

CITY IN TIME 城市景昔

Experience CITY IN TIME
Time travel in Hong Kong

深水埗
Sham Shui Po

Past and Present
of the Community

Experience the charm of
Hong Kong's past and present

City Walk

The distinctive vibe of the community

CITY IN TIME
Feature

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TIME
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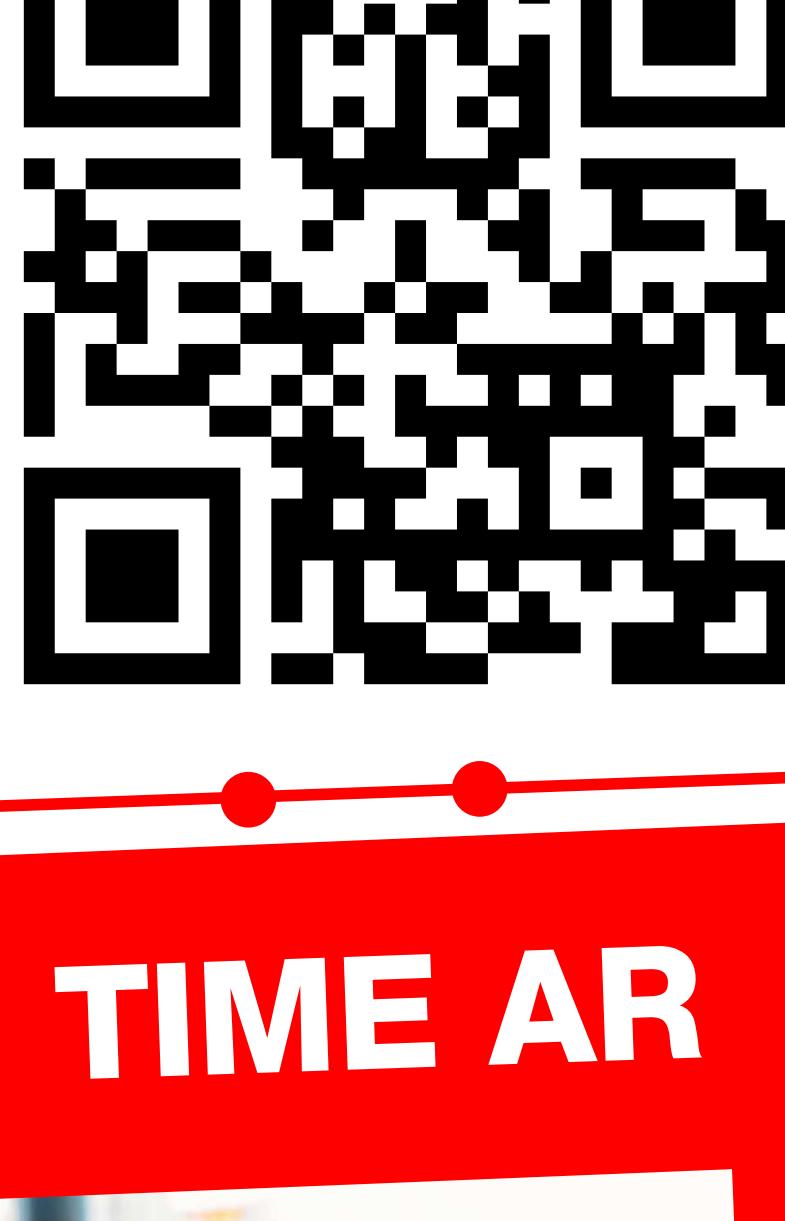


