

# Study of Heritage Conservation in Guangzhou

## Shamian Historic Buildings



The Shamian Historic Buildings with their continental European ambience.



The Shamian Historic Buildings are a cluster of Western-style buildings constructed by countries such as Britain and France inside the foreign concessions of Guangzhou. These buildings were originally consulates, churches, banks, post offices, telegram offices, firms, hospitals, hotels and residences. The residents at that time were mostly the staff members of the consulates, banks and foreign firms, as well as foreign tax officers and missionaries.

The main architectural styles included the British and French colonialist, eclectic and early modernist style. This group of buildings was declared as the first batch of the "National Excellence Modern Building Unit" (全國近代優秀建築單位), and was declared a protected site for its historical and cultural value at the national level in 1990 and 1996 respectively.

At present these buildings have been progressively adaptively re-used. For instance, the Pallonjee House in South Shamian Street was originally the staff quarters of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank, and it is now used as the office of the "Mo Bo-zhi Architectural Firm" (莫伯治建築師事務所).

### References:

1. Guangzhou Municipal Construction Committee (ed.), 《廣州歷史文化名勝》. Guangzhou Municipality: Hua Cheng Publishing Ltd: 2002, pp.141, 144.
2. Guangdong Cultural Website, 荔灣區·沙面西式建築. [http://www.gdwh.com.cn/xiuxian/2010/0525/article\\_111.htm](http://www.gdwh.com.cn/xiuxian/2010/0525/article_111.htm)
3. Guangzhou Cultural Information Website, 沙面建築群. <http://www.gzwh.gov.cn/whw/channel/whmc/ljq/smqj/index.htm>



The words "PALLONJEE HOUSE" are inscribed on the granite at the front door of Pallonjee House.



Source of photos: Commissioner of Heritage's Office, Development Bureau

## Old Site of the Guangdong Customs House

(also called the Big Bell Tower, and now the China Customs Museum Guangzhou Branch)



The Guangdong Customs House was set up in 1685, which was the 24th year of the Reign of Emperor Kangxi in the Qing Dynasty, and was one of the earliest customs houses in China. The present site has undergone repeated restoration and redevelopment. The current building was designed by British architect David C. Dick in 1914, and was built in the European Classical architectural style. The building faces south, and has a high-ceiling and spacious interior with a camphor wooden floor. The verandah was laid with colourful cement bricks. The original central arched door had the three Chinese characters for "Custom House" (粵海關) inscribed on it, and in 1947, it was changed to the four Chinese characters for "Guangzhou Customs" (廣州海關). This building was declared by the State Council as a protected site for its historical and cultural value at the national level in May 2006. Now it has been adaptively re-used into the China Customs Museum.

### References:

1. The Guangzhou Municipal Construction Commission (ed.), 《廣州歷史文化名勝》. Guangzhou Municipality: Hua Cheng Publishing Ltd: 2002, pp. 100.
2. Guangzhou Culture and Information Website, 粵海關大樓. [Http://www.gzwh.gov.cn/whw/channel/whmc/vwjz/yhgd/index.htm](http://www.gzwh.gov.cn/whw/channel/whmc/vwjz/yhgd/index.htm)
3. Guangzhou Customs District People's Republic of China, 海關博物館免費向市民開放. <http://www.customs.gov.cn:82/gate/big5/guangzhou.customs.gov.cn/publish/portal31/tab560/module1846/info187544.htm>



Exhibits in the China Customs Museum.



Source of photo: Commissioner of Heritage's Office, Development Bureau

## Thousand-Year Trail, Beijing Road



The archaeological remains are protected by a glass-paned steel cover both for preservation and exhibition to visitors.



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Source of photos: Commissioner of Heritage's Office, Development Bureau

Beijing Road is the main road of the city of Guangzhou, and is a famous neighbourhood of historic and cultural value. The remains of eleven levels of road and a gatehouse from the Tang Dynasty to the period of the Republic of China were discovered in Beijing Road in 2002, during the excavation of its pavement. This was regarded as a major archaeological find, providing evidence for the hypothesis that Beijing Road has a history of more than a thousand years. Today, some of the remains are covered with a glass-paned steel cover for preservation and exhibition. Beijing Road was also a famous bookstore street in the late Qing Dynasty and the early years of the Republic of China. Numerous old bookstores once lined the streets there. While most of them have closed down, the UN Bookstore has invested to restore its former appearance as a century-old shop, and has been seen as an outstanding example for the conservation of historic buildings.

