

Historic Building Appraisal
Nos. 6 and 8 Kennedy Road
Mid-levels, Hong Kong

Nos.6 and 8 Kennedy Road are a mirrored pair of residential blocks in the same design. They are symmetrical to each other and main entrances leading up by two short flights of steps are opened in the middle. They were built as a residence by a prominent businessman **Mr. Li Koon-chun** (李冠春) and his family. **Li Koon-chun** was the father of Li Fook-shu (李福樹), Li Fook-sean (李福善), Li Fook-hing (李福慶) and Li Fook-shiu (李福兆) who were famous and influential figures in Hong Kong. *Historical Interest*

No. 8 Kennedy Road was built in **1927**. As the family extended **Mr. Li Koon-chun** erected another adjoining building, **No. 6 Kennedy Road**, in **1935**. According to a chauffeur of the Li family since pre-World War II times, different floors of the premises were designated to Li Koon-chun's sons. The Li family moved out of the premises in the 1960s. It is understood that most of the floors are vacant except the fourth floor which is the office of **Li Fook-hing**, the third son of Li Koon-chun, after his retirement in 1991.

Nos. 6 and 8 Kennedy Road are identical four-storey residential blocks with semi-basements. The architectural style is **Neo-Classical** with **Art Deco** and **Art Nouveau** influence. The front facades show strong verticality in the Ionic and Tuscan Order columns. Classical features include projecting moulded cornices, dentil mouldings, a frieze of triglyphs and moulded panels below the windows. The windows are transomed tripartite wooden windows with ornamental glazing bar patterns. Some Art Deco features can be seen on the façade, and Art Nouveau patterns in the ornamental ironwork grilles and fanlights at the main entrance doors. The entrance doors also have Art Deco influenced wooden door surrounds. The facade with its mixture of style has a rather French appearance and the architect may have been influenced by the **Beaux Arts** style of architecture of the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. *Architectural Merit*

This architectural style is rarely found in Hong Kong and these two houses have considerable built heritage value and architectural merit. The front façade retains much of its original authentic appearance, although the roof parapet of No. 6 has been altered and air-conditioners have been installed at various places. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

The houses have social value and local interest as former residences of the Li family, many of whom have been prominent leading figures in the community. They have played important roles in the development of Hong *Social Value & Local Interest*

Kong.

Nos. 6 and 8 Kennedy Road are physically close to a number of historic buildings, namely, St. Paul's Co-educational College (聖保羅男女中學), First Church of Christ Scientist (基督科學教會香港第一分會), Ex-Commodore's House (前准將官邸), No. 28 Kennedy Road and Union Church (香港佑寧堂). Many Declared Monuments are also nearby; for example, Helena May (梅夫人婦女會), St. Joseph's College (聖若瑟書院), and Government House (香港禮賓府). **Group Value**

The best use for the buildings is residential for which they were originally built. Business and commercial operations would not be suitable especially if they involved erection of signage on the façade. **Adaptive Re-use**