

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

225A Queen Street

Glory to Gothic



Owner:

Titular RC Archbishop of Singapore

Architect:

RDC Architects Pte Ltd

Engineer:

ECAS Consultants Pte Ltd

Contractor:

Towner Construction Pte Ltd

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



This monument has been delicately refreshed

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.



Newly designed lamps



Original Chinese character



Restored ceiling ribs



Historic features retained



Old marble aisle



Plaster details of Gothic-style



Old timber doors reconditioned



View towards main entrance door



Harmony of East and West

225A QUEEN STREET (ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL)

2016 Award For Restoration

The Church of Saints Peter & Paul has been masterfully restored to its original splendour, and sensitively upgraded to fulfil its present-day needs.

Admirable effort was made to uncover historical information on the social and physical changes that the Church had undertaken since 1870. This proved to be a valuable guide for the team in recapturing not just the physical architecture and spatial qualities of the old Church, but also its inherent spirit and original ambience.

A sensitive approach was taken to retain the original ironmongery, roof structure and memorial plaques, as well as to reinstate the floor pattern, high altar, pressed-tin cornices at the ceiling and long missing stained glass rose window. New fixtures like the hanging lanterns were specially designed to complement the rich history of the Church, while mechanical and electrical services were carefully integrated without disrupting visual impact.

The sensitively refreshed and delicately restored physical fabric remains recognisable and familiar, and has deepened the interest of the congregation in their spiritual and historical roots.

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