

neighBOURhoods

WE ♥
QUEENSTOWN

Urban Sketchers Singapore



WE 
QUEENSTOWN

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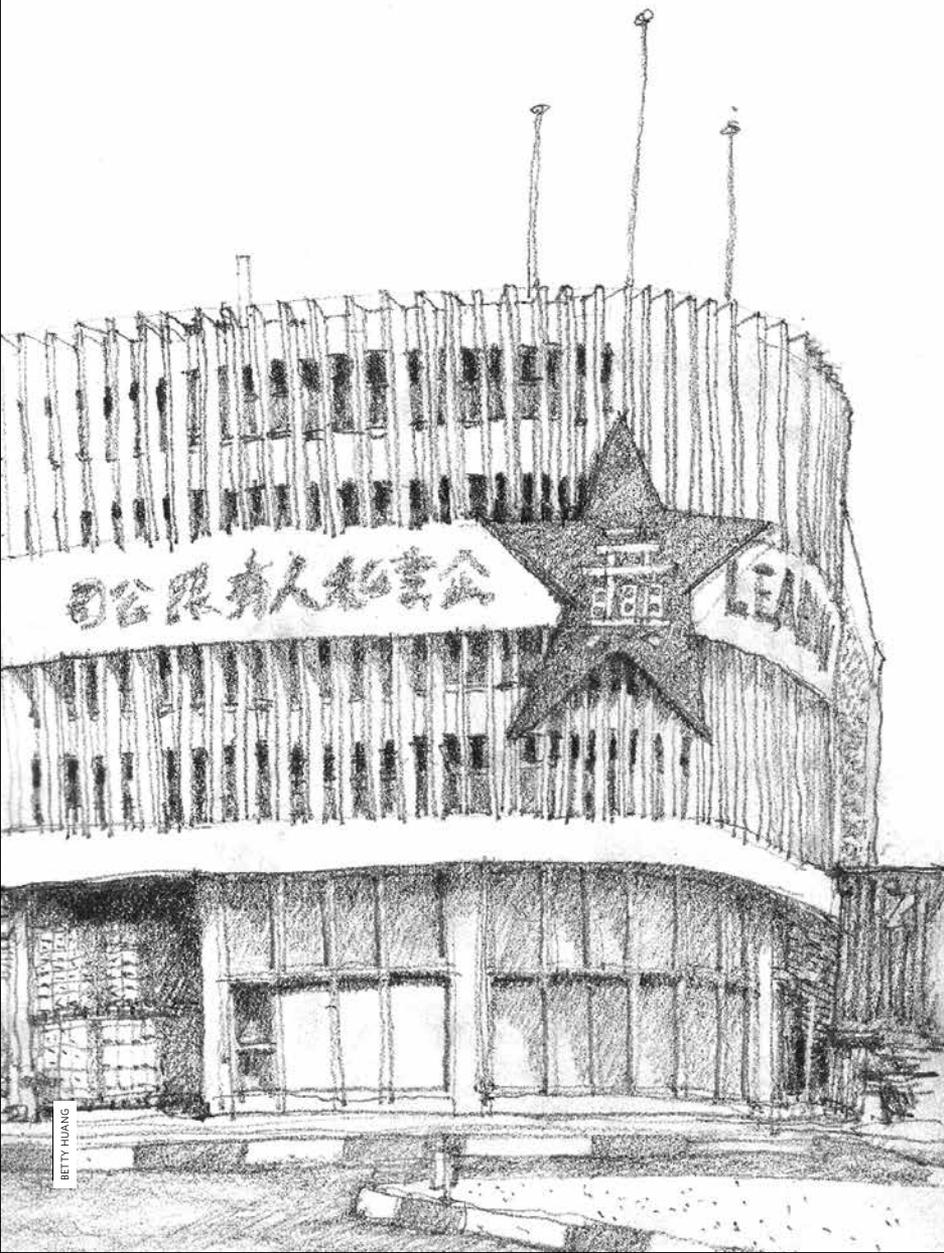
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WE ♥ QUEENSTOWN





Queenstown Girl

Why do we care about old neighbourhoods and spaces? I think we do because it helps us to understand who we are, how we have come to be and how we want to shape our world for the next generation.

I am a Queenstown girl. I studied in Queenstown Primary School, with schoolmates of different classes, races and abilities. I spent long afternoons at Queenstown Branch Library, where a girl from a working-class family like mine could discover Dr Seuss and Nancy Drew. I learned to swim at Queenstown Swimming Complex, thanks to the *kor kors* and *jie jies* who lived in the same block as I.

I accompanied my parents to the Queenstown bowling alley and cinema to watch countless films about voodoo and *jiangshi* (Chinese zombie-vampires) back before the advent of the 'PG' ('Parental Guidance') rating. I have lived in both Block 27A and the four-storey walk-up flats on Stirling Road; back then, everyone would keep their front doors open.

I live in a different world now, but everything I do is informed by my time in Queenstown in some small way.

