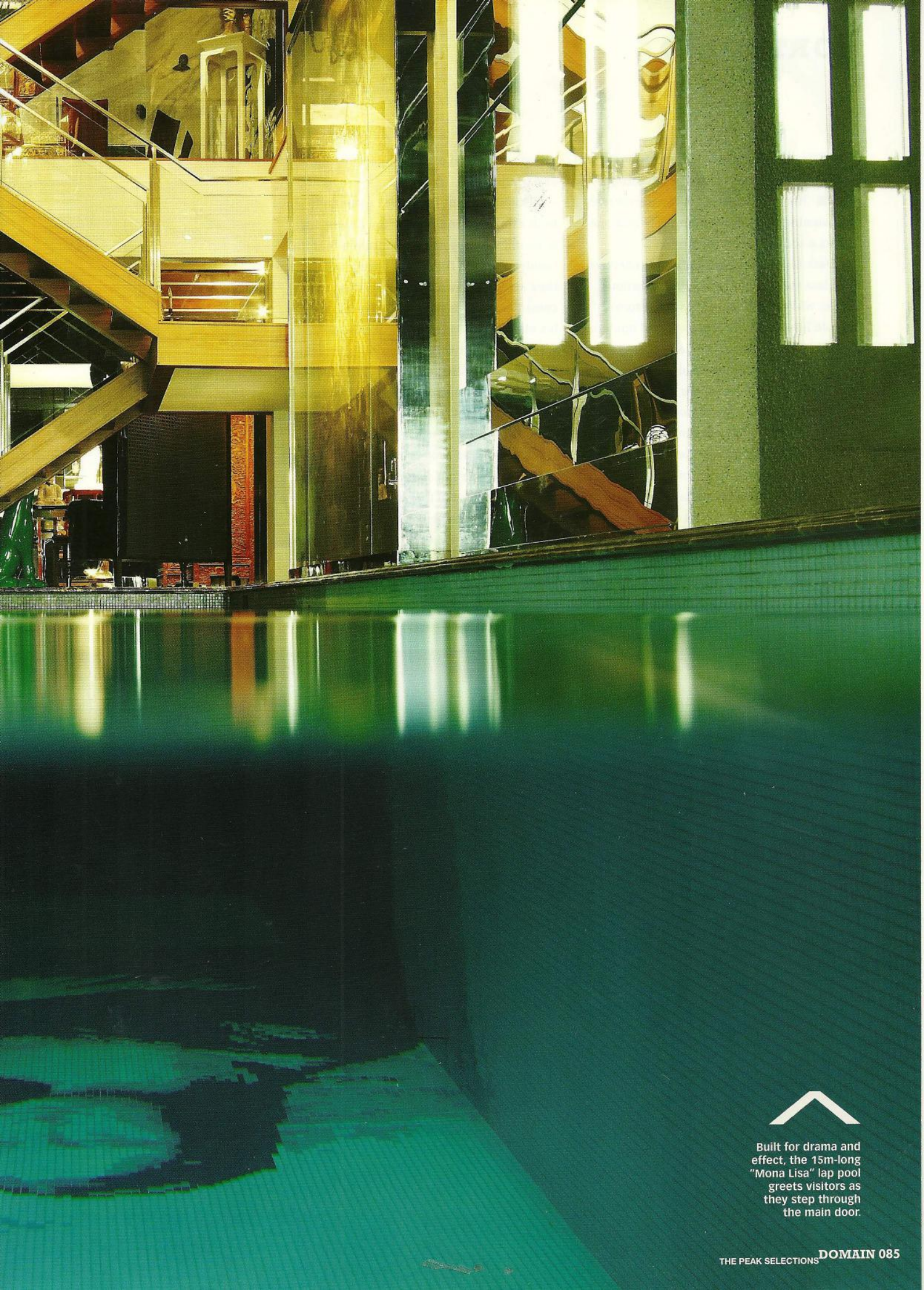# ART AND IMAGINATION

A SHOW-STOPPING ENTRYWAY, ALONG WITH A LAVISH GOLD-LEAFED CEILING AND CONTEMPORARY ARTWORKS, SET THIS CONSERVATION SHOPHOUSE-TURNED-WEEKEND HOME APART FROM THE PACK.

TEXT WYN-LYN TAN **PHOTOGRAPHY** DARREN CHANG
ART DIRECTION MAUREEN CHENG & KRISTY QUAH

Built for drama and effect, the 15m-long "Mona Lisa" lap pool greets visitors as they step through the main door.

PORTFOLIO

There's no question that this home was designed for drama. Push through the heavy front doors of the deceptively unassuming conservation property and one enters a seductively dim interior.

