

# Heritage Conservation

### Explanatory Notes for Teachers

Level: S3

Topic: Heritage Conservation

Supporting Teaching Materials: Students' worksheet

#### Student's Prior Knowledge:

Students will have some knowledge about places in Hong Kong and be aware of some well-known examples of built heritage in Hong Kong. They should also have learnt terms relating to this unit through the medium of Chinese.

#### Aims and Objectives

##### I. Content Objectives

After completing this unit, students should be able to use English to

1. give the names and functions of some historic buildings in Hong Kong;
2. demonstrate understanding of the significance of the buildings in local history;
3. recognise the concepts of “change” and “continuity” in the study of history ; and
4. carry out an investigation on local historic buildings.

##### II. Language Objectives

After completing the ELA activities, students should be able to

1. understand and use the English terms related to this topic (e.g., *architectural tour, historic buildings, ancestral hall, urban development, conservation, preservation*)
2. understand and use the English expressions for discussing heritage conservation in Hong Kong by studying the source materials, e.g.
  - *Living history means a site or a building which has historical value and which we are still able to visit today.*
  - *The Antiquities and Monuments Office is the government body responsible for the preservation works and for the promotion of Hong Kong heritage.*
  - *The 120 year-old historic development has been reused and transformed into a new cultural landmark.*
  - *The former Marine Police Headquarters was built in 1884.*
3. locate information on the conservation of historic buildings and sites of cultural significance in Hong Kong, transforming the information into an oral presentation.
4. understand and use English expressions for discussing the need to preserve historic buildings in Hong Kong e.g.
  - *I do not think the historic buildings in Hong Kong should be pulled down to make way for urban development because these buildings are part of Hong Kong's history and culture.*
5. construct two simple paragraphs:
  - summarising information gathered independently and presented orally (Activity 4)

and

- compiling answers to comprehension questions (Activity 5)

Procedure:

1. Activity 1 **Getting to know the historic buildings in Hong Kong** – Students will get to know some of the examples of historic buildings in Hong Kong. They name the historic buildings shown in photographs using their prior knowledge of Hong Kong places and landmarks.
2. Activity 2 **Historic buildings and us** - Students read a passage about learning local history through the study of historic buildings. Through this activity, the teacher can introduce the concepts of heritage preservation and the heritage preservation work done by the Antiquities and Monuments Office.
3. Activity 3 **Explore features of the local built heritage** - Students study the photo of the Legislative Council Building and identify the architectural features shown in the photo. The teacher can highlight 3 features commonly used in western structures.
4. Activity 4 **Students' Own Study** - In this activity, students will carry out their own field study on a historic building in the district where they live. The study will help students to appreciate the unique architectures, and understand the history of their living district and the efforts made in heritage preservation. Students prepare a presentation for oral delivery in class and finally write up their findings in a simple paragraph following models presented earlier. The teacher should check the paragraph for connectivity between sentences and overall organisation.
5. Activity 5 **A case study of a local historic building** – Students read the policy statement “Conserve and Revitalise Hong Kong Heritage” and information about 1881 Heritage in Tsim Sha Tsui. They discuss questions about heritage conservation and the revitalization of the local built heritage initiative. In the activity, the teacher can encourage students to explore more declared monuments and built heritage in Hong Kong and involve students thinking about how the local heritage is related to the study of local history and critically think about the practice of heritage conservation in Hong Kong.

## Activity 1 Getting to know the historic buildings in Hong Kong

Hello, every one. I am a member of Young Friends of Heritage. I recently joined an architectural tour and have been to many historic buildings in Hong Kong. I learned more about the history of Hong Kong from the study of these historic buildings. Below are some of the photos taken in the tour. Do you know the names of these buildings?



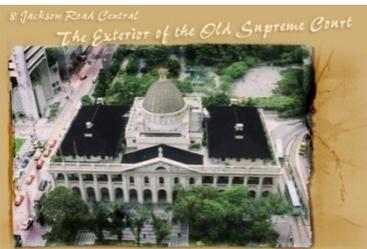
Below are the buildings I have visited. Do you know what these buildings are?



This building was part of the Former Kowloon-Canton Railway terminal.

*What is the name of this building?*

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This building has been used to house a law-making body by the Hong Kong government.