Route

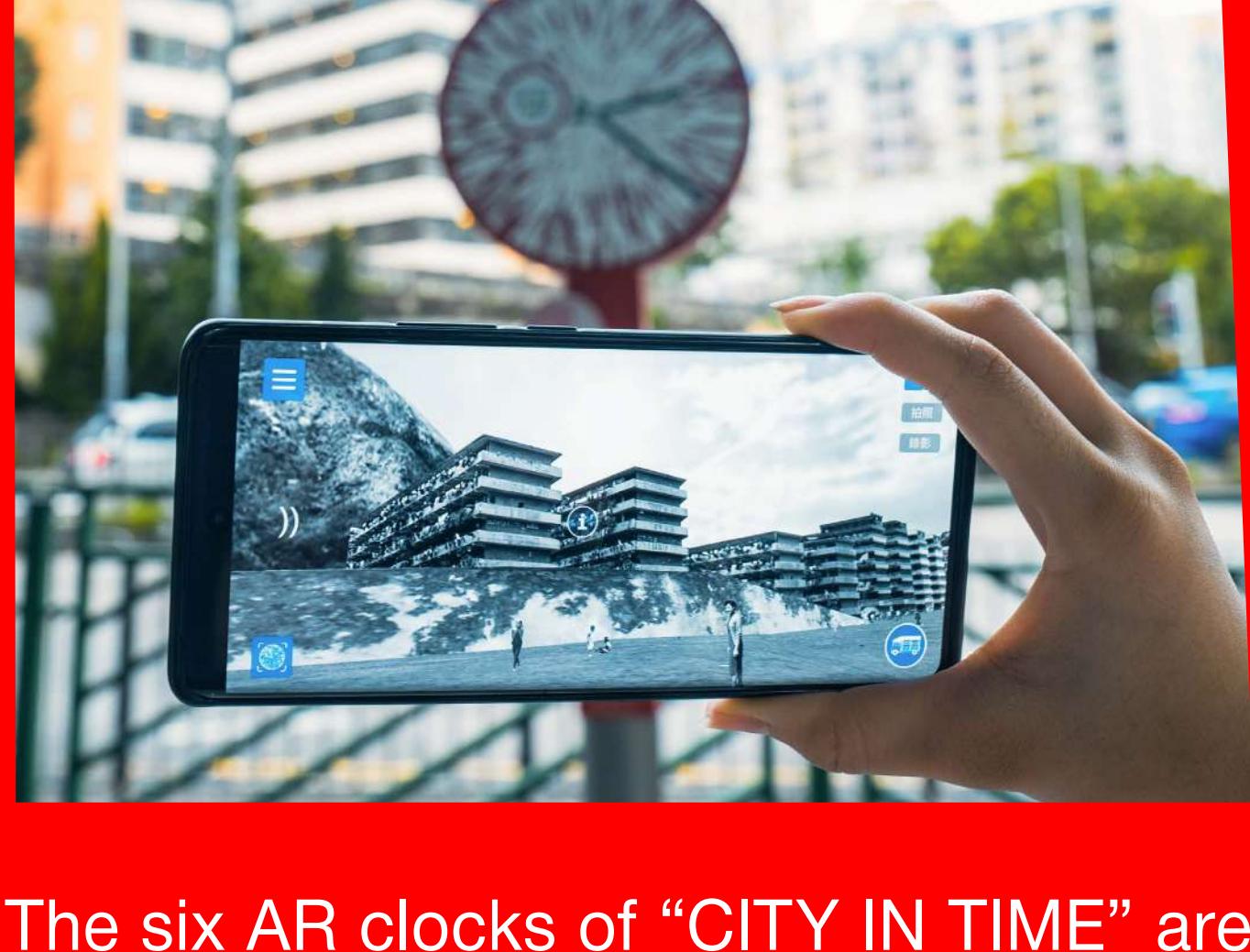
••••• Sham Shui Po

Sham Shui Po is one of Hong Kong's most authentic and distinctive neighborhoods. From land reclamation to being recognized as the "coolest neighbourhood" by international media, this area has preserved its unique charm through continuous transformation. Strolling along Pei Ho Street, Yu Chau Street, and Nam Cheong Street, you can experience the vibrant street market culture that has flourished since the 1940s. Here, traditional nostalgic shops selling sewing supplies, toys, and electrical appliances stand alongside trendy cafés and artisanal boutiques, blending the old with the new—no wonder the area has become a popular spot for photo taking. Whether you are exploring into the history of Hong Kong's public housing or soaking in the lively atmosphere of its streets and alleys, a walk through Sham Shui Po offers a genuine taste of the neighborhood's distinctive character.

