

Tai Fu Tai Mansion

大夫第位於元朗新田永平 村,為文頌鑾於清同治 四年(一八六五年)所建。 據文氏族譜所載,文氏 先祖源自四川,南宋(一一 二七至一二七九年)時 輾轉移徙至江西及廣東, 自十五世紀開始定居新田。 據説,文氏其中一位顯赫 族人文天瑞與宋末名將 文天祥有血緣關係。

文頌鑾為文氏二十一世 祖,他不單長袖善舞,而 且樂善好施,深得鄉黨推重,亦因此而得 清朝皇帝賜封大夫銜。

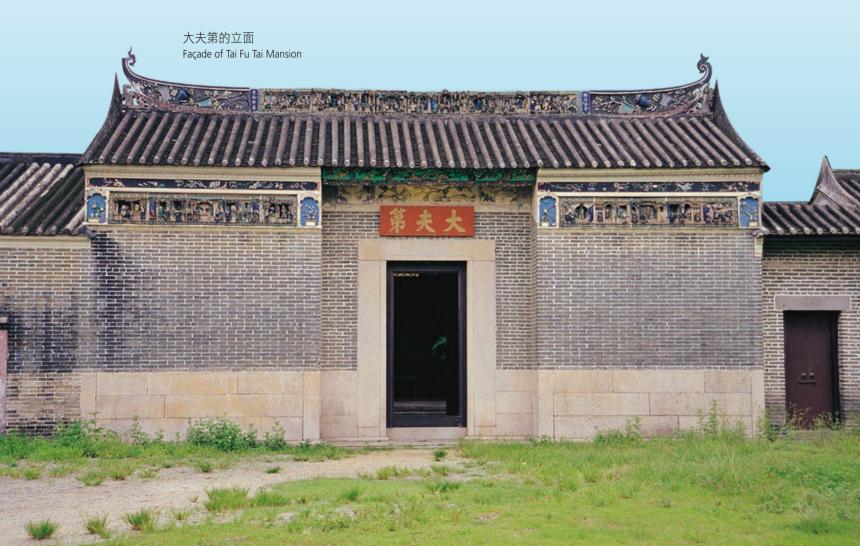


Portrait of Man Chung-luen

Located in Wing Ping Tsuen, San Tin, Yuen Long, Tai Fu Tai Mansion is believed to have been built by Man Chung-luen in the 4th year of the Tongzhi reign (1865) of the Qing dynasty. According to the genealogy of the clan, the Mans can trace their ancestral roots back to Sichuan, from where they migrated to Jiangxi and Guangdong during the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279), before beginning to settle in San Tin from the 15th century onwards. One of its most prominent members was Man Tin-shui, believed to be a cousin of the celebrated patriot Man Tin-cheung (Wen Tianxiang), a

famous general in late Southern Song dynasty.

Man Chung-luen, the 21st generation of the Man clan, was not only a successful merchant, but also a renowned philanthropist, and he was awarded the title of Dafu (or Tai Fu, meaning high official) by the Qing emperor in recognition of his generosity and charitable works.



大夫第是傳統華南士紳階級府第建築的佼 佼者,也是全港最華麗的歷史建築之一。

大夫第正面青磚牆下方有花崗條石牆基, 牆頭裝飾以陶塑及彩塑壁龕為主。正門為 凹斗式,門框以花崗石砌築,上方高掛 「大夫第」紅漆金字牌匾。翹角正脊上飾以 彩塑及廣東佛山石灣文如璧窰燒製的 精巧人物陶塑。

「大夫第」的紅漆金字牌匾 A red lacquered wooden board with golden Chinese characters "大夫第" A fine example of a traditional Chinese dwelling of the scholar-gentry class in southern China, Tai Fu Tai Mansion is one of the most elegant buildings in Hong Kong.

Tai Fu Tai Mansion is distinguished by its solemn granite-block base, grey-brick walls and ceramic figurines and polychrome mouldings that embellish the niches. Above the recessed and granite-framed entrance is a red lacquered wooden board carved with the Chinese characters "大夫第" (the residence of the Dafu) in gold. The main ridge with curled-up ends above the entrance hall is also decorated with polychrome mouldings and exquisite ceramic figurines manufactured at the famous Wenrubi kiln in Shiwan of Foshan, Guangdong.

