

An overview of Macau's recent development

By Raymond Wong Wai Man

There are two very important milestones in the development of Macau since the turn of the millennium. The first came in 2001, with the opening up of the gaming industry to international bidders, which subsequently has attracted many global investors to the territory. It is the government's strategies to develop the region into a major destination in Asia for gaming, entertainment, leisure, conference and exhibition, which will become the flagship of Macau's economy. The servicing sectors as well as other social supports, under a well-coordinated manner, will form the overall economical structure that finally benefits the community as a whole. Under this triggering act, Macau enjoys unprecedented economic growth in all sectors since 2002 and yields the prosperous skyline that everyone can witness today.

The second turning point came in 2005, when Macau was successfully received the official recognition from the United Nation Educational, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as one of the World Heritages. The Historic Centre of Macau has now been inscribed on the World Heritage List, making it the 31st designated World Heritage site in China. This recognition is for sure not just a form

of compliment. Macau has its valuable and unique past and has it preserved in a presentable manner that attracts global attention. This kind of heritage asset, as a result, strengthens the status of the city as a very interesting tourists spot that Macau's economy is highly depended on.

Under this consideration, in the past few years the development of Macau obviously heads to the fulfillment of these targets. In order to do so, Macau has prioritized her development into a few core areas, such as to provide the required infrastructure under a well-structured city planning strategy, the provision of facilities through various enforcing means including the government and private sectors, providing new facilities in the old city zones as a form of urban upgrading process and to enhance existing services and facilities with the new in order to achieve a harmony integration of the community. Being worked on this target for nearly 10 years, the cityscape and urban quality of Macau has experienced a drastic change towards a well-received direction.

In this photo essay, I try to highlight some of the heritages of Macau in particular those that may not be aware by common tourists, as well as other changes hidden in every corner of the city. I hope you will find this chapter both interesting and enjoyable.



Classical buildings with strong Chinese traditional taste that merged harmony inside the old city



The Memorial Hall for Sun Yat Sen, one of a very modest architecture with delicately mixed style not formally listed in the Macau World Cultural Heritage

Side streets near the Tap Seac Square that can hardly recall tourists' orientation inside an Asian city





The Moorish Barracks, a neo-classical structure listed in the Macau World Cultural Heritage, is within 5-minute walking distance from the A-Ma Temple



An unnoticed classical building to most tourists located on the mid-level near the Guia Fortress. The Guia Lighthouse can just be seen on the right upper corner



The green strip and open area in front of the Ruins of St Paul's



A bird's eye view of the Senado Square with the Bell Tower of the Post Museum as the foreground



A public square outside the St Dominic's Church with fountain and sitting out space, forms a typical townscape that can be found everywhere in European township



The front marble facade of St Anthony's Church near the Camoes Park



The Bishop Church and its terrace garden overseeing the Sai Van Lake

A newly constructed bungalow house at Rua Do Lago Nam Van with strong Mediterranean look



A facade panel being temporarily preserved and supported with rows of shoring frame for a redevelopment project near the Senado Square



Redeveloped property with the facade of the original building being preserved and a new structure integrated behind it forming an interesting design





The provision of public open space is a prioritized consideration by the Macau government as a means to upgrade the overall urban environment of the city. These photos show some of the locations with high quality spatial design that form substantial focal points for local citizens and tourists





A vacated site with the adjoining walls of the surrounding buildings temporarily decorated before the commencement of the rebuilding process



Macau Stadium

Sport facilities in Macau mainly located in the Taipa Island



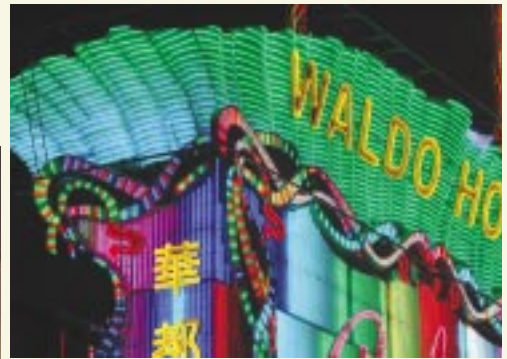
Macau East Asia Sports Ground, The Macau Egg



The gaming industry formed a major income for Macau's economy since the early 1960s. This photo shows an aerial view of the Casino Lisboa complex which is the base of the Macau gaming industry since 1969. The New Casino Lisboa structure (the egg-shell), partly completed at this stage, can be seen at the background on the left



The eye-catching neon-light signage at the front of each casino performing its symbolic light show at night





The commencement of one of the key-turning projects of Macau's gaming industry - construction of the Wynn Resorts at its early stage as seen in 2004



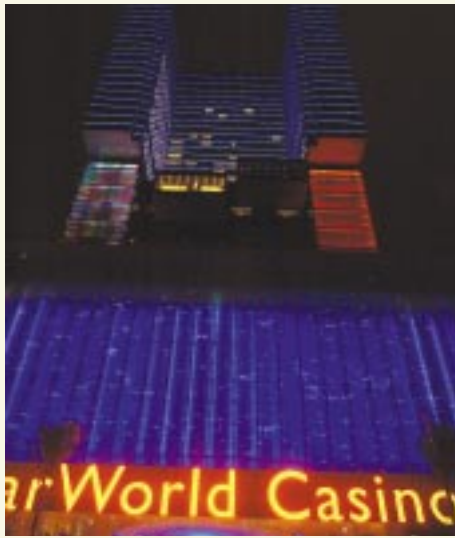
An overview of the Fisherman's Wharf at twilight time. The facility is a richly-mixed resort compound including theme and function areas for shopping, catering, convention and exhibition, as well as hotel and casino



The new casino inside Fisherman's Wharf - The Babylon



The exterior view of the Star World Hotel, a 5-star casino and hotel facility, is the flagship of the Galaxy Entertainment Group in Macau



An eye-catching design feature of the New Casino Lisboa, an approximately 120m deformed sphere which housed the 4-level casino inside



Casino Lisboa, tycoon of the Macau gaming industry, has a new resort complex with casino and hotel under construction ready for opening in mid 2007



The exterior view of the Venetian Macau, a 40-storey structure with casino resort and hotel facilities giving a serviceable area of more than 300,000 sq m. The complex is located along the Cotai Strip, a 1.8 km-long reclaimed land area adjoining the Taipa and Coloane islands of Macau