

CONTENT

	Title	Page No.
1	Introduction	
2	History of PAM building	
	(I)As a townhouse	
	(II)As Empire Hotel	
	(III)As Peninsular Hotel	
	(IV)As PAM building	
3	Architect of PAM building	
4	Characteristics of PAM building	
	(I)Palladian Influences	
	(II)Chinese Influences	
5	Comparison with local and western buildings	
	(I) Loke Mansion	
	(II) Villa Capra	
	(III) Comparison Table	
6	Conservation of PAM building	
7	Conclusion	
8	Appendix	
	(I)References	
	(II)Group Photo	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The PAM building,(figure 1.01) currently located at Jalan Tangsi, is formerly known as Loke Hall or Loke Chow Kit's House. This building began life as a townhouse of famous Chinese entrepreneur and tin minor Loke Chow Kit which was known as the only building belonged to the local. (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia, 2007)



Figure 1.01 Front view of PAM building (Source : WeeKit Ong,2011)

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, private residences of the wealthy Chinese are among the most spectacular buildings in Malaysian cities. Loke Hall protruding for its absolute ostentation and for the ways in which they merged European classical forms and traditional Chinese house plans and motifs. As the capitalist towkay owners prospered as agents between foreign power and capital on the one hand, and Chinese entrepreneurs on the other, so the buildings they built reflected their loyalty to both east and west, which then created an architectural hybrids known as 'compradore mansions'. (Chin Voon Fee, 1998)

2.0 HISTORY OF PAM BUILDING

2.1 As a townhouse (1907-1909)

The PAM center has been built in the European quarter of Kuala Lumpur. It was not only used as a residence, but also an office for tin industry at that time. PAM center is built in 1907 by an Anglo-Indian architect A.K.Musdeen. The building possesses a vivid history with a large dose of nostalgia. (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia, 2007)

2.2 As Empire Hotel (1909-1919)

In 1909, Loke Hall was taken over by Europeans and undergoes its first major transformation which is converted the great mansion complex into an establishment known as Empire Hotel. (Figure 2.01) The Empire hotel lasted until 1919. (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia, 2007)

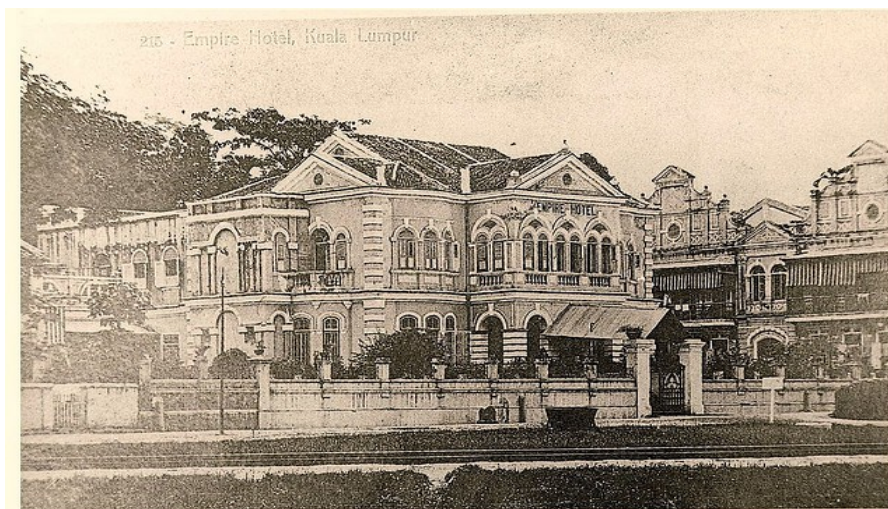


Figure 2.01 PAM building as Empire Hotel (Source : J.M.Gullick)

2.3 As Peninsular Hotel (1919-1973)

Ownership of the building passed over to Loke Yew's son, Alan Loke in year 1916, who had bought the deed after his renowned father's death. After this, the Empire hotel was then renovated and became Peninsular Hotel which survived until 1973. Loke Hall looked much more opulent and extravagant during its days as a hotel. It also became a favourite meeting and lodging place for colonials, planters and members of the tin and trading ventures. Unfortunately, a slow decline soon set in due to the intense competition as well as the changing social-economical circumstances. (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia, 2007)

