

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Notice 2022

INTRODUCTION

After consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board (“AAB”)¹ and with the approval of the Chief Executive, the Secretary for Development (“SDEV”), in his capacity as the Antiquities Authority under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) (the “Ordinance”), has decided to declare three historic buildings, i.e. Jamia Mosque (回教清真禮拜總堂), Lui Seng Chun (雷生春) and Hong Kong City Hall (香港大會堂) (the “City Hall”), as monuments² under section 3(1) of the Ordinance.

2. The declaration is made by the Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Notice 2022 (the “Notice”) (**Annex A**), which will be published in the Gazette on 20 May 2022.

A

¹ The Antiquities Advisory Board is a statutory body established under section 17 of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) to advise the Antiquities Authority on any matters relating to antiquities, proposed monuments or monuments or referred to it for consultation under sections 2A(1), 3(1) or 6(4) of the Ordinance.

² Under section 2 of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53), “monument” (古蹟) means a place, building, site or structure which is declared to be a monument, historical building or archaeological or palaeontological site or structure.

JUSTIFICATIONS

Heritage Significance

3. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (“AMO”)³ has carried out research on and assessed the heritage significance of the three historic buildings set out in paragraph 1 above. AMO recommends to the Antiquities Authority that the three historic buildings have significant heritage value that meets the high threshold required for declaration as monuments under section 3(1) of the Ordinance. The heritage value of the three historic buildings is summarised in paragraphs 4 to 10 below and elaborated in Annex B.

B

(a) Jamia Mosque

4. Built between 1915 and 1916 with donations from Bombay merchant Haji Mohamed Essack Elias to replace the old mosque on the same site on Shelley Street, Jamia Mosque is now the oldest mosque in Hong Kong⁴. The old mosque on the same site was built in 1849 to provide a place of worship for Muslims who mainly came from the Indian subcontinent and were primarily merchants, sailors, soldiers, policemen and prison guards. With the rapid growth of the Muslim community in Hong Kong, the old mosque was subsequently demolished and replaced by Jamia Mosque which could accommodate a congregation of around 400 people.

5. Jamia Mosque is constructed in concrete and bricks with an elongated rectangular plan built along an east-west axis, with its entrance at the east and the *Qibla* wall at the west facing Holy Kaaba in Makkah, Saudi Arabia which is the birth place of Holy Prophet Muhammad. Rich Islamic mosque architectural features can be seen at Jamia Mosque, such as the

³ The Antiquities and Monuments Office is the executive arm of the Antiquities Authority dealing with matters, among others, relating to research, examination and preservation of any place, building, site or structure which is of historical, archaeological or palaeontological value.

⁴ Reports of the Director of Public Works for the years 1915 and 1916 record that the construction of Jamia Mosque commenced in 1915 and completed in 1916.

minaret crowned by a dome decorated with finial, the pointed multifoil archways at the entrance portico and doorways, the pointed arches above the coloured glazed windows, the octagonal dome at the centre of the prayer hall, the *mihrab* on the *Qibla* wall and the *Kufic* calligraphic motifs on the walls. Jamia Mosque is significant in witnessing the growth of the Muslim community in Hong Kong and it remains as an important place of worship and gathering for the Muslims in Hong Kong.

(b) Lui Seng Chun

6. Lui Seng Chun is a four-storey *tong lau* (唐樓) (literally meaning Chinese-style building, the local term for Hong Kong shophouse typology) located on a triangular site in Mong Kok, Kowloon. It was built in 1931 and owned by Lui Leung (雷亮, 1863-1944), one of the founders of The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited. The Lui family ran a Chinese medicine shop on the ground floor and lived on the upper floors. The medicine shop was closed a few years after Lui Leung passed away in 1944. In 2003, the Lui family donated the building to the Hong Kong Government for preservation. The donation was unprecedented in Hong Kong.

7. Lui Seng Chun was designed by W. H. Bourne. The building is of neo-classical style mixed with Art Deco elements by sweeping horizontal lines and robust classical elements. Its main front elevation is in a curved design.

8. Under Batch I of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme, Lui Seng Chun has been revitalised as a Chinese medicine and healthcare centre operated by the Hong Kong Baptist University (“HKBU”) since 2012. Apart from resuming the original function of Lui Seng Chun as a medical-related facility, the original architectural form and elements such as granite columns, terrazzo exterior wall, flooring tiles, and staircase are well preserved. Lui Seng Chun is a testimony to the history of a well-respected family, including the economic activities of their Chinese medicine shop around the Second World War.

(c) Hong Kong City Hall

9. The City Hall located at the Edinburgh Place is the second city hall in Hong Kong. It was officially opened by Governor Sir Robert Black on 2 March 1962. The City Hall, which is the first multi-purpose cultural complex for all citizens in Hong Kong, has since its opening been a venue for many historical events such as the inauguration ceremonies of five governors of Hong Kong, a cradle for local performers and a testimony for the arts and cultural development of Hong Kong. It also testifies the unprecedented commitment of the Government to enrich the cultural lives and improve the living standards of citizens by creating a hub of cultural activities and municipal services.

10. The City Hall is an outstanding example of Modernist architecture which adopts a modest design that focuses on fulfilling the functions of the building. It comprises the Low Block, the Memorial Garden and the High Block which are well-connected through a covered walkway. The Low Block houses a concert hall, a theatre and an exhibition gallery while the High Block houses a marriage registry, a public library and a recital hall. The Memorial Garden and the 12-sided Memorial Shrine located at the centre of garden are dedicated to the soldiers and citizens who sacrificed their lives defending Hong Kong in the Second World War. Located at the harbour front, the architects ensured all facilities, except the enclosed auditoria, have sea views and thus created a sense of unlimited space. The City Hall is a rare and significant example of Modernist architecture, which sets an architectural trend in Hong Kong and has become a landmark design for Hong Kong architecture.

Declaration as Monuments

11. Jamia Mosque, Lui Seng Chun and the City Hall have been accorded with Grade 1 status by AAB under the existing administrative

grading mechanism⁵. AAB advised in November 2008 that all Grade 1 historic buildings should, given their outstanding heritage value, form a pool of potential candidates for the Antiquities Authority to consider monument declaration.

12. With the recommendation of AMO as set out in paragraph 3 above, the support of AAB and the approval of the Chief Executive, SDEV, as the Antiquities Authority, has decided to declare the three historic buildings as monuments under the Ordinance. In addition to reflecting the outstanding heritage value of the three historic buildings, the declaration will provide the three buildings with statutory protection⁶.

13. As the City Hall is situated on government land, serving of notice with regard to the intended declaration under section 4 of the Ordinance is not required. Explicit agreement of the management department of the City Hall, i.e. the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (“LCSD”) under the Home Affairs Bureau (“HAB”), to the declaration proposal has been obtained.

14. On the other hand, Lui Seng Chun is leased to HKBU by the Government and Jamia Mosque is situated on private lot under the ownership of The Incorporated Trustees of the Islamic Community Fund of Hong Kong. The procedure of serving notices to the respective lawful occupier and owner of the two buildings with regard to the intended declaration is required under

⁵ The grading system is an administrative arrangement to provide an objective basis for determining the heritage value, and hence the preservation need, of historic buildings in Hong Kong. Under the grading system:

- Grade 1 status refers to buildings of outstanding merit, which every effort should be made to preserve if possible;
- Grade 2 status refers to buildings of special merit; efforts should be made to selectively preserve; and
- Grade 3 status refers to buildings of some merit; preservation in some form would be desirable and alternative means could be considered if preservation is not practicable.

⁶ Section 6(1) of the Ordinance provides:

“6(1) Subject to subsection (4), no person shall –

- (a) excavate, carry on building or other works, plant or fell trees or deposit earth or refuse on or in a proposed monument or monument; or
- (b) demolish, remove, obstruct, deface or interfere with a proposed monument or monument, except in accordance with a permit granted by the Authority.”

section 4 of the Ordinance. Such notices were served on the respective lawful occupier and owner of the two buildings on 30 March and 1 April 2022 respectively. No objection was received by AMO during the one-month notice period. Explicit agreement of the respective lawful occupier and owner of the two buildings to the declaration proposal has also been obtained.

15. The declaration of the three historic buildings will be made by the Notice published in the Gazette on 20 May 2022. Copies of plans showing the locations of the three buildings declared by the Antiquities Authority as monuments and deposited in the Land Registry are at Annex C. The Notice will take immediate effect and will be tabled in the Legislative Council for negative vetting on 25 May 2022.

C

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

16. The declaration is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It has no financial, civil service, economic, productivity, environmental, family or gender implications. As far as sustainability implications are concerned, the declaration is conducive to upholding the sustainability principle of protecting Hong Kong's heritage assets.

17. Upon the declaration of the three historic buildings as monuments, their repair and maintenance works will continue to be undertaken by their respective owner, lawful occupier and management department as before.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

18. AAB was consulted on the proposed declaration as required under section 3(1) of the Ordinance and rendered its support on 10 March 2022.

PUBLICITY

19. A press release will be issued on the date of declaration (i.e. 20 May 2022). A spokesman will be available to answer media and public enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

20. For any enquiries on this brief, please contact Mr. Ivanhoe CHANG, Commissioner for Heritage of Development Bureau, at 2906 1521.

Development Bureau

20 May 2022

Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings)
(Consolidation) (Amendment) Notice 2022

Section 1

1

**Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments
and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) (Amendment)
Notice 2022**

(Made by the Secretary for Development under section 3(1) of the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) after consultation with the Antiquities Advisory Board and with the approval of the Chief Executive)

1. Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) Notice amended

The Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) Notice (Cap. 53 sub. leg. B) is amended as set out in section 2.

