Universiti Malaysia Terengganu Journal of Undergraduate Research
Volume 6 Number 3, July 2024: 1-13

eISSN: 2637-1138
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THE SOUTHERN CHINESE ECLECTIC STYLE WALL FLORAL ORNAMENTATION OF SUN YAT SEN MANSION, GEORGE TOWN, PENANG

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https://doi.org/10.46754/umtjur.v6i3.417
Received: 12 June 2023 *Accepted: 1 July 2024* *Published: 15 July 2024*

Abstract: The Sun Yat Sen Mansion, located in the Armenian Street historic district of George Town, Penang is a shophouse meticulously transformed into a *Peranakan* private museum. The building has its own history, which stems from Dr. Sun Yat Sen's involvement with the Chinese revolutionary movement. Shophouses and townhouses listed under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a World Heritage Site, possess unique architectural and cultural characteristics. The building is influenced by the Southern Chinese Eclectic Style (1840s-1900s), where Chinese masons contributed their methods and supplies. Additionally, ornamental details and ventilation holes have been added. Ornamentation such as floral and fauna has been applied to this building's façade to create eye-catching colours, making for an appreciative sight in these buildings with their own philosophy. *Peranakan* shophouses with beautiful wall floral ornamentation can be found in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand; however, there is still no documentation based on the philosophy of wall floral ornamentation as references. This article investigates the floral ornamentation wall motif in façade design and analyses the philosophy of the floral ornamentation on the Sun Yat Sen Mansion. This building has interesting ornamentation that will influence the Southern Chinese eclectic style philosophy. Through the utilisation of the Sun Yat Sen Museum as a case study method, the inquiry employs a qualitative research methodology to gather data and comprehend wall floral ornamentations that influence the eclectic Southern Chinese style. Based on this research, the findings provide an understanding of the philosophy of wall floral ornamentation based on colours, patterns, and meaning influences that govern the design of architectural characteristics and façade design of Sun Yat Sen Mansion.

Keywords: The Sun Yat Sen Mansion, philosophy, wall floral ornamentation, shophouses, façade.

Introduction

George Town is one of the cities that was included on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2008 because it possesses culturally significant buildings with distinctive architecture (Zwain & Bahauddin, 2017). Based on George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI), George Town, Penang has six primary shophouse architectural types (Wooi, 2015). Each style includes specific architectural and ornamental elements that reflect the many historical eras of George Town (Wooi, 2015).

The strait settlement style can be found in Melacca, Penang, and Singapore between the 1840s and 1910s (Hassan *et al*., 2019). During this period in George Town, Chinese immigrants brought their Southern Chinese eclectic style and applied it to the architecture, façade design, and ornamentation of the shophouses (Zwain & Bahauddin, 2020). Due to Dr. Sun Yat Sen's involvement in the Chinese Revolution movement, Sun Yat Sen Mansion is an example of Chinese eclectic architecture with beautiful façade embellishment (Zwain & Bahauddin, 2017) (Figure 1). Due to its connections to the Chinese patriot, Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the Sun Yat Sen Mansion has an amazing past. The Huanghuagang uprising, a crucial precursor to the Chinese Revolution of 1911 that deposed the Qing Emperor was organised here by Dr. Sun Yat Sen and his allies (Speechley, 2018).

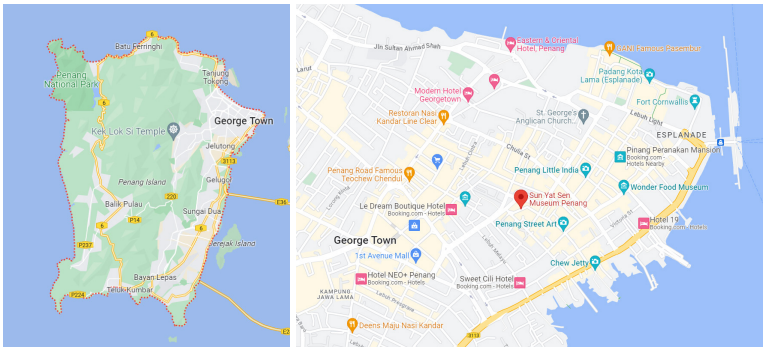


Figure 1: Map of Penang Island, Sun Yat San Mansion, buffer, and core zone of UNESCO world
Source: Google Maps

In Southern Asia, *Peranakan* shophouses can be found in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore, each influenced by their respective countries' cultural and environmental characteristics (Tepsing, 2012). This is because some of these Chinese traders intermarried with women from Acheh, Sumatra, Bali, Batak, Burma, and Siam, which led to the formation of the early Straits Chinese or *Peranakan* populations (Yong *et al*., 2015). The new, distinctive *Peranakan* Chinese culture was produced by the fusion of the original Chinese culture with local culture (Budianto & Sunarya, 2019). *Peranakan* shophouses in Malaysia such as Sun Yat Sen Mansion have beautiful wall floral ornamentation in the façade architecture. However, there is currently a lack of documented references available on this subject through various literature review research.

