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Miyahara Residence – BULAO 125

Guidebook



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Preface



The Miyahara Residence has a long and rich history. Nearly a century has passed since its erection, yet it remains as magnificent as ever. Strolling around the building, one has the impression that Dr. Miyahara Takekuma is still residing in his former residence, quietly contributing to Taiwanese society, even though he long left this house behind at the end of the war. Who would have known that there was once a Japanese doctor who devoted his life towards the education, healthcare, and the very politics of Taiwan? Others may have forgotten this bit of history, but we will surely remember him and his contributions.

The Miyahara Residence is currently operated by the Hondao Senior Citizen's Welfare Foundation. Emphasis is put not only on the reinvigoration of historical monuments, but also the participation of senior citizens in creative industries via a variety of projects, breathing new life into old buildings. BULAO 125 is thus a project meant to facilitate the social

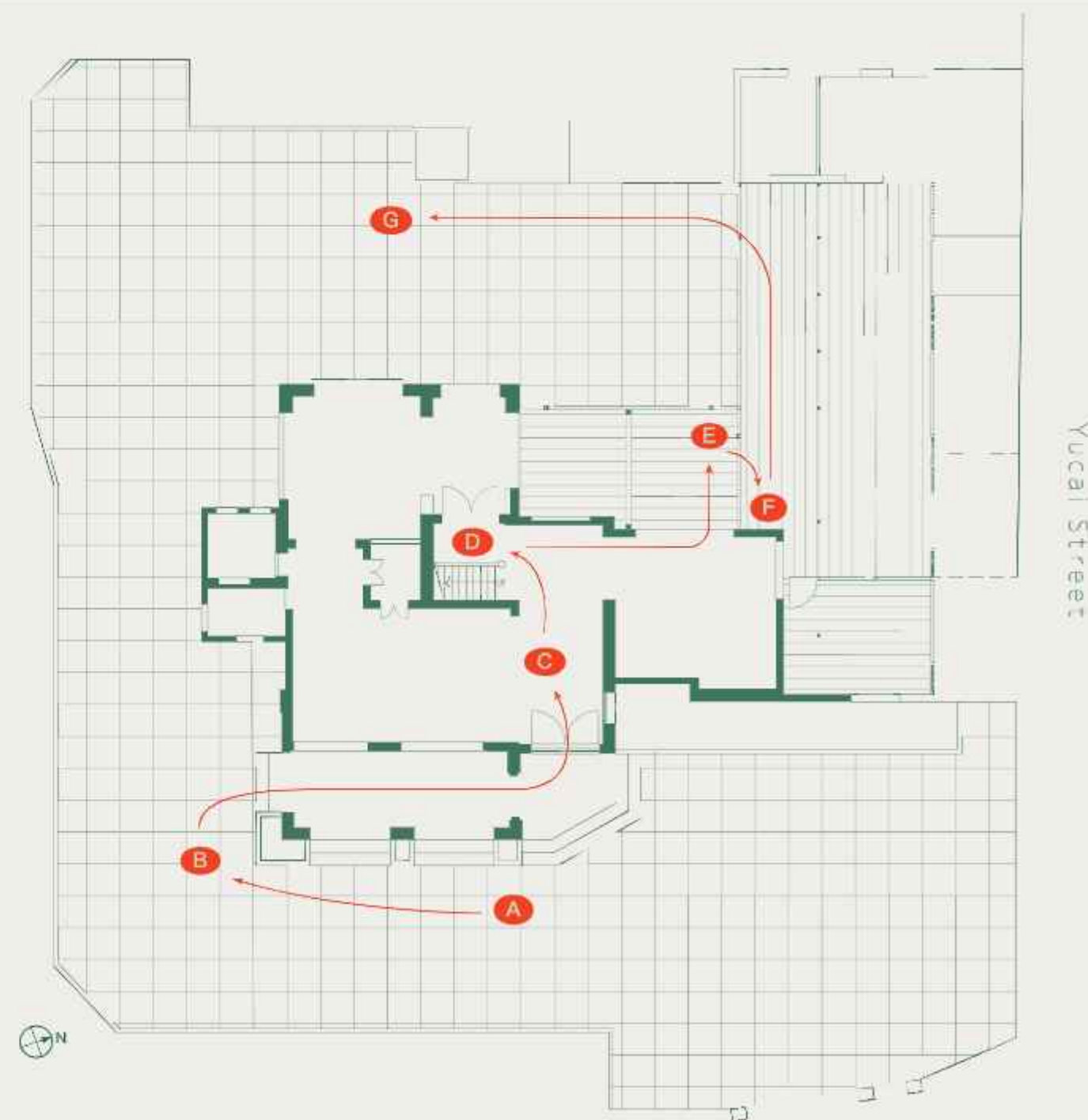
participation of senior citizens whilst providing them with work opportunities. Being old doesn't have to be depressing, and we encourage the elderly to pursue their dreams and live a new life.

Via this industry-academia collaboration project with National Taichung University of Science and Technology, we provide you with this English guidebook and its corresponding audio-guide (please use QR codes at guiding spots in the Miyahara Residence). In this guide, you will learn about the story of Dr. Miyahara Takekuma, as well as the history of the Miyahara Residence. We hope that through our guidebook, you can appreciate what makes this building so unique and attractive.

Floor Plan

● Audio Guide Map

— Recommended Route



▲ (Figure 1)

First Section, Shuangshi Road

The Exterior Design of the Miyahara Residence



▲ Figure 2 – Veranda on East and South wing of the brick structure



▲ Figure 3 – Modified Corinthian capital, ornamented with lion heads



▲ Figure 4 – Concentric rectangle ornaments



▲ Figure 5 – Eaves of the brick structure, ornamented with circles and ovals

Have you ever heard of the Miyahara Ice Cream Parlour, located in the former eye clinic founded by Dr. Miyahara Takekuma? It is a well-known landmark of Taichung City frequented by both local citizens and tourists alike. Many people have never heard of Dr. Miyahara Takekuma even though his former residence is very well known among the locals, albeit under the name of “Taichung Mayoral House”.

The former Taichung Mayoral House, now known as the Miyahara Residence, was built during the Japanese Occupation of Taiwan. The century-long history behind this mansion is definitely something worth discovering. Completed during the 1930s, it incorporated Western architectural techniques into its design, a feat typical of Wayō-Secchu (Japanese-Western hybrid) architecture. Such Western architectural techniques were first introduced to Taiwan by the Japanese, following their westernisation during the Meiji Restoration.

In the early days of the Japanese Occupation when Taiwan was still underdeveloped, many

buildings were built using the techniques of traditional Japanese wooden architecture, decorated with Western ornaments. Such buildings are known as Giyōfū (pseudo-Western-style) architecture. On the contrary, the Wayō-Secchu architecture sports a Western exterior design featuring elements of traditional Japanese architecture.

So, what is special about the Miyahara Residence? A number of features:

1. Contemporary design
2. Improved structural integrity
3. Simplistic decorative design with exotic elements
4. Wartime influences
5. Traditional Japanese wooden structure.

1. Contemporary design: The house has a neoclassical exterior design, featuring an arch at the entrance, complimented by an arcade. The East and South wings of the building also have verandas⁰¹, as seen in figure 2. These designs are thought to be influenced by Western architecture, a contemporary style of that time. The roof is supported by a series of

modified Corinthian⁰² columns, as shown in figure 3. This iteration has a flower-shaped capital as well as a lion head on each side, making for an architecturally diverse design.

