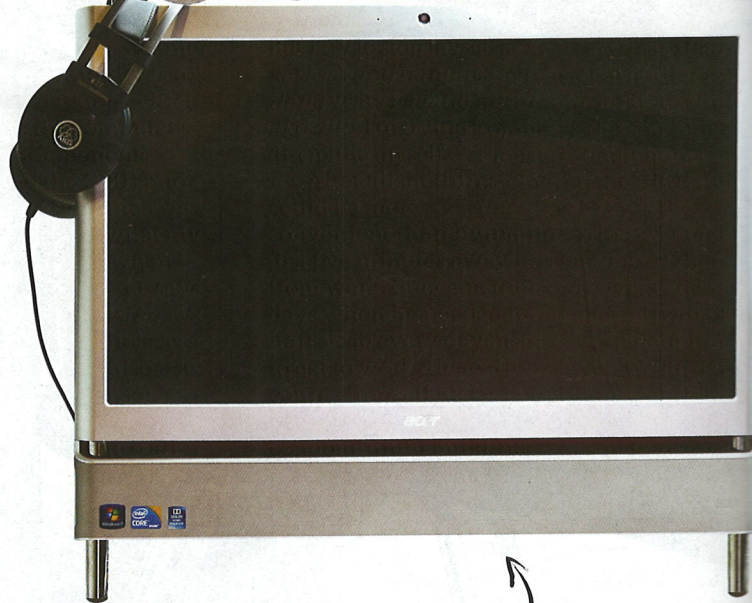
nagugustuhan ko 'yon. But I try to stop myself kasi sayang naman, ilang years pa lang ako dito. I'm trying to discipline myself."

After all, nothing could be more convenient than living just five minutes away from work. Gone are the days when he needed to hail a cab every day just to get to work. He really counts himself lucky because behind his condominium building is a shaded walkway filled with trees that leads to the grounds of GMA Network Center.

Cramped or not, at the end of the day, Nelson could not really ask for more from the 41-square-meter unit that symbolizes serenity and relaxation for him. "You know how busy a media person's schedule is. We attend a lot of press conferences and face a lot of people.

There's chaos, *lalo na kapag pumupunta akong airport para salubungin 'yong mga artista.* That is why when my working hours are over, I want to relax and be in a place of calm—and my unit is my ultimate relaxation place," he concludes with a contented smile. ▲

THIS ALL-IN-ONE
DESKTOP IS
TOUCHSCREEN



al day in
s stuffed
occasionally
ed. From
at: Fluffy
D, Roger
ClauClau,
beagle,
Pao (top)
d Dami
old Duck

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“You know how busy a media person’s schedule is. We attend a lot of press conferences and face a lot of people... That is why when my working hours are over, I want to relax and be in a place of calm—and my unit is my ultimate relaxation place”

Scarf print long sleeve top (P3990) from **Zara**
white pants (model's own)

Because of limited space, most of Nelson's clothes still remain in his family house's in Retiro. He shares, "If I want to wear something new, I go to Retiro *para naro-rotate rin talaga 'yong clothes ko'*"