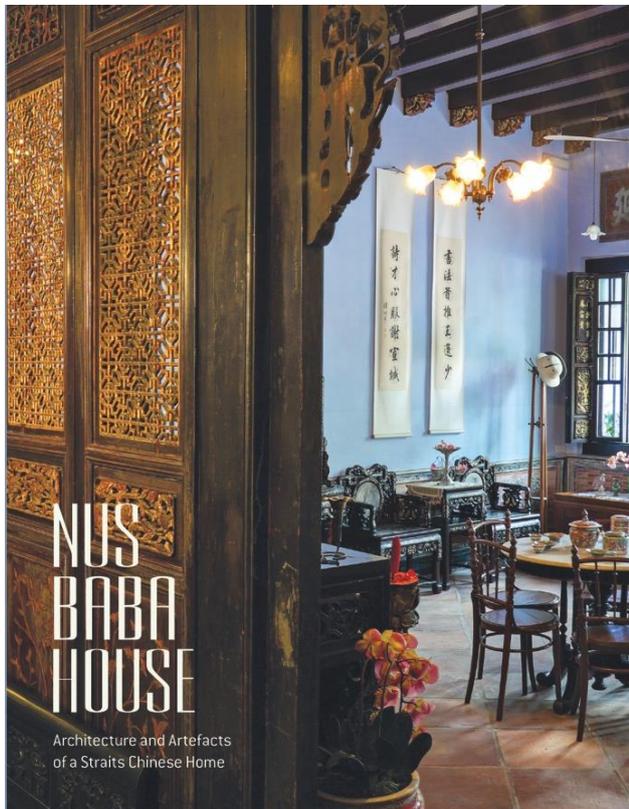


For immediate release

NUS Baba House launches inaugural guidebook

From architecture to social history, book reveals the myriad facets of Singapore's only restored Straits Chinese family home



SINGAPORE, November 2016 –

NUS Baba House, managed by NUS Museum, has launched a **full-colour illustrated guide to its art, architecture, conservation and history** in conjunction with its 8th anniversary since opening as a heritage house in 2008.

Featuring research by **Foo Su Ling, Lim Chen Sian, Wee Sheau Theng, Yeo Kang Shua** and an introduction by **Peter Lee**, in-depth descriptions and detail photography highlight outstanding artefacts and architectural features of a rare architecturally intact townhouse and dwelling from Singapore's colonial period. An example, the elaborately carved wooden screen (*ge shan*) which partitions the reception hall, significant for its ornate depictions of stories from the Tang Dynasty, is pictured on the cover (left).

“The contents provide an account of the layered and complex history of 157 Neil Road, its

interiors, and artefacts, which are part of NUS Museum's Straits Chinese Collection. It gives readers a glimpse into the lives of those who lived in such houses. The book also contributes to research into the history of the Peranakans and the urban history of the neighbourhood,” shares curator Foo Su Ling.

The book is organized by the various spaces of the house and its presentation as a Peranakan home in the early 20th century, defined by many customs and rich material culture. At the turn of the 20th century, from 1910, the house was the family home of an illustrious Straits Chinese family descending from Wee Bin (1823-1868), a Chinese migrant who built one of the largest shipping firms in Singapore. Included in the book also are narratives of life in and around the house, from detailed, evocative anecdotes of childhood by Wee Lin, a sixth-generation descendant of Wee Bin, to music and entertainment of the time, revealing the environmental and social contexts at the time.

The house was acquired by NUS in 2006 with funds donated by Ms Agnes Tan, who made the gift in support of education as well as to honour her father, the late Tun Tan Cheng Lock. Ms Tan also sponsored this publication.

“In many ways true to her hopes, the book is the fruition of the collaborative research across disciplines that has taken place since the house’s inception. Visiting the house is a multi-sensory yet fleeting experience for many, so we hope the book may serve as an enduring reference for visitors and scholars into 157’s many layers,” notes Ms Tan’s nephew, Peter Lee, a Peranakan scholar and the house’s honorary curator.

NUS Baba House: Architecture and Artefacts of a Straits Chinese Home is available at all major bookstores from 9 November 2016 for \$29.90. It retails at NUS Museum and NUS Baba House at a reduced price.

For more information about the publication, media interviews, NUS Baba House or high resolution images, please contact:

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[Annexes](#)

- Annex A: About the book
- Annex B: NUS Baba House
- Annex C: NUS Museum
- Annex D: NUS Centre For the Arts