2. Improved structural integrity: The house is supported by load-bearing brick walls, coupled with trusses and slabs⁰³ made of reinforced concrete. This signifies the evolution of contemporary Japanese architecture towards modernist approaches, with buildings no longer being supported purely by brick walls. Its roof is especially wide in size, taking advantage of the reinforced concrete structure while also providing shelter from the weather.

3. Simplistic decorative design with exotic elements: The exterior of the building is

02 The Corinthian order is a classical architecture style originating from ancient Rome and Greece. It is distinguished by its unique pillar design, specifically its capital (the head of the pillar.)

03 Concrete slabs are weight bearing structures used in reinforced concrete buildings. They typically support the floor or roof above (台灣 Word, 2013).

04 Koyagumi (小屋組) is a traditional Japanese roof truss structure. It has multiple supporting posts of varying heights distributed across the beam, with the posts eventually forming the angle of the roof. It has no diagonal struts to support the roof (Bureau of Cultural Heritage, 2017).

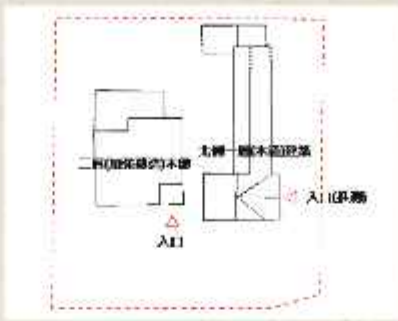
05 Komaikabe (小舞壁) is a traditional Japanese wattle and daub wall. It is made by bundling bamboo strips tightly with hemp ropes to form the wattle, while a mixture of clay, straws, and rice hulls form the daub. The wattle is then daubed, or “covered” with said mixture to form a composite wall. This technique causes minimal impact to the environment, and is also capable of regulating humidity and temperature, effectively making it a low carbon building technique (苗栗縣苑裡鎮山腳國小五年級歷史建築課程發展小組 / Miaoli County Yuanli Town Shan-jiao Elementary School, The Curriculum Development Group of Historical Architecture, Fifth Grade 2006).

01 Veranda (or verandah) is a roofed open-air gallery which is connected to the exterior of a building. It is defined by the presence of a roof, as well as its usually wide and continuous space. Some buildings may only have one veranda, while others could have multiple verandas on multiple sides (鄭古鈞, 1997, 《臺灣漢語殖民地樣式建築發展歷程之研究》, p. 9).

The Exterior Design of the Miyahara Residence



▲ Figure 8 – Aerial photo of the Miyahara Residence, 1974



▲ Figure 9 – Floor plan, 1976



▲ Figure 10 – Aerial photo of the Miyahara Residence, 1987



▲ Figure 11 – Current state of the Miyahara Residence, 2018

The Evolution of the Miyahara Residence's Design

Now that we have learnt the features of the Miyahara Residence, let's take a look at how much it has changed since its erection in the



▲ Figure 6 - The Miyahara Residence was first built on a mound

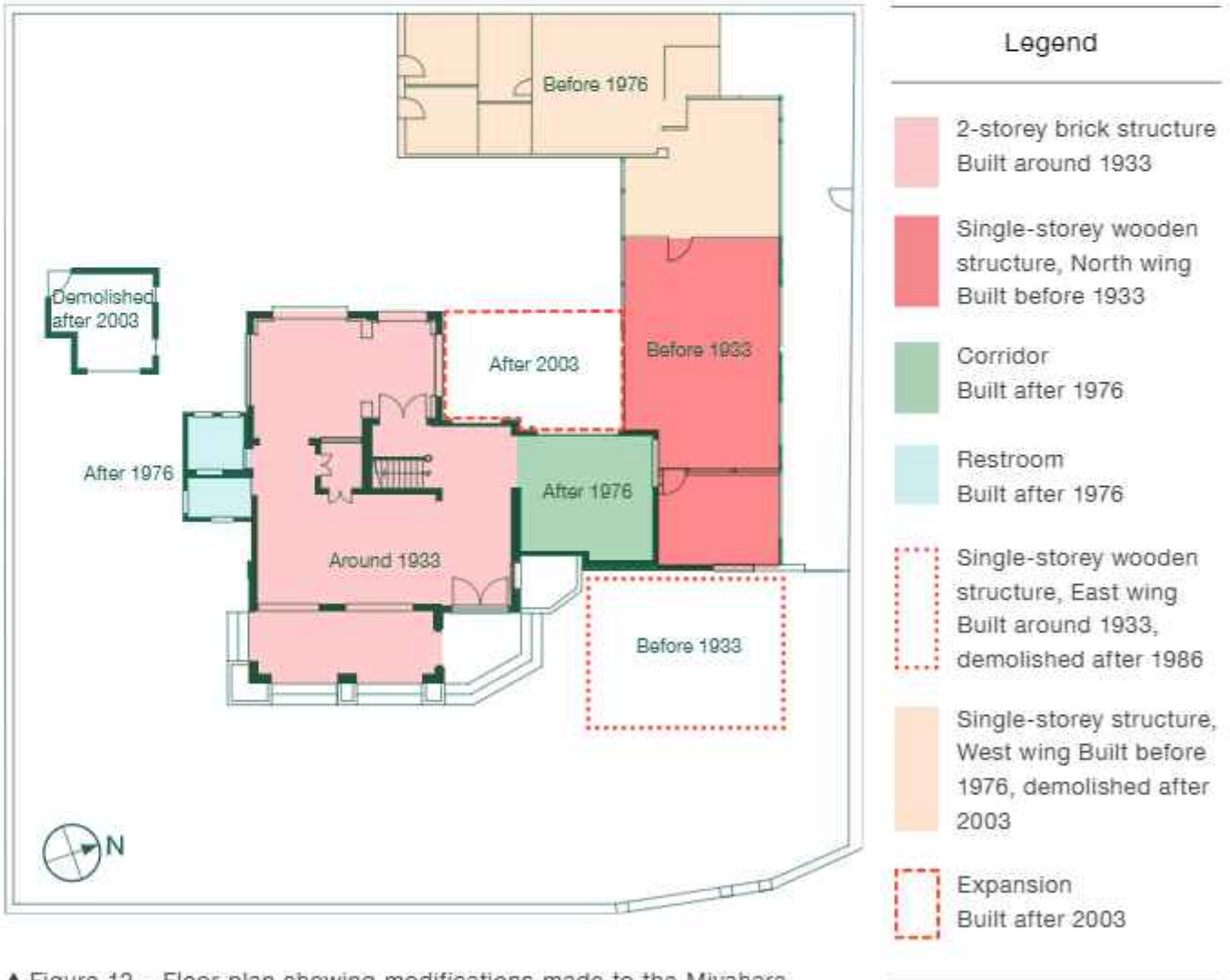


▲ Figure 7 - The Miyahara Residence in modern days

1930s. Old photos of the house show that the Miyahara Residence was originally built on a mound as seen in figure 6. Brick walls and bamboo fences marked the boundaries of the mansion. When it was newly built, both the East and the South wings of the building had verandas, but the veranda on the South wing was later modified into an enclosed indoor area.

By comparing old photos of the Miyahara Residence, we can observe that its original design lacks the space between the 2-storey brick structure and the single-storey wooden structure, as shown in figure 12 (see 1933). Thus, these are most likely later additions. A Japanese demado is also present West of the staircase, which contradicts the overall design aesthetic of the building. Old photos indicate that the West wing of the building was a semi-outdoors area, suggesting that the bay window was a later addition as well.

