



PHT newsletter

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SUPPORT CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

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EDITORIAL

Dear PHT members & friends,

The year 2000 has been an eventful year for some, and a year of housing insecurity for the tenants of George Town. We have seen many of the PHT predictions concerning the effects of Rent Control Repeal come true. The 'living city' is turning into a 'dying city' and our project on Endangered Trades will be a historic record of the many disappearing traditions and communities. We have also seen the inadequate response by government, private sector and the larger Penang community, as if the better-off half of Penang does not care how the other half fares.

Repeal of Rent Control is a complex issue -- involving many different types of landlords and many different types of tenants. Therefore the response to rent control must be fair to landlords, tenants as well as the larger public interest of preserving heritage and keeping the vitality of George Town.

Tenants' problems & response:

Housing for the hardcore poor -- the government has offered housing in River Road and Rifle Range, however, many tenants will still move out thus emptying the city. Premises for small businesses and mixed use -- no workable solution to this problem has been found.

Owners' problems and response:

Incentives for restoration -- government is offering RM 100 million loan-grant tied to social housing, yet to date, no project has taken off. Economic slow down, shops closing, vacant properties not taken up -- what can we do?

We call upon, government, landlords and tenants to work together to address the following issues:

security of tenure • preservation of heritage • economic revitalization • improvement of urban environment • civic amenities.

We need leadership, vision and action! Please join us in saving Historic George Town!

Khoo Salma Nasution

EXCLUSIVE GUIDED HERITAGE SITE VISITS

Site Visit #10

SUNDAY, 26 November 2000, 3.30 P.M.

Visit The Famed Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion,
14 Leith Street, Penang

Winner of UNESCO Conservation Award 2000 & National Architectural Award for Conservation 1995 Landmark private Grade-1 restoration of a 38-room, 5-courtyard, 7-staircase mansion of a 19th century rags-to-riches Chinese Mandarin. This architectural masterpiece is a statement of the eclecticism of the times and of Straits Settlements design and detailing.

Carefully restored after a century of neglect, 'La Maison Bleu' has been the location for several films including 'Indochine' with Catherine Deneuve. You are invited to participate in an end-of-the-year site visit exclusively for PHT members. A short tour will be conducted by Loh-Lim followed by tea.

A talk entitled "Cultural Diversity and the Preservation of the Malay Family" will be presented by Ingrid Rudie, visiting researcher at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Minden. ■



The magnificently restored Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion

SITE VISIT REPORTS

Loh Leong San Quartet, Chung Hua School Union, Jewish Cemetery (September 24, Site visit # 8)



Exquisite mother-of-pearl inlaid furniture at Loh Leong San

As they say, it just keeps getting better and better. This site visit was marvelously unrivalled in its breadth of coverage. We can't seem to get enough, from the magnificence of the Loh Leong San quartet to the eerie spookiness of the Chung Hua School Union and the fascination of the historic Jewish cemetery. And for the stalwarts who lingered on despite the drizzle, we threw in the Philomatic Society building, albeit only from the gates.

The afternoon started early at 2.30 pm in front of the splendid Straits eclectic green quartet diagonally across the road from the Rex Cinema. Architect

son, Max Loh, introduced us to the house and his family and we were allowed to wander both upstairs and down to view the architecture, the artefacts, the antique furniture, the pictures and the traditional layout of usage of spaces. The family was gracious and welcoming and we hope they will join us in the Trust as they clearly

epitomize the appreciation of heritage in their own lives.

We then moved a few doors down to the Chung Hua School Union, where we were informed that the buildings were actually donated to the union by Loh Leong San, who had earlier stayed there himself. The fascination lay in the supposed supernatural forces pervading the building. The lady of the house was actively sought after by certain members of PHT and we hope Iskandar will keep us informed of his determined efforts to spend a night in the house.

A light drizzle began and with umbrellas we trudged the length of Yahudi Road (Jalan Zainal Abidin) to the only Jewish Cemetery in this part of the country. Journalist Himanshu Bhatt who had researched the history of the cemetery, had us all riveted with his enchanting stories of the occupants. (His article is published in this newsletter)

Indefatigable despite the rain, we then sought out teh tarik at the nearest *kopitiam* where Mai Loon alerted us to the possible threat to the Philomatic Society building in Macalister Road and acquainted us with its connections to Sun Yet Sen and Chiang Khai Shek. We then of course had to cross over to have a closer look at the building, where persuasion did not succeed in getting the guard to open the gates. The group reluctantly disbanded only at 6.30 p.m., 4 hours after we started our 8th site visit. ■



Outside the gates of the Philomatic Society building

Sun Yat Sen Base, Armenian Street (October 29, Site visit #7)

After postponing it for five years, Lubis and I resolved to get the Sun Yat Sen in Penang exhibition up for the PHT Site Visit. Ong Seng Huat was commissioned earlier this year to do the research, and towards the end, we just hurried each other up! Yes, we managed to get the picture rails put up, and the 32-piece exhibition framed and hanging just the day before you all arrived. It is a low cost display to start with, but we hope to gradually upgrade it progressively.

This is the first time that the history of Dr. Sun Yat Sen in Penang has been put on public display, and we



Inside 120 Armenian Street

hope that it will help to save the other buildings in Penang that are associated with him and his followers. Later, we arranged for Mr. Ong Seng Huat to give a talk to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Penang Conference (pin nang hui yi) on November 13 (the talk was held on the eve) and this time we invited a predominantly Mandarin-speaking audience.

The Sun Yat Sen Penang Base is open to public during office hours and we are suggesting a donation of RM 3 per person to help us maintain the house. It is also one of the sites for the Thursday PHT tour 'Street of Harmony & Historical Enclave'. ■

A JEWISH RESTING PLACE

Nestled in the heart of George Town is a small and charming plot of land that has quietly borne the remains of a little-known people of Penang, the Jews, writes Himanshu Bhatt.

Tucked safely behind its high walls along a narrow lazy stretch named Jalan Zainal Abidin (formerly known as Jalan Yahudi), is an intriguing Jewish cemetery. Little is known of its past and less still of those it shelters. But the cemetery, with its rows of Hebrew-inscribed headstones, breathes a fresh aura of reverence that seems to defy its strange and elusive history.

A deep sanctity that weighs gently upon the lush plot of land can be felt as one enters. Bordered by shady angsa trees and paint-cracked back walls of old shophouses, the cemetery has persevered for more than 160 years, patiently bearing, in its sweet and inconspicuous way, the spirit of the island's Jewish community.

All that is known of its origins is that an English lady of Jewish faith acquired the land in the early part of the 19th century and, upon her death, was buried there in 1835. The land was then transferred to the general ownership of the Jewish community. While numerous local and visiting Jews in the region have been buried in the cemetery since then, it is interesting to note that Jews first arrived on Malaysian soil way back in the 11th century.

