

UNCOMMON GROUND

THE PLACES YOU KNOW,
THE STORIES YOU DON'T.



UNCOMMON GROUND

THE PLACES YOU KNOW,
THE STORIES YOU DON'T.

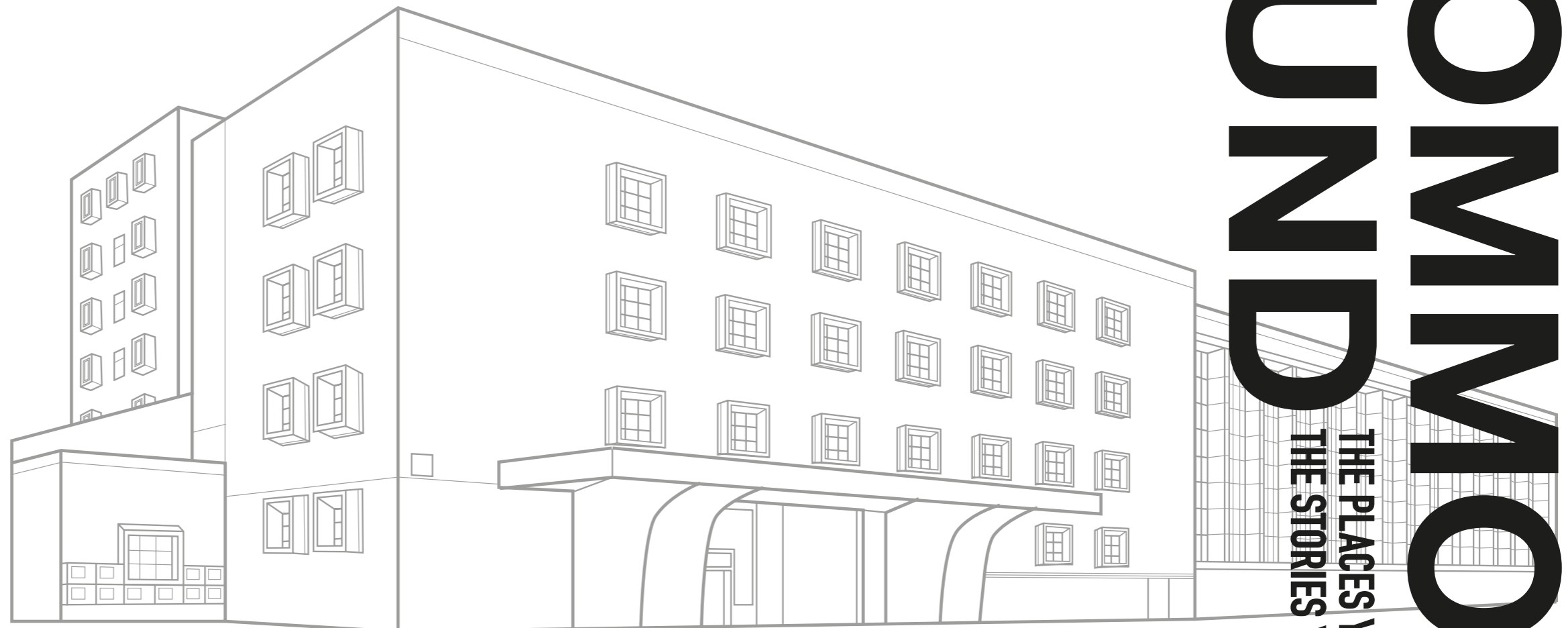
Copyright © 2020 Singapore Land Authority
Designed and produced by Epigram
Published by the Singapore Land Authority
All photos courtesy of Jerome Lim and the Singapore Land Authority unless otherwise stated.
See page 142 for the full photo credits.

**National Library Board, Singapore
Cataloguing-in-Publication Data**

Name: Lim, Jerome, 1964- editor. | Singapore Land Authority, publisher.
Title: Uncommon ground : the places you know, the stories you don't /
editorial by Jerome Lim.
Description: First edition. | Singapore : Singapore Land Authority, 2020.
Identifiers: OCN 1201291807 | ISBN 978-981-14-7136-0 (paperback)
Subjects: LCSH: Historic buildings—Singapore. | Historic sites—Singapore. |
Government property—Singapore.
Classification: DDC 959.5—dc23

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form
or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any
information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of the copyright owner.

Printed in Singapore
First edition, August 2020.



SLA
SINGAPORE
LAND AUTHORITY

UNCOMMON GROUND THE PLACES YOU KNOW, THE STORIES YOU DON'T.

Foreword

By Lim Sim Seng
Chairman
Singapore Land Authority

1

Introduction

By Tan Boon Khai
Chief Executive
Singapore Land Authority

2

Photo Credits

142

Index

143

WITH STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

- 8 Former Pasir Panjang Power Station
- 13 Orchard Road Shophouses
- 18 Old Kallang Airport
- 22 Former Bukit Timah Racecourse
- 26 Former Oversea-Chinese Bank

FOR GOD AND EMPIRE

- 32 St George's Church
- 37 Former Tanglin Barracks
- 42 Former Tanglin Garrison Church
- 46 Former Rimau Offices
- 50 Former Gillman Officers' Mess

WITH GRACE AND GRANDEUR

- 56 Former Golden Bell Mansion
- 62 Alkaff Mansion
- 67 Former Kinloss House
- 72 Former Command House
- 78 Old Admiralty House

A HOUSE AND HOME

- 84 Black-and-White Residences
- 98 Former Chasseriau Estate
- 102 Sembawang's Naval Base Residences
- 107 Chip Bee Gardens
- 112 Adam Park Estate

OF HOPE AND HEALING

- 116 Old Changi Hospital
- 121 Former St Andrew's Mission Hospital
- 125 Former Singapore Chinese Girls' School
- 130 Former Communicable Disease Centre
- 136 The Islands of St John

Foreword



Lim Sim Seng
Chairman
Singapore Land Authority

Be it as witnesses to historical events, residences of personalities, places of work, settings for fun and recreation, or simply a humble abode filled with memories, Singapore's State properties have seen it all. Among the many sites currently under the care of the Singapore Land Authority (SLA)—ranging from iconic bungalows, homely residences, vacated schools or even rustic islands beyond the mainland, quite a few are recognised today as distinctly Singaporean landmarks. In fact, a select few even form an integral part of our history. In their own individual ways, each of these properties tell captivating stories of Singapore.

Uncommon Ground features 25 such sites, specially selected for their diversity in history, style and

function. They also have intrinsic heritage value. Through their stories, we discover the breadth of architectural styles found in Singapore, untold historical anecdotes and the many intimate recollections of occupants, both past and present. The properties come alive, and we hope to have captured them in this publication.

One of SLA's core responsibilities is the maintenance and preservation of State properties for future generations. This is an effort which SLA undertakes seriously. We hope that a deeper appreciation of the significance of some of the state properties featured will, going forward, provide greater impetus to preserve and maintain them well, and prevent them from becoming obsolete. On this journey,

SLA is fortunate to have the support of many enthusiasts, who often come together to appreciate these properties when they are opened up for visits. A country's strength is as much of its past, as it is its future. But one cannot build a future without understanding the past. The sites and properties you find here form part of that past. I have no doubt that understanding and appreciating them will allow us invaluable insights to the future of Singapore, and hope that the stories captured will bring you back in time to the Singapore that was, even as we look forward to what Singapore can, and will be.

Lim Sim Seng, Chairman
 (1 August 2014 to
 31 July 2020)

Introduction



Tan Boon Khai
Chief Executive
Singapore Land Authority

The mention of the term “State property” invokes memories of the numerous black-and-white colonial residences around Singapore, as well as other vacated buildings reconfigured from their original purposes. Today, many of these State properties, all managed by the Singapore Land Authority (SLA), are used in a multitude of ways. Some are homes; others have commercial and F&B uses, and even social

and community purposes. In many ways, the re-purposing of these properties and their re-use mirror the development of Singapore as an evolving young nation. These properties now provide a refreshing dimension to Singapore’s urban landscape and showcase the creative nature of the real estate community in Singapore.

One site that stands out is 39C Harding Road. Previously a disused chapel just over a decade ago, it

RIGHT:
Aerial view
of 100
Henderson
Road.



has now become an iconic property in Dempsey Hill, having been converted into an upmarket dining venue, The White Rabbit. It is an inspiring example of what a heritage site can become. Wee Teng Wen, the man behind the restaurant, revealed how the property had swayed him to enter into the food and beverage industry full time. Teng’s The Lo & Behold Group is now an established Singapore F&B brand.

The White Rabbit is one of the many sites featured in this publication—an homage, if you will, to 25 State properties.

More novel uses of State properties have surfaced in recent years. Among them is the conversion of the former Henderson Secondary School site into an integrated facility for childcare, nursing and dialysis, and an urban garden in 2019. Another, Kai Suites at 26 Dunearn Road, shows the transformation of

the former Family Planning Board’s premises into a luxurious confinement retreat for new mothers. This has spurred SLA into looking into more ways to optimise State properties. So, together with the Urban Redevelopment Authority, SLA launched the revitalisation programme Reinventing Spaces into Vibrant Places (RSVP) in 2019, to encourage innovative development ideas for State land and buildings—the first properties

ABOVE:
Views of the
urban farm
that is part
of the new
integrated
facility at 100
Henderson
Road.



ABOVE & RIGHT: 45 Sultan Gate, in historic Kampong Glam, is the first property SLA restored and conserved as part of its Reinventing Spaces into Vibrant Places programme.



we restored and conserved for this programme were the shophouses at 45 Sultan Gate in the historic Kampong Glam District.

In the last few years, SLA has also sought to raise public awareness of State-owned sites through its Discovering Singapore's Best Kept Secrets series of property tours. The

collaborative effort with Jerome Lim, heritage enthusiast and author of this publication, has given State properties a much deserved profile-boost, and this has helped to spur much of the contents found within the following pages.

Finally, no heritage tour of Singapore would be complete without venturing

out into one of the many islands Singapore has. And here, the diversity of State properties under SLA's care goes beyond Singapore's mainland, to the Southern Islands of Kusu, St John's and Lazarus Islands. These islands and the properties thereon, which were returned to the State a few years back in 2017, now form part of the diverse range of the State lands and properties under

SLA's charge. No publication would be complete without mentioning the annual Kusu pilgrimage to the temples on Kusu Island, which sees thousands of people ferried to the island, as well as the sister islands, St John's and Lazarus, which represent an idyllic haven for those who wish to spend time away from the Singapore mainland. Do take the time to discover them for yourselves, along

with the hidden tales of 24 other properties within *Uncommon Ground*.

We hope you will enjoy this publication as much as we enjoyed documenting the various State properties together here.



LEFT: 26 Dunearn Road, which has been transformed into a confinement retreat for new mothers.



FAR LEFT & LEFT: An artists' impression of one of eighteen suites in the confinement retreat.

Each of the suites is fitted like a luxury hotel room.



ABOVE:
Urban
Sketchers
Singapore at
a Discovering
Singapore's
Best Kept
Secrets tour
to 3 Lady Hill
Road in May
2018.



RIGHT:
Participants at
a Discovering
Singapore's
Best Kept
Secrets visit
to St George's
Church in
November
2018.



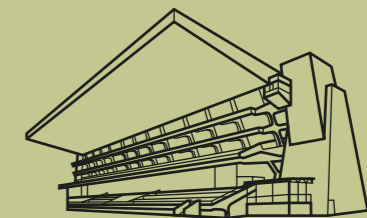
FORMER PASIR PANJANG POWER STATION



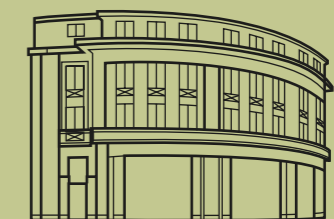
ORCHARD ROAD SHOPHOUSES



OLD KALLANG AIRPORT



FORMER BUKIT TIMAH RACECOURSE



FORMER OVERSEA-CHINESE BANK

WITH STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

Former Pasir Panjang Power Station

There is a certain charm about the utilitarian, red-brick Power Station A at Pasir Panjang.

Comparable in appearance to the much-loved and since demolished National Library at Stamford Road, the former station stands in a quiet corner of Singapore.

Station A, completed in 1952–53, acquired its “A” designation when a second, or “B” station, was added adjacent to it in 1965. Built when such red-brick-faced constructs were in fashion, the building evokes the time when foundations for Singapore’s urban transformation were laid. The elegance that Station A wears, which seems to be



“BUILT WHEN SUCH RED-BRICK-FACED CONSTRUCTS WERE IN FASHION, THE BUILDING EVOKES THE TIME WHEN FOUNDATIONS FOR SINGAPORE’S URBAN TRANSFORMATION WERE LAID.”

missing in the construction of its counterpart, belies the fact that the station was built in desperate times, in an age of austerity.

Singapore’s first power station, St James, began operations in 1926 and produced a maximum of 37 megawatts (MW) by 1948. However, by 1950, maximum demand stood at 43.5MW, and with the available supply falling well short, load-shedding was introduced. This resulted in one-third of electrical consumers going without power every night. When Singapore’s second power station at Pasir Panjang opened nearly three decades later, it could not have been more timely.

Governor Sir John Nicoll opened Pasir Panjang Power Station (Station A) on 3 July 1953 to great promise. Two of the intended six, 25MW turbo-alternators had

LEFT:
Rear view
of Power
Station A.

RIGHT:
Façade of
the former
Pasir
Panjang
Power
Station A.





TOP:
Staff gather during the opening of Pasir Panjang Power Station by Governor Sir John Nicoll, 1953.

ABOVE:
Interior view of Pasir Panjang Power Station, 1953.

been commissioned and more were to be added. A total of 260 substations were built and some 230 kilometres of 22-kilovolt (kV) distribution cables were laid (the transmission system was upgraded from 6.6kV), allowing 34,700 consumers to be added. Electricity could also be supplied in bulk to Johor Bahru.

However, by 1958, the power station was already operating at 70.5 per cent of its capacity, reaching the output of 150MW—a number that was, at the planning

stage, thought to be sufficient to meet requirements for the next 20 years. In 1962, an additional 25MW was added to Station A's capacity. The increasing demand required the construction of Station B, which commenced soon after, in 1963. The Pasir Panjang Power Station's supply helped launch Singapore's big industrial push in the 1960s.

Unfortunately, the death knell for both stations sounded in the late 1970s. Modern, cleaner (one common complaint was of

TIMELINE

POWER SHIFTS: FROM TANJONG PAGAR TO PASIR PANJANG

→ 1897

Tanjong Pagar Dock Company installs Singapore's first electrical power generating plant, lighting 80 lamps on the company's premises.

→ 1905

Singapore Electric Tramways commissions a power generating plant at MacKenzie Road. Excess power sold to the Municipality was resold to 42 consumers, distributed at 460VDC.

→ 1906

Electric street lighting is introduced, replacing gas lamps at Raffles Place, Boat Quay and North Bridge Road.

→ 1912

Singapore Electric Tramways expands their MacKenzie Road plant, supplying power to the Municipality at 3000VAC.

→ 1924

Singapore Harbour Board supplies excess power to the Municipality, redistributed at 3300VAC.

With rising demand, the Municipality builds a power plant at St James.

→ 1926

Demand for electricity exceeds 3.25MW: 2.5MW supplied by the Harbour Board; 750kW by Singapore Electric Tramways.

St James Power Station comes on line with a capacity of 2MW.

→ 1948

The capacity of St James Power Station reaches 37MW.

→ 1950

The post-war boom leads to a steep increase in demand, rising to 43.5MW. Introduction of load-shedding, resulting in a third of consumers going without power every night.

→ 1953

Sir John Nicoll opens Pasir Panjang Power Station with two, 25MW generators.

→ 1958

Pasir Panjang Power Station reaches a capacity of 150MW.

→ 1962

Singapore's industrialisation programme strains the power generation system; an additional 25MW generator is added to Pasir Panjang Power Station.

→ 1963

Construction of a new power station at Pasir Panjang commences.

→ 1965

Pasir Panjang Station B opens in October with half of its intended 240MW capacity available.

Plans are made to build a new 240MW power station in Jurong.

→ Mid-1980s

Station A is decommissioned.

→ Late 1990s

Station B is decommissioned.



Muthu s/o
Rengasamy

THE PASIR PANJANG

POWER Station District was a home and workplace for many families during its heydays with power from the station supplying Singapore's burgeoning needs during the industrialisation in the 1960s.

We met up with Mr K A Nagarasan, a former auxiliary plant operator, and

Mr Muthu s/o Rengasamy, a former engineer who started working in the station as an apprentice at the age of 17. Describing the turbine hall from right to left, Mr Muthu said, "The space had so many sections. We had the sea water pumps there, the main turbines, the sea water pumps, the feed pumps, the fuel pumps, then we had the steam receivers. It was very crowded, very warm. There were about 300 of us here, working around the clock."

Mr Muthu's workspace was in the workshop across the turbine hall, which had since been

converted into what looked like an office space. "Sometimes the engineers would come to us, they asked for certain favours like cut certain plate, to fabricate something, we do it for them." Having to adapt to the workshop "Masters" who were mostly Cantonese, Mr Muthu shared that he speaks four different languages. He spent 22 years at the station and saw the construction of Power Station B next door. He witnessed how construction works had shattered the glass panels from the roof of Station A.

BELOW LEFT:
The former turbine hall of Power Station A.

BELOW RIGHT:
The power station's first public holiday open house in 2018.



soot falling from the sky in the area) power stations with increased capacities were built at Senoko and Pulau Seraya. Station A was decommissioned in the mid-1980s, and Station B in the late 1990s.

Station A was returned to the State in March 2017, while Station B's main

building is currently used as SP PowerGrid's Pasir Panjang District Office. Today, both stations stand without their iconic chimneys.

In August 2018, SLA collaborated with The Local People, a creative group activating and repurposing disused spaces in Singapore, for the power station's first

public holiday open house. It was a day filled with music and art in the turbine hall of Power Station A.

The buildings were also the subject of the "Power-up Pasir Panjang" ideas competition jointly launched by SLA and the Urban Redevelopment Authority in April 2019. The call was for

ideas on how to repurpose Station A in the interim, and also for a master plan to "re-imagine the power district"—a component of the future Greater Southern Waterfront development project that will connect Pasir Panjang with Marina East.

COOL CO-LIVING IN PASIR PANJANG POWER DISTRICT

There is a 12-storey block of flats in the Pasir Panjang Power District that stands in an elevated position by the sea. Built in late 1953 with 42 apartments (two of which were penthouses), the building accommodated the district's senior expatriate officers and their families. The block had some of the best views of the western Singapore Strait.

As a result of a 2018 SLA tender exercise that was awarded to TS Home Pte Ltd, the apartment block has found new life as a co-living space called Cooliv Waterfront. The transformation, completed at the end of 2019, sees 156 rooms in a service-apartment-style setting arranged across the block's 12 floors. There are also common co-working, service and recreational spaces.



TOP RIGHT:
Cooliv
Waterfront
apartments.

RIGHT:
A shared
dining space
set in the
balcony of
the apartment
block.

Orchard Road Shophouses

BELOW:
The row of
conservation
shophouses
at No. 14 to 38
Orchard Road
has an eclectic
quality. Among
the buildings
is the former
Malayan Motors
showroom with
its distinctive
"sunburst" gable.



RIGHT:
Rear view
of Temasek
Shophouse and
its concrete
spiral staircases.



Orchard Road, Singapore's shopping mile, has seen a spectacular transformation over the years. Once lined with nutmeg plantations, the road was associated with the motoring trade before attaining its current standing. The little that is left of its varied past can be found in a row of four shophouses, numbered 14 to 38, which are the only ones on the road gazetted for conservation.

The eclectic quality that is exhibited by each

of the houses is related to the rubber-boom fuelled aspirations of the 1920s. One of the houses functioned as the former Malayan Motors' showroom, which occupied numbers 14 to 20 at the east end of the row. It attracts attention with its large, semi-circular scalloped gable. Smaller in scale, but no less attention-grabbing, is the Dutch-gabled former MidFilm House, built in 1921 for Middle East Films Ltd at numbers 22 to 24. It stands next to the narrow and often overlooked number 38, and

the resplendent Temasek Shophouse at numbers 26 to 36.

The art deco and modern-classical structure at numbers 26 to 36 was jointly developed by businessmen Chee Guan Chiang and E. Kong Guan in 1928. It was built on the site of six shophouses that Chee's father, Chee Swee Cheng, and E. acquired in 1925 and 1926. Both the senior Chee and E. had roots in Malacca and were tapioca and rubber planters. Chee Swee Cheng, who owned properties in

Singapore, also had interests in opium and spirits "farming" in North Borneo.

Chee Guan Chiang and E. Kong Guan split the interior space of the three-storey building, with each half containing an office space on the ground floor and two-bedroom apartments on the upper floors. The

ground-floor office spaces were used as showrooms, initially for the Art Furniture Depot in 1929. The furniture store, which was associated with the building until 1986, downsized in the early 1930s and gave up one of its two showrooms. Eddystone Radio took up the vacated unit before the Second World

War. Thereafter, Sin Sin Furniture occupied the space after the war and moved out in the 1980s when the building and the adjacent properties were acquired by the Singapore government.

The conversion of the building into Temasek Shophouse resulted from a 2017 tender awarded to

BELOW LEFT:
Façade of
Temasek
Shophouse.

BELOW RIGHT:
A co-working
space on the
mezzanine of
Temasek
Shophouse.



Yvonne Tay Neo Gim Huay Ivy Koh

TEMASEK SHOPHOUSE is an initiative aimed at creating social impact developed out of a shared vision by its stakeholders.

Ms Yvonne Tay of Temasek Trust and director, Temasek Shophouse, described their concept and the choice of location. "Temasek's vision is of an 'ABC' world—Active economies, Beautiful

societies and a Clean earth. We wanted to create a cradle for social impact right in the middle of the city. The location is perfect for public outreach activities that bring together change makers and communities from all walks of life," she shared.

Ms Neo Gim Huay, managing director, sustainability & stewardship, Temasek International, elaborated on the decision of the site, saying, "Temasek Shophouse is part of a

broader vision to rejuvenate Downtown Orchard. We hope that the creation of a destination with engaging and meaningful experiences can be a seed for a larger rejuvenation effort of the area."

Part of their outlook was to extend experiences to the wider community, which has resulted in its public exhibition space—with a hip café—being an important part of the shophouse. While the shophouse has a modern aesthetic, the space also highlights its heritage through display panels as well as little orchard spaces designed by the firm Surbana Jurong. "We paid homage to the

building's location in Orchard Road and created an orchard at the back and rooftop of the shophouse. We also brought nature and greenery into the interior spaces," explained Ms Ivy Koh, senior principal architect with Surbana Jurong.

Ms Neo pointed out that more than a hundred varieties of local plants can be found inside, in the backyard and rooftop garden, which has edible fruit trees and many local herbs and spices. "The idea for this", Ms Neo added, "was to create a welcoming home for everyone. And that includes the birds, the bees and the butterflies!"

BELOW:
The green wall and entrance to Temasek Shophouse.

BOTTOM LEFT:
A meeting room on the roof of Temasek Shophouse.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
The double-volume atrium of Temasek Shophouse serves as an event space and features a coffee shop.

the investment company. Launched in June 2019, Temasek Shophouse's modified and beautifully-decorated interior uses recycled materials, and is a sight to behold. A double-volume event space with a green wall and a social-enterprise café greets visitors upon entry—either via the street entrance or through the garden at the back. Besides being a point

of entry, the garden is an oasis that features a pair of conserved concrete spiral staircases attached to the building's rear. The nature theme running throughout the building is further extended to how they have named and decorated the meeting rooms and co-working spaces after native birds. The 18-month refurbishment effort earned the building a 2019 URA

Architectural Heritage Award for restoration.

An initiative of Temasek Holdings, the project brings Temasek Trust, Temasek Foundation and Stewardship Asia Centre, under one roof. Positioned as a hub for social impact and community collaboration, Temasek Shophouse could be the spark needed to reinject life into this charming row of conserved shophouses.



MOTERING DAYS ON ORCHARD ROAD

Completed in 1927, the former Malayan Motors' showroom at numbers 14 to 20 Orchard Road is a marker of Orchard Road's one-time association with the motoring trade.

Demand for rubber during the First World War (1914–18) benefitted Singapore, which was then a commodity supplier. Demand for the motorcar increased three-fold during this period and brought a proliferation of motorcar showrooms and workshops to this stretch of Orchard Road. Singapore's first vehicle assembly plant, for Ford motorcars, was also set up along the same stretch in 1925.

A subsidiary of Wearnes Brothers, Malayan Motors was the distributor for the manufacturers Morris, Rolls Royce, Rover and Studebaker. The Malayan Motors' showroom made its last sale in August 1980, after which the company consolidated its operations at its Leng Kee Road branch. The showroom was renovated in 1988 and used by the Singapore Manufacturers' Association as SMA House. Since 2002, the building has been used by the private school Management Development Institute of Singapore.



TOP:
No. 26 to 36 Orchard Road in the 1980s. The Art Furniture Depot was a long-time tenant of the building.

ABOVE:
No. 14 to 20 Orchard Road as the Morris (Malayan Motors) showroom in the 1980s.



Old Kallang Airport

Just off Nicoll Highway in Kallang, the biplane-inspired, Streamline-Moderne structure of the Kallang Airport is quite a noticeable fixture in an area now dominated by the Singapore Sports Hub. Designed by Government Architect Frank Dorrington Ward, it was the terminal and centrepiece of Singapore's first civil airport, and was thought to be the world's most modern when it opened in 1937.

Among its admirers was Amelia Earhart, who landed at an eight-day-old airport (also known as the Kallang Aerodrome) during her ill-fated attempt to be

the first female aviatrix to circumnavigate the globe. In her diary, she described Singapore as "an aviation miracle of the East", and the aerodrome as the "peer of any in the world".

The aerodrome was developed during a decade of significant investment, notwithstanding the Great Depression, and during a time when Singapore's first airlinks were being forged. The site at Kallang—selected in 1931 for its proximity to town and also to the sea for flying-boat operations—was then a huge mess of mud that needed conquering. This required four years of draining and filling, and eight

ABOVE:
The former airport terminal's Streamline Moderne style is inspired by the biplane.