Aerial photos reveal that the Miyahara Residence underwent extensive modifications around 1986. The North-eastern wing of the wooden structure was partially removed, forming the square that exists to this day.



▲ Figure 12 – Floor plan showing modifications made to the Miyahara Residence

The Taichung

Oldtown

■ Taichung in the Late Qing Dynasty

Taichung was placed under the administration of Lan Hsing Pao (藍興堡) and Shu Tung Hsia Pao (揀東下堡), two distinctive administrative regions in the late Qing dynasty. The Miyahara Residence is located in the North District. To its South is the Central District, once known as "Tatun Street" (大墩街)⁰⁶. This was an early settlement that eventually grew into the modern Taichung City. Most of the settlers were Hokkien and Cantonese descendants. As the settlement grew and sprawled, it slowly became a major inland trade hub for imported

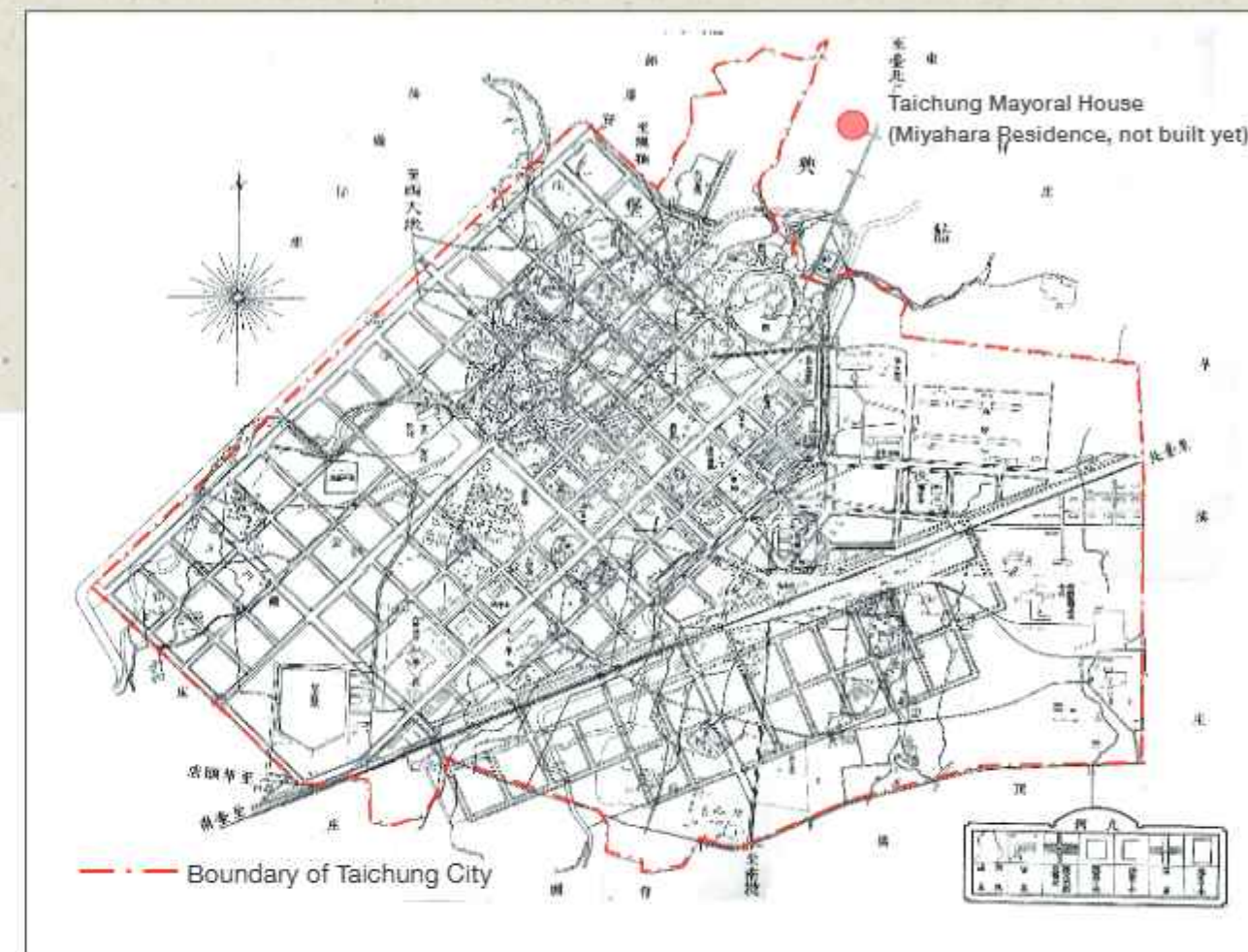
goods. The erection of the Taiwan Fucheng (臺灣府城)⁰⁷ in 1889 established Tatun Street and its vicinity as the main administrative centre of central Taiwan, while also laying the groundwork for future urbanisation.

■ Taichung under Japanese Rule

Japan acquired Taiwan from the Qing Empire after the First Sino-Japanese War in 1895. A few years later, the Government-General of Taiwan established local administration in central Taiwan. It merged East Tatun Street with its surrounding streets into Taichung

06 The origin of Tatun Street's name: Before the region was developed, swamplands formed much of its landscape along with a hill (墩, "tun" in Chinese). On the hill in 1733, the Qing Empire built an artillery battery when it was establishing a local militia/police division at Litou-Tien (犁頭店, now Nantun District), and renamed the hill as "Tatun (大墩, lit. big hill)". It is now known as the "Paotai Shan (砲台山, lit. artillery hill)", located in what is now Taichung Park. Nearby streets were then named after the hill, hence the name "Tatun Street". It includes today's Guangfu Road, Minquan Road, Section 2 of Sanmin Road, and Pingdeng Street. (Taichung City Cultural Affairs Bureau, 2011, The Program of Taichung Local Cultural Museums (臺中市地方文化館推動小組計畫), Appendix p. 2-1)

07 The boundary of the Taiwan Fucheng (a Fucheng is a city housing a prefectural seat) started at Ting Chiao Tsai Tou (頂橋仔頭) and ended at East Tatun Street, including Hsin Chuang Tsai Street (新莊仔街). Construction began with eight gates and four towers, along with offices and temples in late 1889. In December 1891, the completion of the city walls and the aforementioned structures marked the end of the construction. (Lai, C. C., 1993, The development of Taichung City – Analysis of a political ecology, Taichung History, 3: p. 13-15 (臺中市的開發與臺中市的創建 – 一個政治生態的分析, 臺中史學, 3: p. 13-15))