Download the
CITY IN
城市景昔
TIME
mobile app



CITY IN TIME AR



The six AR clocks of "CITY IN TIME" are located on the streets and alleys of Sham Shui Po, including Lui Seng Chun, Lai Chi Kok Road, Nam Cheong Street, Castle Peak Road, Tai Po Road Rest Garden, and Tai Po Road. Follow this eBook to explore Sham Shui Po, and use the "CITY IN TIME" mobile app, to discern the historical imprints and timeline stories of this community.



Sham Shui Po Map

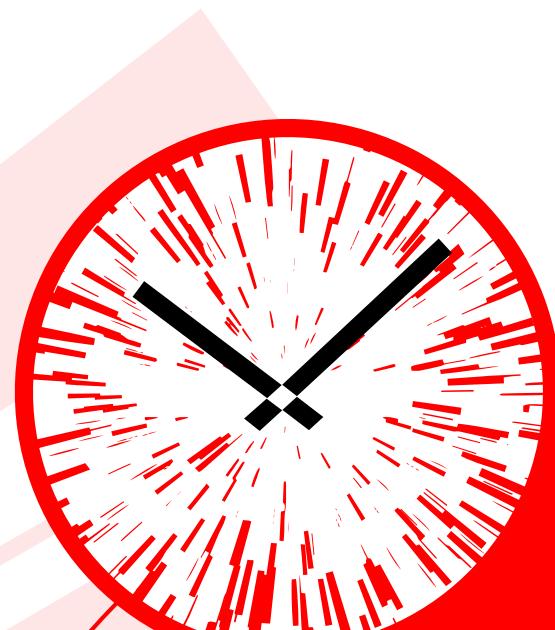


Sham Shui Po MTR, Exit D2



"CITY IN TIME"
AR Clock

- 1 Lui Seng Chun**
- 2 Lai Chi Kok Road**
- 3 Nam Cheong Pawn Shop**
- 4 Mei Ho House**
- 5 Garden's Hong Kong Head Office**
- 6 North Kowloon Magistracy**



Duration 30 mins
Distance 1.5 km

Lui Seng Chun

Lui Seng Chun is one of the few surviving “traditional shophouses” in Hong Kong. This curved-corner Tong Lau was completed in 1931. The architect, Mr. W. H. Bourne, skillfully integrated the layout of the Lingnan-style “Bamboo Barrel Houses” with Western Art Deco style and classical pillars. The ground floor housed a Chinese medicine clinic and pharmacy, while the upper floors served as the living quarters for the Lui family—reflecting the once-common “shop-below, home-above” lifestyle in Hong Kong. After the war, the Lui family gradually moved out due to limited living space, and the building later provided temporary accommodation for relatives of the Lui’s family who had come to Hong Kong. In 2000, following its designation as a Grade I historic building, the descendants of the Lui family donated the building to the government. The building was revitalized into the Hong Kong Baptist University School of Chinese Medicine – Lui Seng Chun, allowing this four-story Tong Lau, which has stood for over ninety years, to continue a new chapter in the city’s evolving story.

Spot 1



Open the “CITY IN TIME” app and scan the AR clock opposite Lui Seng Chun to instantly travel back to 1950s Sham Shui Po. The panoramic illustration by artist Kinchoi Lam not only recreates the architectural details of the Tong Lau but also invites us to step into the “Good World Theatre” and relive its cinematic legacy.

Address: 119 Lai Chi Kok Road, Mong Kok
Year of Establishment: 1931



Recommendations **Good World Building**



The Good World Building originally housed the “Good World Theatre,” which once stood at a landmark symbolizing the golden age of Cantonese cinema. Opened in the 1940s, the theatre was operated by entrepreneur Cheung Kon Fong as part of his “Nau Tai Circuit,” along with the New York Theatre and the Great World Theatre, witnessing the post-war boom of Hong Kong’s film industry. Despite a brief closure during the Japanese occupation, the theatre thrived amid the post-war Cantonese film resurgence, most notably remembered for screening the 1959 classic “The Legend of Purple Hairpin”, starring renowned Cantonese opera performers Yam Kim Fai and Pak Suet Sin. Over time, the theatre ceased operations in 1972 and was redeveloped into the “Good World Building.” Yet, the memories of its cinematic legacy continue to linger.

