

# Hong Kong Temple Fact Sheet



**Location:** 2 Cornwall Street, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon City, Hong Kong

**Original Plans Announced:** October 3, 1992

**Original Groundbreaking:** January 22, 1994

**Original Dedication:** May 26, 1996

**Renovation Construction Began:** July 22, 2019

**Rededication:** June 19, 2022

**Architect:** Aedas Ltd. – HK

**Contractor:** ISP Limited

**Landscape Architect:** Urbis Design – HK

**Lighting Design:** WSP – HK

**Property Size:** 0.31 Acres

**Building Size:** 51,921 square feet

The Hong Kong Temple was the 48th temple built by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was originally dedicated in 1996 by President Gordon B. Hinckley. President Hinckley was inspired to create the unique temple design during a visit to the Asia Area in 1991.

After its rededication, the Hong Kong Temple will serve members across Asia. There are currently 282 temples operating, announced or under construction throughout the world.

## EXTERIOR FEATURES

**BUILDING:** As part of the renovation, several exterior details were updated while keeping the original design. The primary structure of the building stayed the same but existing concrete was reinforced and a substructure of steel was introduced to attach the exterior stone cladding.

Giallo Ornamental stone was used on the base of the temple up to the first floor, which then transitions to Sunset Gold up to the roof. Both of these stones were derived from the Jianming Quarry in Xiamen, China.

**LANDSCAPING:** The temple grounds are filled with beautiful flowering trees, shrubs, and groundcover that were chosen to create a place of reverence and reflection. Local horticulturists provided the best options and spacing for each plant throughout the site.

**FOUNTAINS:** The existing water fountain, exterior fences, and walkways did not change from the original design and layout. The materials were updated, and the stone was replaced with Giallo Ornamental stone.

## INTERIOR FEATURES

**PATTERNS:** The Chinese meander motif, also known as the cloud and thunder pattern, can be found throughout the temple. This pattern signifies the cycle of rain: the clouds, and then the thunder, and then the rain, which gives new life.

**CARPETING:** The carpet carving in the sealing and celestial rooms, which was manufactured by Rugs International, features the cloud pattern in a soft creamy color.

**STONE:** Flooring materials consist of Giallo Tafouk tile and Gold Red Green floral nylon rug, depending on the area of the temple.

**PAINTING:** Two different types of decorative paint were used throughout the Hong Kong Temple: decorative stencil designs and mural designs. The decorative stencil design is based on the patterns commonly found on ancient Chinese ceramic plates, bowls, and jars. The main design starts in the entry, baptistry and bride's Room. Slight layers of complexity are added as you move from the instruction room into the celestial and sealing rooms.

**INTERIOR ART GLASS:** The main subject of the Hong Kong Temple art glass is the Yulan magnolia tree, which is a tree native to China. It produces an elegant white flower streaked with light pink. The white flower has been a sign of purity since ancient times. The colors of the art glass represent the natural color and variation of the Yulan magnolia flower. The art glass in the celestial room is meant to act as a traditional Chinese screen with a green border and light golden background color.

**FRONT RAILINGS:** The thunder pattern can be seen in the front railing and details of the furniture pieces.

**LIGHTING:** The lighting in the Hong Kong Temple was designed to be a modern representation of the traditional wooden lantern. The chandeliers throughout take the hexagonal shape of many Chinese lanterns. The ornate wooden frame is represented by a simple bronze frame slightly flaring at the top and bottom.

Translucent acrylic panels or crystals represent the rice paper lens. A single crystal prism hangs from the bottom of the chandeliers, representing the red tassels that hang from traditional Chinese lanterns.

**CEILINGS:** The interior of the temple is filled with elements that are inspired by ancient Chinese architecture and design. The gypsum board ceiling in the celestial room is patterned after a simple type of Chinese ceiling where minimum beams are used. In a traditional Chinese temple, three of the walls were typically constructed of heavy masonry with wood posts projecting upward. The fourth wall was mainly wood construction and contained portals in and out of the temple.

**MILLWORK:** Decorative millwork throughout the temple showcases three uniquely Chinese characteristics. First, the Chinese screen is used as a decorative pattern on panels and doors. Second, the wood grain of the decorative panels is an asymmetrical swirling pattern that mimics the strong wood grain on traditional Chinese boxes. Third, the fretwork in the upper portion of the ordinance room walls helps give a gardenlike feel to the rooms and is reflective of a motif commonly seen in Chinese design. The hardware features an escutcheon plate with a square patterned border that matches the rhythm of the art glass. The lever was chosen because the hexagonal shape is similar to ancient Chinese bronzework.

**DOORS AND HARDWARE:** The doors are wood with locally sourced hardware.

**UNIQUE FURNITURE:** The thunder pattern can be seen in the front railing and details of the furniture pieces.