▲ Figure 13 – Overview map of Taichung City, 1911

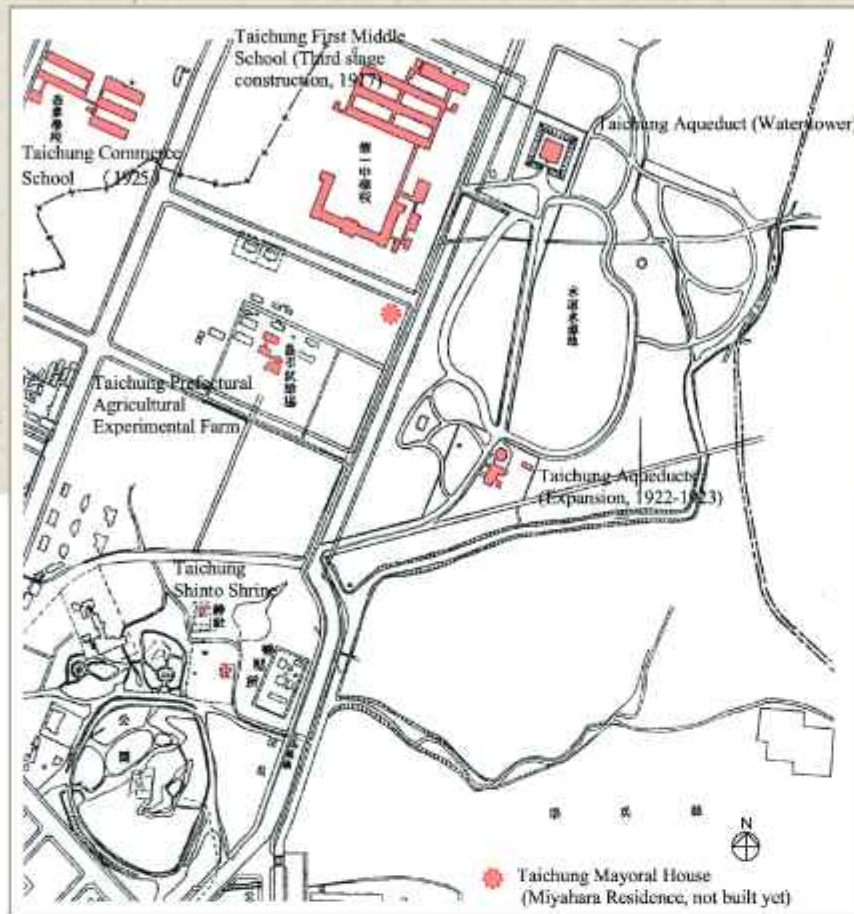
Street (臺中街)⁰⁸. Further urbanisation efforts were made in the following years.

In 1900, a plan to build Taichung Park and other public infrastructures was set, kicking off the Japanese urbanisation of Taichung City. The first urban plan was proposed on 6th of January 1900, laying out Taichung City as a grid. A new urban plan was introduced in 1911 following a storm that seriously

damaged street infrastructure. Under the new urban plan, the railroad became the cornerstone of Taichung's development into a modernised city. Thanks to the urbanisation efforts, commerce flourished throughout the city. Furthermore, as a result of the Taiwan Trunk Railway's opening in 1908, more work opportunities became available, and the population of Taichung City started to increase.

08 Chen, C. K., 2012, From Taiwan Fucheng to Taichung City – the rising and development (1894-1945), p. 56 (從省城到臺中市 – 一個城市的興起與發展 (1895-1945), p. 56.)

The Taichung Oldtown



▲ Figure 14 – Taichung City urban plan, 1926

Taichung's urban planning would see further improvements and expansions throughout 1914 and 1930. Following the completion of the Taichung Shinto Shrine and the Taichung aqueduct, the city started to sprawl Northwards. Taichung Street was renamed to Taichung City (臺中市) in 1920. It was around this period when educational institutions were built, mainly in Niitakacho (新高町), where the Miyahara Residence was located. These include the Taichung First Middle School (now Taichung First Senior High School) and the Taichung Commerce School (now National Taichung University of Science and Technology.) This new development attracted middle- and upper-class citizens to move into the region.

There may have been multiple reasons behind Dr. Miyahara's immigration to Taichung. The increasing staff needed to run his eye clinic could have been one of them, while the immigration of his daughter to Taiwan after her marriage could be another motivation. Conveniently, the East Asia Co-Prosperity Association, co-founded by him and other Taiwanese locals, was based in Taichung City as well. Another possible incentive might be the rapid development of the city, eventually convincing him to build his own there.

In the next section, we will cover the interior design of the Western-style building of the Miyahara Residence.

The Interior Design of the Western-style Building



▲ Figure 15 – Newel post with flower bud-shaped ornament



▲ Figure 16 – Acanthus centrepiece, main hall ornament

The Western-style building is unique in that it gives a simplistic impression at first glance, yet you'll notice the presence of sophisticated ornaments around the interior upon closer inspection. The design motif is composed mainly of straight lines, which not only makes the building look clean and straightforward, but also well-illuminated with natural light. One of the most notable ornaments is the ceiling of the main hall, featuring an egg-and-dart cornice, as well as an acanthus centrepiece. Another feature inspired by nature is the newel post of the wooden stairs, carved in the shape of a flower bud.

The construction of the Western-style building signified Dr. Miyahara Takekuma's status as a Japanese elite. To begin with, the location of his residence was already a strategic choice. Located within Niitakacho (新高町, now North District), the region was the focus of Japanese urbanisation efforts, and had seen rapid

development during Dr. Miyahara's time. The Western-style building makes extensive use of contemporary architectural elements as well, representing the prestigious status of its owner.

However, Dr. Miyahara was still a Japanese man, and he found it difficult to abandon the traditional Japanese culture and lifestyle he had been practicing for most of his life. His solution to this dilemma was to build two separate buildings for his new residence: the aforementioned Western-style building, as well as a traditional Japanese house. In practice, the two-storey Western-style brick house served as a guest house, a venue for his guests to congregate and socialise in. His own accommodation was instead provided by the single-storey wooden Japanese bungalow, satisfying his desire to maintain the Japanese way of life.

The Interior Design of the Western-style Building



▲ Figure 17 – Egg-and-dart cornice, main hall

The Western-style building has a neoclassical⁰⁹ design with few partitions in its interior. Except for the staircase, the balcony (which is separated by a picture window), and some storage space that are thought to be later additions, large and interconnected halls make up most of the floorplan. The building otherwise lacks any utility rooms for everyday life, such as kitchens, toilets, or bathrooms (the building currently has a toilet, which is also a later addition.) It is thus speculated that this building was intended to function as a venue for socialisation, serving as a guest house or a banquet hall.

09 The neoclassical style is a contemporary architectural style which took heavy inspiration from classical Roman and Greek architecture, and is characterised by its simplistic and modernist approaches.

10 Dr. Miyahara was one of the founding members of the East Asia Co-Prosperity Association, who founded the association after having attended the grand opening of the Tung-Chou Gynaecology Hospital (鄧東洲產婦人醫院). Although no historical records have been found regarding the meetings and banquets held in the Miyahara Residence, judging from the founding history of the aforementioned association, we can infer that regardless of their ethnicities, elites would often engage in a variety of functions and banquets to expand their connections, or as a form of political participation. We can then speculate that the construction of the guest house/banquet hall is closely related to Dr. Miyahara's social status, and possibly the founding of the East Asia Co-Prosperity Association (Chen P. N., 《臺中市歷史建築「臺中市市長公館」修復及再利用計畫成果報告書》, p. 3 – 15).

Dr. Miyahara's involvement in local politics supports this theory as well. As part of the Japanese elite class, he took part in a great many political movements¹⁰. The need to entertain his guests would peak by 1933, motivating him to build his residence, as well as his guest house/banquet hall in Niitakacho, Taichu.

In the next section, we will cover post-war history and the transformation of the Miyahara Residence in recent decades.

The Past and Present: Taichung Mayoral House



▲ Figure 18 – Before restoration, 2018



▲ Figure 19 – After restoration, 2019

The Postwar Era

Dr. Miyahara returned to Japan at the end of the Second World War. Both his residence and his eye clinic became properties of the ROC government of Taiwan, which turned the residence into the official residence of the Mayor of Taichung¹¹. This is thought to have been motivated not only by the delicate craftsmanship of the residence, but also its excellent location within the city thanks to its proximity to public transport hubs and educational institutions.