Lai Chi Kok Road

Spot 2

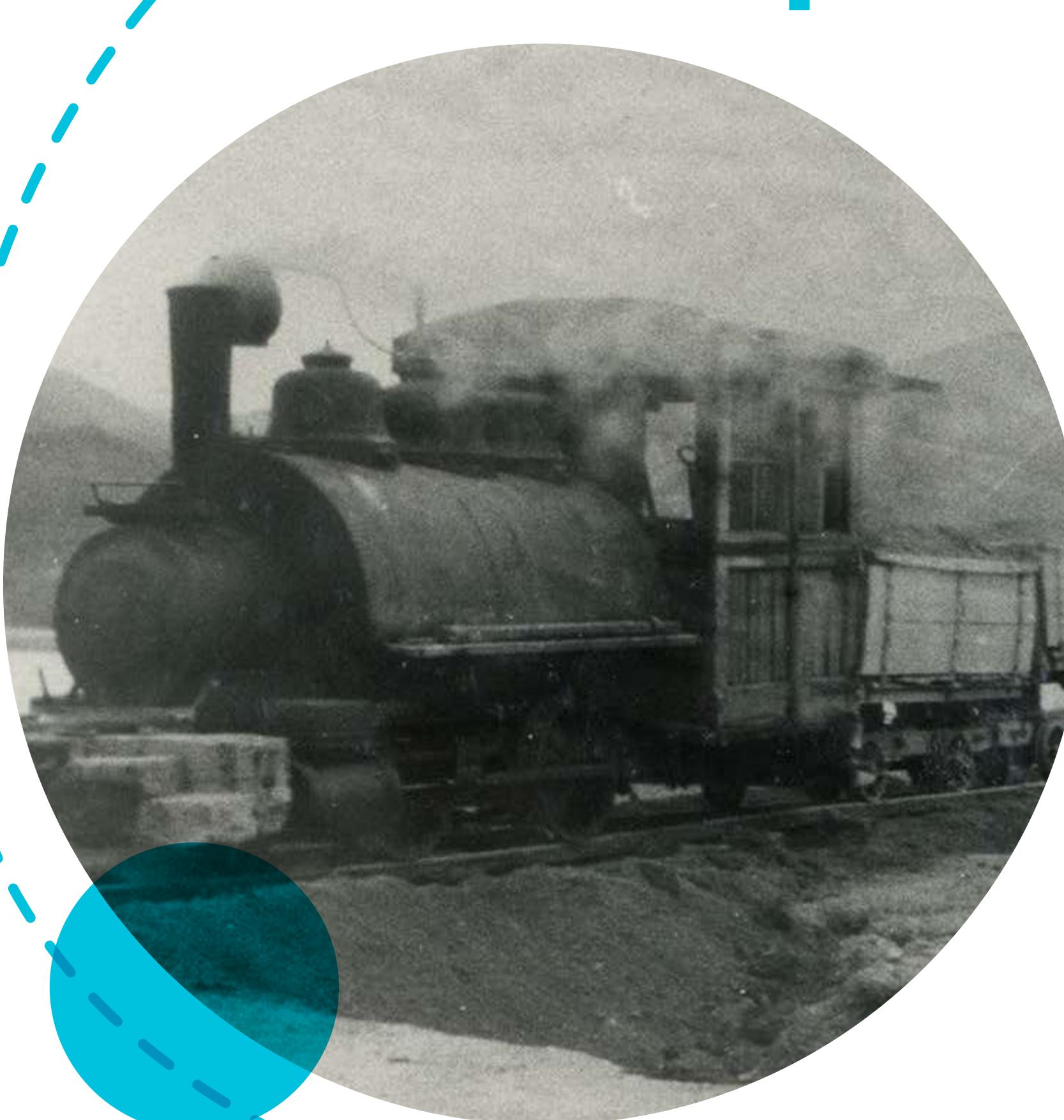


To support housing construction and economic development, reclamation works were carried out in the Sham Shui Po district between 1912 and 1926. The project initially began as a privately funded project, with the government taking a more active role from 1919 onwards. The filling materials, consisting of sand and stones sourced from Tai Po Road and the foothills of Lai Chi Kok, helped shape the area's present-day urban landscape. However, due to the hardness of the rock layers, quarrying later shifted to Tai Kok Tsui in Mong Kok.

