Abstract

The thesis aims to explore the issues of identity of the city and how continuity is ensured. To study the way to translate the need of an understanding of a certain culture and relate it to a built form that represents that need, ensuring continuity of the cultural group.

The value of social organizations, like clan associations, help give a sense of cultural identity for the community it serves, keeping the cultural heritage of the people alive. In order to stay relevant in modern day Singapore, the clan associations need to be constantly review its roles and functions to meet the changing needs of the community.

The thesis looks into the evolving concept of the clan association through contemporary times, where the clan takes on a different role today as compared to the times of early independence. As the role the clan association changes from one that provides the basic needs for the society to one that is more educational and cultural, there is a need to relook into the clanhouse, to contemporaize and yet not lose the meaning embodied inside the design of the clanhouse, blending the old and new based on the Chinese spirit.

The main objective of the thesis is to investigate an appropriate image for the clanhouse with a central focus in maintaining the cultural identity of the community it represents, being a symbol to the cultural group it represents. Another would be looking into the programme of the clan association to which it can be made relevant to modern day Singapore.