11 There are no explicit records detailing the specific time when the building was converted into the Taichung mayor's residence. The closest related record comes from an official document from the Taichung City Council dating back to 1965, which mentions the existence of the Shuangshi Road (雙十路) former mayoral house.

12 According to archived official documents, there were plans to hand the management of the former mayoral house to the Taichung City Council in 1965, transforming it into a branch office of the council. This did not happen until October of that year, when the council finally agreed to take over management of the building after city government staff residing in the house had moved out. The Official Residence of the Mayor then was moved to No. 101, Minquan Road (民權路), which was the city council's guest house during the Miyahara Residence's time. The building never was, however, made into a branch office of the council.

A Brief History of Previous Mayors of Taichung

Starting from 1948, mayors resided in the residence during their tenures. Among them were Chen Tsung-hsi (陳宗熙), Yang Chi-hsien (楊基先), Lin Chin-piao (林金標), and many more. After Chiu Chin-Chou (邱欽洲), third elected mayor of Taichung moved out of the house following the end of his term in 1964, the building was converted into a hostel for staff of Taichung City Government, and later a guest house for the Taichung City Council¹² at some point. During Lin Cheng-chiu's (林澄秋) term in 1968, the building was

The Past and Present: Taichung Mayoral House

handed over to the Taichung City Government and renamed as Taichung Mayoral House¹³. Tseng Wen-Po (曾文坡) moved into the house in 1978, becoming the first mayor to move into the house since it was renamed. Lin Po-Jung (林柏榕), who moved into the resident in 1982, was the last mayor to live in the mayoral house.

■ The Miyahara Residence Today

The 1999 Chi-Chi Earthquake caused devastation throughout the country. Many historical buildings were damaged as a result, with Taichung being one of the hardest hit regions. In response to the damage dealt, the Council of Cultural Affairs (CCA, now Ministry of Culture) spearheaded restoration efforts by launching the Post-Chi-Chi-Earthquake Historical Buildings Renovation Project¹⁴. The

entire plan was set in motion after extensive discussions and deliberations throughout 2001 and 2002. 2002 also saw the declaration of the Taichung Mayoral House as a historical building by the Taichung City Government. Renovations subsequently started in 2003, restoring the building to its original appearance. In 2006, the city government commissioned Bo Wu Yuan International Co. Ltd. (博物園國際股份有限公司) to manage the building. Under the new management, creative industries and official residence were chosen as the building's theme, and food and exhibition services were provided on site. This marked the first reuse of the building since its mayoral house days.

In late 2015, the Cultural Heritage Department of Taichung City handed the management of the building over to the Social Affairs Bureau.



▲ Figure 20 – Before restoration, 2018



▲ Figure 21 – After restoration, 2019

In hope of rejuvenating the historical site by making the most use of it, the bureau contracted Hondao Senior Citizen's Welfare Foundation under an operate-transfer agreement in 2016. BULAO 125 was then created by the foundation to run the day-to-day operations of the building. The participation of senior citizens in the creative arts industry has become the new theme of the building, and plays a role in society accordingly. To achieve this, senior citizens are recruited into the team to host visitors, such as providing tour guides and foodservice. In 2019, the building was renamed as the Miyahara Residence, and was officially recognised as a memorial building.

Much has changed since the final brick of the residence was laid, and it was saddening to see the building slowly fading into irrelevancy. Fortunately, this is no longer the case, thanks to BULAO 125 and everyone behind the team, who have done their best to revive this building, putting it back on the map once again. It is not just about the mansion itself, but also the people behind it, especially our senior citizens, who have found their new dreams and goals in this modest yet significant building. Defiant towards their age, their bold stories will be remembered here, just like the Miyahara Residence.

¹³ According to archived official documents, in 1968 the Taichung City Government renamed the Taichung Mayoral House as the Taichung City Council Guest House, and vice versa. The new Mayoral House is located at No. 125, First Section, Shuangshi Road (雙十路) after the rename, and the new Guest House is located at No. 101 Minquan Road (民權路).

¹⁴ 徐基民, 邱士嘉, 張嘉祥, 2008, 《九二一地震歷史建築修復成果特輯》。

The Fascinating Story of Miyahara Takekuma



▲ Figure 22 – Dr. Miyahara Takekuma

On 31st January 1874, Dr. Miyahara Takekuma was born in Chiran, Kagoshima Prefecture of Japan. Not much is known about his early life, but we do know that he was very well educated in medical science. He was an alumnus of Aichi Medical School (now Nagoya University) and Tokyo Imperial University (now University of Tokyo). After receiving his first MD-PhD from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich in the fields of ophthalmology and pathology, he spent some time in Austria conducting related research. He returned to Japan afterwards and earned his second MD-PhD from Tokyo Imperial University. He also opened an eye specialist hospital in what was Yotsuya, Tokyo City (nowadays near Shinjuku Gyo-en).

Dr. Miyahara represented Tokyo City at the Taiwan Medical Conference of 1924, where he published his paper regarding fevers of unknown origin and their treatment. This was the first time he set foot in Taiwan. He would soon find himself back on the island just a year later, assuming the role of the medical director of Tainan Hospital under the appointment of the Government-General of Taiwan. Being a medical director, he once travelled all the way South to Sichongxi,

Takao Prefecture (now in Pingtung County), to treat the native locals – for free. He would eventually resign from this position in 1926 due to family matters.

A Land of Opportunities: Why Dr. Miyahara Settled Down in Taiwan

Having spent a few years studying overseas, it is obvious that living abroad was not a strange concept for Dr. Miyahara. This however begs the question: why Taichung of all places? Wouldn't somewhere like Europe be a better choice? Was there anything special about this newly found city?

To answer this question, we must look at Dr. Miyahara's personality, as well as the living conditions of Taichung. To begin with, Dr. Miyahara was known to be a curious individual who loved to travel around the world. We can safely assume that Taiwan, being a mysterious "Southern country" that he had never visited before, successfully attracted his attention. A more objective assumption could be drawn by observing Taiwan's climate patterns: a subtropical climate with recurring monsoon seasons, making for a warm and humid environment. It

is an excellent hotbed for pathogens and diseases to grow and spread. At the same time, Taichung was in urgent need of eye doctors too, as its still-developing healthcare struggled to provide service on a par with developed cities. These two factors presented an excellent career opportunity for Dr. Miyahara – a specialist in pathology and ophthalmology – to further conduct his research and broaden his career as a doctor. It was thus a reasonable choice for him to eventually settle down in Taichung.

Getting Involved in Politics

Dr. Miyahara was active not only in the medical field, but also in local politics and social affairs. He was a member of the Taichung Prefecture Consultative Council, the Taichung Prefecture Assembly, and the Taichung Prefecture Senate. He was also the headmaster of the Private Taichung School of Commerce (now Shin Min High School), and was one of the founding members of the East Asia Co-Prosperity Association¹⁵. It is worth noting that only scholars who were considered prestigious enough might be appointed as a member of the Taichung Prefecture Consultative Council by the Government-General. Dr. Miyahara was appointed not just once, but twice, which shows how prestigious he was as a scholar during his time.

The first Taichung Prefecture assembly election¹⁶ took place in 1936. In this election, Dr. Miyahara was nominated as a candidate by Taiwanese intellectuals such as Chen Hsin (陳忻) and Yeh Jung-Chung (葉榮鐘), believing that Dr. Miyahara was an ideal representative for the interests of Taiwanese citizens. Dr. Miyahara was subsequently elected by the electoral college, signifying the acceptance of a Japanese politician by Taiwanese citizens, that is, the success of the Japanese assimilation policy of Taiwan¹⁷. Although this election provided little self-governing power to the locals, it was nevertheless an important milestone in Taiwan's democratic development.