TIMELINE

DEVELOPMENTS IN CIVIL AVIATION LEADING TO SINGAPORE'S FIRST CIVIL AIRPORT

FROM THE RACECOURSE TO KALLANG

1911

Josef Christiaens makes the first-ever flight in Singapore using a Bristol Boxkite. The biplane was brought over from France and assembled in Singapore at the racecourse (Farrer Park today) for demonstration.

1919

Vickers Vimy, a British heavy-bomber aircraft, lands at the racecourse on its way from London to Darwin, making it the first inbound aircraft to land in Singapore.

1927

Work commences on Royal Air Force (RAF) Seletar.

1928

Supermarine flying boats arrive at Seletar and are the first aircraft to use the base.

1930

RAF Seletar is completed.

The first regular air service is launched, with KNILM (airline of the former Dutch East Indies) inaugurating a weekly Batavia-Palembang-Singapore service in March.

1932

Work begins on a civil airport at Kallang.

1933

The first London-bound flight, operated by KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines), arrives from Batavia using a Fokker F-XVIII. An outbound journey takes seven days, while an inbound flight takes eight days. A Singapore to London ticket cost in excess of £164, equivalent to £11,815 in 2020.

The first Imperial Airways flight from London arrives on a route survey to Australia (Imperial Airways is a predecessor of British Airways).

A regular run to and from London by Imperial Airways commences. The flights took 10 days and cost £180, or about £12,967 in 2020.

1936

Reclamation for Kallang Aerodrome is completed. It reclaimed 339 acres (137 hectares) using eight million tons of soil from Paya Lebar.

1937

A Dutch DC-2 from Batavia en-route to Europe makes an emergency landing at Kallang due to rainstorm at Seletar.

A German Junkers diesel plane mistakenly touches down at Kallang during its 13,700-mile experimental flight from Dessau to Australia.

A British aircraft from the carrier HMS *Eagle* makes an emergency landing and is the first to use the hangars at Kallang.

million tons of soil. Another year was spent completing the aerodrome, which was opened to great promise by Governor Sir Shenton Thomas on 12 June 1937.

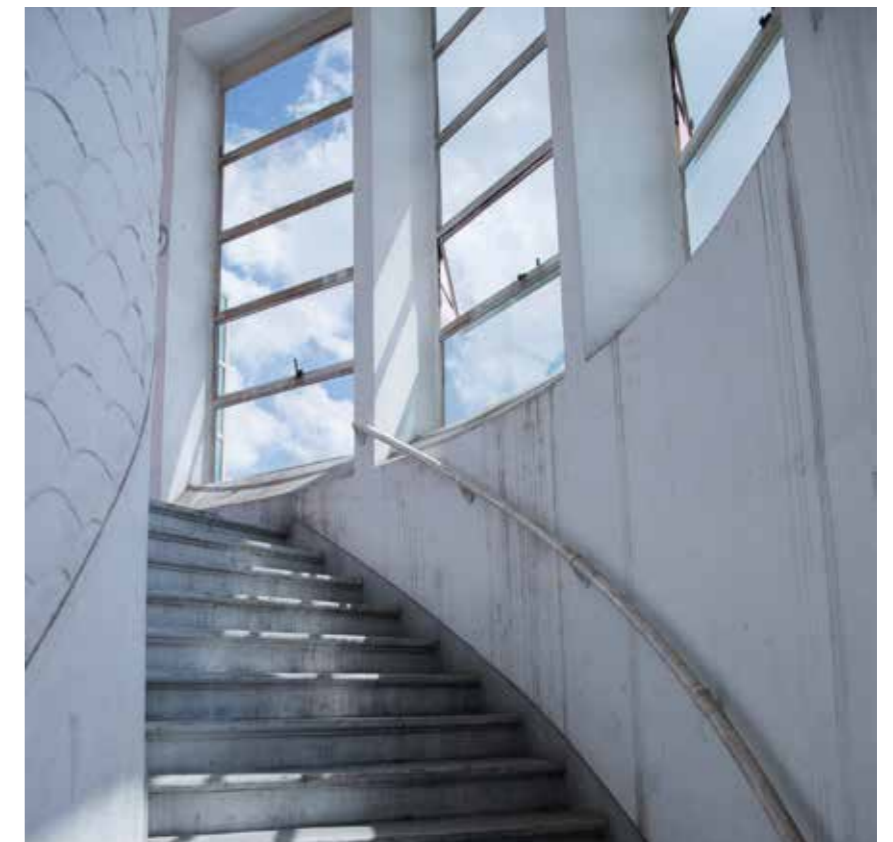
Small by present-day standards, the terminal reflected an age when aviation was still in its infancy. Aircrafts were small and light, requiring only a circular airfield to allow landing in all directions. The terminal's main feature was a lofty central hall that held a restaurant, while the control tower stood on top of the terminal. Two hangars were provided for aircraft maintenance while facilities for the reception of flying boats were placed west of the airfield.

World War II saw the aerodrome double up as

the Royal Air Force Kallang, where two ineffective fighter squadrons were based. The aerodrome had the distinction of being the last operational air base in Singapore before being damaged by Japanese bombing.

During the Japanese occupation, a metalled runway was added. After the war, this runway was repaired, strengthened and extended to land the heavier passenger aircrafts that were then being introduced. It was further extended for passenger jetliners, the first of which touched down at Kallang on 11 October 1951. While the jetliner revolutionised air travel, it also marked the beginning of the end for Kallang Airport. Its runway,

BELOW:
The spiral staircase provides access to the building's upper levels.



despite being updated, was found inadequate and more flaws became evident when a British Overseas Airways Corporation Super Constellation crashed on 13 March 1954, killing 33 passengers. Though pilot error was a major factor, the investigation also highlighted the airport's deficiencies. These factors prompted the decision to build a new airport at Paya Lebar. The first flight at Paya Lebar Airport took off on 21 August 1955 and was swiftly followed by the last flight from Kallang Airport, which departed on 14 October 1955. Nicoll Highway was built a year later.

Serving as the home to the People's Association from 1960 to 2009, the terminal

is now part of a conserved site that includes a hangar, two service blocks and the entrance gateway. Since 2011, Old Kallang Airport has been used as a venue for a diverse range of events, from arts and culture to music and corporate launches. These include the 2011 Singapore Biennale, Calvin Klein and Hermès fashion events in 2014, Diner en Blanc in 2015 and the Singapore International Festival of Arts in 2016.

The conserved property has been identified for reuse in the joint SLA and the Urban Redevelopment Authority initiative called "Reinventing Spaces into Vibrant Places" that launched in May 2019.

BELOW LEFT: Elevated glass control tower.

BELOW RIGHT: The terminal features art deco iron grillwork.



TIMELINE
KALLANG AERODROME

- **1937**
12 Jun: Governor Sir Shenton Thomas makes first official landing at 4.30pm, opening the civil aerodrome.
20 Jun: Amelia Earhart arrives at 5.20pm and spends 2.5 hours tending to her plane. She departs a day later at 6.17am after getting to the airport at 5am for a breakfast of "strange Malayan fruits".
- **1938**
Flying boat service from Singapore to Sydney is launched by Qantas—a four-day journey on an Empire Class flying boat.
- **1946**
15 Mar: RAF Dakota DC-3 crashes with no fatalities.
- **1949**
The last non-military flying boat leaves Kallang.
- **1951**
Work starts in Jan to extend Kallang's runway.
Arrival of the Jet Age in Singapore.
The first jetliner, a BOAC De Havilland Comet, arrives at Kallang from London.
- **1952**
15 Oct: First regular Comet service from London arrives but lands at RAF Changi due to its longer runway.
- **1954**
13 Mar: A BOAC Super Constellation hits a seawall on landing killing 33 passengers.
- **1955**
21 Aug: Paya Lebar Airport starts operating.
14 Oct: The last plane leaves Kallang Airport at 5.12pm.



FAR LEFT: Michael Meston's father (second from left) with his colleagues at Kallang Airport, c.1950.

LEFT: Patrons of the airport's restaurant having tea on the tarmac.

BELOW: Michael Meston (front) having breakfast with his family at Kallang Airport the morning of their departure back to England, 1954.



Michael Meston

CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES INVOLVING

aeroplanes can be especially memorable. For Mr Michael Meston, who witnessed the crash of a Lockheed Constellation on 13 March 1954 at Old Kallang Airport when he was seven, the memory of the incident has been nothing short of unforgettable.

"I was at a swimming gala at Singapore

Swimming Club. From the main balcony I could see the airport. The Constellation was coming in to land from the left when it flipped as it touched down," described Mr Meston. "It burst into flames as it slid down the runway. People on the balcony were screaming."

Despite witnessing the tragic event, Mr Meston has happy memories of the airport. His father, who was with the company International Aeradio, had a workshop there. His family also lived close to the runway's eastern end, which allowed Mr Meston to watch planes take off and feel the rush of air from the propellers,



a feeling he described as exciting.

Having spent seven years in Singapore from 1947 to 1954, the family made their way back to England by departing from Kallang Airport. "I felt some awe and anxiety of missing the flight," Mr Meston said

of the departure, adding, "we had breakfast in the restaurant and I remember running around the departure lounge." That would be the last time Mr Meston saw the airport (in its operational state), a place that has left him with lasting memories.



LEFT:
The original
South
Grandstand.

BELOW:
The North
Grandstand
was added in
1981.

Former Bukit Timah Racecourse

“THE GROUNDS GREW FROM AN ORIGINAL 99 HECTARES THAT WERE PART OF THE FORMER BUKIT TIMAH RUBBER ESTATE.”

Occupying a 140-hectare site zoned for future residential development, the grounds of the Singapore Turf Club's former racecourse at Bukit Timah have found a variety of interim uses since its closure in 1999. Its two grandstands were transformed into a dining and shopping destination in 2001, while other sections of the grounds have also found attractive uses.

The grounds grew from an original 99 hectares that were part of the former Bukit Timah Rubber Estate. The site was acquired in 1929 to facilitate the racecourse's move from its previous location at Farrer Park. Before construction on the new racecourse could start, some 25,000

rubber trees were felled and its terrain levelled. The expansive grounds provided much-needed space for stables, quarters and other supporting facilities.

Designed by the firm Swan & Maclaren, the centrepiece of the course was a clock-tower-topped grandstand that overlooked the racetrack. Within the three-tier grandstand, there were royal and press boxes on the second level, and the stewards' and owners' boxes on the upper tier. Seating for the general public was in the form of 2,000 tip-up teak chairs, which constituted “the largest, single-chair order East of the Suez” made at that point.

On 15 April 1933, the opening of the racecourse was graced by Governor

Sir Cecil Clementi, who made a grand entrance on horseback. Among the 5,000 guests present were Johor's Sultan, Sultanah and Tunku Mahkota, as well as the Sultan of Perak—then Malaya's largest individual owner of racehorses.

The course held its inaugural race in May 1933. The event attracted such a large crowd that it caused a traffic jam, a situation that persisted throughout the life of the racetrack, to the inconvenience of the area's residents. The location did, however, have its benefits. The proximity of the course to the relocated Bukit Timah Railway Station was especially convenient for moving racehorses to other venues in the Malayan Peninsula.





TOP: Horses on display before Singapore Gold Cup Race at Singapore Turf Club, Bukit Timah Racecourse, 1995.

ABOVE: Bukit Timah Racecourse, 1960.

The threat of war suspended racing in October 1941, and it only resumed in November 1947, two years after the war ended. During the Japanese occupation, the land was used to grow crops.

From the 1970s to the 1980s, evidence shows that there were various interventions implemented to increase the seating capacity. It was only in 1981 that a second stand, the North Grandstand, was officially

added to expand the seating capacity to 8,000 people. Supporting this growth was an upper car park level and a multi-storey car park along Dunearn Road, which have since been demolished.

The course's last race was run in July 1999. The grandstands, repurposed as Turf City in 2001 and The Grandstand in 2012, have seen supermarkets, food-halls, dining outlets, early education providers and

TIMELINE

THE JOURNEY NORTH

- **1842**
Establishment of Singapore Sporting Club (SSC).
- **1843**
A racecourse is built at today's Farrer Park.
- **1924**
SSC is renamed Singapore Turf Club (STC).
- **1927**
Decision is made to sell the racecourse.
- **1929**
Land is acquired from the Bukit Timah Rubber Estate for a new racecourse.
- **1933**
New racecourse at Bukit Timah officially opens on 15 April.
- **1941**
Racing is suspended due to the threat of war.
- **1942–45**
The grounds are used to grow vegetables.
- **1947**
Racing resumes on the refurbished grounds in November.
- **1981**
The North Grandstand is added.
- **1988**
STC dissolves and Bukit Turf Club (BTC) is formed to take over its operations.
- **1994**
BTC is renamed, reusing the Singapore Turf Club's name.
- **1999**
The last race at the Bukit Timah Racecourse runs in July, and the racecourse moves to Kranji in August.

other retail outlets fill their spaces. Used car dealers occupy the ground level of the double-storey car park. The former racetrack and its lawn are now playing fields. Further down are the grounds' more delightful finds: a surprising "Junkies" corner of second-hand dealers as well as an area devoted to equestrian pursuits in settings that could well be compared to the English countryside.



ABOVE: The linkway between the car park and the former grandstand.

FAR LEFT: A reminder of The Grandstand's horseracing days.

LEFT: The modified clock tower of the South Grandstand.

Former Oversea-Chinese Bank

Dwarfed by the glass and steel behemoths of the Central Business District (CBD), The Quadrant—a five-storey building at 19 Cecil Street—stands as a reminder of the grand banking headquarters of a bygone era. It is also one of only three CBD buildings from the 1920s construction boom to have survived the cull of post-independence redevelopment.

Designed by the firm Keys and Dowdeswell, the building's art deco façade signalled a shift from the neo-classical styles favoured in the day. It also moved away from the preferred aesthetics of Major Percy Hubert Keys—the senior partner of the firm

who, in his previous role as a government architect, designed the Fullerton Building, the Bowyer Block and the College of Medicine.

Erected as the temporary headquarters for the Oversea-Chinese Bank (OCB) in 1929, the building had a double-volume banking hall with three floors of offices above, accessible using a small Maryat & Scott lift.

There was also a mezzanine-level gallery that permitted the bank managers to observe the banking hall, as well as a vault in the basement.

OCB's decision to erect the building came on the back of its inability to find a suitable replacement site for its Chulia Street headquarters. Built on the corner of Cecil Street and



ABOVE: The art deco building of the former Oversea-Chinese Bank stands in a sea of modern structures.

RIGHT: View from the rooftop of The Quadrant with skyscrapers towering overhead.

“THE QUADRANT . . . STANDS AS A REMINDER OF THE GRAND BANKING HEADQUARTERS OF A BYGONE ERA.”

BELOW: A bistro and bar now operates in the former banking hall.



CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW: Opening of the Kwangtung Provincial Bank in the building in 1939.

The building's vintage lift was installed in late 1929.

Members of staff of the Kwangtung Provincial Bank in front of the building in 1947.

Chan K.Y., an employee of Kwangtung Provincial Bank.

Market Street, previously occupied by six shophouses owned by the bank, the temporary headquarters was thought to be a good investment despite being considered “not too central” by the bank’s directors. As such, the search for a more central location continued.

OCB occupied the building for just two years. It moved back to Chulia Street in late 1931 when the China Building was completed, a structure it co-developed

with the Chinese Commercial Bank. The merger of the two banks with Ho Hong Bank in 1932, during the Great Depression, created the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC).

Following OCB’s tenancy, the building was leased to wine merchants, Eastern Agencies, from 1933 to 1938. It was then passed between banks—Kwangtung Provincial Bank occupied the building from 1939 to 1979, during which time it was

absorbed into the Bank of China group; and Four-Seas Communications Bank, then part of the OCBC group, occupied it from 1982 to 1990.

The building was repurposed as the Pacific Can Building in the 1990s, and as the headquarters of the childcare centre group Cherie Hearts in the late 2000s. It was tenanted by the Homestead Group—a real estate group that repurposes heritage buildings



TIMELINE

THE LAST OLD-SCHOOL BANKING CHAMBER IN THE CBD

- 1928** Municipal regulations affect the Oversea-Chinese Bank (OCB) on Chulia Street, prompting construction of a temporary headquarters on the corner of Cecil Street and Market Street.
- 1929** Temporary headquarters of OCB at 19–25 Cecil Street is completed in November.
- 1931** OCB moves to its permanent office in the China Building on Chulia Street, a building co-developed with the Chinese Commercial Bank.
- 1932** OCB merges with the Chinese Commercial Bank and Ho Hong Bank to form the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC).
- 1933–38** Wine merchant Eastern Agencies occupies the building.
- 1939–79** Kwangtung Provincial Bank operates its Singapore branch in the building.
- 1982–90** Four Seas Communication Bank maintains a branch in the building.
- Early 1990s** OCBC Property Services occupies the building.
- Late 1990s** Pacific Can Investment Holdings becomes the tenant, renaming it the Pacific Can Building.
- 2009–11** Cherie Hearts, an early childhood education provider, moves in. The building is referred to as the “Cherie Hearts HQ”.
- 2012** Homestead Group tenants the building and rebrands it The Quadrant.



for contemporary use—in 2012, and was renamed The Quadrant.

In its current iteration, the banking hall of the building is occupied by a bistro called The Black Swan. The former gallery now houses the bistro’s cocktail bar, The Powder Room, while the bank vault has been put to good

use as a private dining area. Co-working areas now fill the office space upstairs with access via the rebuilt vintage lift. In 2018, the building was a venue on “The City Ramble” heritage trail during Singapore Design Week, and continues to be a popular subject for photographers and urban sketchers.

TOP: Kwangtung Provincial Bank, c. 1940.

ABOVE: Aerial view of Cecil Street and Market Street, 1960s.



Low Jeng-tek

THE QUADRANT ON

19 Cecil Street stands in stark contrast to the sea of skyscrapers that now dominates the Central Business District. The charm of the 1920s art deco building and its distinct appearance from its surroundings caught the eye of Mr Low Jeng-tek of the Homestead Group. He decided to bid

for its tenancy in 2011 with a vision already in mind. Mr Low wanted to “rejuvenate, transform and restore the building to its former glory by creating new value and making it relevant to modern Singapore”.

The first challenge for Mr Low was to give the building a makeover, whilst maintaining its eccentric style. The next was to overcome prevailing perceptions of the structure being obsolete. Mr Low shared that they needed to communicate to the public that not only was everything fully functioning,

the building had also been upgraded. His successful refurbishment attracted the subtenant, The Black Swan, which has enhanced the building’s old-world charm by transforming what was once a disused banking hall into a stylish 1930s bistro and bar.

Mr Low is keen to bring the building’s history and its links to the local banking scene to light and hopes to set up a heritage gallery to inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs.

BELOW:
The Powder Room dining area set in the gallery.



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH



FORMER TANGLIN BARRACKS



FORMER TANGLIN GARRISON CHURCH



FORMER RIMAU OFFICES



FORMER GILLMAN OFFICERS' MESS

FOR GOD AND EMPIRE

St George's Church

“A NATIONAL MONUMENT SINCE 1978, ST GEORGE’S CHURCH WAS BUILT IN A STYLE INSPIRED BY NEO-ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE WITH A STUNNING RED-BRICK FAÇADE WELL ADAPTED FOR THE TROPICS.”



St George's Church at the top of Minden Road is the last structure of former Tanglin Barracks that is still being used as intended. The former garrison church served soldiers quartered at the barracks and is now a parish church of the Anglican Diocese of Singapore.

The church has its origins in the barracks' earliest days, and was part of a barrack block erected in the 1860s. The chapel was only truly activated with the arrival of Major Charles Hamilton Malan, commander of the 75th Sterlingshire Regiment of Foot who was quartered at the barracks from 1870 to 1871. His religious calling also spurred him to minister

to the troops. Appointed garrison chaplains would continue Major Malan's spiritual work. In 1884, the chapel received a building of its own, which was erected west of the barracks' parade grounds (now The White Rabbit restaurant).

In 1910, construction commenced on the current building of St George's Church. Its architect, Captain William Henry Stanbury, was a civilian

staff officer with the Royal Engineers Service. By late October 1911, St George's Church was sufficiently completed to hold its first service. However, the building was officially completed only in 1913. This new structure for the church would replace the 1884 chapel, which became the chapel school.

A national monument since 1978, St George's Church was built in a



LEFT: The iconic red-brick façade of St George's Church.

ABOVE: View of the west side bay, which is lined with arch openings.

style inspired by neo-Romanesque architecture with a stunning red-brick façade well adapted for the tropics. Balustrades, not walls, line the long sides of the building to provide maximum ventilation while allowing for privacy. Fitted into the arched windows are white timber louvres that add a unique character to the building as well as increase airflow. Inside, the framework is dominated by the arches of seven lengthwise bays and the exposed timber trusses of the roof.

The stained glass at the back of the sanctuary have colours representing the various regiments involved in Singapore's defence, and they replaced the originals that were lost during the war. Removed for safekeeping days before Singapore's fall, the original stained-glass panels were so well hidden that they were never recovered. The new panels, which were produced by the renowned Glaswegian designer Gordon Webster, were installed in 1955.

During the Japanese occupation, the church was used as an ammunition store. It resumed its church services in October 1946. Reminiscences of the war, however, are still visible through the lychgate near the entrance. It is a replica of one that was moved from the prisoner-of-war cemetery at Changi in 1952, before finding its way to Britain in 1971.

The post-war era saw an increase in military strength and with it, an increase in the number of young soldiers

BELOW:
The church's altar and stained glass were installed in 1955 to replace those lost during the war.



TIMELINE

FROM GARRISON CHURCH TO PARISH CHURCH

1860–69

Tanglin Barracks is constructed. Part of a barrack block is reserved for use as a garrison chapel.

1870

Major Charles Hamilton Malan, who is also a lay minister, activates the chapel.

1884

A dedicated chapel building is erected.

1910

Construction starts on a larger church building dedicated to St George.

1911

Semi-completed St George's Church holds its first service in October.

1913

Construction on the church building is completed.

1942–45

The church is used as an ammunition depot by the Japanese occupiers.

1946

Church services resume in October.

1952

A lychgate is moved from the Changi prisoner-of-war cemetery to the grounds of the church.

1971

The lychgate is dismantled and sent to Britain.

The last military service is held on 24 Oct.

St George's Church holds its first civilian service as a daughter church of St Andrew's Cathedral on 31 Oct.

1973

The church becomes a parish church under the (Anglican) Diocese of Singapore.

1978

The church is gazetted as a national monument.

1984

A replica of the Changi lychgate is installed on church grounds.

2011

The church celebrates its centenary.



and families stationed here. This would see St George's, as a garrison church, host many more weddings and christenings. More than 1,500 babies were baptised in the church from 1947 to 1971.

The end for St George's as a garrison church came with the withdrawal of British

forces in 1971—a century or so after the ministry of Major Malan. The last military service was held on 24 October that year, before St George's transitioned into a civilian church. St George's continues to function as a church today, marking its centenary in 2011.

TOP:
St George's as a garrison church, 1967.

ABOVE:
View of the eastern flank of the church with arches fitted with chequered pattern balustrades.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A plaque erected in memory of Sir William Goode, colonial Singapore's last governor.

A glimpse into the interior through one of the church's Greek cross motifs.

St George's Church by night.



Saralee Turner

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

holds a special place in Ms Saralee Turner's heart. She has been a long-time member of the congregation and the church's volunteer archivist for 18 years.

"The church is not just a beautiful place to worship, with its open views of the surrounding trees, but is also one rich in heritage," said Ms Turner. "Stories abound

of those who return to Singapore to visit St George's. They give us 'snapshots' of special events that were celebrated here including baptisms, confirmations, weddings as well as funerals."

There are also visitors who come in search of the past. As an archivist, Ms Turner finds this a challenge as beyond the stories captured, little exists by way of records before 1971. "Some have asked for quite specific information as they were writing about the site and its history", she explained, "and often, there's disappointment." Pre-war records were destroyed in the war while

those kept after the war were taken by the British Army when they withdrew from Singapore in 1971.

On a personal level, Ms Turner has special memories of her own. It includes those early morning Holy Communion services in 1985 offered by the Reverend Bruce Winter. She recalled the simple yet meaningful ten-minute homilies he delivered, as well as the liturgy. "The service was really lovely", shared Ms Turner, "along with the birdsong that could be heard as we said our prayers."



Former Tanglin Barracks

ABOVE: The former gymnasium is now used as a centre for fitness and wellness.

Tanglin Village, parts of which are commonly known as Dempsey Hill, is a retail and lifestyle destination located just south of the Singapore Botanic Gardens. It occupies a large part of the former military camp known as Tanglin Barracks, which was spread across an undulating landscape once given to cultivating nutmeg. The grounds were purchased for the camp by the Straits Settlements government in 1860.

"[THE BARRACK BLOCKS] WERE AMONG THE FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT ACCOMMODATIONS IN SINGAPORE FOR EUROPEAN TROOPS."

Designed by Captain George Chancellor Collyer of the Madras Engineers, the first barrack blocks were simply constructed with timber walls and attap roofs, and were among the first purpose-built accommodations in Singapore for European troops. The tiled or zinc-sheet roof structures that define Tanglin Village today are replacements made in the early 20th century.

The current grounds feature playing fields inherited

from its barrack days, which were central to a British soldier's life in the tropics. It includes a cricket field established around 1871 by soldiers of the 75th Stirlingshire Regiment of Foot. More playing grounds to the south of this one were created more recently on land once occupied by the barracks' former rifle range.

A particularly interesting corner of Tanglin Village is the Loewen Cluster off Loewen Road. The former Tanglin Military Hospital

operated there. The hospital was the British military's foremost medical facility until the opening of Alexandra Military Hospital in the middle of 1940. It was during this period that Dr William Frankland, now known as the "grandfather of allergy" for his pioneering work in the field, found himself posted.

Dr Frankland and another newly arrived colleague, Captain R. L. Parkinson, vied for the Tanglin position when it came up in 1941 with the Royal Army Medical Corps. Neither fancied the alternative posting, which was to Alexandra Hospital as an anaesthetist, but a coin

toss broke the impasse. This would seal the fate of Captain Parkinson, who tragically lost his life whilst administering anaesthesia during the Japanese massacre at Alexandra Hospital on 14 February 1942.