The main objective of this article is to examine Sun Yat Sen Mansion's wall floral ornamentation influenced by the Southern Chinese eclectic style (Figure 2). The first objective of this study is to identify the floral ornamentation wall motif in façade design. The second objective of this study is to determine the philosophy of the floral ornamentation on the Sun Yat Sen Mansion with material finishes. Throughout this research, wall floral ornamentation has become the primary focus for floral philosophy, influenced by the southern Chinese eclectic style, and relevant literature has been utilised to determine the historical development and influences that led to the selection of floral ornamentation in façade design.

Figure 2: Sun Yat Sen Mansion façade design with floral ornamentation
Source: Author

Ornamentation is the build-up of an object's shape and surface in order to call attention to it, make it appealing, and situate it within a specific context or fashion (Rawson, 2016). The form and surface of an object are one and the ornament cannot be separated from it (Hay, 2010). The Sun Yat Sen Mansion's wall floral decorations reflect the craftsmen's talent and bring their philosophy, which is influenced by the Southern Chinese eclectic style.

Literature Review

George Town, Penang was established by the British in 1786, giving it a history of more than 200 years (Zwain & Bahauddin, 2017). During the Western occupation, the majority of the Chinese people relocated to the George Town area (Zwain & Bahauddin, 2020). This *Peranakan* historic building's major architectural characteristics are most likely influenced by the Southern Chinese eclectic style (Zwain & Bahauddin, 2017). Chinese *Peranakan* architecture has a unique set of principles affected by factors such as culture and religion (Kumala & Widyastuti, 2022). This design element will be used in *Peranakan* architecture and decorative (Kumala & Widyastuti, 2022).

Various details and materials taken by employees from China are utilised for aesthetic components and shophouse ventilation in the façade design (Eddy *et al*., 2020). In *Peranakan* culture, the façade design will use pop-up colours to become eye-catching with a variety of colours (Darmayanti & Bahauddin, 2021). This ornamentation lacks documentation based on its philosophy and meaning, and this article will analyse the meaning of this floral ornamentation in the Southern Chinese eclectic style.

Ornamentation

The term "ornament" refers to the ornamentation used to enrich building façade design with meaning and philosophy (Elrayies, 2018). Ornamentation is the process of adding value to a piece of art to enhance the aesthetic aspects and the depth and clarity of its symbolic meanings; it is employed as a vital component of work in every culture (Elrayies, 2018). Ornament is closely connected to, but more comprehensive of pattern, ornamentation, and ornamental art (Rawson, 2016). Ornamentation reflects a culture's historical and cultural values at a certain era.

In architecture, ornamentation can be figured out in façade design with its own meaning. It is a method of architectural communication that uses a structured narrative approach to offer the identity of the building and the community as a whole (Elrayies, 2018). Ornamentation will be influenced by craftsmen who have access to various materials, abilities, and traditional motifs at specific times and locations to decorate the objects essential to their civilisation (Rawson, 2016). Several details and materials have been used in ornamentation motifs in façade design that relate to ethnicity and surroundings with their philosophy (Eddy *et al*., 2020).

The main components of Chinese ornamentation undoubtedly undergo modification to varied natural and cultural situations of nations outside of their native China, the country with the most extended fur season (Kumala & Widyastuti, 2022). The ornamentation of Southern Chinese eclectic style façade designs has been influenced by Chinese themes brought by their workers, who also brought various elements with their own philosophies (Eddy *et al*., 2020). Southern Chinese ornamentation focuses mainly on themes like flora, animals, and geometry, each having a distinct significance and eye-catching pops of colour (Armani & Arbi, 2014). The diverse ornaments of Southern China will bring their philosophy to bear on the carving and painting designs.