Dr. Miyahara also co-founded the East Asia Co-Prosperity Association with a few other Taiwanese elites, an association which advocated for the integration of Taiwan into the Japanese Empire. However, many conflicts occurred within the association, especially between the Japanese and Taiwanese members. Dr. Miyahara insisted on the equal treatment of Taiwan and Japan, yet many Japanese members believed that the Japanese were far superior to the Taiwanese, emphasising the assimilation of the latter. Initially, Dr. Miyahara had the backing of Takeshita Toyochi, the governor of Taichu Prefecture, and was thus able to maintain a

¹⁵ The East Asia Co-Prosperity Association was a political movement founded in December 1933. Contrary to what its name may suggest, it was not related to the concept introduced by the Japanese Empire during the Second World War. Its goal was to promote friendly exchange and harmony between Taiwan and Japan. Dr. Miyahara was its director, and Lin Hsien-tang (林獻堂) was its consultant. Other Taiwanese and Japanese elites form the rest of the group, including Lin Lih-tang (林烈堂), Chen Hsin (陳忻), Yeh Jung-Chung (葉榮鐘), and many others. In practice, however, it was more of a political smokescreen meant to dissolve local democratic movements by creating an illusion of peace and harmony (Wikipedia, 2021).

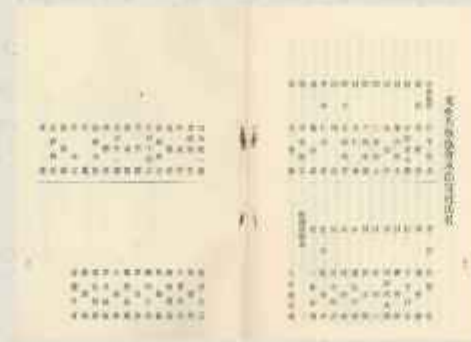
¹⁶ According to Japanese law, only men aged 25 or above who had paid a tax of at least five yen a year were allowed to vote, and half of the assembly members were appointed by the prefectural governors (Yang Shu-mei and Staff Reporter, 2010, Women Play a Vital Role in Taiwan's Elections, Want China Times).

¹⁷ Taiwan Nichinichi Shinpo (Taiwan Daily News), 1936, 《臺中立候補之互議內閣議和實例指陳黃三氏支持宮原氏》, Taiwan Nichinichi Shinpo database.

The Fascinating Story of Miyahara Takekuma



▲ Figure 23 – East Asia Co-Prosperity Association



▲ Figure 24 – Members of the East Asia Co-Prosperity Association

foothold within the association. Following Takeshita's transfer to Kwantung (now part of Liaoning, China), as well as the Imperial Era Name Incident¹⁸, Dr. Miyahara lost most if not all political support he had from the Japanese government and citizens alike. Consequently, the prefectural government took over the association, effectively dismantling the entire movement.

Post War

The Nationalist Government of the Republic of China took over Taiwan at the end of the Second World War, and ordered the eviction of all Japanese citizens. Bearing Dr. Miyahara's contribution to Taiwan in mind, Lin Hsien-tang (林獻堂) and other Taiwanese elites lobbied the Nationalist government to spare him from being evicted. Unfortunately, the Nationalist government refused their plea,

and Dr. Miyahara was forced to return to Japan in the end. Nobody knows how he spent the rest of his life in Japan.

Coming to Taiwan in the 1920s, Dr. Miyahara worked alongside Taiwanese intellectuals for the freedom and democracy of Taiwan. He tried his best to mediate between Taiwanese citizens and the Japanese Empire, hoping that his political movement would help this cause. Sadly, the movement itself became no more than a device to diminish local opposition by painting a fake image of harmony and acceptance of the Japanese Empire. It never became a vessel for the Taiwanese to express their opinions on equal grounds before integration could happen. However, this does not mean that Dr. Miyahara's efforts were in vain. He may be long gone, but the contributions he made to Taiwan shall be remembered forever.

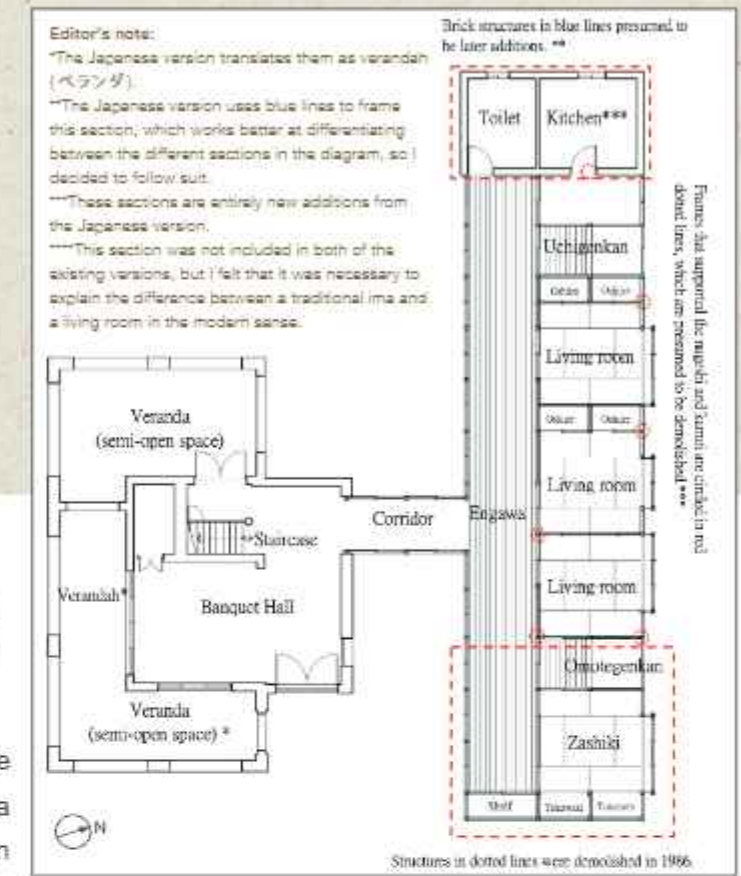
¹⁸ The Imperial Era Name Incident was a political event that occurred on October 1st, 1936, during a council meeting regarding the Remake of Folk Customs movement. The council meeting was held by then mayor of Taichu, Fujita Atsunori in the Shintomi Elementary School (now Guangfu Elementary School), with the goal of promoting Japanese as the official language, improving local sanitary practices, as well as the Japanisation of Taiwan as a whole. Around one hundred individuals, government officials and citizens alike took part in the meeting. A proposal was made during the meeting that the imperial era name should be adopted as the official calendar era, as opposed to the Gregorian calendar introduced by Europeans. In response, Dr. Miyahara strongly opposed this proposal on the grounds that the Gregorian calendar is commonly used in the medical field, and a change would confuse everyday life and activities. His speech caused an uproar in the participants, with many accusing him of treasonous behaviour, and the meeting fell into discord. In the end, Mayor Fujita had to intervene to appease the crowds and quell the uproar, and the proposal was subsequently passed (Taiwan Nichinichi Shinpo (Taiwan Daily News), 1936, 〈宮原氏の言辭に議場騒動に 混成臺中市の作興協議會〉, Taiwan Nichinichi Shinpo database).