2. Paragraph 3 amended (declaration of historical buildings)

(1) Paragraph 3(cp)—

Repeal

“Development.”

Substitute

“Development;”.

(2) After paragraph 3(cp)—

Add

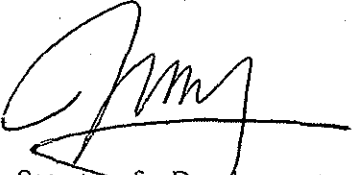
“(cq) the building known as Jamia Mosque at Inland Lot No. 268, 30 Shelley Street, Central, Hong Kong, as delineated and shown edged red on the plan marked Plan No. HKM10980 signed and deposited in the Land Registry under section 3(4) of the Ordinance by the Secretary for Development, other than the temporary canopy situated within the area hatched black on the plan;

Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings)
(Consolidation) (Amendment) Notice 2022

Section 2

2

- (cr) the building known as Lui Seng Chun at 119 Lai Chi Kok Road, Mong Kok, Kowloon, as delineated and shown edged red on the plan marked Plan No. KM10792 signed and deposited in the Land Registry under section 3(4) of the Ordinance by the Secretary for Development;
- (cs) the buildings, structures and the adjoining land within Hong Kong City Hall at 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, Hong Kong, as delineated and shown edged red on the plan marked Plan No. HKM10981 signed and deposited in the Land Registry under section 3(4) of the Ordinance by the Secretary for Development.”



Secretary for Development

16 May 2022

Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings)
(Consolidation) (Amendment) Notice 2022

Explanatory Note
Paragraph 1

3

Explanatory Note

This Notice declares the following places to be historical buildings under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53)—

- (a) the building known as Jamia Mosque at Inland Lot No. 268, 30 Shelley Street, Central, Hong Kong;
- (b) the building known as Lui Seng Chun at 119 Lai Chi Kok Road, Mong Kok, Kowloon;
- (c) the buildings, structures and the adjoining land within Hong Kong City Hall at 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, Hong Kong.

**Heritage Appraisal of Jamia Mosque,
No. 30 Shelley Street, Central, Hong Kong**

***Historical
Interest***

Jamia Mosque (the “Mosque”) (回教清真禮拜總堂, also known as “些利街清真寺”) at No. 30 Shelley Street (些利街) was built in 1915 with the donation from Haji Mohamed Essack Elias, a Bombay merchant, to replace the old mosque on the same site. Completed in 1916, it is the oldest mosque in Hong Kong.¹

The Mosque is historically significant in witnessing the growth of the Muslim community in Hong Kong. Amid the wave of the global sea trade and the British’s administration of Hong Kong in the nineteenth century, Muslims who were mainly Indian merchants and sailors arrived in Hong Kong on the merchant ships of the East India Company. In addition, some Muslim Indian soldiers were deployed by the British to Hong Kong. There were also Indian Muslims who worked as policemen, prison guards, bank clerks, etc. in Hong Kong. Since the mid-nineteenth century, Upper Lascar Row and Lower Lascar Row were the major settlement areas of the Muslim community.² The Muslims held their first *Jamat* (assembly or religious congregation) outdoors at Lower Lascar Row and continued the practice for a period of time before a place for worship was built.

To cope with the needs of the growing Muslim community in the city, some Muslim firms from the Indian subcontinent with established businesses in Hong Kong applied to the Hong Kong Government for building a mosque. A piece of land (designated as Inland Lot No. 268 where the Mosque now stands) was leased in 1849 to four Muslims namely Shaik Moosdeen, Mahomed Arab, Shaik Carther and Hassan Malay, who acted as the trustees of the Mussulman community of Hong Kong, at a nominal rent for 999 years for the construction of a mosque.³ They were prominent Indian

¹ Reports of the Director of Public Works for the years 1915 and 1916 record that the construction of Jamia Mosque commenced in 1915 and completed in 1916.

² Lascar refers to sailors from India or Southeast Asia. The street name of Upper Lascar Row and Lower Lascar were probably named after the major settlement there.

³ The Land Registry, ‘Lot No.: Inland Lot No. 268’, Government Lease of IL 268 trustees of *Mussulman* community of Hong Kong for a mosque.

Muslims involved in sea trade or closely connected with the British army. The first *masjid* (the Arabic word of “mosque”) was completed in 1849 by contributions from a handful of worshippers. It was a small stone house that could accommodate around 150 people. The indenture for the land lease was entered into between the trustees and the Government on 23 September 1850.

The first Mosque soon became insufficient to cater for the rapid growth of the Muslim community in Hong Kong. It was demolished in 1915 and replaced by the present one. The foundation stone embedded in the front façade of the Mosque was laid on 15 August 1915. The new Mosque could accommodate a congregation of around 400 people. The Mosque is now managed by the Incorporated Trustees of the Islamic Community Fund of Hong Kong, and remains as an important place of worship and gathering for the Muslim community in Hong Kong.

As shown on the foundation stone of the Mosque, the architect was Abdoolhoosen Abdoolrahim. He built the Mosque on a sloped site in the Mid-levels accessible through an archway with a flight of stairs on Shelley Street. The Mosque has an elongated rectangular plan constructed along an east-west axis with the *Qibla* wall facing the Holy Kaaba in Makkah, Saudi Arabia which is the birth place of Holy Prophet Muhammad, and the entrance portico in the east crowned with a minaret for calling worshippers to perform their daily prayers in the past.⁴

***Architectural
Merit***

The Mosque is constructed in concrete and bricks. The granite columns at the front façade of the Mosque support the minaret. A metal spiral staircase at the corner of the entrance portico gives access to the octagonal encircling balcony of the minaret above and the connecting bridge to the roof of the prayer hall. The entrance portico laid with marble floor tiles is a small courtyard enclosed with low fence wall covered by a canopy and a later-added corrugated roof. It is the space to demarcate pure and impure areas. Muslim worshippers and visitors must take off their shoes upon entering

⁴ The original function of the minaret is no longer needed as loudspeaker is now installed inside the Mosque. *Imam* uses microphone during prayers nowadays.

the entrance portico. Three entrance doors open to the interior of the prayer hall which is a large single space with the *Qibla* wall at the other end. The ablution (*wudu*) area of the Mosque for worshippers to wash their hands, face, elbows, heads, feet and ankles before entering the Mosque for praying is next to *Musafir Khana* (i.e. the residence of the Muslims), detached from the Mosque.

Rich Islamic mosque architectural features can be seen at the Mosque. The minaret is crowned by a dome with finial. The archways of the entrance portico and the three entrance doorways leading to the prayer hall are pointed multifoil archways. The windows and openings on the side elevations and the minaret are also decorated with pointed arches, with window leaves fitted with pointed multifoil coloured glazing. An octagonal dome is located at the centre of the prayer hall. Octagonal coloured glass windows are applied at the drum of the dome. The *mihrab* on the *Qibla* wall, which is a niche with a pointed onion arch opening flanked by a smaller similar niche of same shape on each side, is the most decorated part inside the Mosque. The *mihrab* also serves as a natural amplifier. The *Imam* who leads prayers at the mosque will face the *mihrab* during prayers and his voice will be bounced back to the worshippers behind him. A century-old wooden *mimber* is placed by the side of the *mihrab*.⁵ *Kufic* calligraphic motifs are found throughout the Mosque mainly above doors, windows, niches, and at the centre of each window at the drum of the central dome. The low fence wall of the small court and the roof parapets are decorated by rounded merlons, and pedestals crowned by finial at intervals. The four corner spires on the roof of prayer hall are also crowned with finial as well. Crescent and star are placed at the top of the minaret.

⁵ A *mimber* is a stepped pulpit to the right of the *mihrab* in a prayer hall of a mosque, where an *Imam* delivers *khutbah* (talk on religious and moral subjects) during the Friday prayers. It is usually constructed with an odd number of steps, where a three-step design is considered as a rather modest design (there are examples with 9 to 11 steps). Built-in *mimbers* are usually permanent stone structures, while non-structural *mimbers* are usually made of wood, as is the case at Jamia Mosque. According to the inscriptions on the *mimber* of Jamia Mosque, it was presented by a local Chinese Muslim, Mr MA Chik Ting in 1915.

Authenticity

The Mosque retains much of its authentic appearance since it was built in 1915. A more obvious alteration is the covering of the small courtyard at the entrance portico with corrugated sheets. This later addition, however, can be removed completely if necessary without affecting the integrity of the structure and the design of the Mosque. The exterior of the Mosque is painted light green and white at present. It was painted in various colours in the past, like carmine in the early days, white in the 1990s and pale green and darker green as shown in some old photos. The Mosque has been performing its original function since it was built, which further enhances its authenticity and history.

Rarity

The Mosque is a rare type of architecture in Hong Kong and is the oldest mosque as well as one of the only two pre-war mosques in the territory.⁶ Among all the Islamic mosque architectural features embodied in the Mosque, the minaret is rare in Hong Kong.

***Social Value
& Local Interest***

The Mosque embodies the fulfilment of the spiritual needs of the Muslim community in Hong Kong. Before the construction of the Kowloon *Masjid* (Kowloon Mosque) in Tsim Sha Tsui and the *Masjid* Ammar in Wan Chai, it was the crucial worshipping and gathering venue for local Muslims. Prayers are held five times daily at the Mosque and there is a large congregation on Fridays.⁷ Mosque Street (摩羅廟街) and Mosque Junction (摩羅廟交加街), which are located in the vicinity of the Mosque, are obviously named after it. The Mosque has been an iconic architecture in the neighbourhood and is also on the Sheung Wan Route of the Central and Western Heritage Trail, serving as a landmark testifying the development of the Muslim community in Hong Kong. It is just a few steps away from the Central to Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway System and has been attracting visitors and tourists to it.

