

CITATIONS

The Fullerton Heritage 2022 Legacy Award

It has been more than 20 years since the restoration and adaptive reuse of the Fullerton Building into a world class hotel. Today, this national monument is a jewel in The Fullerton Heritage precinct which includes three other heritage buildings - The Fullerton Waterboat House, the Clifford Pier and the Customs House.

As proud winners of the 2001, 2005 and 2011 Architectural Heritage Awards for The Fullerton Hotel, The Waterboat House, Clifford Pier and Customs House respectively, The Fullerton Heritage showcases a rigorous process which consistently take exemplary care of the heritage icons within its fold. Such technical accomplishment is responsibly realised through an unceasing commitment of an annual budget to deploy skilled personnel and to cleverly explore the use of technology like drones for effective site monitoring.

At the organisation level, heritage is inculcated as a fundamental value which all staff proudly embrace as their creed. Likewise, environmental sustainability and social responsibility are firmly ingrained as pillars of the organisation's Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance framework.

Of unparalleled distinction is The Fullerton Heritage's sustained and broad body of community programmes and outreach to share its heritage with the wider public. Among them is the outstanding Fullerton Heritage Gallery which provides a comprehensive museum experience where heart-warming stories were fondly recalled by people who once worked in the former General Post Office. Heritage trail brochures for self-exploration and free tours by licensed guides are also generously available to hotel guests and the public alike. Another powerful touch is the special provision of a red postal pillar box in the hotel to keep the postal history alive and purposeful.

Impressive efforts are also evident to promote the local heritage and arts sector such as the creation of a 'Mile Zero' Marker and commissioning of thematic heritage markers and artworks to enhance the precinct. Regular charity programmes also bring benefit to not-for-profit and non-governmental organisations such as the Rainbow Centre and the World Wildlife Fund. Annually, The Fullerton Heritage also supports national level programming like the National Day and New Year's Eve Light-up.

Befitting the first ever Architectural Heritage Legacy Award, The Fullerton Heritage is a superb demonstration of how a well-managed heritage site can grow in architectural, cultural, social and economic value as well as community affection. The excellent execution by the dedicated custodian remains true to history and sense of place and relevant into the future.

3 Sentosa Gateway, St James Power Station Award for Conservation & Innovation (Distinction)

This most recent rejuvenation project to a former winner of the AHA is a glowing testimony to the remarkable growth of conservation expertise in Singapore. Not only has the original grand architecture of the former power station been preserved, its longevity and relevance are also cleverly extended through sensitive and innovative interventions.

Steered by the multi-disciplinary project team's bold and imaginative conservation and design approach which was anchored on deep research and technical know-how, the outcome par excellence is evident despite exacting regulatory and environmental requirements.

From the well restored fair-faced brickwork and interior steel structure to the faithfully reinstated missing corbels, modified fenestration openings and mild-steel window frames; from the masterful insertion of new 'floating' floors, new columns architecturally differentiated from the existing ones and a central skylit atrium in Blocks A & B to the well-thought out M&E provisions which do not block the historic roof trusses, the refurbished space showcases an astounding harmony of heritage and modernity.

Within the forecourt of the revitalised development site, the revamped landscape and covered walkway specially finished with terracotta coloured cement complete the elegant setting and enhance the gravitas of the national monument.

5 (Atbara) & 7 (Inverturret) Gallop Road Award for Conservation (Distinction)

Masterfully repurposed as part of the Gallop Extension of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, the two rare and stately black and white bungalows exude quaint charm in poetic harmony with the landscape and setting. Their classical grandeur and prominence are also honoured through thoughtful planning which deliberately site new buildings in the backdrop to maintain the original spatial relationship between the two buildings. Viewing 'frames' are also curated for visitors to appreciate and soak in the whole traditional ambience from a bygone era.

Backed by extensive historical research into the origin of the buildings, the dedicated project team has creatively stretched the modest budget to meet functional, regulatory, climatic, and universal access requirements without detracting from the delicate period aesthetics and inherent qualities.

Their impressive conservation efforts include reinstatement of the Moorish arches in Atbara, and retention of the iconic stairway as a grand entrance and sensitive repair of the unique 'rondel' glass windows in Inverturret. The programming for the two former abodes is also cleverly right sized to match the original spatial dimensions and retain the authenticity of the building layout.

The un-contrived and sensitive site planning and restoration efforts bring out the spirit of the place in the ensemble of the two charming buildings. Refurbished as Botanical Art Gallery (Inverturret) and Forest Discovery Centre (Atbara) they are set to complement the UNESCO world heritage site.

1 Beach Road, Raffles Hotel Award for Conservation

The first restoration in the early 1990s affirmed the prestige and standing of the Raffles Hotel as one of Singapore's icons. After three decades, this latest round of rejuvenation to remarkably higher standard has confidently secured the future of this 'Grand Dame' as a heritage brand synonymous with world class hospitality.

Technical excellence was demonstrated in the restoration which was grounded in extensive research, comprehensive industry knowledge and thorough site investigations. Using advanced conservation approaches and restoration techniques, the project team's execution of appropriate interventions is exemplary.

The whole building's fabric has been systematically restored with masterful brilliance. Long hidden issues such as the persistent rising damp was addressed and the diverse range of materials from timber, lime plaster to cast iron etc. were thoughtfully handled according to conservation best practices. The M&E services and acoustics, upgraded to contemporary standard, were also sensitively integrated within the historic structure.

Credit to the project team, a comprehensive Heritage Management Plan has also been put in place to secure the long-term well-being of this icon. The combined up-stream rejuvenation together with down-stream maintenance and management is a sign of maturity in the heritage building industry in Singapore.

705 Serangoon Road, Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital Special Mention

The project, underpinned by a strong sense of humanity and commitment from various contributors, has reinvigorated the familiar landmark with new and more healthcare services within a modest budget.

Thoughtful adaptations and renovations, such as the recovery of the view from the main road into the long-hidden contemplative courtyard and the introduction of a naturally ventilated canteen on the ground floor of the familiar 1960s main block, have sensibly strengthened the social connection of the hospital to the wider community.

Commendable efforts are evident to keep the legacy of the century-old charitable institution alive. Most notable is the dedication of one of the 1850s single storey block to house a heritage gallery. Set up with strong community support, the gallery captures the history and selfless spirits of the founders, employees, donors and volunteers, and serves as an important educational tool to inspire future generations to uphold the philanthropic spirit embodied in the institution's historical roots.

292 Joo Chiat Road Special Mention

Despite other development options available, the owners took a commendable step to refresh the simple elegance of the Art Deco street block with a light touch by keeping the integrity of the original building typology and low-rise envelope.

Adopting a minimalist intervention approach, the project team kept the familiar physical fabric largely intact. Key features like the front open balconies, rear service blocks and spiral staircases continue to be meaningful visual cues at the prominent junction. The refurbished, or reinstated where missing, mild-steel windows and doors, glass blocks and fair-faced brickwork have combined to restore the building aesthetics and recall a sense of nostalgia. Also commendable is the effort to have in place a building management plan for maintenance of the building and care of the restored architectural features.

In its current use as a co-working space, the property has a new-found relevance and could possibly become a delightful community space in the heritage neighbourhood.