

# 25 CHAPEL ROAD

Heirloom Home



**Owner:**  
*Tan Swee Hee*

**Architect:**  
*RichardHO Architects*

**Engineer:**  
*Tham & Wong LLP*

**Contractor:**  
*U.SAGE Contracts Pte Ltd*

**A** legacy from parents to children, this charming and rare single-storey Art Deco style bungalow has been revived at the owners' and architect's initiative because they value its significance. Now sporting a new wing with more room and an in-vogue lap pool, this one-of-a-kind gem is ready to continue into the next lap of its life story.

### **Sustaining The Memories**

Raised on brick piers, this striking bungalow built in the early 1900s has many unique and distinguishing features which were mostly repaired and reinstated with great care by the project team. They include the intricate floral mouldings along the sides of the external walls, colourful 'Peranakan' glazed pattern tiled risers on both flights of steps leading to the house, the authentic well-seasoned timber floor tiles inside the house and the intricate ironmongery locksets on its many windows and doors.

Another outstanding characteristic of the house is its polygonal open-verandah that overlooks the front yard. The owners made a worthy decision to keep the unusual patterned, coloured cork flooring at the



*Traditional bungalow resuscitated through sensitive and careful restoration*

verandah in memory of their father who had installed them. This warm touch has added another layer of history to the venerated property.

### **Room For Gatherings**

To meet the owner's requirements for more space suited to modern family lifestyles, the original quartered layout of the conserved house was reconfigured into a single-volume living and dining area after a dividing wall was carefully removed. A stretch of timber laid perpendicularly to the timber flooring remains a visual reminder of the original configuration of the house.

### **A New Chapter**

A new wing featuring five ensuite bedrooms, a covered patio and a 12-metre lap pool was successfully added without overpowering the old house. Although distinctive in styles, the two resonate in harmony with each other. Services like the air-conditioning condensers, dryer and washing machine were tucked discretely under the raised floor extension of the house.

The result is a rare gem resuscitated through sensitive and careful restoration into a charming contemporary family home, brimming with past memories.



*Lap pool and courtyard between old and new development*



*Staircase with decorative mouldings and balusters*



*'Peranakan' glazed tiled risers*



*Intricate carved mouldings*

*Window with original ironmongery lockset*



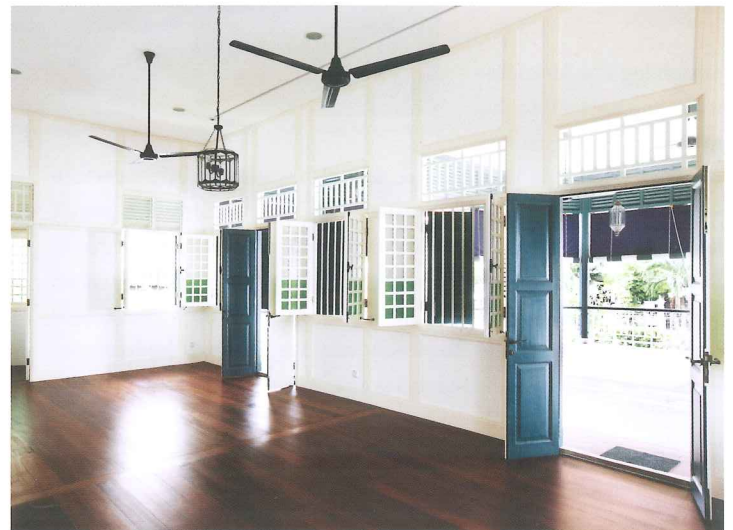
*Polygonal open verandah with unusual patterned coloured cork flooring*