The post-war years went by uneventfully, as Tanglin Barracks became the headquarters of the Far East Land Forces and the former Army Medical Centre. In 1972, the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) moved in, following the withdrawal of British forces from Singapore the year before. The part of the barracks that housed MINDEF's Central Manpower

Base holds poignant memories for generations of men who began their National Service journeys there. It was where oaths of allegiance were taken and where one witnessed many tearful send-offs. The ministry eventually vacated the premises in 1989.

In the 1990s, parts of the former barracks were rented out to retail outlets and turned into a destination for carpets and furniture. In 2006, SLA launched a tender with the aim of revitalising Tanglin Village. It was awarded to Country City Investment (CCI), who responded by bringing in

CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW LEFT: The former barrack blocks at Tanglin Village feature verandahs and jack roofs to aid ventilation.

Dempsey Hill by Country City Investments (CCI).

Cafés and restaurants at CCI's Block 8 Dempsey Hill.

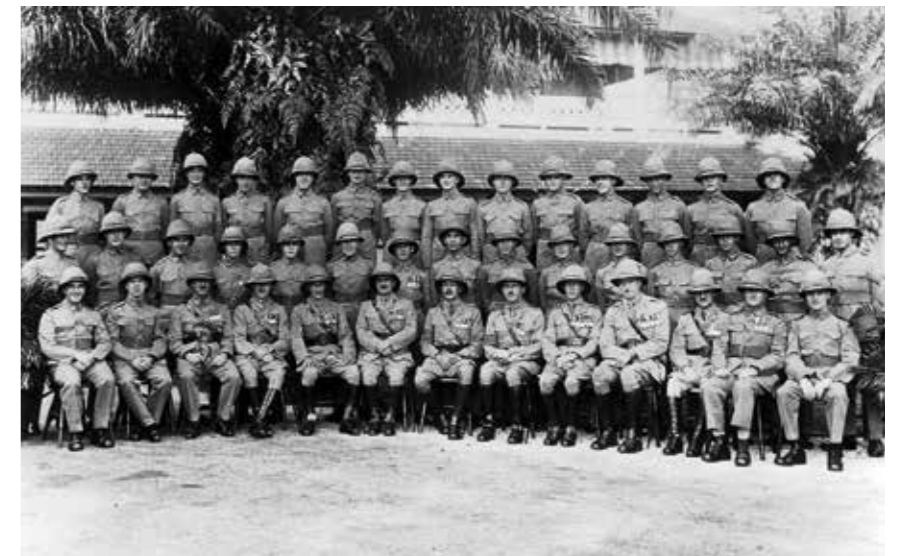
Setting for a Japanese restaurant at CCI's Block 10 Dempsey Hill.



TIMELINE

BARRACKS TO LIFESTYLE DESTINATION

- **1860**
Land is purchased for a military barracks at Tanglin.
- **1861**
Construction starts on Tanglin Barracks.
- **1864**
Construction is completed but the barracks remain unoccupied.
Agri-Horticultural Society organises a fair at the barracks' Mess Hall to raise funds for the proposed botanical gardens.
- **1866**
A second fair is organised in the still unoccupied barracks.
- **1869**
The first military occupants, a wing of the Hong Kong-based 75th Stirlingshire Regiment of Foot, are stationed at the barracks.
- **1871**
A cricket field is built by the 75th Stirlingshire Regiment of Foot.
- **1915**
Part of the Singapore Mutiny plays out at the barracks.
- **1942**
Australian Imperial Force 8th Division HQ retreats to Tanglin Barracks on 9 February.
- **1945–46**
Barracks serves as headquarters for the Allied Land Forces South East Asia.
- **1946–47**
Barracks becomes headquarters for the South East Asia Land Forces.
- **1947–71**
Barracks is headquarters for the Far East Land Forces.
- **1972–89**
Singapore's Ministry of Defence is housed in the former Tanglin Barracks, and renames it Tanglin Camp.
- **1990s**
Tanglin Camp is repurposed as the retail hub Tanglin Village.
- **2006**
SLA launches a tender for Blocks 8, 8D, 9, 9A, 9B, 10 & 11 Dempsey Road, to revitalise Tanglin Village. Tender is awarded to Country City Investments (CCI).
- **2007**
CCI also wins a tender for Blocks 25, 25A, 25B & 26B Dempsey Road under SLA's Ideas Tender Scheme. CCI rebrands its section of Tanglin Village as Dempsey Hill.
- **2008**
CCI is awarded Blocks 13/A, 14A/C/D/E, 15, 16 and 26 Dempsey Road.
- **2014**
The refurbished Loewen cluster is awarded to CCI.
- **2015**
Blocks 17 and 18 Dempsey Road are awarded to COMO Lifestyle.
- **2019**
COMO expands to Blocks 14A, 14C, 14D and 14E Dempsey Road.



17 restaurants to the former barracks. This, together with other sections of the site which CCI also won several tenders for, was rebranded as Dempsey Hill, a name that Tanglin Village is also recognised for today.

A quarter of a century later, the buildings that fronted the former MINDEF's Central Manpower Base, Blocks 17 and 18, are now home to the COMO Lifestyle cluster. Under the brand

are a handful of established restaurants, including the Michelin-star awarded Peranakan restaurant Candlenut as well as a retail concept store and upscale market. COMO has bolstered the image of Dempsey Hill, which has become a prime wining and dining destination in Singapore under the development of CCI since 2007.

TOP: Former barrack blocks at COMO Dempsey have been converted and contain retail and F&B outlets, an example of which is The Dempsey Cookhouse and Bar by world renowned chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten.

ABOVE: No. 32 Company RAMC, Tanglin Barracks, 1930.

Dropping Anchor at Dempsey Hill

Samy's Curry



Over the years, Dempsey Hill has solidified its reputation as one of Singapore's main dining destinations. Among its mix of restaurants is Samy's Curry Restaurant at Block 25, which, along with three other dining establishments, has been identified by SLA as an anchor tenant due to its long association with Dempsey Hill. This classification has allowed the four restaurants to extend their leases for another nine years.

As the oldest tenant, Samy's association with the former military barracks goes

back four decades—it moved to Dempsey Hill in 1980 as a canteen stall in what was then the Civil Service Club's Tanglin Clubhouse. Reflecting on the move, the restaurant's director and granddaughter of Samy's founder, Ms Nagajyothi (Jyothi) Mahendram, said, "Dempsey was ulu (remote) and wasn't even known by taxi drivers. Today, Dempsey has become a place to come to—even for tourists."

While the bulk of Samy's customers are local, visitors to the country who have

dined there include Indian movie stars and even the Sultan of Johor. One that Ms Jyothi best remembers is the late celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain, whose visit Ms Jyothi described as most memorable. She recalled, "Mr Bourdain told me that he really loved that fish head curry. That was a very proud moment for me."



RedDot Brewhouse



RedDot Brewhouse at Block 25A, another of the four anchor tenants, is considered Singapore's first local microbrewery. It was established by local brewmaster Mr Ernest Ng and his wife Mrs Ng Mui Lee in 2007. Mr Ng's connection to Dempsey Hill, through his stint as an army officer, greatly influenced the choice to set up in the former

barracks. Another motivation was its greenery. Elaborating on this, Mrs Ng said, "It is hard to find an oasis in the urban environment, and one nestled among old trees. This is something that money does not buy."

Mr and Mrs Ng's daughter, Ms Crystalla Huang, a brewmaster in her own right, added, "We are close to a road, which makes us

accessible. The view that we have, however, is of greenery that is 'borrowed' from the Botanic Gardens across the road."



Morsels



A more recent, but no less established, addition to the anchor tenants is Morsels at Block 25, which came to Dempsey Hill in 2017. Started by local award-winning chef Ms Petrina Loh some eight years prior, the fusion restaurant's offerings contain herbs used in traditional Chinese medicine. Ms Loh traces this to her typical Chinese upbringing, as do the small bites on the menu that have also inspired

the restaurant's name. Herbs are harvested from the restaurant's garden.

In her three years at Dempsey Hill, Ms Loh, has developed an appreciation for its charm and history. "It is nice that modern Singapore has kept some parcels of its history so close to town and unlike a mall, it contains many stories of the past," Ms Loh said. "It is interesting to hear our customers share stories of the Civil Service

Club, and of blocks nearby where some may have gone for their pre-enlistment medicals," she said, adding, "It has been enjoyable for other customers to learn of this history as well."



Long Beach Seafood



History—over 70 years of it—is something that another of the four anchor tenants, Long Beach Seafood Restaurant, certainly has. Established in 1946, Long Beach's branch at Dempsey Hill was set up in 2007 and it has not looked back with celebrities such as Lady Gaga, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong among its clients.

Long Beach's branch at 25 Dempsey Road provided its patrons with another

dining experience, one close to nature in surroundings that exude a colonial charm. This variety in scenery is reflected in its culinary offerings. Popular local favourites such as black pepper crab—a creation of Long Beach Seafood in the 1980s—are supplemented by more exotic menu additions.

The Long Beach experience at Dempsey Hill is currently being enhanced by contemporary additions that include a glass and steel extension, a timber deck

and a landscaped garden. In describing these updates, the restaurant spokesperson said, "We were among the first restaurant tenants to bring new energy to Dempsey Hill 13 years ago. We hope that our continued presence, together with the impending renovations, will help bring an even greater buzz to the area."





Former Tanglin Garrison Church

ABOVE: The White Rabbit, a dining venue along Harding Road, is set in a former garrison chapel from the late 1800s.

Walking by 39C Harding Road in Tanglin Village, it is easy to mistake it as a Christian house of worship. The building was first established in 1884 when Tanglin Village was a military barracks. It was set at the eastern edge of the barracks' parade grounds and was the first purpose-built garrison chapel erected in the area. The

chapel replaced another that occupied a section of a barrack block. In 1911, a larger place of worship was built on the opposite side of the parade grounds. This was consecrated as St George's Church, and the chapel building was subsequently converted into a Christian school.

After the war, the chapel was utilised as the garrison's Roman Catholic Church of

TIMELINE

FROM FEEDING THE SOUL TO FEEDING THE BELLY

1884

Garrison chapel is erected in Tanglin Barracks.

1911

The chapel is repurposed into the chapel school as services move to the newly established St George's Church.

Late 1940s

The chapel becomes a dedicated Roman Catholic church for the garrison.

1971

Britain withdraws its military presence and the chapel falls into disuse.

1979–83

Hebron Bible-Presbyterian Church uses the building as the Ebenezer Chapel.

1985–93

New Life Baptist Church occupies the chapel.

2007

Tenancy for the site is awarded to The Lo & Behold Group following a tender launched by SLA.

2008

The White Rabbit opens.

Christ the King (unrelated to the current Roman Catholic church of the same name). As with St George's Church, the Catholic church was the scene for many military weddings. The chapel fell into disuse following the withdrawal of British forces in 1971 and was taken up again as a Christian sanctuary in 1979, when it became the Hebron Bible-Presbyterian Church's Ebenezer Chapel until 1983. Subsequently, the New Life Baptist Church occupied the chapel from 1985 until 1993.

In 2007, SLA called for a tender to reuse the former chapel. The site was

awarded to The Lo & Behold Group in December 2007, and the following year, the building found new life as a European restaurant called The White Rabbit.

The conversion of the chapel into a restaurant saw the preservation of several original architectural features. This included the structure's timber roof supports, tiles and iron window grilles—one of which displays an image of the Triregnum (the triple-tiered crown of the Pope) and the keys of St Peter, a nod to the chapel's time as a Catholic garrison church.

Takenouchi Webb, the design firm responsible for

BELOW: Band of 1st Battalion Manchester Regiment at Tanglin Barracks, 1903. The photograph appears to have been taken outside the garrison church.



the renovation, also added new decorative elements in line with the building's history that complemented the original features such as the stained-glass windows in the dining hall.

The grounds of the former chapel lend themselves to use as the restaurant's herb

garden and is the setting of its gin garden bar, The Rabbit Hole. The theme of the bar is playfully inspired by Lewis Carroll's classic, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

The White Rabbit's careful conversion of what was once a worship space is an inspired example

of how vacant State-owned properties can be transformed and integrated back into the community. Like a reflection of the building's function in its previous life, the beautiful restaurant is still a popular venue for weddings and other social gatherings.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Interior of The White Rabbit.

Specially designed stained glass was added by the restaurant's owners to enhance the atmosphere of the space.

The Sunday Room of The White Rabbit.

The former chapel has the look and feel of a countryside church.



Wee Teng Wen

THE SIGHT OF a disused chapel amidst Dempsey Hill's lush, natural surroundings took hold of Mr Wee Teng Wen upon his first encounter. Years later, the public had the opportunity to experience the same awe for the building when the doors of The White Rabbit opened.

"I was taken by this abandoned chapel. I fell in love with it years before,

when Dempsey Hill seemed untouched and surrounded by much greenery," said Mr Wee, Managing Partner of The Lo & Behold Group. "I saw it as a space for people to escape the humdrum of modern city life, and one in which guests could also get a sense of history."

There were so many opportunities to showcase the building's history through what Mr Wee terms as the chapel's "intrinsic charm". The addition of specially designed stained-glass panels and timber furniture also enhanced this atmosphere, which has become the cornerstone of The White Rabbit

experience. "The simplicity of the original timber structure, mosaic floor tiles and decorative iron window grilles do not only lend themselves to this quality, they are also part of the space's beauty," he added.

The elegance of the space provides a wonderful setting to celebrate "the emotional highs of the human experience". After a moment's pause, Mr Wee elaborated: "Whether it's a first date, a wedding or a meal with loved ones, The White Rabbit is a place of celebration, joy, wonder and love. It is where people celebrate their best days."



Former Rimau Offices

Sitting on a hill just east of the Causeway, the three-storey building at the top of View Road—with its neat arrangement of windows—looks more like an apartment block than a structure intended for military use.

Constructed on Bukit Rimau in 1941 and named Rimau Offices, the building sits on a unique E-shaped plan in a tranquil corner of what was once a huge naval base in Sembawang. While simple in appearance, the structure is interesting primarily because of the

lookout tower on its roof, which provided unobstructed views of the area. It is accompanied by a rare above-ground bomb-proof office. Together, the two structures hint at functions beyond what their façades suggest.

While there is evidence showing the expediency with which the building and its annex were built, little has been recorded on their purpose. Wartime intelligence reports classified the buildings as a “large administration building” and several anti-aircraft

LEFT:
The main building of the former Rimau Offices resembles an apartment block.

RIGHT:
Roszelan bin Mohd Yusof (left) with his friends at 10 View Road, c.1970.

BELOW:
Naval Base Police Force Sikh Gurdwara, c.1960.



Roszelan bin Mohd Yusof

BEST KNOWN AS a mental hospital, the facility at 10 View Road seems an unlikely place to develop an attachment to. However, the property holds a special place in the heart of Mr Roszelan bin Mohd Yusof. Now 59, Mr Roszelan lived there as a child from 1960 to 1972, when it was the Asian quarters for the Naval Base Police Force (NBPF), of which his father was a member.

As a guest during a Discovering Singapore’s Best Kept Secrets tour to the property in 2017, Mr Roszelan expressed



his delight in seeing his childhood home. “I love this place and couldn’t wait to see it again. I would happily rent a unit here if there was the chance.”

The quarters housed 30 NBPF families of various ethnicities, so the cultural festivals celebrated were memorable events. Deepavali would see Sikh families distributing chapatis and festive sweets, with Malay families returning the gesture with

kuih-kuih cakes during Hari Raya. Sikh weddings, held at a gurdwara on the grounds, were also occasions to look forward to.

For Mr Roszelan, the fondest memories were the simple moments spent as a family. “We often sat in my father’s garden taking in the wonderful views of the surroundings that the location and elevation of the facility provided.”





ABOVE:
A corridor lined with blast walls showing preparations made for war.

gun emplacements were positioned in the surrounding area. From 1947 to 1950, the aerial photographs showed a large cross marked on the roof of the main building, suggesting its use as a temporary medical centre after the Japanese occupation. There have also been cartographic markings found that identified the structures as the “Old Maritime HQ”. This hinted at the fact that the buildings could have been used as a maritime air operations centre, an idea revived in the mid-1950s in a proposal made by the Royal Air Force.

While the bomb-proof

office was disused from the late 1950s, the main building was allocated to the NBPf to help meet an acute housing shortage for its growing ranks of Asian policemen and their families. Independent from the main police force, the NBPf was established to provide base security in 1938. It counted a large contingent of Sikhs among its ranks, which led to the establishment of the Gurdwara Sabha Naval Police Sikh temple at View Road in 1959.

The British withdrawal from Singapore saw the disbandment of the force in 1971 with their

TIMELINE

FROM NAVAL BASE TO HOSPITAL

- **1941**
Building and annex are constructed within the Sembawang naval base.
 - **1944**
Allied intelligence reports classify the buildings as an administration building.
 - **1950s**
Plans for a maritime headquarters at the property are revived by the Royal Air Force.
 - **Late 1950s**
Building is used as the Naval Base Police Asian Quarters for married policemen.
 - **1975–2001**
Building is used by then View Road Hospital for rehabilitation of long-term schizophrenic patients.
 - **2008–17**
The structure becomes the View Road Lodge, a foreign workers’ dormitory.
 - **2017–present**
The site is currently under planning consideration in line with the development of the Woodlands North Coast Innovation District.
- Gurdwara Sahib Naval Police Sikh temple operates on View Road from 1959 to 1971.

accompanying families who lived in the quarters moving out in 1972. The Sikh temple merged with the Sembawang Sikh Temple and the Gurdwara Sahib Jalan Kayu, and now operates as a component of the Gurdwara Sahib Yishun.

The handover of the base to the Singapore government allowed for the repurposing of its buildings and the former quarters into the 250-bed View Road Hospital, perhaps the use that the structure is best known for. It was conceived as a distantly located extension of the overcrowded Woodbridge Hospital (now the Institute of

Mental Health) from 1975 to 2001. The building’s unique layout and location made it a good fit for the rehabilitative care of long-term patients.

The minimally-staffed hospital implemented new ideas in rehabilitation, one of which involved the provision of skills training for chronic schizophrenia sufferers to facilitate their return to society. A laundry, a nursery

and a café operated by the hospital employed the patients. Many were also released in the day to take up jobs in nearby factories.

Following the hospital’s closure in 2001, the building was used on two occasions as a foreign workers’ dormitory, the last being in 2017.

The structure is now under the care of SLA

and stands in an area being redeveloped as the Woodlands North Coast Innovation District. A climb up the lookout tower will show that these plans are already knocking on View Road’s door, with Woodlands North MRT Station—the first stage in the redevelopment—already up and running.

CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW:
A view from the lookout tower.

The rear of the main building with the bomb-proof office seen on the right.

One of the main building’s numerous rooms.





Former Gillman Officers' Mess

“IT IS AN AREA WITH A DISTINCT COLONIAL FLAVOUR AS SEEN IN ITS STRUCTURES AND STREET NAMES—THAT IS, EXCEPT FOR HYDERABAD ROAD, WHICH ALONGSIDE BERKSHIRE, CANTERBURY AND CORNWALL, SEEMS CURIOUSLY OUT OF PLACE.”

ABOVE:
The
neoclassical
façade of 10
Hyderabad
Road, a former
officers' mess.

RIGHT:
The structure
features airy
verandahs,
typical of
British military
architecture
adapted for the
tropics.

The Singapore campus of SP Jain School of Global Management, one of Asia's top-ranked business schools, lies on the fringes of Alexandra Park. It is an area with a distinct colonial flavour as seen in its structures and street names—that is, except for Hyderabad Road, which alongside Berkshire, Canterbury and Cornwall, seems curiously out of place.

Hyderabad's connection to the other street names stems from the days when the area was part of Alexandra Barracks. The 95th Russells Infantry Battalion, which has its origins in the British residency in

Hyderabad, India, was among the units stationed in the barracks in the early 20th century.

From 2006, Hyderabad Road's link to the Subcontinent was only strengthened through SP Jain's presence. Upon the invitation of the Singapore government, the Mumbai-based school established its Singapore campus at this fitting location. The campus was officially opened on 9 March 2007 by then Minister for Education Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

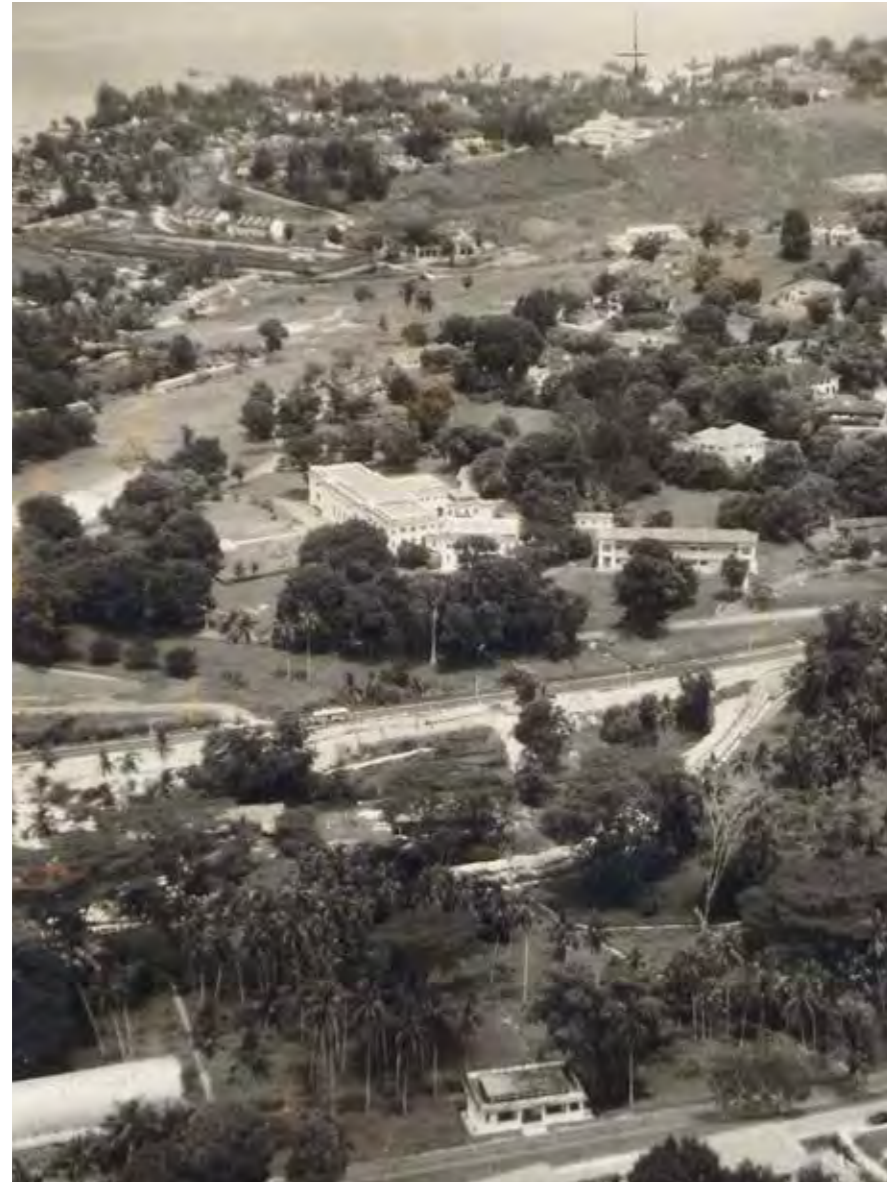
The complex, previously used by the Institute of Dental Health (IDH), was left vacant for about eight years

before the school obtained tenancy. On the grounds were two pre-war buildings and a taller modern annex block, all of which needed extensive work.

Revisiting the building's past, initial thoughts regarding the adaptive use of Alexandra Barracks after the British withdrawal in 1971 included the transformation of the officers' mess into a motel or rest house. However, the property was taken over by the Ministry of Health (MOH), and its time as the Dental Health Education Unit (DHEU) in 1973 defined the site's current boundaries.

The DHEU expanded into the IDH in 1975, where





ABOVE: View from Gillman Barracks (bottom) looking towards Kent Ridge (top). The prominent white building at centre left is Hyderabad House, which was used as the British Army Senior Officers Mess. Today, it is the SP Jain School of Global Management building. 1958.

training for dental personnel was centralised. This required the construction of the six-storey modern annex block on the site.

The modern building was constructed by IDH in 1977 for use as offices, X-Ray rooms, dispensaries, laboratories, sterilising rooms, teaching facilities and dental surgery rooms. The annex also found use as MOH's temporary premises

in 1978 when a fire damaged the MOH building on Palmer Road. IDH continued to use the site until 1998. Under SP Jain, the modern structure was repurposed into a learning centre and hostel.

Meanwhile, the pre-war structures were beautifully restored and occupied by SP Jain's administrative offices, function rooms, library, and chill-out and meeting spaces. It also has hotel rooms

TIMELINE

FROM MESS TO GLOBAL SCHOOLHOUSE

- **Mid-1930s**
Gillman Barracks Officers' Mess is constructed at Hyderabad Road.
- **1971**
The mess (and barracks) is handed over to the Singapore government following the British withdrawal.
- **1973**
The Dental Health Education Unit (DHEU) moves in.
- **1975**
DHEU expands into the Institute of Dental Health (IDH).
- **1977**
A six-storey annex building is constructed.
- **1978**
Ministry of Health temporarily moves into the annex building after a fire damages its premises on Palmer Road.
- **1998**
IDH vacates the property.
- **2005**
SP Jain School of Business Management is invited to set up a global campus in Singapore.
- **2006**
SP Jain takes up tenancy at 10 Hyderabad Road in January.
Classes commence in April.
- **2007**
Minister for Education, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, officially opens the campus in March.

for visiting academics. A keen observer may notice that the pre-war buildings' neoclassical façades bears resemblance to officers' messes found in many of Singapore's expansively laid-out military barracks from the mid-1930s. Similar structures to the ones at Hyderabad Road can still be found at the nearby Gillman Barracks, which has been converted into an arts hub.



ABOVE: View of the lounge, where a painting of the Nizam of Hyderabad is displayed.



Rashmi Udaykumar

THE SITE AT 10 Hyderabad

Road is set on sprawling grounds, and its 1930s buildings attract media production companies, heritage enthusiasts and wedding photographers. It is home to SP Jain School of Global Management, which established the second of its global campuses on the property in 2006.

