

# LITTLE INDIA ARCADE



**Client:**

Little India Arcade Pte Ltd

**Architect:**

Architects Action International Incorporated

**Engineer:**

Uni-Associated Consultants

**Contractor:**

Hexacon Construction Pte Ltd

## 1996 AWARD

**L**ocated in the Historic District of Little India, these 26 two-storey pre-war shophouses have been a focal point for the Indian community since the 19th century, catering to basic needs for textiles, groceries, food and religious paraphernalia.

Originally segregated into 3 separate blocks, these Art Deco shophouses were built with backlanes for service purposes. After restoration, the backlanes were transformed into open air passageways linking retail shops on the first



*A typical self-contained kiosk with power point, lighting, wall mounted oscillating fans and awning*

storey, thus retaining the bazaar atmosphere prevalent in the old days. The original structures were in a state of disrepair and needed extensive strengthening to withstand the anticipated loading for future use. The existing profile of the roof was left intact. All existing architectural features were carefully restored and missing elements reproduced and fixed in place.

The overall restoration works retain the spirit and character of the place whilst making it a commercially viable and efficient project.



*Handsomely restored Art Deco shophouses enhance the streetscape*



*Geometric design retained and sensitively restored*



*Entrance gateway facing Hastings Road leading to internal passageways lined with kiosks*



*Modern intervention - elevator to serve the upper storey*



*Staircase with balustrade of traditional details, connecting the food court to the shops above*



*Shophouses bringing back the assemblage of colours, aromas and ambience that are distinctly Little India*



*Bazaar shops selling handicrafts, sweetmeats, etc at the main entrance from Serangoon Road*



*Internal passageway linking retail shops and exuding the bazaar atmosphere reminiscent of the old days*