

Revitalisation of
Fong Yuen Study Hall

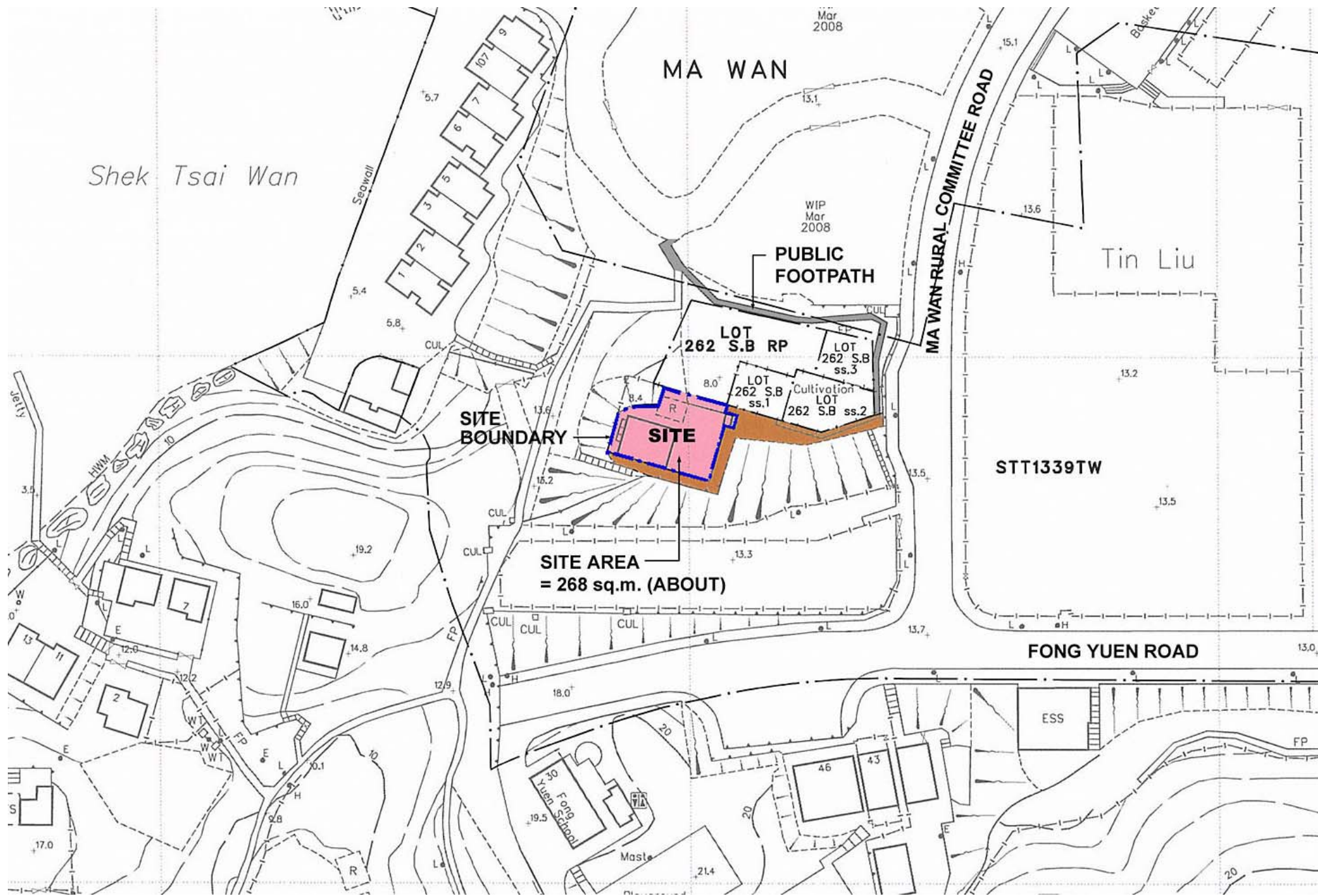
「芳園書室」旅遊及中國文化中心 暨 馬灣水陸居民博物館
Tourism & Chinese Cultural Centre cum Ma Wan Residents Museum

