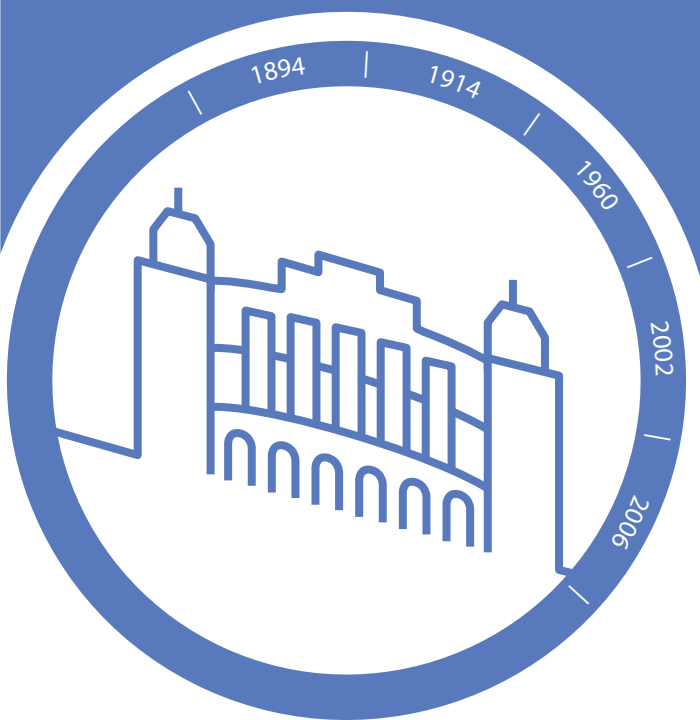# Kom Tong Hall

1894 | 1914 | 1960 | 2002 | 2006

Although Chinese were not allowed to live on the Victoria Peak at the turn of the 20th century, there had been exceptions. The Ho Family, which included prominent members such as Sir Robert Hotung, was the first Chinese family to be allowed to live on the Mid-Levels. The Ho's financial, political, and social powers had garnered such privilege.

Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum

In 1914, Ho Kom-tong, younger brother of Hotung, built a mansion on the Mid-Levels in Central. The use of materials, the architectural style, the location of the mansion all spoke of Ho's financial and social status.
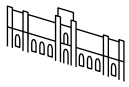
ⓘ Key Points

Brief history of social segregation

The Ho family was the first Chinese family to be allowed to live on the Victoria Peak

Architecture of the Kom Tong Hall
· **Use of materials**
· **Layout**
· **Class hierarchy**

Adaptive re-use
· **Change in ways and attitude towards heritage conservation to address public demands (e.g. public opposition, government buying a historic building for the first time, minimal alteration to original features, opening the building for public access etc.)**

Questions to be completed after Lesson 2

1. Briefly explain why Chinese were not allowed to live on the Victoria Peak before 1930.

2. What is the historical significance of the Kom Tong Hall?
   What qualified the Ho family to be the first Chinese family to live on the Victoria Peak?

3. Kom Tong Hall was a house for residential purposes. Name three differences between Kom Tong Hall and the residential buildings next to it?

4.   Name five architectural elements of the Kom Tong Hall that reflected the lifestyle of the people who inhabited it. Explain your reasons.

5.   [For field trip] What does the size of the rooms tell you about the life of its owners? How do they compare to those in the Flagstaff House?