

Lee Kuan Yew approved plans to redevelop 38, Oxley Road

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong yesterday released copies of documents and e-mails that were distributed to MPs during his speeches in Parliament this week refuting allegations made by Dr Lee Wei Ling and Mr Lee Hsien Yang that he had abused his power to advance his agenda for the family home at 38, Oxley Road. They accuse him of blocking the demolition of the house, which they say their father Lee Kuan Yew wanted done in his last will.

However, these three letters to Cabinet show how Mr Lee Kuan Yew's thinking on the matter changed.

Oct 27, 2010

He asked that ministers respect his wish to have the home demolished when he died.

July 20, 2011

He repeated this wish.

Dec 27, 2011

He wrote: "I have reflected on this and decided that if 38, Oxley Road is to be preserved, it needs to have its foundations reinforced and the whole building refurbished. It must then be let out for people to live in."

PM Lee also disclosed his father had endorsed plans for redevelopment

March 28, 2012

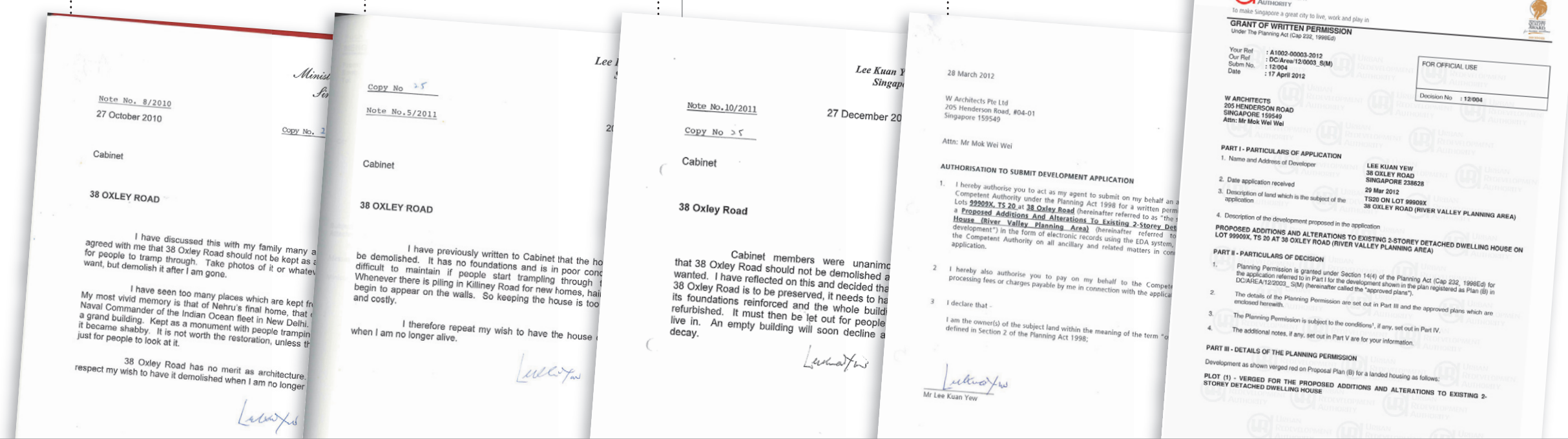
Mr Lee also signed an authorisation letter to Mr Mok Wei Wei of W Architects to submit the development application for the property.

April 17, 2012

A reply from the Urban Redevelopment Authority granted permission for its redevelopment.



PHOTOS: PMO, JAMIE KOH STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS



Note No. 8/2010
27 October 2010

Cabinet

38 OXLEY ROAD

I have discussed this with my family many a time and we have agreed with me that 38 Oxley Road should not be kept as a monument for people to tramp through. Take photos of it or whatever you want, but demolish it after I am gone.

I have seen too many places which are kept for people to look at. My most vivid memory is that of Nehru's final home, that was a grand building. Kept as a monument with people tramping over it became shabby. It is not worth the restoration, unless that is just for people to look at it.

38 Oxley Road has no merit as architecture. I therefore repeat my wish to have it demolished when I am no longer alive.

Minister for

Copy No 35
Note No. 5/2011

Cabinet

38 OXLEY ROAD

I have previously written to Cabinet that the house should be demolished. It has no foundations and is in poor condition. It is difficult to maintain if people start trampling through it. Whenever there is piling in Killiney Road for new homes, hail begins to appear on the walls. So keeping the house is too costly.

I therefore repeat my wish to have the house demolished when I am no longer alive.

Lee Kuan Yew

Lee Kuan Yew
Singapore
27 December 2011

Note No. 10/2011
Copy No 35

Cabinet

38 Oxley Road

Cabinet members were unanimous in their decision that 38 Oxley Road should not be demolished as it was wanted. I have reflected on this and decided that 38 Oxley Road is to be preserved, it needs to have its foundations reinforced and the whole building refurbished. It must then be let out for people to live in. An empty building will soon decline and decay.

28 March 2012

W Architects Pte Ltd
205 Henderson Road, #04-01
Singapore 159549

Attn: Mr Mok Wei Wei

AUTHORISATION TO SUBMIT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

1. I hereby authorise you to act as my agent to submit on my behalf an application to the Competent Authority under the Planning Act 1998 for a written permit for the Proposed Additions And Alterations To Existing 2-Storey Detached Dwelling House (River Valley Planning Area) (hereinafter referred to as the "Application") in the form of electronic records using the EDA system, to the Competent Authority on all ancillary and related matters in connection with the application.

2. I hereby also authorise you to pay on my behalf to the Competent Authority the processing fees or charges payable by me in connection with the application.

3. I declare that -

I am the owner(s) of the subject land within the meaning of the term "owner" defined in Section 2 of the Planning Act 1998;

Mr Lee Kuan Yew



Urban Redevelopment Authority
To make Singapore a great city to live, work and play in
GRANT OF WRITTEN PERMISSION
Under the Planning Act (Cap 232, 1996Ed)

Your Ref : A1002-00003.2012
Our Ref : DC/Area/12/0003_S(M)
Subm No. : 12/004
Date : 17 April 2012

FOR OFFICIAL USE

Decision No : 12/004

W ARCHITECTS
205 HENDERSON ROAD
SINGAPORE 159549
Attn: Mr Mok Wei Wei

PART I - PARTICULARS OF APPLICATION

- Name and Address of Developer: LEE KUAN YEW, 38 OXLEY ROAD, SINGAPORE 238628
- Date application received: 29 Mar 2012
- Description of land which is the subject of the application: TS20 ON LOT 99909X, 38 OXLEY ROAD (RIVER VALLEY PLANNING AREA)
- Description of the development proposed in the application: PROPOSED ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING 2-STORY DETACHED DWELLING HOUSE ON LOT 99909X, TS 20 AT 38 OXLEY ROAD (RIVER VALLEY PLANNING AREA)

PART II - PARTICULARS OF DECISION

- Planning Permission is granted under Section 14(4) of the Planning Act (Cap 232, 1996Ed) for the application referred to in Part I for the development shown in the plan registered as Plan (B) in DC/Area/12/0003_S(M) (hereinafter called the "approved plans").
- The details of the Planning Permission are set out in Part III and the approved plans which are enclosed herewith.
- The Planning Permission is subject to the conditions, if any, set out in Part IV.
- The additional notes, if any, set out in Part V are for your information.

PART III - DETAILS OF THE PLANNING PERMISSION

Development as shown verged red on Proposal Plan (B) for a landed housing as follows:

PLOT (1) - VERGED FOR THE PROPOSED ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING 2-STORY DETACHED DWELLING HOUSE