

Historic Building Appraisal

Tung Wah Eastern Hospital

No. 19 Eastern Hospital Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

Tung Wah Eastern Hospital (東華東院) was established in 1929 by the Tung Wah Board of Directors. In 1927, Mr. Lee Hoi-tung (李海東), the new Chairman, and his Directors started their fund raising campaign. At last, \$450,000 was raised and on 4 May 1928, the Governor, Sir Cecil Clementi (金文泰), was invited by Sir Shiu-kin Tang (鄧肇堅), the Chairman, and his directors to lay the foundation stone for the new hospital. In 1929, the construction work was finished and thus, on 27 November 1929, again by the Governor, Sir Cecil Clementi, the Tung Wah Eastern Hospital was officially opened. *Historical Interest*

Tung Wah Eastern Hospital was amalgamated with Tung Wah Hospital (東華醫院) and Kwong Wah Hospital (廣華醫院) under the name of “Tung Wah Group of Hospitals” (TWGHs) (東華三院) in 1931. During the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong in December 1941, Tung Wah Eastern Hospital was converted into a military hospital. It was taken over by the Japanese in the Occupation. After the end of the Second World War, Tung Wah Eastern Hospital was returned to the administration of TWGHs and it continued to provide medical services to the needy.

The Hospital is a three-storey building designed by the well known local architectural practice of **Palmer and Turner**. The plan consists of an E-shaped main block with four ward blocks radiating outwards from a semi-circular courtyard at the centre. The style can be described as **Neo-Classical** as the building displays features derived from classical architecture in a modern stylised way. Walls are rendered and painted and windows are regularly spaced and divided into small glazing squares. Some of the third floor windows have semi-circular arched heads. A projecting cornice runs around the building at parapet level. The main entrance features a double entry staircase and a cantilevered projecting balcony at first floor level. Ornamental ironwork balustrading is featured to the fire escape at the inner courtyard, otherwise ornamentation is quite restrained. *Architectural Merit*

Tung Wah Eastern Hospital is one of the oldest hospitals in TWGHs. The unusual arrangement of radiating wards makes this hospital quite distinctive. The authenticity of the interior is not known, but the exterior appears to retain much of its original appearance except for window mounted room coolers, security lights, surface mounted conduit, etc. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

The social value of Tung Wah Eastern Hospital lies in the role it has played in providing medical services to the community. With the hill at the back facing a large piece of lawn, it is situated at an excellent location where the patients and staff can enjoy a peaceful environment and nice views around.

Tung Wah Eastern Hospital is close to several other historic buildings, such as St. Paul's Primary Catholic School (聖保祿天主教小學), St. Margaret Mary's Church (聖瑪加利大堂) and Shing Kwong Church (聖光堂).