

No. 2 Bukit Manis Road

Old Guard to Avant Garde



Owner:
Beaufort Sentosa Development Pte Ltd

Architect:
H.U.A.Y Architects

Engineer:
DE Consultants (S) Pte Ltd

Contractor:
Sysma Construction Pte Ltd

Block 59 on Sentosa Island was one of the many buildings built by the British between the 1880s to the 1930s to accommodate their garrisons. Once home to defenders of the harbour, the two-storey building is now a modern spa, Spa Botanica, in the soothing, rustic and charming ambience of Sentosa.



British military building rejuvenated to a modern spa

Rejuvenating the Old

The building was in a state of dilapidation for many years until the late 1990s when it was revitalised as a recreational building for the hotel, Beaufort Sentosa.

A new brief came from the current client who wanted the building turned into a spectacular spa treatment centre and a movement studio.

The old tennis courts made way for an outdoor spa planted amidst lush greenery. Only the swimming pool was kept. Along the East Elevation, a new entrance porch with a roof deck was added, while a covered terrace adorns the North Elevation.

All in, the rejuvenated spa centre has fourteen indoor rooms and six outdoor treatment pavilions.

Making the About-Turn

The restoration uses the 3R principle of maximum Retention, sensitive Restoration and careful Repair.

Existing roof timber trusses were selectively replaced, and damaged roof tiles were carefully replaced with similar ones. A spacious and column-free reception lobby has been introduced at the ground floor through meticulous strengthening of the foundation and structural works. A tilting corner pier was painstakingly braced with diagonal struts, and the load for the corner partially transferred to a new lift shaft.

X-ceptional Style

The architects decided on amplifying the building's original cross-balustrade feature in the restoration of the façade. To this end, the reinstated cross-balustrade were kept fully visible with the use of full-height frameless glass panels slightly set-in along the corridors. The new entrance porch and landscaped area also successfully carried the motif of the cross-balustrades throughout the building design.

As a final touch, a covered terrace in the form of a delicate glass-canopied timber trellis was added, sensitively integrated with the façade, resulting in a functional and modern addition that blends perfectly into the original design.

Kudos to the conscious efforts to retain the inherent character of the building. The rejuvenation of this old guard has resulted in a pristine and fresh character, enriched with a comforting old world flavor.



Cross-balustrades reinstated along corridors



Cross-balustrade motifs carried through to the entrance porch



Heritage building forms a picturesque backdrop to the swimming pool



Spacious column-free reception lobby



Internal space converted to a treatment room



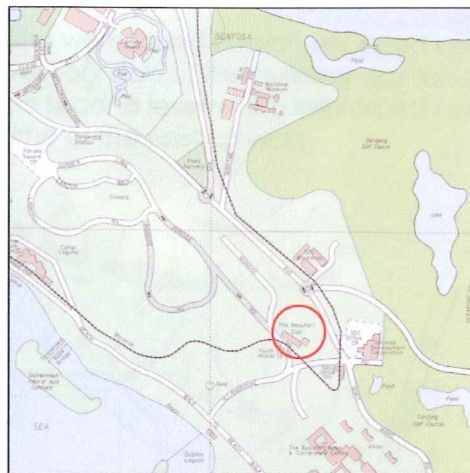
Spacious internal courtyard accentuated by cross-balustrade motifs



