CONSERVATION & ADAPTIVE RE-USE
Of Shophouses in Singapore

by

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Submitted to School of Architecture
on 29 November 2000 in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Architecture

ABSTRACT

To research and understand the historical development of architectural conservation to guide the evaluation of the conservation of historic districts and the adaptive re-use of shophouses in Singapore.

Singapore has, since 1980s, conserved a number of historic districts. They are, for example, Chinatown, Kampung Glam and Little India, which have a great number of restored shophouses encompassing additions and alterations. Many of them, due to obsolescence of original use, been adapted to new uses which departs from the original design intention of the shophouses. Therefore, there are two areas of concern in my research:

1. To study the conservation areas and analyze the characteristic of the historic district with an aim to assess if the authenticity of the place has been retained in the process of conservation and adaptive re-use.
2. Examine the conserved shophouses that have undergone adaptive re-use, study and analyze the various degree of intervention while observing their implications on the historic fabric and authenticity of shophouses.

Looking at examples of shophouses around Singapore’s historic district as case studies, I hope to come to a conclusion, or some guidelines, for the achievement of conservation and adaptive re-use of shophouses with the best desired effects.

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