Dark taupe and high-polished reflective stainless steel panels wrap the cavernous space, while gold-veined black portoro marble lines the floor in a sweep of opulence. But it is the 15m-long "Mona Lisa" lap pool stretching down the front half of the first floor that really steals the thunder.
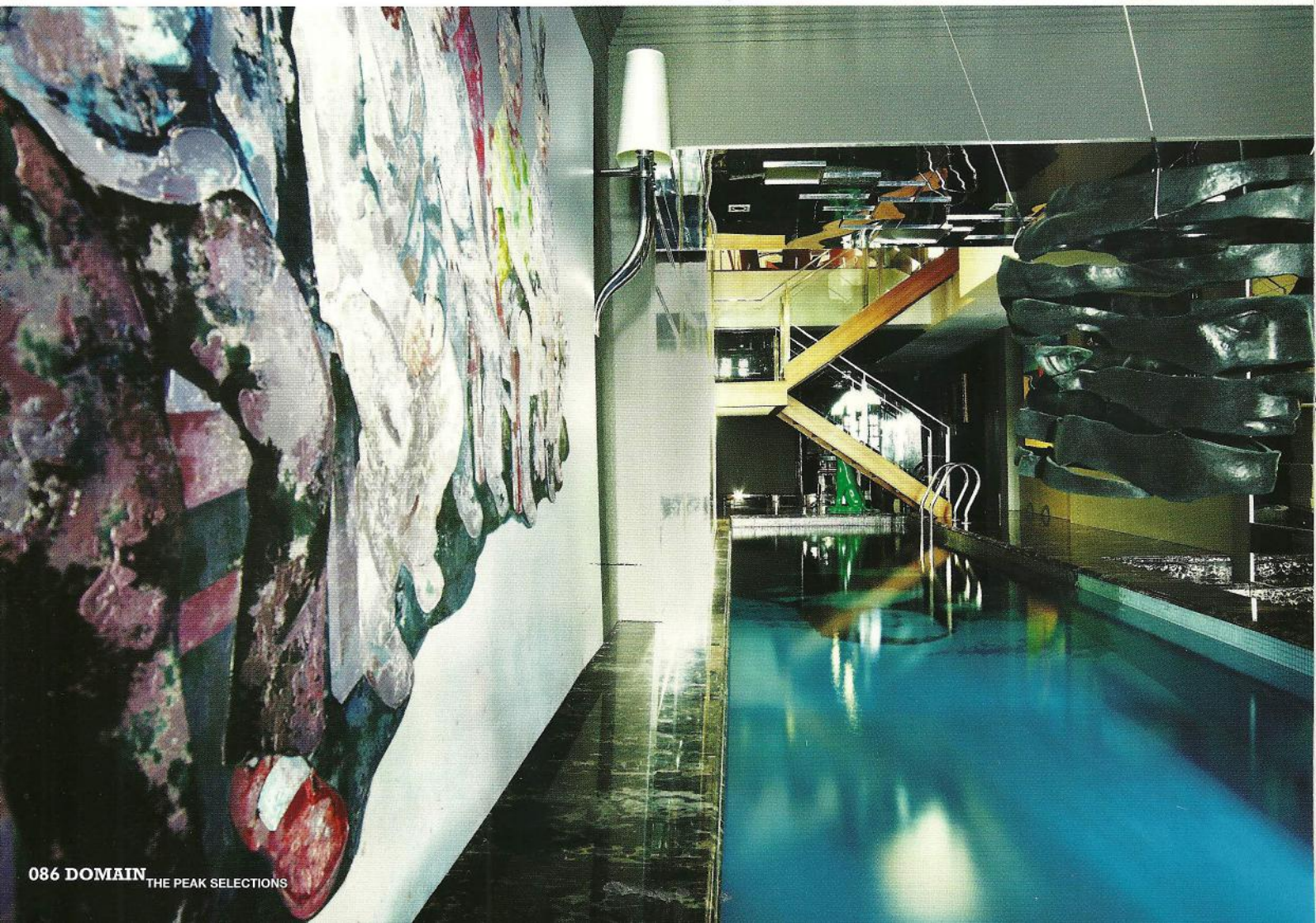
As enigmatic as the famed Renaissance painting, a larger-than-life image of the Mona Lisa smiles coyly through the water from the bottom of the pool. Meticulously laid in small mosaic tiles of navy blue, black and grey (the colours were carefully calibrated in order to achieve the portrait's shaded realism), it is a masterpiece in itself. In fact, art is one of the central themes of this home, in part, paying homage to the homeowner's 10-year-old private collection of contemporary paintings and sculptures.

This statement home was essentially built as a weekend pad for the owner, his wife and teenage son, and it's here that the family entertain friends and sleep over when they are downtown. Having worked with consultant and developer Andrew Poh for his other home in Bukit Timah, the owner was happy to give Poh free rein in creating a residence that showcased his art collection, while featuring the consultant's signature flair for luxe details. On his part, Poh, who usually undertakes only selective or personal jobs, saw this as a pet project close to his heart. "I treated this like my own home," he quips.

The dilapidated interior of the original shophouse had to be completely gutted – which was a good thing, says Poh. "With no boundaries, we could reconfigure (it) to how we liked." The spectacular swimming pool replaced the living room on the first >

LAND SIZE
1,900 sq ft
BUILT-UP AREA
5,800 sq ft
INTERIOR DESIGN
Andrew Poh I.D.

A masterpiece in itself, the Mona Lisa portrait required a meticulous calibration of coloured mosaic tiles to achieve its shaded realism.

Opposite: The owner's eclectic art collection – from paintings to sculptures – bring a theatrical element to the shophouse home.