

A sensitive reinstatement at *Emerald Hill*

At the 2012 URA Architectural Heritage Awards (AHA), one particular project stood out for its stellar recovery work.

The AHA Assessment Committee was impressed with the submission for 58 Emerald Hill and gave the project a special mention at the award ceremony. The project team was recognised for its good effort and sensitivity in recovering the original architectural character of the building and the street, and adapting the interior to meet the needs of a family home.

Based on archival record, 58 Emerald Hill was originally built as part of a series of three identical units. It was however rebuilt in reinforced concrete and to a new design in the 1960s. The current owners bought the house sometime in 2005 and wanted RichardHO Architects to renovate the existing house into a home befitting its address in Emerald Hill Road.

In this residential project which took about 14 months to complete, the existing reinforced concrete building was completely rebuilt in order to reinstate the original pitched clay tile roof and timber floor of the terrace house. Although it did not entail any restoration *per se*, the project team deserves a special mention for having painstakingly put back a building that hails back to the original building design and structure, and the old streetscape. The interior spaces and layout are sensitive interpretations of a traditional terrace house in a delightful and contemporary way while meeting the needs of a modern family home.

Mr Richard Ho, principal architect and founder of RichardHO Architects, is very pleased with the final work. “Not only me, but the owners too, are very pleased with how the house turned out – a careful reconstruction effort that is faithful to its original construction yet it is contemporary in its feel... We are very proud that it was given a Special Mention at the 2012 URA Architectural Heritage Awards.”

Owner: Mr & Mrs Ben Lim
Architect: RichardHO Architects
Engineer: JS TAN & Associates
Contractor: U.Sage Contracts Pte Ltd



