225A Queen Street, Roman Catholic Church of Saints Peter and Paul 2016 Award for Restoration

OWNER: Titular RC Archbishop of Singapore

ARCHITECT: RDC Architects Pte Ltd
ENGINEER: ECAS-EJ Consultants Pte Ltd
CONTRACTOR: Towner Construction Pte Ltd

# **Glory to Gothic**

Having undergone numerous and drastic physical changes since its founding in 1870, the Roman Catholic Church of Saints Peter and Paul has been restored, regaining its century-old splendour and acquiring upgrades that are faithful to the spirit of the original.

### A Passionate Restoration

Careful and thorough research into the architectural history of the building, through research at the National Archives, as well as contributions by parishioners' information and documents to provide evidence of the buildings' past, informed the team and cemented the direction of restoring the church to its original Gothic-style glory, the period prior to its major 'modernisation' works in 1969.

As a result, the team went on to successfully recapture not just the physical architecture and spatial qualities of the old church, but also its inherent spirit and original ambience. Adhering to the 3R principles, a sensitive approach was taken to retain original fixtures and finishes like its ironmongery, memorial plaques. Existing stained-glass windows were carefully cleaned and restored by expert Italian artisans. Flooring patterns sympathetic to the missing original tiles, as well as the pressed-metal ceiling cornice were also reinstated. No effort was spared in reinstating religious artefacts and relics. The cast-iron staircase leading to the Belfry was also fittingly returned to its right place having been displaced by an out-of-element timber deck and ad-hoc loft from a previous renovation. Timber doors and windows were reinstated with the use of original ironmongery.

## **Refined and Rigorous**

Changes that were necessary were carefully thought through. A corrugated metal roof was chosen in order to retain the original century-old roof structure which could not bear additional weight of tiles. The missing rose window was skillfully recreated to match existing ones. New fixtures like the hanging lanterns were specially designed to complement the rich history of the church, incorporating symbols of the Key and the Sword representing St. Peter and St. Paul. Amenities such as floor mounted air-conditioners were installed inconspicuously beside windowsills to not obstruct the views of the timber doors and windows. Improved sound and lighting systems were also discreetly integrated with minimum disruption to visual impact.

# **Aspirations Realised**

The spirit of the Church's past and promise of its future are, once again, harmonious. A labour of love by its Parish and the Church's governing priest, this exquisite restoration effort has not only sustained the building's physical fabric; it has also rejuvenated the passion of its congregation.

3 Muscat Street, Sultan Mosque 2016 Award for Restoration

OWNER: Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Board of Trustees & Mosque Management Board, Sultan

Mosque

ARCHITECT: Interconsultants Pte Ltd

ENGINEER: Lee & Lee Consultants Pte Ltd CONTRACTOR: Tang's Engineering Pte Ltd

# **Shining Sanctuary**

Carefully reconditioned and upgraded, this national monument now assumes an even more prominent role in fostering a cohesive spirit within the multi-ethnic Muslim community it serves and beyond.

### A Devoted Endeavour

The Sultan Mosque is the gleaming result of unwavering consistency in upkeep – an often overlooked aspect of heritage restoration work - by a dedicated team of community leaders. This Indo-Saracenic architectural structure has been carefully rejuvenated, bestowing it with a stately eminence that is on par with prominent mosques around the world. From every angle, the repair and refurbishment works carried out on this stunning edifice demonstrate immense respect for its architectural roots that date back to the 1920s. The restoration team did well in preserving the old. For example, original timber doors and windows were salvaged and repaired, with only severely damaged ones replaced.

## Regal and Future-Ready

Thoughtful upgrades have raised the value and relevance of the original building for the present and the future. To ease the way up to the prayer hall for its growing congregation as well as the aged, a new translucent glass lift structure was added in a discreet location, with sensitive regard to the integrity of the building's original character.

One of the most complex parts of this project, the pair of domes underwent intensive re-sanding, colour trials and eventually, received four coats of paint to achieve the glimmering end result. The golden pair now lend the Mosque a more regal presence reflecting the history of royalty that once resided in the area. Weathered external walls were carefully cleaned and repainted in a choice of paint scheme that considers both long-term maintenance and the creation of a stately image for the Mosque. The interiors were also strategically repainted with the original green, a refreshing way to highlight the impressive arches of the prayer hall.