Ms Rashmi Udaykumar, the school's director-admissions and acting head of administration, explained what drew them to the site: "It is hard to resist when you are shown this beautiful heritage building, so quaint and so inexpressibly picturesque. Its lush greenery and banquet halls ingeniously designed to accommodate both academic and corporate events. Having a global business school located on the fringe of the CBD is definitely a home run." And it appears to have been the right decision. Since the campus opened, the school

has shown consistent development.

"We are ranked highly by international business publications and it is a great achievement looking at our growth and progress over the years." The school has also grown into the property, and it is now both a place of learning as well as a home away from home for its students. New elements are mixed with the old to help the millennials among the students feel comfortable. Examples of this can be seen in the modern furniture placed within the ChillOut Lounge and outer verandah.

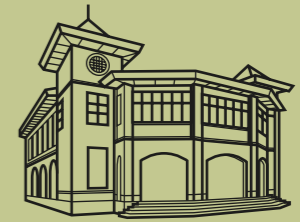
CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: View of the main building from the entrance.

Looking down the building's verandah.

Bust of SP Jain founder Sahu Shreyans Prasad Jain (1908-92).



FORMER GOLDEN BELL MANSION



ALKAFF MANSION



FORMER KINLOSS HOUSE



FORMER COMMAND HOUSE



OLD ADMIRALTY HOUSE

WITH GRACE AND GRANDEUR



Former Golden Bell Mansion

The Edwardian-styled Golden Bell mansion at 10 Pender Road is beautiful and mysterious. Used by the Danish Seamen's Church since 1985, little information has been documented on its prior usage except for the brief period during which Tan Boo Liat—Tan Tock Seng's great-grandson—resided there. A setting for opulent parties in its time, Dr Sun Yat-sen, the Chinese revolutionary leader, was also known to have spent a night in the mansion during a short visit to Singapore in December 1911.

Built in 1910 as Tan's hilltop residence, its "blood-and-bandages" brick-and-plaster style has inspired several contemporaneous buildings such as the Central Fire Station on Hill Street. It was also given some regional features by its architect, Wee Teck Moh, such as the Buddhist stupa-shaped roof of the mansion's turret. The house also featured four bedrooms, a large dining room, a hall and a two-car garage. Tan named the residence after his grandfather, whose name Kim Ching means "golden bell" in Hokkien. Tan moved

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: The mansion's turret has a Buddhist stupa-shaped roof.

The building's "blood-and-bandages" brick-and-plaster façade.

Built by Tan Boo Liat, the mansion was named after his grandfather Tan Kim Ching.





ABOVE:
Danish worshippers going for Sunday service at Danish Seamen's Church at Pender Road, 1985.

out in 1914, leaving the house vacant.

The next and seldom read chapter in the Golden Bell story was written by the Methodist Mission, who ran several schools in Singapore including Anglo-Chinese School (ACS) and Methodist Girls School. ACS's founder, Bishop William F. Oldham, had the ambitious idea to establish the Anglo-Chinese College (ACC), an institution of higher learning. The plans

were set in motion in 1914, and the task fell to the Reverend James Stewart Nagle, the newly appointed principal of ACS, whom Oldham had handpicked for the position. A college council was established, whose members included prominent figures such as Tan Kah Kee, Lee Choon Guan and Tan Cheng Lock—all of whom made generous pledges and contributions. This went towards the acquisition of

Golden Bell in 1917 for the college, along with some 26.5 acres (10.7 hectares) on a hilltop in Telok Blangah.

The mission's college plan eventually fell through. The Straits Settlements government was unsupportive, fearful of the potential damage that an American-run mission's college could do to British prestige. The government proceeded to make plans of their own for

TIMELINE

GOLDEN BELL: MANSION TO CHURCH

- **1909**
Local architect Wee Teck Moh draws plans for Golden Bell for Tan Boo Liat.
- **1910**
Golden Bell is completed.
- **1911**
Dr Sun Yat Sen spends a night at Golden Bell during a brief stopover in Singapore on 15 Dec.
- **1914**
Tan Boo Liat vacates Golden Bell.
- **1916**
Golden Bell is put up for sale.
- **1917**
Methodist Mission purchases Golden Bell for an intended Anglo-Chinese College.
- **1922**
Methodist Mission aborts its plan for the college upon objections from the Straits Settlements government.
- **1924**
Golden Bell becomes Singapore Private Hospital.
- **1930s**
Methodist Mission makes several unsuccessful attempts to lease or sell Golden Bell.
- **1985**
Danish Seamen's Church leases Golden Bell from the Port of Singapore Authority.
- **2001**
SLA takes over the management of the property while Danish Seamen's Church continues to occupy Golden Bell.



ABOVE:
The chapel of the Danish Seamen's Mission.



Sussie Nygaard Foged

DANISH SEAMEN'S MISSION on Pender Road has been a beacon of spiritual light to Danish seafarers since 1985 as well as a community hub for Danish residents in Singapore. Ms Sussie Nygaard Foged, the mission's 43-year-old chaplain, was keenly aware

of the role it played when she arrived in August 2019 to assume her position.

"The church is a natural meeting place for Danes in Singapore. This is where their kids are baptised or confirmed, where Danish food is served and where the community gathers in April to celebrate the Queen's birthday," said Ms Foged. The chaplain believes the building is well suited for the various activities it hosts, stating that there is plenty of space for church services,

social events and for her own workspace. Inside, the church is designed in a Danish style complete with photographs of the Danish royal couple.

Every November, the mission holds its Christmas bazaar, an occasion that many look forward to. The event not only offers festive goodies, but is also often graced by members of Tan Boo Liat's family who, as Ms Foged was keen to add, "visit and entertain with the ukulele!"

what would become Raffles College. By 1922, with the Reverend Nagle making an unscheduled return home, the idea of the ACC was dropped. The funds that were raised were channelled instead towards the mission's other educational endeavours.

Golden Bell next found use as the Singapore Private Hospital, which opened in August 1924. It was described in a newspaper advertisement as a hospital

"200 feet up on hilly ground west of Mount Faber", "overlooking Keppel Golf Course". The 14-bedded facility, unfortunately, had a short stint and closed just one year later.

The house remained in the possession of the Methodist Mission into the 1930s, despite several attempts to have it sold. It eventually fell into the hands of the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA), who used it until 1985. It was from the PSA that the Danish

Seamen's Church tenanted the property and continues to be its tenant, even as management shifted from PSA to SLA in 2001.

The Danish Seamen's Church provides service and assistance to Danish residents, seafarers and other visitors to Singapore, while adding a touch of Scandinavia through popular events such as their Christmas bazaar, which offers a delectable array of Danish holiday treats.

BELOW:
A staircase is now arranged inside the turret, which originally contained a billiard room.



LEFT:
The upper floor.

BELOW:
A touch of Denmark—the house is now decorated with Danish-style furnishings with photographs of the royal couple on display.



Alkaff Mansion

“THE ORIGIN OF ITS NAME COMES FROM THE ALKAFF FAMILY, ONE OF SEVERAL ARAB FAMILIES FROM THE HADHRAMAUT REGION OF TODAY’S YEMEN, WHO SETTLED IN SINGAPORE.”

It comes as no surprise that the lush, elevated settings of Singapore’s southern ridges, with its magnificent views of the coastline, hosts several palatial residences of old Singapore. The majestic two-storey Alkaff Mansion on Telok Blangah Hill is an example of one such residence.

The origin of its name comes from the Alkaff family, one of several Arab families from the Hadhramaut region of today’s Yemen, who settled in Singapore. Syed

Abdulrahman bin Abdullah Alkaff purchased the house in 1916 when it stood on a 16-hectare rubber and coconut estate. He expanded the house to its current size in the 1920s. The mansion was both a weekend retreat as well as a venue for well-attended tea parties that accommodated as many as 400 guests. It also played host to prominent visitors such as General Ma Lin, a Chinese-Muslim warlord who stayed over in November 1936 en route to Mecca for a pilgrimage.



ABOVE:
A Victorian-style wrought-iron pavilion added by the tenant.

FAR LEFT:
The majestic Alkaff Mansion was built as a weekend retreat.

LEFT:
Alkaff Mansion, 1957.



ABOVE:
World
Buddhist
Society at Mt
Faber before
its relocation,
1987.

The house, with a pair of turrets on either side of its façade, was impressively proportioned. A large verandah served as an entrance and led to a large dining room. It would have been its upper floor verandah—accessible via staircases in the turrets—that was the most impressive with its Venetian mirrors as well as its teak armchairs and sofas upholstered in blue tapestry and gilt.

There were also three bedrooms on the upper floor. Few details about the house during the Japanese occupation are known. What we do know is that it remained unoccupied until 1947, when Mr Frank Staughton moved in and briefly restored it as a party setting. Mr Staughton threw a huge birthday and house-warming party in June 1947, and an “amusing” Christmas party that same year.

TIMELINE

ALKAFF MANSION: A CENTURY OF FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

- **1916**
Syed Abdulrahman bin Abdullah Alkaff purchases the estate.
- **1920s**
Expansion of Alkaff Mansion.
- **1937**
Muslim-Chinese warlord General Ma Lin stays as a guest.
- **1945**
British Military Administration requisitions the mansion.
- **1947**
Socialite Mr Frank Staughton moves in. It was rumoured that he wanted to open a first-class nightclub in the property.
- **1948**
A hill climb (uphill motoring race) is run on the private road leading to the mansion.
- **1949**
Mr Frank Staughton returns to Britain.
- **1970**
World Buddhist Society makes the mansion its headquarters.
- **1984**
Singapore government acquires the property to expand Mount Faber Park.
- **1987**
Singapore Tourist Promotion Board (now Singapore Tourism Board (STB)) opens tender for the mansion's reuse as a cultural and entertainment space.
- **1988**
Tender is awarded to the sole bidder, Hotel Properties Limited (HPL).
- **1990**
HPL opens a Dutch-Indonesian *rijsttafel* restaurant in the mansion.
- **2003**
Restaurant closes and the property is returned to STB.
- **2005**
Alkaff Mansion is gazetted for conservation.
- **2009**
STB hands over the property to the management of SLA.
- **2010**
SLA launches a tender for its reuse; awarded to LES Pte Ltd.
- **2011**
LES opens a fine-dining Italian restaurant.
- **2016**
Italian restaurant closes.
- **2018**
SLA opens another tender; awarded to 1-Group.
- **2019**
1-Group launches the TXA Pintxos Bar, UNA Spanish restaurant and Wildseed, a floral-themed café.

Mr Staughton vacated the property in 1949 when he returned to Britain.

The mansion came back into prominence in 1970 as the headquarters of the World Buddhist Society. The society, which maintained the Thousand Buddha Temple further up the hill, left both premises in 1984 when the properties were acquired by the Singapore government for the Mount Faber Park extension. Plans to conserve the mansion were announced by the Singapore Tourist

Promotion Board (now Singapore Tourism Board) in 1987 and a tender was called a year later. Hotel Properties Limited, the sole bidder, restored the mansion and operated a Dutch-Indonesian restaurant from September 1990 until 2003.

Alkaff Mansion was gazetted for conservation in 2005. In 2010, SLA called for a tender that was awarded to LES Pte Ltd, who further restored the building to house a fine-dining Italian restaurant, which ran for six

years. Subsequently, SLA opened another tender in 2018 that resulted in the property's lease to 1-Group. The F&B and lifestyle group drew parallels between the mansion's location and the Basque Country, which inspired the Basque-themed pintxos (tapas) bar, fine-dining restaurant and café currently in operation. Since its opening in September 2019, the mansion has become a popular venue for corporate events and weddings.

BELOW:
Once a
scene for
tea parties,
the spacious
garden now
provides a
setting for
weddings.





ABOVE:
A fine-dining restaurant now occupies the second level, where the mansion's bedrooms were originally located.



Kay Yang

THE SELECTION OF a century-old hilltop mansion as 1-Mansion's* Basque-themed lifestyle and culinary destination was nothing short of an inspired choice. According to Ms Kay Yang, 1-Mansion's operations manager, the decision was made based on the parallels that could be drawn between the mansion's lush surroundings by the coast

and the romantic settings of Spain's verdant and hilly Basque Country.

"We were drawn to its grand architecture, which exudes romance in a way that no other property does. The atmosphere helped us convert the mansion into the centre of Basque culture and lifestyle," Ms Yang explained.

The transformation of the mansion into the multi-concept F&B destination with Basque-style dining options was not without challenges. Chief among these was the need to install additional plumbing, which required careful thought so as not to affect

the building's conserved façade.

The grand opening in 2019 welcomed a crowd of 500 guests to much festivity. The destination sees celebrations of both local and Basque festivals as well as other cultural observances. Ms Yang envisions the mansion being an integral part of people's lives: "We hope to have the space become a theatre of events, a venue for milestones of life and to provide a unique experience that will yield cherished memories."

*1-Mansion is part of 1-Group

Former Kinloss House

BELOW:
The façade of the former Kinloss House displays art-deco features.

Known over the years as Kinloss House or just Kinloss, the double-storey house at 3 Lady Hill Road acquired its current scale and form when Joseph Brook David combined two already spacious turn-of-the-century houses for use as his residence in the late 1930s, resulting in a property with a floor area equivalent to half a football field. David, a bachelor, was a well-known stock broker and race-horse owner who was also associated with several other choice addresses across Singapore.

The origins of the name Kinloss, and the Lady Hill in its address, lie in Scotland; unsurprising given that the

area and its properties were associated with Scotsmen such as Colonial Engineer Alexander Murray. Kinloss—Murray's private residence built in 1903—was one of the two from which David's residence was shaped.

The scale of David's house would lend itself to dance parties and lavish balls, which he had a penchant for throwing. One party, held in honour of the Manchester Regiment in January 1941, drew the attendance of 100 men from the regiment. Another extravagant event, which attracted many prominent members of society, was held in September 1941 to help raise funds for the war effort. After the war, the





“MUCH OF ITS INTERIOR DECORATIONS, INCLUDING A GRAND STAIRCASE AND A STUNNING WOODEN-PANELLED MEETING SPACE, CAN STILL BE SEEN IN THE BUILDING.”

ABOVE: View from the second level, a study area when Kinloss House was a boarding house.

British military converted David's residence into Kinloss Officers' Mess, and then in 1957, into a boarding house for children called the Kinloss House. The number of British military families stationed in Malaya had increased due to the Emergency, a military campaign that launched in 1948 and lasted until 1960 to counter the communist insurgency. As a result, many children from these families were sent to board in Singapore, where the bulk of the British military's schools were.

Kinloss House accommodated up to 150 children. Dormitories for the younger girls were arranged

within the confines of the house, while the boys and older girls were put in barrack-like dormitories on the 1.9 hectare grounds. Such expansiveness also allowed for basketball and tennis courts. The arrangement lasted until 1970 when the property was handed over to the Singapore government for use as the University of Singapore's (presently known as National University of Singapore) newly-established Faculty of Architecture.

Following the faculty's move to the university's Kent Ridge campus in 1976, Kinloss House was transferred to the police force



Kelvin Taylor and Jacqueline Miller

KINLOSS HOUSE ON 3 Lady Hill Road is fondly remembered by its former boarders. Many attempt a glimpse during trips to Singapore, even through locked gates. One former boarder, Mr Kelvin Taylor, was able to venture beyond the gates through a visit facilitated by SLA.

Mr Taylor arrived in 1965 as a 12-year-old to move closer to his army father who was stationed in Seremban, Malaysia. Reflecting on the move, Mr Taylor remarked, “I would



have never had Coke, 7-Up or peanut butter if not for being in Singapore. It was so exciting even though life at the boarding house was controlled.”

Controlled as life may have been, the two years that Mr Taylor spent at Kinloss House seemed especially stimulating—particularly on the grounds where the boys' dorms

and the Scout Den were. Mr Taylor chuckled while he recalled how he had climbed onto the roof of a neighbouring house from a corner of the grounds to pick lychees. Touring the grounds, the sight of a flight of stairs brought a twinkle to Mr Taylor's eye. “That's where the boys re-enacted a scene from the movie *Kings of the Sun*.”

Another person who ventured into 3 Lady Hill Road—as a guest during an April 2018 public visit—was Ms Jacqueline Miller. When faced with the choice of seeing their Malaysia-bound parents twice a year, or once every six weeks, Ms Miller made the decision with her elder sister to school in Singapore without hesitation. She was amongst the youngest boarders from 1965 to 1968, and had the privilege of living at the house.

Mr Taylor best sums up the motivations for revisiting Kinloss: “It's lovely to look back. I'm 65 and there's much more behind me now than in front.”



ABOVE: Kelvin Taylor (left) and fellow boarders at Kinloss House, 1967.

LEFT: Boarders of Kinloss House during an outing.



TOP & ABOVE:
Kinloss
House, 1960s.

to house the Junior Officers' Mess and the Police Welfare Unit. Both were displaced when the Hill Street Police Station closed in 1979. Kinloss House subsequently accommodated the Police Arms and Explosives Branch, as well as a police co-operative retail store. The police vacated the property when a dedicated clubhouse

for its junior officers was completed in 2002.

In 2009, the property was refurbished and beautifully renovated by French insurer AXA for use as its AXA University Asia Pacific Campus. Functioning until early 2017, much of its interior decorations, including a grand staircase and a stunning wooden-panelled

TIMELINE

THE HOUSE ON 3 LADY HILL ROAD

- **1903**
Colonial Engineer Alexander Murray builds a private residence on Lady Hill Road named Kinloss.
- **1907**
Alexander Murray retires and returns to Scotland.
- **1909**
Kinloss becomes the official residence of the Japanese Consul.
- **1930s**
Joseph Brook David purchases 18 Nassim Road and adjacent plots including Kinloss and Culemba; renovates to combine the two homes.
- **1946**
David's mansion becomes Kinloss Officers' Mess for British military officers.
- **1957**
Kinloss Officers' Mess is converted to Kinloss House, a boarding house for children of British military families stationed in Malaya who are being schooled in Singapore.
- **1970**
Kinloss House is transferred to the Singapore Government for use by the University of Singapore as its new Faculty of Architecture.
- **1976**
Faculty of Architecture moves to the Kent Ridge campus.
- **1979**
Police force uses Kinloss House as Junior Officers' Mess.
Police Welfare Unit moves in.
- **1981**
Police co-operative retail store moves in.
- **1983**
Police Arms and Explosives Branch moves in.
- **2002**
Police force vacates Kinloss House.
- **2009–17**
AXA University Asia Pacific occupies the former Kinloss House until early 2017.



LEFT:
The Nassim
Road end of
the former
Kinloss
House.

BELOW:
Interior of
the wooden-
panelled
meeting
space
installed
during AXA
University's
remodelling
for its Asia
Pacific
Campus.



meeting space, can still be seen in the building.

Several interesting events have since been held at the former Kinloss House, including the impressive Hermès Carré Club, a well-received, experiential pop-up scarf event held over a weekend in October 2018.



Former Command House

“[THE BUILDING IS] LAID OUT ON A ‘BUTTERFLY’ PLAN AND MARKED BY PRONOUNCED PITCHED ROOFS TYPICAL OF ARCHITECTURE INSPIRED BY THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT.”

Set on a sprawling 4.5-hectare site near Bukit Timah, the former Command House is as impressive in scale as it is in appearance. In its heyday, the house—boasting six bedrooms with attached bathrooms—provided lodging for royalty, a president in office and powerful military men.

Laid out on a “butterfly” plan and marked by pronounced pitched roofs typical of architecture inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement, the house was designed by the respectable Frank W. Brewer.

Formerly of the pre-eminent architecture firm Swan & Maclaren, Brewer was a keen practitioner of the style and had even developed his own unique interpretation of it, as seen in the former Command House’s exposed brick voussoirs.

Built in 1938, the Command House was originally known as the Flagstaff House, and was the replacement for the old Flagstaff House, the residence of Malaya’s most senior military commander. It was part of a decade-long military development effort

with new homes planned for each of the three armed-service commanders—the updated Flagstaff House being the grandest.

Upon its completion, one of the house’s first acts was playing host to “the biggest military wedding yet in Singapore”, that of Lieutenant O. C. S. Dobbie and Ms Florence Mary Dickey. A month or so later, Dobbie’s father, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Major General W. G. S. Dobbie, and his wife moved in. Two more GOCs occupied the house before the war,

LEFT: View of the former Command House from its garden.



RIGHT: One wing of the house laid out on a “butterfly” plan.



TOP: Flagstaff House under construction, c. 1937–38.

ABOVE: An almost completed Flagstaff House, c. 1938.

including Lieutenant-General Arthur Percival—the unfortunate face of “the largest capitulation in British history”. With artillery shells whizzing overhead, Percival last saw the house a day before the British surrendered to the Japanese in 1942, when he returned to burn papers.

With pride restored to the British military following the Japanese surrender, senior

British military officers started to return to Singapore. Chief among them was Lord Mountbatten—uncle of the future Duke of Edinburgh Prince Philip—in his capacity as the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command, in 1946. Prince Philip himself stayed in the house as a guest during a visit to Singapore in February 1965. By this time, the property was already referred

TIMELINE

COMMAND JOURNEY

- **1938**
Flagstaff House at Kheam Hock Road is built as a residence for the General Officer Commanding (GOC), Malaya.
- **1939**
General L. V. Bond takes over as GOC in July and moves into Flagstaff House.
- **1941**
General A. E. Percival takes over as GOC in April and moves into Flagstaff House.
- **1946**
Lord Mountbatten takes up residence in his capacity as the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command (SEAC).
- **1947**
SEAC is reformed as Far East Land Forces (FARELF) and Flagstaff House becomes residence for the General Officer Commanding, FARELF.
- **1949**
Major General W. G. S. Dobbie and his wife take up residence in October.
- **1963**
An expanded Far East Command is formed, and Flagstaff House is used as residence for the Commander-in-Chief.
- **1964**
Flagstaff House is renamed as Command House to reflect the expanded responsibilities of the Far East Command.
- **1971**
Britain withdraws its military forces and Command House is handed over to the Singapore government.
- **1972**
Command House becomes the official residence of the speaker of Parliament.
- **1996**
Command House becomes the official residence of the President of the Republic of Singapore during the Istana's renovation until 1998.
- **2007**
UBS takes over tenancy of Command House.
- **2009**
11 Nov: Command House is gazetted as a national monument.



August Hatecke

UBS, THE SWISS

investment bank, made Command House its business university's Asia-Pacific campus in 2007. The building's iconic status as the former residence of Malaya's top military men, as well as a one-time temporary residence for Singapore's president was what set it apart from other locations they were considering.

As UBS requires a discreet setting for its

business meetings, client pitches, media interviews, and senior and graduate recruitment, the location had to be well considered. This criteria was one Mr August Hatecke, UBS Singapore's country head, was especially keen to emphasise.

“Command House is a venue for global, APAC and Singapore-specific client engagement events and education, as well as APAC-wide Leadership and Key Talent. Siting the campus here signals our ongoing and long-term commitment to our employees and clients,” said Mr Hatecke.

For the UBS team, the refurbishment of the

national monument was carried out smoothly. He explained, “UBS was not only able to refurbish the building under strict guidelines, but we also managed to maintain the second floor lounge along with its TV cabinet and sofa. This allows staff and guests to have an appreciation of the building and its history.”

UBS takes pride in promoting the site's history and has conducted tours in collaboration with National Heritage Board. Mr Hatecke finds great joy in the positive reception of the audience upon learning what a historical gem they are standing in.

BELOW: Rifle Brigade at Flagstaff House, 1957.



to as the Command House and was the official residence of the commanders-in-chief of the British Far East Land Forces.

Following the withdrawal of British forces in 1971, the property was handed over to the Singapore government. It continued in distinguished service as the official residence of the speaker of Parliament during Dr Yeoh Ghim Seng's tenure as speaker from 1970 to 1989. However, Dr Yeoh's successors, Mr Tan Soo Khoon in 1989 and Mr Abdullah Tarmugi in 2002, declined the use of the official residence.

While Mr Tan was in

service, the Command House was made the official residence of the president of the Republic of Singapore, who was then Mr Ong Teng Cheong. The temporary move was necessitated by extensive renovation works being done on the Istana between 1996 and 1998.

In 2007, the former Command House was tenanted by UBS, a Swiss financial services company, to serve first as the UBS Wealth Management Campus-Asia Pacific (APAC) and then as the UBS Business University. On 11 November 2009, the former Command House was gazetted as a national monument.



RIGHT: An exposed brick voussoir typical of a Frank W. Brewer Arts and Crafts-influenced house.

BELOW: Rear view of the house with its pitched roof and exposed brick voussoirs.



ABOVE: The lounge on the second floor contains furnishings from the time when the house was used as the residence of Singapore's president.

LEFT: Exterior view of the house's entrance.



Old Admiralty House

Featuring a distinct Arts and Crafts style and often likened to an English country manor, the Old Admiralty House sits on a small hill in the southeast corner of the former Sembawang naval base. It was the second in what was to have been a trio of large residences intended for each commander of the armed services—in this case, the Rear Admiral, Malaya. The first, called the Flagstaff House, was completed in 1938 for the General Officer Commanding; while the third, for the Royal Air Force's Air Officer Commanding, was never built.

Completed in 1940, two years after the opening of Britain's most important Far East naval station, the Old Admiralty House would only see its first occupants in August 1941 when Rear Admiral Ernest

“...ANNUAL OPEN HOUSES WERE HELD, GIVING SERVICEMEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SWIM AND PICNIC ON ITS GROUNDS.”

John Spooner and his wife, Megan, moved in. In her diary entries, Mrs Spooner née Foster, a renowned soprano, referred to the mansion as the “Navy House” and spoke fondly of the cocktail parties she and her husband had enjoyed. An October 1941 *Singapore Free Press* article describes the house as “large, pillared, cream-coloured and grand” with views of the Johor Strait, and even mentioned a cocktail party with 350 guests in attendance.

Admiral Spooner held another notable party in December 1941 to celebrate the stay of Rear Admiral Tom Phillips, Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Fleet,

RIGHT: The former Admiralty House when it was occupied by Furen International School.



CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW: Exposed brick façades and pronounced pitched roofs are hallmarks of the Arts and Crafts style.

Classrooms have taken over what would have been the house's large drawing room, which doubled as a ballroom.