*Intricate carved mouldings*

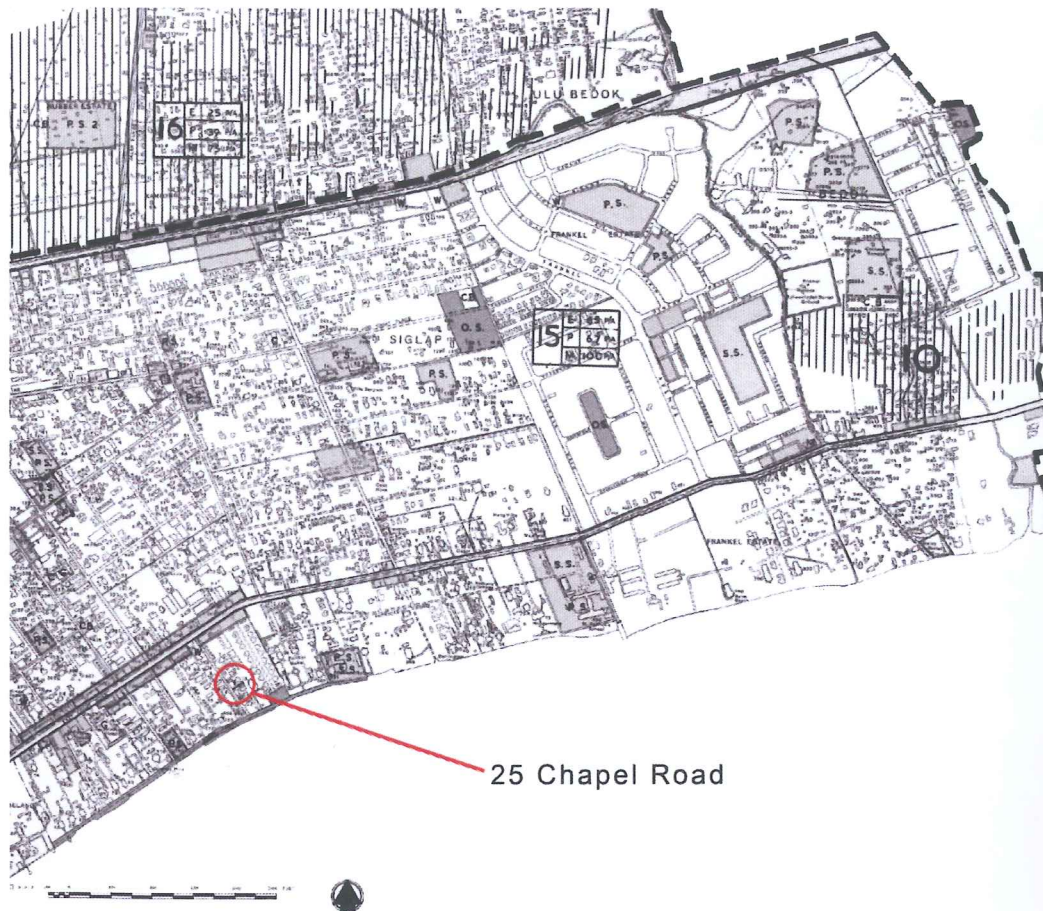


*Internal patterned doors and lattice windows*



*Original timber windows, doors and flooring*





Singapore Circa 1958 Masterplan

1. The owners are two sisters who grew up in this house with the Marine Parade beach just metres away.
2. When they approached us wondering whether they should or should not retain the house, we convinced them that the house should be conserved (even though it was not gazetted for conservation then) and a new wing added to create more rooms and to cater to a contemporary lifestyle. They agreed to voluntarily restore and conserve the main house, thereby saving a rare piece of architecture of Singapore's east coast.



1. As with bungalows of the early 1900's, the main house is raised on concrete column bases and the main structure is constructed in timber and infilled with bricks to form the internal and external walls. The roof is in timber construction finished with clay roof tiles. Beside the main house is a service block which housed the garage, store, ironing room, kitchen and maid's room. A sheltered linkway joined the two buildings.



2. The access to the house is through two flights of stairs on both sides of the covered verandah. The main house is divided into four quarters. One enters through the left door into the living; follow by the Dining which is further in. Beside the living and dining are two bedrooms with attached bathrooms. As the family members increased, a bedroom extension with attached bathroom was added to the rear of the building, sitting directly on the ground. This extension was removed because it detracted from the spirit of the bungalow and it was crudely attached to the main house.