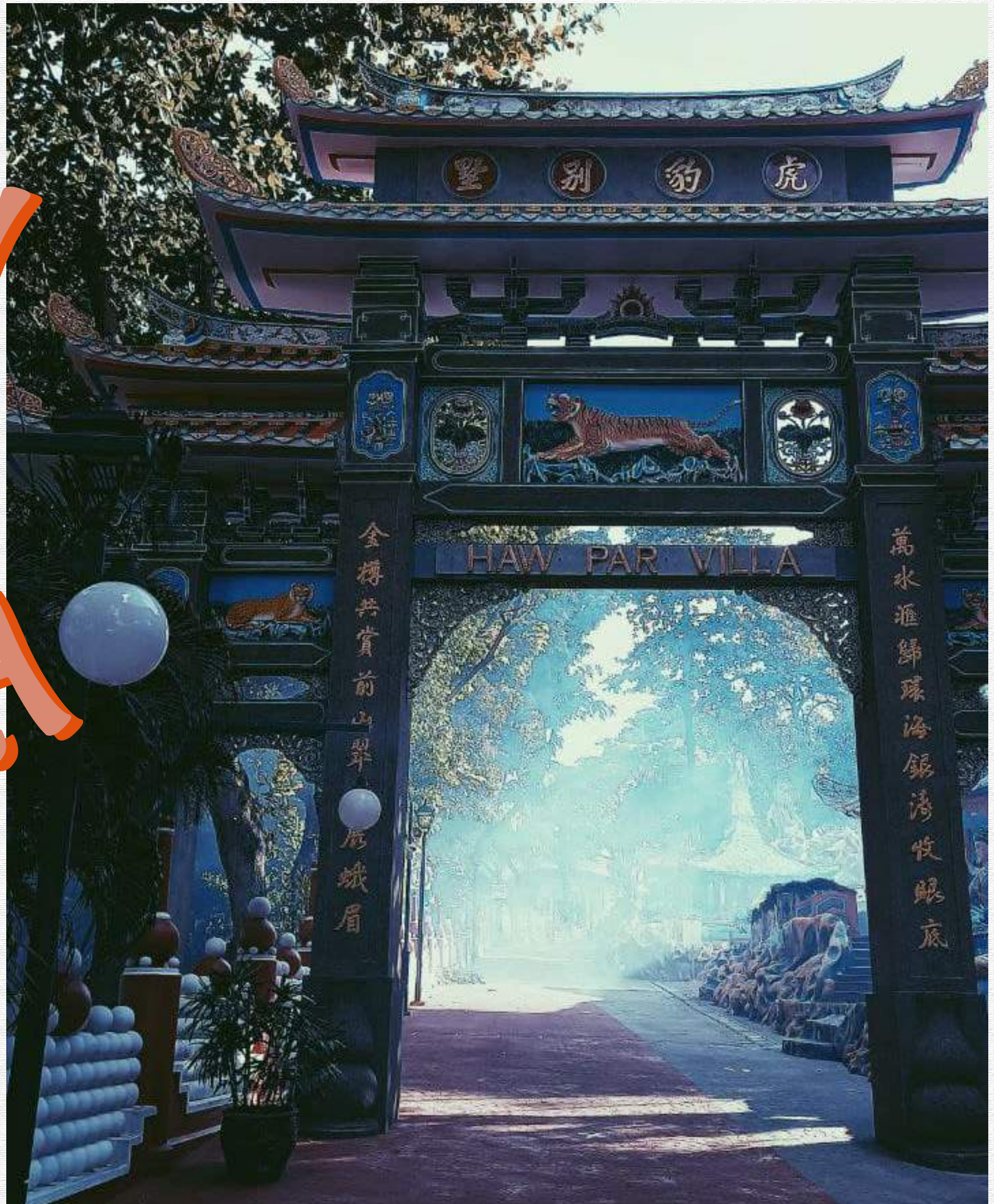


HOP! PAR VILLA

A
VISUAL
CURATION
OF THE
STRANGE
AND
SPLENDID
SPACES AT
HAR PAW VILLA





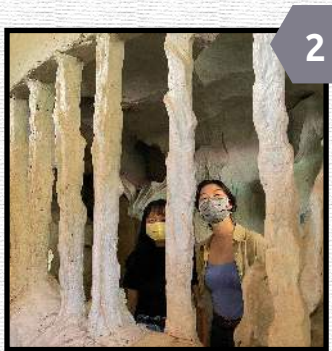
14

STRANGE, SPLENDID SPACES

**Overwhelmed by the many sights
Haw Par Villa has to offer?**

**Fret not! Spot and hop onto our ground markers
which are placed at both iconic and
little-known spots in the park. Go on an
aesthetic adventure specially curated for you!**





1 I CAME, I SAW I CAPTURED

BEHIND
THE NAME

This caption is an allusion to the classical Latin phrase 'Veni, Vidi, Vici' (I came, I saw, I conquered). Encapsulate your entire experience with this statement as you conquer all the HOP! Spots by capturing them!



The pillars supporting the archway are decorated with Chinese poetic phrases.

The text on the right reads “萬水匯歸環海銀濤收眼底”
wan shui hui hui huan hai yin tao shou yan di
(The convergence of thousands of streams, the gleaming waves of the vast sea, are scenes to behold)
and the text on the left reads “金樽共賞前山翠黛展蛾眉”
jin zun gong shang qian shan cui dai zhan e mei
(To gaze ahead with a goblet of fine wine, one gets to enjoy the beautiful scenery of the verdant hills).

Together, they refer to the scenic view that once graced Haw Par Villa as the villa used to overlook the sea, beyond Pasir Panjang Road.



2

JAILED

BEHIND THE NAME

The white poles mimic the bars of a jail cell - however the only crime you have committed is being too cute!

