

neighbourhoods



WE ♥
KATONG

Urban Sketchers Singapore

WE 
KATONG

Copyright © 2014 by Epigram Books

All rights reserved.

Published in Singapore by Epigram Books.

www.epigrambooks.sg

Cover design by Lydia Wong

Front cover illustration by Tilen Ti

Back cover illustration by Lim Hai Chew

Map by Tammy Lu

Edited by Aditi Shivaramakrishnan

Sketchwalk organised by Urban Sketchers Singapore

National Library Board,

Singapore Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

We love Katong / illustrators, Urban Sketchers Singapore.

- Singapore : Epigram Books, 2014.

pages cm. - (Our neighbourhoods)

ISBN : 978-981-07-6607-8 (paperback)

ISBN : 978-981-07-6608-5 (ebook)

1. Katong (Singapore) - In art.

2. Singapore - In art.

I. Urban Sketchers Singapore (Group)

II. Series: Our neighbourhoods.

NC344.7.S55

741.95957 - dc23 OCN859577515

First Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

neighBOURhoods

WE ♥ KATONG

W

WEE EDITIONS / SINGAPORE

LISA HUANG LISHAN





The Rose of the East

There's a saying: "A rose by any other name will still smell as sweet". The Joo Chiat / Katong area would then suffer an identity crisis, given the sheer variety of names associated with it. In the north, some would refer to it as Geylang, Geylang Serai or even Paya Lebar. In the south, Marine Parade and East Coast. In the east, Siglap and Telok Kurau.

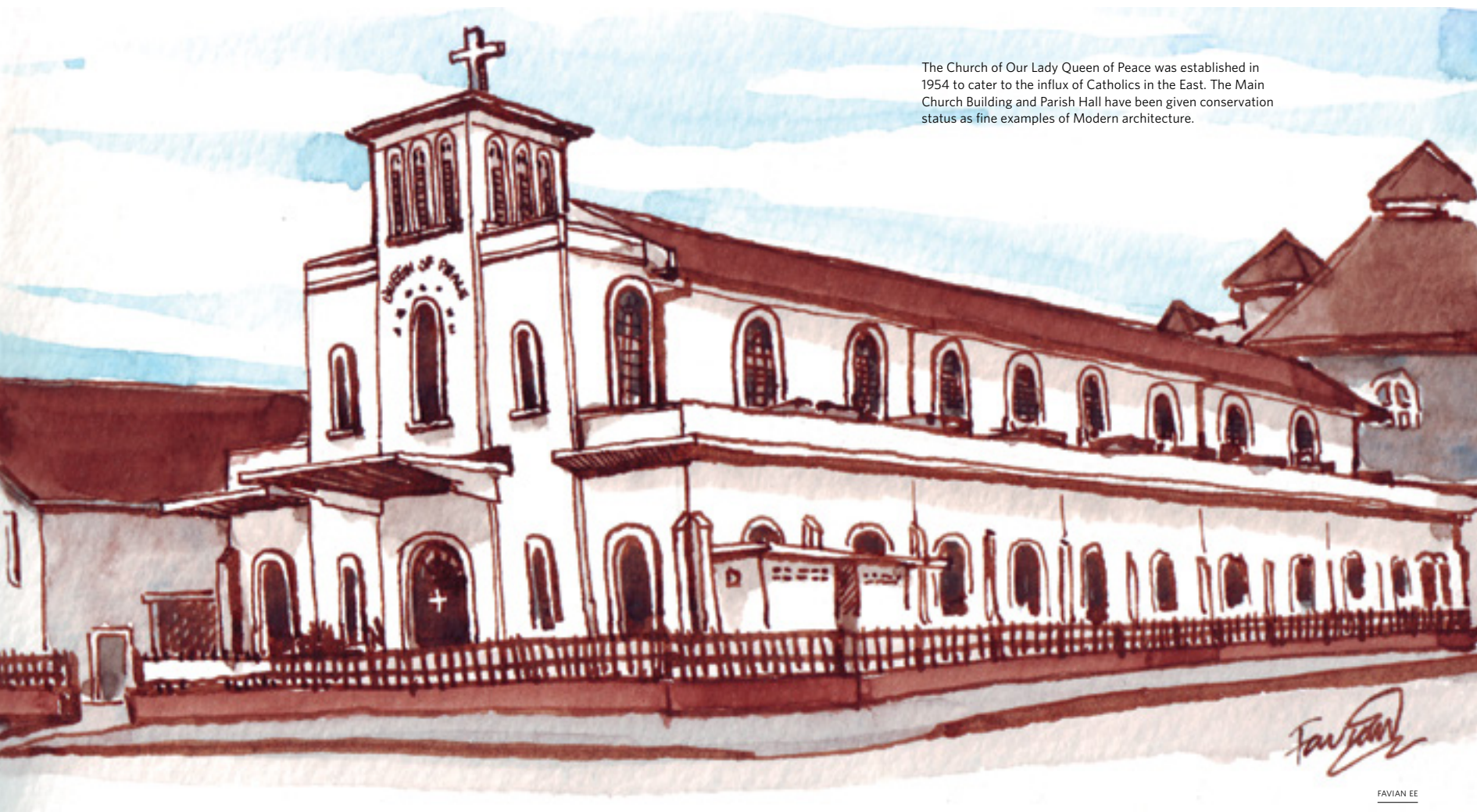
Just what is the identity of Joo Chiat / Katong? I could summarise it in four categories: the ethnic communities (Malay, Straits Chinese and Eurasian), the famous dishes and establishments, the heritage properties and the most popular beach in Singapore.