Group Value

The Mosque has a strong historical and social connection with the Residence of Muslims at Jamia Mosque (清真寺教徒住所) (Grade 2) nearby. The Mosque and other remarkable religious

⁶ Stanley *Masjid* was built in 1937.

⁷ Muslims pray five times a day, i.e. *Fajr* or early morning prayer, *Zuhr* or noon prayer, *Asr* or afternoon prayer, *Maghrib* or sunset prayer and *Isha* or evening prayer.

buildings in the vicinity, including Sacred Heart Chapel (聖心教堂), Hong Kong Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (香港天主教聖母無原罪主教座堂) and Ohel Leah Synagogue (猶太教莉亞堂) (all Grade 1), demonstrate the cultural and religious diversity of Hong Kong. Besides, there are also declared monuments and other graded historic buildings in the neighbourhood of the Mosque, including No. 15 Robinson Road (羅便臣道15號) (Grade 2), Steps of Prince's Terrace (太子台台階) (Grade 3), No. 20 Hollywood Road (荷李活道20號) (Grade 3), Tai Kwun, consisting of three groups of declared monuments (former Central Police Station Compound (前中區警署), former Central Magistracy (前中央裁判署) and former Victoria Prison Compound (前域多利監獄); and Kom Tong Hall (甘棠第) (Declared Monument). These buildings depict the historical and socio-cultural development of Hong Kong.

**Photographs of Jamia Mosque,
No. 30 Shelley Street, Central, Hong Kong**



The front façade of Jamia Mosque.
The minaret with balcony is the most prominent feature of the Jamia Mosque.



Side elevation of Jamia Mosque with pointed arch windows and simple motifs.



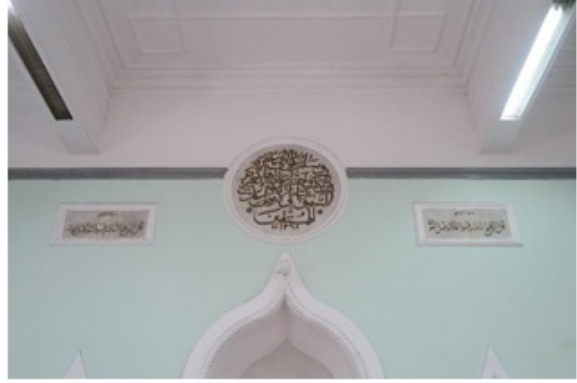
Three pointed multifoil archways at the entrance portico of the prayer hall.
The floor of the entrance portico is finished with marble floor tiles.



Interior of the prayer hall.
Pointed arch windows with window leaves fitted with pointed multifoil coloured glazing are on both sides of the prayer hall.



Mihrab with onion arch opening in the prayer hall.
The century-old wooden *mimber* is placed by the side of the *mihrab*.



Kufic calligraphic motifs throughout the Jamia Mosque.



Metal spiral staircase at the corner of the entrance portico leading up to the minaret.



Crescent and star at the top of the dome of minaret.

A connecting bridge linking the minaret and the roof of the prayer hall.



The octagonal dome with coloured glass windows at the center of the prayer hall.



Foundation stone of Jamia Mosque embedded in the granite column of the entrance portico.



The roof parapets decorated by rounded merlons,
with pedestals crowned by finial at intervals.

**Heritage Appraisal of Lui Seng Chun,
No. 119 Lai Chi Kok Road, Mong Kok, Kowloon**

Located at No. 119 Lai Chi Kok Road in Mong Kok, Kowloon, Lui Seng Chun (雷生春) is a four-storey *tong lau* (literally meaning Chinese-style building (唐樓), the local term for Hong Kong shophouse typology)¹ located on a triangular site. It was built in 1931 and owned by Lui Leung (雷亮, 1863-1944), one of the founders of The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (“KMB”). The Lui family ran a Chinese medicine shop named “Lui Seng Chun” on the ground floor and resided on the upper floors. Lui Seng Chun has been revitalised into a Chinese medicine and healthcare center since 2012. It is a testimony to the history of a well-respected family, including the economic activities of their Chinese medicine shop around the Second World War.

***Historical
Interest***

Lui Leung, alias Lui Hung-wai (雷鴻維), was born in a family of Chinese medicine practitioners in Taishan (台山), Guangdong. He arrived in Hong Kong in 1922 and set up a trading company in Western District in partnership with Lui Wai-shun (雷維信) from the same hometown. Lui Leung purchased a piece of land at Kowloon Inland Lot No. 2792, i.e. No. 119 Lai Chi Kok Road, on 11 March 1929 and appointed W. H. Bourne, a local architect, to design Lui Seng Chun.

The building was constructed in 1931. After the house was fitted out and furnished in 1934, the Lui family moved in. Lui Leung opened his Chinese medicine shop on the ground floor, while the upper floors were used by his family as living accommodation with the elders on the first floor and younger members on the upper floors. The shop’s name “Lui Seng Chun” was embedded in a couplet,² which had an allegoric meaning of curing people by medicine produced by the Luis. Since a large plaque inscribed with the shop’s name is erected at the top of the building, the building is also commonly referred to by the shop’s name.

¹ The term *tong lau* (唐樓), will be used in the appraisal to refer generally to this kind of shophouse buildings in Hong Kong.

² The couplet installed at the Lui Seng Chun medicine shop reads “雷雨功深揚灑露，生民仰望藥回春”. It was a gift from a friend of Lui Leung congratulating him on the opening of the shop.

According to the Lui family, Lui Seng Chun only produced and sold one kind of bone-setting medicated wine.³ Its principal function was to aid the setting of broken bones. As the herbal medicine business was non-profit-making, there was neither mass production nor publicity. Lui Leung only wished to bring benefits to the community through the medicated wine. In fact, from purchase of herbs, production and packaging of the medicated wine to distribution, all were done at Lui Seng Chun by the family members. The medicated wine, however, won good reputation with its popularity not just confined to the neighbourhood. There were constant demands from his hometown, and the Taishan communities in overseas, such as the United States, Australia, Southeast Asia, and even as far away as Peru. The medicated wine was exported to these markets through Lui Leung's trading company named Man Sun Long Kam San Chong (萬信隆金山莊).

A few years after Lui Leung's death in 1944, the medicine shop was closed as no family member was interested in continuing the medicine business. The Lui family rented the two shops facing Lai Chi Kok Road on the ground floor to two men's tailor shops, i.e. Yan Wo (仁和) and Tai Tung (大同) until 1972.

In the 1960s, as the family size became bigger, there was a growing pressure for living space. The Luis finally moved out from the building and the upper floors were used by their friends and relatives from their hometown. In 1972, some members of the Lui family set up the Kiniland Investment Company Limited (金利源置業有限公司) which purchased the remaining shares of the building from other shareholders. Lui Seng Chun thus came under the sole ownership of the aforesaid company.⁴

In 2000, the family decided to donate the building to the Government for preservation. The transfer of ownership was completed in 2003. Lui Seng Chun was revitalised successfully into a Chinese medicine and healthcare center by the Hong Kong Baptist University in 2012.

³ Although different names and functions were mentioned on the cartons and advertisements of the medicated wine, such as "Liquid Chinese Herbal Medicine Curing Broken Bones and Wounds" (八寶跌打刀傷藥露), "Liquid Chinese Herbal Medicine Curing Staunching Blood" (八寶跌打刀傷止血水), and even the function to cure abscesses on gums, they all referred to the same product.

⁴ According to the will of Lui Leung, Lui Seng Chun was inherited by his sons. Lui Fook-hong (雷福康), Lui Lai-tong (雷禮唐) and Lui Ki-yung (雷祺庸), sons of Lui Leung, were the directors of the Kiniland Investment Company Limited which paid \$794,000 to purchase the remaining shares of Lui Seng Chun from other shareholders.

Lui Seng Chun was designed by W. H. Bourne. It is one of the few remaining distinctive *tong lau* from the 1930s. The building was used as residence on the first to third floors while shops on the ground floor. While the majority of the standard *tong lau* in pre-war years were designed and constructed by local builders using a “pattern-book” approach, Lui Seng Chun was individually architect-designed according to the client’s order.

Located at the junction of Lai Chi Kok Road and Tong Mi Road, Lui Seng Chun adopts a curved design to the main front elevation with a rectangular frame and a row of decorative balustrades. It is a building of neo-classical style mixed with Art Deco elements which are often characterised by sweeping horizontal lines and robust classical elements. The mixed style was commonly found in *tong lau* in the 1930s. With eight granite columns on the ground floor, the verandah extends over the public pavements forming arcades. This kind of shophouses is classified as Verandah Type. The deep verandahs above the arcades provide sufficient natural light and ventilation for the interior whilst providing shelters for users of the pavements.

The interior of the upper floors adopts an open-plan, i.e. no fixed partitions constructed. Each floor was equipped with a kitchen and a bathroom with flushing toilet. There is a separate staircase running from the ground floor to the upper residences and the roof terrace. Therefore, it was not necessary for the family members to pass through the shop when they went out and returned home.

Lui Seng Chun has retained much of its original architectural form and most of the distinctive architectural features despite internal refurbishments, alterations and additions carried out in the past. After officially taking over Lui Seng Chun, the Government carried out basic repairs including removing modifications, restoring the original open-plan design and conducting reinforcement works.