2.4 As PAM building (1973 –)

In 1973, the Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) acquired tenancy of the premises and began refurbishing the Loke Hall for use as the PAM center. (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia, 2007) PAM in its dual status as 'tenant Architect' and 'custodian' of a building announced under the Antiquities' Act has fulfilled its compulsion to maintain the building in a good state of repair and restore it in the manner of a model "conservation" and "adaptive reuse" project. (Malaysia Tourism (MATTA) , 2005)

3.0 ARCHITECT OF PAM BUILDING

Loke Hall's architect, A.K.Musdeen is the architect that designed the Chow Kit Emporium. It is now the present day Industrial Court Building.(Figure 3.01) (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia, 2007)He was born in Hong Kong in year 1869 and he had already with the Public Works Department (P.W.D) at Klang as a surveyor by 1892. At later years, he was also found that he applied for the post Draftsman & Surveyor P.W.D Kuala Lumpur. Information states that he was in private practice at the beginning of the 20th century till then he appears as an architect in the Singapore and Straits Directory 1929. (J.M.Gullick, 2000)



Figure 3.01 Industrial court building (Source : Ezry Abdul Rahman , 2013)

After the first building built, he was then commissioned again by Chow Kit in 1907 to build a town house and offices on a site for his growing tin-mining venture in Barrack Road,(Figure 3.02) which is Loke Hall.At those days, it was described the most brilliant edifice of its kind ever erected in Kuala Lumpur. The building is an interesting piece of work with the spread of arhitectural ideas across ethnic boundaries which is unique and sole. (J.M.Gullick, 2000)