Chinese Floral Ornamentation

One well-known decoration that has been used in the Southern Chinese eclectic style with symbols and patterns is floral ornamentation. The ancient Chinese people's reverence for nature, expressing subject feelings, and pursuit of harmony in growth find figurative representation through the use of bird and flower motifs in

architectural embellishments (Yang & Jaing, 2022). Floral ornamentation features in Chinese architecture such as wood carvings and coloured porcelain plates affixed to the building's inside and exterior, add to the visual appeal of each structure (Halim & Royadi, 2022).

In China, structural construction elements are generally ornamented with floral motifs and nature elements (Rawson, 2015). Chinese floral ornamentation adds elements to the design of the ceiling, columns, and walls with pop-up colours for eye-catching (Halim & Royadi, 2022). Chinese culture with its origin and civilisation, having its own philosophy and knowledge based on ornamentation has impacted the floral motif (Yong *et al*., 2015). The craftsmen's design and culture will impact the creation of this flowery pattern (Rawson, 2015).

Certain flowers will be utilised in floral decorations to represent the four seasons and the twelve months (Yetts, 2018). The artisans and painters will create motifs based on flowers and a variety of flowers (Yetts, 2018). On the basis of their decoration, the craftsmen have excellent detailing and finishing. These symbols each have their own meaning such as wishes for good fortune, health, and wealth (Rawson, 2015). The most popular floral motifs in Chinese decoration include the peony, lotus, chrysanthemum, and plum flower, all commonly utilised. This is because each flower has its meaning in Chinese culture and religion (Ismail, 2013). The peony flower is a king flower all over the flowers; this is because the peony flower is symbolic of wealth and honour (Ismail, 2013). These flower motifs are related to Buddhist philosophy and will apply to their houses as ornamentation motifs (Royandi, 2013).

According to philosophy, floral ornamentation employs a range of sizes of flowers blended together in painting or carving because it indicates riches and honour (May, 2008). Flower ornamentation will be portrayed on the plastered flower relief using the "*jian nian*" technique, creating three-dimensional ornamentation (Yong, 2021). The rich, eclectic mix of cultural and symbolic ornamentation reflected not only the Chinese element but also the local foreign influences (Yong, 2021). This floral ornamentation comes in a variety of colours and these colours also bring meaning to the floral ornamentation (Yu, 2014). For example, yellow is the imperial colour of China, but it signifies "deceit" and "cowardice" in Northern Europe. It also represents "humility" and "renunciation" in the Buddhist tradition (Yu, 2014). Implying from the literature, the main influence of the wall floral ornamentation in Sun Yat Sen Mansion is basically from China, where their culture and religion influenced it.

Methodology

The qualitative research case study method was used to acquire the results. Case studies, secondary sources, observation, architectural documentation, and visual aids are methods of qualitative data that will be combined to produce the findings (John, 2013). Narrative analysis is a type of qualitative research that concentrates on a particular subject and examines the information gathered through case studies, questionnaires, observations, or other methods of a similar nature. A case study approach has been used in this study since it is the most beneficial and genuine. The value of floral embellishment may be seen in the façade design of Sun Yat Sen Mansion, which has been chosen as a case study of the Southern Chinese eclectic style. Data validation uses secondary sources like published journal articles and websites related to floral ornamentation research.

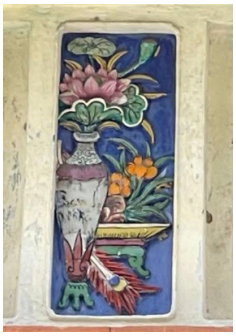
The photographing method was applied to determine the floral ornamentation in Sun Yat Sen Mansion, which was affected by the Southern Chinese eclectic style, where the floral ornamentation was primarily influenced by Chinese culture and religion. Thematic analysis was used in the study because it is a technique for analysing, identifying, and reporting themes in research data. Thematic literature reviews provide a complete and nuanced synthesis of study findings, setting them apart from other literature reviews. Its systematic method allows for a deeper comprehension of the topic matter and improves the review's clarity and relevance.

Results

This research analyses the floral decoration in Sun Yat Sen Mansion. The Southern Chinese eclectic style impacted design in China, where decoration is based on culture and religion. Based on their beliefs, flower adornment has its own philosophy and significance. These are floral wall ornamentations found in the Sun Yat Sen Mansion (Table 1).

