

neighBOURhoods

**WE ♥
SERANGOON
GARDENS**

Urban Sketchers Singapore



WE ♥
SERANGOON
GARDENS

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WEE EDITIONS / SINGAPORE



CHIA PEI WEN

A Little Village

Serangoon Gardens. The very name conjures images of flowers and greenery nestled amidst cultured harmonised surroundings. It was this, and more, when I first came across Serangoon Gardens as a mere teenager.

Now, 40 years later, Serangoon Gardens seems like it has not heeded the call of Singapore's unrelenting progress. When I re-visited it for *Heritage Journeys*, I found that it had retained the old-fashioned charm of days long past.

These evocative illustrations from Urban Sketchers Singapore imprint on readers a past that is still very much alive in a concrete and glass Singapore that is reaching for the sky.

A past that includes the corner where the old second-hand bookshop stood, where now hangs the barber's trade, to the old Paramount Theatre where myVillage sits. Or the emblematic row of shophouses along Kensington Avenue, a prominent feature in many photos of the 1970s. The houses built in the 1950s by a developer named Steven Charles Macey, who saw the potential of a piece of land, still stand as a nostalgic reminder of a different Serangoon Gardens. Macey's photos now grace the walls of the Serangoon Gardens Country Club, another building that sees generations build bonds over its 60-year history.

This book is not about life in a bygone era, it is about a living, breathing community. The images that invite you to take a stroll through this little village where you will always find a little memory to cherish.

Catherine Khoo

Publisher

Heritage Journeys: No Place Like Serangoon Gardens



This roundabout is a beloved landmark of Serangoon Gardens. All of the main roads in the estate radiate from this circus, which is within walking distance of houses and shops.





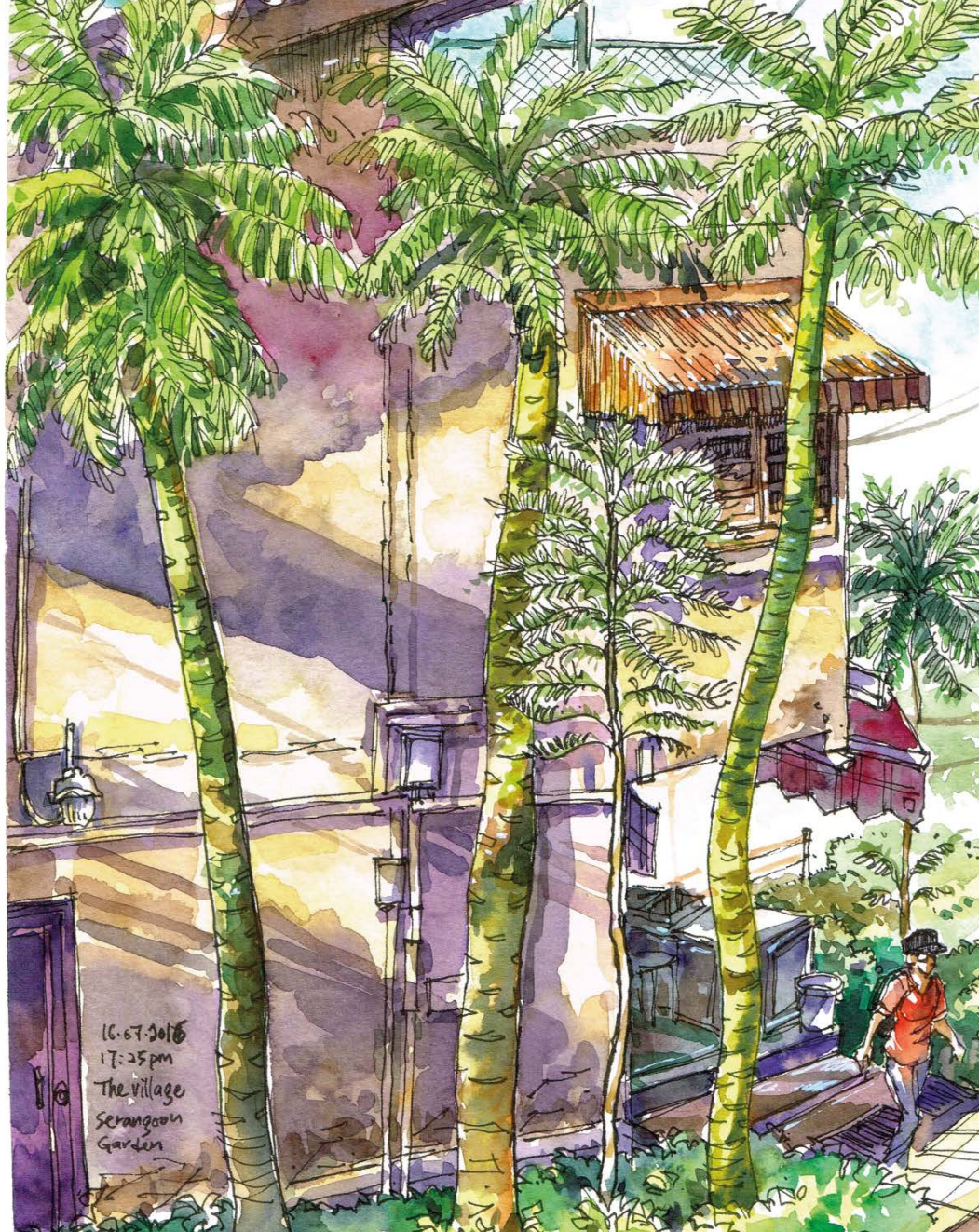
BENEDICT TAY

Pow Sing Restaurant is considered an institution in Serangoon Gardens; it was opened in 1983 by owners who wanted to share the true taste of Hainanese chicken rice with Singaporeans. What began as a humble chicken rice stall has since become two modern, air-conditioned eateries, Pow Sing Restaurant and Pow Sing Kitchen, famous for local favourites such as wanton mee, Hainanese pork chop and, of course, Hainanese chicken rice.



"Before Tom Yum Kungfu, there used to be a coffee shop. I frequently patronised Jeffrey Ho's char kway teow stall there. He always gave extra fried pork lard to my younger brother (who was really chubby and had a botak head). I would send my brother to buy the char kway teow for me in order to get the extra pork lard serving."

- Grace Wong, scientist



Serangoon Gardens is known for the quaint shophouses along Serangoon Garden Way. Here, you can find popular eateries such as R K Eating House, a 24-hour Indian Muslim coffee shop, and Pow Sing Restaurant.





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Serangoon Gardens
"Backyard memories"

Serangoon Gardens is home to the beloved Chomp Chomp Food Centre and the iconic Serangoon Gardens Circus or *Ang Sar Lee* to older Singaporeans. Its charm comes from a rich heritage that seeps into its thriving present. From a nameless Malay barbershop that has been around for more than 20 years to the conserved shophouses that have become synonymous with the area, Serangoon Gardens is loved by its residents and visitors.

With the artists from *Urban Sketchers Singapore*, we journey through this quiet and laid back estate, where nostalgia and modernity blend, resulting in a unique atmosphere that is unlike anywhere in Singapore.



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