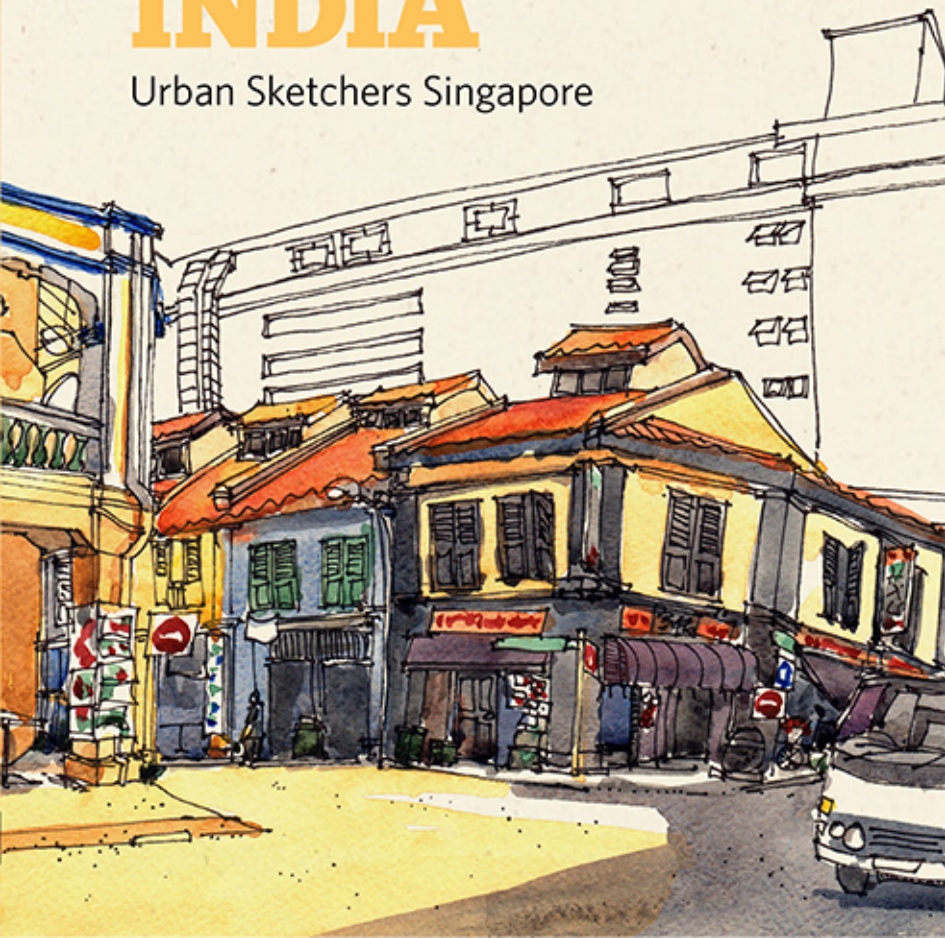


neighbOURhoods

WE ♥
**LITTLE
INDIA**

Urban Sketchers Singapore



WE 
LITTLE
INDIA

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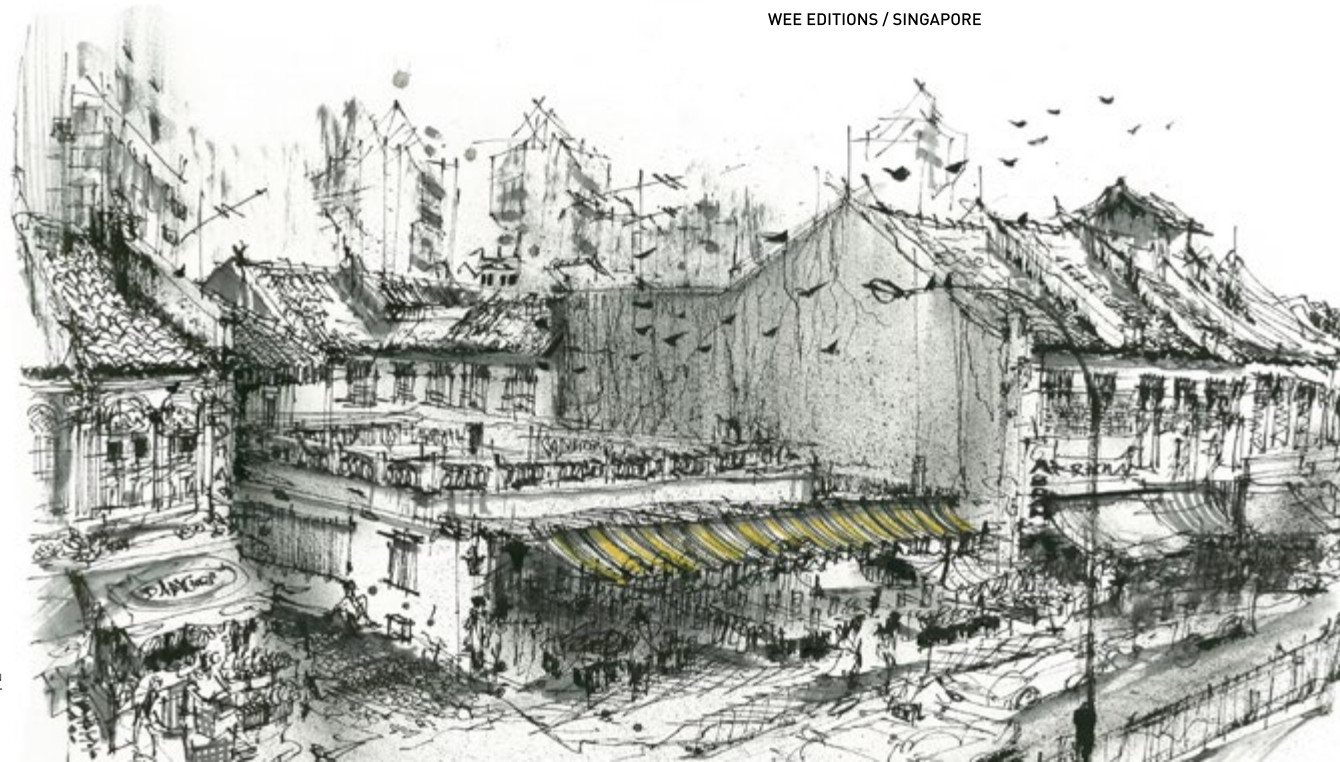
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WE ♥
LITTLE
INDIA