Table 1: Meaning of the Southern Chinese floral ornamentation in the Sun Yat Sen Mansion

No.	Wall Floral Ornamentation	Type of Flowers and Materials	Colour	Meaning
1	 Plum flower wood carving	**Plum flower** **(梅花 Méi Huā)** Material: Wood carving Finishing: Gold paint Area: Door	**Gold**	**Plum flower:** Old age, riches, health, love of virtue, and natural death **Gold colour:** Prosperity, royalty, and good fortune
2	 Peony flower wood carving	**Peony flower** **(牡丹花 Mǔ Dān Huā)** Material: Wood carving Finishing: Gold paint Area: Door	**Gold**	**Peony flower:** King of flowers, rich, and honour **Gold colour:** Prosperity, royalty, and good fortune
3	 Lotus flower wood carving	**Lotus flower** **(荷花 Hé Huā)** Material: Wood carving Finishing: Gold paint Area: Door	**Gold**	**Lotus flower:** Truthfulness, kindness, beauty, and purity **Gold colour:** Prosperity, royalty, and good fortune

4	 Orchid flower wood carving	**Orchid flower** **(兰花 Lán Huā)** Material: Wood carving Finishing: Gold paint Area: Door	**Gold**	**Orchid flower:** Refinement, humility, beauty, and grace **Gold colour:** Prosperity, royalty, and good fortune
5	 Plum flower wood carving	**Plum flower** **(梅花 Méi Huā)** Material: Wood carving Finishing: Gold paint Area: Wall	**Gold**	**Plum flower:** Old age, riches, health, love of virtue, and natural death **Gold colour:** Prosperity, royalty, and good fortune
6	 Peony flower wall painting	**Peony flower** **(牡丹 花 Mǔ Dān Huā)** Material: Porcelain tiles Finishing: Oil paint with floral motif Area: Wall	**Red and blue**	**Peony flower:** King of flowers, rich, and honour **Red colour:** Happiness, celebration, vigour, prosperity, and good fortune **Blue colour:** Loyalty, bravery, honesty, and integrity
7	 Lotus flower clay with paint finishes	**Lotus flower** **(荷花 Hé Huā)** Material: Clay Finishing: Oil paint with floral motif Area: Wall	**Pink**	**Lotus flower:** Truthfulness, kindness, beauty, and purity **Pink colour:** Happiness, celebration, vigour, prosperity, and good fortune

8	 Daisy and peach flower clay with paint finishes	**Peach flower** **(桃花 Táo Huā)** **Daisy flower** **(雏菊花 Chú Jú Huā)** Material: Clay Finishing: Oil paint with floral motif Area: Wall	**Pink, white, and yellow**	**Peach flower:** Fertility, springtime, and notably long life **Daisy flower:** Arrival of spring, joy, and brand-new relationships **Pink colour:** Happiness, celebration, vigour, prosperity, and good fortune **White colour:** Purity **Yellow colour:** Power, prosperity, optimism, and success
9	 Pear flower clay with paint finishes	**Pear flower** **(梨花 Lí Huā)** Material: Clay Finishing: Oil paint with floral motif Area: Wall	**White**	**Pear flower:** Promise of a long marriage and the beginning of a new life **White colour:** Purity
10	 Pear flower clay with paint finishes	**Pear flower** **(梨花 Lí Huā)** Material: Clay Finishing: Oil paint with floral motif Area: Wall	**White**	**Pear flower:** Promise of a long marriage and the beginning of a new life **White colour:** Purity
11	 Chrysanthemum flower wall painting	**Chrysanthemum flower** **(菊花 Jú Huā)** Material: Porcelain tiles Finishing: Oil paint with floral motif Area: Wall	**Yellow**	**Chrysanthemum flower:** Happiness and energy **Yellow colour:** Power, prosperity, optimism, and success

12	 Peony flower wall painting	**Peony flower** **(牡丹花 Mǔ Dān Huā)** Material: Porcelain tiles Finishing: Oil paint with floral motif Area: Wall	**Red**	**Peony flower:** King of flowers, rich, and honour **Red colour:** Happiness, celebration, vigour, prosperity, and good fortune
13	 Plum flower wall painting	**Plum flower** **(梅 花 Méi Huā)** Material: Porcelain tiles Finishing: Oil paint with floral motif Area: Wall	**Pink**	**Plum flower:** Old age, riches, health, love of virtue, and natural death **Pink colour:** Happiness, celebration, vigour, prosperity, and good fortune
14	 Plum flower tiles pattern	**Plum flower** **(梅 花 Méi Huā)** Material: Porcelain tiles Finishing: Porcelain paint with floral motif Area: Floor	**Egg nog**	**Plum flower:** Old age, riches, health, love of virtue, and natural death **Yellow colour:** Power, prosperity, optimism, and success
15	 Cherry flower tiles pattern	**Cherry flower** **(樱桃花 Yīng Táo Huā)** Material: Porcelain tiles Finishing: Porcelain paint with floral motif Area: Wall	**Pink**	**Cherry flower:** Goddess of flowers, love, and fertility **Pink colour:** Happiness, celebration, vigour, prosperity, and good fortune