According to a business record left by Abraham, son of the legendary Jewish leader Maimonides, traders from Fustat, the old city of Cairo, had travelled as far away as the Malaya peninsula where the powerful Indianised port-civilisations of Kedah and Langkasuka were thriving. Dealing in dyes, textiles, medicaments, precious stones and metal, and perfumes, the traders traversed around important centres in Southeast Asia (SEA). SEA also received a large wave of Jewish immigration during the post-war communist regime in China. Much of China's Jewish community, comprising refugees from Soviet Russia and Hitler's Europe, and descendants of Jews who had been in China since the 8th century, fled to Hong Kong and SEA, particularly Singapore.

The cemetery in Penang was used largely to bury visiting Europeans who died in the area during the British colonial period. According to Jenny Hazell, an official with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Berks, England, the Commission is currently undertaking the maintenance of the grave of Second Lieutenant Louis Victor Cohen, who died on Oct. 9, 1941, at the age of 23. The Commission's resident caretaker Ong Thiam Lye, who is also caretaker of Taiping War Cemetery, visits the cemetery every six months to clean Cohen's headstone and clear the grass

around the grave. "I have maintained the graves of Cohen and several and several other British subjects buried at the Jalan Utama cemetery in Penang, but know little of their history," Ong said.

According to Tefa Ephraim, 58, a Penang-born Jew currently residing in Sydney, while numerous British subjects in Malaya were buried at the Penang cemetery before and during the Second World War, the cemetery also received the remains of Jewish soldiers who died in places as far away as China. Tefa belongs to Penang's small but close-knit Jewish community, which has largely dispersed since the 70s. Some of the local families buried at the cemetery include the Manassehs, Mordecais, Jacobs, Ephraims and the Moses family. Tefa's brother, Charles Ephraim, 62, one of the few Penang-born Jews left here, offered some explanation for the dwindling of the community. "Much of the community has migrated abroad," he said during an interview. "Among those who remain, those of the younger generation are not as versed in Jewish customs and traditions as their elders."

Even the *minyan*, a custom which requires a quorum of at least to males aged 12 and above at a religious ceremony could not be met. "Friends from Singapore would come to funeral ceremonies here to satisfy the quorum," Charles explained. The inability to fulfil the *minyan*, coupled with lack of religious knowledge among emerging generations, forced the shutdown of Penang's only synagogue in late 1976. The synagogue, set in a terrace shophouse along Nagore Road, was established long before Charles was born in 1932 and was closed after his father passed away in June 1976. "We would meet regularly for Saturday prayers at the synagogue," Charles recounted. "It was a small place and had 12 copies of the Torah (the Jewish book of faith) placed in a row for us to pray toward."

Like many of the Jews in Penang, the ancestry of the Ephraims is Persian. Their grandfather, a businessman, migrated from Baghdad in the 19th century, joining the

community in Penang, which consisted of numerous watch dealers. The subsequent generations that emerged assimilated a variety of local social traits with their traditional Jewish lifestyles. "When I was young, my family spoke a mixture of Hebrew and English at home, with smatterings of Hokkien, Malay and Arabic," Charles said.

He also has vivid memories of the Second World War, when Jews were persecuted in Europe. "During the Japanese Occupation in Malaya, Jewish adults had to wear red and white striped tags on their sleeves for identification purposes. The Japanese, afraid that we may be spies, also barred us from being present within half-a-mile of Penang island's shoreline," he said.

The cemetery nevertheless survived through the two wars, and had its last burial in 1978. A tattered registration book with pages falling off its spine, still exists with a caretaker family that has tended the cemetery for five generations. The book, which bears names of people buried at the cemetery written in cursive and with blots of dried ink on its yellowish pages, contains a small list of autographs left by foreign visitors to the cemetery.

Fatimah Rabu, 72 is the oldest person in the caretaker family hired by the Jewish community to maintain the cemetery. She said during an interview that she knew little of the site's history, but remembered that her grandfather took care of the place years before her parents took over. "We don't know who these visitors are or where they come from, but every now and then, someone is seen kneeling or walking solemnly around the cemetery."

Historian Paul Johnson once noted that the Jewish people have over the centuries in history exhibited a "tenacious adaptability even in the most adverse circumstances". The Jewish cemetery in Penang is not only a testament to the spirit of this perseverance, but also a silent symbol of a unique community's contribution to our nation's rich heritage. ■





Praise from Nepal...

On behalf of all members of my delegates and myself, I would like to congratulate you and your highly motivated members of the Trust for the excellent activity for conservation and restoration of ancient buildings as well as cultural heritage of your beautiful city.

Indeed, all of us were very much impressed after learning your activities and future programs during our meeting at your office and the field visit of various old houses which were restored in its original form. Our study visit of Penang city has been successful and productive due to your kind cooperation. We also learned many practical ideas about generating awareness about conservation of heritage both ancient buildings as well as cultural heritage during the briefing in your office. Your program of educating not only the Teachers, students and local community but also the Ministry and Government people was much interesting. We also like your program of organising Heritage classes in schools. Multiple use of Public space was also very interesting to us. We hope to replicate them in Lalitpur also. We have already called a meeting to start this idea immediately. We hope to introduce the 'Night Market' to begin with and work out other ideas gradually in different parts of Lalitpur city.

Our thanks to CITYNET for arranging this study tour in Penang which is like Lalitpur city, an ancient city with traditional arts and culture.

I would like to propose a permanent link to Penang Heritage Trust and Lalitpur city for exchange of ideas and experience on Heritage conservation and Tourism promotion programs.

*Buddhi Raj Bajacharya,
Mayor of Lalitpur, Nepal
7 September 2000*

LETTERS/EMAILS

Letters published under this section are open to direct correspondence by anyone who is interested in the subject matter, or who feel that she/he is qualified to offer help/advice in response to those who have written in to us.

Visit to Penang by Headmaster of Woodbridge School, England.

I am writing on behalf of Woodbridge School in Suffolk, England, where Francis Light, founder of Penang attended school. The present Headmaster, Stephen Cole, is visiting Penang and would welcome the opportunity to be introduced to the business community.

Would you be kind enough to suggest who the best person to contact would be to arrange meetings for the Headmaster within the banking and business community during his visit and also to visit the Convent in Light Street where the Francis Light bungalow is being used as a school classroom.

Woodbridge School intends to create a lasting memorial to Francis Light

and wishes to establish stronger links with Penang in the long term. A pane of glass where Francis Light scratched his name when he was at school was presented to your State Museum on Saturday 8th February 1975 by the Chairman of the Tourist Guide Association. The Director of the Museum is meeting Mr Cole and discussing future links.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Bainer
*Director of Fundraising,
Woodbridge School, Suffolk, England*

Email: fundings@seckford-foundation.org.uk
Dated: 19 September 2000

Penang Links

Having found your excellent web site I have to write to say how much at home I feel on it, for apart from having visited your delightful island some years ago as a tourist I have a number of links with your past, your heritage.