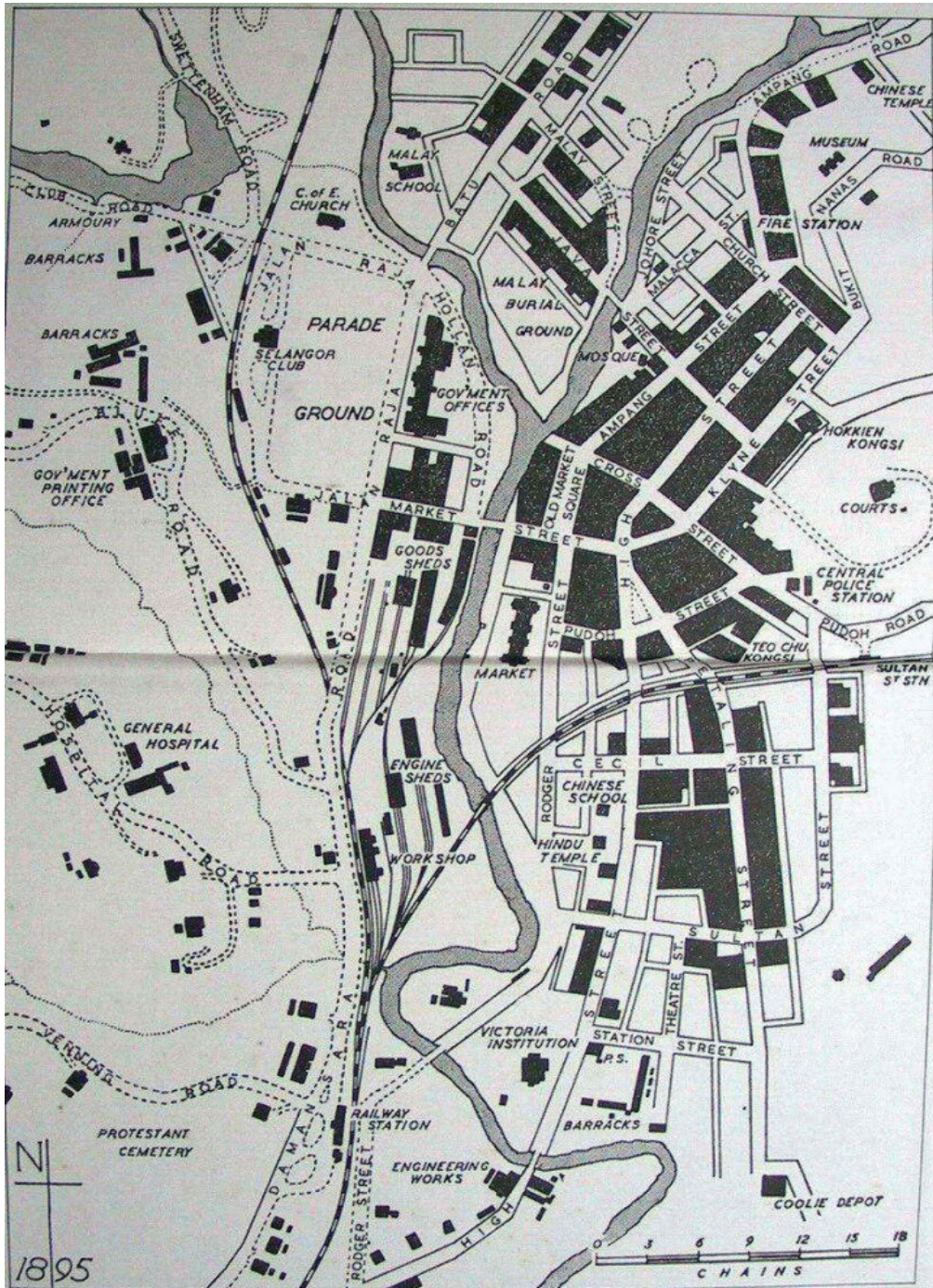


Figure 3.02 : 1895 Kuala Lumpur Map , Barrack Road located at left portion of the map
(Source : J.M.Gullick)

4.0 CHARECTERISTICS OF PAM BUILDING

The PAM center appears to have been influenced by Loke Chow Kit's careful observations of European architectural approaches when he was on tour of Europe in 1903 with Loke Yew. It is observed to have something the appearance of an Italian Villa, with the interior courtyard as well. (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia, 2007) Loke Hall Consists of two separate units: one unit resembles a typical shophouse (Figure 4.01) except for the elaborate decoration on the gable and the other section is reminiscent of Palladian villas (Figure 4.02) built for the colonial administrators. There are many Palladianisms's features that can be observe throughout the building. The major part of the whole architectural compostion is comprising the stable annex too. (Ken Yeang ,1992)



Figure 4.01 Typical shophouse unit (Source : Hoo Zhi Xin,2013)



Figure 4.02 Reminiscent of Palladian's Villa (Source : Hoo Zhi Xin,2013)

4.1 Palladian Influences

Loke Hall has a central entrance portico leading to an internal courtyard. It is said to be symmetrically planes around the open air courtyard and it also bears Palladian motifs. The pediment is decorated with floral motifs moulded from plaster and in the center is a circular ventilation hole. (Figure 4.03) Below the pediment are three pairs of windows, each decorated with emphasized key stone and artificial balustrades. (Figure 4.04) (Ken Yeang, 1992) Yet, the townhouse and its elevated treatment was based on the Baroque-period style of European manors. (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia, 2007).



Figure 4.03 Palladian motifs (Source : Hoo Zhi Xin , 2013)



Figure 4.04 Pediment and windows (Source : Hoo Zhi Xin , 2013)

4.2 Local Influences

While embracing Western architectural forms, traditional principle concerning the internal organization of space in the Chinese mansion were also seen in Loke's Hall. It has the internal open-air courtyard (Figure 4.05)which nowadays only can be seen in old buildings in Malacca and Rumah Agam Cheong Fatt Ze in Pulau Pinang. This design also presence in the heritage buildings of China. (Ar. Mohd. Zulhemlee An ,2008)



Figure 4.05 Internal open-air courtyard (Source : Hoo Zhi Xin , 2013)

The building also retain some vernacular features in its roof details. (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia , 2007) For the other section of the building elaborate artwork was done at the gable ends and on the upper front facade. The gable ends show some Dutch,Portugese,English and Islamic influence. The combination influences was the result of designs from different architects as it evolved around two different construction periods. (Ar. Mohd. Zulhemlee An ,2008)

Besides that, Loke Hall express the grandiose and lavish decorative treatments constructed through load bearing techniques. Loke Chow Kit claimed the annex for his offices, leaving the simpler building to the left for stables. (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia , 2007)

5.0 COMPARISON WITH LOCAL AND WESTERN BUILDINGS

For comparison purpose, we chose another Chinese residential building, Loke Mansion as local reference and Villa Capra as western reference.