Open the “CITY IN TIME” app and scan the AR clock located on Lai Chi Kok Road to revisit scenes of daily life from 1924. Through panoramic visuals created by integrating historical photographs, the architecture of the past and the temporary railway trains that once traveled through the area are vividly brought back to life before your eyes.



Experience CITY IN TIME
**Lai Chi Kok Road
Temporary Railway**



From 1922 to 1924, the contractor laid railway tracks along Lai Chi Kok Road, using Deauville locomotives and side tipping wagons to transport sand and stones excavated from Tai Kok Tsui to the reclamation site in Sham Shui Po. This marked the origin of the temporary railway on Lai Chi Kok Road.

Nam Cheong Pawn Shop

From its original name “Tung On Pawn Shop” to its later name “Nam Cheong Pawn Shop,” this five-storey pre-war verandah-style building stands as a testament to a century of transformation in Hong Kong’s pawnbroking industry. Constructed in the 1920s, Nam Cheong Pawn Shop took root in Sham Shui Po amid the wave of legalisation of pawnbroking. Its simple cement facade and porthole-style windows reveal a blend of Bauhaus and Modernist influences, while its distinctive saloon doors remain preserved to this day. This Grade III historic building carries the historical memory of the pawnbroking industry’s golden era.



Open the “CITY IN TIME” app and scan the AR clock located on Nam Cheong Street to instantly travel back to the street scenes of the 1940s. Through the brushstrokes of illustrator Flyingpig, the artwork vividly recreates the bustling atmosphere across Pei Ho Street, Yu Chau Street, and Nam Cheong Street, filled with vendors bustling to make a living.



Recommendation No.117 to 125 Nam Cheong Street

At No.117-125 Nam Cheong Street, five verandah buildings constructed in the 1930s form the largest surviving cluster of verandah structures in Sham Shui Po. These three-to-five storey buildings, each featuring unique design details, were declared Grade III historic buildings in 2010. Characterised by their first-floor extended balconies and stone-columned corridors, verandahs typically house shops on the ground level and residential units above, reflecting traditional mixed-use lifestyle of combining commerce and living.



Address: 119 Nam Cheong Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon
Year of Establishment: 1920s

Mei Ho House

Spot 4



On Christmas Eve in 1953, a fire in the Shek Kip Mei squatter area marked the beginning of Hong Kong's public housing history—Mei Ho House was completed in 1954 as one of the first resettlement estates built to accommodate grassroots families. As the only remaining "H" shaped resettlement building, each 120-square-foot unit carried the daily memories of the working-class households. In 2010, Mei Ho House was listed as a Grade II historic building and later revitalized into the YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel, which provides facilities such as the Heritage of Mei Ho House and a café.

Open "CITY IN TIME" app to scan the AR clock located on Castle Peak Road, you can revisit the streetscape of the 1960s. In the panoramic illustration created from historical photographs, Mei Ho House stands adjacent to the Garden Company headquarters, while the red "Lion Head" truck traverse the streets, showcasing the golden era of Hong Kong's light industry.



Address: Block 41, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po
Year of Establishment: 1954

Recommendation The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre



Transformed from a former factory building into today's creative hub, the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre (JCCAC) injects vitality into Hong Kong. This nine-story building brings together artists' studios and exhibition spaces which regularly host theater performances and hands-on workshops. In corners adorned with nostalgic weighing machines and vintage industrial equipment, the aroma of traditional tea houses lingers—showcasing a blend of past industrial heritage and contemporary creativity.

