

6 EMERALD HILL ROAD



1998 AWARD

Owner:

Mr Noel Hawkes & Mdm Ng Poh Chuan

Architect:

Liu & Wo Architects Pte Ltd

Engineer:

S C Woh Consulting Engineers

Contractor:

Kai Huat Construction (Pte) Ltd

This two-storey terrace house of the Late Style with a new roof mezzanine is located in the historic residential district of Emerald Hill. A relatively small building without internal airwell and rear court, it has been carefully planned, restored and transformed to a bright and spacious interior with the introduction of a skylight.

During restoration, the existing timber roof joists were retained to provide strutting and support to the existing walls until the roof beams were constructed. The timber floors were retained and restored. Where necessary, chengal wood was used to replace deteriorated timber. The existing walls of the terrace house were strengthened to take the additional loading. Existing French and casement windows were retained and



Beautifully restored terrace house

restored. Decorative pilasters and plaster mouldings were kept and restored after careful removal of layers of old paint. A new pintu pagar, commonly found at the main door of most Peranakan terrace houses, was installed.

Internally, timber is sensitively used to enhance the character of spaces and to conceal the air-conditioning. Extensive mirrors are used to give the illusion of space within the terrace house. A roof terrace is ingeniously introduced at the

rear for use as an outdoor dining area. Air-conditioning condenser units are neatly housed at the rear extension.

The end product is a beautifully restored building, standing tall and proud at the lower end of Emerald Hill, an exclusive residential enclave next to the Orchard Road Shopping Belt.



Mirrors transform living room into a spacious space



Roof terrace at rear roof mezzanine



Master bedroom at 2nd storey



Air-conditioning condenser units neatly housed at rear extension



Restored front facade with new pintu pagar and antique signboard


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No 6, Emerald Hill Road is a beautiful, charming and fully restored 2½-storey shophouse, located within the Emerald Hill Conservation Area and also next to the Peranakan Place Museum, which is a stone's throw from the heart of Orchard Road.

Our research deduced that No 6, Emerald Hill Road was probably one of the units belonging to the Emerald Hill Estate built between the 1902s and the 1930s. These, together with 7 units of detached houses and 2 units of semi-detached houses were developed and built, surprisingly, by the Teochews and, not the Peranakans.

The present owners purchased No 6, Emerald Hill Road from Mr Chua Teck Chuan in 1996.

It was understood that the Chua Family had lived in this house for the past 40 years. During this period, they operated a business on the ground floor called *Chop Kim Hoe* which dealt in provisions. They sold products ranging from coffee powder to rice, sugar and flour to neighbours down the street. The family then lived in the quarters located on the first floor (upstairs).