

# Conserving Singapore's built heritage

1967 >>

The Hajjah Fatimah Mosque, an important historical building in the Crawford area, is the first building identified for retention.

1970

Tudor Court is refurbished by the Urban Redevelopment Authority's (URA) predecessor, the Urban Renewal Unit, in its first rehabilitation project to experiment on how to successfully reuse older buildings. The former government quarters are eventually transformed into the new home of the then Singapore Tourist Promotion Board.

1974

The URA is established.

1986

The first conservation masterplan is released.

1987 >

After the Housing Board completes the resettlement of the occupants of 220 shophouses in Tanjong Pagar, the URA begins to gradually conserve and restore the shophouses to demonstrate the feasibility of such a process. It kicks off with 9 Neil Road. Below are the URA's current senior director of conservation, Mrs Teh Lai Yip (left), and group director of conservation and urban design, Ms Chou Mei.



1989

The conservation programme is formally launched and the URA's conservation masterplan is put into action. Some 3,200 buildings in 10 conservation areas – Telok Ayer, Kreta Ayer, Tanjong Pagar, Bukit Pasoh, Little India, Kampong Glam, Boat Quay, Clarke Quay, Emerald Hill and Cairnhill – are conserved.



<< 1991

The voluntary conservation scheme is launched. It encourages private owners to step forward to conserve their buildings by offering incentives. The former Archipelago Brewery Company in Alexandra Road is among the more than 20 buildings protected under the scheme.



2007 >

Following a detailed study on protecting post-war buildings, the former Asia Insurance Building, the tallest building in South-east Asia at the time of its completion, is conserved.

2009

The URA starts protecting key structures in Singapore, such as the bandstand at the Singapore Botanic Gardens and Cavenagh Bridge. Fifteen structures tied to the Singaporean identity and story have been conserved so far.

A popular stretch of colourful 1920s and 1930s shophouses in Koon Seng Road which the URA conserved in 1993.