Source: Authors

According to these findings, the peony flower has been prominently featured in the floral ornamentation. The peony flower holds significant cultural and religious importance in Chinese culture, symbolising respect and wealth. Wood carving at the entryway and wall painting on the façade design include peony flowers. Blue and red paint were used on a wood carving and a painting to depict this peony bloom.

Another flower commonly observed in the floral decoration is the lotus flower. Lotus flowers can be found in door wood carvings and wall clay carvings finished with clay paint. The lotus flower symbolises honesty, kindness, beauty, and purity. Various other flowers are also present in the floral decoration, including pear, chrysanthemum, cherry, plum, and peach blossoms, each with unique significance and colour.

The daisy flower, traditionally associated with Western style has been used in this floral adornment. In Chinese philosophy, the daisy flowers symbolise purity, innocence, new beginnings, joy, and brightness. Daisy was a Victorian symbol of purity, faithfulness, and the ability to keep secrets. This demonstrates the obvious use of street settlement in George Town, Penang shophouses.

Discussion

Wall floral ornamentation in Sun Yat Sen Mansion is a *Peranakan* shophouse influenced by the Southern Chinese eclectic style. These floral motifs can be seen in the wooden door carving with gold paint finishes (Wong, 2021). Gold paint finishes symbolise prosperity, royalty, and good fortune (Elrayies, 2018). In *Peranakan* culture, they believe gold will bring prosperity to their lives and needs to be applied to their façade design (Wong, 2021). Wall ornamentation in façade design will use original colours based on the flower such as red for peony flowers, pink for plum flowers and lotus pinks, and yellow for chrysanthemums (Darmayanti & Bahauddin, 2021).

Peony Flower (牡丹花 Mǔ Dān Huā)

The tree peony is one of the most adored flowers in China, underwent a name change over the centuries from "*芍药 sháo yào*" to the mudan flower (Rowson, 2006). This change occurred due to the advent of a red variety (since "*dan*" is one word of "red"). White peonies or "*白牡丹 bái mǔ dān*" are symbolic of gifted young women who are both beautiful and intelligent. Like many flowers, the peony represents a young girl (Yetts, 2018). The well-known "*Kun qu opera 昆曲*" "The Peony Pavilion" "*牡丹亭 mǔ dan tíng*" is centred on young love. In Chinese culture, the peony flower is a king of flowers because it symbolises wealth and honour (May, 2008).

This peony flower is always found in door carving ornamentation and wall painting ornamentation. The peony flower or Mudan flower brings wealth and honour to the *Peranakan* owner based on their religious beliefs (Rowson, 2006). In Sun Yat Sen Mansion, peony flowers are in three colours: Gold, red, and blue. In Chinese culture, gold is associated with prosperity, royalty, and good fortune. Red symbolises of happiness since it represents happiness, celebration, vigour, prosperity, and good fortune (May, 2008). In traditional Chinese culture, blue was frequently linked to virtues like loyalty, bravery, honesty, and integrity (Yetts, 2018).

Based on *Peranakan* culture, this peony flower is the king of flowers and will present their lives (Rowson, 2006). The combination of flowers and colour is symbolic of wealth and this culture still adapts to their modern lives with the simplicity of peony flower ornamentation (May, 2008).

Plum Flower (梅花 Méi Huā)

The plum flower holds significant meaning in Chinese culture. Its five petals symbolise the Five Blessings in Chinese culture: Old age, riches, health, love of virtue, and natural death (Rowson, 2006). It is a popular theme in Lunar New Year celebrations because the plum flower is the first blossom to bloom while the winter air is still biting. It symbolises nature's strength and vigour (Elrayies, 2018).

