

上水廖族

Liu Clan of Sheung Shui

上水廖族先祖廖仲傑於元代（1279-1368年）中葉自福建南遷廣東，初居屯門，旋遷深圳河以北的福田村，最後才在上水雙魚河定居，他的子孫其後散居附近一帶。

十六世紀末，廖氏的第七和第八代兩位精通堪輿的族人，力主族人聚居，以使子孫昌盛，宗族繁衍，於是共尋村址，合力建村，即現時的圍內村。圍內村於1646至1647年間加築圍牆及護城河作守衛，以抵禦群盜滋擾。全村共分東南西北斗四個大小不同部分，分別由村內三房族人居住。1688年，廖族約有成員五百人，其後人口增加，治安好轉，於是向村外拓展。1819至1898年間，莆上村、中心村、門口村、大元村、上北村、下北村及興仁村先後建立，這些相鄰村落後來與圍內村合稱為上水鄉。

十八世紀時，廖族勢力至為顯赫，這可從他們所建的祠堂——廖萬石堂中印證。此外，廖族在科舉及第的人數眾多，據族譜所載，中式者共四十七人。廖族在十九世紀仍見昌隆，並增建了兩間祠堂。族內一位要人廖鴻，更在1819年參與編纂《新安縣志》，並重編廖氏族譜。

Liu Chung-kit, the founding ancestor of the Liu clan in Sheung Shui migrated from Fujian province to Guangdong province in the middle of the Yuan dynasty (1279-1368). Initially settling in Tuen Mun and then in the village of Futian, north of the Shenzhen River, he finally put down roots in the area around the Sheung Yue River, from where his descendants later spread far and wide.

In the late sixteenth century, two clan members of the seventh and eighth generations, both geomancers, came to the conclusion that unification of the lineage was a prerequisite for the clan to thrive. They therefore drew up plans and chose a site for the establishment of what is now known as Wai Loi Tsuen. The walls and moat around Wai Loi Tsuen were constructed between 1646 and 1647 to protect the clan from bandits in the vicinity. The village was divided into four wards of different sizes and was occupied by three kinship units. In 1688, the clan numbered about 500 members. As the population grew and public order improved, clan members began to settle outside the walls. The hamlets of Po Sheung Tsuen, Chung Sum Tsuen, Mun Hau Tsuen, Tai Yuen Tsuen, Sheung Pak Tsuen, Ha Pak Tsuen and Hing Yan Tsuen – which are today known collectively with Wai Loi Tsuen as Sheung Shui Heung – were all founded between 1819 and 1898.

The power and wealth of the Liu clan reached its apogee in the eighteenth century, and this was reflected both in the erection of the main ancestral hall, the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall, as well as in the increasing numbers of clan members who succeeded in passing the imperial examination. According to the genealogy of the Liu clan, forty seven clan members achieved this honour. The Liu clan continued to prosper in the nineteenth century, and two more ancestral halls were built. Liu Hung, an important clan member, participated in the compilation of the *Xin'an Gazetteer* in 1819 and managed to edit the Liu genealogy for the first time.



1956年的上水鄉
Sheung Shui Heung in 1956

廖萬石堂後進的功名牌匾
Honorary plaques hanging at the rear hall of the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall



2012年的上水鄉
Sheung Shui Heung in 2012

照片由地政總署提供 © 香港特別行政區政府 版權特許編號: G13/2015
Photo from Lands Department © The Government of the Hong Kong SAR Reference no. G13/2015



廖萬石堂

Liu Man Shek Ancestral Hall

廖萬石堂為上水廖族最大的祠堂，始建於清雍正初年，並於乾隆年間重修。「萬石」之名可追溯至宋代（960-1279年）。相傳廖氏遠祖廖剛及其四個兒子皆任高官，每人官祿二千石，合共萬石。後人為紀念先祖，乃將祠堂命名為「廖萬石堂」。清光緒十七年（1891年），廖萬石堂曾進行重修。