Firstly, my two daughters attended Woodbridge School where I believe your founder and first Governor, Francis Light, had also been a pupil. I believe he had been brought up as a child in the nearby village of Dallinghoo. As both Dallinghoo and Woodbridge are in the County of Suffolk, this is no doubt the reason he chose the name Suffolk House for his residence. It is said that he etched his name on a pane of glass at the school, which is now housed in the Penang Museum. I would love to know whether this is correct. My elder daughter visited Penang about six years ago on her 'Round the World' trek, but did not visit the museum. She enjoyed herself

as much as I did, but despised me for my mode of travel and living, regarding herself as much more of a traveller. (Personally I felt that I was a little old for sleeping on bare earth).

A second link, or rather that of my daughters' through their mother, is with Thomas Stamford Raffles who of course had his first overseas posting with HEIC as a clerk on Penang. If I remember correctly he seemed to undertake a great deal of the administrative work that should have been done by the Governor of the time. My ex-wife was a Raffles, she is a half first cousin four times removed of Sir Thomas, as he became.

My third link is with Phillip Dundas, Governor of Penang, dd 8 April 1807, and I believe buried at the Georgetown Cemetery. My computer tells me that I am a 3rd gr. nephew of his. I know little of him, I have him noted as an

Dear PHT Members,

We are in the midst of updating our members' records and setting up an e-group that contains current email addresses of all the PHT members who are connected to the internet. This is to enable us to better serve you in the future by providing you with the latest updates via the information super highway. Please email us your addresses attention to Ms. Priscilla at phtrust@po.jaring.my

MP and a member of the British Cabinet, but I may well be wrong.

Having had a most luxurious week staying at the Rasa Sayang Hotel about nine years ago I have very fond memories of Penang. At that time I was unaware of any links; so just thoroughly enjoyed myself being a tourist, with a day visit into George Town (I remember the steep railway up a mountain), and another day trip around the island. I remember the most revolting smell of a nut, what was that? I believe it began with a 'D'.

If there are any little snippets you know of either Sir Stamford or Phillip Dundas during their time there I would be most grateful.

Yours aye,
Andrew Sellon, East Anglia

Email: andrew.sellon@lineone.net
Dated: 16 October 2000

Got a Spare Old Building?

Conservation is a time consuming and expensive effort which is why in order to encourage conservation, the end product must be able to generate funds which can justify and continue to support the effort.

We would like to contribute to Penang's conservation efforts as well as preservation of some of Penang's heritage. We would like to set up a boutique hotel in an old building giving guests a 'feel' of the old world charm whilst making a decent profit for all involved.

We have worked out the business plan and strategies and are presently looking out for such a building, preferably with some historical significance. We have studied the option of renting a unit but concluded that it would not be suitable for the long run considering the amount of investment and commitment required to make the business viable. As such, we are exploring the possibilities of working with building owners who would be willing to join the business with the building representing their vested interest or even to employ us as a team to bring the project through.

We, consist of 3 individuals; Alex Bay, Choo Lub Hei and Rebecca Wong. Alex with a Degree in Business Studies and Choo a professional accountant by training, chose the hospitality industry for their career paths and have some 18 years experience between them. Rebecca, a jack-of-all-trades with an MBA, has applied her skills and knowledge to the different positions she has held in various industries.

We have decided to pool our talents and resources to pursue a passion we all happen to share which we would like to make a success of in this boutique hotel. Together, we are confident that we can restore a building to its glorious past and add a facet of warm hospitality to this new lease of life. So, if you have an inclination for preservation work and a building with no definite plans, why not meet with us over a cup of coffee to discuss this project and who knows, you might discover a meaningful business to be involved in.

We are planning a visit to Penang in late November and would gladly arrange to meet with any interested parties to discuss this in more detail. We assure you that it will be a confidential, no obligation meeting.

*In the meantime,
you can reach us at:*

alexbay_lc@yahoo.com
choolh@hotmail.com
pkwongr@pc.jaring.my
and 012-798 5395.

*The above email
was received on
17 October 2000*



Rebecca & Choo on holiday in Scotland...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Penang Mansion wins inaugural Asia-Pacific Heritage Conservation Award

Bangkok, 26 September 2000 - Restoration of the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion in Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia has been selected as the "Most Excellent Project" from among the entries in the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage 2000 Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation, the UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific announced today. Other winning projects were the Restoration of Chanwar Palkhiwalon-ki-Haveli, Amber, India and the Hoi An Town Preservation Cooperation Project, Viet Nam, which were selected as "Excellent Projects". Five additional projects were recognized as "Outstanding Projects".

The Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion is a 38-room, 7-staircase, 5-courtyard mansion whose meticulous restoration, led by Laurence Loh and Lin Lee Loh-Lim, has provided great impetus to the preservation movement in Penang. Architect for the project was Laurence Loh Akitek of Penang. The project took six years and used only traditional techniques and materials, to the extent that artisans were brought from Mainland China to repair the *chien nien* mosaics. In awarding the top prize, the jury praised the enormous influence of the project on the community, both in terms of structures in the immediate vicinity and the City of Georgetown as a whole, and

the meticulous research behind the restoration. An awards ceremony will be held at the mansion later this year.

Twenty-six entries from twelve different countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region were submitted for consideration in what was the initial year of the Heritage Awards programme. The awards programme recognizes the best efforts and contributions of private sector individuals and organizations in conserving and restoring structures with heritage value.

The seven-member Selection Panel, comprising Susan Balderstone, conservation architect and Adjunct Professor, Deakin University; Robert Boughey, Managing Director, Robert G. Boughey and Associates; Detlef Kammeier, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, Asian Institute of Technology; A. Spencer Leineweber, Director, Heritage Center, University of Hawaii; Chatvichai Promadhat-tavedi, designer, Pro-Space Co.; William Chapman, UNESCO Technical Advisor; and Richard Engelhardt, UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific, commended the high quality of each submission. The Panel noted that the overall quality of the entries illustrates



The Cheong Fatt Tze mansion

how far the preservation and conservation movement has come in the region. In making their selections, the jury was particularly mindful of how the projects reflected country-specific conservation practices, their relation to and impact on the local community, their use of appropriate materials and techniques, and their respect for the building's history.

The Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, the Chanwar Palkhiwalon-ki-Haveli and the Hoi An Town Preservation Cooperation Project will each receive a cash prize and a plaque. Certificates will be awarded to the five "Outstanding Projects" winners.

Among the four additional projects that were given honourable mentions was the *Rumah Penghulu*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia by Tan Sri Dato' Ahmad Sarji bin Abdul Hamid, Ng Ai Wah, and Waveney Jenkins with a series of technical consultants.

Full descriptions and photographs of the winning entries, along with the jury citations, have been posted on the Awards programme's web site at <http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/awards>.

