

為歷史建築注入活力

Giving life force to historic buildings

本刊記者 Staff reporters

在保育歷史建築方面，香港雖然起步較晚，但仍可急起直追。

Although Hong Kong is a latecomer in heritage conservation, it can still strive to catch up.

引言

英國外交大臣巴麥尊勳爵，於一八四二年香港割讓給英國之前，曾經形容香港是「一個荒蕪島嶼，永遠都成不了貿易中心」。自此之後，人人都以為香港由一個落後的漁業社區，經過大約一百五十年的英國統治後，變成了先進的國際金融大都會。

可是，上述看法與事實大相逕庭。考古發掘已經證實，香港遠在五六千年前就已有入類居住，而早在秦朝就已隸屬於中央政府的行政架構，北宋時現今九龍東部一帶曾經是官方鹽場。此外，香港在中國近代史上也起過非凡作用：一九一一年，清朝被孫文及其追隨者推翻，中國首個共和國於是成立，而為孫文提供外國教育，並且是革命的根據地者，正是香港。

其他地方倘若如此浸潤於歷史之中，肯定會對歷史建築及遺跡珍而重之，加以保育，藉此使市民瞭解過去，培養吾鄉吾土的感情。然而香港不是那樣，這裡一向都視發展重於古蹟保育，直至近年才有所改變。香港在古蹟保育方面雖然不是先知先覺，但近幾年的努力已漸見成果，這由「活化歷史建築夥伴計劃」的成績可見一斑。

夥伴計劃於二零零八年推出，由政府為歷史建築提供修繕資金，並由非牟利的外界夥伴活化並持續營運，使建築物能保持形貌，並善加運用。夥伴計劃有些項目已經完成或即將完成，有更多項目則正在籌劃階段。以下介紹的三個項目，全都值得旅客及本地居民一遊。

Introduction

British Foreign Secretary Lord Palmerston once described Hong Kong, before its cession to Britain in 1842, as “a barren island that will never be a mart of trade”. Since then, popular belief has it that Hong Kong has transformed itself under British rule from a backward fishing community to a first-world international financial cosmopolitan in a span of about 150 years.

This belief, however, is far from true. **Archaeological findings have already established that Hong Kong was inhabited by human beings as far back as five to six thousand years ago, was a recognised part of the administrative structure of the central government as early as the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC), and had an official saltern in the Northern Song Dynasty (AD 960-1127) in the area around today's east Kowloon. Hong Kong also played a vital role in modern history of China: it helped China to establish its first republic in 1911 by providing a foreign education and a revolutionary base for Dr Sun Yat-sen, who, together with his followers, overthrew China's last dynasty, the Qing Dynasty (AD 1644-1911).**

Other places so steeped in history would no doubt have cherished and preserved their historic buildings and monuments in order for their citizens to understand their past and feel their roots. But not quite so with Hong Kong, which has always given greater priority to development than heritage conservation until recent years. **Although the city is a latecomer in heritage conservation, its efforts in the past few years have begun to bear fruit, as shown by the results of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme.**

Launched in 2008, the Scheme provides government funding for revitalisation of historic buildings and their continuous operation by non-profit-making outside partners in order to keep them in good shape and for good use. Under the Scheme, several projects have already been completed or about to be completed, and many more are still on the drawing board. The following three projects are certainly worth a visit by tourists and local people alike.

饒宗頤文化館

饒宗頤文化館的前身是荔枝角醫院，是三級歷史建築，分為上中下三區，由香港中華文化促進中心參與修復、活化和營運，以推動中華文化和藝術為宗旨。

饒宗頤
文化館沿山而建，

在那一帶填海前臨近海邊，十九世紀末是清政府的關廠；下區東邊山坡上仍保留著「九龍關地界」碑石，證明這裡曾是中英分界的地帶。二十世紀初，英國人在此興建出洋華工的屯舍，後來改建為檢疫站，再後來改建成監獄。一九三八年，監獄改建為荔枝角醫院，專門治療傳染病人。一九七五至二零零四年間，醫院用作精神病院及長期護理院。二零零九年，醫院建築群展開活化工程；二零一四年中，文化館全面啟用。

饒宗頤文化館保留了原來長方型斜頂紅磚樓房的建築特色，並且融合了園林式的自然環境。下區設有藝術館和

保育館，藝術館展出國學大師饒宗頤教授的書法及畫作，保育館則介紹文化館現址約一百年來的變遷。中區由六座樓房構成，提供展覽館、活動室、演藝廳、文化講堂、藝術工房、會議室等設施，推動長者就業的社會企業「銀杏館」則提供餐飲服務。文化旅館「翠雅山房」位於上區，由五座兩層樓房組成，有八十九間房間，全都以中式設計為主，古樸典雅。

饒宗頤文化館開放給公眾免費參觀(有免費導賞服務)，館中場地可以租用，詳情請瀏覽文化館網站：<http://www.jtia.hk>。



▲ 文化館下區保留了具百年歷史的中式斜頂紅磚樓房。
The low zone of the Academy preserves the century-old red brick houses with Chinese-style pitched roofs.



