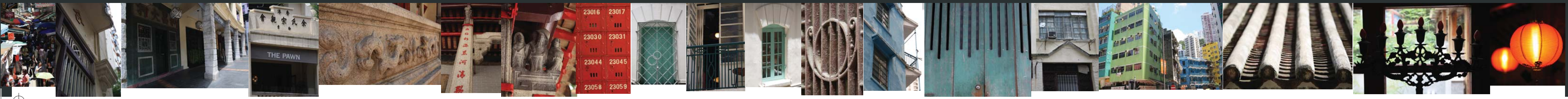


**WAN CHAI: WHERE EAST MEETS WEST**  
**Wan Chai Heritage Trail**



# HERITAGE TRAIL THE ARCHITECTURAL



**1. GREEN HOUSE** GRADE 2 HISTORIC BUILDING  
NOS. 1 TO 11 MALLORY STREET  
AND NOS. 4 - 12 BURROWS STREET

Built in early 20th century. The narrow reinforced concrete balcony shows increasing popularity of using concrete as a building material at that time. The cast iron pillar, iron balustrade and French windows reflect Western influence. The G/F of nos. 3-7 was once used as shelters for the homeless. The famous "Yau Chai Kee Restaurant" and "Hong Kong Sinfonietta" were also there.

**2. HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS CHEST AND HEART DISEASE ASSOCIATION - NO. 266 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST "BAUHAUS" ARCHITECTURAL STYLE**

Built in 1950, now part of the Ruttonjee Hospital. The former Royal Navy Hospital was donated by tycoon Mr. Jehangir Hormusjee Ruttonjee in memory of his daughter who died of tuberculosis.

**3. WANCHAI MARKET** GRADE 3 HISTORIC BUILDING  
"STREAMLINE MODERNE" ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Redeveloped in 1937, the Wan Chai Market was built with a "Streamline" style. The curved façade and slim canopies were influenced by curvilinear shapes of early 20th century e.g. aeroplanes, ocean liners and automobiles. This became "fashionable", even in architecture.

**4. BLUE HOUSE** GRADE 3 HISTORIC BUILDING  
NOS. 72 - 74A STONE NULLAH LANE

Built in early 20th century, it is the original site of the "Hua Tuo Temple and Hospital". Its sign is still preserved. Redevelopment in 1920's, the G/F of no. 72 was used as the "Kang Ham Free School" (now Lam Chun Hin Osteopathy Clinic). Surplus blue paint from the Government had been used for renovation, hence the cluster is known as "Blue House" today.

**5. YELLOW HOUSE** GRADE 2 HISTORIC BUILDING  
NO. 2 - 4 HING WAN STREET

For the Yellow House, typical features commonly formed in shophouses such as balconies cannot be accommodated because of the narrow street. The façade is decorated in Western style with "pediment resembling" moulding above the shop front, iron grilles, and arched windows.

**6. NOS. 186 - 190 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST "GUANGZHOU VERANDAH TYPE" SHOPHOUSE** GRADE 2 HISTORIC BUILDING

Built in 1930's with reinforced concrete. Tai Shing Goldsmith and Chi Sang Goldsmith operated there until 2005. This had been a popular place in the area for jewelry. The building will be adaptively re-used by the Urban Renewal Authority.

**NOS. 60A - 66 JOHNSTON ROAD "GUANGZHOU VERANDAH TYPE" SHOPHOUSE**

Built in early 20th century, the deep verandah is a design response to the tropical climate. The shop sign in Chinese have been restored to the original outlook. The restored building with restaurants is a successful example of adaptive re-use.

**NO. 18 SHIP STREET** GRADE 2 HISTORIC BUILDING

Built in early 20th century by the Tse family of Hop Yuen Construction Company. It has Western style decorations with plastered column motifs. The Chinese shop sign is still preserved today. This has been successfully adapted as a "Private Kitchen" restaurant by the Urban Renewal Authority.

**NAM KOU TERRACE, SHIP STREET** GRADE 1 HISTORIC BUILDING

Built in 1918 by the tycoon Mr. To Chun-man. The house has been vacant since he died. It was purchased by Hopewell holdings in 1970's for redevelopment. Nam Kou Terrace is decorated in both Western and Chinese architectural styles. It is called "Red House" due to its red bricks.

**STAR STREET PRECINCT (INCLUDING NO. 31 WING FUNG STREET)**

St. Francis Church and a hospital were built in 1845 in the area. The sloping St. Francis Yard was a gathering place for Catholics. In 1890, the first power plant in Hong Kong was built at the slope above St. Francis Lane.

No. 31 Wing Fung Street is a residential building in "ART DECO" style, with minimal façade decorations. The "rounded" corner blends in with the junction of the two narrow streets.