The Interior Design of the Japanese Bungalow

► Figure 25 – Floor plan showing modifications made during the Taichung Mayoral House era (1933 – 1978)

The Western-style guest house of the Miyahara Residence is accompanied by a Japanese wooden bungalow. It has seen many changes over the years just like the rest of the residence.

The Japanese wooden bungalow, long and rectangular in shape, sits on the North side of the residence. Contrary to its Western-style counterpart, the Japanese building has only a single storey, and is used for day-to-day life. Based on accounts provided by Ms. Tseng Hsin-hui (曾馨慧), daughter of Tseng Wen-po (曾文坡), eighth mayor of Taichung the building had a genkan (玄関, a typically indoors entryway for occupants to remove their shoes), a zashiki (座敷, a room mainly used to entertain guests), a series of interconnected living rooms¹⁹, a kitchen, a bathroom, and a toilet. On the East side of the building were the zashiki and omotegenkan (表玄関, outer genkan, a genkan meant for guests), which



formed its main entrance. These were demolished in 1986. Between the westmost living room and the kitchen lies the uchigekkan (内玄関, inner genkan, a genkan meant for hosts), forming the secondary entrance of the building. Presumed to be a later addition, the toilet and the kitchen form the west end of the building. An engawa (縁側, a porch-like corridor structure) runs alongside these rooms, separating them from the yard. These rooms are connected with the engawa for ease of access, and are separated by shojis (translucent room dividers) or fusumas (opaque sliding doors) as per traditional Japanese architecture. It is thus presumed that this building was designed from the ground up to provide accommodation for Dr. Miyahara.

¹⁹ The Japanese term for the living rooms is 居間 (ima), and is now commonly used to refer to the living room. However, there are no distinctions between a living room and a bedroom in traditional Japanese houses, and ima refers to a multifunctional room that can support either of these activities.

The Transformation of the Miyahara Residence



▲ Figure 26 – Our team of elderlies behind BULAO Eatery



▲ Figure 27 – We serve hot homemade meals to warm your stomach and your hear



▲ Figure 28 – Poster advertising the Go Grandrider documentary



▲ Figure 30 – Leaves are collected here to decompose into organic fertiliser



▲ Figure 31 – Our elderly volunteers take great care in tending our precious garden

Granny's Homemade Recipe: BULAO Eatery

You might be wondering, why is there a restaurant in this historical monument? What does it have to do with this place? To answer that question, we need to go back to 2016 and take a look at the transformation of the Miyahara Residence.

In 2016, the Hondao Senior Citizen's Welfare Foundation was first contracted to manage this building. Aiming to promote the participation of senior citizens in the creative arts industry, the foundation created BULAO 125²⁰, where young adults work alongside elders to run and manage the historical site. Part of the residence was then turned into the BULAO Eatery, a restaurant run entirely by a team of 14 grandmas with an average age of 63.

In the early days of the BULAO Eatery, only traditional dishes such as rice cakes and misua (Taiwanese thin noodles) were served. When the building closed temporarily due to renovations, the restaurant started to serve bentos. After the renovations were completed, homemade dishes became part of the menu, along with afternoon snacks. The BULAO Eatery is now an important part of the Miyahara Residence, so make sure to drop by if you have the chance! You will definitely be impressed by the dishes we serve here.

Whose Bike Is It Parked Outside?

Behind the mansion sits a motorbike, a treasure of BULAO 125. It belonged to Grandpa Ah Tong, who rode it during his journey across Taiwan in the documentary film *Go Grandriders*²¹.

With his trustworthy motorbike in the back of his truck and a photo of his late wife firmly in hand, Grandpa Ah Tong²² came to the audition for the documentary film. He told the foundation the story of how he had promised his late wife that if they lived till 80, he would take her on one last trip across Taiwan. He meant to keep that promise, and he delivered it in the end. Grandpa Ah Tong passed away in 2011, ten years after embarking on his journey. His son, He Hung-chin and his family, donated the motorbike and helmet used



▲ Figure 29 – The motorbike that took Grandpa Ah Tong across Taiwan

during the journey to the Hondao Senior Citizen's Welfare Foundation. It has since become one of the most valued treasures of BULAO 125.

Granny's Green Thumb: Our Homemade Garden

You might also have noticed the garden next to Grandpa Ah Tong's motorbike. This garden is tended by our team of grandmas, who grow a variety of fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Our elderly volunteers take great care of this garden, using only natural and organic fertilisers without any man-made chemicals. Here, fallen leaves are gathered to decompose naturally, and then used to fertilise the plants. This garden not only supplies the eatery with fresh and delicious food, but is also quite a sight to behold! We sincerely invite you to come in and try out the best our grannies have to offer, where everything is natural and straight from the earth.

²⁰ The Hondao Senior Citizen's Welfare Foundation encourages elders to pursue their dreams and tries its best to provide job opportunities for senior citizens. It also encourages cooperation between young and old to create great things, especially in the creative arts industries.

²¹ The Hondao Senior Citizen's Welfare Foundation organised a documented trip across Taiwan, which was undertaken by a team of 17 elderlies with an average age of 81, proving that pursuing one's dreams is not a privilege limited to youngsters. The journey was then made into the documentary film *Go Grandriders*.

²² Grandpa Ah Tong, also known as He Ching-tung, was one of the 17 participants who joined the *Go Grandriders* project.

Afterword

We hope that you have enjoyed your time here at the Miyahara Residence, and perhaps learnt a little bit more about this magnificent piece of history. With his fascinating life, Dr. Miyahara Takekuma's tale continues to remind us of the events that unfolded here as if it was only yesterday.

We have also prepared a series of English audio guides to complement this English guidebook to the Miyahara Residence, and help you better understand the history of not just this mansion, but also Taichung City, from its early days to the modern era.

This residence also highlights the efforts made in the present by the Hondao Senior Citizen's Welfare Foundation, as well as the BULAO 125 Team, to facilitate the participation of the elderly in creative arts industries alongside younger generations. It also encourages the elderly to pursue their

dreams and provides work opportunities for them through the smart and sustainable usage of this historical monument. We hope that you can understand not only the history this residence embodies, but also how elders can remain young at heart regardless of their age.

If you happen to find yourself in Taichung City, please do come and visit us after getting a cool and refreshing ice cream from the Miyahara Ice Cream Parlour. After all, this is the place where Dr. Miyahara Takekuma, founder of what is now the Miyahara Ice Cream Parlour, resided during his time in Taiwan. His story – our story – must go on.



Appendix: Miyahara Takekuma's Life

Date	Event
13 January 1874	Miyahara Takekuma was born in Chiran, Kawanabe District, Kagoshima Prefecture.
1900	Graduated from Aichi Medical School (now Nagoya University).
1901	Graduated from Tokyo Imperial University (now University of Tokyo). Began practising medicine in Chiran in the same year.
1904	Started studying in Germany.
1906	Awarded MD-PhD by the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.
1907	Majored in ophthalmology in University of Vienna and Friedrich Wilhelm University (now Humboldt University of Berlin).
1908	Began practising medicine in Kagoshima City.
1913	His daughter, Miyahara Misako was born.
1918 – 1924	Conducted research on ocular bacteriology in the Faculty of Epidemiology, Tokyo Imperial University.
June 1923	Awarded MD-PhD by Tokyo Imperial University.
1924	Opened his ophthalmology hospital in Yotsuya District, Tokyo City (now Shinjuku) in February. Attended the Taiwan Medical Conference in November of the same year as the representative of Tokyo City.
1925	Appointed as the Medical Director of Tainan Hospital's ophthalmology department.
1926	Resigned from his position and opened a hospital in Tokyo City.
July 1927	Visited Taiwan to publish his understandings of the misconceptions on the Mudan Incident, following the refurbishment of the Tomb of Ryukuan Sailors, a tomb erected in remembrance of the Mudan Incident. Opened Miyahara Eye Hospital (now Miyahara Ice Cream Parlour) in the same year.