*What is the name of this building?*

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This building was used as an office for Hong Kong governors.

*What is the name of this building?*

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## Activity 2



Read the passage below and answer the questions.

Historic buildings and monuments are our living history. These historic buildings can tell us a lot about the history of Hong Kong. There are different types of historic buildings, from traditional Chinese ancestral halls to western structures.

Rapid urban development has changed our living environment. There has been stronger demand from society for preserving historic buildings. The Antiquities and Monuments Office is the government body responsible for the preservation and for the promotion of Hong Kong's heritage.

1. What does the writer mean when he says historic buildings and monuments are our 'living history'?

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2. What styles of historic building are found in Hong Kong?

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3. What are the duties of the Antiquities and Monuments Office?

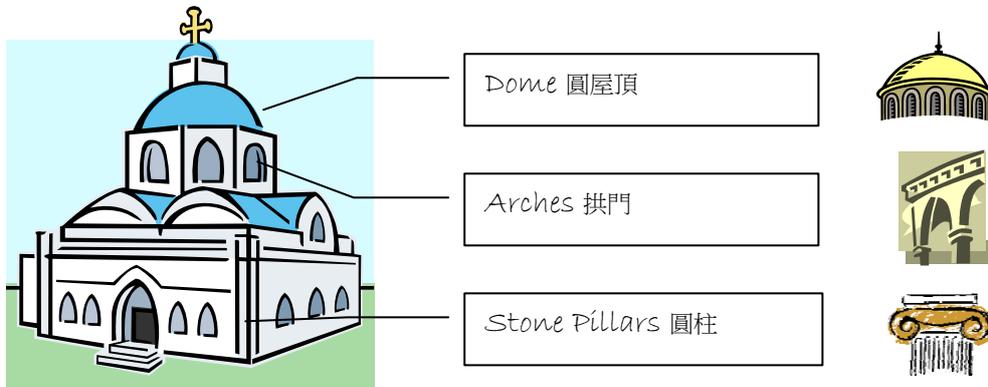
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4. Do you think the historic buildings should be pulled down to make way for urban development?

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### Activity 3 Explore the features of our local built heritage

Many western-style buildings were built in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Hong Kong. What are the characteristics of these historic local western-style buildings?



This is the Legislative Council Building. Can you identify the western architectural characteristics of this building?



#### Activity 4 Student's Own Study of Historic building

Study the district where you live, can you find any historic buildings around?

Take a photo of the building and put it in the space below, then give a short description of this building and explain how it helps in the study of Hong Kong history.

Pay a visit to the building, find out

1. Is the building style western, Chinese or a blend of western and Chinese styles?
2. How was the building used in the past?
3. How is it used today?
4. What aspect of development can be seen in this building?
5. Collect photos of (i) 2 features that have been preserved in this building and (ii) 2 things that have been newly added to this building.
6. Prepare a 1 minute presentation on your study.
7. Write up your presentation in a paragraph.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Affix the photo of the building here</div>			
Old features  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 80px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">Photo here</div>	Old features  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 80px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">Photo here</div>	New additions  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 80px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">Photo here</div>	New additions  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; width: 80px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;">Photo here</div>

## Then, prepare your presentation

Hello every one,

Today I would like to share my study of a historic building called\_\_\_\_\_.

This photo shows \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the building) \_\_\_\_\_. It was built in \_\_\_\_\_ (year) in \_\_\_\_\_ (chinese style / western style ).

It was used for \_\_\_\_\_ (functions of the building) \_\_\_\_\_ and it is now used as \_\_\_\_\_ (functions of the building) \_\_\_\_\_ today.

We can learn about the social/political/economic development of Hong Kong in 20<sup>th</sup> century by studying \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the building) \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of building) \_\_\_\_\_ is located in \_\_\_\_\_ (district) \_\_\_\_\_. You can pay a visit to this wonderful colonial structure during the holidays.

## Activity 5 Bringing heritage alive

Study the sources below and answer the questions.