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WEE EDITIONS / SINGAPORE



LISA HUANG LI SHAN



Little Gem of an Enclave

Little India, as it is, is such an interesting and original area and has not garnered nearly the attention it deserves. There are hardly any nice hotels or restaurants in the area and it is mostly overlooked by visitors to Singapore. The many restaurants serving authentic Indian cuisine are a hit with our guests — Sri Komala Vilas in particular. The Ayurvedic massage salon just down the street from our hotel at Upper Dickson Road? Amazing. Naturally, Mustafa Centre is absolutely raved about. Tourists have never seen a place anywhere in the world that has everything to offer 24/7. Guests love that even for a short weekend stay, they have many options to explore just within the immediate area. The things to see, do and eat are endless!

Many of our Singaporean guests who are over for weekend staycations tell us that even they are made to feel like tourists all over again in Little India. It is with a great sense of pride that we have managed to evoke this at Wanderlust Hotel. We like to have conversations with our guests and invite them to explore the neighbourhood and see some local life. We've tried to capture the essence of Little India and, as much as possible, have incorporated it into the hotel space.

You can never quite recreate the sense of time and age built into these old buildings and neighbourhood. I always try to imagine the stories they have to tell and the lives they have seen and touched. The Urban Sketchers Singapore's images and sketches in this book capture this essence of life in Little India beautifully.

Loh Lik Peng

Founder, Wanderlust Hotel



TILEN TI

The nondescript Ellison Building, on the corner of Selegie Road and Bukit Timah Road, was built in 1924 by Isaac and Flora Ellison for their children.

A Star of David sign on the building's central pediment reflects the couple's Jewish background.

In colonial times, the building's roof afforded governors a good vantage point from which they could view Sunday races on Race Course Road.

This 63-year-old Art Deco building along MacKenzie Road has previously housed a skating rink, church and nightclub. Currently, it houses Rex Cinemas, which screens Indian-language movies. In January 2014, the cinema made the news after a crowd of more than 100 patrons refused to vacate the premises after a cancelled movie premiere.



12 March
2014

First built in 1915, Tekka Centre moved to its current premises in 1982. The two-storey multipurpose building's first floor is a bustling wet market frequented by shoppers of all ethnicities, while the second level houses a colourful mix of stalls selling traditional wear, religious items and assorted foodstuff.





LISA HUANG LI SHAN

"Tekka Market is an assault on the senses, in the best way. The cheerful noise and hubbub, the colours of all the seafood and produce—not to mention the bright clothes upstairs—the aromas rising from the masala (spice paste) stalls and the nasi biryani makers, and of course the tastes and textures of the hawker food. I cannot pass by the market without stopping to indulge in something, whether it's an appam or a teh halia or some spanking fresh veg for my next cooking session."

- Christopher Tan, writer and cookbook author





Fochow Methodist Church was founded in 1897 by Christian migrants from Foochow, China, and obtained its current premises on Race Course Road in 1936. The Church offers worship services in English, Mandarin and Tamil, and also operates a kindergarten.



Originally an ethnic enclave where agriculture and the cattle trade flourished by the Serangoon River, Little India—still often “Tekka”, to the Tamil community—is today frequented by Singaporeans of all races, South Asian migrant workers, and tourists alike.

Devotees throng the majestic religious sites, with crowds spilling out of the Hindu temples during Thaipusam and Deepavali. Restaurants serve up anything from vegetarian thalis, to be washed down with filter coffee or chai, to spicy fish head curries, to Nepali cuisine like momos and daal baat, while Tekka Market offers fresh ingredients galore. In the conserved shophouses, art galleries, beauty salons and backpackers hostels with rooftop bars have newly sprung up alongside veteran stores selling ethnic wear, gold, groceries and flowers.

Join the artists from Urban Sketchers Singapore as they venture down main thoroughfare Serangoon Road, and explore Little India’s many side streets, capturing in their sketches the sights, sounds and secrets of this colourful neighbourhood.



Kannala Vilas
Restaurant Raffles Rd
Butter Tomato Onion
Utthappan

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