This collection of drawings by the talented artists from Urban Sketchers Singapore is not simply a romantic trip down memory lane, but a record of a community, its connections and the people's sense of possibility.

My dream is for my daughter to grow up in a neighbourhood just like that.

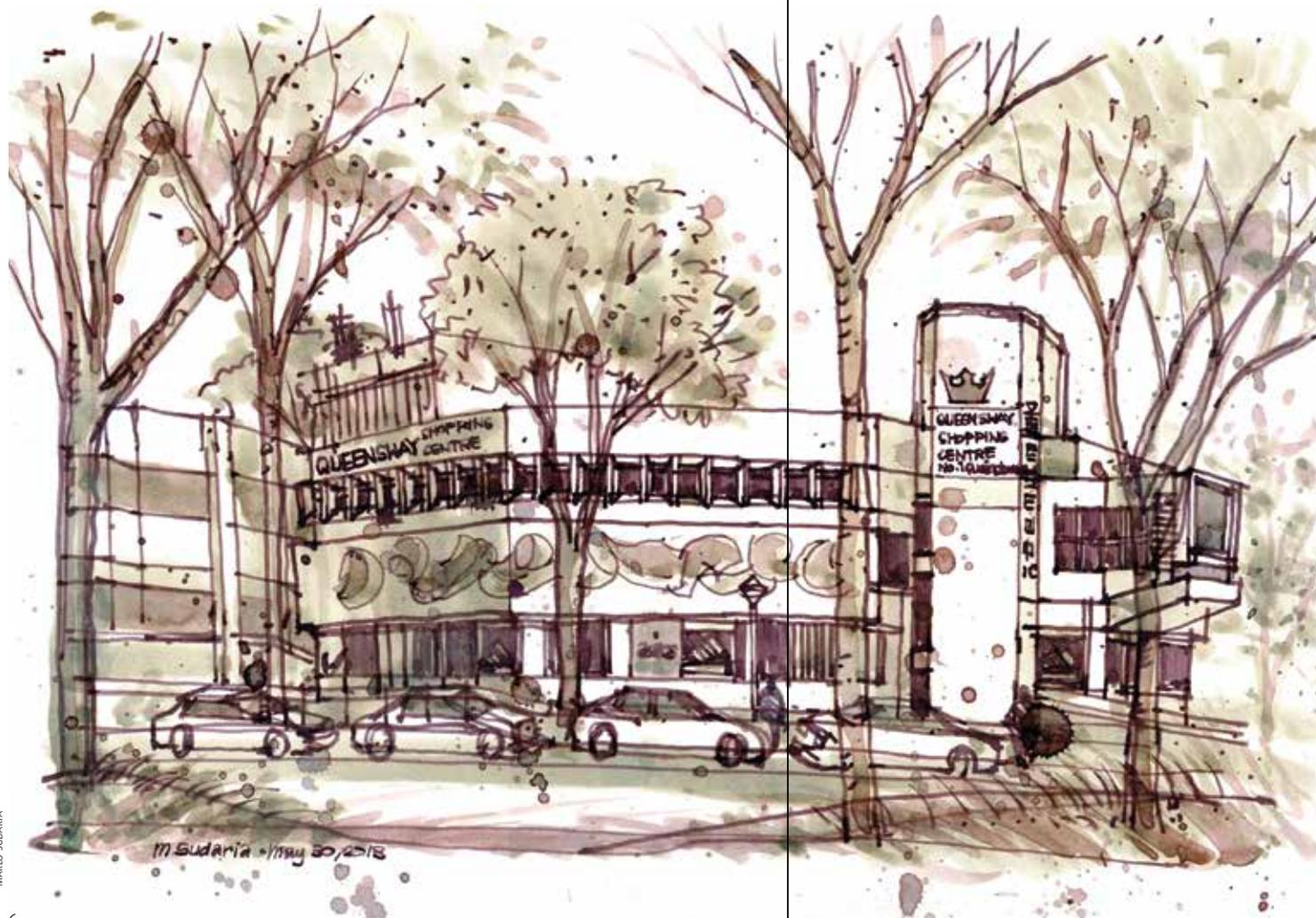
Dr Woo Yen Yen

Associate Professor of Education, Long Island University (New York)

Director, *Singapore Dreaming*

Creator and Publisher, *Dim Sum Warriors*

Situated at the intersection of Queensway and Alexandra Road since 1975, Queensway Shopping Centre is as famous for its unique triangular layout as for its plethora of shops selling sports gear and shoes at attractive prices.