5.1 Loke Mansion

Loke Mansion (Wisma Loke) (Figure 5.01) is also built by A.K. Musdeen in the British colonial era. It is located at No.273A, Jalan Medan Tuanku. Loke Mansion was built by the late Cantonese community leader, Cheow Ah Yoke (also known as Loke Yew) over 12 years from 1892, the year he bought Loke Mansion in its present form was completed in 1904 and was part of the former sprawling 11-acre (45,000 m²) Loke Estate. Loke Yew made sure his mansion became one of the most prestigious residences in Asia and was reputedly the first residence in Malaya to receive electricity. Loke's family lived there until the 1930s. (N.S. Sulaiman, 2008)



Figure 5.01 Front elevation of Loke Mansion (Source : Sreerema Banoo, 2009)

Loke mansion is reminiscent of an European-style villa. The plan of the Loke Mansion is symmetrical and proportioned. Similar to the PAM building, the architecture style is Palladian and Chinese. It has a strong belief in harmony and balance which is clearly evident. Therefore, the symmetrical facade of the mansion overlaps both Palladian and Chinese influences. The moon gate (Figure 5.02) is the strongest architectural element that is of Chinese influence. Chinese-style ventilators and windows were used and roof-top parapets obviously rose above the roof line. Chinese murals, Chinese figures and sculptured relief are found in the exterior and interior of the mansion. Although the style is more to European style, the integration of Chinese style makes these houses a unique Straits Eclectic structure. (LICT ,1999)



Figure 5.02 Moon Gate (Source : Sreerema Banoo,2009)

5.2 Villa Capra

Villa Capra (Figure 5.03) is a Renaissance villa just outside Vicenza, northern Italy, designed by Andrea Palladio. It is also known as La Rotonda, Villa Rotonda, and Villa Almerico. It was built between the years 1567 - 1570, in an ideal landscape, built as a mansion Vatican official called Paolo Almere. (Villa La Rotonda , 2009)



Figure 5.03 Front View of Villa Capra (Source : Barnyz , 2011)

The name La Rotonda refers to the central circular hall with its dome. To describe the villa, as a whole, as a 'rotonda' is technically incorrect, as the building is not circular but rather the intersection of a square with a cross . (Villa La Rotonda , 2009)

The design is for a completely symmetrical building having a square plan (Figure 5.04) with four facades, each of which has a projecting portico. The whole is contained within an imaginary circle which touches each corner of the building and centres of the porticos. Each portico has steps leading up, and opens via a small cabinet or corridor to the circular domed central hall. This and all other rooms were proportioned with mathematical precision according to Palladio's own rules of architecture which he published in the Quattro Libri dell'Architettura. (Architeuul ,2011)

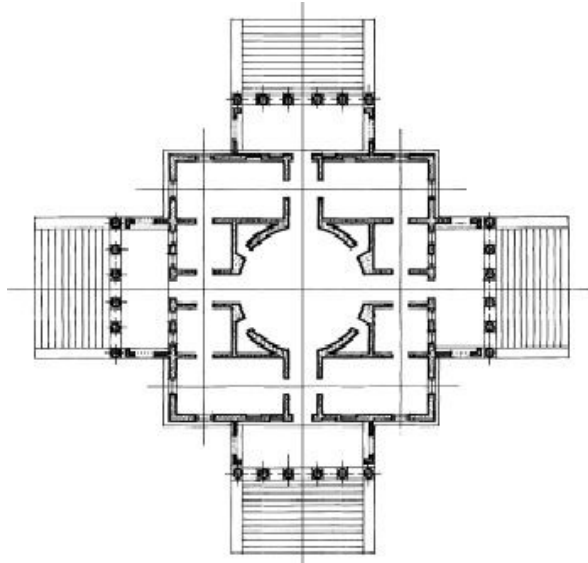


Figure 5.04 Villa Capra's Floor Plan (Source : Carolyn McDowall , 2012)

The highlight of the interior is the central, circular hall, surrounded by a balcony and covered by the domed ceiling; it soars the full height of the main house up to the cupola,(Figure 5.05) with walls decorated in trompe l'oeil. Abundant frescoes create an atmosphere that is more reminiscent of a cathedral than the principal salon of a country house. From the porticos wonderful views of the surrounding countryside can be seen; this is no coincidence as the Villa was designed to be in perfect harmony with the landscape. Thus, while the house appears to be completely symmetrical, it actually has certain deviations, designed to allow each facade to complement the surrounding landscape and topography. Hence there are variations in the facades, in the width of steps, retaining walls, et cetera. In this way, the symmetry of the architecture allows for the asymmetry of the landscape, and creates a seemingly symmetrical whole. (Architeuul ,2011)



Figure 5.05 The cupola (Source : Alessandronegri , 2013)

