



THE SALAD BOWL



23 LOVE LANE

23 Love Lane stands in a silent oasis within the bustling metropolis of Penang, infused with an enthralling mix of different styles of architecture dating back to the 19th century.

23 Love Lane Penang holds a tapestry of history dating back to the 19th century when it was merely a 2-storey detached bungalow. It was believed that in subsequent years the owner had acquired three other separate structures over the span of a century, resulting in the present ensemble that exists at this location today. Interestingly, the 3 other structures exhibit individual characteristics perhaps not only from the functions they used to play, but also the era in which they were designed and constructed in. In more recent times, this ensemble of buildings was run as a backpackers' accommodation named Oasis Hotel for many years. Oasis Hotel built-up a reputation by word-of-mouth, and became a fairly well-known budget hotel amongst shoestring travelers across the South East Asian route.

Flash forward to today, and 23 Love Lane is now a five-star boutique hotel that comprises four beautifully restored heritage buildings; namely the Anglo-Indian

Bungalow, the Straits Eclectic Annex, the 1920s Jack Roof Annex, and the two units of elfin Indian Shophouses. Each of these buildings exudes its own charm and character, all within a walled landscaped compound, somewhat akin to a 'salad bowl' of buildings.

The entrance into the walled compound of the hotel is celebrated through a carefully restored Chinese Gateway that is adorned with elaborate porcelain shard mosaics. Upon entering the forecourt, one is immediately greeted by lush landscaping with the picture perfect Anglo-Indian bungalow snugly set as the centerpiece. The porte cochere beckons you into the naturally ventilated lobby and lounge area. This main building also houses a bedroom that is designed with a private garden on the ground floor and two bedrooms and a library on the first floor.

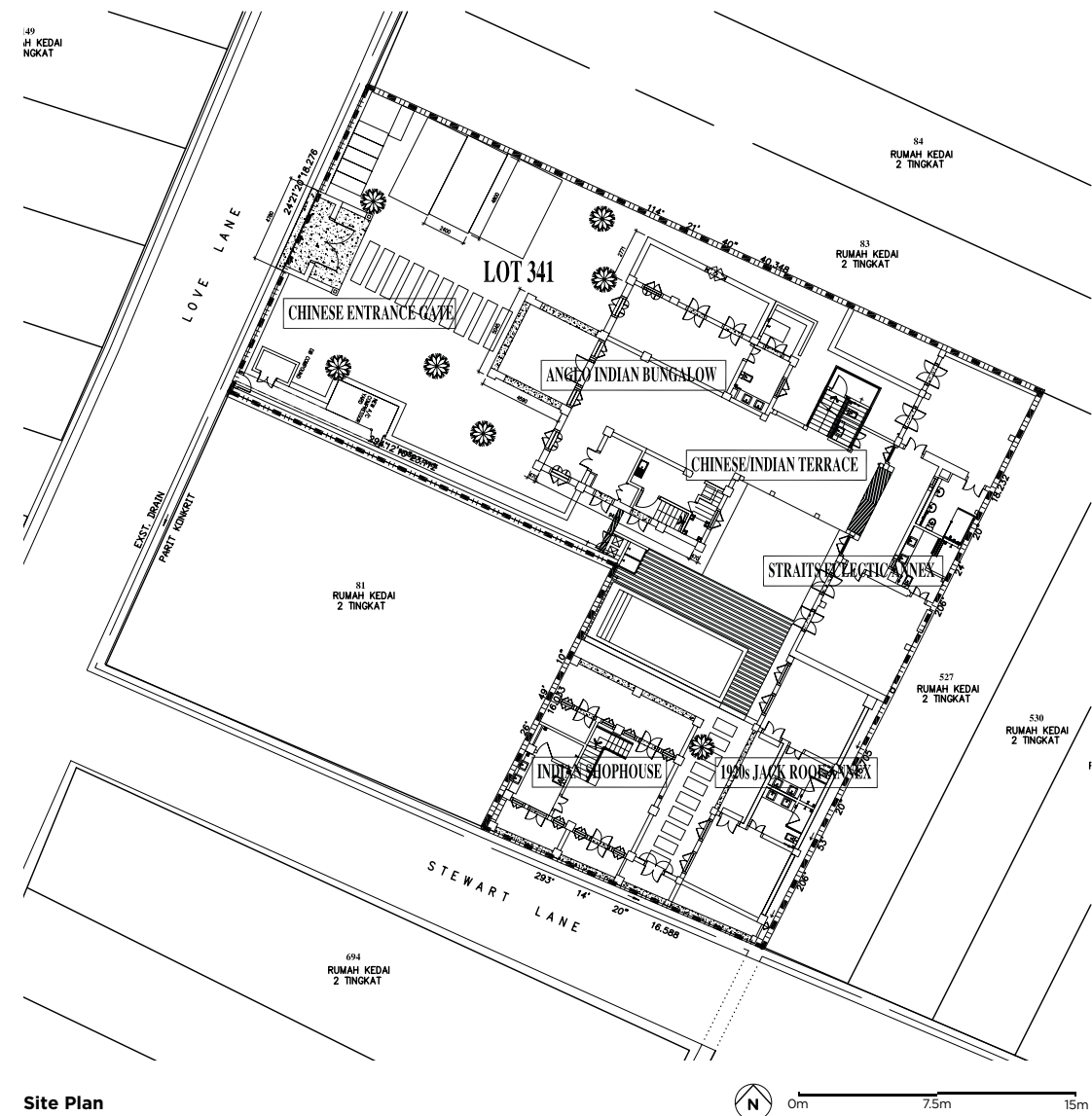
A new semi-covered Chinese Terrace, which defines the transitional space between the public and the private spaces, was built with new components to complement the functionality of the