Authenticity

In 2011, the alteration and addition works to revitalise Lui Seng Chun to a Chinese medicine and healthcare Center started. The revitalisation of the building involved the addition of a staircase as fire escape route, a lift for barrier-free access, and toilets also suitable for people with disabilities, restoration and reinforcement of the existing structures and elements, addition of glass enclosures along the verandahs, installation of drainage, fire safety, electrical and air-conditioning facilities, etc. The works followed the principle of minimum intervention to maintain the authenticity and the integrity of the building whilst meeting the contemporary needs. Although new facilities were installed, maximum reversibility was ensured. To minimise the intervention to the facade and integrity of the building, the project team thoughtfully built a new outdoor steel and glass

staircase next to the rear verandahs, used a special type of glazing to enclose the verandahs, and camouflaged the solar water heater, fire service water tank and air conditioner system on the roof level.

Major features of the Lui Seng Chun medicine shop which were originally located at the curved corner area on the ground floor have been retained. These include, for instance, the wooden tablet of Lui Seng Chun, the shop windows with their window shutters, and the glass panel of the main entrance with Lui Seng Chun's advertising logo on it. The original features and elements reinforce the authenticity of the building.

Lui Seng Chun is uncommon among the *tong lau* of the pre-war years in Hong Kong as it, unlike most of the *tong lau* in Hong Kong which were usually designed and constructed by local builders using a "stereotype" approach at that time, was specially designed by an architect according to the site condition and views of the owner. In addition, most of the original features and elements like granite columns with decorative capitals, flooring tiles, timber doors and windows, iron grilles and terrazzo exterior walls and staircase are well preserved. Flushing toilet in residential building is another rare facility in Hong Kong in the pre-war years. Apart from the distinctive architectural form, Lui Seng Chun is a rare example in Hong Kong as it embodies the early history of a local well-respected family and reflects the economic activities of a Chinese medicine shop in an earlier era.

Rarity

Lui Seng Chun is socially significant in many ways. First, it is an exceptional landmark in the district. Second, it was a well-known Chinese bone-setting medicine shop which served the locals in Mong Kok as well as Sham Shui Po in the past. The medicated wine produced by the Luis was even exported overseas through Lui Leung's trading company. Although the medicated wine and the medicine shop no longer exist, the building named "Lui Seng Chun" is a remarkable reminder of the product and the medicine shop.

Social Value & Local Interest

In 2000, the Lui family offered to donate Lui Seng Chun to the Government on a totally non-remunerated basis for conservation purpose. The donation was unprecedented in Hong Kong. The generous offer from the Lui family demonstrates the support given by a family to heritage conservation in Hong Kong.

In 2008, Lui Seng Chun was included in Batch I of the "Revitalising Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme" launched by the Development Bureau. Hong Kong Baptist University revitalised the building into a Chinese medicine and healthcare center in 2012 and has been operating it since then. The revitalisation allowed Lui Seng Chun to resume its medical services to the

community. Lui Seng Chun has become an attraction to both local and overseas visitors after its revitalisation. The project was well recognised by the design and architectural professionals and was awarded the winner of the “2012 Special Architectural Award – Heritage & Adaptive Re-use” by The Hong Kong Institute of Architects in 2013.

Lui Seng Chun is within walking distance of other historic buildings, such as the Old Kowloon Police Headquarters (舊九龍警察總部, Grade 2), Nos. 190 to 204 Prince Edward Road West, Nos. 210 and 212 Prince Edward Road West (all Grade 2), Nos. 177 and 179 Prince Edward Road West (Grade 3), Nos. 1 and 3 Playing Field Road (Grade 3), No. 729 Nathan Road (Grade 3) and No. 1235 Canton Road (Grade 3). These historic buildings collectively witnessed the socio-cultural development of Mong Kok. The various historic *tong lau*, including Lui Seng Chun, also exhibit the characteristics of *tong lau* architecture, especially *tong lau* in pre-war years.

Group Value

**Photographs of Lui Seng Chun,
No. 119 Lai Chi Kok Road, Mong Kok, Kowloon**



The front façade of Lui Seng Chun,
a curved design for a triangular site located
at the junction of Lai Chi Kok Road and Tong Mi Road.



Side elevation of Lui Seng Chun facing Lai Chi Kok Road, curved design with a rectangular frame and a row of decorative balustrades.



Plaque marked with Chinese characters “雷生春”, name of the Chinese medicine shop, a typical architectural feature of *tong lau*.



With granite columns supporting on the ground floor, the verandah extends over the public pavements forming arcades.



Shop windows with original window shutters facing Lai Chi Kok Road are retained.



Entrance of the shop, finished with terrazzo exterior walls and timber windows with iron grilles on the top.



Ground floor of the shop area,
plaques of “Lui Seng Chun” and “King Fook Tong” were reinstated to
the original locations after the restoration of the building



Glass panel of the door at the main entrance,
with Lui Seng Chun's advertising logo on it.



Original elements such as floor tiles and timber doors are preserved at the verandah on the 3/F.



Rear verandah, supported by concrete beams, with the same pattern of railing.

**Heritage Appraisal of Hong Kong City Hall,
No. 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, Hong Kong**

The Hong Kong City Hall (“City Hall”), located at the Edinburgh Place, is the second city hall in Hong Kong. It occupies an area of around 11,000 square meters and comprises three main parts, namely the Low Block, the Memorial Garden and the High Block. The opening of the City Hall in 1962 signified the economic revival and rapid development of Hong Kong in the post-war period.

*Historical
Interest*

The first city hall, located on Queen’s Road Central¹ and opened on 2 November 1869, was demolished between the 1930s and 1940s. The poor economy in the 1930s, the Japanese Occupation between 1941 and 1945, and the post-war difficult condition² hindered the plan to construct a new city hall. It was not until 1952 that the Legislative Council resolved that the planning work should carry on.

The design and construction work was undertaken by Professor Gordon Brown of The University of Hong Kong and the then Public Works Department (“PWD”). The design of the new city hall was on display at the British Council to collect public opinions. Taking the public views into consideration, the layout of the building was revised a few times, including the addition of a theatre, a ballroom and a banquet hall.

In 1959, piling work started, and the foundation stone was laid on 25 February 1960 by Sir Robert Black, the then Governor of Hong Kong. The term ‘city hall’ refers to a building accommodating the municipal government in many cities. The City Hall in Hong Kong, however, is a social and cultural center for the whole city. This intention was reflected in the speech of Sir Robert Black at the foundation stone laying ceremony.³

¹ The first city hall was a two-storey Classical building designed by Achille-Antoine Hermitte, a French architect, and was built on a piece of land granted by the Government. It housed a theatre, a library, a museum and assembly rooms.

² Hong Kong suffered from economic depression in the 1930s amid the Great Depression as well as unstable political and economic situation in Mainland China. The massive influx of immigrants from Mainland China added burden to the financial difficulties of the Government.

³ Sir Robert Black said in his opening speech, “*Hong Kong is uniquely placed to bring together the cultures of China and the West. In the City Hall we hope to see performances of music and drama, and exhibitions of the arts connected with literature and painting both Chinese and Western, for the benefit of all who live in Hong Kong, of whatever race.*”

After two years of construction, the City Hall was officially opened on 2 March 1962 by Governor Sir Robert Black. The opening ceremony was held at the Concert Hall in the Low Block where Sir Robert Black presented a scroll to Mr K.S. Kinghorn (景韓) JP, the then Chairman of the Urban Council, and endowed the Urban Council with the power to manage the City Hall in accordance with the relevant ordinance enacted on 29 March 1961.⁴ The opening of the City Hall was a significant event and the entire opening ceremony was broadcast live. The inauguration concert conducted by London Philharmonic Orchestra (倫敦愛樂樂團) at the Concert Hall was also broadcast live.⁵

The Memorial Shrine at the Memorial Garden was unveiled on 30 August 1962, reminding the public of the Second World War (1941 - 1945) and the glorious deaths in the war, both soldiers and civilians. During the memorial ceremony, Mr Alberto Rodrigues, the Chairman of the Commemorative Committee of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment Fund, passed a Roll of Honour and the plaques listing the units that took part in the war to Sir Robert Black. The Roll of Honour and the plaques are now placed inside the shrine.

The opening of the City Hall denoted the development of Hong Kong since the 1960s, in particular, in the areas of arts and culture. Being funded and operated by the Government, the City Hall embodied the changing attitude of the Government. The Government undertook the responsibility of improving the living standards of the citizens by creating a hub of cultural activities and municipal services.

In addition, the City Hall testified the change in social equality in the second half of the twentieth century in Hong Kong. Unlike the first city hall, which was mainly a social venue for the upper class, the City Hall has been a venue for all, regardless of ethnicity and social status. Anyone can go to the library, the museum exhibitions, and enjoy performances in the City Hall free of charge or at affordable prices.

Furthermore, the City Hall provides the community with a world-class performance venue in Hong Kong. Many significant local and international events and world-class performances have been held at the City Hall. It serves as an important window for Hong Kong people to glimpse the international music scene and the stepping stone of numerous famous Western orchestras and musicians to set foot in

⁴ Since the dissolution of Urban Council 1999, the management of the City Hall has been taken over by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

⁵ London Philharmonic Orchestra, one of the world's top orchestras, staged the first concert at the Concert Hall on 4 March 1962. A total of five concerts were held in the six days from 4 March 1962. Ms Chiu Yee Ha (趙綺霞), a young local pianist who had performed with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, was invited to perform in the last concert.

Hong Kong and Asia. The provision of first-rate venues for public activities eased the urgent needs of the society for performance venues at the time. The choice of performance venues in the 1950s is limited.⁶ After the opening of the City Hall, the Urban Council implemented the policy of keeping a low hiring charge that was affordable for local groups from 1962 to 1973. This policy helped nurture local arts and cultural groups.

