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WRITER

TO SAY that it looks like a boutique hotel in Europe is an understatement. After all, Orchid Garden Suites (OGS) in Manila is more than just a hotel—its a home. To be more precise, it WAS actually a home—to one of the better-known families in the land, the Roceses.

Unknown to many who have dined, slept and walked through the interiors of the hotel, the enigma of Orchid Garden Suites comes from its picturesque past. Its magnificence and elegance

# Orchid Garden Suites

## The Executive RESIDENCE

(Part 1 of 2 Parts)



Advertorial

stems from the drawing board of Pablo Antonio Sr., National Artist for Architecture. And from the time it had become the house of Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Villareal, who is incidentally one of the 13 martyrs of Bagumbayan executed by the Spanish colonizers several days prior to Jose Rizal's execution, it had also served as quarters of Japanese officers who took over the same house during World War II. As the Roceses moved from one place to another, what with their various interests, 'that house in Manila' was then rented out to meticulous tenants among whom were a visual artist, and an antique collector cum dealer.

"The idea of transforming the place into a hotel began when one of its tenants grew to love

the house, and informed the Roces family of his intentions to purchase it. And so the family thought that if the house was charming enough to capture the heart of its tenants, then converting it into a suite was definitely a better idea," begins Vida Candelaria, OGS sales and marketing manager.

"Basically, the family just loves the house. They never sold it because they knew that memories could never be bought," adds executive assistant manager Mai Ringler-Manera. This sentiment gave birth to the Orchid Garden Suites.

To date, the hotel has 14 floors and 90 spacious and well-appointed rooms designed to be comfortable, elegant and convenient all at the same time.



Photo by LYN RILLON

From left: Emily Kwan, front office manager; Vida Candelaria, sales and marketing manager; Veneranda Tuason, executive housekeeper; Mai Ringler-Manera, executive assistant manager; Evelyn Teves, F&B manager; and Elizabeth Nepumoceno, executive assistant.

Orchid Garden Suites houses a specialty restaurant and bar, conference and function room facilities, a kid-friendly swimming pool, and a business center which offers postal/courier services, internet and computer rentals, photocopying and fax

services, secretarial and typing services, and office supplies too. Aside from this, it boasts of convenience, being only 20 minutes away from the international and domestic airport, and within the area of shopping malls, movie theatres and major sports complex. □

