

# EVALUATING TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN JALAN TUN H.S LEE THROUGH UNESCO'S HERITAGE TOURISM PERSPECTIVE

## ABSTRACT

A World Heritage Site is recognised by UNESCO to prevent the loss of cultural and natural heritage all over the world. A prominent example is Jonker Street that's been inducted since 2008. However, Jalan Tun H.S. Lee is often overshadowed by adjacent streets which has lead to improper preservation by authorities despite having qualifications to be labelled as a UNESCO site. Therefore, this study shows various notable architectures in Jalan H.S. Lee to prove its worth and potential to be recognised as a World Heritage Site as well as the ways Jalan H.S. Lee's architecture can be renovated.

## METHODOLOGY



## PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Lack of recognition.
- Lack of information online.
- New businesses affecting traditional shops.
- Buildings with economical potential are prioritised.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What is the relationship between UNESCO and heritage tourism?
- What has UNESCO done for various heritage sites in Asia?
- How can Jalan Tun H.S. Lee be improved if funds were given?

## BENEFITS OF BEING LABELLED AS A UNESCO HERITAGE SITE

- World tourist attraction spot.
- New job opportunities arise.
- Political and ethnic acceptance.

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## KEYWORDS

- Jalan Tun H.S Lee
- UNESCO
- Heritage Tourism
- Jonker Street
- Recognition
- World Heritage Site

## Heritage Tourism

### SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

- Cultural heritage  
(a) tangible: buildings or artifacts  
(b) intangible: people's values, attitudes and way of life.

- Types of Heritage Tourism  
(a) Natural  
(b) Cultural  
(c) Built

## EXISTING RENOVATIONS TO JONKER STREET AND JALAN TUN H.S. LEE

Courtyard@Heeran Boutique Hotel

A perfect example for the usage of conventional materials to preserve original styles and new functions

Geographer Cafe

Converted to a restaurant through adaptive reuse

Cheng Hoon Teng Temple

Old tile layers and timber were replaced it currently functions as a heritage preservation information center.

Sri Mahamariamman Temple

Was recently renovated in 2018

Intersection at Jalan Tun H. S. Lee

The original roofs of shophouses have been refurbished by corrugated iron or tile roofs.

Sri Mahamariamman Temple

It had a facelift and created a budget hostel that opened for business in 2009.

## COMPARISON BETWEEN JONKER STREET & JALAN TUN H. S. LEE BASED ON UNESCO CRITERIA

### Significant stage(s) in human history

Jonker Street (Recognised)

British Colonial Architecture (<1750)

Heng Huat Coffee Shop

Jalan Tun H.S. Lee (Potential to be Recognised)

Art Deco (1930-1940)

Maybank

### Exhibit an important interchange of human values.

Jonker Street (Recognised)

Masjid Kampong Keling

Jalan Tun H.S. Lee (Potential to be Recognised)

Sin Sze Si Ya Temple

### To be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement.

Jonker Street (Recognised)

Baba Nyonya Heritage Centre

Jalan Tun H.S. Lee (Potential to be Recognised)

Wisma Kwong Siew

## IMPROVEMENTS TO JONKER STREET AFTER RECOGNITION BY UNESCO

Cheng Hoon Teng Temple

- Jonker Street's traditional shophouses were revitalised.
- The new tile layers were removed to expose the original layer.
- Some of the rotten timber pieces were replaced.

Straits Eclectic Style

- The building of Malaysian Nyonya is in Straits Eclectic style (1940-1990).
- Shop houses built in the Straits Settlements began to inject new architectural elements.

Baba Nyonya Museum

- Provides job opportunities for the locals to promote the local traditions and culture.
- The three terrace lots acquired by Chan family in 1861 became a well-preserved museum.

## PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO BE MADE TO JALAN TUN H.S. LEE

Sin Si Sze Ya Temple

- The architectural quality and user experience could have benefitted appreciably from a better degree of design expertise instead of assigning to non-professionals.

Lee Rubber Building

- Lee Rubber Building that was vacant since early November 2015.
- Its tall facade and large interior makes it suitable for future development.

Abandoned Shophouses

- The abandoned shophouses next to Kopitiam Lai Foong are poorly maintained. The buildings can be turned into an information centre about Tun H.S Lee street.

## CONCLUSION

Based on our research comparisons, we believe that Jalan Tun H.S. Lee deserves to be labelled as a UNESCO heritage site due to its diverse culture and history. Statistics show that Jonker street has benefited greatly from recognition from UNESCO, having increased exposure to tourists and NGO's alike. Jalan Tun H.S. Lee could have its temples refurbished to withstand the test of time and its abandoned shophouses repurposed to better suit heritage tourism. We also believe that Jalan Tun H.S. Lee would see many architectural improvements from the recognition provided by UNESCO and be renovated accordingly while paying respects to the original architecture, at the same time improving local tourism by having more available information online.