

# Study of Heritage Conservation in Macau

## Lou Kau Mansion



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

Lou Kau Mansion, built around 1889, was the former residence of the family of Lou Kau, a prominent Chinese merchant in Macau. The mansion was built with traditional grey-brick, modeled on the *Xiguan* (西關) Chinese residential buildings in Guangzhou. The decorations include brick carvings and plastered mouldings with Southern China characteristics, as well as Western-style perforated wooden ceilings and Neo-Classical balustrades, providing a good example of the combination of Chinese and Western architectural styles in Macau. The mansion is now managed and renovated by the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macau Government, and is open to the public during the day. In addition, some cultural groups have held different activities there – for instance the Macao Chinese Orchestra has held a number of mini-concerts there, adding an artistic ambience to the mansion.

### References:

1. Cultural Affair Bureau, Macau SAR Government– Macao Heritage Net, Lou Kau Mansion.  
<http://www.macaupatrimony.net/en/HeritageInfo/HeritageContent.aspx?t=M&hid=41>
2. Macau Government Tourist Office, Discovering Macau.  
[http://hk.macaotourism.gov.mo/en/discovering/sightseeing\\_detail.php?catid=54](http://hk.macaotourism.gov.mo/en/discovering/sightseeing_detail.php?catid=54)



## Tak Seng On Pawnshop



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

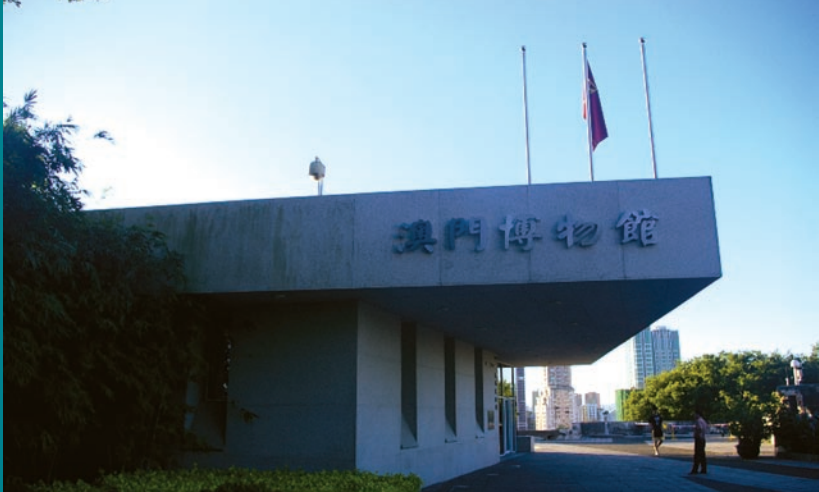
Tak Seng On Pawnshop was established in 1917, and is a relatively intact pawnshop building in Macau. It comprises of two parts – the pawnshop's reception and the storage areas. The architectural design and layout, the interior décor and the equipment of this building would have been very similar to pawnshops in the early years of the Republic of China. In 2003, Tak Seng On Pawnshop was adaptively re-used into a Pawnshop Museum and became the first business museum jointly run by the Macau Government and the private sector. In 2004, it was awarded an Honorable Mention for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation.

### References:

1. Macao Museum, 典當業展示館(德成按).  
<http://www.macaumuseum.gov.mo/v3MMabout/PawnshopC.aspx>
2. Macao Museum, 「德成按」.  
[http://www.macaumuseum.gov.mo/images/otherMuseum/pawnshop/chi\\_pawnshop.htm](http://www.macaumuseum.gov.mo/images/otherMuseum/pawnshop/chi_pawnshop.htm)



## Macao Museum



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

Inaugurated in 1998, the Macao Museum was erected on the Mount Fortress built in the early 17th century by the Jesuits. Mount Fortress was originally a military zone until its redevelopment into an observatory and opening up to the public in 1966. In 1996, the Government adaptively re-used the observatory into the Macao Museum for the public's enjoyment of this historic building. While two floors of the museum are within the interior of the fortress, the third floor has been redeveloped from the ground floor building of the observatory, and thereby the fortress' original architectural style and topographical characteristics have been preserved.