### References:

1. The Guangzhou Municipal Construction Commission (ed.), 《廣州歷史文化名勝》. Guangzhou Municipality: Hua Cheng Publishing Ltd: 2002, pp. 145.
2. Guangzhou China Website, 步行街. [http://www.guangzhou.gov.cn/node\\_646/node\\_653/2005-06/111874115952659.shtml](http://www.guangzhou.gov.cn/node_646/node_653/2005-06/111874115952659.shtml)
3. Guangzhou Literary History, 北京路千年古樓遺跡. [http://www.gzzxw.gov.cn/dmtwsg/tsws/200912/t20091221\\_16412.htm](http://www.gzzxw.gov.cn/dmtwsg/tsws/200912/t20091221_16412.htm)
4. Guangzhou and Foshan Metropolitan Website(citygf.com), 百年老屋復修 聯合書店北京路露臉. [http://big5.citygf.com/gate/big5/www.citygf.com/news/News\\_001003/200910/t20091021\\_137811.html](http://big5.citygf.com/gate/big5/www.citygf.com/news/News_001003/200910/t20091021_137811.html)



The UN Bookstore, which has been restored to its original appearance and revitalized.



Beijing Road, adjacent to the Thousand-Year Trail, is now an important tourist attraction and shopping node.

## Jinlun Guild Hall



The original site of the Jinlun Guild Hall was in Xi Lai Xin Street, Xiajiu Road. The entire building and its foundation were moved to its present site in Kang Wang South Road due to the expansion of Kang Wang Road. Jinlun Guild Hall is the Guild Hall for the silk textile industry in Guangzhou. Originally built in 1723, it has been restored and redeveloped numerous times. The Guild Hall is a three-hall shrine built in the vivid Southern China architectural style with carvings, and ceramic and plaster sculptures. There are 22 stele carvings in the Hall, which are important relics for studying the rise of capitalism in the Qing Dynasty and the history of commerce and trade in Guangzhou. The Hall was declared a protected site for its historical and cultural value at the municipal level in July 1999.

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1. The Guangzhou Municipal Construction Commission (ed.), 《廣州歷史文化名勝》. Guangzhou Municipality: Hua Cheng Publishing Ltd: 2002, pp. 97.
2. Guangzhou Culture, 中國早期資本主義萌芽的縮影—錦綸會館. [http://www.gdwh.com.cn/lnwh/2010/0629/article\\_1432.htm](http://www.gdwh.com.cn/lnwh/2010/0629/article_1432.htm)
3. Guangzhou China, 錦綸會館展出50餘件西關清代古家具. [http://www.guangzhou.gov.cn/node\\_392/node\\_393/node\\_398/2005-11/113098481576536.shtml](http://www.guangzhou.gov.cn/node_392/node_393/node_398/2005-11/113098481576536.shtml)



Source of photos: Commissioner of Heritage's Office, Development Bureau



## Dishifu (Bahe Guild Hall)



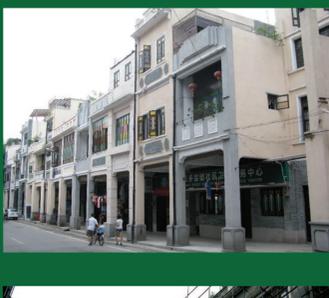
Source of photos: Commissioner of Heritage's Office, Development Bureau

Dishifu is situated at 177 En Ning Road. Built during the period of the Republic of China, it was the Guild Hall for Cantonese opera performers. As it consists of eight Guild branches, the Hall was named "Bahe" (八和) which means harmony of eight sides. This verandah-type shophouse building is a steel concrete structure, and was repaired in 2003 with funding from the provincial and municipal officials. The front part and façade of the building has been preserved, while the rear part has been redeveloped into a 2-storey house. The Hall has retained its function as the Cantonese Artists Association, and hosts anniversary celebrations and gatherings for the Cantonese opera professionals. It is also open to the public to promote Cantonese opera culture.

### References:

1. Guangzhou Lwan, 八和會館. [http://www.lw.gov.cn/mfw/13148/13153/200309/t20030926\\_57986.htm](http://www.lw.gov.cn/mfw/13148/13153/200309/t20030926_57986.htm)
2. Guangdong News (southcn.com) – Guangzhou Local News, 荔灣擬建特色粵劇廣場 納入八和會館擴建計劃. <http://big5.southcn.com/gate/big5/www.southcn.com/news/dishi/guangzhou/shehui/200407160579.htm>

## Shangxiajiu Pedestrian Street



The Shangxiajiu Pedestrian Street is the name for the pedestrian streets of Shangjiu Road, Xiajiu Road and Dishifu Road, and is one of Guangzhou's three major traditional commercial areas. The Pedestrian Street starts with the shops on Dishifu Road, which has 238 verandah-type shophouse buildings of Xiguan style and 300 shops, including some of Guangzhou's old famous stores selling commodities and snacks of local flavour. These verandah-type shophouse buildings have been in recent years renovated with financial support of municipal government a facelift.

### References:

1. Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province (ed.), 《老廣州》. Guangzhou: Lingnan Art Publishing House: 2009, pp. 316.
2. Guangzhou China, 步行街. [http://www.guangzhou.gov.cn/node\\_646/node\\_653/2005-06/111874115952659.shtml](http://www.guangzhou.gov.cn/node_646/node_653/2005-06/111874115952659.shtml)
3. Guangzhou Culture, 上下九街. <http://www.gzwh.gov.cn/whw/channel/whmc/ljq/sxqj/index.htm>



Source of photos: Commissioner of Heritage's Office, Development Bureau

