



# **Anglo-Indian Bungalow**

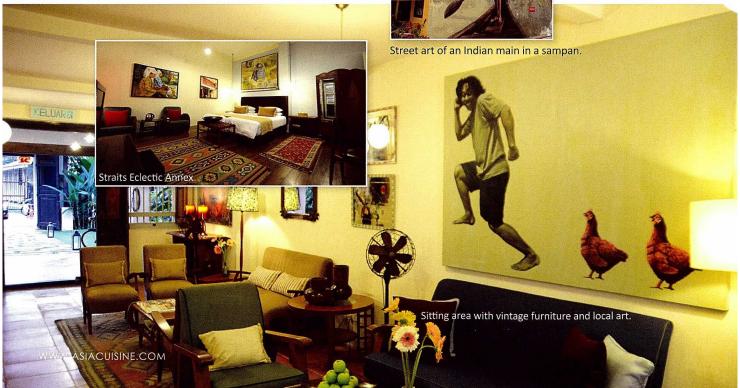
The ground floor, which today is a lobby lounge, would have been a dining room in the olden days, with a corridor that led to the kitchen and servants' quarters at the back. The rooms on each side of the central hall have been converted into the guesthouse's office and the garden suite. On the second floor, exposed roof beams and rafters adorn the attic room over the porch. On one side is a petite bedroom, which overlooks the garden, and on the other is the library, surrounded by vivid oil studies of a bungalow and a street performer. Aside from Europeans, Indian Muslim traders, Arab magnates, and Malay nobles too favour the Anglo-Indian bungalow, dressed in intricate arabesque. Other bungalows might be raised off the ground with bricks, just as traditional Malay houses might be built on stilts, to keep safe from snakes, tigers, or monsoon floods. What might have been stables at the back of the house had a second story added to it in the 1880s. With their French windows, louvred shutters, and decorative Greek pilasters, the property had likely come under Chinese ownership, since that would have been a Straits Eclectic style. The orange tribal rugs underfoot, drop-front writing desk, and mounted canvases of a shophouse and a homeless boy seem to tell me that I am a free-spirited Bohemian backpacker, a wide-eyed adventurer in an exotic land.

#### **Jack Roof Annex**

Indeed, nothing could have prepared me for the sights and sounds which greeted me as I did a little exploring after night fell - the roadside hawkers dishing out noodles in a curry broth with deep-fried tofu puffs, as motorcycles whiz by alarmingly near; round the corner from the mamak shop crammed with old-school biscuits, canned drinks, and lottery tickets fluttering off cloths pegs, a minimalist coffee bar serves Melbourne-style brews and panini by a billiard table. Back in the 1920s, when wealthy families were waited upon by Hainanese cooks, dishes such as foo yong omelette with crabmeat, chicken rice with rice wine, and fried rice vermicelli with soy sauce might have emerged from the building now known as Jack Roof Annex. Named for the rafters, which support the roof, the kitchen had warm air out via the vent at the ridge, and cool air in through the eaves of the overhanging roof. The



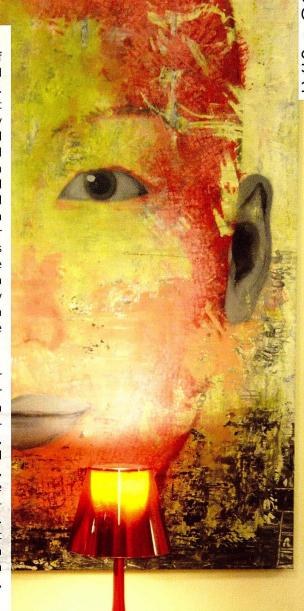
Jack Roof Annex wall shares a with the Straits Eclectic Annex. and recessed brickwork gives away the secret that a doorway used to exist between the two.



# **Indian Shophouses & Muntri Suite**

The bedrooms seem to burst with the invincibility of youth, with black-and-white blinds, turquoise bed runner, and pop art of a race kart and a jumping toddler. Adjacent to the annex are the Indian shophouses. Built in the 1900s, the shops opened up to a five-foot way facing Stewart Lane, and might have had deep-fried murukku twists and ladoo coconut sweets displayed under garlands of scented jasmine and champaka blossoms. Before restoration work took place in 2009, all that was left of the shophouses were their columns and two walls, while passionflower creepers had over taken the façade, along with the entire inner courtyard. Timber was used to recreate the mezzanine, and wood battens and reclaimed terracotta tiles provide shelter once again. While the ground floor bedroom is soothing with pastel greens and yellows, the loft bedroom is absolutely irresistible in its cosiness, with two single beds under a sloping wood-panel ceiling, fushia pink and cyan blue cushions, and a reading corner by the side.

