

# SENTOSA GATEWAY

Renewed Energy

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**Owner:**  
*The Harbourfront Pte Ltd*

**Architect:**  
*DCA Architects Pte Ltd*

**Engineer:**  
*T.Y. Lin International Pte. Ltd.*

**Contractor:**  
*Tiong Aik Construction Pte Ltd*

Officially opened as Singapore's first coal-fired power plant in 1927, St James Power Station with its massive, industrial, steel-framed internal spaces has been cleverly reinvented into a cluster of multi-themed after-hours entertainment lounges *du jour*.

## A Brilliant Spark

The inspired choice to adapt this venerable monument of Singapore's built heritage for reuse as a vibrant and exciting collection of seamlessly integrated night spots is nothing short of visionary. The project team took advantage of the voluminous internal spaces within the two main blocks to carve out intimate niches of distinctive character.

Adopting the 3Rs approach to conservation, the team is commended for taking great care in restoring the original façade of the building. The existing fair-faced bricks on the exterior walls were delicately yet effectively cleaned and given protective treatment. Original coloured glass panels on the building's many large windows were beyond repair. Only two full windows could be kept. The rest were replaced by replicas of similar colour intensity and texture. To enhance the authenticity of the building's historic past, old glass panels salvaged from windows of the run-down building was meticulously reassembled on one window module.



*Fair-faced brick power station revitalised into entertainment hub*

## High and Mighty

In addition to the existing steel structures of the two main buildings, the two prominent and towering chimneys were also retained. The smoke stacks were cleaned and given protective treatment, one of which now acts as a light shaft and talking point of a ladies' powder room. From a distance, they now stand as poignant reminders of the building's past.

New mezzanine floors were adeptly introduced to serve as

viewing galleries overlooking the various themed zones and to offer a spectacular vantage point from which one can admire the spatial quality of this stunning property.

## Choice of a New Generation

It is to the credit of its restorers that St James Power Station is today generating a new kind of energy and excitement as a thriving entertainment hub. Once serving the power needs to nearby shipyards, industry and residences, and even Keppel Harbour, it now breathes a very different kind of air, bridging the gap of its old colonial past with its new purpose.

Overall, the project is a great achievement in preserving the legacy of one of Singapore's iconic built heritage.



*Building facade enhanced with night lighting*



*Volumetric spatial quality of interior retained*



*Interior of chimney seen in ladies' powder room*



*Typical window with coloured glass panels*



*Exposed roof trusses and steel structures*



*Side facade with concrete canopy*



*Collage of old glass window panels*