Date	Event
1931 – 1933	Appointed as a member of Taichu Prefectural Consultative Council.
December 1932	Gave a speech entitled "About the Eye and Aesthetics" during the Fujin Bunka Kouen-kai (Woman's Culture Lecture).
December 1933	Founded the East Asia Co-Prosperity Association with Taiwanese elites.
1936	Appointed as a member of Taichu Prefectural Consultative Council. Opposed the adoption of the Imperial era name during a council meeting regarding the Remake of Folk Customs movement, which led to the Imperial Era Name Incident. Resigned from the position of consultant from the Taichu branch of the Imperial Military Reserve Association as a result. Handed over the East Asia Co-Prosperity Association to the Taichu Prefectural Government in the same year.
1937	Appointed as a member of Taichu Prefectural Assembly.
1938	Appointed as a member of Taichu Prefecture Senate and Taichu Prefectural Assembly.
1939	Appointed as a member of Taichu Prefectural Assembly.
1940 – 1942	Appointed as a member of Taichu Prefecture Senate and Taichu Prefectural Assembly.
31 March 1943	The Taiwan Doctor's Conference was held. Elected as the representative of Taichu Prefecture.
1944	Appointed as a member of Taichu Prefecture Senate.
January 1945	Became the headmaster of the Private Taichung School of Commerce (now Shin Min High School).
March 1946	Deported to Japan by the Nationalist Government after failed pleas made by Taiwanese elites such as Lin Hsien-tang (林獻堂).

Appendix: History of Oldtown Taichung and the Miyahara Residence

Time Period	Date	Event
Early Days of Oldtown Taichung	1884	The French assault on Keelung during the Sino-French War showed the importance of Taiwan to the Qing court, leading to its decision to separate Taiwan from the Fujian province into a new province.
	1885	Liu Mingchuan was appointed as the first governor of Taiwan by the Qing Empire.
	1889	Liu Mingchuan started construction of the provincial capital around Dingqiaozitou (now part of South and East District, Taichung City) and East Tatun Street.
	1892	Construction of the provincial capital was halted due to a complex of financial, political, and transportation issues. Though it was eventually halted, these efforts laid the foundation of future urban developments in Taiwan.
	17 April – 8 May 1895	The Qing Empire ceded Taiwan, Penghu, and the Liaodong peninsula to the Empire of Japan, as per the terms of the Treaty of Shimonoseki. Japan assumed control over Taiwan in May of the same year.
	1896	William Kinnimond Burton ²³ and Hamano Yashiro ²⁴ proposed a grid plan for Taichu City.
	1908	Opening of the Taiwan Trunk Railway, which runs from Shinchiku (now Hsinchu) to Takao (now Kaoshiung). Commerce and population of Taichu flourished as a result.

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²³ William Kinnimond Burton was a British engineer born in Edinburgh, Scotland. He spent most of his career in the Japanese Empire and had become the consulting engineer for Taiwan's sanitary infrastructures in 1896. He was also known as the Father of Tap Water in Taiwan (Wikipedia, 2021).

²⁴ Hamano Yashiro was a Japanese engineer born in Chiba Prefecture, Japan. He served as the assistant of W. K. Burton and had become a civil engineer of the Government-General of Taiwan. He was also known as the Father of Aqueducts in Taiwan (Wikipedia, 2021).

Time Period	Date	Event
As Miyahara Takekuma's Private Residence	1924	Miyahara Takekuma visited Taiwan for the first time.
	1927	Opening of Miyahara Eye Hospital by Miyahara Takekuma.
	1933	Miyahara Takekuma built his residence at what is now North District, Taichung City. It is presumed that the success of his hospital, the immigration of his daughter to Taiwan, as well as the founding of the East Asia Co-Prosperity Association motivated him to settle down in Taichung.
	1935	Taichu City Expansion Plan was published by the Taichu City Government. The train station became the centre of future urban developments under this new plan, forming a north-and southward urban sprawl.
	March 1946	Miyahara Takekuma was deported to Japan by the Nationalist Government after failed pleas made by Taiwanese elites such as Lin Hsien-tang (林獻堂).
As the Official Residence of Mayor of Taichung	Post WWII	Confiscation of the Miyahara Residence along with other Japanese properties by the Nationalist Government. Later designated as the Official Mayor's Residence of Taichung.
	1948 – 1951	The first Mayor of Taichung, Chen Tsung-hsi, moved into the residence.
	1948 – 1951	Politician Chen Guo-fu moved to No. 8, Shuangshi Road, Taichung City after retirement.
	1951 – 1954	Yang Chi-hsien, then mayor of Taichung, moved into the residence.
	1954 – 1960	The son of Lin Chin-piao, then Mayor of Taichung, moved into the residence.

Appendix: History of Oldtown Taichung and the Miyahara Residence

Time Period	Date	Event
As the Official Residence of Mayor of Taichung	1960 – 1964	Chiu Chin-chou, then Mayor of Taichung, moved into the residence.
	1964 – 1966	Designated as the Taichung City Government's staff hostel.
	1965	Transfer of the residence to the Taichung City Council. Later designated as a guest house of the City Council.
	1968	The residence was transferred back to the Taichung City Government during the term of then mayor Lin Cheng-chiu. Later renamed into the Taichung Mayoral House.
	1974	Refurbishment of the building as a whole. Added toilets to the two-storey brick building. The whole project cost around 500,000 Taiwanese dollars.
	1978	Tseng Wen-po, then Mayor of Taichung, moved into the residence.
	1982	Lin Po-jung, then Mayor of Taichung, moved into the residence.
Under Management of the City Government	1986	Partial demolition of the single-storey wooden building (now the empty space near the main entrance).
	1 July 2002	Declared a historical building by the Taichung City Government.
	2003	Launching of the Taichung Mayoral House Refurbishment Project by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Taichung City Government.
	2004	The residence was opened to the public after being renamed as Taichung Mayoral House Art Gallery.
	2006 – 2014	The Cultural Affairs Bureau contracted Bo Wu Yuan International Co. Ltd. to manage the residence.

Time Period	Date	Event
Under Management of the City Government	2013 – 2014	Termination of said contract by the Taichung City Government. Management of the residence was handed over to the City Government on 10 September 2014.
	2015	Management was transferred to the Social Affairs Bureau. The Social Affairs Bureau contracted Rotation Management Consultant Ltd. to prepare an OT project in search of a new management.
As BULAO 125	2016	The Senior Citizens' Welfare Section of the Social Affairs Bureau started to request for tenders. The residence was to be developed into a "centre for elders to fulfil their dreams". Hondao Senior Citizen's Welfare Foundation was contracted to manage the residence in June of the same year, leading to the creation of BULAO 125.
	2018 – 2019	The Social Affairs Bureau contracted Framework Architecture to refurbish the Taichung Mayoral House.
	December 2019	Renamed as Miyahara Residence and declared a memorial building.
	2021	The Hondao Senior Citizen's Welfare Foundation was given priority to have its contract renewed by the Social Affairs Bureau.

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