

# 66 PHENG GECK AVENUE

Λ Spirited Revival



**Owner:**  
Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura &  
Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque

**Architect:**  
Shing Design Atelier Pte Ltd

**Engineer:**  
Keon Consult Pte Ltd

**Contractor:**  
Tangs Engineering Pte Ltd

A significant specimen of architectural and social history has been preserved and renewed - thanks to the generosity of the community that has always rallied together with pride over the 80-plus-year old building. Working on a modest budget, the restoration has secured a living heritage site for the Mosque's growing congregation and its neighbouring community, for now and for generations to come.



Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque restored as a landmark

with great care and effort. Surfaces, columns, capitals, plaster mouldings and the historic flooring, among others, have been thoroughly cleaned and given a new lease of life. Long missing elements such as the mild steel windows, have been reintroduced. The sense of airiness of the building has also been expertly recaptured, while the distinctive minaret remains a beacon for the Mosque community and a landmark for the wider neighbourhood.

## Faithful From The Start

Sensitive to the layers of change over time and respectful of the original fabric of the building, the restoration proceeded according to the 3R principles, informed by careful research on the site's history and architecture. Much of the Mosque's original architectural form, its masonry and period detailing have been reinstated. The original roof profile – a one-of-a-kind in Singapore, lost in a previous renovation – has been reintroduced along with the authentic ceiling design. The team is commended for making the concerted effort to bring back these important elements of old that add to sustaining the building's historic aura.

All useable materials, including the original timber doors and the cast iron balustrades, and useable parts of the roof timbers were retained

## Enduring Serenity

Modern materials have been used for the new extensions to avoid visual competition with the historic building. They serve the Mosque in its current need for space without stealing its glory. Many meaningful extra touches add to the appeal of the project, such as the incorporation of the Mosque's name in the patterns of the new carpeting at the prayer hall.

## Born Again

Overall, a well restored building that is inspiring despite the constraint of a limited budget. Beyond the physical restoration work, the installation of the wall-mounted historical timeline serves the good intent of tracing the history and importance of the Mosque for the appreciation of its modern-day visitors.



*Main Prayer Hall*



*Unique horse-shoe arches framing naturally ventilated interior*



*Original timber doors and cast-iron grilles retained*



*Finely restored capitals*



*Cast-iron balustrade*



*Restored columns and capitals*



*Coffer ceiling*