

spaces gee canlas

Life on the Fast Lane

Gee Canlas welcomes us to her chic studio unit and opens up about enjoying her independent lifestyle

Words **Michelle Angela Orosa Carag**

Photography **Jerick Sanchez** of **Studio 100**

Art Direction **Renee Joy Basa**

Styling **Jear De Mc Cuttác** | Styling Assistant **Altaire Bautista**

Makeup **Au Maurício** | Hair **Inyaki**

Gee admits that she has only recently learned to become more mindful of her household. "Ngayon ayokong nakakakita ng ipis!" she says adamantly. "Pet peeve ko 'yong lumilipad na ipis!"



Sleeveless top (P1110) from **Forever21**,
Floral pants (P990) from **Forever21**,
Accessories (P570) from **Parfois**,
Nude flats (P950) from **Wade**

Gee and interior designer Eloisa opted for modern lighting fixtures, like the floor lamp by the reading nook. Eloisa says, "If you examine it carefully, you will realize that the floor lamp is actually made of plastic and not glass. We bought it from Landmark"



The headboard was created by gluing together plywood and foam and then covering it with red cloth before mounting it on the wall

UPON MEETING GEE CANLAS, IT EASY TO SEE THAT DUBBING HER AS SPEEDY GEE IS JUSTIFIABLE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE SHE TALKS REALLY FAST (SHE PROBABLY IS TV'S FASTEST TALKER). But after taking a closer look into how her typical day goes, it is easier to realize that her nickname best suits her life as a career woman.

"I just finished shooting a movie for *Cinema One Originals*," the *Amazing Race Philippines* alum shares gleefully with *Celebrity Living*. "It's my first movie *na ako 'yong bida*. I am also starting a clothing line and while I am still in the process of conceptualizing everything, it will be coming out this year. But if there is one thing that I would want to focus on more as a working person, it would be hosting, which is my first love, and acting. *Kapag alam ko na may nanunuod or may nakikinig sa akin, doon ako mas nagaganahan.*"

With her jam-packed schedule, Gee counts herself lucky to be able to rent a unit in Tomas Morato, which lies in the heart of her three work places—TV 5, GMA and ABS CBN. She shares, "I really get to spend time here because work is just near. When I was still living in our family house in Antipolo, *hindi ko nagagawa 'yon kasi malayo.*"

Gee admits that at this point, she is still in the six-month trial stage of living on her own. But she is quick to add that if she likes it, she will buy a bigger unit—probably a loft—in the same building.



↑ THIS ACCESSORY HOLDER WAS CRAFTED BY COVERING A CORKBOARD WITH THE EXTRA RED CLOTH FROM GEE'S HEADBOARD THEN ADORNING IT WITH CRISS-CROSSING RIBBONS

Gee tags herself as a hoarder when she goes shopping for clothes. That is why she rotates her clothing for two weeks before replenishing her stash with the ones that she still keeps in her Antipolo home

AN INTERESTING MIX

Gee's condo unit may just be studio type, the size of which many would consider as a space not enough to accommodate a celebrity's lifestyle. But for Gee, everything about her unit makes her feel accomplished.

"I like the fact that there is a lot of space for me to walk around," she says proudly. "But at the same time it feels intimate *kasi* the space is really just for me. For just one person, homey *na siya*."

Despite the dominance of earth-toned pieces around the space, Gee's unit remains very much chic—what with the impact created by the occasional punches of bold red and black. With Gee's careful specifications in mind, interior designer Eloisa Gomez conceptualized the whole look of the unit. "I told Eloisa that I wanted something modern, *pero* at the same time I also wanted it to have a sense of warmth, so she infused a lot of earth tones," Gee shares.

Her unit also showcases an idiosyncratic style created by the unusual marriage of home décor themes, as characterized by the neo-baroque patterns on the curtain sown by Eloisa and the Japanese-style custom-made low bed. But more than anything else, the unit—and some of the pieces in it—is the epitome of Gee's independence from the sheltered life that she left behind in Antipolo. This is best reflected by the walls which she painted herself and the DIY headboard and necklace stand planted beside her bed. "I like doing things myself now," she quips.

Meanwhile, adding a hint of girlishness to the space are the plush bronze area rug which Gee brought from her family house and the cream upholstered accent chair from Ever Gotesco. Catching our attention is the multi-colored wall art hanging quietly between the floor-to-ceiling windows.

Gee says that her favorite part of the unit is her inviting

bed, which is covered in crisp white sheets and decked with fluffy pillows. When asked why she prefers to have a low bed, she answers, "Growing up, I have always had a high canopy bed. That's why I wanted to have a low one. *Masarap naman ang tulog ko rito* ever since I moved. And *puwede rin siya gawing* seating or backrest when I'm watching TV."

Since it is her first time to live alone, a big factor that Gee and Eloisa had to consider when shopping for furniture, was sticking

to a budget. "*Nag-canvass ako sa mga malls and stores for most of the furniture*," Eloisa interjects. "*Tapos hinanap ko kung saan'yong mga cheapest pieces pero maganda and durable*. We got some pieces from department stores. *Meron din kaming nabili sa mga stores located along the highway*."

Living alone has truly brought Gee's domestic side out in the open and it has taught her to become responsible, especially when it comes to maintaining her new home. "I hate washing

dishes," she says with a laugh. "But I can't have a maid here. So now I have to wash my own dishes and fix my clothes. I have a cleaner once a week, but after that I have to pick up after myself. With the limited space that I have, I learned to be organized so now I know where everything goes." But whether she's washing dishes or working on a DIY project, Gee is proud to be the mistress of her own home. "For a first-timer to have her own space, I am really happy," she concludes. ▲

“For a first-timer to have her own space, I am really happy”

Cerise floral top (P980) from **Folded and Hung**, Pink jegging pants (P890) from **Folded and Hung**, Necklace (P790) and Bracelets (P340) from **Parfois**