**ASSEMBLY GROUNDS IN WANCHAI**

**HERITAGE TRAIL**

**7. PAK TAI TEMPLE** GRADE 1 HISTORIC BUILDING  
STONE NULLAH LANE

Built in 1862 and renovated in 2005, the temple contains various gods and statues with high aesthetic values. The temple is built in Chinese courtyard style. The decorations include Chinese stone/ wood carvings and lime sand mouldings. The "Shiwan" pottery roof exhibits Cantonese opera stories, characteristic of "Lingnan" architecture.

**8. FORMER WAN CHAI POST OFFICE DECLARED MONUMENT (ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE CENTRE)**

Built in 1915, it has been adapted by the Environmental Protection Department as a resource centre. The interior has not been much altered. The letter pigeon holes are still preserved today.

**9. CROSS STREET/ TAIYUEN STREET OPEN MARKET**

Street hawkers were popular after World War II, providing cheap daily goods and food to the locals. Street market had been a distinct character of Hong Kong and a popular setting for films e.g. "The World of Suzie Wong". Tai Yuen Street is also famous for its toy shops.

**10. HUNG SHING TEMPLE** QUEEN'S ROAD EAST  
GRADE 1 HISTORIC BUILDING

Hung Shing Temple was built before 1847 against a big boulder protruding inside which is used as the altar table. Though it is small, the layout contains all the worshipping essentials with the "Shiwan" ceramic pottery decorations on the roof. The adjacent Kwun Yin Temple was built later in the 1910's.

**GRESSION STREET OPEN MARKET**

Gresson Street Open Market began in the 1950's. Although the street is short, the stalls offer both wet and dry goods.

**THE BEGINNINGS OF WANCHAI**

Wanchai is one of the earliest settlements in Hong Kong (1840's). The Spring Garden Lane area was once a high class residential area for Europeans. Shipyards were built along the seashore. With reclamation starting in the 19th century, the development was taken over by Chinese developers, witnessing the transformation from a small fishing village to a 21st century metropolis. Today, heritage buildings are still found in Wan Chai.

From 1842, the Government began reclaiming and selling land along the Wan Chai Bay. Many Western houses were built by the Portuguese and Japanese who lived in the area. From 1843-1844, the foothill of Tai Fat Hau (present St. Francis, Sun, Moon and Star Streets) was used as Catholic Cemeteries, which were moved to Happy Valley in 1845.

In 1847, the foothill of Hospital Hill (present Wan Chai Road) was developed into Chinese living quarters. Later, many fled to Hong Kong from China and settled in Wan Chai. With increasing population, many Western buildings were converted to Chinese-style tenements.

**"BIG NUMBER BROTHELS"**

In 1860's, foreign merchants sold the land to the Chinese, and hence became a Chinese area, with some middle/lower class foreigners living in western style buildings. The Chinese mainly stayed near the Hung Shing and Pak Tai Temples. The first power plant in Hong Kong was built in 1890 near St. Francis Street.

In early 1900's, the foothill of Kennedy Road was sold to Chinese people. Spring Garden Lane and Sampan Street became a "red-light district" occupied by brothels. To attract attention, large street numbers were displayed, thus it is called the "Big Number Brothels". At the junction of Queen's Road East and Arsenal Street, there was a Japanese company with a logo of a Big Buddha and thus the area is called Tai Fat Hau (Entrance of the Big Buddha).

Hennessy Road was formed by reclamation from 1921-1929. In the 1930's, many new four-storeys shophouses were built, which attracted the middle class. The Southern Playground was built with the donation from Lady Southorn. Reclamation went on in 1940 - 1950's and Lockhart Road west became a "red-light district" - a node for sailors and the navy.

**WANCHAI WHERE EAST MEETS WEST**

**WANCHAI BAY 1940'S**

www.wcheritage.org.hk

Collaborating Partners

**Development Bureau**  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
http://www.devb.gov.hk

**灣仔區議會**  
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**市區重建局**  
URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY  
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http://www.sjs.org.hk

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**舊區專責委員會**  
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On 10 October 2007, the Chief Executive stated in his Policy Address "Cultural life is a key component of a quality city life. A progressive city treasures its own culture and history along with a living experience unique to the city". Wan Chai is one of the earliest settlements in Hong Kong, and still possesses heritage and buildings of different periods. The Wan Chai District Council has previously produced a booklet on reclamation development. To address the increasing concern on conservation by the public, the Development Bureau has established the Old Wan Chai Revitalisation Initiatives Steering Committee (OWRISC) to study the cultural heritage of Wan Chai. The OWRISC includes Wan Chai District Council members, professionals and historians, with Urban Renewal Authority as the secretariat. This pamphlet presents the local culture and history of Wan Chai, by highlighting the distinctive architectural character of selected buildings and places.

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