

No. 120 CAIRNHILL ROAD

Heirloom Home



Owner:
Mr Patrick Lim Kwe Tai

Architect:
Ong & Ong Pte Ltd

Engineer:
Eureka Consultants

Contractor:
Sinwah Timber Builders

First restored in 1995, this double-storey transitional shophouse, circa 1930s, was updated with a new three-storey rear extension and a to-die-for tropical rooftop pool terrace.

Let There Be Light

One of the first challenges the architects faced with this deep, linear planned home was to bring the feeling of more natural illumination and space into its inner sanctums. To achieve this, the architects came up with some smart and sleek solutions. First, most of the original wall separating the entrance lounge and the inner living area was removed. The front courtyard which was initially open was enclosed and turned into a skylight, creating an uninterrupted volume of naturally illuminated space for a cosy family lounge.

The second courtyard was kept open-to-sky, with a bamboo landscape feature and modern aluminium windows that bring more natural light and ventilation into the heart of the house. The master bedroom previously on the first storey was migrated to the second level and given a balcony and an



Transformation of a 1930s terrace house to a home for modern tropical living

en suite with skylight. Once again, clever re-planning ushered in more natural illumination to the otherwise dark spaces.

Old Rush

Some of the best things that came with the original house included a rare sheltered car park space. This is apparently one of only six conserved properties in Singapore with such an indulgence. The car porch has been lovingly restored along with other architectural heirlooms such as the original staircases in the front and the rear of the house.

A mezzanine level created to house the service areas was a clever way to improve the flow to the rooms and etch out more quality space for family living.

Most Desirable Rooftop

The crown jewel of this home is above it all - an added roof terrace at the rear extension which provides an opportune private sanctuary that takes full advantage of the lush surrounds. The project team went to great depths and lengths to reinterpret this historical house for today's family lifestyle.



Second storey façade retained



First storey façade maintained



Rear airwell kept open



Roof terrace at extension block with a pool cum jacuzzi and lush landscape



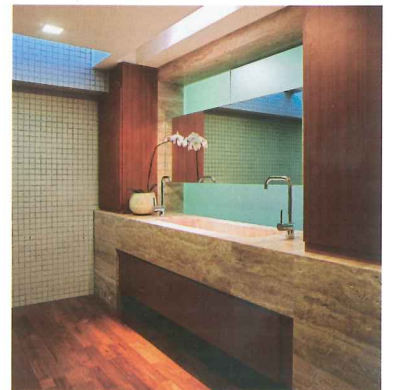
Timber screens maintain the open space and separates the entrance lounge and living room



Spatial quality of living room improved with skylight over front courtyard

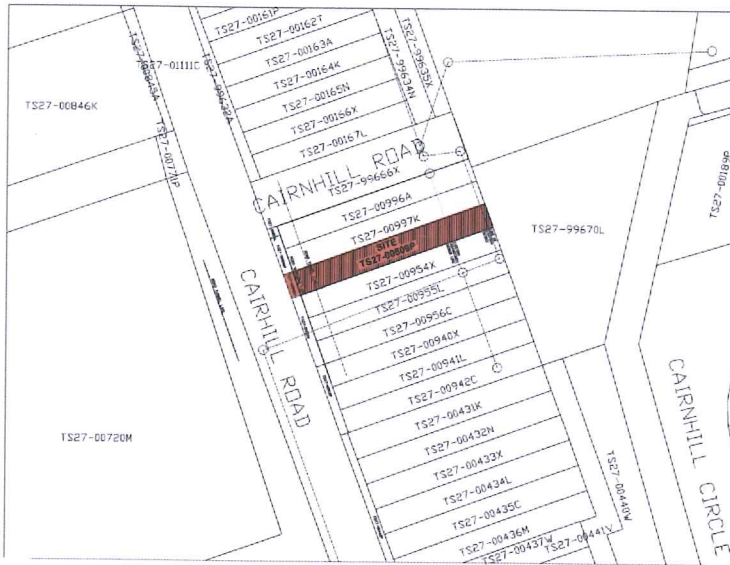


Car porch at rear



Bathroom naturally ventilated through skylight

120 Cairnhill Road is a Transitional Style terrace house, located in the Cairnhill Conservation area. Built in the 1930s to 1940s, it has been restored and cleverly adapted to integrate both the old and the new for a modern tropical living.



The house originally had a basic orientation with a total of 2 bedrooms and an attic. There were two staircases – the primary one was centralized within the house whilst the secondary was at the rear of the house. On the first level, a dividing wall distinctly separated the living and dining areas. There were two courtyards – both open to allow natural ventilation within the house. The car porch, partially covered by a zinc roof provided little shelter for the rear entry into the house. The second storey consisted of 2 bedrooms while the attic occupied half the third storey.



Main entrance of house



Kitchen



Courtyard



Service Area



Master Toilet



Rear entrance/Car porch

Images showing parts of house prior to restoration