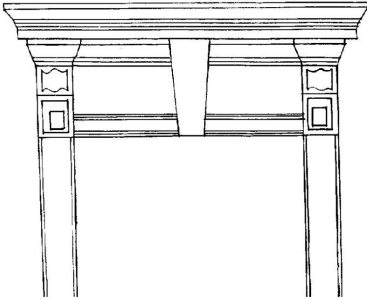

The landscape (figure 5.06) is a panoramic vision of trees and meadows and woods, with the distant Vicenza on the horizon. The northwest portico is set onto the hill as the termination of a straight carriage drive from the principal gates. This carriageway is an avenue between the service blocks, built by the Capra brothers who acquired the villa in 1591; they commissioned Vincenzo Scamozzi to complete the villa and construct the range of staff and agricultural buildings. As one approaches the villa from this angle one is deliberately made to feel one is ascending from some less worthy place to a temple on high. This same view in reverse, from the villa, highlights a classical chapel on the edge of Vicenza, thus villa and town are united. (Architeuul ,2011)



Figure 5.06 The surrounding landscape of Villa Capra (Source : Radhika , 2007)

5.3 Comparison Table

Table 5.01: Comparison between Loke Hall and Loke Mansion

Loke Hall		Loke Mansion
<p>Diagram 5.3.1 Loke Hall Elevation</p> <p>Influenced by Palladianism, symmetrical and proportional.</p>	<p>Elevation</p>	<p>Diagram 5.3.2 Loke Mansion Elevation</p> <p>Influenced by renaissance segmented arches and the load bearing Tuscan column that line the verandahs.</p>
<p>Neo-classical in styling which the north wing has a Regency flavour with its balcony terrace and eclectic features. It is also skillfully laid out with an atrium incorporated and symmetrically composed.</p>	<p>Form and style</p>	<p>Double story arcade with a loggia which is renaissance in style. The facade gives a strong sense of symmetry which is the style of Palladian architecture.</p>
<p>-There are three gable ends in this building, one on the front facade and the other two on the left facade. Below the gable, the frieze was decorated with swags or festoons.</p> <p>-The pediment is decorated with floral motifs moulded from plaster and in the center is a circular ventilation hole.</p>  <p>Diagram 5.3.3: Keystone</p>	<p>Structure</p>	 <p>Diagram 5.3.4: Pediment</p> <p>-Portrays Greek pediments and rooftop parapets giving a strong contrast to two pairs of interesting roof gables raised above the roof which reflects the Dutch or Belgium architecture.</p>

-The first floor arches on the polygonal sides has 5 keystones each. The two stories arcade has semi circular arches and a series of double arches super-imposed over the single arches. A row of small column, melded in shallow relief between the upper arches, rise to cornice.

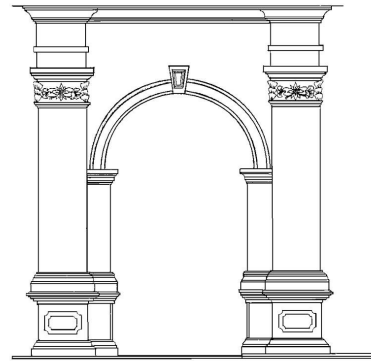


Diagram 5.3.6: Keystone / Arch design

Eclectic Features

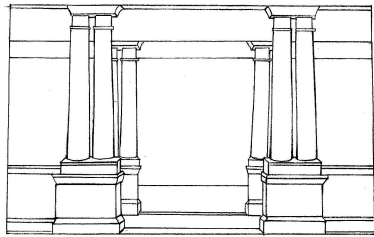


Diagram 5.3.7: Portico leading to courtyard

-Internal open-air courtyard which is one of the Chinese mansion's features.

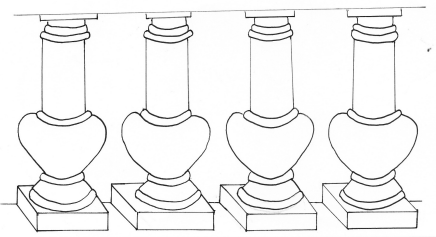


Diagram 5.3.9: Balustrade

-Small staircase that bring visitors to the porch before entering the main door of the house which is a notable Malay feature.

-Some vernacular features in its roof details.

