

# 145 NEIL ROAD

Vintage Vogue



**Owner:**  
Ms Ho Ren Yung

**Architect:**  
ONG&ONG Pte Ltd

**Engineer:**  
JS Tan Consultants Pte Ltd

**Contractor:**  
Sage Builders Pte Ltd

*This terrace house of Transitional-Style has been skilfully transformed through a series of clever interventions. Its charming vintage features have been retained as much as possible and lovingly restored. Elements that required replacement were reinterpreted with a refreshing touch to fulfil the building's purpose as a modern dwelling.*

### Passion For The Past

The project team clearly observed the approach of maximum retention and sensitive intervention to achieve its vision, both outside and inside this two-storey house. Rich and unique detailings on its façade – Chinese inscriptions and friezes adorned with ceramic chips, timber doors, windows and shutters, green Chinese awning tiles and glazed Peranakan tiles, and the red cement flooring along the five-foot way – were painstakingly repaired and restored. The process to determine the original colour used for the house's façade also demonstrates good conservation practice. Layer upon layer, the old paint was gradually stripped off to reveal the authentic and striking blue tone that was eventually used.

Behind its masterfully restored exterior, the home's interior has been largely retained. Much of the upper storey timber floor joists and boards, and original elements like the window shutters in the courtyard, tiles from the former timber staircase, and the oxidised iron-gate were repaired and reused. An original doorframe that supported a Chinese plaque made



*Transitional-Style Shophouse restored and repaired in vintage-inspired blue*

from plaster at the second storey was salvaged and now serves as a portal to the secondary staircase that leads to an attic bedroom and roof terrace. The terrazzo finish evident in the master outdoor bath and other bathroom floors shows the innovative use of an old material that is now a rarity.

The team is also lauded for retaining the first storey terracotta floor tiles and reinstating the open-to-sky courtyard which has antiquated pigmented cement wall tiles punctuated by a fish-mould waterspout centrepiece. A water-based protective coating was also applied to the otherwise friable exposed brick walls of the original party wall that extends beyond the first storey living room to the upper quarters.

### Something Old, Something New

The spirit and character of the old shophouse clearly inspired the design and planning approach taken to extend the building. Its interior spaces were also skilfully organised with the old flowing effortlessly into the new rear extension. Generous courtyards draw light into spaces that are intimate yet connected, relaxed yet purposeful.

### A Bold New Future

The spatial quality of the traditional shophouse has been successfully kept and the house elegantly transformed into a modern abode.



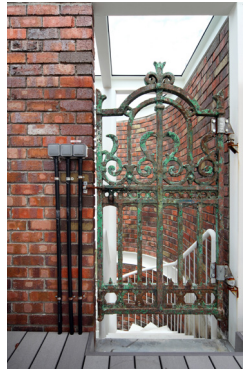
Original calligraphic panel at second storey corridor



Second storey living area



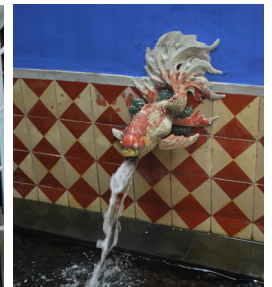
Original courtyard with ornate fish-mould centrepiece, carved relief wall panels and antiquated pigmented cement wall tiles



Iron-gate restored and reused



Timber window shutters



Floor tiles and ornamentals

# HOUSE AT NEIL ROAD

## INTRODUCTION

**Location:** 145 Neil Road, Singapore

**Site area:** 300.87m<sup>2</sup>

**GFA:** 520m<sup>2</sup>

**Construction period:** Sep 2011 - Jan 2013

**Estimated cost of construction:** S\$1,210,319

Located within the Blair Plain conservation district, this home celebrates the traditional charm of Peranakan shophouses with the addition of new spaces that are mindful of the building's rich heritage.

This house sits in a primary conservation area for shophouses that are rich with Peranakan heritage. As per conservation guidelines, the shophouse façade was naturally kept as intact as possible. However, despite there being no formal requirement to conserve old details within the interiors, the designers made an intentional effort to do so as well, through consultation with the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).

The client's family had already owned this property for a period of 20 years, during which the house was rented out to tenants. However, when the client returned from overseas some years back, she decided to make this her first home with her husband. With this in mind, the architects worked to create a timeless home for the newly-weds that would treasure and preserve the building's past while also reflecting the characters of the owners themselves.



HOUSE AT NEIL ROAD

ORIGINAL CONDITION OF SHOPHOUSE

