

# 72 CLUB STREET

A Gentlemanly Revival



**Owner:**  
*Sit Giap Company (Private) Limited*

**Architect:**  
*Artprentice*

**Engineer:**  
*Yan Consultants*

**Contractor:**  
*Jinmac Pte Ltd*

About a century old, this three-storey building, formerly a gentlemen's club, has been devotedly restored, recovering its rich heritage and reconnecting to its old neighbourhood with renewed verve and purpose.

### Gallant Efforts

A lot of love and care was lavished in recapturing important architectural and historical elements of this pre-war property resting on a compact site. The restoration team went all-out to retain original materials – old bricks were salvaged, painstakingly sliced and pieced together to line a wall. Original green glazed balustrades, timber joists and floorboards were reused as much as possible. Old handmade glass panes were also retained, together with the basketball player-patterned metal window grilles from the 1950s – a reflection of the Club's history as a centre to promote basketball in the Chinese community. Going beyond conservation guidelines, the team restored and retained long-hidden unique interior columns that were only discovered during restoration works. A formerly cluttered rear courtyard was also reopened and converted into a pleasant roof deck to bring back the sense of airiness, light and spatial quality of the original space.



*The heritage of the club was rediscovered and made visible*

### Considered Connections

In the spirit of sensitive intervention, the team specially sourced for new green-glazed balustrades to match the original ones. New floor tiles for the property were selected for their likeness to period designs. Strengthening works were also carefully designed with new supporting floor beams inserted in sympathy to the original floor frame for a visually seamless outcome. The new link to the historic Ann Siang Hill Park is another meaningful planning touch. This addition has further entrenched the heritage values of the building, literally

linking the property to its storied neighbourhood with new purpose.

### Chivalrous to Past and Future

Above and beyond the exceptional restoration effort, the project team went on to accentuate the property's history with creative vigour. Stone carvings, significant pieces of old furniture such as three-legged mahjong tables and calligraphy by historic figures were skillfully restored and showcased prominently onsite. On the external façade, a specially commissioned mural was painted across the entire side wall. Cleverly offering a cross-section illustration of the building's interiors, it also serves to reintroduce significant historic personalities whose lives intertwined with the Club in one way or another – creating a distinguished masterpiece of the life and times at the venue, circa early 1900s, an otherwise hidden history that can now be understood by the wider community.



*Hidden columns unveiled*



*Bricks were salvaged and reused in the interiors*



*Open rear court recovered*



*The commissioned mural to showcase the history of the club*



*Carefully cleaned plaster details*



*1950s grille retained*



*Historic Chinese name plaque retained*



*Glazed balustrades cleaned*



*Antique granite carvings*

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## 2016 Award For Restoration

This outstanding restoration project has recaptured the architectural legacy of this century-old townhouse, while giving it renewed presence of place within its storied, heritage neighbourhood.

The restoration team spared no effort in retaining original materials – old bricks were salvaged, and green glazed ‘Shiwan’ balustrades and hand-made window glass were retained. Of note is the substantial amount of timber joists and floorboards which were reused. The team was also conscientious in recovering original features such as the round decorative interior columns long concealed by timber panels, and the rear court partially covered up for decades. The rear court was carefully transformed into a tiered garden which complements the heritage feel of the site and also allows natural light into the interiors.

Furthermore, the introduction of a new rear door access from the premises into Ann Siang Hill Park is another meaningful planning touch to create a connection between the old property and its surroundings.

This project is exemplary in highlighting the many creative ways to capture the memories and history of the site. From the archival photographs and significant pieces of old furniture, to the spectacular mural on the external façade which showcases prominent historical figures with connections to the building, every element celebrates the labour of love to recover, revive and share the illustrious history of the property with the wider community.

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