The private quarters open to a balcony facing the Johor Strait.

as well as to welcome his fleet. That was presumably the last social gathering before hostilities between Britain and Japan escalated. Fate would soon deal both Admiral Spooner and his guest, Admiral Phillips, a cruel blow. Phillips went down with his flagship the HMS *Prince of Wales* on 10 December—just days after his welcome party. Admiral Spooner failed in an attempt to escape from Singapore,

and succumbed to malaria in April 1942 on an island off Sumatra. Mrs Spooner survived, having been evacuated on 10 February 1942, and ended up in Britain.

In September 1948, after the end of the war, the house became the residence of the Flag Officer, Malayan Area. A decade later, when the Far East Station Commander-in-Chief moved in, the building became known as the

Admiralty House. During this time, annual open houses were held, giving servicemen the opportunity to swim and picnic on its grounds.

Following the withdrawal of British forces from Singapore in 1971, the house became the residence of the commander of the ANZUK (Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom) Force and was known as the ANZUK House. Only two ANZUK commanders



TIMELINE

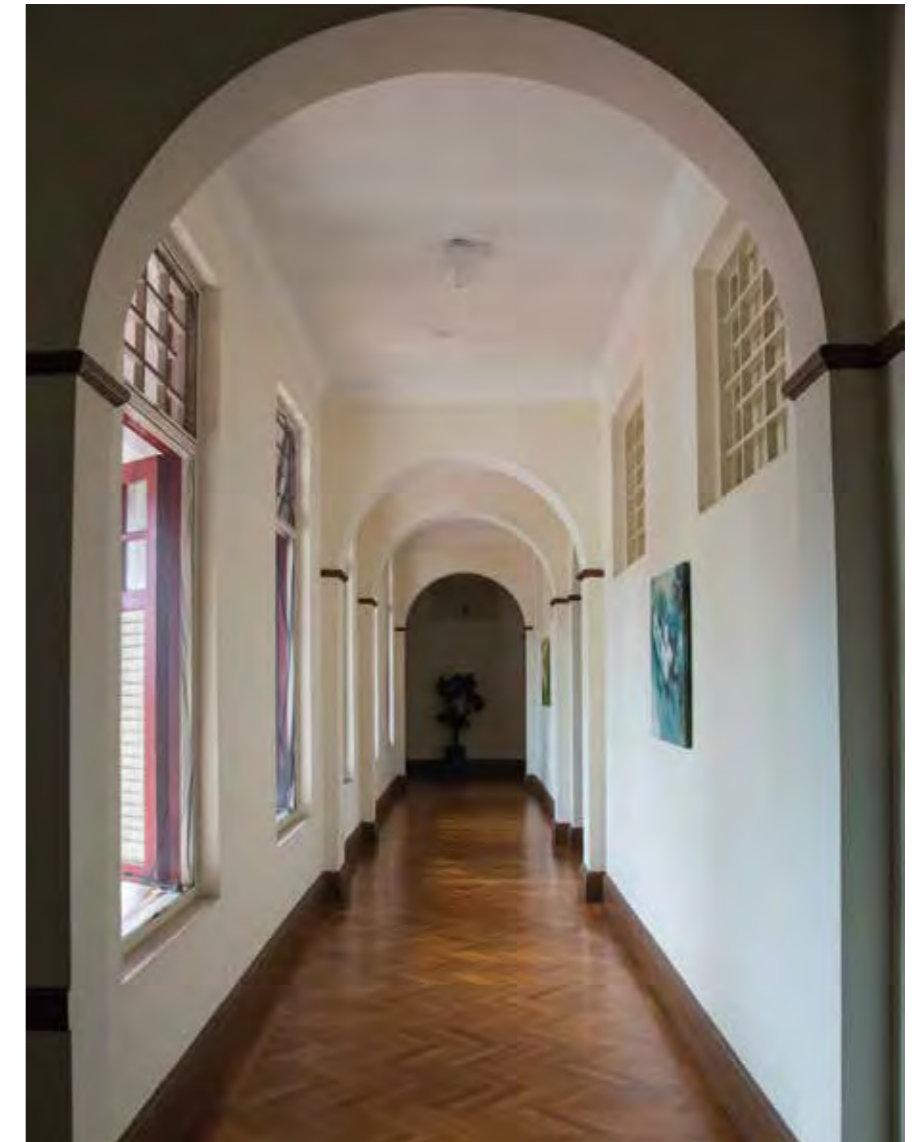
OLD ADMIRALTY HOUSE'S CHANGING COURSE

- **1938**
Official opening of the Sembawang naval base.
- **1940**
Residence of the Rear Admiral, Malaya, is completed but remains vacant.
- **1941**
Rear Admiral Ernest John Spooner and his wife move into the residence.

Rear Admiral Tom Phillips, Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Fleet, stays as a guest in early December.
- **1942**
The house is occupied by the Japanese military after the fall of Singapore.
- **1948**
The house becomes the official residence of the Flag Officer, Malaya, and is re-named Nelson House.
- **1958**
The house becomes the official residence of the Commander-in-Chief, Far East Station, and takes the name Admiralty House.
- **1971**
British forces withdraw from Singapore.

House renamed ANZUK House, residence of the ANZUK Force commander.
- **1975**
Disbandment of the ANZUK Force.

House handed over to the Singapore government.
- **1978**
House is used as a restaurant and guest house.
- **1989**
Property is used by Admiralty Country House.
- **1991**
Yishun Country Club opens on the grounds.
- **2001**
Karimun Country Club occupies the premises.
- **2002**
Old Admiralty House is gazetted as a national monument.
- **2006**
Karimun Country Club vacates the property.
- **2011**
Furen International School (FIS) wins the SLA tender for the property.
- **2012**
FIS opens a school and boarding house.
- **2020**
FIS vacates the premises and work commences to refurbish it as part of the Sembawang Sports and Community Hub project.



were accommodated, the first of whom hosted Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh during their visit in 1972.

Ownership of the house passed to the Singapore government following the disbandment of the ANZUK Force in 1975. Over the years, the house saw use as a restaurant and guest house, Admiralty Country House, Yishun Country Club and from 2001 to 2006, Karimun Admiralty Country Club. In 2002, the building

was gazetted as a national monument.

The building was beautifully restored by Furen International School (FIS), which won SLA's tender in 2011. For eight years, FIS ran a boarding school on the premises for international students and have since vacated the property. The Old Admiralty House will be renamed the Canberra House, a component of the Sembawang Sports and Community Hub developing around it.

ABOVE: Wide verandahs separate the private quarters on the second floor from the exterior.



David Mok

THE LOCATION OF Old Admiralty House made it an ideal choice for Furen International School (FIS) to accommodate its school and boarding house in 2011. “We wanted a quiet place for our school and a place where students could live,” explained Mr David Mok, FIS’ chief executive officer.

Mr Mok had a vague impression of the house from an encounter in

the 1990s, but it wasn’t until the school moved in that he gained an appreciation for its past. “One of my first visitors shared how her father had been stationed here with the ANZUK Force. Over the years, I heard more fascinating stories. The former national footballer V. Sundramoorthy, for example, told me that the site was a childhood playground. From these stories, I realised just how much history the house had.”

The large financial investment FIS made to retain and restore original features of the house has paid off. Mr Mok shared

that their retention of a flag mast turned out to be of historical value. “We decided to save the mast after plans were approved. This change was much to the architect’s horror as many subsequent alterations had to be made. It was a good thing we did as we later learnt that one of Singapore’s last survey markers was found on it.”

FIS’ time occupying Old Admiralty House has left a lasting impression on Mr Mok, who was grateful for the experience. “It was a privilege to hear people’s stories and share them—working there has been the highlight of my career!”

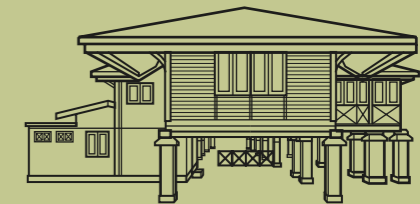
BELOW:
Admiral Frank Twiss, Commander-in-Chief, Far East Fleet (front row, centre), with staff of Admiralty House and the Naval Base Police Force, 1966.



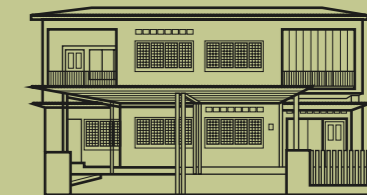
BLACK-AND-WHITE RESIDENCES



FORMER CHASSERIAU ESTATE



SEMBAWANG'S NAVAL BASE RESIDENCES



CHIP BEE GARDENS



ADAM PARK ESTATE

Black-and-White Residences



ABOVE:
A house in
Ridley Park,
an estate
for senior
government
officers
developed
between 1923
and 1935.

LEFT:
Several
homes in
Ridley Park,
such as this
one, have
asymmetrical
plans typically
seen in
private homes
of the day.

RIGHT:
A patio added
to a Ridley
Park house.



The National University of Singapore Society Guild House at 2 Mandalay Road occupies the former municipal health officer's residence, which has since been beautifully refurbished. Based on an archetypal Public Works Department (PWD) design from the interwar period, the house is one of 500 State-owned "black-and-white" houses—a commonly used term derived from

the appearance of these buildings rather than its style.

In arriving at the design, PWD's architects referred to privately commissioned residences from the turn of the 20th century that included colonial bungalows of British India, plantation homes and the Malay house. These homes were adapted for the tropics and had several common features: some were raised on piers to keep damp and vermin

out; many had pitched roofs with large eave overhangs that kept the house cool, well-lit and airy; and most used timber as the material is light, breathable and widely available.

The first PWD blueprints were developed in the early 1900s and transformed into homes for senior government officers. Laid out on the fringes of the Municipality, a number of these houses can still be found in the



**Christopher Teo
Chen Hian**

FOR MR CHRISTOPHER

Teo Chen Hian, a Ridley Park house resident, it was a fascination with black-and-white houses since he was young that made his mind up to reside in one.

Besides feeling that the “beauty of the house speaks for itself”, Mr Teo also considered its location and surrounding

greenery as plus points. Explaining this, Mr Teo said, “The house is right in town, which provides me with the convenience of city life, and yet, it is surrounded by magical greenery. Looking out from the patio gives me the sense that I am in the countryside.”

Mr Teo also noted that the expanse of land he has access to is hard to come by in Singapore. The size of the property’s grounds provides space for social activities and allows him to play host to children from various households during Chinese New Year. One year, he welcomed 40 guests who were treated

to lion and dragon dance performances.

The simple, yet elegantly furnished interior gives the living spaces a very cosy feel. This is an atmosphere that Mr Teo is especially proud of. Sitting across a gorgeous rattan-woven coffee table Mr Teo explained, “I tried to imagine what it was like in the 1930s and tried to replicate the style without the furnishings being too funky or modern. The juxtaposition of old and new may be refreshing, but I prefer to preserve some of the old charm.”

BELOW:
A view of the deliciously decorated interior of Mr Christopher Teo’s Ridley Park residence.



Tanglin area, including a set of four at Seton Close. Now renovated for modern living, these houses were originally part of a group of six built in 1922. Each features a porte-cochère (covered entrance for cars), reception and dining space on the ground floor and a large verandah, with bedrooms with attached balconies and living spaces on the upper level.

The PWD designs that followed included those used for the house on 2 Mandalay Road, which is designated as a Class I bungalow, as well

as the contemporaneous Class III plantation-style houses (Class I houses were allocated to more senior officers while Class III were for more junior ones). Developed at a time when Singapore was undergoing much construction, the houses of these designs form the bulk of Singapore’s black-and-white architectural landscape. Several hundreds were built, including some built as stand-alone structures. Many more found their way into the numerous estates that were

developed from the mid-1920s to the 1930s, which accommodated officers from government and municipal institutions, the military and the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT). One such estate was Ridley Park, which was developed between 1923 and 1935 for senior government officers. The black-and-white homes featured in this area have asymmetrical plans that were seen in private homes of the day. There were also two houses that had art-deco features.

ABOVE:
Kay Siang Road was an estate for Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) officers. An expansion from the 1930s saw SIT architects apply modern designs.

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: Another of SIT's modern designs at Kay Siang Road.

The dining room and kitchen of a very airy Kay Siang Road house.

The installation of swimming pools have enhanced the appeal of the house at Kay Siang Road.

A lounge on the upper floor.



Joris van Brussel

BLACK-AND-WHITE houses are always popular as homes. For tenants such as Mr Joris van Brussel, who lives on Kay Siang Road with his family, the decision to live in a black-and-white bungalow was made well before he arrived in Singapore in 2018. Describing how he

came to that decision he said, "We learnt about the houses from friends who had lived in Alexandra Park. It was important for us to live in a house that had a soul. In Zürich, Switzerland, we owned a house from the 1920s and love old buildings."

Mr van Brussel and his family moved into the bungalow and did not feel that they needed to do much with the house as it had "so much charm on its own". "We feel lucky to be living here for a while," he expressed.

Formed in 1927, SIT was responsible for town planning and subsequently, public housing. It accommodated its senior officers at Adam Park, an estate of PWD-designed houses, as well as at Kay Siang Road. With the estate expanding at Kay Siang Road in the late 1930s until the 1950s, SIT architects assumed the responsibility of producing their own housing designs. SIT homes incorporated modern and art-deco

influences that added a refreshingly eclectic flavour to Kay Siang Road. A set of homes built for SIT's most senior officers was designed with air-conditioning in mind, resulting in lower ceilings.

These residences are just a few from SLA's portfolio of residential properties categorised as black-and-white houses. The black-and-white aesthetic, however, is not necessarily seen in all of them, and among the 500 labelled as such, there are

several that actually feature red brick finishes.

Although a remnant of Singapore's colonial past, the appeal of these houses has not diminished. Improvement works on these properties have permitted their continued use as comfortable homes. Some also see use in other ways, such as the house at 2 Mandalay Road, whose transformation into a modern clubhouse is nothing short of exquisite.



LEFT:
2 Mandalay Road is set within a large garden.

BELOW:
The restaurant in the Guild House is a hybrid of new and original features.



LEFT:
2 Mandalay Road, now NUSS Guild House, is a former residence for the municipal health officer built in the 1920s with an archetypal Public Works Department (PWD) design.



**Eddie Lee Choy Peng,
NUSS President**

OVER THE YEARS, black-and-white State properties have found use in different ways. In recent years, some have been repurposed for non-residential use, such as the National University of Singapore Society's (NUSS) Mandalay Guild House (MGH).

For NUSS, which also operates guild houses

at Kent Ridge and Suntec City, the search for a third site narrowed down to Mandalay Road for its location. NUSS President Mr Eddie Lee Choy Peng shared his reasoning: "The proximity of [MGH] to Novena medical hub provides members working or living in the area a convenient venue to entertain, network and socialise. It also attracts potential members from the pool of graduate medical and allied healthcare professionals nearby."

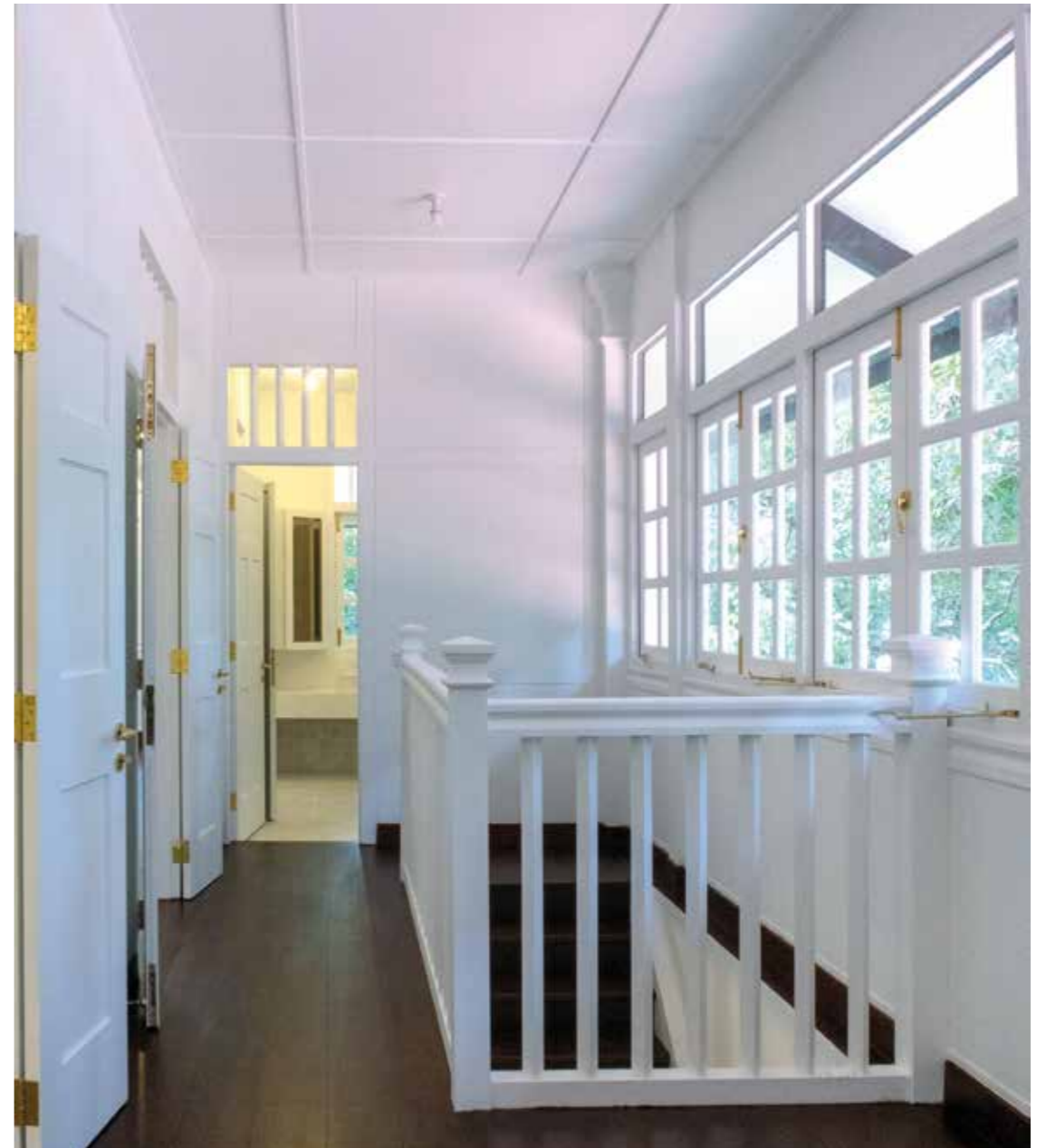
Another appealing characteristic of the house on Mandalay Road was its lush garden, which has

placed MGH within an urban oasis and has made it stand out among NUSS's other guild houses.

During the renovation, one of the main challenges that NUSS faced was maintaining the house's age-old elegance whilst providing the desired modern amenities. The solution was arrived at by creating a hybrid aesthetic of old and new, examples of which are seen in its elegant bar and restaurant.

RIGHT:
5 Seton Close,
late 1940s.

BELOW:
A house on
Seton Close
built in the
early 1920s.
This house
was enhanced
by SLA with
upgraded
interiors and
the addition
of glass
windows on
the second
floor as an
amenity for
modern living.



CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP
LEFT:
5 Seton Close
in the late
1940s.

Ground floor
of the Seton
Close house.

Seton Close
homes are
amongst
the earliest
by PWD to
feature timber
finishes.

Black, White and Sometimes Red

The various styles of “black-and-white” houses in Singapore

1898

OLDEST BLACK-AND-WHITE HOUSE

The oldest black-and-white house to exist in Singapore is believed to be Atbara at 5 Gallop Road. It was built as the private residence for the lawyer John Burkinshaw in 1898. It was designed by R. A. J. Bidwell of Swan & Maclaren. SLA completed a restoration of the house in November 2012.



1908

MOCK TUDOR HOUSES AT PENDER ROAD

The term “black-and-white house” refers to the Tudor-style, timber-framed houses in the United Kingdom. Several examples of tropicalised Tudor-style houses can be found in Singapore, including a set at Pender Road. Built from 1908 to 1919 as staff quarters for the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, the Pender Road houses were designed by Swan & Maclaren.



THE PLANTATION HOUSE

Plantation houses, raised on piers and with airy verandahs, are thought to have heavily influenced the design of colonial residences in Singapore. An example of a design influenced by the plantation style is found at 6 Russells Road in Alexandra Park.



1910

EARLY PWD HOUSES

The Public Works Department (PWD) developed blueprints for residences for senior government officers in the early 1900s and the earliest PWD houses built to these standardised plans are believed to have been built from 1910. An example of an early PWD design are the houses at Seton Close.



1920s

PWD HOUSES

A common black-and-white house design is one developed by PWD in the 1920s, when the PWD Architecture Branch was headed by H. A. Stallwood. Early examples in this style, built around 1925, can be found at Malcolm Road. These houses were prototypes for government, military and municipal officers found across many estates in Singapore.



1929

INFLUENCES FROM THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT

Architecture inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement gained prominence in the designs of both private and government (and military) residences in Singapore, particularly the grand homes built at the end of the 1930s to accommodate senior military commanders, such as Command House and the former Admiralty House. There were also several modest houses built, an example of which can be found among the early residences built in the former naval base in Sembawang in 1929. The houses feature steeply pitched, hip roofs and fair-faced brick finishes.



1930s

OTHER PWD STYLES

There are a wide range of PWD house designs and among the more commonly seen are those at Ridley Park, which were built in the 1930s. Others built at the time, such as those found in Ridley Park and Alexandra Park, feature art deco elements.



1930s–50s

NON-PWD RESIDENCES

Apart from the estates built for government and military officers, there were also estates built for municipal employees and for Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) officers. Again, there are various designs that can be seen on Kay Siang Road. An estate for SIT officers, Kay Siang Road was expanded from the 1930s into the 1950s, and features designs produced by in-house architects. Six of these houses were enhanced by SLA in 2018.



Former Chasseriau Estate

“PERCHED ON A SMALL HILL WITH VERDANT SURROUNDINGS, THE GROUP OF HOUSES IN THOSE TIMES COULD HAVE EASILY BEEN MISTAKEN FOR A DUTCH OR FLEMISH COUNTRY VILLAGE.”

Adorned with Dutch-gabled roofs, the pair of art deco houses at the end of Watten Estate Road gives the area quite a distinct flair. The two are all that survive of a cluster of six homes erected in the late 1920s and early 1930s on a plot once belonging to the expansive Chasseriau Estate. Perched on a small hill with verdant surroundings, the group of houses in those

times could have easily been mistaken for a Dutch or Flemish country village.

It comes as a surprise to learn that the architect of the homes was the pre-eminent Major Percy Hubert Keys. Major Keys is best known for the design of edifices significantly larger in scale such as the Fullerton Hotel, the Singapore General Hospital and the King Edward VII College of Medicine



RIGHT: No. 126, one of two houses on Watten Estate Road designed by Major Percy Hubert Keys, the architect of the former Fullerton Building.

CHASSERIAU ESTATE

Frenchman Leopold Chasseriau established the Chasseriau Estate in 1872 and used the land for planting tapioca. The grand estate grew to a size of some 1,200 hectares and was eventually sold to the founders of the Bukit Timah Rubber Estate in 1895; following which, the Chasseriau Estate was divided and sold. A substantial portion was purchased by the Municipality in 1900 to protect the part of Thomson (MacRitchie) Reservoir catchment that fell within the estate. This was soon followed by the sale of the Bukit Tinggi area to the Swiss (Rifle Shooting) Club. A significant section of the original Chasseriau Estate was also acquired by the Turf Club in the late 1920s.



Building, all or parts of which still stand today as national monuments. The designs of these three buildings were carried out in Keys' capacity as a government architect. His work in private practice is also well-regarded and includes the 1929 Oversea-Chinese Bank (now The Quadrant), the 1930 Namazie Mansions (now the Capitol Building) and the Capitol Theatre.

The Watten Estate Road cluster was one of Keys' first undertakings with the firm Keys and Dowdeswell, which

he founded in partnership with Frank Dowdeswell in June 1927. One of the surviving houses, No. 130 (as renumbered in the late 1960s), served as Keys' home—a move that was prompted by the need to vacate the government residence he occupied in the Labrador Park area.

Keys' residence, which he named Wheatley, was described in the newspaper as a “European compound house” that had a design well adapted to the hot and humid tropics. It included

four bedrooms, servants' quarters, a two-car garage, two tennis courts and modern sanitation. Keys, however, only lived in the home for five years after its completion in 1928/29. He moved both home and practice to Shanghai in 1934.

The house was put up for rent soon after the architect's departure. Together with No. 126, the other house to survive the war, No. 130 was taken over by the government in the late 1940s.

A well-known post-war occupant of No. 126 was

TOP: No. 130 Watten Estate Road when it was the temporary premises of SEAMEO RELC, 1968–72.

ABOVE: As with the designs of the time, the houses feature ample openings for light and ventilation.

Justice TA Brown, a High Court judge who held the position of acting chief justice in the chief justice's absence in 1951. Justice Brown played a key role in the chain of events that culminated in the Maria Hertogh riots in December 1950. He delivered a verdict for the Muslim-raised Hertogh to be returned to her Catholic birth parents. The decision

sparked outrage among the Muslim community in Singapore and resulted in a deadly race riot.

No. 130's post-war occupants included Mr HW Nightingale, a government official who served as an acting secretary for Economic Affairs in the 1950s. The unit was also the temporary home of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education

Organization's Regional Language Centre (SEAMEO RELC), an institution set up in July 1968 to raise English teaching standards in Southeast Asia. It occupied the space until 1972.

Both No. 126 and No. 130 have since been rented out to a series of residential tenants.

BELOW:
No. 130, the house Major Keys used as his residence in the early 1930s.

WATTEN ESTATE

Although the Dutch-gabled houses occupy an area at a corner of the former Chasseriau Estate, they acquired addresses from the eponymous road that ran through Watten Estate. The road was extended when the former Chasseriau Estate was apportioned and sold.

The original Watten Estate was 19 hectares owned by Scotsman Alexander James Gunn, a one-time secretary for the Singapore Chamber of Commerce. Gunn named his residence and the estate Watten, after his home village. The estate was sold following Gunn's death in 1917.



THE HOUSES DURING THE WAR

The grounds of No. 126 were the subject of an archaeological dig that was conducted by Jon Cooper, graduate of the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at Glasgow University, as part of his Adam Park battlefield archaeology project which he has been managing for the past seven years. It is believed that the cluster of six houses was occupied by British Prisoners of War (POW) as an extension of the Adam Park POW Camp during the construction of the Syonan Jinja, a Shinto shrine completed at MacRitchie Reservoir in early 1942 (and later destroyed in 1945).