The opening of the City Hall marks the development of public museums and art galleries in Hong Kong. Admission to the exhibitions held at the City Hall was basically free. Free exhibitions attracted the general public, in particular the younger generations to deepen their understanding in the arts and history and widen their horizons. It was particularly important at that time as Hong Kong's economy was just taking off. Visiting these cultural venues was amongst the most popular leisure activities in Hong Kong in the 1960s and 1970s.

Before the establishment of the City Hall, there was no government-run public library which was accessible to members of the Hong Kong society. Although there was a library in the old city hall, the public who wished to apply for library cards needed a guarantor to support their applications. As a result, most of the library users were foreigners. The public were longing for a public library. According to records, the library in the City Hall issued over 1,000 library cards on its first day.

The City Hall has been the venue of many historical events in Hong Kong.⁷ Ever since the opening of the City Hall, the inauguration ceremonies of Governors of Hong Kong were held at the Concert Hall.⁸ The ceremonial opening of the new Legal Year was also held at the City Hall regularly.

⁶ The available options like private cinemas usually charged expensive rent.

⁷ A number of British royal family members visited the City Hall between 1975 and 1989. For instance, Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh first visited Hong Kong in May 1975 and again in October 1986; Princess Alexandra officiated at the opening of the 1977 Hong Kong Arts Festival outside the City Hall; Prince Charles and Princess Diana visited the City Hall in 1979 and 1989.

⁸ The 24th to 28th Governors of Hong Kong, i.e. Sir David Clive Crosbie Trench (戴麟趾爵士), Sir Murray Macle hose (麥理浩爵士), Sir Edward Youde (尤德爵士), Sir David Wilson (衛奕信爵士) and The Rt. Hon Christopher Francis Patten (彭定康) swore their oaths at the Concert Hall of the City Hall. The Governor would review the Guards of Honor before entering the Concert Hall for the official oath.

The City Hall is located at a piece of reclaimed land in Central overlooking the Victoria Harbour. The three main parts, namely the Low Block, the High Block and the Memorial Garden, are connected with a covered walkway made of reinforced concrete and an elongated rectangular single-storey subsidiary block where building services are placed. A spiral staircase leading to the elevated walkway is located near the main entrance of the Low Block.

The master outline plan of the City Hall was prepared by Professor Gordon Brown, the then Dean of the Department of Architecture of The University of Hong Kong. The architects were Ronald Philips⁹ (羅納德·菲利普) and Alan Fitch¹⁰ (艾倫·費奇) who worked in PWD at that time. They were tasked “to design a social and cultural center of its time, both architecturally and in function”.

The City Hall is an outstanding example of Modernist architecture showing features of International Style. The building complex adopts a modest design that focuses on fulfilling the functions of the building. The architects emphasised the idea of “freedom of movement and a sense of unlimited space”. It is well-embodied in the colonnade outside the Low Block, which was designed to be a natural extension of the interior on ground level. To create a sense of space, the interior of the Low Block adopts a consistent and simple design, keeping the supporting structure to a minimum. The architects’ design intent of utilising the harbour view of the site has been realised. Except for the fully enclosed auditoria, all facilities are ensured to have a sea view.

The High Block adopts a modular architectural expression. The staircase located at the North façade facing the Victoria Harbour is an ideal place to enjoy the magnificent view of the harbour. As a vertical tower showing a very different architectural character from the Low Block which carries a horizontal plan, the architects emphasised on connecting the two blocks to avoid the isolation of the High Block. This is reflected in the introduction of a very deep band that is formed by the balustrade of the high-level walkway and the parapet of the elongated subsidiary block.

Regarding the choice of colour, finishes and furnishing, the architects adopted a low-profile design to reduce the visual impact the occupants would create upon the whole scene. This was particularly crucial for the Foyer of the Low Block, where many people gathered

⁹ Mr Ronald Philips was trained at the Essex School of Art and Architecture with post-graduate works at the Architectural Association in London. Before joining the then Public Works Department in January 1955, he was engaged in various architectural offices in England.

¹⁰ Mr Alan Fitch was trained at the King’s College School of Architecture of the University of Durham. He joined the then Public Works Department in October 1954.

before entering the Concert Hall. For the auditoria, the architects considered that the design should follow the function. The use of the space predetermined the type of finishes that could be adopted. Thus, natural warm colours were selected for the Concert Hall while the interior of the Theatre adopts a relatively brighter design.

The Low Block is a three-storey building with a lower ground floor taking an L-shaped plan. The main entrance faces the Edinburgh Place. It is a reinforced concrete building with façade finished with granite, except the north façade which is finished with a band of windows at the exterior of the then Ballroom and Banqueting Hall, and the exterior of the ground floor which is clad with tiles. Lozenge shape windows are on the west façade facing the Memorial Garden. The Low Block was built to house a concert hall, a theatre and a central block containing a foyer on the ground floor, a ballroom on the first floor which could accommodate 250 dancing couples, and a banqueting hall on the second floor with 500 seats. The ballroom was later converted to an exhibition hall while the banqueting hall to a restaurant.¹¹

The High Block is a 12-storey reinforced concrete building taking a rectangular plan. There is an entrance facing Connaught Road Central and another one facing the Memorial Garden. The north and south façades of the building show “an uncomplicated repetitive fenestration in a concrete frame” whereas the east and west façades of the building are plastered white to create a “strong statement” which shows contrast to the north and south façades. The exterior of the ground floor of the High Block is clad with tiles. The High Block was built to house the Marriage Registry, library, lecture rooms, exhibition hall, administrative offices, committee rooms and the Museum and Art Gallery.¹² Nowadays, the Marriage Registry still occupies the first floor while the library is located on the second to the sixth floors and the eighth to the eleventh floors. The Exhibition Gallery and two committee rooms are on the seventh floor; and the Recital Hall on the eighth floor.

Located at the center of the Memorial Garden is a 12-sided Memorial Shrine built to remember the soldiers and citizens who sacrificed their lives in defending Hong Kong in the Second World War. The shrine is 20 feet in diameter and is a concrete and steel

¹¹ The first contract of running a restaurant was awarded to Chantecler (雄雞餐廳) under an open tender. The restaurant offered high-end Western cuisine.

¹² The High Block was built to have the foyer on the G/F; the Marriage Registry on the 1/F; the Children’s Library and Periodicals Library on the 2/F; the Lending Library on the 3/F; the Reference Library on the 4/F; the Stack Room on the 5/F; Chinese Library on the 6/F; the Exhibition Room, and the Cataloguing and Binding Room on the 7/F, Lecture Rooms on the 8/F; curator room, museum store and workshop, and committee room on the 9/F; Museum on the 10/F; and Art Gallery and an office on the 11/F.

structure finished with four-inch thick granite as its outer wall. The highest point of its ceiling is 13 feet. The design was plain without much decoration so as to display a sense of solemnity. Its polygonal design symbolises the diversity of racial backgrounds of those who sacrificed for Hong Kong. Two pairs of copper gates set in a glazed screen carrying the emblem of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps are installed at the two entrances of the Memorial Garden. For the interior of the Memorial Shrine, in addition to the short phrases written in English, eight Chinese characters denoting the remembrance of the everlasting spirits of the bravery and the dead are inscribed on the walls and a plaque bearing “The Hong Kong Independent Battalion of the Dongjian Column” (東江縱隊港九獨立大隊) is also hung on the wall.

The design of the Concert Hall and the Theatre inside the Low Block is worth mentioning. For the Concert Hall, the architects made reference to The Royal Festival Hall built in 1951 in London. The ceiling was purpose-designed by acoustic professionals to ensure a first-class acoustic effect. To avoid sound reflection, the superstructure of the Concert Hall was specially designed that underneath it was a concrete false ceiling and a layer of plastering with aluminium louvres laid between them.¹³ The acoustics of the Concert Hall was well recognised by the world-renowned musician Sir Malcolm Sargent.¹⁴ In addition, the Concert Hall can be converted into a proscenium, which is a fully equipped stage for Cantonese Opera, Western operas, ballet, etc. The Theatre is smaller in scale and apart from staging theatrical performances, it can be used as a cinema showing either 16 mm or 35 mm films in early years and now screenings in digital format. The ceiling and back walls of the Theatre are composed of horizontal elements, and the sidewalls are furnished with black, grey and white plastic moulded tiles, giving an illusion of being able to see through the walls and the width of the Theatre seems to be increased.

The City Hall has retained much of its original architectural form despite subsequent necessary repairs and maintenances, renovations and refurbishments to rectify the wear and tear brought by its high usage rate, to cater operational needs and to upgrade the

Authenticity

¹³ Mr Huger Creighton, a well-known British acoustic expert was hired as the acoustic advisor. His advice included the different acoustic effects that would be required for a wide range of functions of the Concert Hall and the Theatre, the materials to be used on the floors, walls and ceilings. A series of audio tests were also arranged by R.A. Wynard, a Cable & Wireless engineer working at Radio Hong Kong. Professors W.D. Chesterman and J. Prescott of The University of Hong Kong were asked to test the echo effect by firing blanks with a rifle in the Concert Hall.

