

# No. 9 BRAS BASAH ROAD

A New Twist to an Old Classic



**Owner:**  
*Hotel Rendezvous Pte Ltd*

**Architect:**  
*SAA Partnership Pte Ltd*

**Engineer:**  
*Tan Ee Ping & Partners*

**Contractor:**  
*Obayashi Corporation*

**R**estaurants and retail outlets in nine Art Deco shophouses front a new 11-storey hotel in this charmingly integrated development.

Although the shophouses were in fairly good condition, “Fibrwarp” was used to strengthen and increase the load-bearing capacity of

existing structural elements. This advanced technique is both non-intrusive and faster than conventional strengthening methods. Temporary propping was also used to hold the existing brickwalls and structures.



*Well-balanced integration of old and new buildings*

The design of the new building was inspired by the conservation shophouses, whose lively decorative features were retained and restored. Between the old and the new, an open courtyard serves as a focal point, sharing the same axial alignment as the existing splayed corner entrance.

Crowning the hotel is a billboard resembling the one displayed on the shophouse roofs from the 1960s to 1980s. As a result, this balanced blend of old and new not only adds architectural richness but also a dash of colour to the neighbourhood.



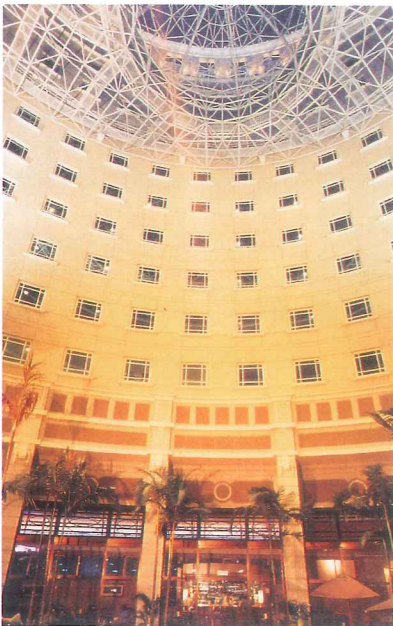
*Art Deco facade with semi-circular pediment and relief mouldings*



*Eclectic embellishments retained and restored*



*Open-to-sky internal courtyard*



*Atrium space - a 'meeting place' for people*



*Compatible architectural rhythm and embellishments of new development*



*Rusticated column with moulded capital*

# 1. HISTORY

The conservation shop houses were constructed before the Japanese War, around the turn of the century. Since then, they have enjoyed great popularity and success as a commercial entity.

Some of the more memorable businesses that occupied the shop houses during the years preceding URA's conservation effort, were a Hotel, Photographer's Studio, Book Shops, Sports Store and Coffee Shop that some may remember served very fine *Char Kway Teow* and *Pisang Goreng*.

But undoubtedly, the most famous of them was *Rendezvous (Hock Lock Kee) Nasi Padang Restaurant*. This restaurant has enjoyed a great reputation for over fifty years as Singapore's finest Nasi Padang restaurant since its opening. During Singapore's pre-independence era, it was a popular haunt for both expatriates and locals, and today continues to enjoy a never-waning popularity since its move back to the newly opened premises.

So memorable was its presence that the Developers decided to name the new development '*Hotel Rendezvous*' .... after the restaurant.

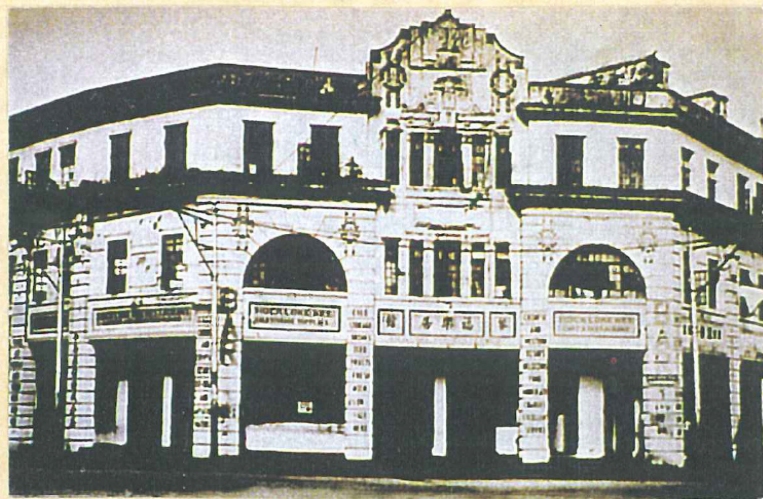


Fig 1.2:  
'Rendezvous Nasi Padang Restaurant' inspiration for the new development of Hotel Rendezvous

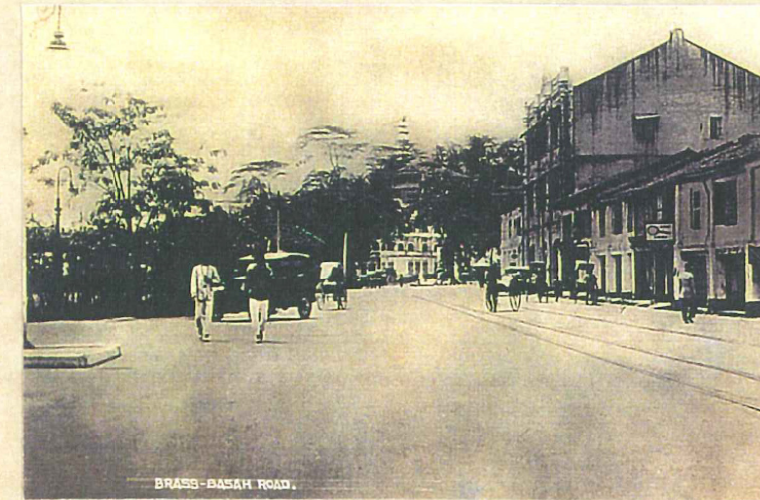
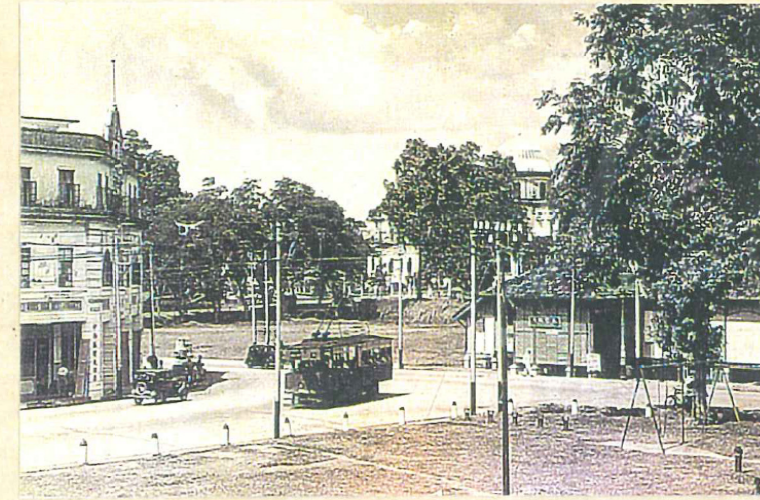


Fig.1. 3 :  
Street Scenes of Pre-War Bras Basah Road; ... the area has since enjoyed great commercial popularity .