ABOVE:
An enclosed bedroom verandah.

LEFT:
Timber is used extensively on frames, beams, staircases and floors.

Sembawang's Naval Base Residences

"A LARGE CLUSTER OF COLONIAL-AGE RESIDENCES REMAINS INTACT ON SEMBAWANG'S WONDERFULLY GREEN ROLLING LANDSCAPE."

Sembawang is one of the few places in Singapore that still wears the charm of a previous era. A large cluster of colonial-age residences remains intact on Sembawang's wonderfully green rolling landscape. Built to serve Britain's largest naval undertaking east of the Suez Canal, the houses in this cluster range from those erected during the early period of the naval base to those built in more recent times; and thus, the cluster exhibits an interesting variety of styles.

The oldest residences come in two very distinct designs unique to the naval base. There are the longhouse timber-topped houses that rest on concrete piers at Gibraltar Crescent and the Arts and Crafts-influenced redbrick houses found along Canada and Wellington Roads and Kings

Avenue. Built in 1929, the former set of structures known as "the Jacksons"—since they were built by Sir John Jackson and Company—was erected as temporary residences for its European staff; the latter group, also from 1929, was built as residences for dockyard chargehands.

Among the cluster are also early residences of a more common variety designed in the style of the Public Works Department Class III bungalows found in many estates across Singapore, which originally housed military men and

colonial administrators. Positioned on either side of Admiralty Road East, a number of these residences accommodated the dockyard's senior staff, including the commodore superintendent, who served as the officer-in-charge.

Common features across all the homes were the pitched roofs, verandahs and the ample openings for ventilation. The promotion of air circulation was essential to keep the intended occupants, most of whom came from temperate climates, cool and comfortable.



ABOVE:
A Public Works Department design built in the 1930s.

RIGHT:
Early staff residences from 1929 that display Arts and Crafts architectural influences.



TOP: The Dockyard or Japanese Theatre, which was thought to have been built by the Japanese.

ABOVE: One of the "Jacksons", 156A Gibraltar Crescent, 1970. Bitumen coating was used to protect timber structures against the weather and pests.

Being on the naval base meant that the area was a constant target of bombings during the war. Several residences were damaged based on the evidence of aerial photographs. Some of these homes were replaced during the 1950s and 1960s with low-rise flats, while others were replaced with the modern-style houses we see today.

During the occupation, the Japanese built a timber-walled community hall along Gibraltar Crescent referred to

as the Japanese Theatre. It was renamed the Dockyard Theatre after the war. The single-storey structure found use as a badminton court as well as a venue that held live performances.

The withdrawal of British forces completed in late 1971 saw the closure of the naval base. The houses and the walk-up units erected during the 1960s along the lush surroundings at Cyprus Road have attracted private tenants.

TIMELINE

SEMBAWANG NAVAL BASE MILESTONES

- **1923–24**
Land is acquired by the Straits Settlements Government in Seletar and donated to the British Admiralty for a naval base.
- **1926**
A contract is awarded to Swan Hunter for the construction of a 50,000-ton floating dock for the naval base.
- **1928**
Admiralty IX floating dock is completed and towed to Singapore.

Construction commences on Sembawang Naval Base with the main contract executed by Sir John Jackson and Company.
- **1929**
The first residences, known as "the Jacksons", are completed.
- **1938**
King George VI graving dock is completed, marking the completion of the naval base.
- **1939**
Seletar Road is renamed Sembawang Road.
- **1941**
8 Dec: HMS *Prince of Wales* and HMS *Repulse* depart the base and are torpedoed off Kuantan two days later.
- **1942**
9 Feb: The base is evacuated.

15 Feb: Singapore falls to the Japanese.
- **1944**
5 Nov: A US Army Air Force (USAAF) air-raid damages King George VI dock.
- **1945**
1 Feb: Another USAAF air-raid sinks Admiralty IX floating dock.

9 Aug: The war ends as Japan announces its unconditional surrender.

12 Sep: Japan officially surrenders Singapore and the base reverts to British Admiralty control.
- **1952–53**
Admiralty IX floating dock is raised.
- **1968**
The dockyard is sold to the Singapore government and becomes Sembawang Shipyard.
- **1971**
31 Oct: Britain withdraws its military forces from Singapore and the base closes down. However, several parts of the former base and its residences were retained for British military use until 1989.



Elsie Choo

THE CAPACIOUS AND tranquil setting of the former naval base residence at Queen's Avenue was just what Ms Elsie Choo and her husband had in mind when they were looking for a larger place to call home.

"We lived in a smaller residence nearby and were searching for a similarly quiet but larger unit. Space was important for us as we have teenage children and large extended families.

We also love to entertain," explained Ms Choo.

The search took Ms Choo and her husband all across Singapore. The couple did not, however, have to go very far. Walking their dogs one day, they found the Queen's Avenue property vacant and asked for a viewing.

"Similar to our previous place, this residence was away from the hustle and bustle. It was also

larger and conveniently located with a bus stop nearby." Ultimately, it was the chandelier in the dining space that was the "tipping point".

The house proper is supported on raised piers underneath which are open spaces and utility rooms. Inside the Choo residence, each nook and corner has been transformed by the couple into relaxing spaces to unwind. Collected over time, the furniture pieces and objects give the house an especially cosy feel. A tall shelving unit, which Ms Choo's husband acquired from an old pub, with objets d'art on display, dominates the

dining space. The couple's preference for a vintage aesthetic has led them to retain original fittings such as the door knobs and hinges to keep to the house's old-world feel.

Outside, a welcoming swimming pool has also been fitted in the garden along with a 3,000-square-foot wooden deck. A shelter behind the house accommodates a lounge and a pool table.

"This is where we 'chillax' and entertain," said Ms Choo when describing what the property has meant to the family. "It's the reason why we now call this place home."



LEFT: An outdoor sheltered area with a pool table at Queen's Avenue.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The swimming pool and wooden deck installed at the Choos' Queens Avenue residence.

Rooms under the house proper have been turned into spaces for relaxation.

The living room of the Choo residence.



Chip Bee Gardens

Originally an abode for British military personnel based in Pasir Panjang, Tanglin and Alexandra, Chip Bee Gardens—now a trendy hub of boutiques and restaurants—is architecturally unique for a military estate as it has the look and feel of a typical 1960s private housing development, with a mix of residential and commercial properties.

Designed by Yang Tye Tai Architects, plans for the estate were announced

by its developer, United Development and Finance Co, in 1962. A year after construction started, the developer entered into a contract with the Services' Lands Board and signed a second contract in 1965 to sell the bulk of the development to the board for use as military housing for married personnel. There were a total of 603 units to have been completed by 1967 on behalf of the board: 349 three-bedroom terraced houses, 194 three-bedroom

units in seven apartment blocks, each nine storeys high, and 20 shop lots with 40 flats above.

The acquisition of the development then reportedly cost \$17 million. This signalled a shift in the British military's policy from renting civilian properties to purchasing them instead. The arrangements addressed a shortfall in housing caused by the increase of personnel in the face of conflicts such as the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation (1963–1966).

ABOVE: Chip Bee Gardens' terraced houses look similar to a typical 1960's residential development.

By 1966, part of what became known as the “Chip Bee Gardens Married Quarters Estate” was ready for occupation.

Chip Bee Gardens was intended as an estate that would serve the British military’s longer-term needs, but it was sold almost as soon as it was completed in 1968. By then, Britain had announced its intention to withdraw its military forces from Singapore. The sale of the estate was negotiated with the Singapore government for approximately \$7 million.

Under the terms of the agreement, British military families were permitted to stay after the properties changed hands in 1970, up until the withdrawal in late

1971. Chip Bee Gardens’ function as a military estate continued after the departure of the British, with members of the Australian-led ANZUK Force moving in soon after.

Following Australia’s 1975 withdrawal from the ANZUK arrangements, the Singapore government, through the Housing and Development Board, put the properties up for rent at competitive rates. Shops and popular eateries snapped up the commercial spaces. However, the poor take-up rate for units saw the apartment blocks demolished in 1992.

Today, the buildings that remain of Chip Bee Gardens display a charm that has been cultivated over the years, and one that is even now being shaped by SLA.

An initiative to transform the estate into a bohemian “makers village” has seen the convergence of creative home-grown brands such as leather-craft atelier, Bynd Artisan, as well as womenswear labels such as Ong Shunmugam.

In 2017, SLA launched its first rental show house and in July 2019, SLA partnered FortyTwo Pte Ltd, a local e-commerce retailer for furniture and lifestyle goods, to fit out a newly renovated terraced house as a show house for prospective tenants. SLA’s support for local talent also shines through in the display of postcard drawings of the neighbourhood by artist and Chip Bee Garden resident, Su-Ann Oh, at the show house.

BELOW:
Art mural
created by
local artists
on Block 43
Jalan Merah
Saga.



TIMELINE

A TRENDY FORMER MILITARY ESTATE

- 1962**
United Development and Finance Co (UDFC) announces plans for Chip Bee Gardens.
- 1963**
UDFC leases part of the estate to Services’ Lands Board (SLB) for housing of married British military personnel.
- 1965**
SLB purchases the bulk of the estate.
- 1966**
Part of Chip Bee Gardens Married Quarters Estate is ready for occupation.
- 1968**
Britain announces its plans to withdraw its military forces.

British government negotiates with the Singapore government on the sale of the estate.
- 1970**
The estate is sold to the Singapore government for \$7 million. British personnel are permitted to stay until the withdrawal.
- 1971**
Britain withdraws its military forces.

Members of the ANZUK Force move into the estate.
- 1975**
Australia withdraws from the ANZUK arrangements and moves its personnel out of the estate.
- 1976**
Housing and Development Board takes over management of the estates and puts properties up for rent.
- 1989**
Singapore’s Land Office takes over management of the estate.
- 1992**
The seven high-rise blocks within the estate are demolished.
- 2002**
Jurong Town Corporation takes over management of the estate.
- 2015**
SLA takes over management of Chip Bee Gardens.



Other examples of SLA working with local artists were seen in the 2018 District Design Dialogue–Holland Village edition (DDD–HV), an annual experiential platform that was part of Singapore Design Week that year. The appointed district activator, Highter, transformed ten

terrace houses for an estate-wide event which attracted approximately 13,000 visitors over nine days. Highter also brought together six local artists to create a highly visible scare art mural spanning the second and third-level rear units of Block 43 Jalan Merah Saga.

Community-led events

and celebrations also help to brighten up the area. One example is the annual Halloween event, which in 2019, saw the transformation of three houses into “scare zones”. This was a huge success as are the many other community events in Chip Bee Gardens.

TOP:
Aerial view
of Chip Bee
Estate in
1966.

ABOVE:
Chip Bee
Estate in the
1970s.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Local-flavoured soft serve at Sunday Folks, located in Block 44 Jalan Merah Saga, another mixed-used block.

The popular Tiong Bahru Bakery has made its way into the neighbourhood at Block 43 Jalan Merah Saga, a mixed-used block.

Inside Atelier Ong Shunmugam at Block 43 Jalan Merah Saga

Craftsman counter of Bynd Artisan's atelier in Chip Bee Gardens.

A show house at 46 Taman Warna, furnished in collaboration with FortyTwo.

Another popular bakery is Baker and Cook at Block 44 Jalan Merah Saga.



Winnie Chan and James Quan

MUCH HAS CHANGED

in Chip Bee Gardens (CBG) since Winnie Chan and James Quan, founders of the bookbinding atelier Bynd Artisan, opened the flagship store there in 2016.

Over the past five years, "there has been a proliferation of local brands setting up", shared the founders, with "CBG now being a unique place in

Singapore to find local delights, fashion and gifts".

The founders were originally drawn to CBG as it was a quiet and quaint shopping enclave, which attracted a diverse crowd of locals, expats and even tourists. It also had a mix of old and modern characteristics, a style the pair was keen to replicate in the atelier's space.

Ms Chan and Mr Quan explained their design approach: "We infused modern design elements with the original structure, keeping, for example, the raw grey beams on the ceiling and exposing a red brick wall in the workshop. This approach resonated with our products, in which modern practicality is

injected into what really are evergreen gift items."

One highlight of the space is a 120th Anniversary Edition Heidelberg Printing Machine, which has become a local icon. The atelier itself has become somewhat of an icon for CBG with the celebrities it attracts, which has included the Korean girl band Twice. When they visited, "the store had to be closed for two hours due to the crowd. We started seeing a lot of Korean tourists after the visit, many of whom were keen to get their hands on exactly the same items that members of Twice had purchased!"





Adam Park Estate

ABOVE:
One of five
Class I
bungalows in
Adam Park.

Adam Park's 19 black-and-white houses give the quiet residential area a typical sense of an estate built for colonial administrators as a comfortable home away from home. The familiar façades, however, hide the marks of a more tumultuous period from when the area functioned as a prisoner-of-war (POW) camp with more than 3,000 men crammed into the estate's houses and service buildings.

Built as residences for municipal officers and

Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) officers from 1928 to 1932, the 19 units—five of which were designated as Class I bungalows and the rest Class III, the designations of which are tied to the seniority of their intended occupants—are of standard Public Works Department (PWD) designs. Several interesting personalities lived within the estate, among which included Phillip Cooper Sands, a Municipal Electrical Engineer and nephew of the famous Frank Cooper

Sands, founder of scouting in Singapore.

The charmed life of Adam Park's occupants came to an abrupt end with the arrival of the war. With the threat of invasion, the estate was abandoned in February 1941 and succumbed to devastation on 15 February 1942, as the site of some of the last battles fought before Singapore's fall.

From April 1942 to January 1943, a few of Adam Park's houses were

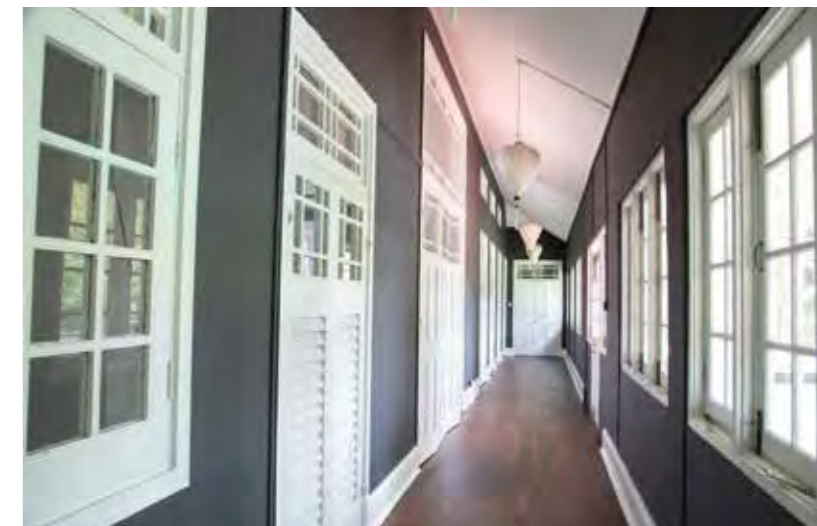
used to accommodate some 2,000 Australian and 1,000 British POWs as they built the Syonan Jinja shrine at the nearby MacRitchie Reservoir. The shrine was constructed to commemorate the first anniversary of the Japanese capture of Singapore, and is depicted in a set of sketches made by an Australian POW, Private Robert Boyed Mitchell, who thought the shrine beautiful even though he hated his captors.

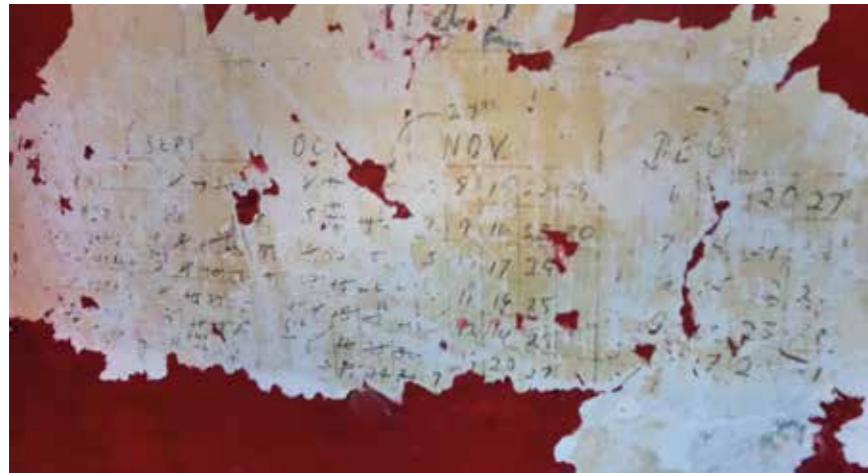
The set of drawings included illustrations of a bomb-damaged Adam Park house that was identified as the POW chapel and canteen, as well as drawings of the murals painted by another POW, Captain Eric Andrews, that decorated the chapel. The house was eventually repaired, but it remained forgotten, with its murals hidden under layers of paint. The murals were only seen again in 2015 as a result of The Adam

CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW LEFT:
The verandah of No. 16, Adam Park, a Class I bungalow.

A Class III bungalow.

The interior of No. 11 Adam Park, a Class III bungalow.





TOP: No. 7 Adam Park, 1950s.

ABOVE: A calendar was found behind the paintwork at No. 5 Adam Park during archaeological surveys undertaken by The Adam Park Project team in 2015. The Australian POW scored off each day of captivity until the end of October 1942 at which point, he was likely to have departed for the Sime Road POW camp and then to the Thai-Burma Railway.

Park Project, a battlefield archaeology effort initiated in 2009 by Jon Cooper, which made a positive identification of the chapel house. Cooper's seven-year project also yielded a wealth of physical evidence that was used to provide a more detailed picture of the battles that took place on the estate grounds.

Another piece of POW life that resurfaced was a calendar that was maintained by a POW, which was discovered in an annex to one of the houses. The calendar, dated from

September to December 1942, is marked with the word "PAY" on days when the POW was paid. The money he earned could apparently be used in the canteen located within the chapel.

Today, the houses, including the chapel house, are well restored and the chapel murals have been placed behind a fibreboard panel for protection. One house, No. 7, has a particularly interesting past. Originally configured for SIT's bachelor officers, it served as the

TIMELINE
A WITNESS TO HISTORY:
FROM QUIET ESTATE TO
BATTLEGROUND AND POW CAMP

- 1928–32**
19 houses are built to house municipal and Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) officers at Adam Park.
- 1939**
The houses are bought by the Municipality.
- 1942**
12–15 Feb: The estate is abandoned and becomes the site of one of the last battles before the fall of Singapore.

Apr: Over 3,000 prisoners of war (POW) were moved into several of Adam Park's houses and stayed until early 1943.
- 1987**
No. 7 Adam Park is used by National University of Singapore Society (NUSS) as a Guild House.
- 2009**
The Adam Park Project (TAPP), a battlefield archaeology effort, is initiated by Jon Cooper.
- 2014**
NUSS vacates No. 7 Adam Park.
- 2019**
SJ Global Academy opens at No. 7 Adam Park.

headquarters of the 1st Cambridgeshire Regiment that defended Adam Park from 12 to 15 February 1942. From 1987 to 2014, the National University of Singapore Society used it as a clubhouse. It is currently tenanted by SJ Global Academy, which officially opened on 5 December 2019.



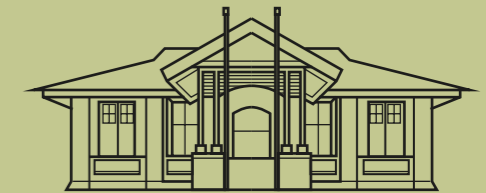
OLD CHANGI HOSPITAL



FORMER ST ANDREW'S MISSION HOSPITAL



FORMER SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL



FORMER COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CENTRE



THE ISLANDS OF ST JOHN

OF HOPE AND HEALING

Old Changi Hospital

BELOW
Block 24, built in 1930 as the "H" Block of Kitchener Barracks.

Old Changi Hospital stands today as a marker of a fascinating past. Prior to the hospital's establishment in 1947, two of its three buildings were located in a camp known as Kitchener Barracks: Block 24, originally referred to as the "H" Block, was amongst the first military structures to be erected in Changi in 1930; Block 37, on Barrack Hill, was built in 1935 as the barracks' sick quarters. The third hospital building, Block 161, was only added in 1962.

The militarisation of Changi during the 1930s came as part of a larger effort to protect Britain's interests in the Far East and prevent a conflict on the scale of World War II from happening. A naval base was built to counter Japan's growing confidence and ambition, and coastal artillery was needed to guard the base from the entrances by sea. Royal Engineers, housed at Kitchener Barracks, were the first to be stationed at Changi to build, install and maintain the guns; nearby



LEFT:
Block 37, built in 1935 to serve as a medical centre for Kitchener Barracks.

BELOW:
An extract from Mrs Shona Trench's birth certificate. She was RAF Changi Hospital's 246th delivery.



Shona Trench

OLD CHANGI HOSPITAL, as the Royal Air Force (RAF) Hospital Changi, brought much joy in welcoming the births of the children of military couples who were posted to Singapore. Many of those born at the hospital, such as 58-year-old Mrs Shona Trench—the hospital's baby number 246—take great joy in discovering that their place of birth still exists during visits to Singapore.



Mrs Trench's RAF photographer father was posted here in 1960 with the family, which included her pregnant mother and two older sisters. The family left in 1963 and Mrs Trench returned to Singapore in 2010 when her husband took a position

here. She was only able to pay a visit to the hospital in 2017, when an SLA-organised tour provided the opportunity. During her visit, Mrs Trench revealed that each of her family members have had hospital stays at Changi. Her father was

twice hospitalised with pneumonia, her mother gave birth to her there, while both of her sisters had their tonsils removed in the hospital. "My sisters remember getting ice cream after their procedure and standing on the balconies looking out to sea," she shared fondly.

During her tour, she was interviewed for a television programme on Changi. When asked about her experience back at the hospital decades later Mrs Trench said, "I'm lucky to have had this opportunity to visit the hospital as part of the SLA tour, and have loved coming back. I am very grateful."



TOP:
Aerial view
of the north
coast of
Changi looking
towards the
hospital,
c.1960-61.

ABOVE:
The Surgical
Block (Block
37) at RAF
Hospital
Changi, date
unknown.

and within the wider Changi garrison, Roberts Barracks was put up for artillery men, who operated the guns, and Selarang Barracks was occupied by the infantry.

Following the Japanese invasion of Singapore in 1942, the former garrison began to house more than it was built to accommodate. Some 40,000 prisoners of war (POW) were squeezed

in, with Roberts Barracks then functioning as the POW hospital. At Kitchener Barracks, where POWs from the Fortress Singapore contingent were placed, internees maintained their morale through sports, entertainment and education.

The former garrison would empty over the months as POWs were shipped off to work camps that included

TIMELINE

THE STORY OF CHANGI

SWAMP TO GARRISON

- 1927 Work begins on Changi Garrison.
- 1929 Britain's Labour Government initiates a slowdown in construction.
- 1930 Work at Changi Garrison is suspended once "H" Block (the future Block 24) is completed.
- 1931 Japan invades Manchuria prompting a review of the decision to suspend construction.
- 1933 Work on Changi Garrison resumes and is accelerated.
- 1935 Royal Engineers' Kitchener Barracks becomes the first part of the garrison to be completed.
- 1937 Changi Garrison is completed with additional accommodation at Roberts Barracks, Selarang Barracks and India Lines Barracks.

CHANGI'S DARKEST DAYS

- 1941 8 Dec: Japan invades Malaya.
- 1942 31 Jan: Allied troops pull back to Singapore. Hospitals established in Changi at Selarang and Roberts during the retreat are still functioning.
- 8 Feb: Japan invades Singapore.
- 9 Feb: Changi's two hospitals are moved to central Singapore.
- 12 Feb: Changi Garrison is abandoned and its guns are destroyed.
- 15 Feb: Singapore falls to the Japanese.
- 26 Feb: Prisoner of war (POW) hospital opens at Roberts Barracks.
- 1943 In May, POWs are deployed to work camps in Taiwan, Japan and Borneo, and for the Siam-Burma Railway.
- Kitchener Barracks is taken over in May by the Japanese for the construction of an airfield.
- Construction of landing strip at Changi commences in September.
- 1944 All POWs are moved to Changi Prison and its surroundings in May.
- The airstrip is operational starting year end.
- 1945 15 Aug: Japan surrenders.
- 3 Sep: Reoccupation begins.
- 12 Sep: Formal surrender in Southeast Asia held in Singapore.

TIMELINE

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

- 1946 RAF Changi air station is established in April.
- 1947 RAF Hospital Changi is established within the air station.
- FROM MILITARY TO CIVILIAN HOSPITAL
- 1971 RAF Hospital Changi becomes ANZUK (Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom) Military Hospital.
- 1975 1 Jan: ANZUK Hospital becomes UK Military Hospital.
- 1 Dec: UK Military Hospital becomes Singapore Air Force Hospital (SAF) for personnel and families.
- 1976 1 Mar: SAF Hospital opens its doors to the public.
- 1 Jul: The hospital is transferred to the Ministry of Health and merges with the 36-bed Changi Chalet Hospital (set up in 1974) to become Changi Hospital.
- 1977 Changi Hospital closes in January following its merger with Toa Payoh Hospital.
- Changi General Hospital opens in Simei in February.

those along the dreaded Siam-Burma Railway. Kitchener Barracks closed as a POW camp in May 1943, when it was taken over by Japanese units for the construction of an airstrip, which would be completed a year later.

After the war, the Royal Air Force (RAF) continued on the course set by the Japanese. The RAF Changi air station was established on the site in 1946, with the establishment of RAF Hospital Changi within the station soon after. The hospital, well-equipped and known for the views it offered to the Johor Strait, was regarded as one of the best in the RAF. Its large maternity section was particularly busy, welcoming over a thousand new arrivals during the

course of its existence.

The hospital further proved its worth to the RAF as it provided support for its "Flying Ambulance" service during the Korean War—the hospital ward cared for wounded United Nations Command troops being repatriated to their home countries. RAF Hospital Changi was also involved in the deployment of "flying" surgeons in response to emergencies offshore, one of whom was Squadron Leader Agnes Bartel—the RAF's only woman surgeon in the Far East.