In ancient Chinese lettering, the character for plum blossom reflects the values of courage and power (Elrayies, 2018). Within the realm of art, the plum flower holds a significant position as one of the "Three Friends of Winter", along with pine and bamboo (Yetts, 2018). "Three Friends of Winter" is a theme that represents Confucian values like perseverance, humility, and fortitude. It is also recognised as one of the "Four Gentlemen", alongside chrysanthemum, orchid,

and bamboo (May, 2008). "Four Gentlemen" stands for purity, righteousness, patience, and humility.

In *Peranakan* wall floral ornamentation, this plum flower can be found in door and wall designs (Wong, 2021). Plum flowers with wood carving designs will be painted in gold and pink colours in the painting design. Gold represent prosperity and pink is considered the same tone as red based on Chinese culture and represents the same meaning as red colours. They believe that happiness and prosperity symbolise success in their daily lives.

Lotus Flower (荷花 Hé Huā)

The lotus is one of the most important flowers in Chinese culture, as it represents the sacred throne of Buddhists (Rowson, 2006). It is regarded as a symbol of perfection and purity of the heart and mind since it emerges from the muck and is thought to be so lovely. As it is said to represent the throne or sacred seat of the Buddhist, it is very strongly related to Buddhism and is consequently connected with enlightenment and serenity (Yetts, 2018). For the Chinese, the lotus represents truthfulness, kindness, beauty, and purity (Elrayies, 2018).

The lotus flower is a flower since it is associated with the human body and the Buddhist faith. The lotus flower symbolises human life that gives birth is a supporter of the world and is said to be a supporter of life (May, 2008).

Lotus flowers can be found throughout Sun Yat Sen Mansion in the door carving embellishment and in the wall clay design. The lotus flower door carving will be done in gold and the clay will be done in pink. In *Peranakan* culture, success and happiness have the same connotation.

Orchid Flower (兰花 Lán Huā)

The orchid flower, especially in its smell, symbolises refinement and humility, and is connected with female attractiveness (May, 2008). Despite being stunning, it typically grows in isolated small groups rather than a vast mass of blooms. In China, several varieties of wild orchids are highly regarded (Rowson, 2006). Popular girls' names include Lan. Chinese culture values orchids for their simple beauty and grace (Yetts, 2018). These flowers are frequently connected with Confucius, the famous teacher and philosopher.

Confucius also lauded the orchid as a representation of the ideal man. The orchid flower is regarded as a perfect subject for painting, together with bamboo (May, 2008). It takes significant expertise to represent the delicateness and brittleness of the blooms and leaves (Elrayies, 2018).

An orchid flower is a single flower that can be found in door carvings and Sun Yat Sen wall floral ornamentation. Door carvings in the Sun Yat Sen Mansion will use a gold paint finish to symbolise prosperity, royalty, and good fortune. In the Southern Chinese eclectic style, all the door wood carvings will use gold paint finishes for the flower ornamentation.

Peach Flower (桃花 Táo Huā)

Peach trees are cultivated all around China and various components of the plant are employed in traditional Chinese medicine (Elrayies, 2018). Branches were placed at home entrances during the New Year because the wood is believed to keep demons away (this is likely linked to the homophone "*táo*", which means "to eliminate" in Chinese) (Rowson, 2006). The peach is connected with fertility, springtime, and notably long life in Chinese culture (Yetts, 2018).

In Sun Yat Sen Mansion, peach flowers can be found in wall clay designs with pink colour finishes. In *Peranakan* culture, they believe peach flowers represent happiness, celebration, vigour, prosperity, and good fortune and this motif is easily found in ornamentation because it is influenced by the Southern Chinese eclectic style.

Daisy Flower (雏菊花 Chú Jú Huā)

The daisy flower represents innocence and purity (Elrayies, 2018). It is often given as a gift to children, representing optimism and fresh starts, while adults associate daisies with frankness

and simplicity (May, 2008). They are linked to the arrival of spring, joy, and brand-new relationships (Yetts, 2018). Daisies are admired for their beauty and delicate aroma in addition to their symbolic importance.

In the Sun Yat Sen Mansion wall clay ornamentation wall design, daisy flowers can be found in two colours; white and yellow. White colour is related to the metal element and represents purity in Chinese culture. Yellow is an auspicious colour since it represents power, prosperity, optimism, and success. Yellow is the colour associated with earth in the Chinese Five Element Theory.