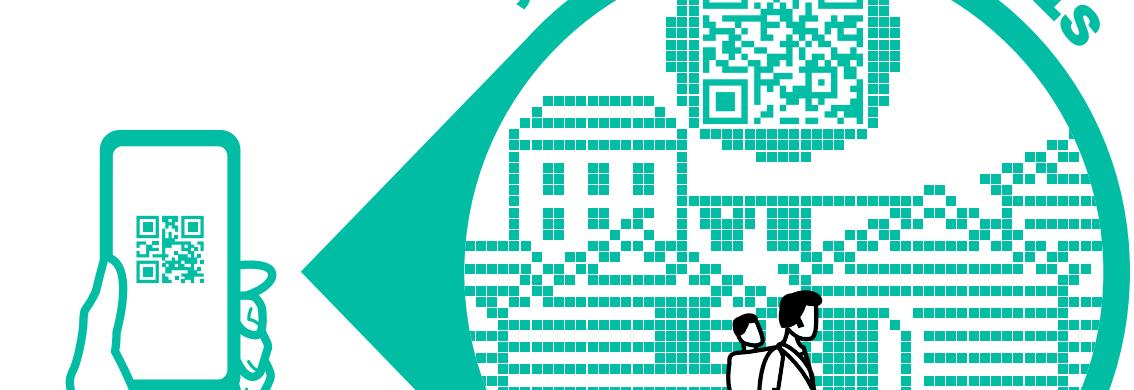
Garden's Hong Kong Head Office

The Garden factory building on Castle Peak Road has been a landmark of Sham Shui Po since 1938. Founded in 1926 by T. F. Cheung and W. O. Wong, the brand name "Garden" originated from the founders' inspiration while discussing in the Hong Kong Botanical Gardens their plans to start a bakery business. In 1952, The Garden Company, introduced Hong Kong's first automatic biscuit production machine, capable of producing over 5,000 kg of biscuits per day, marking a step forward in the territory's industrial automation. In 1958, the seven-storey factory building with a clock tower, designed by architect Chu Pin, was completed, blending post-war Modernist architectural style and documenting Garden's growth into a renowned local brand.

Spot 5



Open the "CITY IN TIME" app and scan the AR clock located at Tai Po Road Rest Garden to travel back to 1950s Sham Shui Po. Through the meticulous brushwork of illustrator Don Mak, the architectural appearance of the Garden headquarters of the past is recreated, along with the gradual expansion of Yen Chow Street following reclamation works. Stepping into the lanes of the Shek Kip Mei squatter area, one can also glimpse traces of daily life from that era.



Address: 58 Castle peak Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon
Year of Establishment: 1938

Experience CITY IN TIME Shek Kip Mei Squatter Huts

After the war, Hong Kong experienced a rapid surge in population, with a large number of refugees building shanty houses along the hillsides of Shek Kip Mei, forming a "small community" with a mix of workshops, stores, pig pens, henries, farmlands, and other structures. The living condition in this "small community" was rudimentary, lacking direct water supply and basic sanitation facilities—only a public toilet on Nam Cheong Street served residents, while freshwater had to be purchased and carried home.



North Kowloon Magistracy

Completed in 1960, The North Kowloon Magistracy, being a seven-storey Neo-Classical building, became a judicial landmark in Sham Shui Po. Equipped with soundproof courtrooms and an air-conditioning system, this modernised structure served as the lowest-level criminal court in the Kowloon district, primarily handling minor cases such as unlicensed hawking, fighting, and traffic offences. After concluding its judicial functions in 2005, the building was repurposed as the Hong Kong campus of the renowned American institution, the Savannah College of Art and Design.



Open the “CITY IN TIME” app and scan the AR clock located at Tai Po Road to travel back to 1950s Sham Shui Po. Experience the street scenes and daily life through panoramic visuals compiled from historical photographs.



Experience CITY IN TIME “A Guilty Conscience” Filming Location



“A Guilty Conscience” was released in 2023, becoming the first local Hong Kong film in history to break the 100 million dollar mark at the local box office. The following year, it received the Best Film Award at the 42nd Hong Kong Film Awards. By using the “CITY IN TIME” mobile app to scan the AR clock located on Tai Po Road, you can revisit film clips right at the actual shooting location!

Courtesy of Edko Films Limited

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