

Honours for heritage

Skyline celebrates 2005's winners of URA's Architectural Heritage Award.

WHAT DOES A former royal palace, former immigrants living quarters, a unique maritime landmark, former colonial army barracks, a pair of terrace houses built in the early 1900s, and an integrated residential development with conservation shophouses and a new condominium, have in common?



They are all the proud winners of URA's Architectural Heritage Awards 2005. National Development Minister Mah Bow Tan gave out the awards on 26 September 2005 at one of the winning projects, Malay Heritage Centre, the former Istana Kampong Glam now restored and turned into a museum showcasing Malay culture and heritage.

The other five winners are:

- 33 Erskine Road (The Scarlet boutique hotel)
- 3 Fullerton Road (Waterboat House)
- 2 Bukit Manis Road (Spa Botanica)
- 63 & 65 Emerald Hill Road
- 152A-152J & 152-164 Tembeling Road.

Since 1995, the Architectural Heritage Awards have been given

out annually to recognise and promote quality restoration. This year's winners bring to 64 the total number of projects that have received the Awards over the past 11 years.

The Awards are given out under two categories. Category A is for National Monuments and conservation buildings in the Historic Districts and Bungalow Areas. These buildings represent the cream of Singapore's built heritage where a high level of building authenticity is to be maintained. They continue to be assessed on how far they adhere to quality restoration principles.

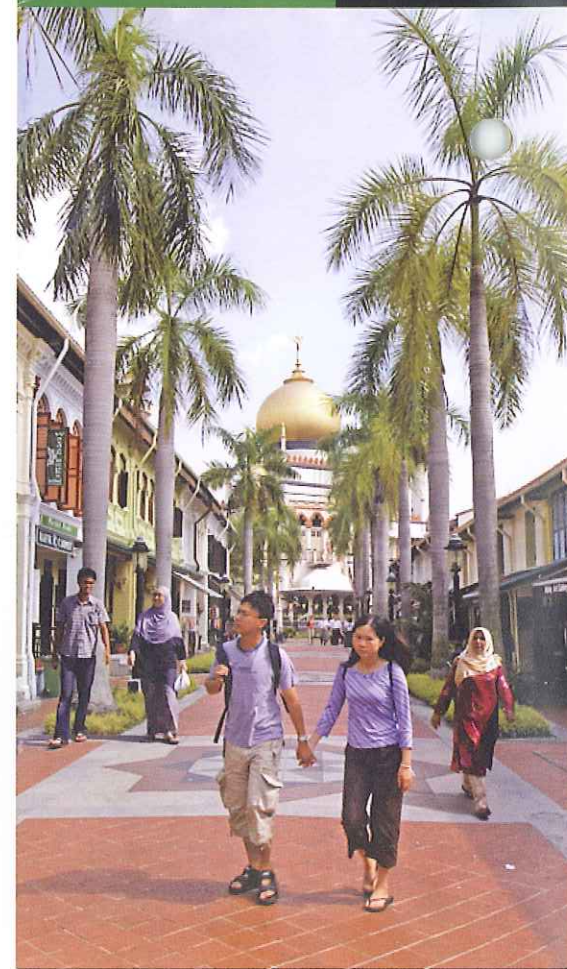
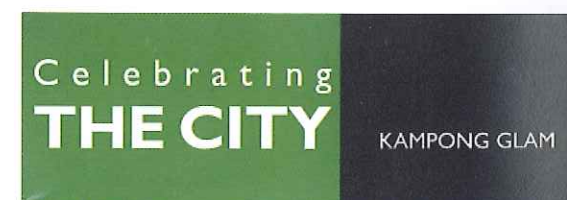
Category B is for integrated old and new conservation developments in all other areas. These include buildings in the Residential Historic Districts and Secondary Settlement areas where the buildings are allowed to have new rear extensions, providing more scope for innovative designs. Under Category B, conservation projects are assessed on the quality of restoration of the old elements. They are also assessed on the innovation and architectural excellence of the new elements, and how they draw their inspiration from the old elements.

Get a peek into the 2005 winners in the next three pages.

Rediscover Kampong Glam with new walking map

As part of its ongoing efforts to raise public awareness of Singapore's rich built heritage and unique places, a brand new

Kampong Glam walking map was also launched on the 26 September. A nifty little explorer's guide to what to see and buy and where to eat at the Kampong Glam Historic District, it is available for free from Singapore City Gallery at The URA Centre, 45 Maxwell Road, or downloadable from http://www.ura.gov.sg/publications/walking_maps/. A copy is also enclosed with this issue of Skyline. The walking map is produced in collaboration with Malay Heritage Centre, National Heritage Board and Singapore Tourism Board.



By Carol Lim

Interior details like the hardwood timber staircases and handrails have been retained and carefully restored



Open and public, yet closed and private, the revitalised palace is framed by new ancillary buildings, complementary in scale and architecture to the older building

85 Sultan Gate (Malay Heritage Centre)

This royal abode was originally completed 165 years ago in 1840 by Sultan Ali, the son of Sultan Hussein Shah. Located in the heart of the Kampong Glam Historic District, the restored two-storey Istana Kampong Glam is now put to adaptive re-use as a museum which celebrates the Malay heritage.