¹⁴ Sir Malcolm Sargent was the conductor of London Philharmonic Orchestra. He complimented that the acoustics of the Concert Hall were “second to none” and supplemented that the government should give “a jolly good subsidy” to help establish an orchestra worthy of the City Hall.

facilities to provide excellent and world class performance venues for users since its opening in 1962.¹⁵ Although there have been changes in the usage of some parts of the Low Block and the High Block, the building forms remain largely intact. Two major renovations were carried out in 1993¹⁶ and 2002¹⁷ by the Architectural Services Department. The project architects upheld the principles of minimising visual impact on the City Hall and preserving the original style of the buildings on the one hand, and to utilise new elements and high-tech materials to upgrade the premises on the other. A more salient alteration to the building exterior is the removal of two out of the five balconies outside the Concert Hall and the brise soleil façade of the Low Block for the subsequent construction of the Urban Council Chamber. Despite the improvement works of the Memorial Garden in the past like the removal of the Y-shaped staircase in the middle of the garden, the rebuilding of the surrounding area of the Memorial Shrine into a sunken square and the addition of a water channel at the back of the Memorial Shrine, the Memorial Shrine remains unaltered, and the architects' original intention to create a peaceful and quiet retreat in the busy city has been firmly upheld. A wide staircase leading from the Marriage Registry to the Memorial Garden was added to facilitate newlyweds and their guests to go to the garden directly after the wedding ceremony for photos. The staircase has been thoughtfully

¹⁵ According to *Where Modern Hong Kong Began: The City Hall and Its 50-Year Story* published by the Hong Kong City Hall, in the mid-1970s, the stage floor in the Concert Hall was completely relaid; the floor of the aisles in the audience seating area was also relaid due to seriously worn out; the noise absorbing materials used as audience seat covers were removed due to worn out. In December 1976, the upgrading of the monophonic amplifying system to stereo was carried out. In 1982, more lighting and sound equipment was added, a colour CCTV system was installed, the Chinese restaurant was refurbished, the covered walkway to the west and north of the Memorial Garden was rebuilt and the carpets in the Low Block were replaced. In 1989, the Concert Hall was installed with a new stage lighting system which was the most advanced system in South East Asia at that time.

¹⁶ According to *Where Modern Hong Kong Began: The City Hall and Its 50-Year Story* published by the Hong Kong City Hall, Mr Raymond FUNG of the Architectural Services Department was the project architect of the renovation in 1993 which costed HK\$50 million. The major scope of works included the renovation of the top three floors of the High Block to make them become part of the extended library; refurbishment of other floors of library, the Recital Hall, the exhibition gallery as well as the committee rooms. The Marriage Registry in the High Block was closed from 28 March to 31 July 1994 for renovation, the two wedding halls and the bridal room were refurbished, all the furniture, lighting and carpet were replaced, the waiting area was enlarged, the layout of the two wedding halls was changed so that they are now facing the Memorial Garden and the Victoria Harbour. The Concert Hall and the Theatre at the Low Block was closed for renovation from July 1993 to February 1994 and from July 1993 to April 1994 respectively.

¹⁷ According to *Where Modern Hong Kong Began: The City Hall and Its 50-Year Story* published by the Hong Kong City Hall, the renovation in 2002 was also led by Mr Raymond FUNG. The major scope of works included the renovation and improvement of the facilities in washrooms; the elevators in the High Block; and the conversion of the concrete ground around the Memorial Shrine into a pond.

designed, harmoniously matching the adjoining façade of the High Block and the covered walkway. In addition, the City Hall has been performing its original function as a cultural and arts venue since its opening in 1962, which further enhances its authenticity.

The City Hall is a rare and significant example of *Rarity* Modernist architecture, which sets an architectural trend in Hong Kong and has become a landmark design for Hong Kong architecture. Despite numerous performance venues built in the past few decades, the acoustics of the Concert Hall in the Low Block still plays a leading role of its kind. The City Hall is also the first multi-purpose cultural complex in Hong Kong witnessing and prompting the arts and cultural development of Hong Kong to enrich people's cultural lives. It has been the forerunner of several other major cultural complexes built subsequently, including the Sha Tin and Tsuen Wan Town Halls, and demonstrated the unprecedented commitment of the Government to provide platforms where the Chinese and the Western cultures could meet and be enjoyed by the general public of Hong Kong from all walks of life.

The City Hall is one the most important carriers of Hong Kong people's collective memories. Since its opening in 1962, it has been an ideal platform for artists to showcase their talent and for audiences to enjoy a wide range of world class performances. Countless lovers became couples at the Marriage Registry at the High Block and took wedding photos at the Memorial Garden. Numerous people viewed exhibitions in the Exhibition Gallery, the Exhibition Hall and the Museum and Art Gallery.¹⁸ Since its opening, the air-conditioned library soon became a popular place for people of Hong Kong. Many of them stayed at the staircases to read or enjoy the sea view through the big windows. The social value of the City Hall obviously lies in its role in cultivating the cultural life of the general public as well as being a popular spot for all walks of life to spend leisure time. *Social Value & Local Interest*

The Memorial Garden, the elevated L-shaped walkway and the open space facing the harbour are famous spots for dating. The beautiful setting of the Memorial Garden makes it a popular place for a break from work in Central and a photo spot for newlyweds. The Urban Council staged the very first Flower Show at the Memorial Garden in 1968 and it had been the venue for similar event until the 1980s when the Sha Tin Town Hall opened.

¹⁸ In 1975, the Museum and Art Gallery was split into the Hong Kong Museum of History and the Hong Kong Museum of Art. The Hong Kong Museum of History moved to the Star House at Tsim Sha Tsui whereas The Hong Kong Museum of Art remained at the City Hall until it moved to the present site at Tsim Sha Tsui in 1991.

The Memorial Shrine, an impressive reminder for those who died to defend Hong Kong during the Second World War, enhances the social value of the City Hall. The Government holds official ceremony at the Memorial Garden on Chung Yeung Festival to pay tribute to those who sacrificed themselves in defending Hong Kong between 1941 and 1945. Since 2014, the Government has been holding official ceremony on 3 September at the Memorial Garden to commemorate the victory of the Chinese people's war of resistance against Japanese aggression.

The City Hall is situated at the Edinburgh Place and well connected to a cluster of important buildings and premises, like Statue Square, the Old Supreme Court (舊最高法院) (exterior of which is a declared monument), Bank of China Building (中國銀行大廈) (Grade 1), the Former French Mission Building (前法國外方傳道會大樓) (Declared Monument), St. John's Cathedral (聖約翰座堂) (Declared Monument), New Hall of St. John's Cathedral (聖約翰座堂新座) (Grade 2), Main Wing, East Wing and West Wing of the Former Central Government Offices (舊中區政府合署中座、東座及西座) (all Grade 1), Government House (禮賓府) (Declared Monument), Duddell Street Steps and Gas Lamps (都爹利街石階及煤氣路燈) (Declared Monument); and the Cenotaph (和平紀念碑) (Declared Monument). The Memorial Shrine of the City Hall is a complement to the Cenotaph, both serving as reminders of those who contributed their lives in wars. The clusters of historic buildings and structures collectively witness and reflect the historical, economic and socio-cultural development of the territory.

Group Value

**Photographs of Hong Kong City Hall,
No. 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, Hong Kong**



General view of Hong Kong City Hall,
comprising Low Block, Memorial Garden and High Block.



A covered walkway connecting Low Block, Memorial Garden and High Block.



Foyer of Low Block serving as
a crush room for intermission of performances at Concert Hall or Theatre.



Theatre at Low Block.



Concert Hall at Low Block.



The copper gate at the entrance of Memorial Garden,
carrying the emblem of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps.



A 12-sided Memorial Shrine at the center of Memorial Garden.



Interior of the Memorial Shrine.

Eight Chinese characters “英靈宛在 浩氣長存” are inscribed on the wall.

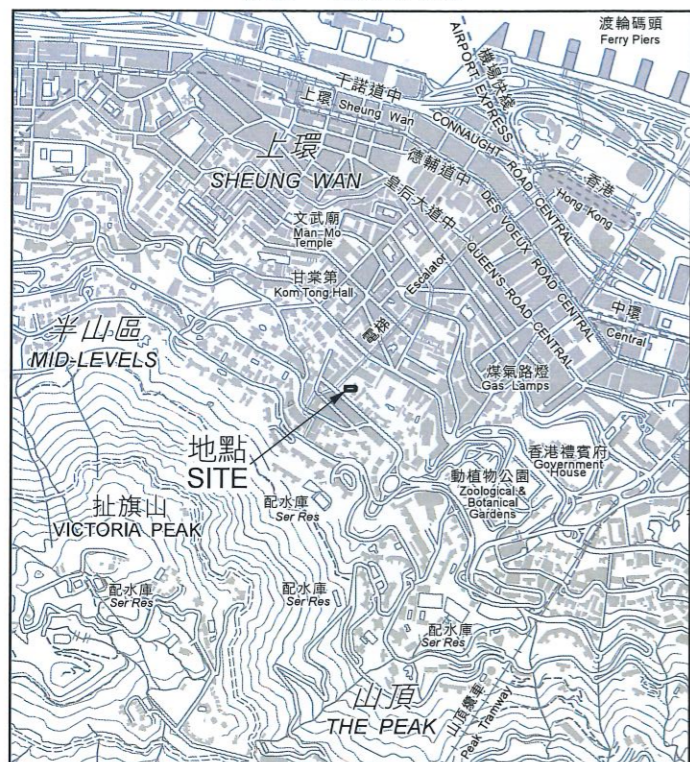


The north façade of High Block with “an uncomplicated repetitive fenestration in a concrete frame”; while the east façade is plastered white.



Staircase in High Block overlooking the sea view of Victoria Harbour through its big windows.