Revitalizing Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme

The Yuen Yuen Institute

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MA WAN

PUBLIC
FOOTPATH

Tin Liu

SITE
BOUNDARY

SITE

STT1339TW

SITE AREA
= 268 sq.m. (ABOUT)

FONG YUEN ROAD

ESS

Fong Yuen School

Maste

「芳園書室」旅遊及中國文化中心 暨 馬灣水陸居民博物館 Tourism & Chinese Cultural Centre cum Ma Wan Residents Museum

The objectives of the proposed project are:

1. conserve and repair Fong Yuen Study Hall revealing its historic architectural characteristics
2. develop a tourist attraction promoting the unique cultural attributes of Ma Wan
3. introduce the live of fisherman and the development of fishing industry in Hong Kong
4. promote eco-tour allowing the visitors to experience the eco-life and cultural heritages in Ma Wan
5. continue the historic role of the Study Hall in providing education
6. boost local economics and create employment opportunities





Description of the historic place

Fong Yuen Study Hall is located in Tin Liu 田寮, Ma Wan. Tin Liu Tsuen 田寮村 was established by Chan clan in the 19th century, who migrated from Tsing Yi Island.

Ma Wan is a small Island between Lantau Island and Tsing Yi Island, located beside **Kap Shui Mun, a strategic channel through which boats would travel between Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta as well as the costal areas in eastern Guangdong.** Being the anchor bay for British merchant boats and Chinese custom for tax collection in the 19th century, Ma Wan was once regarded as **a strategic point in trading activities.** However, instead of having prosperous development, it remains as a place with limited population over the years, where the residents are mainly farmers and fishermen. Since 1970s, commercial fish farming was begun to develop in the island. Over the years, Ma Wan becomes **one of the fish farming district of considerable scale in Hong Kong** nowadays.

Heritage Values

Probably built in 1920s-30s, it is the **only surviving pre-war school on Ma Wan**. Although it is not an imposing structure in terms of size, the building delicately decorated with refined architectural details and ornamentations. Being the **only school in Ma Wan before World War II**, the study hall became indispensable to villager. It provided education of basic knowledge of reading and writing to the children before they started earning a living as farmers or fishermen. It is also an example that could **reflect the history of the transformation of private study halls to modern village school** in New Territories.

Fong Yuen Study Hall is a building complex consisting of a two-storey building known as [Fong Yuen Study Hall], a one-hall Chinese-styled village house, a forecourt surrounded by walls and a toilet block at the north-east corner of the forecourt.

The significance of Fong Yuen Study Hall also lies in **its architectural form, features and decorations of mixed Chinese and western styles displaying the transformation of traditional Chinese-styled buildings into architecture of modern era**. Instead of using timber as major constructional material, reinforced concrete, a new technology by that time, was employed for building the stairs to upper floor, floor slab, and balcony with **balusters of geometrical pattern**. Of particular interest here is the **design of pediment** atop the balcony. It basically adopted a common **shape of western style including pediment and acroteria**, while **plastered relief depicting Chinese auspicious motifs** are found on its elevation. These architectural decorations demonstrate refined craftsmanship and embody the cultural intonations of our forefathers.

It is said that the one-hall Chinese-styled village house used to be a kitchen annex to the study hall. It is now in a ruinous condition.

In short, Fong Yuen Study Hall is important in terms of its **architectural manifestation of a mixed Chinese and western style**. To a certain extent, it also symbolizes the transformation of traditional teaching to modern educational system at early 20th century.





Character defining elements

External

- Its **setting** including the vast areas of trees and vegetation behind the Study Hall, the **forecourt** surrounded with **low walls** and the **ornamental arch-shaped entrance gate**.
- **Pitched roof** and rectangular building form.
- Rendered and painted stone walls
- **Cantilever balcony** on the first floor.
- **Patterned balustrades** found on the cantilever balcony.
- **Cornice** below and atop the cantilever balcony.
- **Shaped bracket** under the balcony.
- The shape and form of the **ornamental parapet and pediment** as well as **acroteria** at the top part of the front facade.
- All the **plastered relief** on the ornamental parapet and pediment, including the four characters 芳園書室 that give the name of the Study Hall, and other auspicious motifs.
- **Windows** and **door openings** including **hood moldings**
- **Granite thresholds** to doorways on the ground floor.
- **Copings** and **label mouldings** to the gable walls.



