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Cat 5 Creative Arts  
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# Project Nostalgia





# Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Research
- 3 Methodology
- 4 Results
- 5 Conclusion
- 6 Reflection
- 7 References

# Introduction- Timeline



# Introduction

## Rationale

We have a common interest in photography and we wanted to promote Singapore's abandoned places and places of historical interest through its architecture and design. All of us are newbies when it comes to anything photography related. We also felt that many of these places have been forgotten by the Singapore population and we want to remind them of our roots.

## Objectives

To capture historic and abandoned places in Singapore through photos. Giving people a new perspective of these places. Raise awareness to preserve the already diminishing heritage, culture and memories of Singapore that are in jeopardy. Remind how important these heritage, culture and memories are to Singapore despite the impact of industrialization, the development of technology and proliferation of popular culture.

## Ideation

As Singapore becomes more and more advanced, the olden parts of Singapore are being forgotten and fading away. We wanted to bring these parts of Singapore to light and share it with the citizens, preserving such sites. These sites are an integral part of Singapore's history and we wanted everyone else to take note of these sites and not forget them. Our focus was to capture these forgotten places in Singapore that hold sentimental value for us.

# Research- Inspirations

Our main inspiration for this project was a local photographer by the name of Sean Cham. Sean Cham is an Intermedia visual and performing artist and photographer based in Singapore who specializes in urban history and heritage. His project the "Yesteryears Project" captures 50 abandoned and forgotten places in Singapore through a series of in situ self-portraits. The buildings photographed are in different states of ruination. These buildings represent the modern ruins of post independence Singapore. After viewing this, we were inspired to relive the old Singapore through capturing photographs. We learnt how to take photos of these abandoned and historic buildings, through his photographs, giving us a different perspective.



# Research- Inspirations

Another one of our inspirations was Matt Emmett. He specialized in taking photographs of forgotten heritage. Forgotten Heritage is his incredible photographic archive, which spans over 5 years of seeking out and photographing places that have been forgotten in time. He was also named "Arcaid Architectural Photographer of the Year" in 2016. Through his photography, we learnt how to take photos of historic sites and abandoned buildings. He displayed different angles and perspectives from which our group learnt how to take better photographs.



# Research- Inspirations

Lastly, someone who inspired us was a local photographer called Yik Keat. He is a renowned photographer in Singapore who amassed a 302,000 following and an impressive list of clients the likes of Adidas, Samsung, Singapore Tourism Board, and YTL Hotels. He started off as an amateur photographer just like us and we were inspired by his breath-taking photographs and felt that we could do the same as well. We realised how his photos were actually quite plain and bland before his editing process. He himself has mentioned before that the real magic happens when editing a photo.



# Research- Locations

We looked up some places of historical interest in Singapore that we could travel to take photos of. We found that there was little information on many historic locations in Singapore, thus we had to read through blogs and other websites to find places that have been lost in time through Singapore's globalisation. We wanted to show how different Singapore was in the past as compared to today, the sheer difference in how much Singapore has modernized. We searched for areas which could clearly depict this such as Tanglin Halt which was Singapore's first satellite estate, showing the difference between HDBs then and now as well as Kampong Buangkok which is one of the very few Kampongs left in Singapore.

We chose to visit 7 places: Tanglin Halt, the Old Supreme Court, Old Kallang Airport, Kampong Buangkok, the old shop houses along Joo Chiat road, Hainan Village and Bukit Timah Railway.

# Methodology- Planning

We wanted to capture the essence of the olden times of Singapore, portraying its history and heritage and we felt that this could be done using 2 ways.

Firstly, it was to compare the buildings of then and now to really see the difference in how much Singapore has changed and evolved.

Secondly, it was to capitalize the environment the site is in, whether it is in ruins will portray how old the site is and how abandoned it looked. In most of our photos, we were able to either show the contrast or make use of the surroundings.

# Methodology- Planning

Photos taken at Tanglin Halt and the old shop houses along Joo Chiat road were mainly focussed on the contrast between the past and present.

At Tanglin Halt, we were able to show the comparisons between HDB estates of the present and HDB estates of the past.

The old shop houses along Joo Chiat road were located near Katong which had quite a number of modern infrastructure. This enabled us to show the sheer difference between the past and the present, showing how much Singapore has changed in the process.



# Methodology- Planning

Photos taken at Hainan Village and Kampong Buangkok were mainly focussed on the environment that they are in. The environment that these places were in ruination and we were able to capitalise on that, showing how much these places are abandoned.



# Methodology- Planning

Photos taken at the Old Kallang Airport and the Old Supreme Court portrayed the old architecture of Singapore and we wanted to capture how much Singapore's infrastructure has changed.