### References:

1. Macao Museum, "Macao Museum Newsletter". No. 11 (July to September 2010). Macao Museum.  
<http://www.macaumuseum.gov.mo/maineng.htm>
2. Cultural Affair Bureau, Macau SAR Government – Macao Heritage Net, Mount Fortress.  
<http://www.macaupatrimony.net/en/HeritageInfo/HeritageContent.aspx?t=M&hid=46>

## Senado Square



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

Senado Square has been the urban centre since the early days of Macau, and is still the most popular venue for public events and celebrations today. Senado Square is a square in the shape of a funnel – in that it is wide at the front and narrower at the back. At the centre is a fountain, and most of the surrounding buildings are at least a century old. Notable examples include the "Leal Senado" Building and the Holy House of Mercy. The former had been the offices of the Macau Senate and the municipal chamber, and is now a public facility including an exhibition hall, a ceremonial meeting room and a library. The latter was originally responsible for charity work, and has been adaptively re-used into government offices and the Museum of the Holy House of Mercy.

### References:

1. Cultural Affair Bureau, Macau SAR Government– Macao Heritage Net, Senado Square.  
<http://www.macaupatrimony.net/en/HeritageInfo/HeritageContent.aspx?t=M&hid=37>
2. Cultural Affair Bureau, Macau SAR Government– Macao Heritage Net, Holy House of Mercy.  
<http://www.macaupatrimony.net/en/HeritageInfo/HeritageContent.aspx?t=M&hid=39>
3. Cultural Affair Bureau, Macau SAR Government– Macao Heritage Net, "Leal Senado" Building.  
<http://www.macaupatrimony.net/en/HeritageInfo/HeritageContent.aspx?t=M&hid=36>
4. Macau Government Tourist Office, Discovering Macau.  
[http://hk.macaotourism.gov.mo/en/discovering/sightseeing\\_detail.php?catid=54](http://hk.macaotourism.gov.mo/en/discovering/sightseeing_detail.php?catid=54)



## Ruins of St. Paul's



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

The Ruins of St. Paul's are the remains of the façade of the Church of Mater Dei, and is a famous landmark of Macau. The Church was built in 1602, with an architectural design that is unique among Catholic churches, which combines Baroque style with Chinese and Japanese sculptures. The Church was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1835, with only its façade remaining. In the 1990s, the Macau Government announced its plan to carry out archaeological work on the Church's ruins, followed by renovation and adaptive re-use into the Museum of Sacred Art, in which the paintings, sculptures and ceremonial ornaments of the various churches and monasteries in Macau are displayed.

### References:

1. Cultural Affair Bureau, Macau SAR Government – Macao Heritage Net, Ruins of St. Paul's.  
<http://www.macaupatrimony.net/en/HeritageInfo/HeritageContent.aspx?t=M&hid=43>
2. City Guide of Macau, Ruins of St. Paul's Church, Museum of Sacred Art.  
<http://www.cityguide.gov.mo/visit/detail.aspx?id=02050700000000000000>

## Guia Lighthouse



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

Built in 1864 on the Guia Fortress, Guia Lighthouse is the oldest modern lighthouse on the Chinese coast, and is still in operation. Adjacent to the lighthouse is the Guia Chapel, built in 1622 in honour of Our Lady of Guia. In 1996, the Macau Government carried out interior protection and restoration of the chapel, and uncovered a large number of frescoes depicting biblical stories and figures in the Chinese painting style, which are unique among local churches. Upon completion of the restoration of the frescoes, the chapel was reopened to the public.

### References:

1. Cultural Affair Bureau, Macau SAR Government– Macao Heritage Net, Guia Fortress.  
<http://www.macaupatrimony.net/en/HeritageInfo/HeritageContent.aspx?t=M&hid=50>



## Dom Pedro V Theatre



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

Built in 1860, the Dom Pedro V Theatre was the first Western-style theatre in China, equipped with facilities such as a theatre, dancing hall, billiard room and reading block. The Theatre serves as a place for dramatic and musical performances, as well as film shows. In addition, the Theatre was also a venue for important public events and celebrations in the Portuguese community, as well as a place for the pleasure of the gentry and celebrities. The theatre facilities are still open for performances, for instance, the "Passion for the Romantic Period" Concert was held in the theatre by the Macao Orchestra.

### References:

1. Cultural Affair Bureau, Macau SAR Government– Macao Heritage Net, Dom Pedro V Theatre.  
<http://www.macaupatrimony.net/en/HeritageInfo/HeritageContent.aspx?t=M&hid=33>
2. Macau Government Tourist Office, Discovering Macau.  
[http://hk.macaotourism.gov.mo/en/discovering/sightseeing\\_detail.php?catid=54](http://hk.macaotourism.gov.mo/en/discovering/sightseeing_detail.php?catid=54)