RIGHT TOP: Bedroom at ground floor of Anglo-Indian Bungalow

RIGHT BOTTOM: Entrance porch of Anglo-Indian Bungalow

LEFT: Facade of 1920s Jack Roof Annex



Site Plan

0m 7.5m 15m



Part of 1920s Jack Roof Annex facade that faces the courtyard

hotel. A new dog-leg staircase with steel balustrade was built to fulfill fire safety regulations. A painted I-beam that spans the length of the terrace and the triple-tiered opaque glass roof over the upper level of the terrace were also built to address the level difference between the Anglo-Indian Bungalow and the Straits Eclectic Annex.

From what that could have been a large semi-open structure with granite slabs as base, the Jack Roof Annex had been remodeled as a black and white building with windows and latticework that reflects the distinction of colonial architecture.

The pair of Indian Shophouses, which was completely in ruins when work began, was

reconstructed based on the measured drawings of an identified Indian shophouse in Kedah Road. Even though the building comes with an entry from the internal courtyard, the doors and windows of the external façade fronting Stewart Lane are still maintained to respect the streetscape.

As a whole, the project involved large amounts of painstaking research, as well as the use of conservation methods such as cocooning, lime plaster, reuse of existing bricks and extensive use of recycled timber. The eventual result is one that is largely due to the combined labour of love between the project team and the owners. /am



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Pictures before the restoration and refurbishment works, from top:
 1. Chinese gate
 2. (from left) Rear of Anglo-Indian Bungalow, Chinese Indian Terrace and Straits Eclectic Annex
 3. 1920s Jack Roof Annex
 4. Indian Shophouses



View from centre courtyard towards Straits Eclectic Annex



The Anglo-Indian Bungalow

Library at first floor of Anglo-Indian Bungalow



CLIENT
 HARTANAH
 SANJUNG SDN BHD

LOCATION
 GEORGE TOWN,
 PENANG

YEAR COMPLETED
 JUNE 2011

ARCHITECT
 BYG ARCHITECTURE
 SDN BHD

PROJECT PRINCIPAL
 AR MICHAEL ONG
 CHIN KEONG

PROJECT TEAM
 LINA TEOH
 KM NG
 GH TEH
 GL YEAP

SITE AREA
 992.76 SQUARE
 METRES

BUILT-UP AREA
 748.16 SQUARE
 METRES

CONSERVATOR
 DR. GWYNN JENKINS

CIVIL ENGINEER
 JURUTERA
 PERUNDING PELANGI
 SDN BHD

M&E ENGINEER
 JURUTERA
 PERUNDING
 PELANGI SDN BHD

QUANTITY SURVEYOR
 SG CONTRACT
 SERVICES

LANDSCAPING
 WALRUS DESIGN SDN
 BHD

LIGHTING
 SUPPLIED BY OWNER

CONTRACTOR
 WESTOX SYSTEMS
 SDN BHD

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