### Source A Conserve and Revitalise Hong Kong Heritage

#### *Policy Statement from Conserve and Revitalise Hong Kong Heritage*

*The aim of Conserve and Revitalise Hong Kong Heritage is to protect, conserve and revitalise historic and heritage sites and buildings in Hong Kong by means of relevant and sustainable approaches for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. In implementing this policy, due regard should be given to development needs in the public interest, respect for private property rights, budgetary considerations, cross-sector collaboration and the active engagement of stakeholders and the general public.*

### Source B “1881 Heritage” Hotel

#### **In the past**



Located in the heart of Tsim Sha Tsui, the former Marine Police headquarters is a declared monument constructed in 1884. The former Marine Police Headquarters was used by the Hong Kong Marine Police from the 1880s to 1996, except for the period during the second world war. The headquarters have been renewed and put into the urban fabric of the surrounding area. The 120 year-old historic development has been reused and transformed into a new cultural and shopping landmark in Hong Kong – “1881 Heritage”.

#### **At present**



## Questions

1. When was the former Marine Police Headquarter built?

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2. How was the building used in the past?

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3. In what way is the building now used for “development needs in the public interest” and “cross-sector collaboration”?

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4. With the preservation of the Former Marine Police Headquarter, what aspect(s) of local history can we get to know more from this building?

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5. Can you think of any other example(s) of historic buildings that have been preserved in Hong Kong? Do you like the way the building is being used today? How does studying this building help you to get to know more about the history of Hong Kong?

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**Activity 1      Getting to know the historic buildings in Hong Kong**

Hello, every one. I am a member of Young Friends of Heritage. I recently joined an architectural tour and have been to many historic buildings in Hong Kong. I learned more about the history of Hong Kong from the study of these historic buildings. Below are some of the photos taken in the tour. Do you know the names of these buildings?



Below are the buildings I have visited. Do you know what these buildings are?



This building was part of the Former Kowloon-Canton Railway terminal.

*What is the name of this building?*

[Tsim Sha Tsui Clock Tower](#)



This building has been used to house a law-making body by the Hong Kong government.

*What is the name of this building?*

[Legislative Council Building](#)



This building was used as an office for Hong Kong governors.

*What is the name of this building?*

[Government House](#)

## Activity 2



Read the passage below and answer the questions.

Historic buildings and monuments are our living history. These historic buildings can tell us a lot about the history of Hong Kong. There are different types of historic buildings, from traditional Chinese ancestral halls to western structures.

Rapid urban development has changed our living environment. There has been stronger demand from society for preserving historic buildings. The Antiquities and Monuments Office is the government body responsible for the preservation and for the promotion of Hong Kong's heritage.

1. What does the writer mean when he says historic buildings and monuments are our 'living history'?

The writer says historic buildings and monuments are 'living' history because they can 'tell' / show / represent the history of Hong Kong.

2. What styles of historic building are found in Hong Kong?

Different styles of historic building from traditional Chinese ancestral halls to western structures are found in Hong Kong.

3. What are the duties of the Antiquities and Monuments Office?

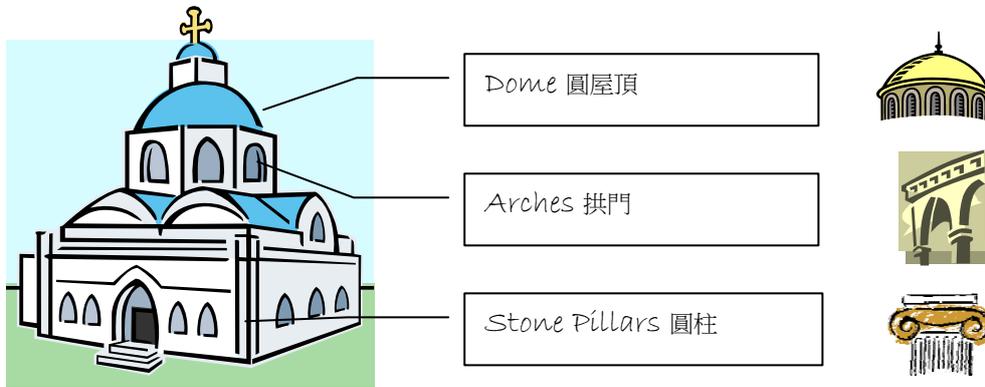
The Antiquities and Monuments Office is responsible for the preservation and the promotion of Hong Kong's heritage.