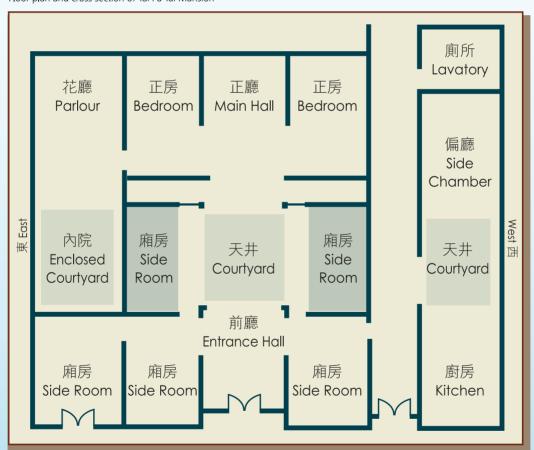


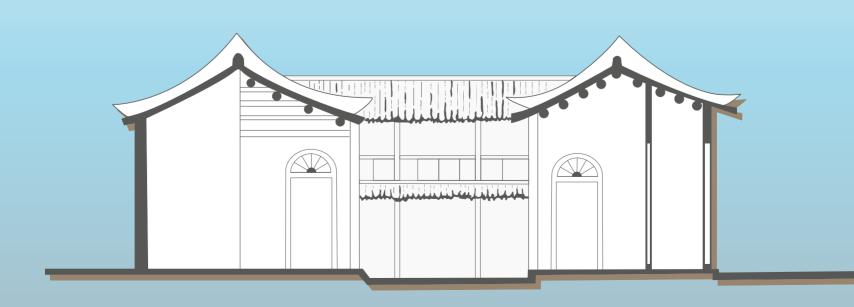
廣東佛山石灣文如璧窰所製的人物陶塑 Ceramic figurines manufactured at the Wenrubi kiln in Shiwan of Foshan, Guangdong



府第中軸線上分別是前廳、天井和正廳, 兩邊有廂房,但與傳統建築形制不同的是 廂房並不對稱,可能是後期改建所致。 建築物東翼設有花廳和內院,西翼建築 則以長廊相隔,有廚房、偏廳及廁所。 Along the compound's central axis lies an entrance hall, a courtyard and a main hall, with side rooms and bedrooms on either side. In contrast to conventional Chinese compound designs, the side rooms are surprisingly asymmetrical, probably the result of a slight alteration carried out in a later period. Attached to the east of the building are a parlour and an enclosed courtyard, and to the west, separated by a corridor, are a kitchen, side chamber and lavatory.

大夫第的平面圖及剖面圖 Floor plan and cross section of Tai Fu Tai Mansion





正廳掛有兩塊牌區,是清光緒皇帝於一八七五年御賜表揚文頌鑾祖父母和雙親的詔書木匾,均刻有漢、滿兩種文字。這兩塊牌區為目前本港已知僅有的例子。在兩塊褒揚牌區中間的名區,是一位清朝官員文灼勳贈予屋主的。

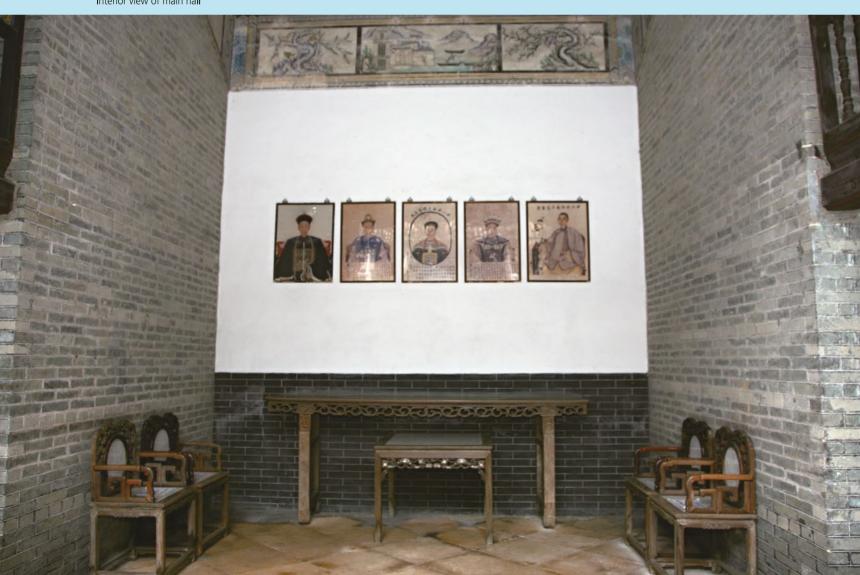
Beneath the eaves of the main hall are two honorific boards bestowed on the parents and grandparents of Man Chung-luen by the Qing emperor Guangxu in 1875. Engraved with Chinese and Manchu characters, both boards are the only known examples of their kind in Hong Kong. Between these two honorific boards is a wooden title tablet presented by Wen Zhuoxun, a Qing official, to honour the master of the house.