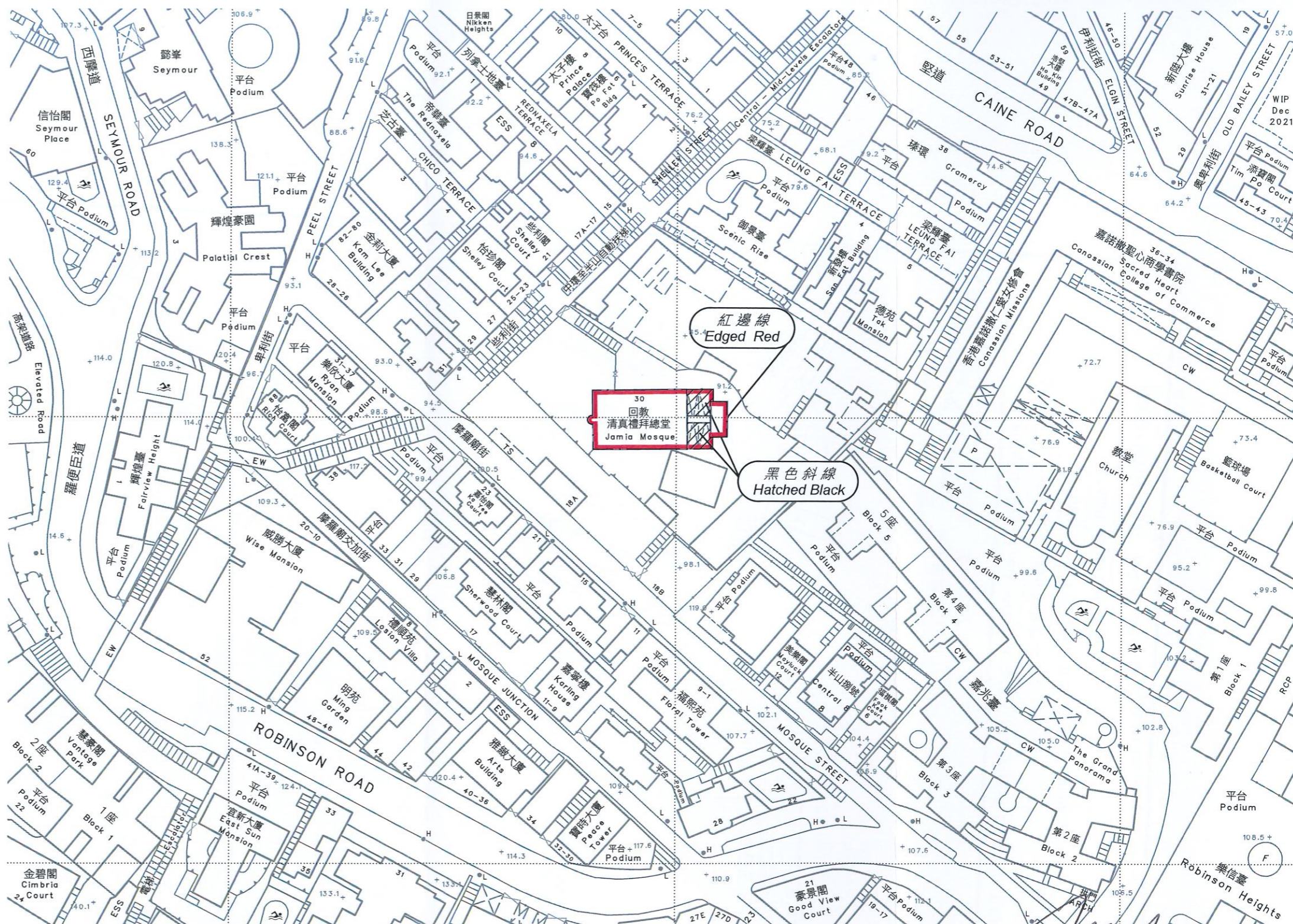
位置 LOCATION



比例 SCALE 1:20 000

圖例 LEGEND

 黑色斜線的範圍內的臨時管篷不列為歷史建築物
 TEMPORARY CANOPY SITUATED WITHIN THE AREA HATCHED BLACK IS NOT DECLARED AS HISTORICAL BUILDING



以紅邊線標示的面積約為 385 平方米
 EDGED RED AREA 385 SQUARE METRES (ABOUT)

比例尺 SCALE 1:1 000



(黃偉綸 Michael Wong)
 發展局局長 Secretary for Development
 日期 Date 16 May 2022

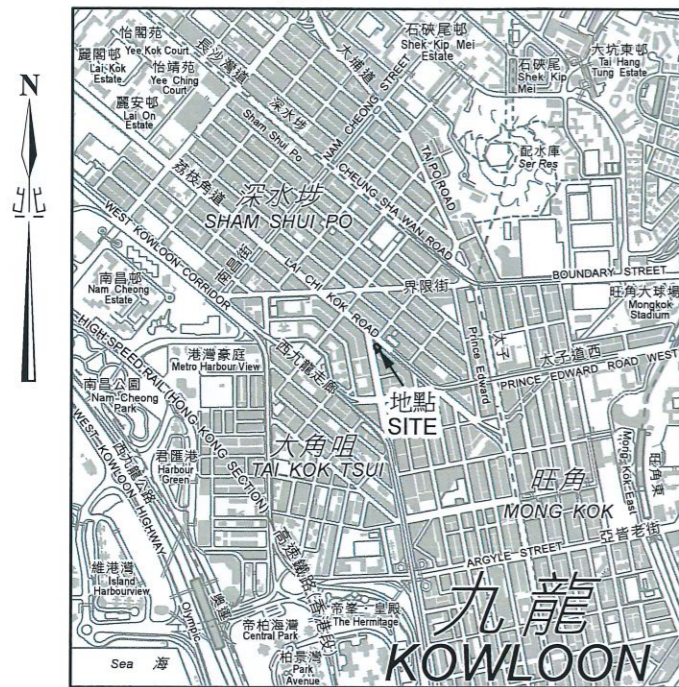
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 District Survey Office, Hong Kong
 Lands Department

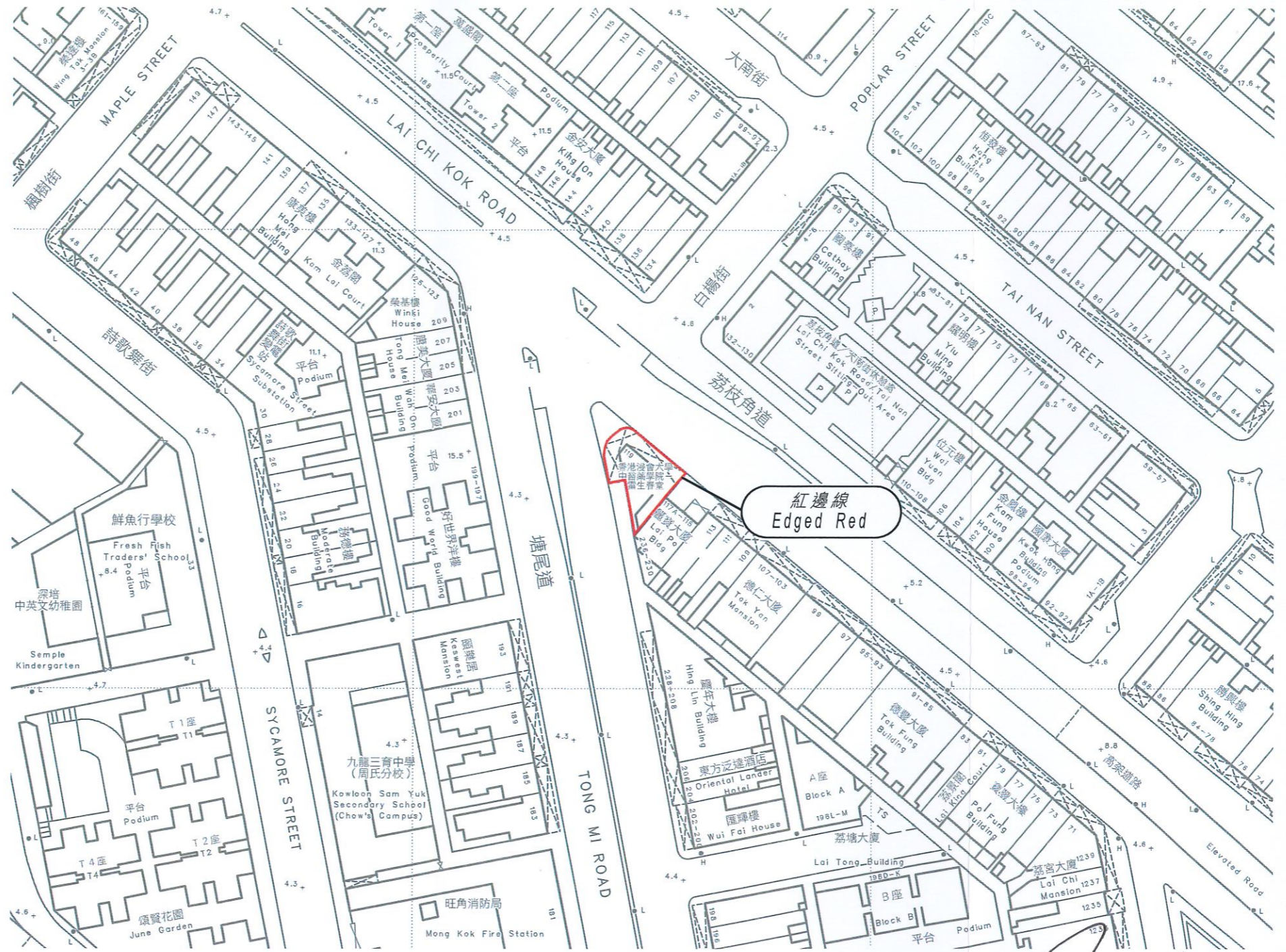
古物及古蹟條例 (第53章)
 根據第3(4)條存放於土地註冊處的位於香港中環些利街30號
 內地段第268號稱為回教清真禮拜總堂的建築物的圖則
 ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE (CAP. 53)
 PLAN OF THE BUILDING KNOWN AS JAMIA MOSQUE
 AT INLAND LOT No. 268, 30 SHELLEY STREET, CENTRAL, HONG KONG
 DEPOSITED IN THE LAND REGISTRY UNDER SECTION 3(4)

