

Historic Building Appraisal
Yeung Garden,
Kwu Tung, Sheung Shui, New Territories

Yeung Garden (楊園) was named after a Mr. Yeung who built the house in the early 1930s as a weekend retreat or holiday home. Sometimes, he came just for a rest or to play golf in Chau Tau (洲頭) or to invited his Chinese and Western friends to join his parties at Yeung Garden. From the late 1950s to the early 1960s, the surrounding area of the villa was occupied by a chicken farm. Later on, the villa and its surrounding area were used as a rattan factory until the early 1970s. *Historical Interest*

Yeung Garden was rented between the early 1970s and 1983 to a lawyer's family, **Lo Hin-shing** (羅顯勝) and his daughter **Lo Helen Andrene** (羅海倫) as a riding school. Several buildings were constructed to the right of the villa and used as an office and stables respectively. **Lo Hin-shing**, the First Magistrate at Hong Kong Magistracy in 1951, was born in Hong Kong in 1889. He was educated at Queen's College and the University of Hong Kong before completing his further education at Cambridge University and was called to the English Bar at Middle Temple. In 1975, he was awarded the M.B.E. In addition, it was said that he was a keen racing fan and also a voting member of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club.

This two-storey house is situated in a large compound surrounded by derelict and empty buildings which were used in the past as factories, stables and kennels. The house itself is built to an unusual X-shaped plan with a canted entrance porch in front and a cylindrical staircase enclosure at the rear. The external walls are rendered and painted with plain rectangular windows. The roofs over the various portions of the house are mainly flat, but the front part has a pitched roof of Chinese tiles. The balcony over the entrance porch has a classical style balustrade. Internally the layout on each floor is based on a central hall with rooms opening off it in the four wings. There are two rear balconies on the ground floor with roof terraces above on the first floor. Unorthodox through the plan may be, the rooms although small, are conventional in shape. The architectural style of the house may be classified as **Modern Eclectic**. *Architectural Merit*

This house, with its unusual X-shaped plan is very rare in Hong Kong. As an early piece of Modernist architecture it has built heritage value. Apart from modern replacement windows the house does not appear to have been altered very much and therefore has remained fairly authentic. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

The social value of the house to the local community does not appear to be very great. At one time Yeung Garden was rented as a riding school. Now the whole place is deserted except for a watchman, and it appears to have acquired a spooky reputation amongst the local village children.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***

Yeung Garden, Kam Tsin Lodge (金錢別墅), Enchi Lodge (恩慈之家) and Oi Yuen Villa (愛園別墅) form a group of Western buildings and has group value recalling the lifestyle of the well-to-do people in Hong Kong.

Group Value

An adaptive re-use would be difficult to find for the house due to its unusual plan. It apparently has been used as an office in the past. Residential use is probably the most suitable use for it.

***Adaptive
Re-use***