



Uncertain work projects, anti-foreigner feelings and closed borders made co-living spaces increasingly attractive among **expats** in Singapore.

Co-living is where you rent a room and share **communal** space like a kitchen. It has two main advantages. Firstly, it's cheaper than renting a condo. Secondly, leases start from three months compared to a minimum full year for a condo. This is very appealing for those worried about job security or uncertain how much longer they plan to stay.

While co-living is still a minority choice, and it isn't going to take over **condos** for popularity, some business operators say that demand rose by at least 10%, and it is becoming a more accepted option.

It may sound strange that demand for co-living rose during the coronavirus outbreak; however, in Singapore, the virus is largely under control, so residents don't worry about living together.

Difficult words: **expat** (a person who lives outside his native country; 'expat' is an abbreviation of 'ex-patriot' which means 'outside your country'), **communal** (shared by all members of a community), **condo** (a privately-owned unit within a community of other units).

Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *expat*, *communal* and *condo*
2. Why have co-living spaces become attractive among expats in Singapore?
3. When did the demand for co-living start to rise?
4. What are the advantages of living in a co-living space?
5. With the increasing demand of co-living in Singapore, do business operators believe it's going to take over the popularity of condos?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Does co-living exist in your country? Is the demand increasing?
2. Are expats commonplace in your country? Which city in your country has the highest number of expats? And in your town/city?
3. What problems did expats in your country experience during the outbreak of COVID-19?
4. If you went to live in another country, would you stay in a co-living space? Why or why not?