The addition of Block 161 to the hospital provided a much-needed link between the two older blocks, which were separated by a flight of 91 steps. This new section

BELOW:
Aerial view
of Block 37
of Changi
Hospital,
c.1954.





RIGHT:
Block 24 and
Block 161
(left). Block
161 was
added in 1962.

BELOW:
RAF Changi
Hospital, seen
from across
the Padang
Sports Field,
c. 1965–68.

BELOW RIGHT:
The former
Changi
Hospital, c.
1999.



allowed the hospital to accommodate 150 patients. With its new facilities, RAF Hospital Changi became the suitable choice for a military hospital. It was subsequently renamed as ANZUK Military Hospital in 1971.

Australia's withdrawal from Singapore in 1975 saw

the ANZUK Military Hospital become the UK Military Hospital before its handover to the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) that December. The SAF Hospital was then transferred to the Ministry of Health in 1976 when it merged with Changi Chalet Hospital and became Changi



Hospital. A later merger with Toa Payoh Hospital resulted in the closure of Changi Hospital in 1997, and the subsequent opening of Changi General Hospital in Simei, where it is located today. The buildings of Old Changi Hospital have since remained vacant.



Former St Andrew's Mission Hospital

Simple and unassuming in appearance, the building at 5 Kadayanallur Street has more of a tale to tell than its modernist façade might suggest. A look inside reveals a unique layout and a gem of an old lift—both evidence of the building's fascinating history.

The lift is a rare survivor of a time when they were made of wooden-panelled cabins with manually

operated gates. Installed in 1929, much of its original machinery remains intact and was last certified for use until March 2018. The lift is believed to be the oldest in existence in Singapore.

The building itself, regarded as Singapore's first modernist structure by architectural historian Dr Julian Davison, goes further back. Designed by the surveyor Harry Robinson of the architecture firm Swan &

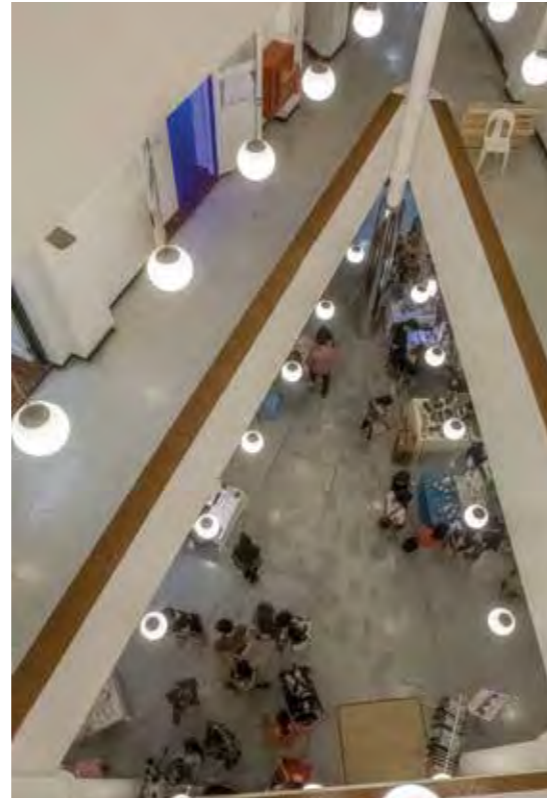
Maclaren, the building was conceived as St Andrew's Mission Hospital for Women and Children in 1923. It featured an outpatient clinic and children's wards on the ground floor, wards for women on the second level, and quarters for staff on the third level and the roof, all arranged around a triangular shaped air-well that was essential for light and ventilation.

ABOVE:
The former
hospital was
designed to
fit into a tiny
wedge of
land between
Erskine Road
and Maxwell
Road Market.

RIGHT: The building played host to an open house "I Am Citizen" held during National Day in 2019.

FAR RIGHT: Its interior seen during "I Am Citizen".

BELOW: Patrick Ho on the rooftop of 5 Kadayanallur Street in the 1950s.



TIMELINE

ST ANDREW'S MISSION AND ITS HOSPITAL

1913

St Andrew's Medical Mission is founded by Dr Charlotte E. Ferguson-Davie.

Opens its first dispensary on Bencoolen Street.

1914

Second dispensary opens on Upper Cross Street.

1915

An eight-bed inpatient facility is added to the Upper Cross Street dispensary.

Third dispensary opens in Pasir Panjang.

1916

St Andrew's Medical Mission is the first to start training nurses of different nationalities in general nursing and midwifery.

Dispensaries combined treat 8,000 patients annually.

1917

Upper Cross Street dispensary moves to North Bridge Road.

New dispensary opens on River Valley Road.

1922

Foundation stones are laid for St Andrew's Mission Hospital for Women and Children.

1923

Opening of St Andrew's Mission Hospital for Women and Children.

1941

17 Dec: Bombing forces the hospital to close.

1942

1 Apr: The hospital re-opens as the civilian hospital, Shimin Byoin.

1945

The building is repurposed as the Government Medical Store.

1949

The Mission re-opens its women and children's hospital in the former Globe Building on Tanjong Pagar Road.

1964

Maxwell Road Outpatient Dispensary (OPD) opens, using the former hospital's ground floor.

1967

Maxwell Road OPD takes over the entire building.

1998

Maxwell Road OPD brings to a close the medical chapter of 5 Kadayanallur Street.

2011

LHN Properties Investment Pte Ltd takes up a lease and converts the building into office space.

2014

CK Tang Ltd uses the building as its corporate offices.

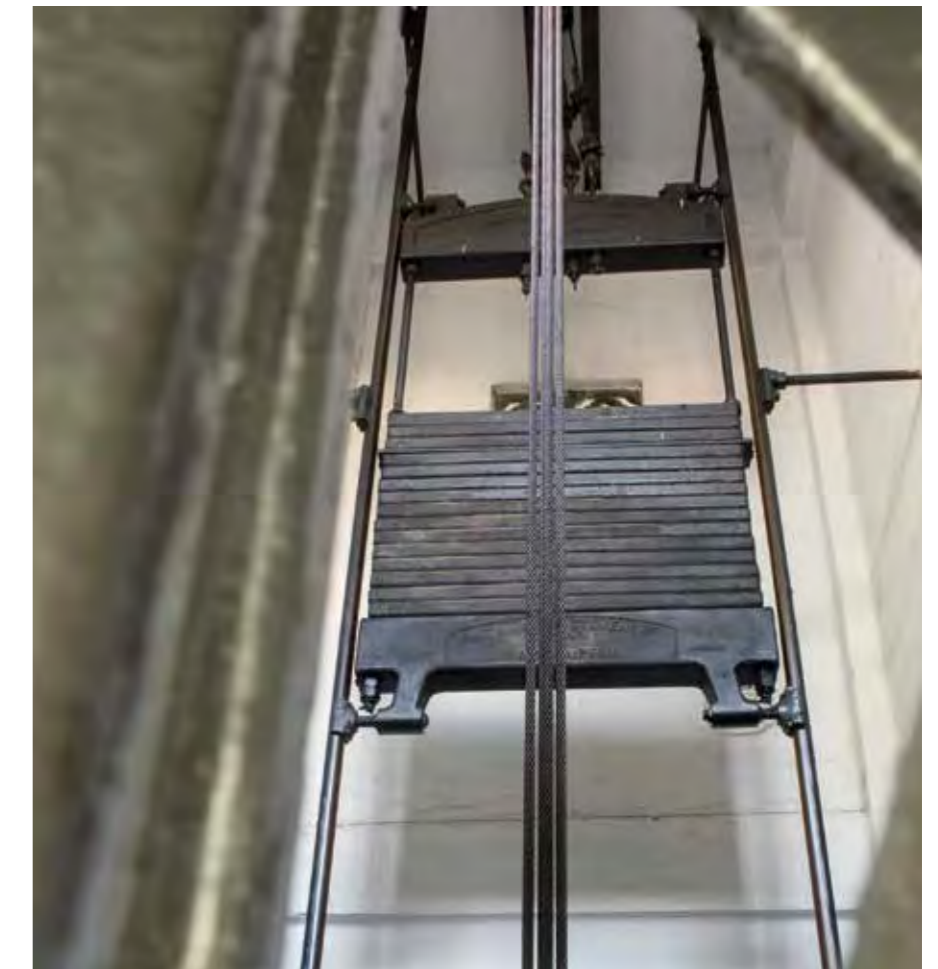
2019

SLA organises "I Am Citizen" event with The Local People on National Day.

The curious shape of the building, which has been compared to a triangular doughnut, was the result of having to maximise the use of a tiny wedge plot at the edge of an already overcrowded Chinatown. The land was obtained with assistance of the influential Mrs Lee Choon Guan, who was the founding president of the Chinese Women's Association. Mrs Lee laid the foundation stone on 14 August 1922 and in less than one year, the 60-bedded hospital was opened on 22 May 1923 by Lady Ella Guillemard, wife of then Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir Laurence Nunn's Guillemard.

Having run several clinics before, the opening of the hospital was a major milestone for the mission, which was established in 1913 with the aim of providing care and relief from suffering to the poor. The addition of the hospital lift was another important achievement. It allowed staff to move patients from their wards to the roof for fresh air and sunshine. This was especially effective in providing pain relief for children suffering from a particular type of tuberculosis affecting the bones, as any movement would have been painful and transfers would have thus been impossible.

BELOW: The shaft of the 1929-installed lift with the original counterweight.



Patrick Ho

THE ROOFTOP SPACE of any building is an unusual place to spend one's childhood. For 79-year-old Mr Patrick Ho, however, the roof of 5 Kadayanallur Street was home for 20 years.

In January 2019, Mr Ho paid a visit to his childhood home, which he last saw in 1967. This opportunity was made possible by SLA after Mr Ho's daughter, having learnt about its Discovering Singapore's

Best Kept Secrets visits, put in a request to participate. Realising Mr Ho's connection to the property, SLA arranged a private visit.

Mr Ho's father was a nurse in charge of the Government Medical Store after the war, and took up residence in its quarters with his family. Mr Ho, then 6, only moved out when he was 27.

The visit brought back many fond memories for Mr Ho, who, upon entering the building, pointed to where his father's office was located next to the entrance. The office featured "large wooden doors that were bolted by a thick wooden plank every night", but that did



not stop the building and its precious morphine stock from being raided. "We found a policeman tied up outside and my father got a jaga for added security," Mr Ho shared.

The rooftop, where the family lived with Mr Ho's grandmother and a cousin, had a large outdoor space that included a plot for

plants. Mr Ho remembered playing there and also recalled the lingering smell of opium that came from the houses below.

Mr Ho's memories provide another dimension to the property—as a home and a fond memory in the hearts of those who lived there.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Kadayanallur Street was named after the Singapore Kadayanallur Muslim League (SKML) in 1952. Formed by migrants from Kadayanallur, a town in Tamil Nadu, India, SKML had long petitioned the Municipal Council to have a street named after it.

In 1946, SMKL established the Umar Pulavar Tamil High School, the first Tamil-language institution in Singapore. The school moved to Maxwell Road and the previously unnamed Kadayanallur Street in 1950, prompting the decision to name the street after the SKML. The school closed in 1982 and the site is now occupied by the Urban Redevelopment Authority Centre.



ABOVE:
The building's triangular air well was designed to bring light and ventilation to the interior.

On 17 December 1941, the hospital took a hit during an air-raid and was evacuated. It reopened during the Japanese occupation as the Shimin Byoin, also a hospital for women and children, but was never used by the mission again. An account of this episode can be found in the 1991 book *Syonan Interlude* by the hospital's director, Dr Ho Boon Liat, who wrote under the pen name He Wen-Lit.

The building was repurposed as the Government Medical Store after the war. In 1964, the Maxwell Road Outpatient Dispensary moved into its ground floor, and took over the entire building from 1967 to 1998. It later found use as an office space, first by LHN Properties Investment Pte Ltd from 2011 to 2014, and then by CK Tang Ltd—the company behind the Tangs department stores in Singapore—as its corporate offices from 2014 to 2017.

The building is currently managed by SLA and is planned for long-term adaptive reuse. On National Day 2019, SLA teamed up with The Local People and organised a pop-up event called "I Am Citizen", a lively open house event of art and culture.

Former Singapore Chinese Girls' School

The modern block of the former Singapore Chinese Girls' School (SCGS) has long been an integral part of Emerald Hill Road's streetscape. The block was named after a co-founder of the school, Sir Song Ong Siang, and is one of the school's three buildings at 37 Emerald Hill Road that obtained conservation status in 2019. The other two are pre-war structures that served as the school's main

block and principal's house. Established in a rented shophouse on Hill Street in 1899, SCGS pioneered education for Straits-born Chinese girls. The school moved into its own premises at the corner of Hill and Coleman Streets in 1908 before establishing its long association with Emerald Hill Road from 1925. The Emerald Hill location, owned by another of the school's co-founders, Dr Lim Boon

BELOW:
The Emerald Hill Road façade of the main block—the first Singapore Chinese Girls' School building.





ABOVE:
A corridor
of the Song
Ong Siang
block.

Keng, was purchased by the Straits Settlements government for 50,000 Straits dollars. The Singapore government granted the school a 99-year lease in exchange for its previous growth-limited location—a location that was used for an expansion of the Central Fire Station that still exists today.

The new school block, completed in September 1925, contained 10 classrooms and an assembly

hall. It was designed by EC Seah of SY Wong & Co and was in keeping with western architectural trends of the day. The opening of SCGS was inaugurated by Lady Ella Guillemard, wife of the Governor of the Straits Settlements, on 6 February 1926—the date selected by Lady Guillemard to coincide with the anniversary of the 1819 Treaty signing that established the British trading post in Singapore.

TIMELINE

SCHOOLDAYS ON EMERALD HILL

- **1899**
Singapore Chinese Girls' School (SCGS) for Straits-born Chinese girls is established in a shophouse on Hill Street.
- **1908**
SCGS moves to the corner of Hill Street and Coleman Street.
- **1924**
Dr Lim Boon Keng's former residence at 37 Emerald Hill Road is purchased for the school by the Straits Settlements government.
- **1925**
SCGS moves to 37 Emerald Hill Road.
- **1926**
Lady Ella Guillemard opens the new school on 6 February.
- **1930**
The principal's house is added.
- **1942**
The school is damaged by Japanese bombs in January.
- **1947**
SCGS resumes operations and is open to girls of all races.
- **1956**
The Song Ong Siang block is added.
- **1970**
The Lee Kong Chian block is built.
- **1979**
A multi-purpose hall with a canteen is constructed.
- **1981**
An extra-curricular activity centre with a library is added.
- **1994**
SCGS moves to Dunearn Road.
- **1999**
Chatsworth International School (CHS) moves into 37 Emerald Hill Road.
- **2018**
SCGS alumni launch a bid to conserve 37 Emerald Hill Road.
- **2019**
Urban Redevelopment Authority announces plans to conserve three buildings on the site.
- **2020**
CHS will vacate the property.

Building is designated as Emerald Hill Girls' School and was possibly used as a ryōtei.



ABOVE:
The Cairnhill
Road face
of the main
block.



LEFT:
The former
principal's
residence.

Five years later, the same architect designed an addition that became a two-storey principal's house. The house featured a porch and a garage, and was connected to the school building by a sheltered walkway.

During the war, SCGS was damaged by the Japanese, but still functioned as the Emerald Hill Girls' School during the occupation. There are also notes that suggest the building was used as a ryōtei—a type of Japanese restaurant for the elite where customers are only accepted by referral. SCGS resumed operations after the war in 1947, opening its doors to girls of all races.

The addition of the Song Ong Siang block—SCGS' modern façade on Emerald Hill Road—allowed the school to increase its enrolment capacity by some 800 pupils in the 1950s. The new block included a hall, a science laboratory and 12 additional classrooms.

Further expansion took place in 1970 with the addition of the Lee Kong Chian block. A multi-purpose hall with a canteen was added in 1979, while an extra-curricular activity centre and library were added in 1981. These two additions were damaged during a suspected terrorism-related explosion that went off in a

drain nearby at Faber House in December 1986.

SCGS vacated its Emerald Hill Road campus in 1994 and moved to Dunearn Road. Since 1999, it has been home to Chatsworth International School, which plans to vacate in 2020.

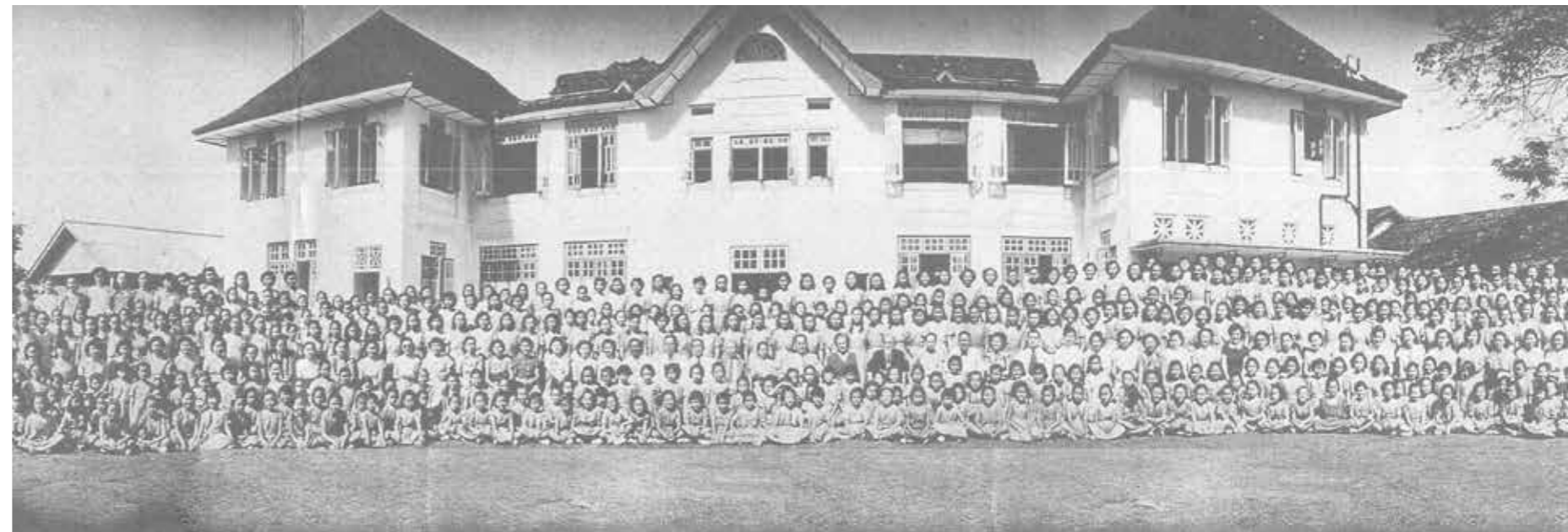
The efforts leading to the conservation of the main school block, the principal's house and the Song Ong Siang block were driven by the community, particularly former students of SCGS who put forth various proposals for the reuse of the buildings. So far, there are no plans for the three buildings after 2020, but the hope is for the history of the site to be retained.

BELOW:
View of the
main block
and the Lee
Kong Chian
block.



LEFT:
An early
image of
the building
façade facing
Emerald
Hill, date
unknown.

BELOW:
Singapore
Chinese Girls'
School, 1951.



Former Communicable Disease Centre



For seven decades, the gatehouse of Middleton Hospital along Moulmein Road stood as a familiar, yet forbidding sight. Marked with a black lion representing the Singapore Municipality, the gatehouse was the landmark that gave the area its nickname, Or Sai, or “black lion” in Hokkien.

The hospital was at the forefront of the fight against infectious diseases through much of the 20th century, continuing even into the 2000s. Its iconic gatehouse was demolished due to road

widening works in 1982, and soon after, the hospital became a department within Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) in 1985 and TTSH's Communicable Diseases Centre (CDC) in 1992.

Middleton Hospital has its origins in a smallpox hospital and quarantine centre which began in the 1870s. The facility in Balestier Plain, set up for the isolation of “natives” infected with smallpox and other contagious diseases, was makeshift at best and ill-equipped to handle the burgeoning urban population.

In 1905, the Municipal Commission drew up plans to replace the facility with the Infectious Disease Hospital along Moulmein Road. This new building was conceived to cater to Europeans and “better-class natives”. It was not until 1911, however, that work on a scaled-down version of the hospital began in earnest.

The 172-bed Infectious Diseases Hospital opened in 1913 and featured widely separated pavilions with airy Nightingale wards—or open wards with no subdivisions—for maximum circulation in

LEFT:
The administration building, behind which the former hospital's wards were laid out.

ABOVE:
A Nightingale ward, designed to allow maximum ventilation into the space.



TOP: Dr Ernest Steven Monteiro, director of Middleton Hospital, and a poliomyelitis patient in an iron lung ventilator, in 1970.

ABOVE: Children undergoing hydrotherapy, a treatment used in rehabilitative care of polio patients, at Middleton Hospital, in 1952.

keeping with the layout of the isolation hospitals at the time. The design concept found favour in the 1800s, when it was commonly believed that diseases were caused by fatal miasmas, or “bad air”; circulation permitted the air to be dispelled. The hospital was spread over an 11.5-hectare site with three camps for isolating patients infected with cholera, plague and smallpox.

The gatehouse feature was an essential pre-processing gateway to the hospital.

In 1920, the Infectious Diseases Hospital was renamed Middleton Hospital to recognise the contributions made by the retiring Dr William Robert Colvin Middleton—one of Singapore’s longest-serving Municipal Health Officers. Dr Middleton played a key role in

TIMELINE

THE CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SINGAPORE

- **1868** Quarantine and vaccination ordinances are passed for the control of infectious diseases in the Straits Settlements.
- **1870s** Quarantine facilities are set up at St John’s Island for incoming ship passengers along with a smallpox hospital at Balestier Plain.
- **1886** The Quarantine and Prevention of Infectious Disease Ordinance, which makes certain infectious diseases legally “notifiable diseases”, replaces the Quarantine Ordinance of 1868.
- **1905** Municipal Commission plans for an Infectious Disease Hospital at Moulmein Road.
- **1911** Construction starts on a scaled-down version of the hospital.
- **1913** Infectious Disease Hospital opens in June.
- **1920** Hospital is renamed Middleton Hospital.
- **1942** Singapore falls to Japan and the hospital becomes the Densen Byoin.
- **1950** Former dysentery ward is converted for the treatment of polio. Iron lung respirator is acquired for treating serious cases.
- **1982** Middleton Hospital loses its iconic gatehouse due to road widening works.
- **1985** Under the directorship of Dr Edmund Monteiro, Middleton Hospital becomes the Department of Communicable Diseases under Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH).
- **1986** HIV/AIDS ward is set up.
- **1992** Department of Communicable Diseases becomes the Communicable Disease Centre (CDC) at TTSH.
- **2003** Four quick-to-build cabin wards with 80 single rooms are installed due to the SARS epidemic.
- **2018** A negative pressure ward for Ebola and MERS-CoV is built in the CDC. CDC is decommissioned in December and operations move to the newly built National Centre for Infectious Diseases in TTSH.

improving public health and in setting up the hospital.

During the Japanese Occupation, the hospital continued in its role as the Densen Byoin (a generic Japanese term for an infectious disease hospital often used as a hospital name). It relied on the tireless efforts of its director, Professor Ernest Steven Monteiro, to control diseases then rife due to the appalling conditions and material shortages. Through his ingenuity, Professor Monteiro managed to control a diphtheria outbreak by using an untried method of

infecting eight goats that were being kept for food. The anti-diphtheria serum was obtained from the goats’ infected blood, a serum that would have otherwise been unavailable.

Professor Monteiro’s son, Dr Edmund Monteiro, also made significant contributions whilst in service with the Middleton Hospital from 1965 to 1993. As the hospital director, the younger Dr Monteiro saw its transition to the CDC. He also coordinated the hospital’s response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, for which an AIDS ward was set up in April 1986.

Over the years, the CDC has played an instrumental role in the fight against other high-profile outbreaks such as the 2003 SARS epidemic. In December 2018, the CDC closed and assumed a new identity as the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) in a modern building within the Tan Tock Seng Hospital. Emptied of its paraphernalia, the former hospital building at Moulmein Road—the last exemplifying the pavilion style in Singapore—now awaits plans for redevelopment.

BELOW: Entrance of Middleton Hospital along Moulmein Road in 1954.





Iris Verghese

IT TAKES THE dedication of someone like 74-year-old Mrs Iris Verghese to devote a significant portion of her career to the care of HIV/AIDS patients. A nurse at Middle Road Hospital when Singapore's first HIV positive case was diagnosed in 1985, she took up the challenge of caring for inpatients at the former Communicable Disease Centre (CDC) when it received its first

case in 1987. Mrs Verghese remained part of CDC's HIV/AIDS patient care programme up until her retirement in 2014.

"When I first started, I was the only one assigned to HIV/AIDS patient care. It takes strong faith and acceptance to work there. My husband was very supportive. He understood that someone had to do the job," shared Mrs Verghese when thinking back on her 1987 posting.