Aerial view of restored building amidst lush greenery

1.1 HISTORY

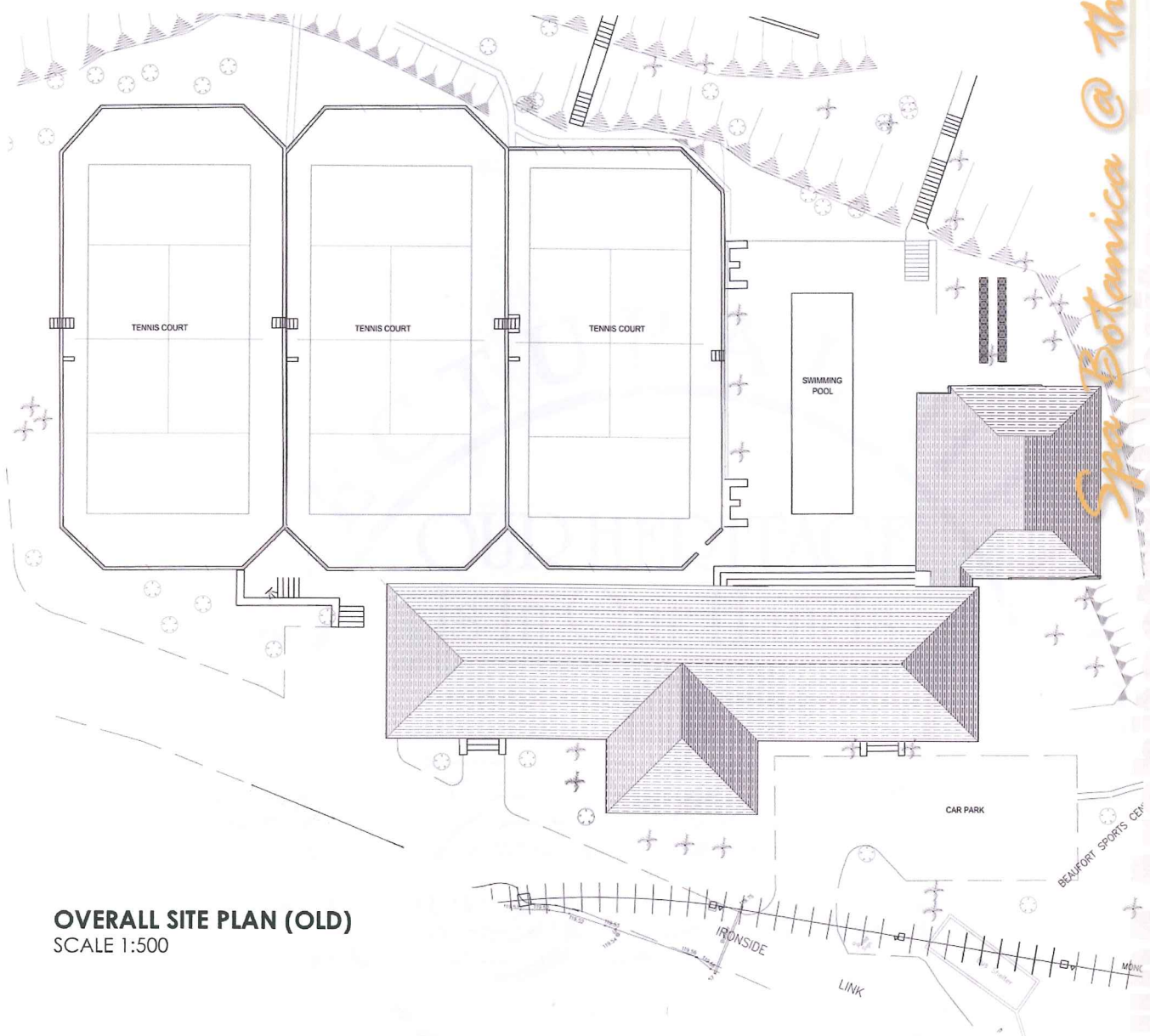
Blk 59 on Sentosa Island was one of the many buildings built by the British between the 1880s to the 1930s to accommodate the garrisons for the coastal defence of the island and the harbour. This colonial building was one of 16 buildings on Sentosa Island granted conservation status on 14th May 2004, for their historical significance due to their long military use and other significant events. Therefore, extra care was taken and the 3R principle of maximum retention, sensitive restoration and careful repair was observed when converting the building to its new use of a spa treatment centre so that the inherent spirit and ambience of the building could still be retained despite its new function.



1.2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

After having been left dilapidated for many years after the colonial era, the building was converted in the late 90s to become a recreational building for the Beaufort Sentosa. It housed a gymnasium and some changing rooms on the first storey, holiday accommodation for the General Manager on the second storey, with other supporting facilities such as a swimming pool, tennis and squash courts around the building.

The roof timber trusses of the building and the roof tiles were found in relatively good condition with some minor repairs required. The first level floor slab of the building was raised up a meter above the general ground level and the second level was a reinforced concrete slab structure. Wall cracks were found on some of the existing walls.



OVERALL SITE PLAN (OLD)
SCALE 1:500

Spa Botanica @ The Beaufort Sentosa