

**New and restored features at the Bukit Timah Railway Station site****1. Bukit Timah Railway Station building**

The Railway Station, with its distinctive fair-faced brick façade, is a modest, charming, single-storey building. Gazetted for conservation in 2011, the building comprises a brick-and-timber main structure and a reinforced concrete extension housing the Signal Room. It was carefully restored according to architectural conservation principles and repurposed as a heritage gallery.

**Restoration works**

As tribute to its railway history, the building has been carefully restored to retain its features while providing a comfortable and safe experience for visitors.

The structural roof timber was replaced, and brick walls were repaired and had water repellent treatment applied, with the internal wall replastered and repainted to withstand the elements. The damaged doors, ventilation mesh and window glass were replaced, and air-conditioning, lighting and ceiling fans were added for visitors' comfort.

Historical features of the building, such as parts of the rail signalling equipment, ticketing booth, timber benches, mild steel gates and timber cabinets, were restored and refurbished. At the Signal Room, the railway track support frame was replaced and a recessed false ceiling uncovered to reveal a dormer window of the original structure. A signals diagram replica has been installed, allowing visitors to catch a glimpse of the critical equipment which Station Masters formerly used to control traffic and signalling around the station. At the Waiting Area, apart from restoring features, timber boards that once covered up a bay within the Waiting Area was removed, revealing the original design within. Reproductions of historical maps and story boards have been added, bringing a touch of nostalgia to the building and educating visitors on its history.

**2. Railway Staff Quarters**

The Staff Quarters is a single-storey, semi-detached house with a fair-faced brick façade, and has been repurposed as a cafe.

The east unit, also known as the 'Heritage wing', is retained with all rooms intact, and showcases its architectural features, while the west unit adopts an open plan for ease of operations, brought about by combining two kitchens at the rear and lowering the west boundary wall.

**Restoration works**

Similar to the Railway Station building, restoration works were carried out to retain its features while providing a comfortable, safe experience for visitors.

In repurposing the Railway Staff Quarters for its new use as a café, the two units that make up the block were combined. At the east unit, also named the 'Heritage wing', the layout, features and details of the house have been retained to showcase its former use as a residential building. At the west unit, part of the walls have been removed, making the interior space more spacious and usable. The architectural design elements integral to the house's original character were restored, with various repairs similar to those of the Railway Station building carried out.

A new accessible toilet has also been added at the west unit. At the east unit, the toilet block has been spruced up to look like how it was before. Behind the house, visitors can rediscover various sanitation systems from the past – from nightsoil collection, to the septic tank for on-site waste treatment, and the modern sanitary system of underground lines with inspection chambers and grease trap.

### **3. The Entrance**

When entering the community node from King Albert Park MRT station, the long branches of an old acacia tree greet visitors, and new paths direct them into the heart of the compound. The paths' design mimics long-exposure photography of a passing train and its light trails, evoking the still motion of passing trains in the old days. This same concept is expressed throughout the site's architectural and landscape design.

### **4. The Yard**

The Yard is a new, single-storey pavilion with a sheltered gathering space and public restrooms, featuring rustic, textured walls and a green roof which has creeping plants such as Curtain Creeper (*Vernonia elliptica*) and Galphimia Vine (*Tristellateia australasiae*), and solar panels for electricity generation.

The front section, where the sheltered gathering area is, holds a map of this community node and an educational panel on the railway story. The rear section holds the public toilets, while mimicking timber-panelled toilets that were common in the past, are now equipped with modern fittings.

### **5. Railway platform and surrounding areas**

The 200-metre-long concrete and brick-paved platform, which was repaired and extended using salvaged bricks that were discovered on the site, showcases historic railway key token posts, electrical pylons, and concrete lamp posts. Ramps have been added to the platform to make them barrier-free and more accessible to public.

Two historic "Bukit Timah" railway station brick signs flank the north and south ends of the station building. The north sign was missing when works started, and had to be rebuilt. The south sign was badly faded, and was cleaned and restored. Both signs were stenciled and repainted in accurate fonts that matched their last known condition.

Three sets of railway tracks remain, having been restored along with their original timber sleepers, rail mounting clips, mounting plates, and track switching mechanisms.

Two service wagons, replicated to look just like old railway maintenance vehicles, are placed on the existing railway tracks as play features reminiscent of the former railway station.

### **6. Event Lawn**

An existing open area was regraded and turfed to become an Event Lawn for large events. Subsoil drainage was embedded into the ground to ensure smooth rainwater runoff for public safety.

## **7. Community Lawn**

This serves as an intimate, shaded gathering place for families and friends. Pallets of varying brick designs—including salvaged red clay bricks used to pave the railway platform—have been retained and form a permanent landscape feature. Subsoil drainage was embedded into the ground to ensure smooth rainwater runoff for public safety.

## **8. Lookout ramp and seating terrace**

The ramp and outdoor terrace allow visitors to rest, along with a view of the Railway Station building. Two tiers of outdoor seating are inlaid with actual railway track segments that serve as armrests. A footpath brings visitors to an elevated lookout for view of the surroundings.

## **9. Kampung Garden**

Fronting the Railway Staff Quarters, this garden features ornamental shrubs and flowers iconic to Singapore's 1960s landscape. For more information on the plants in this garden, refer to **Annex C**.

## **10. Herb and Spice Garden**

Behind the Railway Staff Quarters, this garden features commonly used edible plants used for cooking such as the Curry Leaf, Common Basil, Laksa Leaf, and Siamese Ginger. For more information on the plants in this garden, refer to **Annex C**.

## **11. Access paths**

Previously cracked and uneven roads were resurfaced. The linear flooring pattern, with its textured lines and long panels on new pavements mimics long-exposure photography of a passing train's light streaks.

## **12. Landscape steps**

Natural steps provide direct connections from the main Rail Corridor trail to The Yard and access paths.