The conservation of buildings is meaningless if the lifestyles, trades and crafts they house are not preserved. Katong is the Singapore neighbourhood with the greatest amount of conserved architecture; generations of Malay, Straits Chinese and Eurasian families have called it their home. Heritage foods are still served daily here. In fact, Katong-ites are so proud of their food establishments, they would debate over the authenticity and quality of famous Singapore dishes such as laksa, kueh chang and tau kwa pau.

I started a backpackers hostel here ten years ago and I've since felt that I've been adopted by the community. There's a saying that once you live in the East, you would not want to live anywhere else.

Tony Tan

Founder, Betel Box Hostel & Tours



The Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace was established in 1954 to cater to the influx of Catholics in the East. The Main Church Building and Parish Hall have been given conservation status as fine examples of Modern architecture.

The Canadian International School's Tanjong Katong campus was formerly the site of the historic Tanjong Katong Girls' School. Block C, the former TKGS school hall with its row of circular port windows, is a Singapore Heritage listed site.



Bethesda Katong Church opened on Pennefather Road on 29 February 1935 and offered services for the local Peranakan community. In 1955, Bethesda Katong Kindergarten was set up.



The four-storey Eurasian Community House on Ceylon Road is a site for Eurasians to “meet and play”. The Eurasian Association, a self-help group, organises a variety of social and community-oriented events, while popular restaurant Quentin’s serves up authentic Eurasian cuisine like beef smore and Curry Devil.



The Quek family has been running Kway Guan Huat Joo Chiat Popiah & Kueh Pie Tee at the same shophouse location—95 Joo Chiat Road—for over 70 years. Today, it is one of the few remaining local establishments where popiah skins are still painstakingly made by hand.



"I lived just across the all-time famous Kway Guan Huat Joo Chiat Popiah shop. As the "neighbour children", we got to play there and learnt how to spread the dough on the hot plates—with adult supervision, of course!"

- Josephine Seow, housewife





Built in 1917, Masjid Khalid on Joo Chiat Road was established by a Muslim philanthropist at the suggestion of a group of hawkers who peddled Malay food there. Till today, the mosque is known for its delicious food available during special Muslim occasions.



Masjid Taha on Onan Road is the only mosque for the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in Singapore. The majority of Singaporean Muslims follow Sunni Islam.

ASEP DARMANA