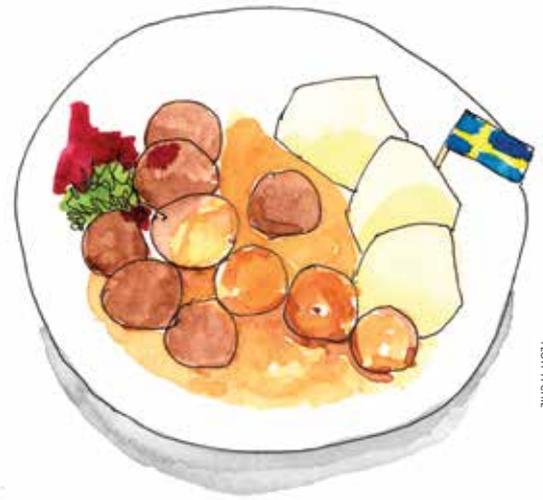
TEOH YI CHIE

"For a furniture store, IKEA probably has one of the more popular restaurants in Singapore. It's always packed with people. The chicken wings and Swedish meatballs are magic."

- Teoh Yi Chie, artist

Swedish furniture giant IKEA arrived on Singapore's shores in 1978. Long-time employee Low Kow Khan described the first outlet as "just a modest little showroom" on Sixth Avenue. In 1984 the store moved to Katong, and in 1995 to its present 22,500m² location on Alexandra Road.

In late February 2013, IKEA Singapore halted sales of its famous Swedish meatballs, following a horsemeat scare in Europe. On 8 March, the well-loved meatballs returned and were sold at 10 cents apiece. 2,500kg of meatballs, triple the usual supply, were prepared to meet the overwhelming demand.



TEOH YI CHIE

With its modern façade with red accents, Church of God on Alexandra Road stands out among Queenstown's numerous churches.





PAUL M. SARIA

"The Cycle & Carriage showroom now sits on land which was once an SBS bus depot. It was unique in the sense that SBS buses used to swing by there and refill their gas tanks—in the midst of a paid journey! Travelling with my young son on service 122, we used to bet if the bus we were on would stop there to top up petrol."

- Arumugam Krishnaveni, housewife



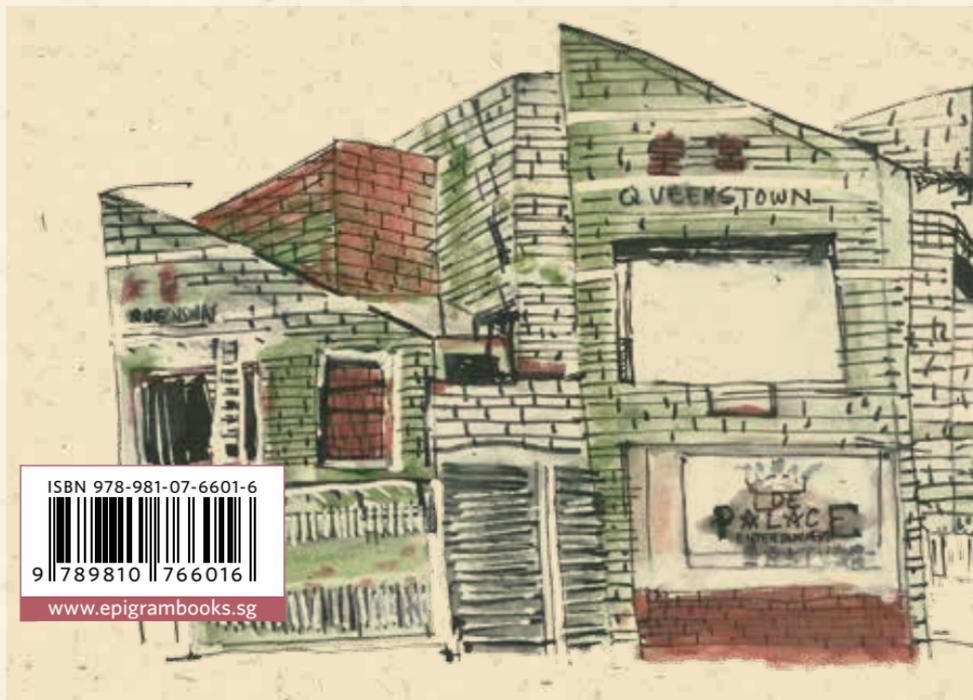
There are numerous car showrooms along Alexandra Road, including Asia's first Mercedes-Benz Center which provides not just car-related services but has facilities including an event hall, café and boutique.

Thye Hong Centre at the junction of Alexandra Road and Tanglin Road was formerly known as the Thye Hong Biscuit Factory. The sweet success of these popular biscuits belied an unfortunate incident: business owner Lee Gee Chong was kidnapped and found dead in April 1960.



Originally a backwater swamp housing the Ying Fo Lut and Boh Beh Kang kampongs, Queenstown became Singapore's first satellite town. It was named in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. As this grand old dame of an estate celebrates her 60th anniversary in 2013, the artists from Urban Sketchers Singapore capture the enduring landmarks and scenes of everyday life in the neighbourhood.

Take a trip down memory lane and imagine the late Queenstown cinema and bowling alley in its heyday. Visit Stirling Road to view Singapore's first HDB blocks and enjoy the unique personality of each HDB terrace house. Admire the religious harmony and architectural diversity of Queenstown's churches, temples and mosques. To escape the heat, slip into the cool oasis of Queenstown Community Library, which remains in the middle of winding Margaret Drive.



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