▲ 藝術館展出饒宗頤教授的書畫作品。
The Gallery exhibits the calligraphic works and paintings by Prof. Jao Tsung-i.



▲ 中式佈置的文化旅館「翠雅山房」。
The Heritage Lodge is furnished in Chinese style.

Jao Tsung-I Academy

Jao Tsung-I Academy, formerly Lai Chi Kok Hospital and a Grade III historic building, is divided into the low, middle and high zones, and is restored, revitalised and operated by the Hong Kong Institute for Promotion of Chinese Culture, with the objectives of promoting Chinese culture and art.

Sited on a hillside and once at the seaside before land reclamation in the neighbouring area, the Academy was a customs station of the Qing Government in the late 19th century. A boundary stone, now nestled in the eastern hillside of the low zone with the Chinese inscription "Kowloon Customs Boundary" on it, confirms the Chinese and British territorial borders back then. Quarters for Chinese labourers to be sent overseas to work were built by the

British at the site in the early 20th century, which were to become a quarantine station and then a prison. Later in 1938, the prison was converted into Lai Chi Kok Hospital for treating infectious diseases, and then used as a psychiatric hospital and a chronic sanatorium between 1975 and 2004.

Revitalisation works began in 2009, and the Academy has been fully open since mid-2014.

The Academy preserves the architectural features of the original red brick houses, rectangular in shape with pitched roofs, and integrated into the surrounding landscape of traditional Chinese gardens. Located in the low zone are The Gallery, where the calligraphic works and paintings by Professor Jao Tsung-i, the greatest living Chinese "Renaissance man", are displayed, and the Heritage Hall, where the story of the site's various changes during the past 100 years or so is told through the exhibits. There are six blocks of houses in the middle zone, providing such facilities as exhibition halls, activity rooms, a theatre, a lecture hall, workshops and a conference room, as well as a restaurant, Gingko House, operated by a social enterprise promoting employment for senior people. **The Heritage Lodge, located in the high zone and providing 89 guest rooms in five blocks of two-storey houses, is designed in the traditional Chinese style to bring out an aura of ancient elegance.**

Admission to the Academy is free (with free guided tours), and its venues are available for rent. For details, please visit its website at <http://www.jtia.hk/en>.

綠匯學苑

綠匯學苑的原址是一級歷史建築舊大埔警署，由嘉道理農場暨植物園活化並營運，旨在向公眾推廣健康低碳生活，並且提供教育營舍宿位。

一八九八年六月，清政府將新界租借給英國九十九年。翌年三月，港府派人到大埔運頭角的山丘上搭建臨時警棚，準備舉行升旗儀式，正式接收新界。四月十四日，新界鄉民焚燒警棚，擬藉武力阻止新界移交。英軍增援反擊，升旗儀式提前一天於四月十六日在運頭角山丘上舉行；新界各地反抗的鄉民被英軍追擊，直至四月十九日鄉民投降，長達六天的戰爭才結束。除第二次世界大戰與日軍戰鬥外，「這場六日戰爭是英治時期香港境內唯一的戰事」。

港府其後於運頭角的山丘上興建大埔警署，這是新界首個警察總部，也是英國接收新界後的行政中心。二次大戰後，舊大埔警署先後用作警察及水警的辦事處及臨時宿舍，自二零零六年起空置，於二零一零年開始活化。

綠匯學苑不僅保留原來建築風格的特色，還展示內部一些本來面貌，例如羈留所及槍房。此外，原有食堂會繼續沿用，提供健康低碳素食餐，而本來的職員宿舍則合共提供十二間房間。綠匯學苑除了展示舊大埔警署的歷史以及介紹大埔墟的發展外，還會舉辦工作坊、烹飪班、宿營課程等，教導參加者永續生活及飲食文化。綠匯學苑將於今年十一月正式啟用，網址為：<http://www.lowcarbonliving.hk/chi/LowCarbonCommunity-GreenHub-Trachi.aspx>。

石屋家園

三級歷史建築石屋(侯王廟新村三十一至三十五號)，由永光鄰舍關懷服務隊有限公司活化，並改名為「石屋家園」。

Green Hub

The Green Hub, situated at the original site of the old Tai Po Police Station, a Grade I historic building, is revitalised and operated by Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden in order to promote healthy, low-carbon living to the public, and provide lodgings for educational purposes.

In June 1898, the Qing Government leased the New Territories to Britain for 99 years. A temporary makeshift police station was erected in March the following year on a small hill (later known as "Flagstaff Hill") in Wan Tau Kok, Tai Po, where a flag-raising

ceremony would be held to mark the official takeover of the area. On 14 April, the villagers there burnt down the police station in an attempt to resist the takeover by force. With reinforcements, the British troops fought back, and the flag-raising ceremony was held on the hill on 16 April, one day earlier than the original plan. Villagers who rose up throughout the New Territories were pursued until

they surrendered on 19 April, when the six-day campaign came to an end. Apart from the fighting against the Japanese during World War II, "this war was the only military campaign fought within the Hong Kong area during the period of British administration".