Pear Flower (梨花 Lí Huā)

Pears are fruit trees with a lengthy lifespan (up to 350 years), representing the desire for a long existence (Rowson, 2006). The pear, unlike the majority of other fruits has the terrible homophone "*离 lí*", which means "separate; divide", making it inappropriate to offer it to a couple as a gift (May, 2008). Pear flowers are utilised as decorative embellishments to centrepieces, bouquets, and flower arrangements since they historically symbolise purity, love, and longevity in Chinese culture (Yetts, 2018). The beautiful white flowers are frequently seen at weddings as promises of a long, loving marriage, and the beginning of a new life.

Chrysanthemum Flower (菊花 Jú Huā)

The chrysanthemum flower name is pronounced similarly to the word "久" in Chinese, which means "long enduring". Because infusions prepared from their petals are thought to offer medical benefits and chrysanthemums symbolise of prosperity and long life (Rowson, 2006). This flower represents happiness and energy and is a favourite during autumn and Lunar celebrations (Yetts, 2018).

In Chinese culture, the chrysanthemum is a famous flower that has been used as an ornamental motif (Elrayies, 2018). In Sun Yat Sen Mansion, this flower can be seen in the original colour of the wall tiles, yellow. Yellow is a lucky colour that represents power, prosperity, optimism, and success (May, 2008). *Peranakan* culture believes this flower can give power to their lives because the *Peranakan* people, most of whom will do business when they come to George Town, Penang (Wong, 2021).

Cherry Flower (樱桃花 Yīng Táo Huā)

The cherry tree is native to northern and central China and because the wild types have a very bitter flavour, they were mostly utilised as remedies (Rowson, 2006). "Baby peach" is how its name is translated into Chinese. The colour of a woman's lips is sometimes compared to cherry and is generally seen as a sign of freshness and attractiveness (Elrayies, 2018). This is because of its endurance. It is regarded as one of the flowers in the Queen Mother of the West's garden. "Eating cherries" is another euphemism for making love. Thus, it should be used with caution (May, 2008). The Cherry Blossom is a symbol of femininity and love in Chinese culture. The flower is linked with the goddess of love and fertility and it is said that the Cherry Blossom's petals may promote love (Yetts, 2018).

In Sun Yat Sen Mansion, this flower can be found in the wall tile design with pink pop-up colours on the façade. Pink is seen as a variation of red. Pink has the same meaning as red, which brings the happiest colours since it represents happiness, celebration, vigour, prosperity, and good fortune (May, 2008). In *Peranakan* culture, this flower and its colours can be found at a wedding ceremony because they symbolise celebration.

Conclusions

In summary, the Sun Yat Sen Mansion's wall floral ornamentation was inspired by Chinese four-season flowers. This is because every season of flowers during these four seasons in a year will provide its own philosophy to their culture and religion. This wall flower ornament is special since skilled artisans created each floral motif. As seen in the Sun Yat San Mansion, every flower ornamentation feature will vary or be the same as in other buildings, depending on

the artisans and artists. Floral ornamentation with various colours such as gold, white, blue, yellow, and blue, each has a meaning that reflects Chinese culture and religion. These colours have their own meaning for the interior and exterior of the building. Gold and red have been dominant floral ornamentation colours because they symbolise luck and prosperity. In *Peranakan* culture, this floral wall ornamentation will give prosperity and long lifelessness in their life and needs to be applied in their façade design.

The findings of this study have demonstrated that the floral ornamentation in Sun Yat Sen Mansion was influenced by Southern Chinese eclecticism with sustainable architectural values and cultural identities. *Peranakan* culture is related to Southern Chinese culture and it is believed that every single flower has its own meaning such as prosperity and long life. Façade design in *Peranakan* culture has, until now, applied all this floral motif, even though it has been simplified in wall floral ornamentation. This is important because based on their culture and religion, this ornamentation will give them spirit and help them live a rich and long life.

This article answers the first objective based on floral ornamentation, which has its own philosophy based on the belief that rich and honourable people live in *Peranakan* culture. The second objective answer for this article is the floral ornamentation used in wood carving and clay paint finishes as material finishes on the walls with various colours that give such as gold representing prosperity and red representing happiness.

Acknowledgements

This study expresses its profound gratitude to the guidance of lecturers under the course of RDL470 Interior Architecture Topical Studies conducted in the Year 4 of the Interior Architecture Programme at the School of Housing, Building and Planning, Universiti Sains Malaysia, as well as to other parties that have significantly contributed to its research.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declared that they have no conflict of interest.

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