

2014 URA ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AWARDS CITATIONS FOR THE 3 WINNING PROJECTS

30B Phillip Street (Yueh Hai Ching Temple) 2014 Award Category A

The restoration of this mid-nineteenth century temple showcases masterful brilliance. The methodology was clearly well-thought through and executed after extensive archival research and technical consultation with local and overseas architectural experts and temple craftsmen.

Past renovations which obscured the original character of the temple were removed. Using authentic materials, traditional techniques and sensitive construction method, every part of the temple including the boundary wall, front timber enclosure, entrance doors, beams and interior were faithfully and painstakingly restored. This successfully recovers many rare and refined features of Teochew architectural origin.

Of outstanding excellence is the exquisite detailing which revitalises the intricate 3-dimensional ceramic ornamentations on the spectacularly adorned roof, and internal and external walls. Once again, the dioramas which depict Chinese folklore and classical stories come alive in the most densely decorated Chinese temple in Singapore.

145 Neil Road 2014 Award Category B

Careful restoration and sensitive intervention has transformed this heritage terrace house into an elegant family abode.

The striking vintage-inspired blue exterior demonstrated good conservation practice to carry out paint-scrap and recover the original colour. 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. 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.

The 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.

2,4,6,8 and 10 Townshend Road (J8 Hotel) 2014 Award Category B

The project team did well in sensitively repairing damaged, and replacing missing, elements like windows, balustrades and pre-cast vents in the five

shophouses. At the first storey, the wall is recessed for a “mama store” to recall the past. Through good design integration, the rear modern extension complements the linework and colour scheme of the conserved portion to give a unified development on the prominent site at a road junction.

Besides breathing new life into the pre-war buildings as a boutique hotel, the project has a positive transformative effect on the mixed use neighbourhood which has since attracted more visitors, tourists and new businesses.

271 Tembeling Road
2014 Special Mention

Instead of maximising the buildable floor area, the project team reinstated the rear courtyard and brought back the form of a typical shophouse. In the process, an efficient layout with naturally lit and well-proportioned spaces was created to meet the client’s specific brief.