

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Lo Pan Temple**  
**No. 15 Ching Lin Terrace, Kennedy Town**

The Lo Pan Temple (魯班廟) constructed in 1884 is dedicated to Lo Pan, the patron saint of Chinese constructors, builders and craftsmen who in Chinese called workers of Sam Hong (三行), three trades, namely, carpentry, masonry and bricklaying. Lo Pan originally named Kung Shun Pan (公孫班) was famous for his being a talent in building and carpentry in his country Lao (魯國) in the Spring and Autumn period (春秋, 770-476 B.C.). He was worshipped by workers of the trade since then who believed Lo Pan could protect them. Worshipping Lo Pan became popular in the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties and such temples are built in different places in China.

*Historical  
Interest*

The construction of the temple was made possible by donations from over a thousand companies and individuals in the Chinese mainland, overseas and local community. The site was donated for the construction of the temple by Lee Li Hing (李禮興), a local businessman. The building of a Lo Pan temple in 1884 reflects the mature and blooming construction and building business in Hong Kong at the time. Such was a substantial patronage need for the companies and workers of the trade.

The temple is located on a rectangular site on Ching Lin Terrace among a number of terraces in Kennedy Town. The building direction is however twisted to north-west probably of *fung shui* reason. It is a two-hall building with a recessed facade. The tall building had an open courtyard between the two halls but now covered. Its gable walls are the most prominent called 'Five Peaks Paying Tribute to Heaven' (五岳朝天式) having five pointed and sharp-angle wings. The design is a rare example in Hong Kong (another one of less specific is that of the Hau Wong Temple in Kowloon City). The style is very special unlike those of most Chinese historic buildings which are mainly Cantonese. It is close to those of Hunan (湖南) or Fujian (福建) provinces.

*Architectural  
Merit*

Most of the features of the temple are unique employing distinguished craftsmanship. The wall paintings, carvings, engravings, 'water-washed' (polished) greenbricks and the Shiwan ceramics of Gungyuk (均玉) kiln in particular are of supreme quality. The temple was expanded in 1927, and a communal hall with a school was built next to the temple. It is well maintained though not so popular as in the past.

It is the only example in Hong Kong worshipped by constructors, builders and workers of Sam Hong. The uniqueness, rareness and the representative of the type of temple come up with the highest built heritage value. Its existence has a role to demonstrate the historical development of the business.

*Rarity & Built  
Heritage Value*

Numerous renovations have been carried out with a number of them recorded in some plaques having the donors' names and their sums engraved on them. The building is in good condition without unauthentic added fixtures and features. *Authenticity*

Though the temple is not so popular as in the past, constructors and workers of the trade still make tribute to their master Lo Pan and celebrate his birthday by means of having offerings at the temple on the 13<sup>th</sup> of the sixth month of the Chinese lunar year. It is called the Master Festival, Si Fu Dan (師父誕), when they would have a holiday and celebrate with heavy meals. Celebratory banquets were held at the temple and nearby before World War II and now replaced by meals at the Chinese restaurants. *Social Value & Local Interest*