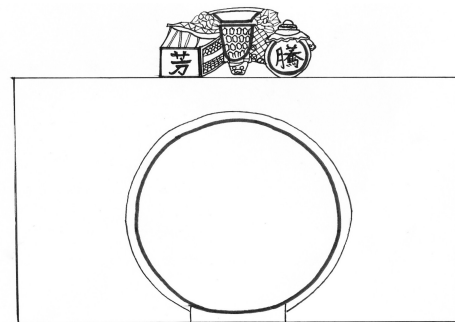


Diagram 5.3.8 : Moon Gate

-The famous Ching dynasty "Moon gate" has been incorporated into the rear portion of the current Loke Mansion. The gate sits prominently in the rear wall of the ground floor. It is amalgamated with a set of sliding and folding doors with Chengal wood and iron fitted the wall. The moon gate leads to the courtyard.



Figure 5.07: The Red gate

(Source:Sreerema Banoo , 2007)

-The red gate(Figure 5.07) is the original entrance of the mansion.It gives the family privacy and security while providing ventilation at the same time.It is also made out of Chengal wood.The red gate faces inside and a secondary as a safety for when the wooden door is open.It is built together with a typical Chinese wooden lock that is used in almost every classical house.
-The ventilation windows are rarely square ,but framed in curvilinear symmetrical shapes.This is also the characteristics of Chinese Feng Shui.

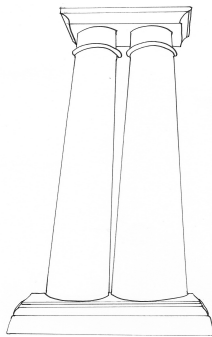


Diagram 5.3.10 : Doric column

-Doric columns enhance the upper front facade and divide the windows into bays.
-There are a balcony runs the full length of the upper floor on the left side of the building.
-The hand railings were made of decorative cast iron.



Diagram 5.3.12: Plant motifs on balustrade

Elements

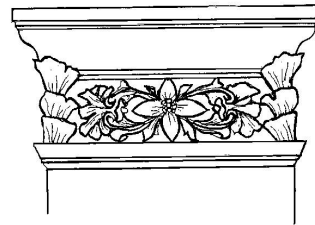


Diagram 5.3.11: Motifs on column

-The columns give an essences of its straight lines and combine it with the contrast of the horizontal cornice lines of the building.
-The annexe which has ornate balcony terraces with decorative formed iron beautify the building.
-On the both sides of the doorway are square window openings,originally unglazed,with bars and shutters.



Diagram 5.3.13 : Wall Panel Pattern

-The staircase is made of wood as well as the handrails of the staircase.

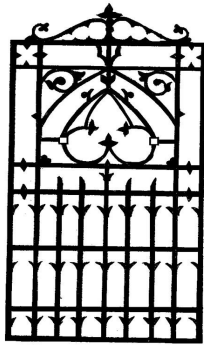


Diagram 5.3.15: Iron Gate

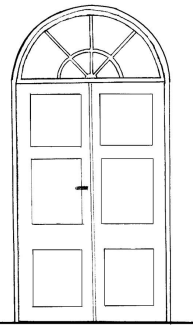


Diagram 5.3.16: Main Entrance

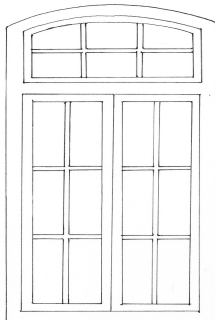


Diagram 5.3.17: Window

Designed in heavy load bearing masonry yet adapted for tropical living. The wall is much thicker than the building nowadays as not only its column but also the wall bear loads. The wall was able to absorb and release humid into the air within the house to lower its temperature.

