

19 LORONG 24A GEYLANG

Artful Charmer



Owner:
Regality Holdings Pte Ltd

Architect:
HYLA Architects

Engineer:
EDP Consultants

Contractor:
M & R Building Maintenance Services

This early 1900s two-storey shophouse of the Late Style, characterised by an extensively ornamented façade, has been sensitively restored. Its revitalised interior with a new two-storey rear extension exudes the aura of a modern gallery-style home with vintage pedigree.

A Polished Makeover

Much of the ornate features found on the façade of this Chinese Baroque-style shophouse has been sensitively repaired and restored. Existing fanlights, windows, doors and vents including the charming stained glass and French windows, and the ornamental openings in the party walls were retained.

Most of the first level floors and walls as well as the second level walls and timber floorboards, which had been certified to be in good structural condition, were conscientiously retained.

Shedding New Light

In adding the two-storey rear extension, the central airwell has become the new centre of the home, bathing internal spaces with much-needed natural light. The second storey plan, which includes the new rear wing, now accommodates three bedrooms, each of which has been cleverly engineered to receive natural light and ventilation from at least one elevation.



Late Style shophouse restored to a modern gallery-style home

A new roof mezzanine, which overlooks the master suite and one other bedroom, was added to capitalise on the generous second storey floor-to-ceiling height of the old shophouse. A jack roof was introduced to provide another source of natural illumination for the upper storey of the house.

A Different Language

While the old has been given a new lease of life, the house has received a bold update with elements that tell of its past, but in a new language. The quirky skylight under the attic jack roof filters light down into the home's new stairway. Relocated and reconstructed, the original stairway has been replaced by a modish spiral version that is encased in a see-through weaving of steel bars. Conspicuous by design, this metal staircase lends itself almost as an art sculpture that is perhaps more in keeping with its new gallery-design intent than the traditional shophouse character.

Another bold introduction comes where the original second storey bathroom used to be. In its place, two bathrooms have been created flanked by a hallway that connects the front of the house to its new extension. The walls of the bathrooms have been made with the same spiral staircase cladding, bringing fluidity to the modernist treatment. A bulge in the wall overlooking the airwell adds a refreshingly modern sense of humour to this restored property.

Overall, the project showcases creative thinking and minimum intervention of the old on a shoestring budget.



Bedroom at second storey with original timber floors, windows and door



Central metal staircase expressed as an art sculpture



Central airwell with water feature as the new centre of the home



Key architectural elements restored



Original residential front kept



First storey space with original timber ceiling



location plan (not to scale)



satellite view of lorong 24a geylang



street view of conservation shophouses along lorong 24a geylang

The conservation shophouse is located in the area of Geylang, a secondary settlement zone. By the early 1900s, Geylang, originally covered by plantations and fields, was transformed into an urbanised area with rows of mainly 2- to 3-storey shophouses.

The shophouses along Lorong 24A Geylang are characterised by rich detailing such as glazed porcelain tiles, motifs, intricate bas-relief mouldings and stained glass windows. Many of them are also brightly coloured, with each unit having a distinctive colour combination. All these are characteristic of the Chinese Baroque shophouse typology, in which the extensive ornamentation, is pre-dominant in the early 1900s.

