

# 320 HAVELOCK ROAD

Checking in with a Renewed Purpose



**Owner:**  
*I Hotel Pte Ltd*

**Architect:**  
*Zarch Collaboratives Pte Ltd*

**Engineer:**  
*JS Tan Consultants Pte Ltd*

**Contractor:**  
*Towner Construction Pte Ltd*

*This former warehouse along the Singapore River has been reborn as a boutique hotel. The heritage building now whisks guests to a bygone era of bustling trade activities of 1930s Singapore.*

## **Accommodating the Past and Present**

Left empty for a long time, the three connected structures were in a dilapidated condition. Nevertheless, the team managed to revitalise them after thorough research and careful site investigation.

The character of the former warehouse has been retained while new interventions sensitively kept the spatial qualities. Original elements such as metal roof trusses were retained and new portal frames discreetly added to bear the new loading requirement for the roof. Jackroofs, a typical feature of warehouses were also retained. To bring natural light into the interior spaces, corrugated glass skylight panels similar in profile to the corrugated metal roof were introduced. Original vertical security bars of the windows were repaired and kept, but with an innovative touch to the frames so that some of the windows can double up as fire escapes.



*A historical landmark along Havelock Road*

## **Homage to Heritage**

The lobby showcases the original double-volume space of the warehouse and provides an unobstructed view to the Singapore River. Within the space is a complement of fittings and furnishing like collapsible gates and pulleys that add to the sense of nostalgia. The design treatment of hospitality areas and guest rooms is also reminiscent of its

industrial past. The use of solid metallic materials with industrial finishes and look ensure that a touch of the past prevails at every corner.

Evidence from old photographs and other archival materials also enabled the restoration of eroded features such as the Chinese characters ‘和豐油較有限公司’ (Ho Hong Oil Mills Limited) on the facade. The documentation and sharing of the site’s history through the hotel’s collaterals, website and onsite storyboards reconnect the building back with the wider public.

## **Warehouse of Memories**

Through the thoughtful integration of old and new, and despite various constraints due to the tight site, the team managed to celebrate the heritage of the warehouse and the Singapore River while adapting the building to a new use.



Top view of the warehouse along Singapore River



Reinstated signage of Ho Hong Oil Mills



Timber louvred windows and metal security bars retained



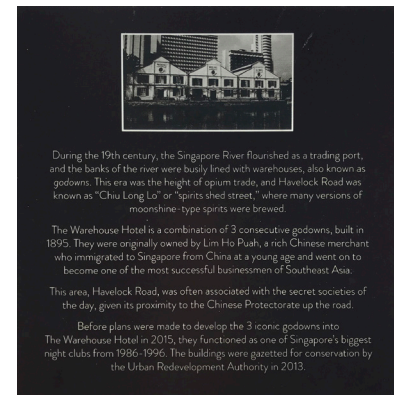
Double volume space retained at the main lobby



Hotel collaterals



Treatment of interior spaces reminiscent of its industrial past



Storyboard installed onsite