

## **“Historical and Architectural Traces of Sam Tung Uk” Audio Transcript**

**Location: Row Houses and Lanes**

**Theme: Restoration and adaptive re-use**

We’ve just crossed the lane and arrived at the row houses. For the extended family of the Chan clan, a row of four houses was built on two sides of the dwellings near the centre. The row houses in front are situated on the southeastern side of Sam Tung Uk. Each row house has an open courtyard, but only a room on one side of the courtyard. The area of a row house occupies about one-third less than the area of the dwellings near the centre.

You’re now in one of the lanes of Sam Tung Uk. Lanes served to link the residences and were used as a public space for the villagers. Nowadays they’re popular photo-taking spots for visitors. You can take some photos along the lanes and reminisce about the historical architecture and village life of the past.

Sam Tung Uk suffered severe weathering during the few hundred years following its establishment and therefore required restoration in the late 1980s. The relevant technique used for preserving traditional architecture is an intangible cultural heritage item of Hong Kong. Most of the walls of Sam Tung Uk were rammed-earth walls. Oyster shell lime, straw and cane sugar were mixed and repeatedly "rammed" to form the wall structure. The wall was then further coated with lime rendering for protection. If you would like to learn how to build rammed-earth walls, please visit the exhibition on the technique of preserving traditional architecture in Dwelling 2.

Our tour has almost come to an end. You’re welcome to further explore the wealth of ICH items in the Hong Kong ICH centre. You can visit the “Ordinary . Extraordinary” exhibition in the row houses, where aspects of ICH related to our everyday lives and special occasions are featured. You can also enjoy the “Sam Tung Uk and Traditional Village Culture” exhibition in the four dwellings near the central axis of the village, where you’ll learn more about the history and architectural features of Sam Tung Uk, as well as the life etiquette and food culture of the traditional rural villages of the New Territories. Alternatively, you can visit the terraced houses in the rear by walking along this lane, then turning left and walking to the Exhibition Gallery, where you’ll find the exhibition entitled “Hong Kong Festivals and Traditional Craftsmanship”. It showcases Hong Kong’s vibrant traditional festivals

and the crafts created by the ICH bearers for these festivals.

We hope this audio guide has given you a better understanding of the history and architecture of Sam Tung Uk. Thank you for joining us. Have a nice trip. Goodbye!