

Historic Building Appraisal
Tang Lung Yau Wan Tsuen Um Ancestral Hall
No. 57 Tsz Tong Tsuen, Kam Tin, Yuen Long

Tang Lung Yau Wan Tsuen Um Ancestral Hall (龍游尹泉菴鄧公祠) in Tsz Tong Tsuen (祠塘村) of Kam Tin (錦田), Yuen Long, was built to commemorate Tang Man-wai (鄧文蔚) by his descendents in 1768. The Tang clan settled in Kam Tin as far back as the Song dynasty (宋, 960-1279). Tang Man-wai was the 17th generation ancestor of the clan who achieved the titles of *juren* (舉人) in 1657 and *jinshi* (進士) in 1685 in the Imperial Civil Service Examination. He was appointed the *xianwan* (縣尹, Magistrate) of Lung Yau County (龍游縣) in Zhejiang (浙江) province but died soon after taking up the office. Man-wai had an alias called Tsuen-um (泉菴). The hall was then named as such. The village was settled by members of Tangs from Tai Hong Wai (泰康圍) to its north-west after the hall had been constructed. It has been the family ancestral hall of the Tangs for ancestral worship, dealing with villagers' affairs and served as a study hall before the 1930s.

***Historical
Interest***

The ancestral hall is a Qing (清) vernacular building having a three-hall-two-courtyard plan of symmetrical design. The two open courtyards are between the halls, the front one is bigger than the rear one. It is one of the biggest family ancestral halls in the territory. The most important element of the building, the ancestral altar, lies at the far end of the central axis in the middle of the main hall. The building is constructed of green bricks having its walls, granite and concrete columns to support its roofs of concrete beams and trusses. Above the recessed entrance is the name board of the hall. The hall had a major renovation in 1977 when much of its main features and decorations were modernized. The door frame of its entrance and wall bases at its front façade are with red sandstone which have been partially painted red. Its ridges are each with curling ends (卷尾) mouldings and a pair of ceramic *aoyus* (鰲魚). The wall and gable friezes are with curling floral patterns.

***Architectural
Merit***

A family ancestral hall to remind the glory of the Tangs in Tsz Tong Tsuen.

Rarity

The badly-renovated hall has little built heritage value.

***Built Heritage
Value***

The structurally strengthened building has its authenticity diminished.

Authenticity

It has distant group value with other ancestral halls of the clan in Kam Tin.

Group Value

The Hall has regular worship for the ancestors at the Chinese New Year, Spring and Autumn Equinoxes (春秋二祭) and at festivals. Dim Dang (點燈) ritual is also held for new born baby boys of previous year. It had been a venue for teaching village children for a lengthy period. Even when modern education was introduced, it was used by the Mung Yeung School (蒙養) as its school premises until it had its school building in 1953. The hall had many prominent visitors including the Prince of Wales in 1979.

***Social Value
& Local
Interest***