

Building Heritage: Threats and Preservation

Building Heritage

What exactly is building heritage? Building heritage is the traditional design of the building: the walls, the windows, the doors, the ceilings, and the floor. There are little things like a bamboo grove that is a sign that there is a village nearby. In Tung Ping Chau, a lack of care is taking its toll on the abandoned homes. Without the loving hands of an inhabitant to clear away the jungle plants, the buildings of Chau Mei village are slowly rotting away. Already, more than 70% of Chau Mei is overgrown, and many of the buildings are inaccessible.



The image above is of a bamboo grove.

One such example of overgrown homes



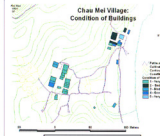
There is something being hidden back there



The seashore of Tung Ping

Not only this, smugglers often use the abandoned homes as storerooms or areas to hold their goods. In an attempt to cover them up, the smugglers will drill holes and desecrate the buildings in order to hang up coverings or use bits of the jungle.

The government of Hong Kong does not seem very keen on repairing the buildings, and therefore without proper maintenance, the buildings are falling apart.



Here is a pair of maps showing the conditions and the repairs of Chau Mei Village

Because Tung Ping Chau is an island, surrounded by water, the air is extremely humid, causing the brickwork and stones to decay far more rapidly than they would in a drier environment, or on higher altitude. The humidity would also crack the tiles of the roofs, and most likely cause the wooden ceiling beams to rot till they crumble.



In this picture, mildew and mold can be seen growing on the sun and rock



Chau Mei Village: Evidence of Repair