Over the years, there were many instances where Mrs Verghese extended her comforting presence to the family members of patients. One time, a woman was so distraught

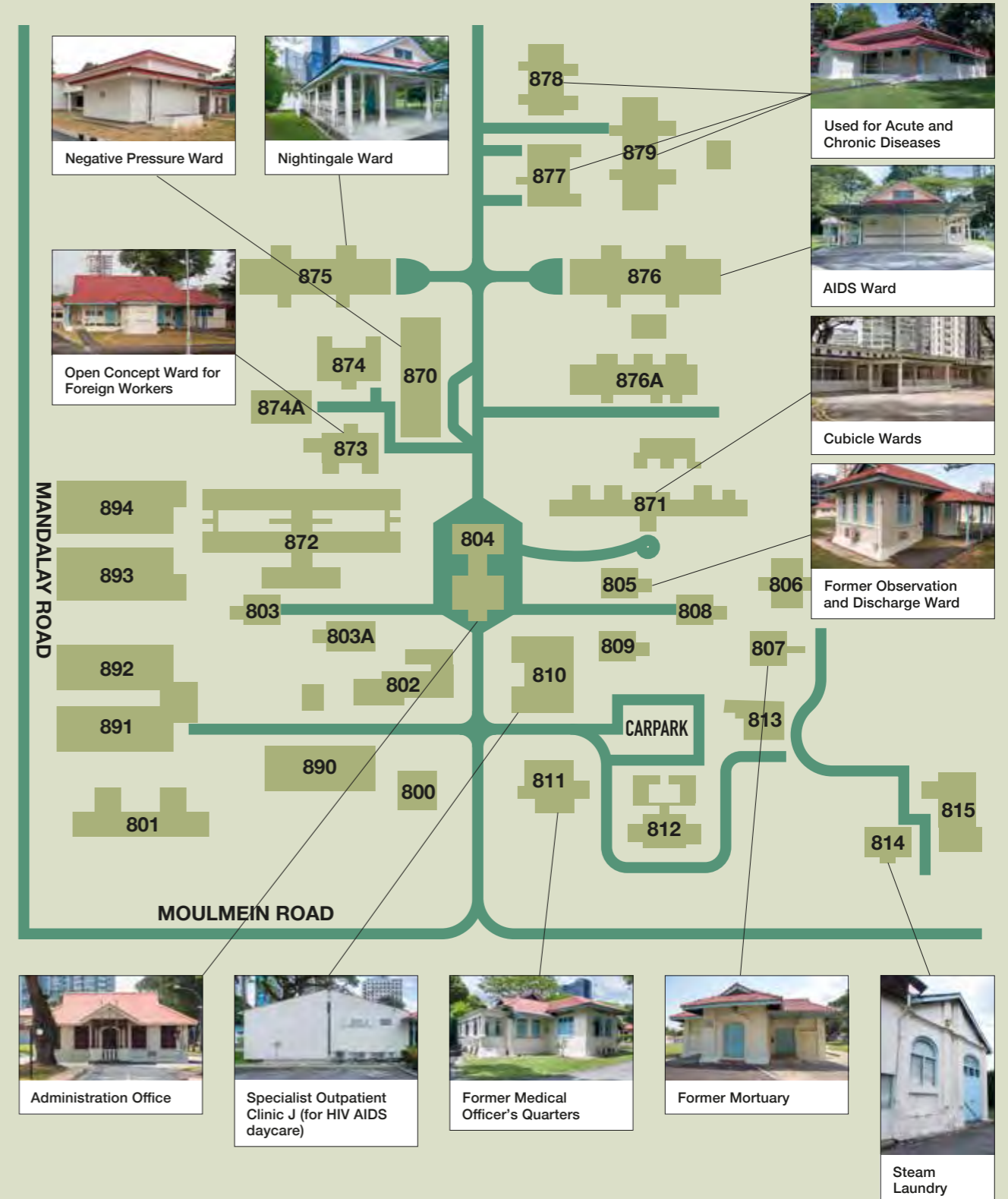
over her husband's positive test results that she cried and hugged the lamp post outside the ward. Mrs Verghese's empathy and compassion managed to calm the woman down.

Later in her career, Mrs Verghese's role as a nurse shifted to that of a public health officer with the Ministry of Health for which success in contact tracing depended very much on patience and building rapport. Mrs Verghese described how all those years in patient care helped prepare her as she also needed to be very tactful when managing the patients' reactions and emotions.

BELOW: The interior of the negative pressure ward as seen in January 2019, shortly after it was decommissioned.



Layout of Pavilion Wards at the Former CDC



The Islands of St John

The twin islands of St John's and Lazarus are among the most visited of Singapore's numerous southern islands after Sentosa and Kusu. There is much myth and legend attached to St John's and Lazarus Islands, which are also known locally as Pulau Sekijang Bendera and Pulau Sekijang Pelepah, respectively. Together, they have been managed by SLA as leisure destinations since March 2017.

The western and eastern islands were collectively identified as the "Islands of St John" in an 18th century French navigation chart, and featured throughout modern Singapore's history. The islands first took centre stage during the 1819 founding of the East India Company's trading post in Singapore

"...THE TWIN ISLANDS TODAY HAVE BECOME A DESTINATION FOR THOSE WHO SEEK A QUIET ESCAPE FROM THE CITY."

that dropped anchor off the islands in January that year. An outpost was established and a flagstaff was positioned on the western island, which was how Pulau Sekijang Bendera got its local name; "bendara" is Malay for "flag" (while "pelepah" in Pulau Sekijang Pelepah refers to "fronds of a palm"). The move of the flagstaff to Pulau Blakang Mati, now known as Sentosa, paved the way for the island to be used for pineapple cultivation, as observed by naturalist George Bennett during his visit in 1834.



ABOVE:
St John's
Island from
Lazarus
Island.



ABOVE: Eagle's Lodge, a popular holiday bungalow on St John's Island.

A new chapter for the islands began with the construction of a quarantine station in 1874. This led to the renaming of Pulau Sekijang Bendera as St John's Island, and Pulau Sekijang Pelepah as Convalescent or Lazarus Island, in 1899. Mental patients, refugees, gangsters, political detainees and opium and other drug addicts would pass through St John's in the 20th century. Notable among its political detainees was the trade unionist CV Devan Nair—who later served as the

president of Singapore from 1981 to 1985. In December 1950, the island was used to house Maria Hertogh and her (biological) mother during the Maria Hertogh race riots. Following a period when it was used to harbour Vietnamese refugees, St John's Island was turned into a holiday destination in 1976. This would see the expansion of both islands and the nearby Kusu Island through land reclamation. The addition of campsite facilities made St John's Island a popular destination

for school holiday camps. Plans to further develop the islands last resurfaced in 2006, but have since fallen through. The hurdle came with the reclamation of Pulau Seringat-Kias, an extension of Lazarus Island, which resulted in the submersion of the Seringat and Kias reefs. Despite this, the twin islands have become a destination for those who seek a quiet escape from the city. St John's Island is conveniently accessible via a public ferry ride, and is linked to Lazarus Island by a short causeway.

TIMELINE
ISLANDS OF ST JOHN IN MODERN SINGAPORE HISTORY

- **1819**
An East India Company outpost is established on the islands to inform passing ships of its trading post in Singapore.
- **1823**
A flagstaff is moved to west St John's Island from Kusu Island.
- **1833**
The flagstaff is moved to Pulau Blakang Mati.
- **1875**
A quarantine station is established following an 1873 cholera outbreak.
- **1899**
The islands are renamed: west St John's becomes St John's Island and east St John's becomes Lazarus or Convalescent Island.
- **1942**
500 mental patients are transferred to St John's Island before the fall of Singapore.
- **1945–46**
St John's Island is used to house refugees.
- **1948–53**
A detention camp is set up on St John's Island for political detainees and gangsters held under the Emergency Regulations.
- **1950**
Maria Hertogh and her biological mother temporarily reside on St John's Island at the height of the Maria Hertogh riots.
- **1955**
The Opium Treatment Centre opens on St John's Island.
- **1959**
St John's Island is used again to house political detainees.
- **1961**
A navigational aid to assist landing civil aircraft is put on Lazarus Island.
- **1963**
St John's Island is used to house political detainees held under Operation Coldstore.
- **1973**
The use of St John's Island as a quarantine station ends and the Opium Treatment Centre is expanded into a Drug Rehabilitation Centre.
- **1975**
Close to 1,000 refugees fleeing South Vietnam in the wake of Saigon's fall are housed on St John's Island from May to Dec.

The last villagers leave Lazarus Island and St John's Island. The Malay and English schools on the islands are moved to the mainland.
- **1976**
Reclamation takes place on Lazarus and St John's Islands as part of a larger plan to develop the southern islands as a holiday destination.
- **1988**
Plans to develop Lazarus Island into a resort island are announced by the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board. The tender is unsuccessful.
- **2000–06**
Reclamation carried out at Seringat and Kias submerges reefs off Lazarus Island.

A causeway is built to link Lazarus Island to St John's Island.
- **2002**
The Tropical Marine Science Institute establishes a lab on St John's Island.
- **2006**
Plans are announced to develop Lazarus Island and its reclaimed extension Pulau Seringat-Kias into a playground for the super-rich.
- **2007**
Plans announced in 2006 are shelved.
- **2017**
The islands come under the care of SLA.

BELOW: A view from the old water-boat jetty on St John's Island to Lazarus Island.



Since SLA's takeover in management, there have been upgrades to the campsite on St John's Island, including the introduction of campsite furniture using recycled horticultural waste. Other SLA initiatives involve the remote monitoring of water levels, as well as the curation of a heritage tour as part of the bicentennial commemoration. An ongoing project by Nanyang Technological University is bringing renewable energy and de-salinated water to the islands.

The management of Kusu Island also falls within SLA's jurisdiction. As a pilgrimage site that attracts tens of thousands of visitors every ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar, Kusu brings forth new challenges for SLA in terms of site and people management. As a testament to its successful management, SLA has smoothly facilitated the annual Kusu Pilgrimage season over the past three years.



Kamariah Yacob and Theresa Koh

SINGAPORE'S SOUTHERN ISLANDS, though now uninhabited, were places that many once called home. Born on Lazarus Island in the 1960s and a resident until 1976, 55-year-old Kamariah Yacob made a visit home in 2019. Although much of the island has changed, it still holds many memories for Kamariah. Among such recollections was her daily boat journey from Lazarus Island to school



on St John's, an experience that no longer occurs due to the connection of the two by a causeway.

A generator room, rumoured to be haunted due to its wartime past, can still be found on the island. For Kamariah, however, the room holds a different significance—it was where she and her family took a set of stairs that led to their house.

Not far from the generator room was another point of interest—a tree under which an old lady, whom she called Nek Ipah, would sell rojak. The rojak vendor would “pluck the leaves from the tree, making it curved so that the rojak could be placed inside.” Kamariah added, “Now I feel very happy. I have come back to my hometown after 43 years!”

On St John's Island, SLA maintains a campsite together with a holiday bungalow called Eagle's Lodge. SLA was pleased to discover that another former islander, 73-year-old Theresa Koh, was one of Eagle's Lodge's regular users. Born and bred in St John's Island where her father was employed to maintain its generator, Theresa makes it a point to return on a regular basis with her sisters.

Theresa recalled how they would come back after school, throw their bags down and run to their favourite spot by the sea. “We would swim, put out mattresses there and sleep under a tree”—a picture of an idyllic life on the island.

ABOVE: Kamariah Yacob (looking at camera) and fellow islanders on Lazarus Island c. 1970s.

RIGHT: Kamariah Yacob (front row, extreme left) with other Lazarus Island children pictured with tourists c. 1970.



ABOVE: The Tua Pek Kong temple on Kusu Island.

LEFT: St John's Island as a quarantine station.

BELOW LEFT: Set in lush surroundings, the former quarantine facilities on St John's Island have been transformed into a holiday campsite.



Photo Credits

Kai Suites

Page 5, bottom left & right

Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Page 10
Page 24, top
Page 58
Page 132, bottom
Page 133

Henry Cordeiro

Page 17

RAF Seletar Association, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Page 24, bottom

Michael Meston

Page 21, left & bottom

Private Collection

Page 21, right
Page 28
Page 29, top

Chu Sui Mang Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Page 29, bottom

Heather Fisher, Memories of Singapore

Page 35, top

Wellcome Collection. Attribution 4.0 Internatioal (CC-BY 4.0)

Page 39, bottom
Page 141, middle
(Photograph by A. R. Wellington, 1909)

Roszelan bin Mohd Yusof

Page 47, top

Sheila Kaur Sidhu

Page 47, bottom

Tameside Local Studies and Archive Centre, United Kingdom

Page 43

The White Rabbit

Page 44, left
Page 45

British Royal Air Force. Crown copyright, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Page 52

William Wee Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Page 63, bottom

National Archives of Singapore

Page 64

Kelvin Taylor

Page 69

Alan Cooke, Memories of Singapore

Page 70

James J McGrane Collection

Page 74

Royal Green Jackets Association

Page 75

Family of the late Ideriyan BHM Ideriess

Page 82

Peter Stone

Page 92, top
Page 93, top left

Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organisation

Regional English Language Centre (SEAMEO RELC)
Page 99, top

Jack Hockey

Page 104, bottom

Peter Chan, Memories of Singapore

Page 109, top

John Bell, Memories of Singapore

Page 109, bottom

Ong Shunmugam

Pages 110-111, (clockwise from top left, third photo)

FortyTwo

Pages 110-111, (clockwise from top left, fifth photo)

Bernardine Kennedy

Page 114, top

Jon Cooper, The Adam Park Project

Page 114, bottom

Shona Trench

Page 117, bottom

Royal Air Force Changi Association

Pages 118, 119 and 120 (bottom left & right)

Patrick Ho

Page 122, bottom

Singapore Chinese Girls' School

Page 129

George Yeo Poh Kee

Page 132, top

Kamariah Yacob

Page 140

Index

1-Group, 64–66

A

Abdullah Tarmugi, 76
Adam Park Estate, 112–14
Adam Park Project, The, 113–14
Admiralty House, 78–82, 97
Alexandra Barracks, 51
Alexandra Military Hospital, 38
Alkaff Mansion, 62–66
Andrews, Eric, 113
Anglican Diocese of Singapore, 33, 35
Anglo-Chinese College (ACC), 58, 60
Anglo-Chinese School (ACS), 58
ANZUK Force, 80–82, 108–09, 119–20
Army Medical Centre, 38
art deco, 14, 20, 26, 87, 90, 96, 98
Art Furniture Depot, 15, 17
Arts and Crafts Movement, 73, 80, 97, 102–03
AXA University Asia Pacific Campus, 70–71

B

Bank of China, 28
Bartel, Agnes, 119
Bennett, George, 136
Bidwell, R. A. J., 94
“black-and-white” houses, 84–97
Black Swan, The, 29–30
BOAC Super Constellation, jetliner, 20–21

BOAC De Havilland Comet, jetliner, 20
Bowyer Block, 26
Brewer, Frank W., 73
Bristol Boxkite, 19
British Airways, 19
British Military Administration, 64
Brown, TA, 100
Bukit Timah Racecourse, 22–25
Bukit Timah Railway Station, 23
Bukit Timah Rubber Estate, 23–24, 99
Bukit Turf Club (BTC), 24
Burkinshaw, John, 94
“butterfly” plan, 72–73
Bynd Artisan, 108, 110–11

C

Capitol Building, 99
Central Business District (CBD), 26
Central Fire Station, 56, 126
Changi Garrison, 118
Changi General Hospital, 119
Changi Hospital, Old, 116–20
Chan, Winnie, 111
Chasseriau Estate, 98–101
Chasseriau, Leopold, 99
Chee Guan Chiang, 14–15
Chee Swee Cheng, 14
Cherie Hearts, childcare, 28–29
China Building, 28–29
Chinese Commercial Bank, 28–29
Chinese Women’s Association, 123

Chip Bee Gardens, 107–11
Choo, Elsie, 105
Christiaens, Josef, 19
“City Ramble, The”, heritage trail, 29
civil aviation, developments in, 19
Civil Service Club, 40–41
CK Tang Ltd, 123–24
Clementi, Cecil, 23
College of Medicine, 26
Collyer, George Chancellor, 37
Command House, 72–77, 97
Communicable Diseases Centre (CDC), former, 130–35
communist insurgency, 68
COMO Lifestyle, 39
Cooliv Waterfront, 12
Cooper, Jon, 101, 114
Country City Investments (CCI), 38–39
CV Devan Nair, 138

D

Danish Seamen’s Church, 56, 58–60
David, Joseph Brook, 67–68
Davison, Julian, 121
Dempsey Hill, 2, 37–41, 45
Dental Health Education Unit (DHEU), 51–52
Discovering Singapore’s Best Kept Secrets, tour, 4, 6, 47
Dobbie, W. G. S., 73–74
Dockyard Theatre, 104
Dowdeswell, Frank, 99

E

Earhart, Amelia, 18, 20
Eastern Agencies, 28–29
Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, 95
East India Company, 136, 139
Ebenezer Chapel, 43
Eddystone Radio, 15
E. Kong Guan, 14–15
Emergency, 68

F

Faber House, 128
Family Planning Board, 3
Far East Land Forces (FAREL), 38–39, 74, 76
Ferguson-Davie, Charlotte E., 123
First World War, 17
Flagstaff House, 73–75, 78
“Flying Ambulance”, 119
flying boat, 19–20
Foged, Sussie Nygaard, 59
Four-Seas Communications Bank, 28–29
Frankland, William, 38
Fullerton Building, 26, 98
Furen International School, 78, 81–82

G

Garrison chapel, 43
Gillman Officers’ Mess, 50–54
Golden Bell mansion, 56–61
Goode, William, 36
Grandstand, The, 24
Great Depression, 18, 28
Greater Southern Waterfront development, 11

G (continued)

Guillemard, Ella, 123, 126
 Guillemard, Laurence Nunns, 123
 Gunn, Alexander James, 100
 Gurdwara Sabha Naval Police Sikh temple, 48

H

Hatecke, August, 75
 Hebron Bible-Presbyterian Church, 43
 Henderson Secondary School, 3
 Hertogh, Maria, 100, 138–39
 Hill Street Police Station, 70
 HMS *Prince of Wales*, 80
 Ho Boon Liat, 124
 Ho Hong Bank, 28
 Homestead Group, 28–30
 Ho, Patrick, 122
 Hotel Properties Limited (HPL), 64–65
 Housing and Development Board, 108–09
 Huang, Crystalla, 40
 Hyderabad House, 51–53

I

Imperial Airways, 19
 Infectious Diseases Hospital, 131–32
 Institute of Dental Health (IDH), 51–52
 Institute of Mental Health, 49
 International Aeradio, 21

J

Jackson, John, 102, 104
 Japanese occupation, 19, 24, 34–35, 38, 48, 64, 74, 81, 104, 113, 118, 124, 128, 133
 Japanese Theatre, 104
 Jurong Town Corporation, 109

K

Kadayanallur Street, 124
 Kai Suites, 3
 Kallang Airport, 18–21
 Kamariah Yacob, 140
 Kampong Glam, 4
 K A Nagarasan, 11

Karimun Country Club, 81
 Kay Yang, 66
 Keys and Dowdeswell, 26, 99
 Keys, Percy Hubert, 26, 98–99
 King Edward VII College of Medicine Building, 98
 Kinloss House, 67–71
 Kitchener Barracks, 116, 118–19
 KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines), 19
 KNILM, airline, 19
 Koh, Ivy, 15
 Koh, Theresa, 140
 Korean War, 119
 Kusu Island, 5, 136, 138–39, 141
 Kwangtung Provincial Bank, 28–29

L

Lazarus Island, 5, 136–40
 Lee Choon Guan, 58, 123
 Lee Choy Peng, Eddie, 91
 Lee Kong Chian, 126, 128
 LES Pte Ltd, 64–65
 LHN Properties Investment Pte Ltd, 123–24
 Lim Boon Keng, 125–26
 Lim, Jerome, 4
 Lo & Behold Group, The, 3, 43, 45
 Local People, The, 11
 Loh, Petrina, 41
 Long Beach Seafood Restaurant, 41
 Low Jeng-tek, 30

M

Madras Engineers, 37
 “makers village”, 108
 Malan, Charles Hamilton, 33, 35
 Malayan Motors, showroom, 13–14, 17
 Ma Lin, 62, 64
 Management Development Institute of Singapore, 17
 Marryat & Scott lift, 26
 Meston, Michael, 21
 Methodist Girls School, 58
 Methodist Mission, 58, 60
 Middle East Films Ltd, 14

Middleton Hospital, 131–33
 Middleton, William Robert Colvin, 132
 Miller, Jacqueline, 69
 Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), 38–39
 Ministry of Health (MOH), 51–52, 119
 Mitchell, Robert Boyed, 113
 Mok, David, 82
 Monteiro, Edmund, 132–33
 Monteiro, Ernest Steven, 132–33
 Morsels, 41
 Mountbatten, Lord, 74
 Murray, Alexander, 67
 Muthu s/o Rengasamy, 11

N

Nagajyothi (Jyothi) Mahendran, 40
 Nagle, James Stewart, 58, 60
 Namazie Mansions, 99
 Nanyang Technological University, 139
 National Centre for Infectious Diseases, 132–33
 National Library, 8
 National Service, 38
 National University of Singapore, 68, 85, 91, 114
 Naval Base Police Force (NBPF), 47–48
 Navy House, 78
 Nelson House, 81
 Neo Gim Huay, 15
 neo-Romanesque architecture, 34
 New Life Baptist Church, 43
 Ng, Ernest, 40
 Ng Mui Lee, 4
 Nicoll Highway, 20
 Nicoll, John, 8, 10
 Nightingale, HW, 100
 nutmeg plantations, 14

O

Old Changi Hospital, 116–20
 Oldham, William F., 58
 Old Kallang Airport, see Kallang Airport
 Ong Shunmugam, 108, 110
 Ong Teng Cheong, 76

Orchard Road Shophouses, 13–17
 Oversea-Chinese Bank (OCB), 26–30, 99
 Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), 28–29

P

Pacific Can Building, 28–29
 Parkinson, R. L., 38
 Pasir Panjang Power District, 12
 Pasir Panjang Power Station, 8–12
 Paya Lebar Airport, 20
 People's Association, 20
 Percival, Arthur, 74
 Philip, Prince, 74
 Phillips, Tom, 78, 80–81
 plantation house, 94
 Port of Singapore Authority (PSA), 58, 60
 “Powerup Pasir Panjang”, competition, 11
 Prisoner-of-war (POW), 34–35, 101, 112–14, 118
 Public Works Department (PWD), 85, 87, 91, 95–96, 102–03, 112
 Pulau Seraya power station, 11

Q

Quadrant, The, 26, 29–30, 99
 Quan, James, 111

R

Raffles College, 60
 RAF Hospital Changi, 119–20
 Rashmi Udaykumar, 53
 RedDot Brewery, 40
 Reinventing Spaces into Vibrant Places (RSVP) programme, 3–4, 20
 Rimau Offices, 46–49
 Robinson, Harry, 121
 Roszelan bin Mohd Yusof, 47
 Royal Air Force (RAF), 19, 48, 119
 Royal Army Medical Corps, 38
 Royal Engineers Service, 33
 Russells Infantry Battalion, 51

S

Sahu Shreyans Prasad Jain, 54
 Samy's Curry Restaurant, 40
 Sands, Frank Cooper, 112
 Sands, Phillip Cooper, 112
 Seah, EC, 126
 Second World War, 15, 19, 116
 Sembawang Naval Base Residences, 102–06
 Sembawang Shipyard, 104
 Sembawang Sports and Community Hub, 81
 Senoko power station, 11
 Sentosa, 136
 Services' Lands Board, 107, 109
 Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), 120
 Singapore Botanic Gardens, 37
 Singapore Chinese Girls' School (SCGS), 125–29
 Singapore Design Week, 29, 109
 Singapore Electric Tramways, 10
 Singapore Free Press, 78
 Singapore General Hospital, 98
 Singapore Gold Cup Race, 24
 Singapore Harbour Board, 10
 Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT), 87–88, 90, 97, 112, 114
 Singapore Kadayanallur Muslim League (SKML), 124
 Singapore Land Authority (SLA), 2–4, 20, 38–40, 43, 49, 58, 60, 64, 69, 92, 108, 109, 117, 122, 124, 136, 139
 Singapore Manufacturers' Association, 17
 Singapore Mutiny, 39
 Singapore Private Hospital, 58, 60
 Singapore Sporting Club (SSC), 24
 Singapore Sports Hub, 18
 Singapore Tourism Board (STB), 64–65, 139

Singapore Turf Club, 23–25, 99
 Sin Sin Furniture, 15
 SJ Global Academy, 114
 Song Ong Siang, 125–26, 128
 South East Asia Command (SEAC), 74
 Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization's Regional Language Centre (SEAMEO RELC), 99–100
 SP Jain School of Global Management, 51–54
 Spooner, Ernest John, 78, 80–81
 SP PowerGrid, 11
 stained-glass, 34, 44
 Stallwood, H. A., 96
 Stanbury, William Henry, 33
 St Andrew's Cathedral, 35
 St Andrew's Mission Hospital, 121–24
 State property, 2–5, 44, 91
 Stewardship Asia Centre, 16
 St George's Church, 6, 32–36, 42–43
 Stirlingshire Regiment of Foot, 33, 37, 39
 St James power station, 8, 10
 St John's Island, 5, 132, 136–41
 Straits Settlements, 37, 58, 104, 123, 126
 Staughton, Frank, 64–65
 Sun Yat-sen, 56, 58
 Surbana Jurong, 15
 Swan & Maclaren, 23, 73, 94–95, 121
 Swan Hunter, 104
 Syed Abdulrahman bin Abdullah Alkaff, 62, 64
 SY Wong & Co, 126

T

Takenouchi Webb, design firm, 43
 Tan Boo Liat, 56–59
 Tan Cheng Lock, 58
 Tanglin Barracks, 33, 35, 37–39, 43
 Tanglin Garrison Church, 42–45

Tanglin Military Hospital, 37
 Tanglin Village, 37–39, 42
 Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, 10
 Tan Kah Kee, 58
 Tan Kim Cheng, 57
 Tan Soo Khoon, 76
 Tan Tock Seng, 56
 Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), 131–33
 Taylor, Kelvin, 69
 Tay, Yvonne, 15
 Temasek Holdings, 16
 Temasek Shophouse, 14–16
 Teo Chen Hian, Christopher, 86
 Tharman Shanmugaratnam, 51–52
 Thomas, Shenton, 19–20
 Thousand Buddha Temple, 65
 Trench, Shona, 117
 TS Home Pte Ltd, 12
 Tudor-style, 95
 Turf City, 24
 Turf Club, see Singapore Turf Club
 Turner, Saralee, 36
 Twiss, Frank, 82

U

UBS, 74–76
 United Development and Finance Co, 107, 109
 URA Architectural Heritage Award, 16
 Urban Redevelopment Authority, 3, 20, 124, 126
 Urban Sketchers Singapore, 6, 29

V

van Brussel, Joris, 89
 Verghese, Iris, 134
 Vickers Vimy, aircraft, 19

W

Ward, Frank Dorrington, 18
 Watten Estate, 98–100
 Wearnes Brothers, 17
 Webster, Gordon, 34
 Wee Teck Moh, 56, 58
 Wee Teng Wen, 3, 45
 White Rabbit, The, 3, 33, 42–45

Woodbridge Hospital, 48–49
 Woodlands North Coast Innovation District, 48–49
 World Buddhist Society, 64–65

Y

Yang Tye Tai Architects, 107
 Yeoh Ghim Seng, 76
 Yishun Country Club, 81

