

Condition Audit and Preservation Techniques for Historic Structures

Restoration and Conservation to Sri Temasek at the Istana

Introduction

Sri Temasek is a typical 19th century bungalow located in the Istana. Built in 1869, it served as the Colonial Secretary's residence during Singapore's colonial era and later as the official residence of the Prime Minister for a brief period.

The uniqueness of this building lies in its intricate timber arcade which shows a mixture of eastern and western decorative motifs. Of note is a wooden white coloured "Chinese Moon Gateway" located on the building's first floor. First installed about 4 decades ago, it is made of chengal, teak and meranti.

Work Done

An investigation programme for the condition audit and preservation of historically important architectural materials and features was carried out. This comprised of a detailed survey of brickwork, plasterwork, paintwork and timberwork for assessment of the existing condition. Further laboratory investigation involving i) chemical composition of mortar ii) stratigraphic analysis of paintwork and iii) identification of timber species was carried out. A detailed technical report was prepared based on the analysis and interpretation of results from the survey and laboratory investigation. Method statements for all protection, stabilization and repair/ remedial works were provided.



Project Profile