Arched entrance porch restored

33 Erskine Road (The Scarlet)

Comprising 13 two-storey shophouses built in 1868, a four-storey shophouse at Unit 37 built later in 1924 and an infill site, The Scarlet was originally the shared living quarters of immigrant Chinese women servants. It also served as a boutique hotel from 1988 until the mid-1990s. The new owners wanted it to be upgraded to a top-grade boutique hotel. Now, the streetblock is a quaint old space given a sensuous new grace.

Bold interior design and play of colours give the quaint old space a sensuous new grace



The Scarlet, set along the curved and sloping Erskine Road, spans a street block of 15 terraced units

The flat roofs have been landscaped to become delightful terraces for open-air dining



3 Fullerton Road (Waterboat House)

During the 19th century, Singapore River was the heart and soul of the trading life of our city. The Waterboat House was later built at the mouth of the river. With its restoration, this two-storey maritime landmark, now transformed into a fine retail and F&B destination, gives us a fresh look into our past.



Sensitive old and new interface

The original Shanghai plaster façade with the nautically-nuanced details like stairs, and all exterior and interior elements of the building (including ironmongery and window hinges) have been retained



2 Bukit Manis Road (Spa Botanica @ Beaufort Sentosa)

Block 59 on Sentosa Island was one of the many buildings built by the British between the 1880s to the 1930s to accommodate their garrisons. Once home to defenders of the harbour, the two-storey building is now a modern spa, Spa Botanica, in the soothing rustic and charming ambience of Sentosa.



Formerly army barracks and a recreational club, the building has been converted into a modern spa facility tucked in an inviting garden setting



Great care has been taken to restore the external façade of the building with its signature cross balustrades, a common motif that has been carried through to the new additions like the entry porch to remind visitors of its colonial past

63 & 65 Emerald Hill Road

Designed in the Late Style, this pair of two-storey terrace houses were built in the early 1900s with identical façades. Now owned by two brothers, the design briefs for each unit express their distinct personalities. Unit 63 accentuates an informal and fluid flamboyance, while Unit 65 has neat and varied spaces.



A sculptured light reflector forms the focal point of one design while the other uses a high-volume airwell with retractable glazed panel roof, both with the objective of letting in light and allowing for natural cross-ventilation

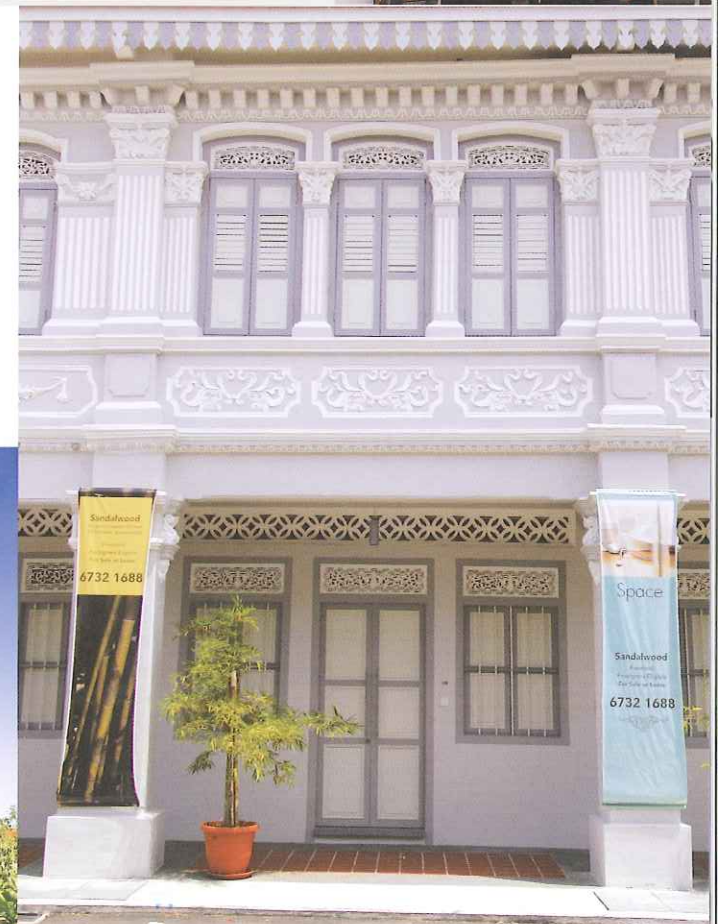


152A-152J & 152-164 Tembeling Road (Sandalwood)

In the midst of the varied architectural styles found in Joo Chiat, Sandalwood comprises 12 two-storey Late Style terrace houses and four two-storey Art Deco units. They form a pleasing junction of modernity and antiquity through the seamless fusion of their traditional façades with the modern facilities and a modern condominium behind.

Well-designed communal landscape courtyard with pool

The old polychromatic floor tiles were salvaged and carefully laid onto the balcony floors of the two corner units



Tasteful monochromatic colours subtly highlight intricate details of the architectural features of the old buildings