1932年，廖氏族人為提倡新學，培育人才，於是將廖萬石堂改作小學。祠堂間隔再細分以闢作課室，牆壁亦髹上油漆，建築物的原來面貌大受破壞。這所小學於1974年遷往上水馬會道新址。

廖萬石堂是上水廖族的重要建築，每年的春、秋二祭皆會在祠堂內舉行。



2006年3月於廖萬石堂舉行的祭祖儀式
Ancestor worship in the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall in March 2006



修復前的廖萬石堂內貌
Interior of the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall before restoration

修復前的廖萬石堂外貌
Exterior of the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall before restoration

Built in early years of the Yongzheng reign (1722-1735) and later restored in the Qianlong reign (1736-1795) of the Qing dynasty, the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall is the largest ancestral hall of the Liu clan of Sheung Shui. Literally meaning 10,000 *shi* (*shek*, a unit of measure for grain), the name "Man Shek" dates back to the Song dynasty (960-1279). It is believed that a distant ancestor of the clan, Liu Kong, and his four sons were all high government officials who each earned an annual salary of 2,000 *shi* of cereal, thus 10,000 *shi* in total. Their descendants named the ancestral hall "Liu Man Shek Tong" in their honour. Renovation was undertaken in the seventeenth year of the Guangxu reign (1891) during the Qing dynasty.

In 1932, the ancestral hall was converted into primary school to promote modern education. The ancestral hall was partitioned and the walls were plastered and painted. Most of the characters of this elegant building were destroyed. In 1974, the school moved to new premises at Jockey Club Road in Sheung Shui.

The Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall is an important piece of architecture for the Liu clan where the spring and autumn ancestral worship ceremonies are held every year.



修復前的廖萬石堂後進
The rear hall of the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall before restoration