4. Do you think the historic buildings should be pulled down to make way for urban development?

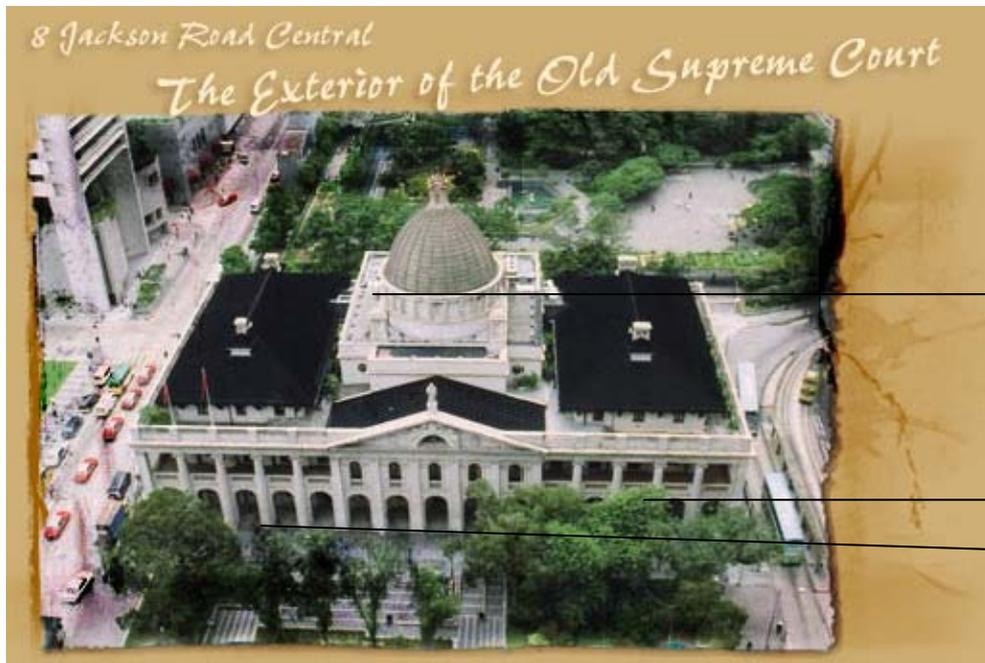
(Students' free responses)

Activity 3 Explore the features of our local built heritage

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**At present**



**Questions**

1. When was the former Marine Police Headquarter built?  
The former Marine Police headquarters was constructed in 1884.
2. How was the building used in the past?  
The former Marine Police Headquarters was used by the Hong Kong Marine Police from the 1880s to 1996.
3. In what way is the building now used for “development needs in the public interest” and “cross-sector collaboration”?  
The building has been reused and transformed into a new cultural and shopping landmark– “1881 Heritage”.

4. With the preservation of the former Marine Police Headquarter, what aspect(s) of local history can we get to know more from this building?

(Suggested answer):

We can know about the building structure (the main building was originally a two-storey structure to which was added an extra storey in the 1920s; Extensive underground tunnels were constructed beneath the lawn after World War II) . We can also know about the function of the former Marine Police Headquarter. There is a Signal Tower which was constructed to provide time signals to ships in the harbour.

5. Can you think of any other example(s) of historic buildings that have been preserved in Hong Kong? Do you like the way the building is being used today? How does studying this building help you to get to know more about the history of Hong Kong?

(Suggested answer):

The King Yin Lei is a declared monuments and it is now opened for visitors.

Visiting this building helps us to know the development of building structure during the 1990s. The 1937-built King Yin Lei is a rare surviving example of Chinese Renaissance style that reflected the design and construction excellence in both Chinese and Western architecture of Hong Kong.

We know the social status of Hong Kong at that period. This building reflects rising status and growing wealth of the Chinese community in Hong Kong. It also represents an earlier phase of Hong Kong history when the upper-class residential area took shape in the Mid-Levels area.

We also know that the film heritage and entertainment industry of Hong Kong has made use of the building. The mansion has been featured in films of international renown such as "Soldier of Fortune" (1955), "Love is a Many-Splendoured Thing" (1955) and a locally produced television series "Delightful Dream of the Capital" (1980). These examples reflect the high scenic character of the site.

Sources from: [http://www.heritage.gov.hk/en/buildings/monuments\\_85.htm](http://www.heritage.gov.hk/en/buildings/monuments_85.htm)