

# No. 19 KOON SENG ROAD



**Owner:**  
*Dr Caroline Lai*

**Architect:**  
*SCDA Architects*

**Engineer:**  
*E3 Consulting Engineers*

**Contractor:**  
*U.SAGE Contracts Pte Ltd*

This two-storey terrace house of the Late Style is located in the Joo Chiat Secondary Settlement where the owner has the option of conserving the entire building or to conserve the main building with a new rear extension up to four storeys. Here, the owner chose to have a rear extension up to three-storeys and to retain the timber floor of the conserved part of the building fronting the road.

Prior to restoration, the buildings were in a reasonably sound condition with all key features on the front facade largely intact. During restoration, a temporary cover was laid over the roof to protect the building. The rear service block was first demolished and micropiles were used on site to prevent damage to the adjacent properties. The timber floor joists were replaced one at a time as they served to brace the party walls of the two neighbouring units. All plasterworks were stripped and replastered.

The main facade of the building which features segmental



*The restored elaborate facade of the Late Style terrace house*

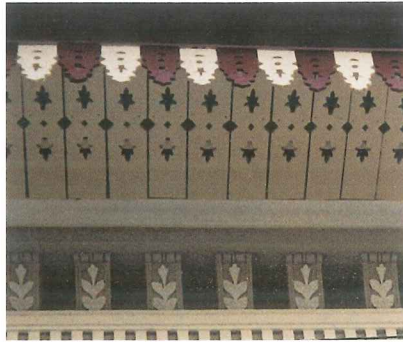
arches with timber-framed coloured glazed panelled fanlight, casement windows with polychromatic tiles below and fluted brickwork pilasters was restored. The original main building profile was retained and a new jackroof introduced to provide light and ventilation to the interior. The new rear extension was set back 4.5 metres from the conserved part of the building. The space between the conserved part and the new rear extension was covered with a glass skylight with timber trellises below to form an internal atrium space. Three carved timber screens, based on the fanlight design of Peranakan shophouses in the area, were used to form the entrance

way to the atrium space. A 1.4-metre deep open-to-the-sky plunge pool was introduced at the third storey of the new rear extension to serve as the focal point for relaxation or entertainment.

The end product is the result of the ingenuity in adapting a heritage building to suit today's living needs.



Restored windows with ornate mouldings



Elaborate details and fretwork



Moulded cornices



Plunge pool at new rear extension



Skylight introducing light into the restored house



Three carved timber screens frame the entrance way to the atrium space



Tiled gate post and forecourt wall with perforated precast concrete vents