修復工程

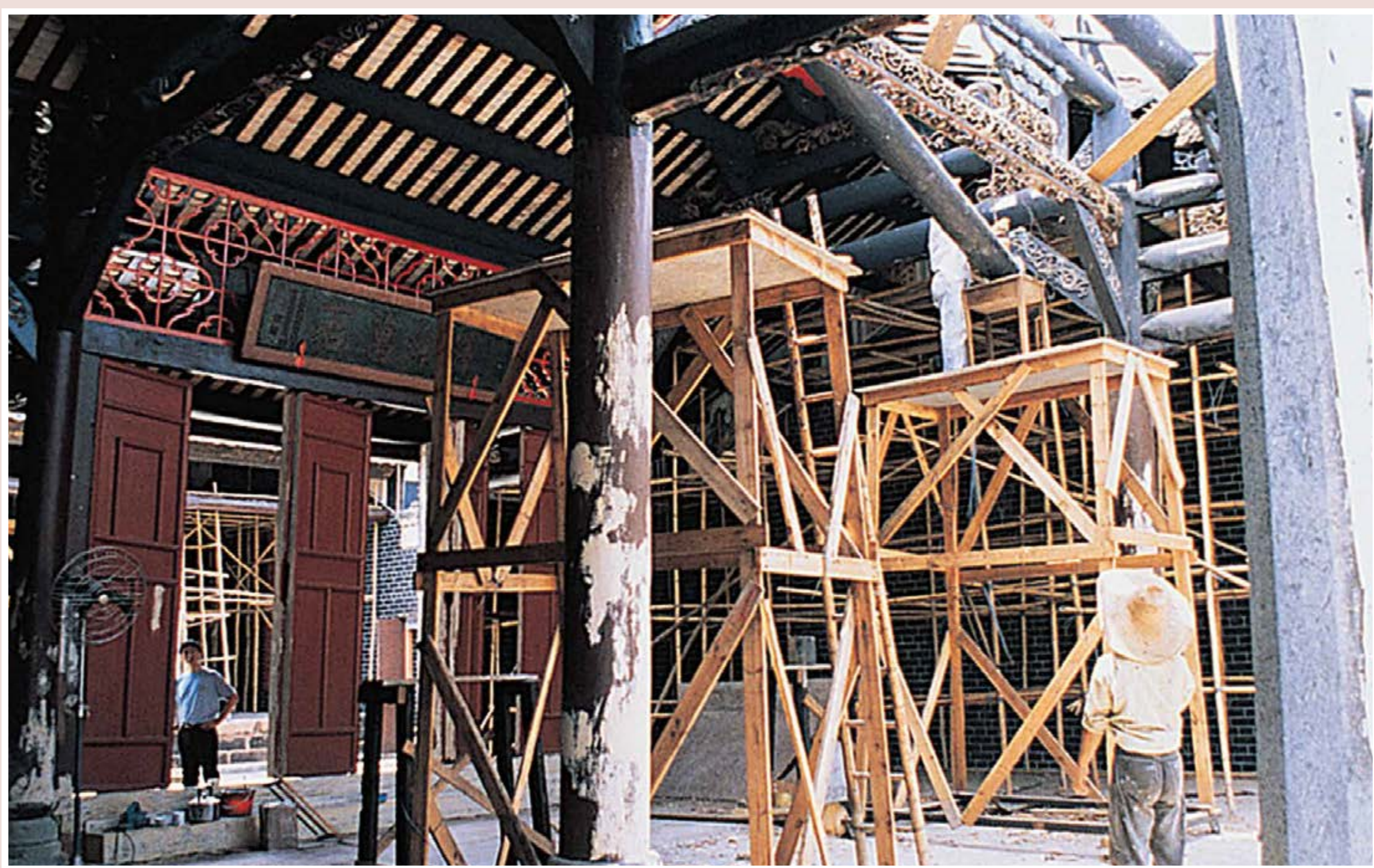
Restoration Works

1983年，一個由廖族成員、北區政務處、古物古蹟辦事處及其他政府部門組成的小組開始商議重修之事，整項工程費用約一百萬元，除政府資助三十萬元外，其餘皆由廖族支付。修復工程於1984年11月展開，分期進行，1985年底所有工程順利完成。同年，廖萬石堂根據《古物及古蹟條例》列為法定古蹟。為紀念廖萬石堂重修竣工，時任港督尤德爵士夫人於1986年3月1日親臨主持開光典禮。為維護古蹟，政府曾多次修繕祠堂，包括二零二三年完成的中進及中庭院牆身傾側修復及結構修葺工程。