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Social Service Department



Character defining elements

Internal

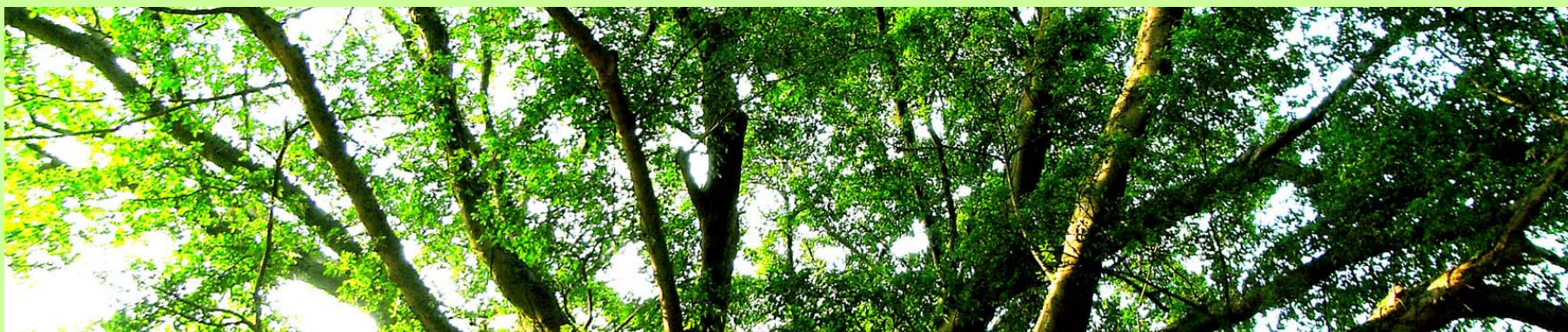
- The **moldings on the columns and beams** on ground floor and first floor.
- Straight flight **reinforced concrete staircase** from ground floor to first floor.
- the **recess on the walls** where the window leaves are located.
- Plastered and painted walls





