

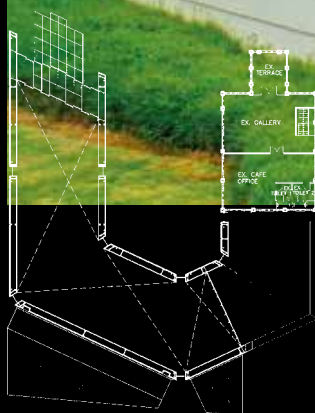


With a heritage building on site, the Ecoworld Gallery is an intersection of old and new, successfully melding a colonial heritage building with a respectful new extension that carries through similar aesthetics that combine the two structures into a single cohesive structure.

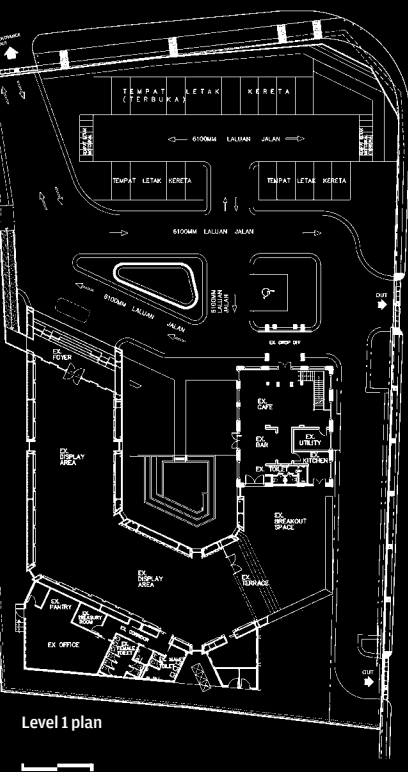
ECOWORLD GALLERY



Intersection where the new building meets the existing building



Level 2 plan



Level 1 plan

0m 4.5m 9m

Ecoworld Gallery is a boutique development located in a small plot of land that strategically fronts the intersection of Macalister Road and Anson Road in George Town. The site was once within the buffer of the Conservation Zone of George Town. Now a significant landmark, the gallery stands as a subtle gateway that beckons the anticipated approach into the George Town World Heritage Site.

Even though classified Category 2 under the Conservation Guideline, historical records of the existing building on site were not readily attainable. The original two-storey bungalow had gone through numerous renovations over the years, but still retained recognisable accents of Straits Eclectic Architecture with influences of Southern Chinese Eclectic style.

The project brief called for

the restoration and adaptive reuse of the existing building as an office with a new wing that functions as a large double-volume gallery suitable for launches and promotions. The new wing is required to pay homage to the heritage building in scale, proportion and outlook.

While BYG Architecture was appointed as Project Architect, the design of the scheme involved two parties – BYG Architecture for the adaptive reuse of the existing Category 2 Heritage Building and Ministry of Design for the design of the new wing. For the existing heritage building, the outlook of the building was required to be restored as close to its original facade as possible.

The conservation approach taken was also to acknowledge the evolution of spaces over the years by rebuilding over elements that depict original would-have-been spaces. These

show pieces help users establish an understanding of the past usage of spaces within the building. Construction materials adhere to original building materials such as lime plasters, timber floor boards and clay roof tiles. However, structural steel framings supported by new foundations were introduced to help sustain floor and roof loadings whilst reducing stress on the original load bearing walls.

The design approach of the new wing attempts to complement the heritage building instead of mocking or compromising its ingenuity. The new wing was designed as a linear space and covered with clay roof tiles as an extension of the existing heritage building. It forms a triple bend around a courtyard plaza to form a U shape with the section of its entrance sharing the same frontage as the heritage building towards Macalister



The U-shaped connected buildings with a central courtyard in between

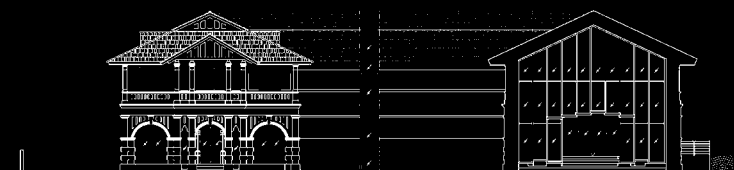
FROM LEFT: Immaculately manicured greenery at the back lane; Courtyard



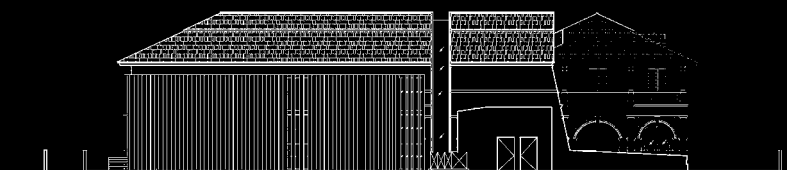


ABOVE: At the bend of the roof and walls, a continuous strip of skylight helps to bring natural light into the space

The interior finishing of the gallery is reminiscent of a time in the colonial era



Front elevation



Rear elevation



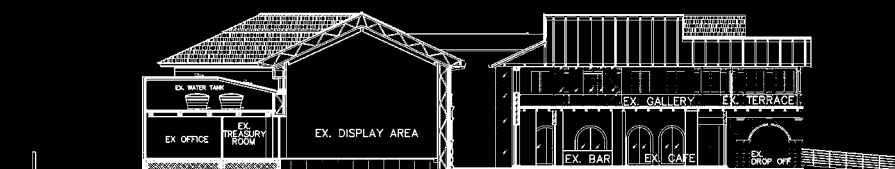
Left elevation



Right elevation



Section 1



Section 2

0m 4.5m 9m

CLIENT
ECO MACALISTER
DEVELOPMENT SDN BHD

LOCATION
GEORGE TOWN, PENANG

YEAR COMPLETED
DECEMBER 2014

ARCHITECT
BYG ARCHITECTURE
SDN BHD

PROJECT PRINCIPAL
AF MICHAEL ONG CHIN
KEONG

PROJECT TEAM
CLIFFORD LOH, NG KOK
MENG, KHAW POH SUAN

**COLLABORATING
ARCHITECT**
MINISTRY OF DESIGN

SITE AREA
4,486.51 SQM

BUILT-UP AREA
1,346.50 SQM

C&S ENGINEER
TEAM PDB SDN BHD

M&E ENGINEER
GH TAG CONSULTANCY

CONTRACTOR
TAN NGEE HONG
CONSTRUCTION SDN BHD

QUANTITY SURVEYOR
BYG ARCHITECTURE
SDN BHD

LANDSCAPING
ESH LANDSCAPING
SDN BHD

PHOTOGRAPHY
ZAKEEMAN

Road. The roof and walls at every bend are inserted with a continuous glass panel as skylights to dramatically bring in natural daylight and outdoor view into the gallery.

From the exterior, while the heritage building and the gallery display contrasting features, their exterior walls are consistently lined with a series of horizontal decorative cornices which meld the two built forms into one. Although overlapping at a transitional point, both structures are seemingly covered by a single roof.

The final outcome is the creation of an integrated building, one that may seem to express the same architectural identity by using two different idioms. As one, it is an articulation of progression that emanates from a heritage structure, both elements bringing out the best in one another, standing in equal distinction. 卐