檔案編號 File No. DSO/HK 14/2/5/2 Pt. 2
 測量圖編號 Survey Sheet No. 11-SW-8C
 發展藍圖編號 Layout Plan No. --
 參考圖編號 Reference Plan No. --
 圖則編號 PLAN No. HKM10980

位置 LOCATION

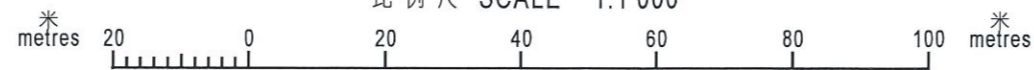


比例 SCALE 1:20 000



以紅邊線標示的面積約為 214 平方米 EDGED RED AREA 214 SQUARE METRES (ABOUT)

比例尺 SCALE 1:1 000



(黃偉綸 Michael Wong)

發展局局長 Secretary for Development

日期 Date 16 May 2022

只作識別用 FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY

地政總署 九龍測量處
District Survey Office, Kowloon
Lands Department

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古物及古蹟條例 (第53章)
根據第3(4)條存放於土地註冊處的位於
九龍旺角荔枝角道119號稱為雷生春的建築物的圖則
ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE (CAP. 53)
PLAN OF THE BUILDING KNOWN AS LUI SENG CHUN AT
119 LAI CHI KOK ROAD, MONG KOK, KOWLOON
DEPOSITED IN THE LAND REGISTRY UNDER SECTION 3(4)

檔案編號 File No. DSO/K 032/2002

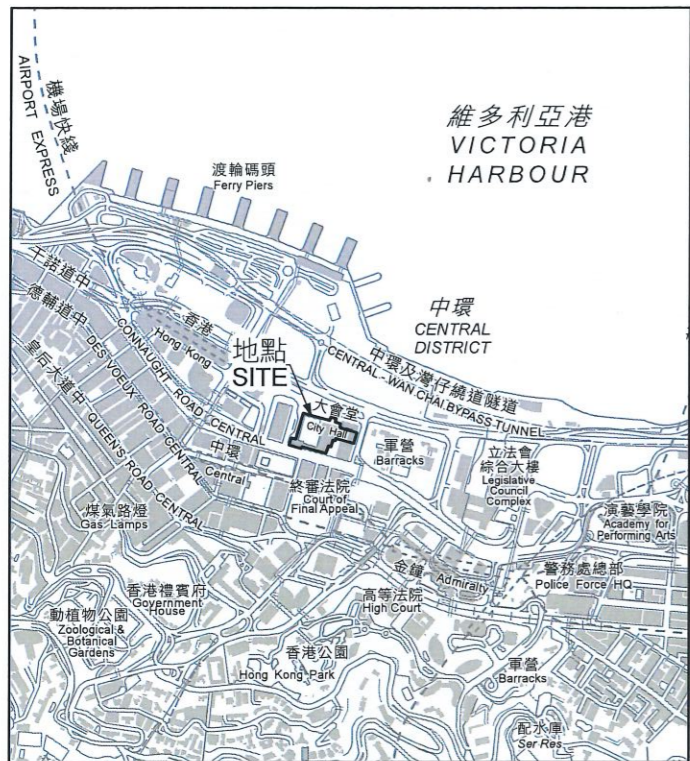
測量圖編號 Survey Sheet No. 11-NW-14C

發展藍圖編號 Layout Plan No. ---

參考圖編號 Reference Plan No. ---

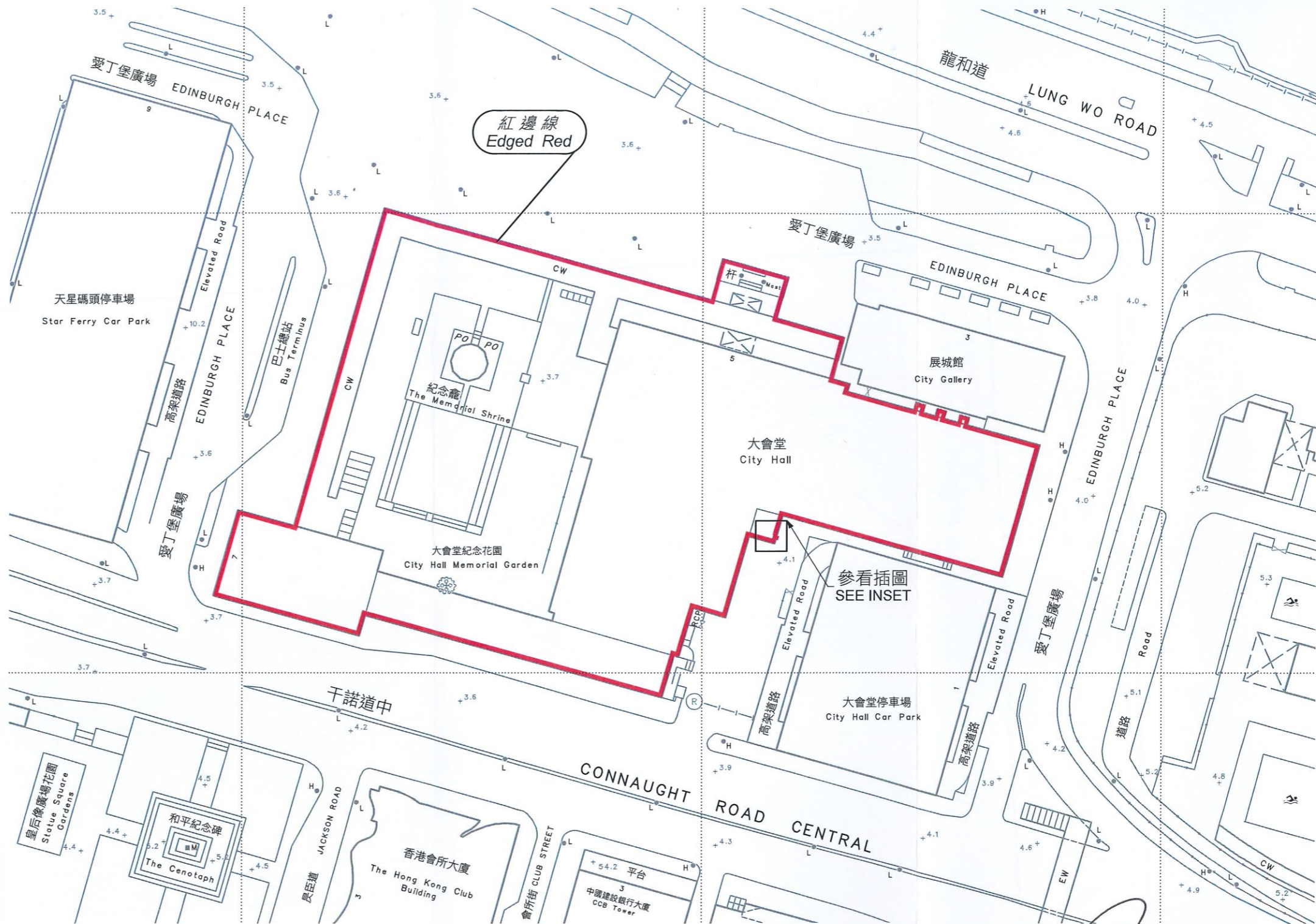
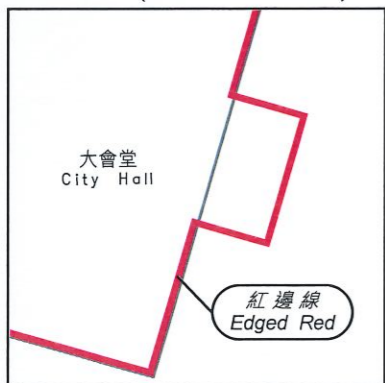
圖則編號 PLAN No. KM10792

位置 LOCATION



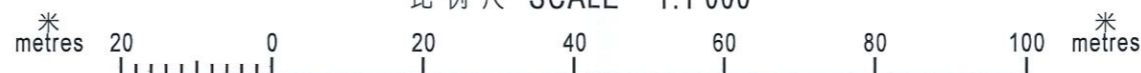
比例 SCALE 1:20 000

插圖 (不依比例) INSET (NOT TO SCALE)



以紅邊線標示的面積約為 10 400 平方米
EDGED RED AREA 10 400 SQUARE METRES (ABOUT)

比例尺 SCALE 1:1 000



(Signature)
 (黃偉倫 Michael Wong)
 發展局局長 Secretary for Development

日期 Date 16 May 2022

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地政總署 港島測量處
 District Survey Office, Hong Kong
 Lands Department

古物及古蹟條例 (第53章)
 根據第3(4)條存放於土地註冊處的位於香港中環愛丁堡廣場5號
 的香港大會堂內的建築物、構築物及其鄰接土地的圖則
 ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE (CAP. 53)
 PLAN OF THE BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND THE ADJOINING LAND WITHIN
 HONG KONG CITY HALL AT 5 EDINBURGH PLACE, CENTRAL, HONG KONG
 DEPOSITED IN THE LAND REGISTRY UNDER SECTION 3(4)

檔案編號 File No. DSO/HK 14/2/5/2 Pt. 2
 測量圖編號 Survey Sheet No. 11-SW-9C
 發展藍圖編號 Layout Plan No. --
 參考圖編號 Reference Plan No. --
 圖則編號 PLAN No. HKM10981