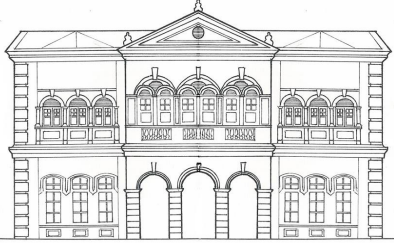
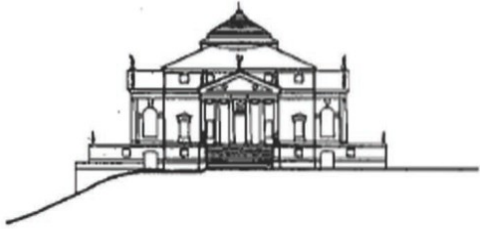
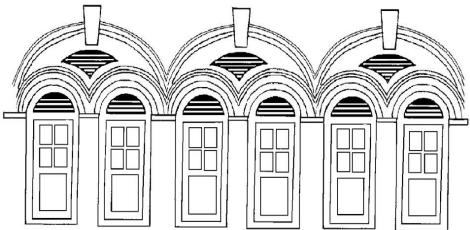
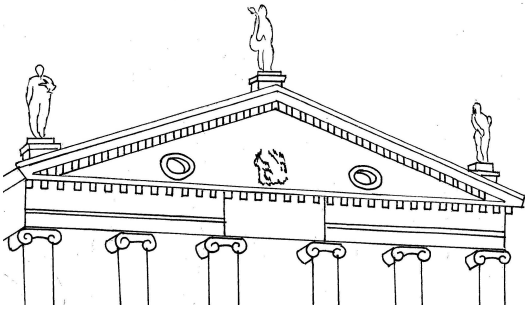
-The usage of breathable paint is to lower the temperature but nowadays it is no longer being used as the usage of air-conditioner does not require air to flow in and out. It also caused the forming of fungus as humid within the wall cannot be released effectively.

Construction

Overall architecture is a solid masonry construction.

As the building is influenced by Chinese architecture, the pillars, rafters and beam in roofs and walls are not hidden but instead, exposed and emphasized.

Table 5.02: Comparison between Loke Hall and Villa Capra

Loke Hall		Villa Capra
 <p>Diagram 5.3.18: Front Elevation of Loke Hall Symmetrical and Proportional</p>	<p>Elevation</p>	 <p>Diagram 5.3.19 : Elevation of Villa Capra Symmetrical and Proportional , respond to the landscape.</p>
<p>Reminiscent of Palladian style which is symmetrical and proportional in form. Retaining vernacular features due to local influences.</p>	<p>Form and style</p>	<p>The design reflected the humanist value of Renaissance architecture which emphasis on symmetry,proportion,geometry and the regularity of the parts.</p>
<p>Located on the focal point of the city,which is near by Selangor Club.When Loke Hall serve as Empire Hotel, the railway track just right in front the entrance.</p>	<p>Topography</p>	<p>Located on hill,surrounded by trees and meadows and woods,promotes serenity and solemnity.</p>
 <p>Diagram 5.3.20 : Pediment and windows -Below the pediment are three pairs of windows,each decorated with emphasized key-stones and artificial balustrades.The balustrade came from both China and Europe,as same design also found in Europe.</p>	<p>Structure</p>	<p>-In order for each room expose to sun, the design was rotated 45 degrees from each cardinal point of the compass.</p>  <p>Diagram 5.3.21 : Pediment</p>

-The pediments were each supported by six Ionic columns.

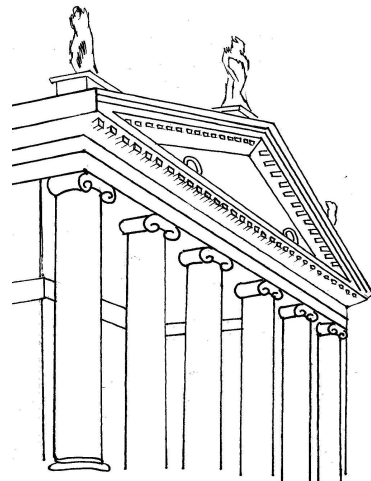


Diagram 5.3.22 : Projecting Portico

-Each portico was flanked by a single window.

-All principal rooms were on the second floor or piano nobile.

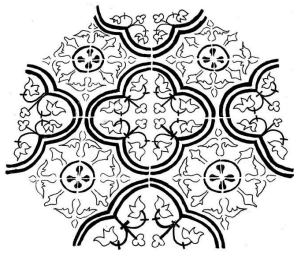


Diagram 5.3.23: Mosaic Pattern

-One of the eclectic features shown in Loke Hall.

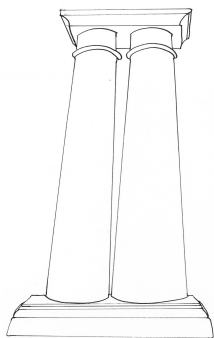


Diagram 5.3.25 : Doric Column
Evidence of Palladian reminiscence

Elements

-Each of the four porticos has pediments graced by statues of classical deities, revive the classical antiquity particularly ancient Roman architecture.