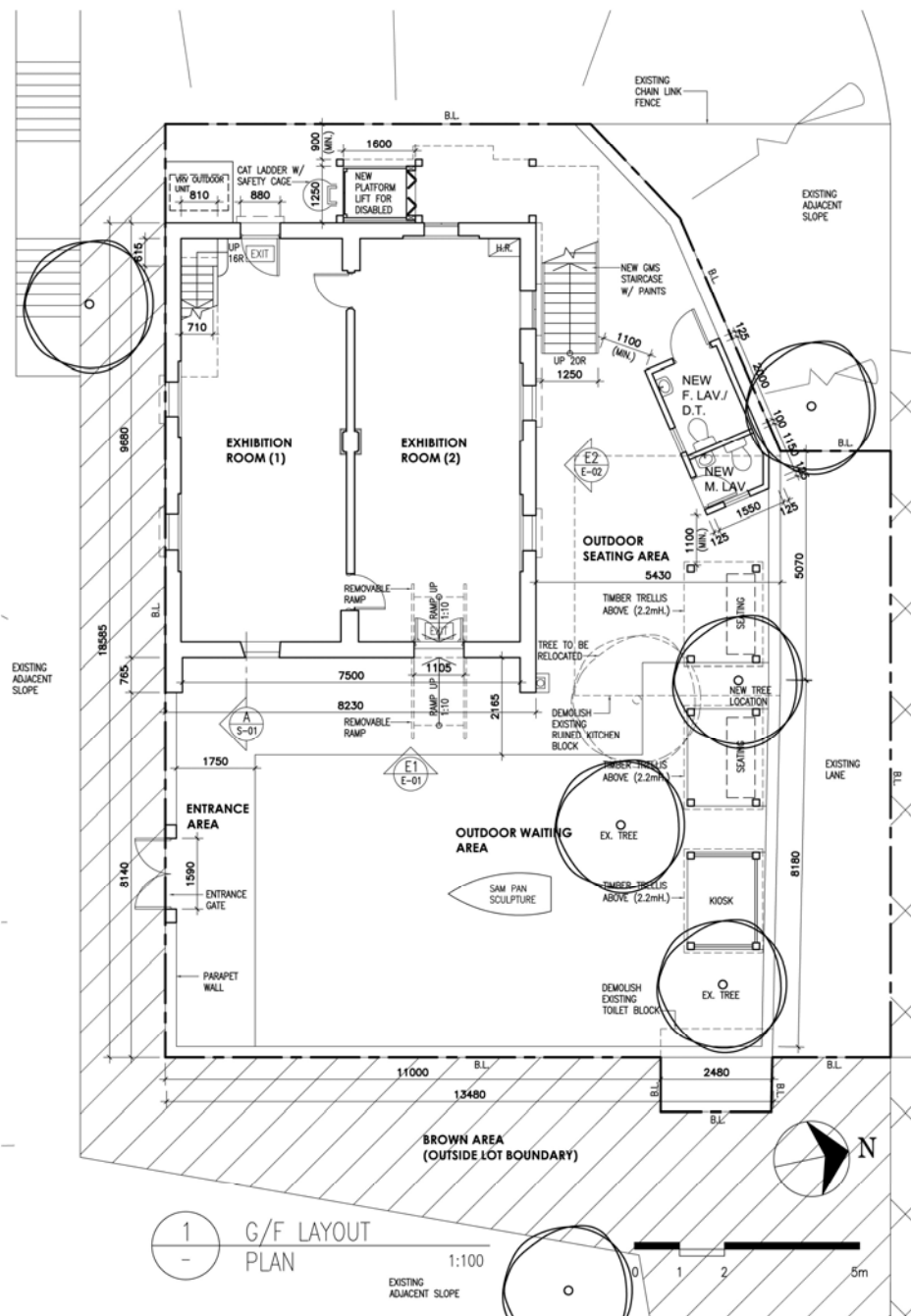
Conservation standards

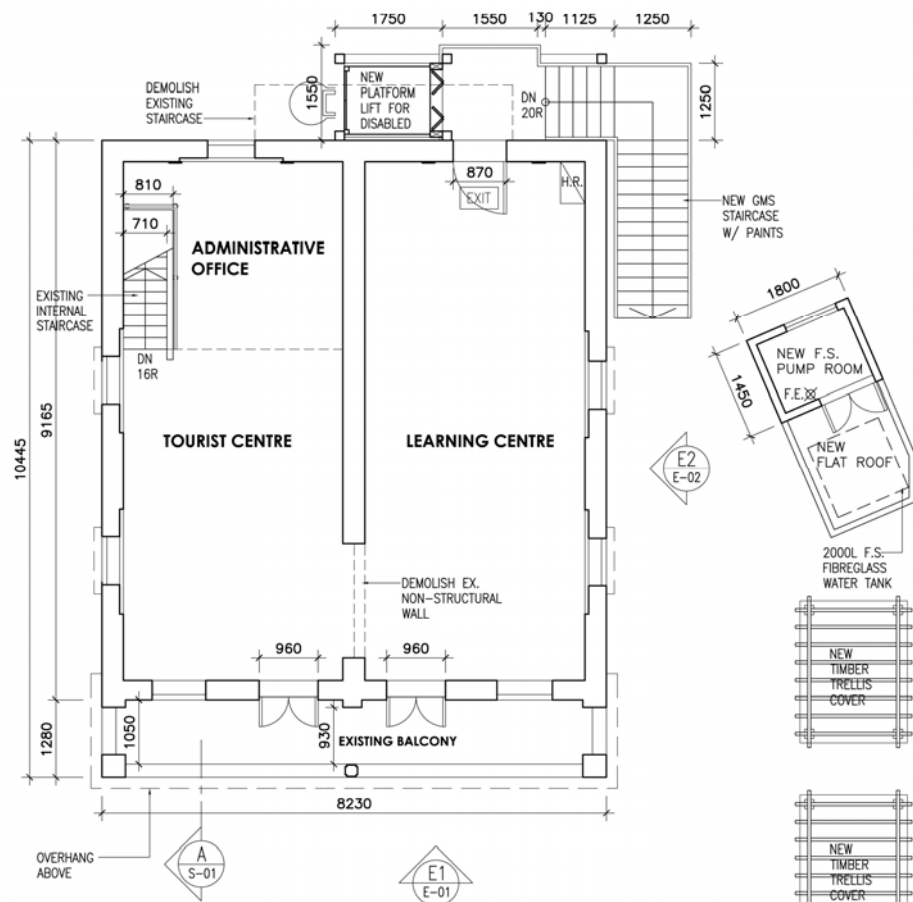
- James Semple Kerr's Conservation plan, 2004
- Burra Charter, 1999, the Australia's ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance
- China Principles, 2002
- Resource Kits



