

128D CAIRNHILL ROAD

Heritage At Hearth



Owner:

Mark and Sabrina Trueman

Architect:

WOHA Architects Pte Ltd

Engineer:

Tham & Wong LLP

Contractor:

Seng Systems Engineering Pte Ltd

Although this spectacular two-storey transitional-style townhouse possesses a beautifully restored façade, its real contribution to the built heritage of Singapore lies in the ingenious transformation of its interior into modern, family-friendly spaces that are inextricably linked to its past.

Living Space for the Family

The beauty of this architectural piece is the seamless alterations of its interiors to give way to a beautifully spacious and naturally ventilated space conducive for modern family living. Internal partitions were minimised to create a contiguous space for the living and dining areas. More importantly, these changes have endowed the house with a tremendous sense of spaciousness not typical of terraced shophouses. Relocating the main staircase along the party wall was also a brilliant way to carve out more generous room for a growing family to live and play in. Overhead, retained exposed timber joists are a strong and charming reminder of the good-old days of shophouse living.

Windows, doors, timber louvred transoms, balustrades, plaster mouldings and cornices have also been painstakingly repaired and restored to their original grandeur. New features were subtly introduced for the convenience of its residents and they include the addition of a garage space and the introduction of naturally ventilated shower areas and toilets in the main building, strategically placed to buffer the exteriors and private rest areas.



Beautifully restored transitional-style townhouse

A New Heart

A dramatic open-to-sky water feature where the original inner courtyard of the house used to be now serves as a pivotal point that energises the rest of the house. Strongly reminiscent of the open airwell of old shophouses, this reinterpreted courtyard also offers a visual connection to the house's new rear extension. The retention of uninterrupted vertical views from the upper floors overlooking the courtyard is a further celebration of the original character of the house, while choice of modern materials

like steel and glass give just the right touch of aesthetic update. Looking at the beautiful marriage between traditional shophouse charm and modern innovations embodied in this townhouse, the vision to maintain an uninterrupted interior space incorporating practical features was laudable.

Happy Days, Here Again

As a final touch to this rejuvenated living space, the roof terrace in the new rear extension features a small outdoor pool that blends harmoniously into the surrounding greenery.

Indeed, the project team has demonstrated great dexterity in updating this old shophouse into an alluring, bright and modern contemporary family home.



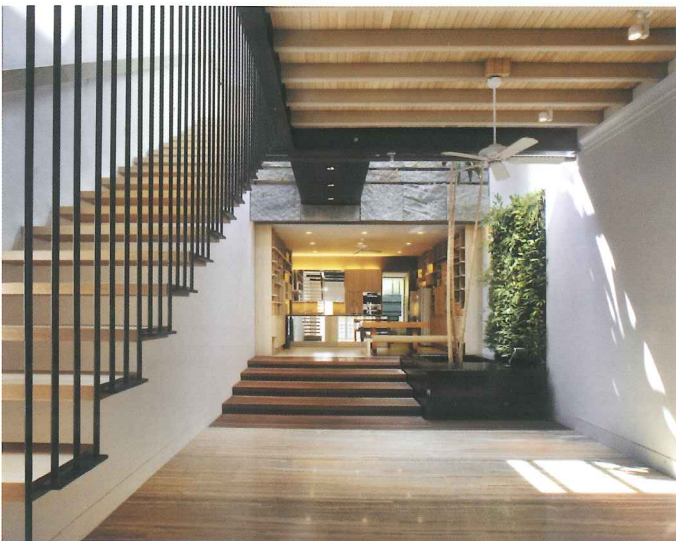
Inner courtyard with natural lighting



Rooftop swimming pool



Upper storey link between old and new



Seamless and naturally ventilated interior space



Naturally ventilated toilet



Japanese bath at second storey balcony

128D Cairnhill Road is a pre-war 2-storey Transitional terrace house, originally built as a row of 9 units in a streetblock. The streetblock sits handsomely on a hill off Orchard Road, along Cairnhill Road, an "estate" road leading to Charles Carnie's nutmeg plantation whose house was called Cairn Hill.

Built in the early 1900s for Mr Seow Poh Leng, the terrace houses are designed with simple but elegant plaster mouldings and a nice balcony and a forecourt fronting the main road. The main access to the house is via a set of stairs off Cairnhill Road.



The residential party wall development comprises 2 portions. The 2-storey main building has a pitched clay-tiled roof and has timber floors. At the rear, there is a service block constructed in reinforced concrete, and a rear court. The existing condition of the residential flat is reasonably good with no signs of significant structural defects visible.