A Call for Entries for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage 2001 Awards was announced in October 2000. Information and entry forms are available on the web site. ■



Rumah Penghulu
No. 2 Jalan Stonor, Kuala Lumpur

For more information, contact:
Jamie Donahoe
Office of the Regional Advisor
for Culture in Asia and the Pacific

One Year After...

An Evaluation of Campbell Street Mall

By

Diane Dochnahl & Peter Welk

Two German students of the ASA (Auslands- und Studien aufenthalte) programme will present the results of a three-month research they conducted in cooperation with Penang Heritage Trust.

The focus of their project was to get an insight into the planning process, implementation and existence of Campbell Street Semi-Pedestrian Mall one year after completion.

Having consulted various people and different interest groups who were involved in the project, they have worked out recommendations for improvements in Campbell Street and for other pedestrianization projects to be implemented in the future.

Date:
6th December 2000

Time:
5:30 pm

Venue:
Syed Alatas Mansion,
128 Armenian Street
Penang



MEETINGS

High-Level Regional Meeting in Preparation for Istanbul + 5 organised by UNCHS and UN-ESCAP, Hangzhou 19-22 Oct 2000

Khoo Salma Nasution reports...



The Malaysian team

As George Town faces Rent Control Repeal, mass relocation of tenants and declining economic vitality, the world is just gearing up to reaffirming the Habitat Agenda. The most important commitment of the Habitat Agenda is Shelter for all, which means security of tenure and no forced evictions.

The meeting to renew the commitment to the Habitat Agenda was attended by 58 national governments, 32 local authorities, 27 research institutions and 27 NGOs and private sector representatives. The Asian region meeting is in preparation for the Istanbul+5 special UN General Assembly next year.

UNCHS is urging all governments to hasten the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and this starts with the National Habitat Committee and the Local Governments bringing together other partners (private sector, NGOs, community) to collaborate in trying to solve all our urban woes. The Habitat Agenda was agreed to by all governments in 1996 in Istanbul. The UN Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) and its partners are now focusing on 20 key commitments and strategies of The Habitat Agenda.

From Malaysia, the following people attended: *from government in KL*
1. Pn Mahanum (Housing Ministry).

2. Mr. Yeo Bon Hong, Deputy Director General, National Housing Department.
3. Abdul Ghafar Yusof, Assistant Director of Evaluation, Department of Local Government.
4. Hajjah Norasiah bt. Yahya, Ketua Unit Penyelidikan dan Pembangunan.
5. An officer from INTAN.

from TUGI / UNDP team

6. Dato' Anwar Fazal.
7. Sri Husnaini Sofjan.
8. Juliana Mokhtar.
9. Abdur Rahman Paul Barter of SUSTAN and Malaysian Transport egroup.

and from Penang

10. Maimunah Mohd. Sharif, Town Planner, MPPP.
11. Tan Pek Leng, SERI.
12. Khoo Salma Nasution, Asia & West Pacific Network for Urban Conservation (AWPNUC) and Penang Heritage Trust.

The 20 key commitments and strategies are meant to be implemented by national governments, local authorities and also bottom-up by everyone and all communities and all organisations - the people.



Khoo Salma in Hangzhou

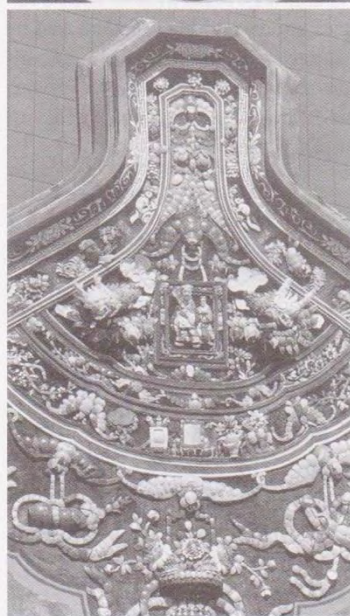
FEATURE ARTICLE

CHINA BLUE

Once the favourite residence of a powerful financier, the Blue Mansion in Penang has been restored to its original splendour by a dedicated duo of architects, explains Judith Windeler.



Two photographs displayed in the mansion symbolise Cheong Fatt Tze's uncanny ability to bridge the gap between East and West. In one, he poses rather solemnly in Chinese mandarin dress as though waiting for an audience with the Empress; in the other looking capable of launching into a Fred Astaire dance number, he wears a tuxedo and top hat with sophisticated panache.



Like a fragment from a scroll painting, an exotic indigo-blue mansion, with graceful, curved windows and a peaked, tiled roof, remains in the midst of Penang's modern high-rises. This rare survivor of old Penang, constructed in a Chinese-courtyard style with Western art-nouveau features, reflects the complex personality of its builder Cheong Fatt Tze. Called the "Rockefeller of the East", he was the most flamboyant of all Penang's multimillionaire *towkays* during the island's heyday of wealthy magnates.

Cheong Fatt Tze was as eclectic in adapting Western ideas to business and politics as he was in designing the architectural features of his home. The *towkay's* 38-room abode sits at a strange diagonal to Leith Street. Hauntingly beautiful, the house is only one of two, which were built in this grand style, left outside China, and, as such, provided the atmospheric location for the 1993 movie *Indochine*. Saved from destruction in 1990, the Straits-eclectic-style mansion was bought and authentically restored over six years by Laurence Loh and Loh-Lim, of Laurence Loh Architects, a local firm specialising in heritage conservation work.

Loh-Lim, a trained psychologist, has devoted much of her time in these past years to bringing Cheong Fatt Tze's house back to life. Captivated by intriguing personality, Loh-Lim senses the *towkay's chi* – what the Chinese call collective energy or spirit, or, more colourfully, dragon's breath – inside the mansion. Energetic, attractive and with a lively sense of humour, Loh-Lim gives an informative tour of the mansion, peppered with witty anecdotes about its former owner. The millionaire's stranger-than-fiction life story could compete with any best-selling novel. "It is a rags-to-riches saga," she relates. Cheong Fatt Tze, a Hakka born in 1840 in Tai Pu, Guangdong Province in South China, left his home at 16 to seek his fortune with

"nothing but the clothes on his back". From toiling as a humble water-carrier in Java he rose to become a powerful shipping magnate and financier with business interests throughout South-East Asia. At the height of his career in the 1890s, when the construction of his home began, he was Consul General for China in Singapore, a director of China's railways and of its first Western-style bank. Dubbed "China's last mandarin and first capitalist", the tycoon also advised China's Manchu Dowager Empress Cixi. After the Manchu Dynasty fell, Cheong Fatt Tze became an economic adviser to the Republican Government, travelling to New York to seek finance for China's development. He was scheduled to meet his Western counterpart, Rockefeller, the year he died. A true innovator, he was dedicated to modernising China by adopting the best Western ideas. He extended this interest to his family life, giving his sons, who were born in Penang, a Western education at the local St Xavier's Institution.