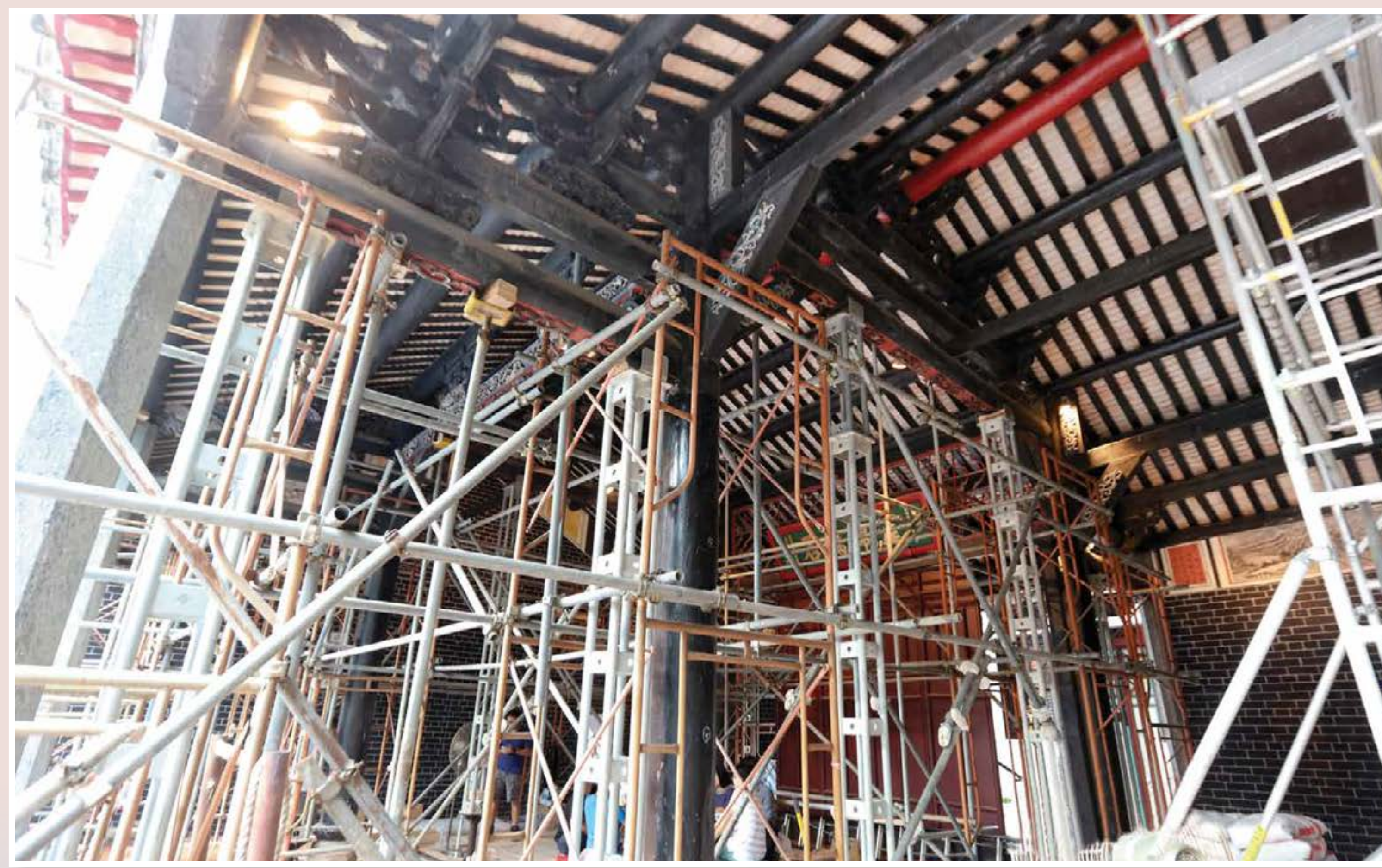
In 1983, a committee comprising members of the Liu clan, representatives of the North District Office, the Antiquities and Monuments Office and other government departments was set up to organise the restoration project of the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall. The project cost approximately \$1,000,000 in total, \$300,000 of which came from the government with the rest provided by the Liu clan. The works commenced in November 1984 in phases and was completed in late 1985. The ancestral hall was declared a monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance in the same year. To mark the rehabilitation of the building, a ceremony was held on 1 March 1986, at which Lady Pamela Youde, the wife of the then governor Sir Edward Youde, officiated. With a view to conserving the monument, several restoration and repair works to the ancestral hall were carried out by the Government over the years, including the incline-rectification and structural repair at middle hall and central courtyard walls completed in 2023.