A short walk away is the Muntri suite, a pre-war shophouse in cornflower blue, with slatted shades over iron-bar windows on the top floor, and pink and green ceramic tiles on the five-foot way below. The five-footway, which protects pedestrians from the elements, was stipulated by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1822, based on the Dutch buildings he had seen in Jakarta. In fact, such rows of arches can also be found in Romanesque architecture, and in its shade you might find a fortune-teller, medicine man, or cobbler trying to make a living. Also found under the five-foot way might be a pushcart of kelinga mee with fritters and squid, topped with chopped lettuce and ground peanuts, and balanced in baskets off shoulder poles, steaming rice, fried chicken, spicy prawn, and curries.



THE RED GLOW OF LANTERNS AND WARM YELLOW OF TUNGSTEN FROM WITHIN A CHINESE GATEWAY IS FORMIDABLE, MYSTERIOUS, AND BECKONING.







# 最減愛的爱情卷

当马来西亚的槟城乔治市被评为世界 文化遗产之后, 许多老店或老房子就 慢慢被投资者改为住宿或是餐饮服 务, 由其是在乔治市的老街, 你不难 发现这种现象。小型的精品酒店或民 宿都在这如雨后春笋般的成长, 而这 类酒店的设计都溶入了槟城文化的色 彩。这次我们要入住的酒店就座落在 有着浪漫又美丽的小巷里~爱情巷。 我想如果能牵着自己心爱的人走在这 条街,应该是幸福的。《乐林》精品 酒店(中文名字是直接用 Love Lane 翻译过来) 所提供的优质服务和高品 复古风格住宿, 带给我们有种宾至如 归的生活体验。在古镇区爱情巷《乐 林》是相当有名气的精品酒店,除了 把别墅式的老建筑特别改装成俱有浓 郁古典色彩的酒店, 仅有十间房的《 乐林》也成为旅客的"抢手货"。因 为房间不多, 即便客满也不会感到吵 闹, 所以比较喜欢清静的游客, 应该

会喜欢这里。虽然是老式庭院建筑, 但整个屋子的构造却非常美丽, 房间 很有设计感,整个别墅的古早味有种 另类冲击时尚风。房间有很多艺术收 藏摆设, 如一些油画, 摆设品, 雕塑 作品, 还有一些复古的水缸, 痰盂等 等。庭院里静谧中在夜里的灯光下透 露出主人精心的布置。这是个地理位 置优越的酒店, 离槟城的地标光大大 廈不远, 如果你爱吃又爱喝两杯, 周 围晚上营业的街边摊还有pub必定能满 足你。这里有适合全家人入住的家庭 套房, 或是双人情侣套房。槟城各族 文化独有特色, 经理说逐年受到国内 外的旅客青睐, 我问经理为什么有这 么多游客来这里, 何不把一间房当两 间房来用? 经理笑说, 把十间房间酒 店做到最巅峰, 总好过做只有一般成 就的二十间房酒店。这也许就是《乐 林》精品酒店成功的秘诀之一。志偉

#### **Pre-war Shophouses**

In the past, when shophouses had their bathrooms constructed at the back of the house, going to the washroom at night was an affair fraught with fright to a small child, since the corridors were long and dark. If your parents ran a shop on the ground floor, you learn not to run about on the second floor, since the wood would creak. There might also be friction with cousins that you don't get along with, if several generations lived together. For the younger generation, however, who grew up in nuclear families in increasingly tiny apartments of concrete, there is heritage to be found in a traditional shophouse; it gives a glimpse into how people used to live in the olden days. With three bedrooms, family hall, and a kitchen, the shophouse could probably house three generations comfortably under one roof.

Not that you will need the kitchen, since you can find local fare such as sambal stingray grilled in banana leaf, roti canai Indian flatbread, and mutton soup with fennel, star anise, and cinnamo just a street away. Like Muntri suites, Stewart suite is a shophouse, with emerald green air vents embedded into low walls above the five-foot way, washed in a pale sky blue. Vintage enamel plates spray-painted with red and pink roses with foliage, a rooster with orange and green feathers, and a composition of banana, pineapple, and grapes ornament the kitchenette, and a breeze can be felt near the air well.

A miniature of the traditional Chinese courtyard, an air well collected rainwater off the roofs, which is why they were also known as sky wells. The water collected helps cool the house as it evaporates. In these family businesses, you might find antique dealers, sundry shops, salvaged goods outlets, roast pork stalls, or old-world coffeeshops. Many dying trades have now been succeeded by shops selling nostalgic bric-à-brac, bicycle rentals, and trendy cafés, breathing new life into the heritage architecture. In Penang, time slows, and all the material wants you've been chasing after don't seem so crucial anymore. Once in a while it is good to dawdle, re-assess your purpose in life, and emerge anew from an oasis like 23 Love Lane. QL

THE HOMELESS BOY SEEMS TO TELL ME THAT I AM A FREE-SPIRITED BOHEMIAN BACKPARKER, A WIDE-EYED ADVENTURER IN AN EXOTIC LAND.

23 Love Lane | 23, Lorong Love, Georgetown, 10200 Penang, Malaysia | Tel: (604) 262 1323