In his many encounters with the West, Cheong Fatt Tze coped with racial prejudice in his own inimitable way. Once he booked a trip on a Western shipping line and was refused first-class accommodation because he was a Chinese. Determined to travel in style, Cheong Fatt Tze was granted a first-class cabin when he threatened to buy the entire fleet. More Oriental potentate than Westerner in his domestic life, the magnate lived on a grand scale with homes throughout his empire to accommodate himself and his eight wives, six sons and numerous daughters. The Penang residence was his principal and favourite because wife number seven, his most beloved, lived here as well as wives number three and six. "You might ask if wife number seven was the favourite, why did he have a number eight?" says Loh-Lim, then answers her own question, explaining: "He had to stay longer than he had expected in Shanghai at one point, and got lonely". She shrugs at the inevitability of wife number eight.

Although fond of Western concepts, the *towkay* embraced the ancient principles of *feng shui* when building his home, which explains its odd position in relation to the street. Loh-Lim says it was most important

Upper Left: The cast-iron spiral staircase inside the house was originally made by MacFarlanes of Glasgow, Scotland.

Left: An example of Southern Chinese porcelain shard work on a gable end; specially manufactured bowls are broken and pasted together to form intricate patterns.

for a man of his stature to have the correct *feng shui* to ensure continued success. Geomancers worked out the proper alignment so that all wind and water flow lines were in close harmony with nature. Rainwater was brought into the house through large pipes in the walls, and kept inside as long as possible before flowing out again. The front door still faces the sea and the building, with hills behind for protection, is on an incline, a position called "riding the dragon's back".

Penangites, accustomed to the mansion being slightly askew, were somewhat taken aback, however, when it was repainted in its original deep-blue colour. According to Loh-Lim, even old-time residents had forgotten that in the 19th century three quarters of Penang's houses were indigo-blue and the rest a limewash of ochre-yellow. It has been known as the Blue Mansion since. The *feng shui* alignments proved auspicious for the *towkay* who made ever more prosperous business deals in his elegant front hall, adorned with geometric floor tiles and art-nouveau stained-glass windows imported from England. While tea was served to business colleagues, wives number three, six and seven, plus several daughters, may have peeked at guests from behind a fantastic gold filigree screen, now restored to its former glory.

The Lohs are dedicated to authentic restoration, which demands extensive research on the house and period, as well as training or finding skilled craftsmen able to use old techniques and tools. Four elderly carpenters, discovered in Penang, took over three years to repair by hand all the woodcarving on the timber beams and shutters. Skilled workers from China restored the fantastic Chien nien mosaics rarely seen in such abundance in private houses. This ceramic shard, a Hokkien art form, decorates the gable ends, doorways, and edges of the tiled roof and the verandahs like mantle of rich embroidery. Loh-Lim picks up a pair of pliers to show how over 12,000 coloured pots were snapped into small pieces and intricately pasted together to form vivid patterns and mythological creatures. Then she progresses into the main court-yard, the largest of five, framed with eight Corinthian columns and a balcony of cast iron from MacFarlanes of Glasgow, combined with Chinese timber lattice work and wood-carved, gilded doors.

"Here," Loh-Lim points to the middle of the courtyard, "is the place where Catherine Deneuve was laid on the couch after being rescued from the opium den in the film *Indochine*." Most of the scenes depicting Hanoi were shot here for the Academy Award-winning film based on the withdrawal of the French from Indochina, now Vietnam. The film crew found Hanoi too difficult, ac-



The external verandah at the front of the mansion has indigo limewashed walls and floor tiles from Stoke-on-Trent, England.

ording to Loh-Lim, so spent four months filming in Penang, which had the perfect architecture. The film brought some publicity to the Blue Mansion, but there were drawbacks. Loh-Lim sadly points out traces of red on the surrounding walls. "Red," she says, "is never used in Chinese homes, but the set designer insisted. He promised the paint would be easy to remove. As you can see, it wasn't and trying to obliterate it cost us a lot of time and money."

She moves on to a side wing of the house and explains that if Cheong Fatt Tze was slightly displeased with a family members, the object of his disgruntlement would be moved to a room here. In what must have been a tumultuous menage, of wives, concubines, children, distant relatives and servants, Cheong Fatt Tze maintained order by room assignments. Current favourites always resided in the centre of the mansion toward the front. Those a bit out of favour were pushed into one of the wings. If the tycoon was really angry with an occupant, it meant exile across the road in the servants' quarters. Now, far more salubrious than when the banished awaited their return to favour, the servants' quarters have been converted into 20 Leith Street, a restaurant and bar, and Jaipur Court, a North Indian restaurant.

Even into old age, Cheong Fatt Tze continued to cut a dash in Penang with his generous philanthropy and fast-paced lifestyle, fathering his last son in 1914 aged 74. On his death in 1916, Dutch and British authorities ordered the flags to fly at half-mast to honour this legendary figure. After his demise, the saga of the house continued. Loh-Lim believes the tycoon plotted his mansion's survival. Unlike his Hakka friends nearby, who favoured the trendy Anglo-Indian bungalows,

Cheong Fatt Tze purposely built an old-fashioned Chinese house that would be difficult to sell. Prospective buyers certainly would have cooled at the prospect of lighting oil lanterns or using chamber pots. Blueprints had been drawn up for indoor plumbing, but never executed, perhaps by design. In addition, his will stipulated that his property could not be sold until the death of his last son. Over the years, the Blue Mansion fell on hard times as the trustees of the estate provided little money for its upkeep. When room were rented out, the mansion slowly began to crumble. Because of the primitive lighting, large amounts of electrical wiring were rigged up on the outside of the house; walls were blackened from cooking with charcoal and gas; clothes lines draped form intricate carvings and the tycoon's once-elegant halls became a race-track for tenants' motorbikes.

When Cheong Fatt Tze's last son died in 1989, the mansion seemed certain to be lost. But the towkay triumphed when the Lohs succumbed to the charms of his, by then, derelict home. Their purpose in resuscitating this venerable mansion was to help enrich Penang's cultural heritage. Loh-Lim, a fifth-generation Straits Chinese, to whom the mansion has become a way of life muses: "Perhaps Cheong Fatt Tze's chi made us save his mansion from the bulldozes."

Judith Windeler is an American living in London, has been a travel writer for 15 years covering numerous destinations in America, Europe and Asia.

Cheong Fatt Tze mansion is open for conducted, historical tours Monday, Wednesday and Friday to Sunday at 11.00 am. The main hall and gardens can be rented for private functions. Tel: +604-2270 076

Photographs this spread: Ian Lloyd

Support this Petition...