1984年修復中的前進及庭院
The front hall and courtyard under restoration in 1984



1994年修復中的中進
The middle hall under restoration in 1994



2016年修復中的中進
The middle hall under restoration in 2016

2019年的廖萬石堂
The Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall in 2019



建築特色

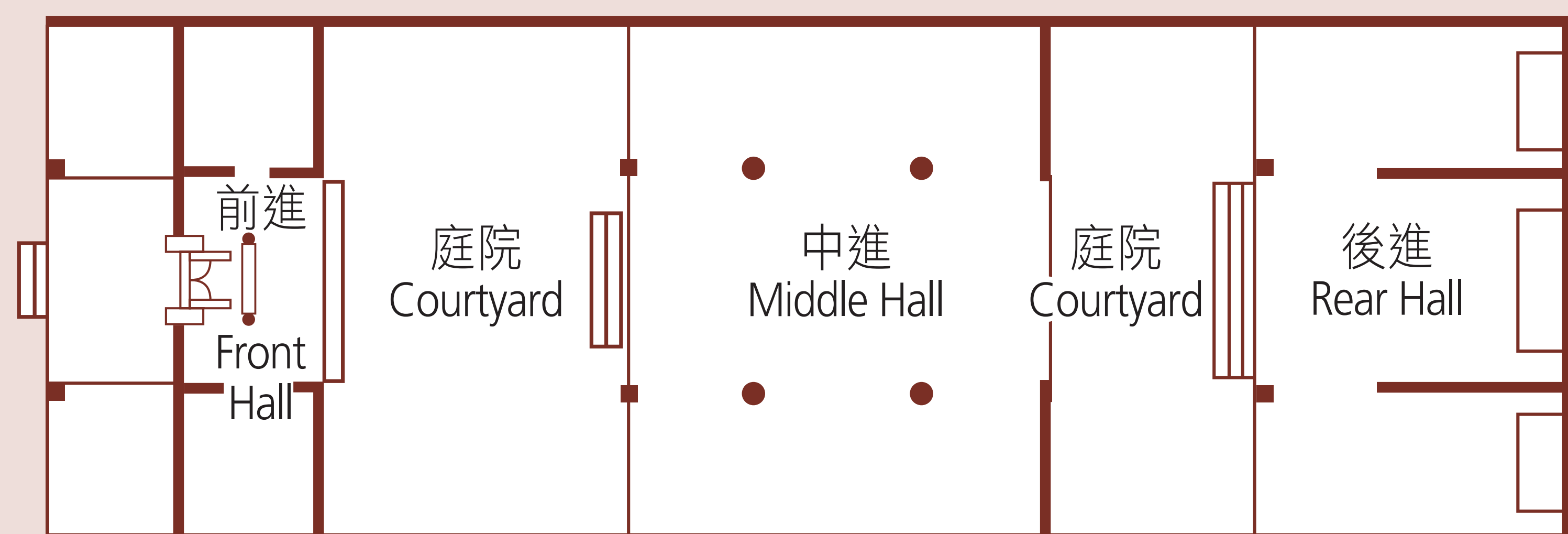
Architectural Features

廖萬石堂是一所三進三開間建築物，設兩庭院，祖先木主祭於後進祖龕。整座建築物裝飾華麗，灰塑、木刻、壁畫等比比皆是，題材多為傳統吉祥圖案。屋頂以瓦鋪蓋，由雕刻精緻的樑架及斗拱承托，以石柱和木柱支撐。憑藉獨特的傳統建築結構，使祠堂看來寬敞莊嚴。祠堂多處選用了昔日較為珍貴的紅砂岩為建築材料，彰顯了廖氏族人的財富及地位。