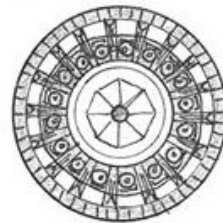


Diagram 5.3.24: Oculus

-An oculus (intended to be open to the sky) inspired by the Pantheon in Rome. The dome was ultimately completed with a cupola.

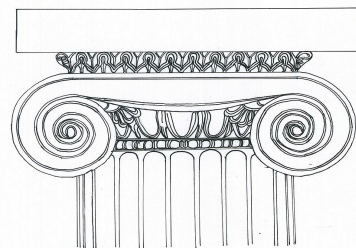


Diagram 5.3.27 : Motifs on Ionic Column

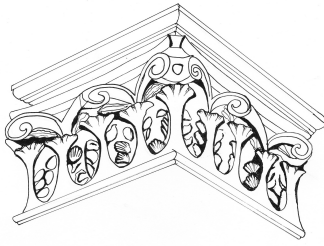


Diagram 5.3.26: Motifs on Column
Columns with ornate, European-style
foliated motifs were a popular features
in many Chinese mansions

6.0 Conservation of PAM building

PAM chose to take care of this building because of its distinct design, which cannot be obtained from the buildings of other era. The case for the conservation of Loke Hall arises from its historical, architectural, social and cultural interest. (Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia ,1983) The artistically built and with a high degree of the Chinese artisan craftsmanship which has since being lost, that is why conservation is needed. Further more, the pediment, hooded molds and fanlights, porch, loggia, blind arcade, corner quoins, Regency verandah are only few of the many details that would intrigue conservationists and architects. In addition, its location which is the main area of Kuala Lumpur makes it a suitable building to be used as a reference of heritage building. (Malaysia Tourism (MATTA) ,2005)

7.0 Conclusion

The PAM center would not be standing today if not for Kuala Lumpur City Hall's intervention in 1980s, in reaction to concerns from members of the public. (Malaysia Tourism (MATTA) ,2005) The heritage buildings therefore stand as continuing testimony to the city's commitment to conservation. In conclusion, we people must appreciate the heritage buildings and learn something from our ancestors through the building.

8.0 Appendix

8.1 References

'Architectural Heritage:Kuala Lumpur-Pre-Merdeka' 2007, Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia, p. 38-39

'Architeuul 2011, Villa Capra Rotonda'viewed 17 June 2013,
<http://architeuul.com/architecture/villa-capra-rotonda>

'Malaysia Design Archive', An influence of Colonial Architecture to Building Styles and Motifs in Colonial Cities in Malaysia, viewed 14 May 2013, <http://www.malaysiadesignarchive.org/?p=936>

'PAM Press Conference' 1983, Arkib Negara

Arputhaswamy, J 2005, Malaysia Institute of Architects (PAM), Malaysia Tourism, MATTA, viewed on 7 May 2013, <http://mattaclass.blogspot.com/2005/09/malaysian-institute-of-architects-pam.html>

Banoo, S 2009, 'Mending a Broken Soul', The Edge Malaysia, 1 February, viewed on 9 May 2013, <http://www.theedgemalaysia.com/deco-a-garden/13061-mending-a-broken-soul.html>

Gullick, J.M 2000, 'A History of KL', MBras

Kamal, K 2008, Sejarah Bangunan Loke Chow Kit (Kini Bangunan PAM), Building Conservation, University Teknologi Mara, viewed on 12 May 2013,
<http://buildingconservation.blogspot.com/2009/09/sejarah-bangunan-loke-chow-kit-kini.html>

LICT 1999, 'Loke Mansion "Blended Architecture"', Department of Architecture and Built Environment, Interior Architecture Semester 7 Students

Sulaiman, N.S 2008, 'Loke Yew Mansion: Heritage Unclaimed', Building Case Study, p. 1 & 5, 16-22, Faculty of Architecture and Built Environment, LIMKOKWING University of Creative and Technology

'Villa La Rotonda 2009 , Villa La Rotonda ,' viewed on 24th June 2013,
<http://www.villalarotonda.it/en/larotondadelpalladio.htm>

Voon Fee,Chein 1998, "The Encyclopedia of Malaysia Volume 5: Architecture', Archipelago Press

Yeang, Ken 1992, 'The Architecture of Malaysia', The Pepin Press

8.2 Group Photo



**Figure 8.1 Group photo during our site visit in PAM building
(From Left : Hoo Zhi Xin, Lim Yee Zhing, Mr. Ani , Chua Sor Hong, Wong Jia Xin)**