Protect Malacca's Heritage

If you are concerned with the changes that have affected the integrity and authenticity of Malacca's heritage environment, and if you believe it must be safeguarded as a shared responsibility, please come to the PHT office at 26A Lorong Stewart, Penang to add your signature to a petition put up by Badan Warisan Malaysia. This petition will be delivered to the relevant authorities in an effort to raise awareness for the need to protect Malacca's heritage.

This alert has been prepared by conservation-minded architects and individuals who are concerned with saving old Malacca.

URGENT ALERTS!

How Safe is Malacca's Living Heritage?

We wish to bring to your attention the deep concern amongst Malaysians and foreign visitors alike with the removal of two traditional trades from Jonker Street as a result of the demolition of their shophouses.

The victims of this incident are Wah Aik Shoemaker formally in no.92 and the Kim Lan Kiong Incense Shop in no.94. Both businesses – but especially Wah Aik Shoemaker – had over the many years become an integral part of Jonker Street and the surrounding historic quarters. Visitors from all over the world remember and recognize the value of places and old trades such as these and their importance as a part of the unique experience and soul of Malacca.

Indeed, their removal was the consequence of an ill-considered plan to introduce new activities in the historic quarters. In our wish to revitalize our historic city centres, do we wish to see the real soul and spirit of our heritage replaced by mediocre cafes, tourist shops, karaoke bars and fast-food outlets?

In many countries, traditional trades and craftsmen are protected under carefully designed and implemented

programmes to ensure that their presence and their craft in historic towns is maintained. This demonstrates the pride and high esteem in which such cultural heritage are considered and valued by the governments and the community. We believe the traditional trades of Malacca – and indeed Malaysia – deserve due recognition and similar protection. If the multi-cultural environment and living heritage of Malacca – the shoemaker, incense shops, rebana & kompang makers and spice shops to name a few – are to form the basis of Malacca's bid for UNESCO's World Heritage status (jointly with Penang), then every effort must be made to ensure that these are protected and have a rightful place in the city's conservation programmes as a 'World Heritage' deserves.

The cancellation of the road project through the Chitty Community and the proposal to gazette the Portuguese Settlement as a heritage site are two good examples of your commitment to preserving Malacca's cultural heritage. If such commendable moves can be extended to the wider context of Malacca's heritage environments, it would ensure the transmission to future generations of a heritage common to all Malaysians. ■

Malacca's heritage is at risk.

Buildings in the historic quarters are being demolished. Others are being altered beyond recognition. New facades mock the old. Unsympathetic intrusions mar the streets. Inappropriate signages, ill-considered fixtures and poorly maintained environment have contributed to a deteriorating centre.

Traditional trades are being evicted. Businesses that offer an important insight into the historic quarters are being removed. Those that remain are endangered. The social and cul-

tural network built over generations and vital to the continued life and soul of the historic quarters is being destroyed.

In the absence of official guidelines and with an indifference in those entrusted with its care, the heritage of Malacca very uncertain future. Without a concerted effort and a comprehensive programme to protect the city's common heritage of people and place, Malaysia's Historic City is at serious risk of being irrevocably lost. ■

PHT Statement on the New High Court Building

Shocking News

The Penang Heritage Trust is shocked to learn that the Federal Authorities have decided to put up a 7 storey car-park cum office block in the fore court of the historic High Court Building in Farquhar Street and have applied for planning permission from the State and Local Authorities.

Previous Objections

Objections previously submitted by the PHT and Badan Warisan when the proposals were publicized last year seems to have been ignored. This is despite the efforts made by both the Badan and the PHT in submitting possible alternative designs to accommodate the needs of the court without compromising the integrity of this historic precinct in Georgetown.

Status of High Court Building and Precinct

We would like to highlight that fact this historic High Court building is not only gazetted and *protected under the Antiquities Act* (one of only six such buildings in Georgetown) but is also a landmark in the precinct which includes other important heritage buildings such as the St George's Church, the Penang Museum and the Light Street Convent (all protected buildings on which extensive conservation work have been done). This precinct also acts as the entry point to historic Georgetown entering into an area which has the Town Hall and City Hall, the Esplanade, Fort Cornwallis and other historic buildings along Light Street.

Alternative Plans

In our previous discussions with the State authorities, we were encouraged by the fact that they shared our concerns and were willing to consider an alternative plan to site the new court buildings in the empty space opposite the Dewan Sri Pinang and, in the process, also offering *State Land to the Federal authorities*.

Categorical Rejection

We find it shocking that these proposals now seems to have been categorically rejected by the Federal Authorities without giving any valid reasons why the alternative plans cannot be considered.

Contradictory Policies

This decision is completely at odds with the existing pro heritage policies expressed by both Federal and State Governments. Among other things Government has done are:

- a) supported *major conservation projects* include the Syed Alatas Mansion, the Kapitan Kling Mosque, the Acheen Street Mosque, the Khoo Kongsi stage and
- b) It has also put in place conservation policies to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of the old city.
- c) Initiated the process of seeking nomination on the *UNESCO World Heritage List* jointly with Malacca.

All this has created more confidence in the private sector that it is worth investing in conservation if the character of the city is sustained as evidenced by the number of private sector restorations which have been recently completed or started.

Serious Consequences

We foresee many serious consequences to this decision other than the destruction of a key heritage precinct in Georgetown. Among them:

- a) Confidence in the future of the attractive heritage character of this city will be eroded putting off *further investment* in private heritage projects.
- b) *Tourism* which is largely heritage based will be adversely affected.
- c) The chances of the Penang/Malacca joint nomination for *World Heritage Listing under UNESCO* will almost certainly be rejected because sound planning policies constitute an important criteria for acceptance.

Hello, New Courthouse... Goodbye, World Heritage Nomination!

"if one particular project is allowed to proceed in its present chosen form in the heart of Penang's oldest historical quarter, the respect of the World Body will be lost, Penang's efforts at promoting enlightened conservation practice will be viewed only as lip service without political will and the people's faith in the government's ability to provide guardianship of the public realm will be seriously questioned and open to ridicule".

Laurence Loh

- d) It will also be a *planning precedent* which will force the planning authorities to approve many more buildings which cannot meet the criteria of accepted conservation guidelines.

Urgent Appeal

Under these circumstances, in the interests of transparency and good governance, we the Penang Heritage Trust ask the Federal Authorities to

- a) reveal the details of their plans for this building for public scrutiny and
- b) explain to the public why it is necessary to destroy this historic precinct
- c) get more public opinion before it proceeds any further.

We also seek the support of like minded individuals and organizations to express their views on this urgent issue. ■

Dr. Choong Sim Poey
President, PHT

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Ipoh, Cultural City of the Future: Strategies for Inner City Revitalisation

Our friends in Perak are starting their own heritage movements and are keen to invite speakers on the subject from Penang.

Khoo Salma's husband Abdur-Razzaq Lubis is the 'Perak Connection' as it were. In fact, Penang and Perak have a lot of historical connections especially through Captain Speedy and Ngah Ibrahim, Mantri of Larut and the old tin-mining families like Chung Kheng Kooi, Leong Fee and Foo Choo Choon.

