

Historic Building Appraisal

Enchi Lodge

Castle Peak Road, Kam Tsin Tsuen, Sheung Shui, N. T.

Enchi Lodge (恩慈之家) (Lots 717 & 718, 2158RP in DD92) is a pre-World War II building in Sheung Shui. Probably built around **1921**, it was first used by Jardine Trading Co. as a staff clubhouse. Later on, a man named **Zhang Gongrang** (張公讓), who may have been a general of the Chinese Nationalist Party (Guomindang, 國民黨), bought the Enchi Lodge and lived there when he came to Hong Kong. Mr. Zhang employed the villagers living in Kam Tsin Tsuen and he left Enchi Lodge before the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong. During the Japanese Occupation, Enchi Lodge was used as a Japanese military quarter and a hospital for Japanese soldiers.

*Historical
Interest*

After World War II, it was used for various purposes. In the 1950s-60s, Enchi Lodge was rented for film-making. **Mr. Leung Sing-bo** (梁醒波), who was a famous Cantonese opera artist in Hong Kong, has performed in Enchi Lodge. In 1967, Enchi Lodge was occupied by a number of foreigners and used as a private villa. Moreover, Enchi Lodge had once been rented to **San Miguel Brewery Limited** during 1969-1971.

Since 1991, Enchi Lodge has been (and still is) used as a drug addiction treatment centre run by the **Drug Addict Counselling and Rehabilitation Service** (DACARS, 得基輔康會), which was formed by a group of pastoral, medical, legal and social work professionals in early 1988. The name “Enchi Lodge” was assigned by DACARS in 1985. “Enchi” (恩慈) literally means favour and kindly affection given by God.

The compound comprises a two-storey main building and a small one-storey pitched roof building at the rear. A covered path connects the two buildings. The architecture of Enchi Lodge can be described as countrified **Italianate** with an admixture of **Arts & Crafts** and **Art Deco** features. The style evokes the country villas of Tuscany and Umbria with its primitive arched ground floor of rough stonework and its white painted upper storey of stucco-work. Projecting curved bays with balustraded balconies, full height stone angle buttresses, and a Roman pan-tiled roof with projecting eaves complete the picture. The interior floor plan is set on a central axis with central halls or rooms flanked by side rooms used for various purposes.

*Architectural
Merit*

The ancillary block is situated to the north of the main building. This is a single storey building with a pitched roof of Chinese tiles and used to be the

stables of the riding school.

Inevitably, due to the many uses to which Enchi Lodge has been put, there have been alterations such as installation of aluminium windows and new floor finishes. Externally, however Enchi Lodge retains its distinctive architectural style which is very rare in Hong Kong. As such, it has obvious built heritage value.

Built Heritage Value, Authenticity & Rarity

Its social value lies in the rehabilitation service it provides to drug addicts. Locally it is known as “Tai Koo Lau”(太古樓) by the villagers in Kam Tsui Tsuen, but Enchi Lodge has never built up a close relationship with the local inhabitants who pay little attention to the activities there.

Social Value & Local Interest

Other villas of Western architectural styles besides Enchi Lodge include Kam Tsui Lodge (金錢別墅) and Yeung Yuen (楊園). The Lodge also has group value with the nearby Kam Tsui Village (金錢村) – a historic area containing Hau Mei Fung Ancestral Hall (味峰侯公祠), Hau Chung Fuk Tong Communal Hall (侯宗福堂神廳) and Earth God Shrine of Kam Tsui Tsuen (金錢村土地神龕).

Group Value

As Enchi Lodge and its ancillary block are being utilized for a useful purpose, the question of adaptive re-use does not arise at the present time.

Adaptive Re-use