## **Community Cohesion**

A passionate community has banded together to add to and sustain the success of

this project. Commendable efforts to document and share the monument's heritage and cultural values have enabled this heritage site to foster social harmony, alongside the positive outcomes of increased worshippers as well as higher visitorship by the wider community. The heightened visibility of the Mosque is thus both due to the physical works as well as it being run as an open and welcoming community asset for Singapore.

72 Club Street, Goh Loo Club 2016 Award for Restoration

OWNER: Sit Giap Company (Private) Limited

ARCHITECT: Artprentice ENGINEER: Yan Consultants CONTRACTOR: Jinmac Pte Ltd

# A Gentlemanly Revival

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.

### **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.

13, 15, 17 Stamford Road, Capitol Singapore 2016 Award for Restoration & Innovation

OWNER: Capitol Retail Management Pte Ltd (Trustee-manager of Capitol

Retail Trust)

Capitol Hotel Management Pte Ltd (Trustee-manager of Capitol

Hotel Trust)

Capitol Residential Development Pte Ltd

ARCHITECT: Architects 61 Pte Ltd ENGINEER: Arup Singapore Pte Ltd CONTRACTOR: Shimizu Corporation

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST: Studio Lapis

### **Grand Revival**

Dormant for over a decade, this once-popular leisure venue comprising three iconic buildings built in the early to mid-1900s, has regained its position as an important cultural and social landmark. Its revival has been further enhanced by the introduction of vibrant new urban spaces that honour the past and celebrate the future.

# **Majestic Makeover**

Detailed and intensive research has informed this outstanding integrated restoration and development project of Capitol Theatre, Capitol Building and Stamford House. One of its many highlights is the interior of the Theatre. Within it, original Art Deco and Neoclassical design nuances from the 1900s to the 1940s have been restored through a combination of technical excellence and artistic skill, with breathtaking results. Delicate work included the reinstatement of missing details and finishes such as original gold gilding on the ceiling grid. This has been painstakingly restored following a historic microscopic paint seriation analysis on the original colour scheme. The team did well by engaging an artist to recreate and capture the spirit of the original Persian Zodiac ceiling mural – a key feature that is deeply lodged in the memory of generations of cinema goers, but which could not be salvaged due to years of neglect and deterioration. Similarly memorable, the pair of 'Pegasus' reliefs at the sides of the stage were delicately cleaned to reveal details long hidden by many coats of paint. Of notable mention is the revival of the iconic 'Capitol Theatre' Art Deco neon sign. The sense of encountering history is also strengthened with the restoration of period shopfronts of Capitol Building and Stamford House.

#### A Bow to Innovation

Creativity and innovation is everywhere. Within the Theatre, new flexible seating – Asia's first floor rotation system – allows theatre chairs to be turned over and tucked under floor to cater to different seating requirements. The team also employed advanced technology such as 3D laser scanning for the remarkable and detailed replication work on missing decorative features throughout the Theatre's interiors. A carefully engineered new roof over the Galleria and sensitive insertion of balconies to the rear court of the Capitol Building have transformed a formerly

overlooked back lane into a lively F&B area, while preserving the unique architectural qualities of the heritage property.

# **Endearing Encore**

Capitol Building is once again a place for shopping and dining, while Stamford House has also regained its original 1900s role as a hotel. As a result of this outstanding and integrated revival exercise, a long dormant architectural and social landmark is once again a place enjoyed by many. The combination creates a strong foundation of heritage and sentiment from the past upon which future memories can be built.

30 Beach Road, South Beach Special Mention

OWNER: South Beach Consortium Pte Ltd

ARCHITECT: Aedas Pte Ltd

ENGINEER: Arup Singapore Pte Ltd

CONTRACTOR: Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co Ltd

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST: Studio Lapis

A significant effort is evident in the restoration of the exterior façade of the four heritage blocks. This includes the salvaging and reinstating of missing and damaged finishes such as the painstaking removal of paint from the handmade brick tile facade of the NCO Club. Notable too is the effort in the retention of fixtures such as the original roller shutters from the 1930s.

Careful research done on each building's fabric and history is extensive and impressive. However, the fit-out approach does not appear to take advantage of the spatial qualities of the original interiors. In addition, the rich military heritage of the complex of buildings has not been fully recaptured.

The owner is commended for compiling a history of the wider Beach Road area into a book, creating a valuable resource for future reference.