On 29 September Khoo Salma Nasution gave a talk on 'Ipoh, Cultural City of the Future: Strategies for Inner City Revitalization'. She suggested that Kinta has three things going for it -- tin-mining history, limestone hills and orang asli heritage. The talk was organised by the Perak Perils at the Ipoh Swimming Club. It was attended by more than 20 people including the YB for Local Government of Perak.

On 25 November, Khoo Salma, Laurence Loh and Dato' Anwar Fazal are scheduled to give a talk on 'The potential of Taiping as a cultural heritage destination'. Anwar M. Isa, chairman of the Taiping Visitor and Information Centre (TVIC), has organised this talk and a site visit starting from the Old Clock Tower.

Heritage Conservation issues make its debut in a Chinese cultural festival in Johor Baru

Trust council member Goh Mai Loon not only checks out the scene, but recruits volunteers and makes headlines.

The Penang Heritage Trust got great mileage from participating in the Chinese Cultural Festival held in Johor Baru recently. Organised by the Persatuan Tiong Hua for its 17th anniversary, thousands of people attended cultural events celebrating Chinese song, music, art, calligraphy and the like. The most special event held for the first time in this cultural festival was the Chinese Heritage Conservation seminar on Sept 10. I represented PHT to talk about "The Heritage Conservation, Preservation and Development in Malaysia".

My talk centered on PHT and what it has done in heritage conservation. Based on a 10,000 word essay which I wrote, I discussed the differences of the definitions given to "heritage" as used in Taiwan and Mainland China. I wanted to set right the base concepts of "conservation", "preservation" and "development" before talking about current changes of national and international attitudes towards heritage buildings since the 1970s. I gave a brief background introduction to PHT and highlighted 12 practical ways that any organisation could start working on conservation based on PHT's experience. The full essay was published in "People and Culture" magazine, a

Malaysian Chinese magazine, which was distributed at the seminar. Besides me, Lim Hooi Siang and Tan Yeow Wooi also spoke on Penang's Heritage Guidelines plan and conservation of temples and Chinese buildings respectively. Foreign speakers included Dr Huang from Taiwan's Yaoshan Cultural Foundation, Yeoh from Segamat who had designed a software programme on heritage conservation and Goh Bok Yen from Kuala Lumpur.

There were a lot of questions from the 300-plus crowd who were very curious about PHT and the role it played. One of the organisers was full of praise for PHT, especially the fact that it represented multi-cultural groups and raised substantial funds to save historic buildings and site. A debate started about whether organisations should build on a city or state or national base, but I suggested they started by working hand in hand with PHT! So at least 40 people from Sarawak to Kedah signed up with us, and we can contact them in future.

I think PHT got excellent publicity among the Chinese-speaking groups and now, it is even a "role model" for other heritage and conservation organisations. As a result of the seminar: Sin Chew Jit Poh, the co-organiser, ran a quarter page article on PHT with the headline "Heritage conservation is everyone's responsibility because this leads to better understanding of history". They also said each state should form a heritage organisation. ■



Mai Loon in action: A passionate speech on PHT!

The Education in Conservation Programme History Teachers Workshop, 30 September 2000

*Project Director Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee describes the
successful event with enthusiasm...*

In conjunction with Badan Warisan and Arts-Ed and together with the blessings of the Education Department, PHT held its first History Teachers Workshop, to introduce heritage conservation to schools. 29 teachers responded (on a Saturday morning!) representing 19 schools and left at the end of the programme with what we hope was a fresh view of the vast possibilities open to them to make history lessons a pleasure instead of the chore it now is.

The programme started with an introduction by Arts-Ed Co-ordinator, Janet Pillai, a welcoming address by PHT Chairman, Dr Choong, followed by a talk and slide show by the Project Director, Loh-Lim. The enthusiasm of the teachers was clearly demonstrated by their request that the entire carousel of slides be shown again so that they could identify each and every building and area depicted. Lim Huck Chin of Badan Warisan and Loh-Lim then explained their respective education programs, where and how the schools could utilize what was being offered and when these would be available to assist them.

After tea, Charlene Rajendran of K.L. facilitated the workshop with the par-



Fully-packed lecture room at the Caring Complex

ticipants demonstrating recall of childhood memories of building details and drawing them, then explaining to their workgroups their significance. Each group then collectively developed project proposals for their respective schools in relation to heritage appreciation.

As a finale, teachers were offered an 'instant' project for their students to partake in, the Bordeaux Centre of Architecture 'Mutations' competition, a world-wide international event. All the children needed to do was, send a picture of their home and of their city and answer the questions 'What I like most about my city. What I hate most. What is my idea of a city today.'

It is anticipated that the Education in Conservation Program will have full participation from schools in George Town. All the 19 schools have already requested talks and slide shows for their teachers and students and many of them wish to then proceed to the heritage walkabouts. We will require assistance and volunteers for the programme. Please call the office for information.

Many thanks to Janet Pillai, Lim Huck Chin, Charlene Rajendran & Lara Ariffin. We look forward to working with you in future projects. ■



Participants engrossed in a discussion group.

PHT's EDUCATION PROJECT

The Penang Heritage Trust is currently organising a voluntary "Education in Conservation" programme involving all secondary schools in George Town. The approach is one of history lessons can be fun if you take them out of the classrooms.

The programme is aimed at exposing students to their built heritage and to the history and cultural communities related to them. Given the wealth of historical areas available in Penang, it expects to elevate interest in local history from the current textbook level to a new awareness of both the relevance and the proximity of critical historical events. It also aims to create awareness of the cultural vibrancy and richness of the inner city of George Town, one of the 100 Most Endangered Monuments of the World.

The first phase of the project involves interested schools inviting the PHT to give lectures and slide shows. The second phase involves Heritage Walkabouts, to bring history alive by exposing the children to historical areas, and the third encompasses co-curricular activities around the subject of historical buildings, personalities, events and areas.

The programme has the full support of the Education Department and will move into full-swing in year 2001.

Enquiries should be directed to Priscilla at 2642631 (Tel/Fax) or email to phtrust@po.jaring.my.

Serve Historic George Town -- Listed on 200 most endangered sites 2000, World Monuments Watch.

Inner City Trails of George Town



Organised by the Penang Heritage Trust in collaboration with Ken-Air PHT

*Please help us to
promote!*

*PHT will be conducting
these three trails:*

Tuesday
Little India, Spice Trail

Wednesday
Heritage Trail 2 &
Cheong Fatt Tze

Thursday
Street of Harmony &
Historical Enclave.

