

# No. 64-1 SPOTTISWOODE PARK ROAD

More Like A Home



**Owner:**

Mr Guillaume Levy-Lambert & Mr Mark Goh

**Architect:**

Eco.Id Architects

**Engineer:**

JHA Partnership

**Contractor:**

Builders Trends Pte Ltd

*Estimated to have been built between 1940 and 1960, 64-1 Spottiswoode Park Road had been used as a warehouse prior to its recent restoration. Cold concrete floors and foreboding metal folding doors had since given way to a vision of an old-world style residence for modern living, realised in the middle of a bustling city.*

### Back From Basics

The property is a double-storey Transitional Shophouse. When restoration commenced, the building had little to boast but solid structural integrity and a rear as long as its history. Much of the original residential façade typical of shophouses of its era had been lost.

The task for the architects was to restore the residential front of the house, build up the rear with a double-storey extension and add a mezzanine level with a jackroof at the attic.

Underpinning the success of the project was the owner's desire to revive the house's original old-world charm while transforming its interior into a haven for contemporary city living.

As work got underway, one of the first tasks was to demolish the rear end wall and the rear service block to make way for the new double-storey extension.

This done, the path was set for the creation of the most celebrated new heart of this new home.

### Eden In The House

A large central open courtyard with a garden setting was created. Opened to the sky,



*Restored shophouse for city living*

the dramatic new heart of the house held a verdant sanctuary complete with a garden plunge pool, climbing creepers and sculptured frangipani trees in a floating planter box alongside the retained feature party wall.

Defining the boundary between the front and rear blocks of the house, the new courtyard was where all the main living quarters were orientated to receive views, light and ventilation.

On the second storey, cantilevered bay windows were installed to take full advantage of the verdant courtyard.

Also on the second storey, a lightweight glass block bridge overlooking the courtyard sanctuary linked the front of the house to the new rear extension. Glass was used to create a sense of illumination and openness and to add an unobtrusive and modern lift to the setting.

At the front block, the attic was transformed into a cosy third storey guest room with a jackroof for light. This also recreated an authentic shophouse-dwelling effect.

In the rear block, a dramatic spiral staircase, comprising a metal-framed lightweight structure finished with timber planks, provided links to the different floors and allowed for generous penetration of sunlight into the house.

### A Sense of Lightness & Spaciousness

Sensitive detailing of the interior accentuated the sense of lightness and spaciousness. Cantilevered folding doors and windows reduced the visual cluster while maximising accessibility. Full height glass panels with pivotal detail strategically installed allowed for seamless boundaries between indoor and outdoor.

With its plunge pool, garden courtyard and all, 64-1 Spottiswoode Park Road, with its antiquated façade, stands out among its towering neighbours of modern high-rises, and holds its own as an old-fashioned house that beats to the rhythm of a brand new heart.



*Cantilevered bay window over central courtyard*



*Straight-flight timber staircase sensitively introduced*



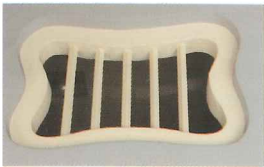
*Spiral staircase at the rear*



*Restored corbel*



*Window details*



*Reinstated bat-shaped vent*



*Light weight glass block bridge between the old and the new*



*Open airwell with plunge pool and landscaped garden below*



*Front façade retained and restored*



*Seamless boundary between indoor and outdoor spaces*

The development falls within Blair Plain Historic District, located to the west of the Downtown Core, it is still an attractive residential area with some commercial activities along major urban thoroughfares.

The historic buildings in these areas are predominately two or three-storey shophouses and terrace houses that stand in contrast to the neighbouring new and modern high-rise development. Building typology of this specific shophouse can be categorized as Transitional Late Terrace Style, which is predominately recognisable by its bipartite elevational order, i.e. elevation with two windows and uniform facade proportion on all floors.