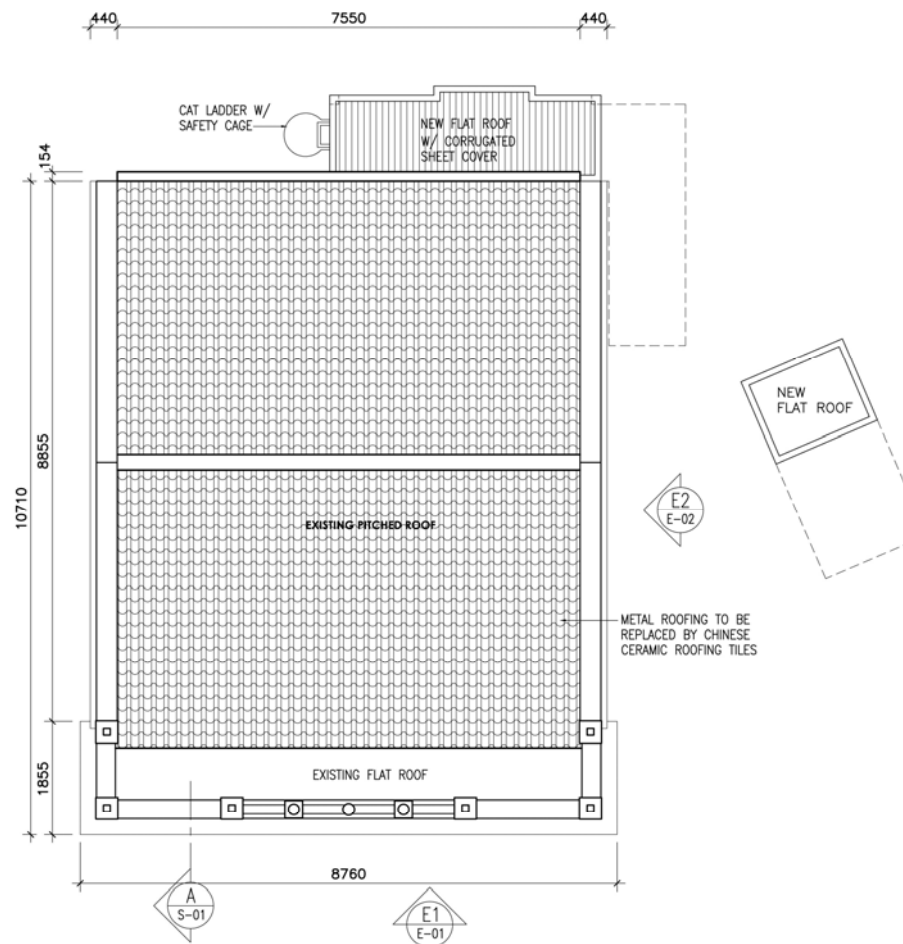
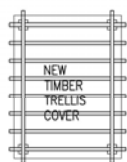
Conservation principles

- Conserve heritage value
- Retain authenticity and integrity
- Minimum Intervention
- Repair rather than Replace
- Reversibility
- Integrating old and new