讚揚文頒鑾雙親的牌匾

Honorific board bestowed on the parents of Man Chung-luen



正廳的內貌 Interior view of main hall



整座建築飾有豐富的灰塑及彩塑、木刻及壁畫等,而大部分裝飾均刻畫以動植物為題的中國吉祥圖案,其中有梅、蘭、菊、竹、鹿、蝙蝠及麒麟等。屋內通道拱門上的彩繪玻璃和西式的花葉浮雕,顯示當時建築受西方影響。

The whole building is elegantly decorated with fine monochrome and polychrome plaster mouldings, wood carvings and murals incorporating auspicious Chinese motifs. Common Chinese auspicious motifs from the worlds of botany, zoology and ornithology feature strongly, including plum blossoms, orchids, chrysanthemums, bamboo, deer, bats and unicorns. In addition, the painted glass panes and the western-style floral and leaf plaster mouldings above the arched doorways are examples of the influence of Western culture on architecture of the period.

傳統中國壁畫 Traditional Chinese murals



吉祥圖案的木刻 Wood carvings blending with auspicious symbols

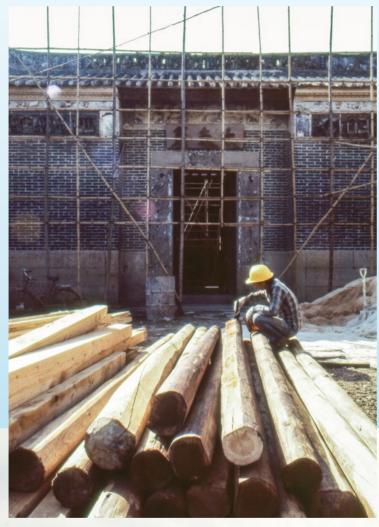
彩繪玻璃及灰塑 Painted glass panes and plaster mouldings





移復工程 Restoration Work

在文華章堂各司理的鼎力支持下,大夫第 於一九八七年七月十日列為法定古蹟, 並得到香港賽馬會慷慨捐款二百五十萬 元,以進行修復工程。這項修復工程在 建築署及古物古蹟辦事處監督下,由本地 建築公司的工匠負責施工。 With the support and assistance of the managers of the Man Wah Cheung Tong, Tai Fu Tai Mansion was declared a monument on 10 July 1987. Funded by a generous donation of HK\$2.5 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club, restoration work was conducted by the craftmen of a local contractor under the supervision of the Architectural Services Department and the Antiquities and Monuments Office.



大夫第於一九八八年展開修復工程 Restoration work on Tai Fu Tai Mansion commenced in 1988

鋪砌天面瓦頂 Laying of roof tiles



榜及工程 Restoration Work



木屏風重新上色 Re-painting of carved wooden panel



木匠修復屏風上的木刻 A wooden panel is restored by a craftsman

修復後的木屏風



付え返工者 Restoration Work

工程在一九八八年十一月順利完成, 並於一九八九年榮獲香港建築師學會頒授 會長獎狀。

一九八八年十一月十九日,時任港督 衛奕信爵士伉儷親臨主持重修竣工典禮 並開放給各界人士參觀。 The restoration work was completed in November 1988. The project was awarded the President's Prize by the Hong Kong Institute of Architects in 1989.

The then Hong Kong governor Sir David Wilson and his wife Lady Wilson officiated at the rehabilitation ceremony held on 19 November 1988 to mark the completion of the project, and this elegant house has been open to the public ever since.





移痕工程 Restoration Work



修復前的外貌 Façade before restoration



修復前的內貌 Interior view of the building before restoration



修復後的外貌 Façade after restoration

修復後的內貌 Interior view of the buildings after restoration