Photos taken along Bukit Timah Railway encapsulates all of these aspects, although some parts of the railway have been refurbished, there are still some parts in states of ruination and also shows the difference between modern-day MRT station and the past railway station



# Methodology- Photo-Taking

Initially, we planned to utilize our June holidays to go out and take the photos. However, due to the COVID-19 situation from May 19 to June 13, restrictions were tightened and our plans were faltered. We had to plan our trips with the restrictions in mind, this allowed us to do more planning beforehand, trying to do more research on these locations and possible shots we could take beforehand. We planned multiple trips to take these photographs.

To take our photographs, as all of us are newcomers to the photography scene and do not possess cameras, we decided to make use of our mobile phones and take the photographs use of our mobile phones to take the photographs.

Devices used are:  
iPhone 11 Pro Max

# Methodology- Phototaking

We played with different angles to give an alternate point of view, and also tried shooting our subjects through other surrounding elements such as leaves and greenery. These techniques were able to give our photos a unique look that set them apart from regular photos. For example, we took photos of the shophouses from a higher angle to give viewers a different vantage point, portraying the depth.



# Methodology- Phototaking

We also took into consideration the environment of our photo to fully capture the essence of it like when we visited Kampong Buangkok and Hainan Village. We made use of its environment to depict these places in a ruined state.



# Methodology- Post Production

To edit our photos, we used Adobe Lightroom. We had zero prior knowledge on photo-editing, so we took this as an opportunity to research and learn about different technical skills involved in such post-production works. Using Adobe Lightroom, we played with the different colours and tones, to bring out certain colours, while drawing attention away from others. When we first started, we experimented with many different edits that gave the photos a different feel. Once we found our desired edit, we applied it as a preset to other similar photos, and continued to make edits from there, giving most of our photos a similar look to them.

# Methodology- Post Production

For example, for the photo below that we took along the shophouses, we recognised the colour and vibrancy in the design of the shophouses and surrounding trees, and we wanted this photo to pop more, thus we played around with different colours, turning up the colour and light.



Before editing



After editing

# Results- Final Product

Our final product is an online gallery with all our photos arranged in different locations, accompanied with brief descriptions of the different places. The main objective of our website is to capture the uniqueness of Singapore through exploring different locations, in hopes that our readers will have a deeper understanding of Singapore's past. This website acts as a one stop place for viewers to take in the nostalgic feelings of Singapore. In the online gallery, we also included a brief description of the place, giving viewers a greater insight of what they are looking at.

In essence, what we want our readers to take away from looking through our website is a greater knowledge on the history of the various historic locations of Singapore and a few pleasant memories. We hope that these photos will be the first thing that will come to people's minds when these locations are talked about.

<https://181690h.wixsite.com/projectnostalgia>

# Results- Final Product

In addition, we also created an online map which we felt was unique as it gives users an interactive experience. We will pin the locations that we visited on the map and users can click on the pin and view the images. This gives the users a better sense of where the site is located at and enable them to navigate how to get to the area.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1c-x1Mzz4auSiMa0nbBlyA1MdxHlKdMoT&ll=1.3416949807279537%2C103.8083008&z=13>

# Conclusion

Singapore has had a rich history and it would be a shame if it is forgotten. It is crucial for us to remember our history and not forget our roots.

We wanted to capture these moments before they are truly gone forever and through this project we hope to raise awareness about such abandoned and forgotten sites, hoping that anyone who comes across our project will also have the urge to visit such places and remember the olden Singapore in this age of Globalization.

When more people visit such places, the memories of these places will be retained and will be passed on to the next generation and will live on forever.

# Reflections- Joei

Throughout this project, we've travelled around Singapore to various locations and captured Singapore from different perspectives. It helped me realise Singapore's uniqueness and learn more about Singapore's heritage, seeing how Singapore's housing has evolved from Kampongs to HDBs. It has also allowed us to bond more when we are taking pictures as a group. It has also given me the chance to learn more about photography and photo editing.

# Reflections- James

Overall, this project really provided me with a fun and enjoyable experience. Being able to travel around Singapore while taking pictures with my group mates, allowed us to be more bonded and developed our friendship. With that being said, this project was also not all fun and games as there were various lessons and points that could be taken away. This project allowed me to take a dive into Singapore's history and understand where we came from. Going to these forgotten and abandoned sites allowed me to learn more about the design and architecture of the buildings from the past. This project also opened up a new world of photography, learning how to take photographs from different angles as well as how the environment affects the photograph. It also gave me a chance to learn more about editing photographs using applications like Adobe Lightroom. This project has been a good starting point for my future endeavours as an amateur photographer.

# Reflections- Zechariah

Through this journey of travelling and taking pictures with my group mates, it has led to my curiosity into wanting to learn more behind the architectures of the places and their history. I also have learnt more about photography and its skills and also optimising the angles to take better quality pictures. The different angles also showcased characteristics of the places that might be overlooked from a certain angle and standpoint alone.

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