Tai Po Police Station, a permanent structure later built on Flagstaff Hill, was the first police headquarters in the New Territories and also the administrative centre of the British since the takeover. After World War II, the station was used as the offices and temporary quarters of the Police and the Marine Police until being left vacant in 2006; it began to be revitalised in 2010.

Preserving the original architectural features and retaining some original structures such as the cells and the armoury, the Green Hub will provide healthy, low-carbon meals in the original canteen and 12 guest rooms in the staff quarters. The history of the old Tai Po Police Station and developments of Tai Po Market will be introduced to the visitors through various exhibitions, and workshops, cooking classes, overnight camps, etc will be organised to promote the concept of sustainable living and dining to the participants. The Green Hub will be officially open in November this year; its website is: <http://www.lowcarbonliving.hk/eng/LowCarbonCommunity-GreenHub-eng.aspx>.

Stone Houses Family Garden

The Grade III historic building Stone Houses at Nos. 31-35 Hau Wong Temple New Village are renamed "Stone Houses Family Garden" after revitalisation by Wing Kwong So-Care Company Limited.



十九世紀末，何氏家族於石屋原址興建了一幢豪華大宅「何家園」。大宅於一九三零年代已經空置，二次大戰期間被日軍拆毀，在舊址上興建了一些兩層高的



中式平房(部份為現存的石屋)，並改名為「侯王新村」。戰後大批中國人逃難來港，這些平房經修葺後租予他們棲身。五十年代有好幾家片場於村內運作，六七十年代則有不少「山寨廠」及工場，包括「藍恩記山墳墓碑工程公司」，其招牌仍保留在此。

石屋家園以懷舊冰室為主題；石屋部份單位會改建為懷舊冰室，提供餐飲服務及桌上遊戲，部份地方會用作文物探知中心，以展示九龍城區及石屋的歷史，並會配以使用過的昔日傢具和家居用品，重現石屋過去的生活。石屋家園預計於今年第四季啟用，網址為：www.stonehouses.org。

遲勝於無

今年五月，世界經濟論壇發表兩年一度的《旅遊業競爭力報告》，在全球一百四十一個經濟體之中，香港排名第十三位，比上一份報告升高了兩位。與亞太區的對手相比，香港低於澳洲(第七位)、日本(第九位)及新加坡(第十一位)，卻高於中國(第十七位)、南韓(第二十九位)、台灣(第三十二位)、泰國(第三十五位)等不少地方。

《旅遊業競爭力報告》以十四項指標評分(最低為1分，最高為7分)，香港只有兩項指標不及亞太區整體，即「價格競爭力」及「文化資源及商務旅遊」：前者遠遜整區(香港：3.59分，亞太區：4.75分)，恐怕難以扭轉劣勢，後者則只是稍遜而已(香港：2.58分，亞太區：2.85分)，只要今後做好各種保育工作，說不定在中長期就可以見到成果。✎

(饒宗頤文化館、綠匯學苑、石屋家園協助採訪並提供照片，特此鳴謝。)

In the late 19th century, the Ho family built a grand two-storey building, named "Ho Ka Yuen", at the original site of the Stone Houses, which was left unoccupied in the 1930s. During World War II, it was demolished by the Japanese army, and some two-storey Chinese-style cottages, which formed part of the Stone Houses, were built at the same site and renamed "Hau Wong New Village" by the Japanese. After the war, a huge number of Chinese refugees came to settle in Hong Kong, and the cottages were repaired to house them. Several film

studios operated in the village in the 1950s, and some of the Stone Houses were rented to many small plants and factories in the 1960s and 1970s, including the Nam Yan Kee Grave and Tombstone Construction Company, whose name board has been kept at the site.

Stone Houses Family Garden uses the concept of a nostalgic *bing sutt*, a Hong Kong-style café, as its theme, with some houses renovated as a *bing sutt*, where simple meals and drinks and board games will be available, and some others turned into a heritage discovery centre, with exhibits to show the history of the Kowloon City District and the Stone Houses, and used furniture and daily household items on display to take visitors back to the past of life in the Stone Houses. Stone Houses Family Garden (www.stonehouses.org) will officially open in the fourth quarter of this year.

Better late than never

The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report, released every two years by the World Economic Forum in May this year, ranks Hong Kong 13th out of a total of 141 economies, two ranks up from the last report. When compared with its Asia-Pacific rivals, Hong Kong is ranked lower than Australia (7th), Japan (9th) and Singapore (11th), but higher than China (17th), South Korea (29th), Taiwan (32nd), Thailand (35th) and many more.

The Report uses 14 pillars to assess the economies on a scale of 1 to 7 where 7 is the best, and Hong Kong loses out to the Asia-Pacific region as a whole only in two pillars, namely "Price Competitiveness" (Hong Kong: 3.59, Asia-Pacific: 4.75) and "Cultural Resources and Business Travel" (Hong Kong: 2.58, Asia-Pacific: 2.85). Whereas the lost ground in the former could hardly be recovered as Hong Kong's ranking is far lower than the region, the latter is just marginally inferior, which means that promising results may be achievable in the medium to long term if conservation work in various areas is properly done from now on. ✎

(Special thanks for the assistance and photos provided by Jao Tsung-I Academy, the Green Hub and Stone Houses Family Garden.)