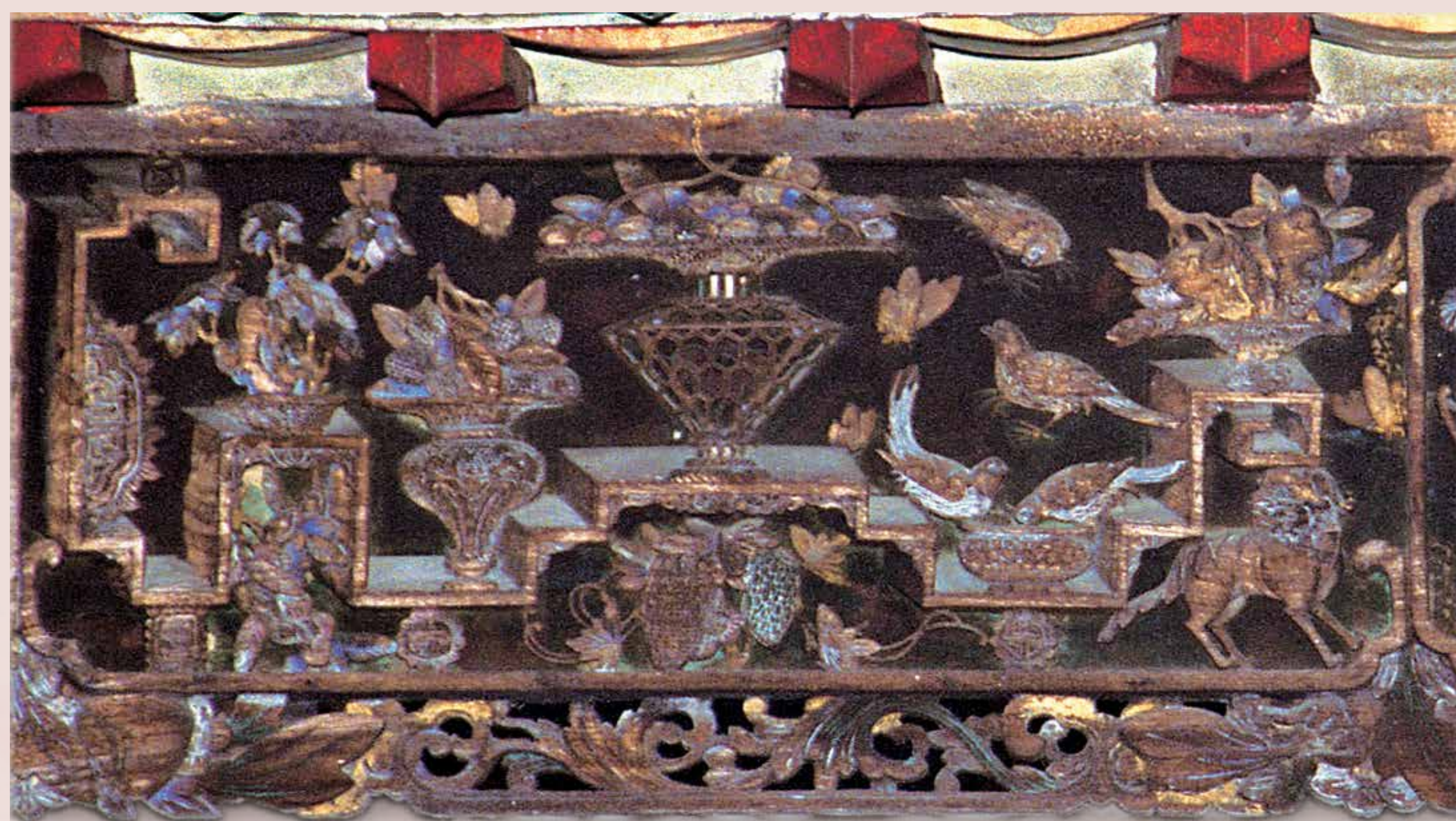
廖萬石堂是本港現存最大的祠堂和最優美的中國傳統建築之一。由於廖族成員鼎力支持，這所祠堂得以保存及妥善管理，予各界人士欣賞。

The ancestral hall is a three-hall-three-bay building with two courtyards. The altar is located in the rear hall and bears rows of soul tablets. The whole building is richly embellished with plaster mouldings, wood carvings and murals of auspicious motifs. The tiled roofs are supported on stone and wooden columns and an intricate system of carved wooden trusses and brackets. These distinctive features give the building a spacious and impressive character. The use of red sandstone, a kind of precious building materials in the olden days, demonstrates the wealth and prestige of the clan.

The Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall is not only one of the largest ancestral halls in Hong Kong, but also one of the finest traditional Chinese buildings in the territory. With the fervent support of the Liu clan, the ancestral hall is well preserved and managed, allowing everybody an opportunity to appreciate the splendid craftsmanship.



廖萬石堂平面圖
Floor plan of the Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall



刻有傳統吉祥圖案的簷板
Eaves board carved with traditional auspicious motifs



後進供奉祖先木主
Rows of soul tablets enshrined at the rear hall

中進飾有精美的木雕及壁畫
The middle hall is embellished with exquisite wood carvings and murals