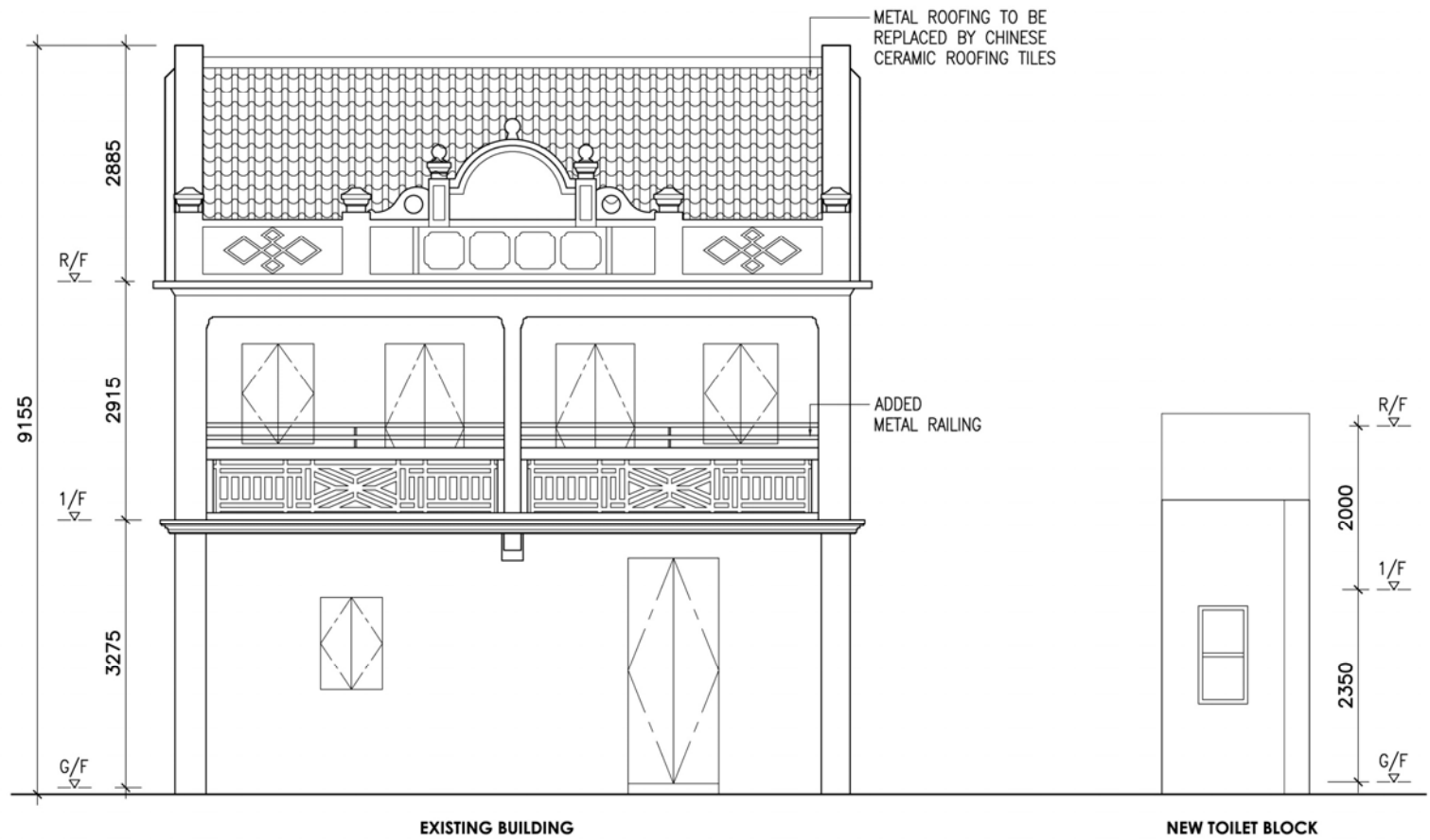


2 1/F LAYOUT PLAN 1:75



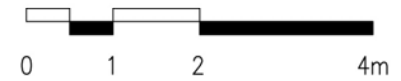
3 R/F LAYOUT PLAN 1:75

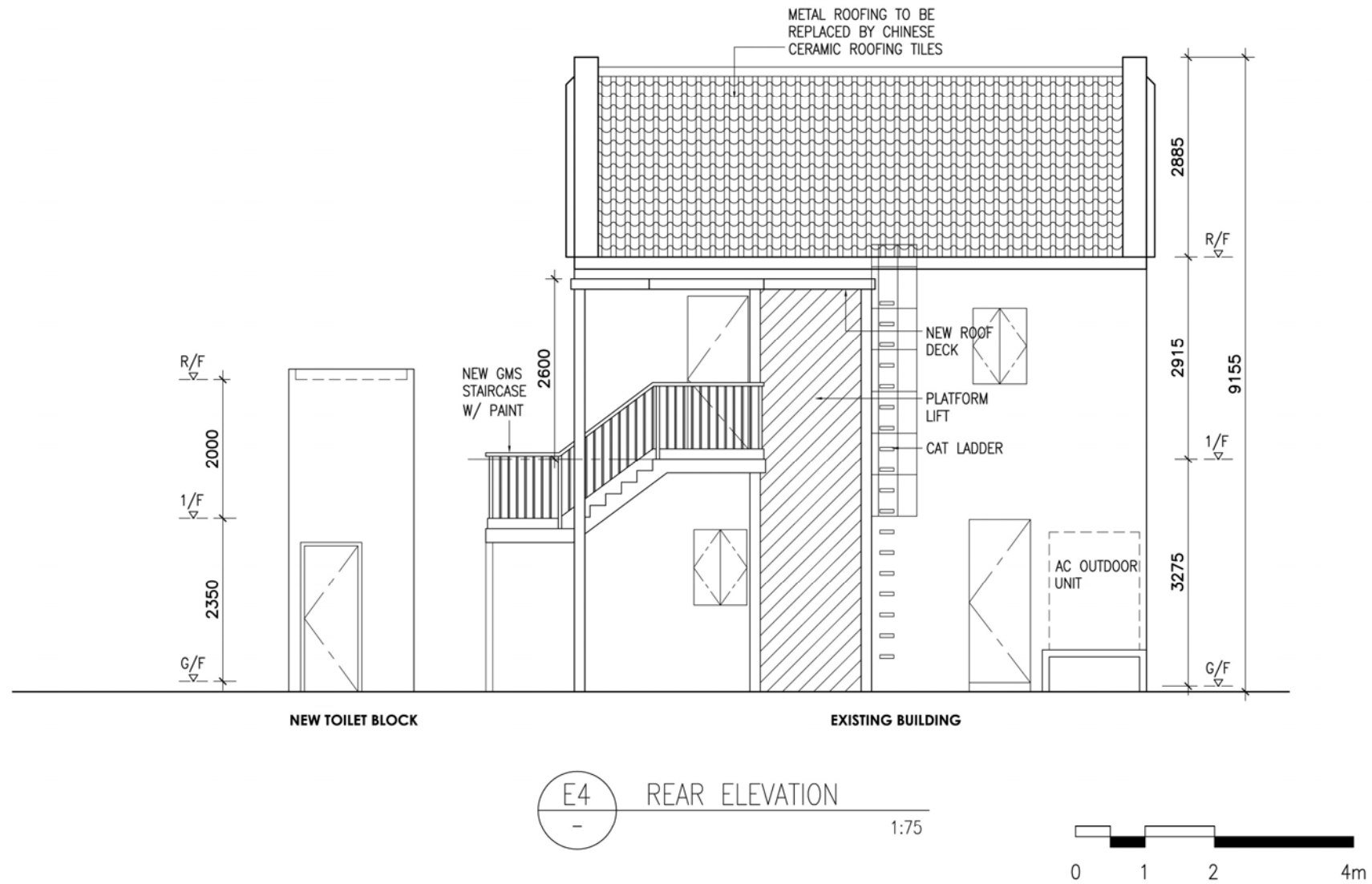




FRONT ELEVATION

1:75







FONG YUEN STUDY HALL - PERSPECTIVE VIEW 1

AFTER RENOVATION

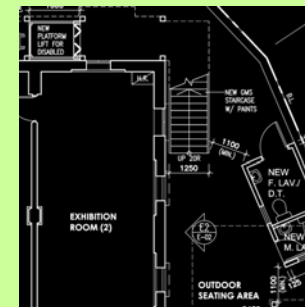


FONG YUEN STUDY HALL - PERSPECTIVE VIEW 2

AFTER RENOVATION

Conservation management plan

- Character defining element
- Statement of significance
- Statutory compliance
- Revitalization proposal
- Potential impact
- Interpretation
- Maintenance management plan
- Implementation





