

No. 59 BLAIR ROAD

Revitalised Elegance



2006 AWARD

CATEGORY B

Owner:
Ms Elaine Teo

Architect:
Ong & Ong Architects Pte Ltd

Engineer:
LBW Consultants

Contractor:
Blueprint Construction Pte Ltd

This atypical Late-style shophouse located in the Blair Plain Conservation Area has been reincarnated with a revitalised classic exterior that envelops a wholly new home within.

Core Conversion

Built between the 1920s and 1930s, the two-storey shophouse with a trapezoid-shaped roof was in a bad state of disrepair. The architects elected to create a modern and abode within, while restoring and respecting its heritage vis-à-vis the building envelope.

Micro-piling was carried out to give the shophouse a new structure, while the unsalvageable roof was replicated. The façade was revived, and external corbels and mouldings received artisan-like replastering and restoration. Balcony floor tiles were cleaned up and returned to their original colours. Replacement windows and doors were crafted to resemble the originals. Salvageable doors, windows and frames were restored, and reinstated, and old air vents, reused at the forecourt and master bedroom.



Restored terrace house for modern city living

A Thoughtful Masterpiece

By exposing the previously covered ceiling structure, a double volume space on the second floor was created making a new space that is ideal for a modern family room. New timber additions such as floorboards and sliding doors were stained a dark tint to demarcate the new from the old restored elements painted in white. On the ground floor, a landscaped central courtyard now features a lap pool fitted with an innovative movable deck. The pool has become the new spatial heart of this elegant home that has been revitalised inside and out. At the second level balcony, timber louver screens cleverly introduced to provide shade, privacy and natural lighting, also gives a

clear view of the pool and garden below.

Facing The Future

Simple yet elegant, the restored terrace house showcases itself as a residential enclave that embraces the old world charm externally but internally, boasts the conveniences of modern amenities, well-suited for modern city living.



Living area at first storey orientated towards the pool



Original floor tiles at verandah kept



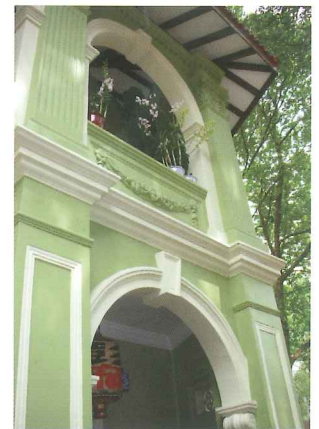
Open-to-sky courtyard with new lap pool as spatial anchor for the home



Timber louvered screen for shade, privacy and natural lighting



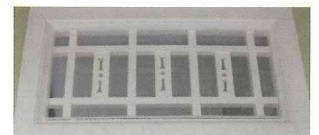
Entrance foyer with timber trellis screen



Ornate front façade restored



Decorative vent and moulding



Unique fanlight

An atypical Late Shophouse-style¹ house, the last in a row on Blair Road, part of the Blair Plain historic residential district, number 59 sits on an irregular trapezium-shaped site of 343.68m² making it much wider than her neighbours. Number 59 is atypical because all its neighbours are part of a row of terrace units whereas it is recessed about 6 metres and about 50% wider.



59 Blair Road is recessed from the rest of the row. It is on the extreme right of the picture, next to the powder pink unit.

BACKGROUND

The house was purchased at the end of 2004 and prior to that had been unoccupied for quite a few years. Its last occupants were labourers according to oral history and had fallen into gross disrepair. There were nine rooms in total, with a common toilet on each level. There were two cooking areas, one a makeshift one erected at the end of the open courtyard, covered by a zinc

roof. The bedrooms on both the first and second level open off a corridor that divided the rooms, four on the first level and five on the second (please refer to old floor plans attached).



Façade of 59 Blair Road before restoration. The boundary wall on the left was so structurally unsound, it fell soon after this picture was taken. See picture at right



Façade showing collapsed left boundary wall



Courtyard before restoration showing years of neglect and dilapidation



Makeshift zinc roofs overhanging courtyard