*Those interested to join can
contact Priscilla at Tel 264-2631
at least a day before for any of
the tours. The fees for the trails
are RM50 per pax (3-10) and
RM40 per pax (11 & above).*



Official Launch of The Inner City Trails of George Town

On Friday 10 November 2000, at 9 am in the morning, the President, Dr Choong Sim Poey welcomed Yang Berhormat, Dato' Kee Phaik Cheen, Council members, members, President of Penang Tourist Guides Association and members of the Press. Teresa Capol, our Council member, who initiated these trails with Joanne Khaw, volunteer and tourist guide, gave a speech on the potential for cultural and heritage tourism as the main attraction for Penang. She has found that a large sector of tourists nowadays plan, research and equip themselves very well before arriving in Penang. Therefore, they will not tolerate being patronized with ill-informed and superficial commentaries on the historic city. PHT is often called upon by the State and other groups or VIP visitors to lead specialist historic tours. It was felt that as a charitable organisation with specialist skills, we should be getting donations for these services.

At 9.30 am, our Yang Berhormat, Dato' Kee Phaik Cheen launched the heritage trails of the Inner City of George Town by sounding the gong thrice.



Madam Kee striking the gong



Tourist Guides Seminar

The Penang Heritage Trust recently conducted a Heritage Tour Guides' Course on 7 and 8 October 2000. The two-day course was attended by 7 guides, 2 schoolteachers and 1 volunteer. There were guided tours on the 3 heritage trails and slide presentation on conservation and architecture. The course was very informative and productive, updating the already trained guides on the finer aspects of heritage tour guiding.

Nara Machizukuri Center, Japan

PHT old friend, Mr Taro Ryotaro Katsura, the Vice-Chairman from Nara Machizukuri Center will be visiting PHT between 1 - 3 December 2000. He would like to meet some of our members and perhaps the Japanese community in Penang, as he will be organising a visit next March 2001 with his students.

Heritage Tours & Trails

Teresa Capol has recently conducted some trishaw and walking tours on:

23 September 2000 – with 25 participants from 14 countries (from Chile to Cook Island passing by Mongolia) of the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN). Teresa with 2 of the organisers trying to figure out where the participants want to finish their trishaw ride or go “shopping” or go back but they happily ended at Sushi’s for a tasty “dosseh”.



27 September 2000 – with 3 of Maybank management group. They were doing a preliminary trishaw and walking tour with PHT as they will be organising another one in November for the wives of the Maybank Board of Directors. They have enjoyed and will be recommending us.



3 November 2000 – with 8 Datin-Datin of the Board of Directors and Maybank executives who enjoyed the trishaw ride and of course the Cheong Fatt Tze mansion.

PROJECTS

The Endangered Trades of George Town, Penang

Realizing the importance of the preservation of the trades that form part of the heritage of Penang the PHT is urgently collecting information on all perceived endangered trades of the inner city, that may be affected by the repeal of the Rent Control Act. With a subsidy from the Penang State Government, PHT is conducting a project to collect data, identify possible endangered trades and suggest solutions for the continuance and revitalization of those trades. Given that the identification of what is considered ‘traditional’ as well as ‘endangered’, is subjective, interpretive as well as vastly numerous, the methodology of the project has involved:

1. Identification of streets in the inner city & recording of ALL commercial activities by street, address, photography and designation of business.

2. Recording other buildings (e.g. residential, warehousing etc) to order to present realistic directions of relocation or retention in future proposals.
3. Discussions with traders during data collection, as well as during city- revitalization get-togethers.
4. Identification of core/nucleus buildings and surrounding dependent trades.
5. Recommendations for pro-active moves to retain & aid endangered trades.

PHT members are invited to send in cases & addresses of individual trades or particular trade-areas which they feel are endangered, as well as suggestions for revitalization.

Loh-Lim
Project Coordinator



Ode to Suffolk House

*Tangled vegetation,
Creepers sprout,
Gnarled tree roots,
Wild plants anchored deep.*

*Bats sanctuary,
Spiders haven,
Termites paradise,
Within her dank interior.*

*Cracked walls,
Exposed bricks,
Forlorn pillars,
Mirror the ravages of Time
And Neglect.*

*Roofless...
Buffeted by rain and storm,
Baked dry by the hostile sun,
Her misery etched for posterity.*

*Beams collapse,
Rattlers rot,
Staircases creak,
Shutters detach...
On their own.*

*Forty years of rack and ruin.
Ghostly visions dance about.
Death throes beckon.*

*Awake, arise...
Heed the clairon call.
Before Suffolk House is...
No More.*

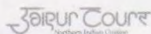
by Raymond Kwok

Special Discounts!

13 retail outlets in Penang & other cities have become our pioneer "discount" givers in our new effort to bring more value to your PHT membership card! Look out for PHT stickers at these outlets, which have kindly extended 10% discount or special rates if you present your card.



21A Codrington Avenue
10350 Penang



11 Leith Street
10200 Penang



Old China Cafe
No. 9 Beach Street
10300 Penang

WHITE RAJAH RESTAURANT & BAR

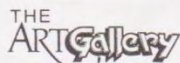
4, Jalan Telawi, Bangsar Baru
59100 Kuala Lumpur

2, Jalan Bukit Jambul
11900 Penang



Linen
&
Things

Lot F-9, 1st Floor KL Plaza
Jalan Bukit Bintang
55100 Kuala Lumpur



368-4 Bellisa Row
Jalan Burma
10350 Penang



M-K1 Mezzanine Floor
Island Plaza, Tg. Tokong
10470 Penang

The Garage
2 Penang Road
10000 Penang



Desa Tanjung
Jalan Tg. Tokong
10470 Penang



A31, The Garage
2 Penang Road
10000 Penang



Purser's Choice
—Asian Contemporary Living—
26, Jln Pudu Lama
50200 K.L.

MERCHANDISE CORNER

All items listed here are available from the PHT Office. Please note that 10-20% of the proceeds goes to PHT, so your kind support will be much appreciated...



CALENDAR 2001

A collection of bird paintings
in vibrant colours
by Dr. Neoh Chin Boon

Price: RM 10.00

PENANG HILL MAP

A delightfully & innovatively
illustrated map & brochure
full of useful information
about Penang Hill

Price: RM 4.00



FACES OF GEORGE TOWN BOOKMARKS

Khoo Cheang Jin Watercolours
Set of 8 bookmarks

Price: RM 6.00



VICTOR CHIN POSTCARDS

32 watercolours of urban scenes
in Penang, Kuala Lumpur
Melaka & Singapore

Price: RM 15.00 (set of 4)



CHEONG FATT TZE MANSION CARDS

Set of 8 blank cards
depicting the splendor of
the magnificent mansion

Price: RM 12.00

"Save Historic George Town" Car Sticker: RM 2.00 each

Save Historic George Town

LISTED ON 100 MOST ENDANGERED SITES 2000, WORLD MONUMENTS WATCH

website: www.pht.org.my • email: phtrust@po.jaring.my

PENANG
HERITAGE
TRUST
Persatuan
Warisan
Pulau
Pinang

PHT