Treatments to Character Defining Element

Preservation

Maintain the fabric in its existing state and retard deterioration

Restoration

Return the existing fabric to a known earlier state by removing accretions or reassemble existing components without introduction of new materials

Repair

Clean, re-fix of loose elements in their original positions and local repair that does not include replacement

Minimum intervention
authenticity



Restoration of timber roof

Existing metal roof > traditional Chinese styled roofing consisting of pan and roll tiles supported by timber battens and purlins

- Detailed design of the new roof should be prepared by **conservation specialist** who has considerable knowledge of traditional Chinese architectures, and based on **available information and record** of the original timber roof.
- Information should be provided in-situ **clarifying the authenticity** of the newly added timber roof structure, for example, the **date of restoration** could be branded on each timber member.



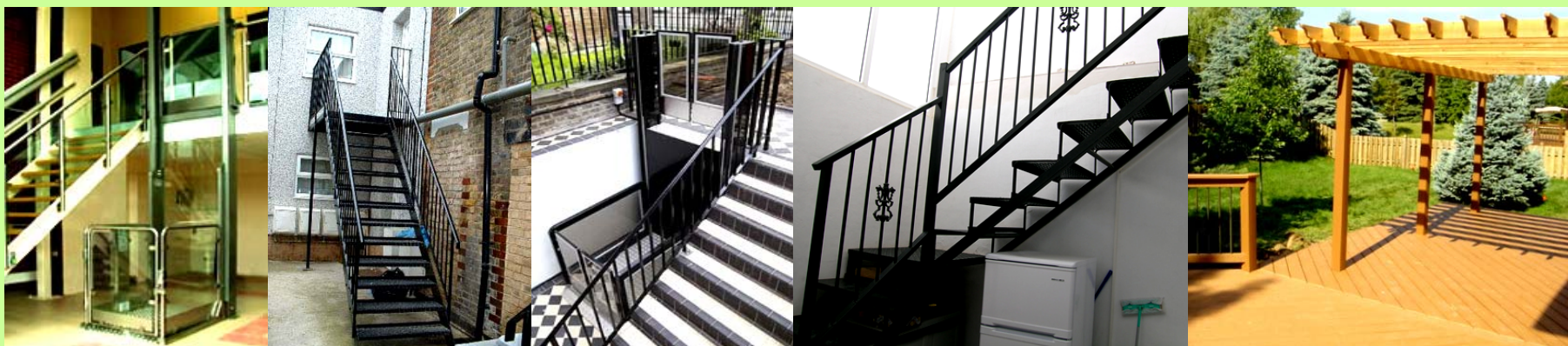


Restoration of timber windows and door

Existing aluminium windows and doors > **timber framed windows and doors**

- **Reference should be made to the style of the same period.**
- Information should be provided in-situ **clarifying the authenticity** of the newly added timber roof structure, for example, the **date of restoration** could be branded on each timber member.





Guidelines to new addition

- external staircase
- disable platform
- toilet block
- trellis



- should be discernible from the original historic fabric and be understated in character.
- compatible design, in term of suitable material and texture
- should not cause disturbance to historic building fabrics
- minimal visual impact



Interpretation

Exhibition rooms historical relics, fishermen's daily utensils, old photos, fishing tools, etc.

Tourist Centre eco-tours guided by indigenous residences
demonstration > mast rising, salty fish preservation and net knitting

Learning Centre education programmes of Chinese culture and art

Suggested themes

fishery in Ma Wan, fisherman and the development of Hong Kong, fishermen: customs, festivals and life, the history of educational system in Hong Kong, architectural decoration of Chinese auspicious motifs, Architecture at early 20th century, conservation process of Fong Yuen Study Hall, introduction to Chinese opera, introduction to Chinese calligraphy, introduction to Chinese painting, fishermen's daily living, fish framing in Hong Kong, fishermen's cooking, historical Man Wan Island