

# Seven projects win the 2008 URA Architectural Heritage Awards

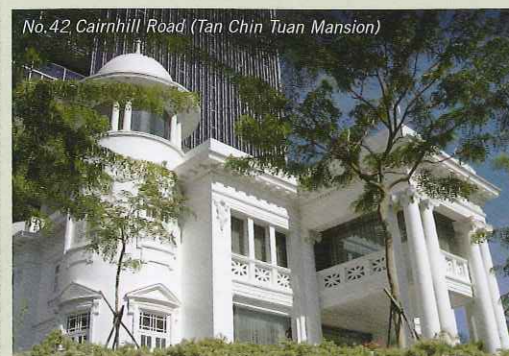
By Goh Kim Chai



No. 43 Amber Road (The Sea View Clubhouse)



No. 12 Ann Siang Road (The Screening Room)



No. 42 Cairnhill Road (Tan Chin Tuan Mansion)

Well restored residences were in the limelight for the 2008 URA Architectural Heritage Awards. Among them – Sri Temasek, a colonial style bungalow where the Prime Minister delivered his National Day message this year. Here's a snapshot of all the winning projects.



No. 82 Jellicoe Road (Citylights)



Sri Temasek



No. 14 Cable Road



No. 120 Cairnhill Road

The Sea View Clubhouse along Amber Road was abuzz with activities on 3 October 2008 with more than a hundred building owners, architects and professionals gathered there for a special occasion. The beautifully restored Neo Classical building hosted the 2008 URA Architectural Heritage Awards – an annual event that celebrates well restored heritage buildings.

Built in the early 1900s, the Sea View Clubhouse is among seven restoration projects that were honoured with the URA award this year. Other award winners include a 140-year-old country house, a classic black and white bungalow and artfully restored Art Deco shophouses. The URA award recognises architects, professionals and contractors who had gone the extra mile to lovingly restore heritage buildings to their former glory and give them a new lease of life.

Minister for National Development Mah Bow Tan who gave out the awards at the ceremony said, "Iconic new buildings alone do not give a city its unique character. The soul of the city requires more careful nurturing." He said these heritage buildings and structures give our city a distinctive character and lend soul to our urban environment. By preserving the collective memories of our past, we make our physical environment more meaningful and attractive.

Introduced in 1995, the URA Architectural Heritage Awards are given out annually to promote and inspire quality restoration of monuments and conservation buildings in Singapore. The awards are given out under two categories.

Category A is mainly for National Monuments and fully conserved buildings in Historic

Districts and Good Class Bungalow Areas. They are assessed on how far they had followed quality restoration principles of maximum retention, sensitive restoration and careful repair.

Winners under this category include The Sea View Clubhouse and Sri Temasek at the Istana. Sri Temasek, the Prime Minister's official home, is the only state owned building and the oldest among the winning projects this year.

The Screening Room at Ann Siang Hill, where the former historical Damenlou Hotel used to be, is also a Category A winner. Now an eclectic film and food haven, the project team had set new benchmarks for the way buildings can be modified for new uses.

There are four winners under Category B, which is for projects that have innovatively combined the 'old' and the 'new'. Among them is a row of Art Deco shophouses along Jellicoe Road, which was once used as motor workshops. These pre-war shophouses have been lovingly restored and cleverly configured into high-end townhouses that anchor new residential development Citylights.

Other Category B winners include No.120 Cairnhill Road, a double story transitional

shophouse which has been added with an attractive new three-storey rear extension and a tropical rooftop pool terrace.

Also a winner, No.14 Cable Road – A black and white beauty that was reinvented as a contemporary home, complete with a masterfully designed new annex and rooftop shower.

The Tan Chin Tuan Mansion at No. 42 Cairnhill Road, once the home of prominent banker and philanthropist Tan Chin Tuan,

also won the award under Category B for the commendable effort made to integrate the 1930s mansion with a new 20-storey residential tower despite the tight site.

To-date, a total of 84 projects have received the URA Architectural Heritage Awards since its launch in 1995. ●

*Skyline would be featuring each of the 2008 winners in the subsequent issues.*



Minister Mah Bow Tan: "Heritage buildings and structures give our city a distinctive character and lend soul to our urban environment."