

Historic Building Appraisal
Tang Ancestral Hall
Tai Tong Wu, Sha Tau Kok

Tai Tong Wu (大塘湖) village is in the north of Sha Tau Kok Road (沙頭角公路) in Ping Che (坪輦), Sha Tau Kok (沙頭角). It is said that the Tangs (鄧) of the village have the same distant ancestor Tang Yuen-leung (鄧元亮) as those in Ha Tsuen (廈村) and Kam Tin (錦田) of Yuen Long. Tang Chung-cheong (鄧仲昌), a 6th generation ancestor of the Tangs, moved from Dongguan (東莞) of Guangdong (廣東) province and settled in Loi Tung Tsuen (萊洞村) in the east of the village probably in the Yuan (元, 1271-1368) dynasty. Yat-chung (日中), a 20th generation member, branched out to Tai Tong Wu, also called Ha Loi Tung (下萊洞, Lower Loi Tung), about 200 years ago. A family ancestral hall was built in the village and collapsed due to dilapidation. It is not known when the old ancestral hall was built. The new ancestral hall was built in 1998. It is called Tang Chung Yu Tong (鄧鏞羽堂).

**Historical
Interest**

The ancestral hall is a detached building in the first front row of four rows of village houses in the village facing southwest. It is a Qing (清) vernacular design building having a one-hall-one-courtyard plan of three bays. The open courtyard is in front of the main hall in the middle bay. A side room is on either side of the courtyard and the main hall. It is constructed of concrete with its walls to support its pitched roofs. Except some internal walls, the entire building is covered with new ceramic tiles of red and green colours. Rows of soul tablets of the Tang ancestors are on display at the altar at the end wall of the main hall for worship. In front of it is the offering table with incense burners. A brown marble board engraved with the name of the ancestral hall is on the wall above the doorway at the entrance. A couplet engraved on marble is on either side of the doorway. The main ridge is covered with green glazed ceramic tiles and a pair of ceramic dragons and a pearl installed in the middle of the ridge. A pair of *aoyu* (鰲魚) is at two ends of the main and front ridges. Wall frieze ceramic tile paintings of landscape are on the front façade and at the gable walls.

**Architectural
Merit**

It is an ancestral hall of the Tangs to witness their settlement in the village.

Rarity

It has little built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

It was rebuilt in 1998. The authenticity of the old ancestral hall has been removed.

Authenticity

The ancestral hall has been used for ancestral worship of the Tangs. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual for new born baby boys of previous year was held at the hall at the Chinese New Year but has been discontinued. Special offerings of chickens, pork, vegetable and fruits would be for worship at the hall at festivals including the Chinese New Year and the Chung Yeung Festival (重陽節).

***Social Value,
& Local Interest***