BEING

2 CUTE



If you look to the left, there are five tiger sculptures above the pond. These rockeries were made incorporating suggestive forms of festive tigers to symbolise “五福临门” wu fu lin men (five fortunes arriving at one’s doorstep).



3 EMERALD ALCOVE



Look ahead and you will find a miniature pavilion marked with Chinese motifs. You will also notice that the four pillars are shaped like bottles. This shape was likely adopted because bottle in mandarin “瓶” ping sounds like peace in mandarin “平” ping.



BEHIND THE NAME

The Aw family once owned a sizeable jade collection. While the collection no longer belongs to the family, the name “Jade House” has been kept to as a reminder of their past glory. Head to the Jade House to view our exhibition on the family.

PASTEL POP

4

Aw Boon Haw was one of the two founders of the park. His memorial stands nearby. It was originally built to memorialise Boon Haw's parents, but he later built a larger memorial for them at the top of the hill, hence this memorial was later dedicated to Aw Boon Haw himself. Walk up a small flight of stairs to view the Parents' Memorial.



BEHIND THE NAME

Indulge in this pastel explosion of pink and teal, do they not remind you of a certain local sweet treat? (Hint: you can find them in the freezer at our Visitor Centre.)



PINE -ING FOR YOU

5

Observe the bristles of the tree, do the needles not remind you of a pine tree? These trees are a symbol of longevity and steadfastness as they are said to weather the cold well and are the last trees to shed their leaves during winter.

In the same way, these values can be applied to marriage as pine needles grow in pairs, suggesting a long and blissful marriage. Snap and be blessed!



Can you spot the tiger head at the top of the archway?

It is just one of several features throughout the park that reference Aw Boon Haw!



6

SURF THE WAVES



Find the six-tiered miniature Pagoda next to this spot! The openings on each tier are not aligned - unusual for a Chinese pagoda! However, the influence of Chinese culture is visible from the gourd at the top. The gourd is an auspicious symbol to ward off evil spirits, and some deities including Shou (Chinese God of Longevity) use it to contain the elixir of life.



PAGODA LAGOON

7



Looking ahead, do you see an old man fishing? It tells the story of Jiang Zi Ya, who went fishing with his hook never touching the water. This got the attention of the duke Ji Chang who, convinced that Jiang was a genius, recruited him as his advisor. Jiang would later help Ji Chang found China's Zhou Dynasty.

MER-CUZZI

PARADISE

8



BEHIND THE NAME

Don't the blue waters surrounding the mermaids remind you of a jacuzzi? Yes, the Mer-cuzzi paradise is a play between the words 'mermaids' and 'jacuzzi'!



The surname of the Aw brothers in Mandarin is “胡” hu, which sounds like lake in Mandarin “湖” hu. Thus, the pond both represents a lake, and also, when viewed from the air, forms a stylised “胡” hu shape in traditional Chinese script, doubly referencing the Aw family name.



Above the Big Red Door, there is a diorama of an Animal Wedding, depicting the bride's procession approaching the groom.

There are a total of 18 animals at the wedding and some are holding symbolic items in Chinese culture that would traditionally be gifted during weddings (lanterns, birds in cages, Chinese gift baskets). Can you spot them?

FUN FACT

Everyone knows that red is considered an auspicious colour by the Chinese. But did you know that in Ancient China, the circle represented harmony?

THE BIG RED DOOR

9



HEAVEN ON EARTH



Look above and you will spot a troop of monkeys invading your photo. The leader of this bunch is none other than Sun Wu Kong, the Monkey King himself. He was born from a stone of the fairy land and possessed the qualities of innovation, tremendous strength and courage.

Walk down these steps and turn left to understand more of his story and also learn about his companions in the Journey to the West dioramas.

BEHIND THE NAME

The roof of the pavilion is shaped like a flying saucer. Take care when you stand underneath, or else you might get beamed up into space!



I SPOT A UFO!

11

Atop our 'UFO' is an Eagle swooping down to catch fish. As eagles are a more common symbol in the West than in China, it shows Boon Haw's incorporation of Western symbols in the park.

For Pokémon fans out there: ever wondered why Magikarp evolves in Gyarados? You can find your answer on the roof, where you can see fishes with dragon heads. They reference the tale of the carp that successfully swam up the waterfall and turned into a dragon.



TORTOISE TERRITORY

12

BEHIND THE NAME

Look around and you will be greeted by our friendly inhabitants of the pond. It is no wonder this place is called Tortoise Territory!

This pagoda originally had eight stories, but it was reduced to four to allow a sculpture of the Buddha to be built on top. The Buddha is said to welcome all creatures on Earth equally, and the various animals decorating the pagoda attest to this.



HAW & PAW

13



One day, Aw Boon Haw was driving along Pasir Panjang Road when his car broke down near the sixth milestone. Taking a liking to the area's fengshui, he decided to construct a villa at the site for his brother, Boon Par, who was getting homesick.

Paying homage to the historic beginnings of the villa, the cafe opposite this spot adopts the same name, 'Sixth Milestone'.

Come and enjoy some light bites at this symbolic place.

14

HELLO KITTLERS



In the hands of these cute sculptures are some bottles of Tiger Balm ointment. They pay homage to the Aw Brothers who created the world-famous ointment and built this park. In the past, there were many such tiger sculptures scattered around the park showcasing the Tiger Balm ointment, a testament to the clever and creative marketing techniques by Boon Haw.

Climb on down to our Visitor Centre on the left to get yourself some Tiger Balm products too!





**GET ON
HOPPIN'!**

TAG US AT #HOPPARVILLA ON INSTAGRAM @HAWPARVILLA.SG

~ lovingly curated by the summer 2021 interns ~