

玉寶堂

Yu-bao-tang

這坎店位在舊名「新街」(今和平路前段)的街上,在何時由何人所建已難考證。因受土地進深的限制,僅有「兩落一過水」的規模,屋身為土塊壁,其上為福杉椽仔,上鋪厝瓦,現今室內保存尚為完整,僅作為住家使用。

「玉寶堂」還是「堂寶玉」?

現代人習慣了由左至右的橫式書寫,但是日本時代的牌匾堂號,可是遵循漢人老祖宗所規定的由右至左,所以正確答案就是「玉寶堂」(其餘的牌樓亦同),你答對了嗎?

10 老街牌樓面的構成可分為「騎樓柱」、「磚拱或混凝土梁」、以及突出屋頂的「山牆面」三部分,玉寶堂也不例外。在牌樓面騎樓柱的部分為三開間,也就是增加「間柱」,外表為仿石材質感的洗石子粉刷,內部其實是由紅磚疊砌而成。



玉寶堂的如意形曲線山牆面是吸引遊客目光聚集的所在。令人驚訝的是,外表裝飾華麗的山牆正面,其背後則是用火頭磚(燒壞的磚)或破損剩餘的磚,藉由黏結材(石灰、糯米漿)毫無章法的堆砌,且不做任何修飾,反應出當時師傅對人們視線所不及的部位,不作耗費人工的修飾,相對節省工料。

此外,再看看玉寶堂山牆面上的蝙蝠相當別緻,引申有來福之喜。那麼想想看,兩側的花瓶與植物,又分別代表什麼意思呢?



玉寶堂的如意形牌樓面。
Façade of the arcade of Yu-bao-tang



大溪鎮和平路 15-1 號 / 私人住家 / 江宅
15-1 Heping Road, Dasi Township / private domicile of the Jiang Family

This store is situated on the front section of Heping Road, formerly named Sin Street. It is unknown that when and by whom the store was built. Restricted by the availability of the land, the store is limited to a scope of "two *luo* one *guoshuei*". The body of the building is composed of earthen bricks; the crossbeam thereof is built of timber from Fujhou; and the roof thereof is covered with tiles. Presently the building remains nearly intact with the function of a domicile for private use.

Yu-bao-tang or Tang-bao-yu?

Nowadays we get used to writing horizontally from left to right, while people under the colonial rule followed our ancestor's horizontal writing style from right to left to make inscriptions on the tablets placed above the doorway. In this regard, the inscriptions on the façades should read "Yu-bao-tang" and the same rule applies to all other inscriptions. Do you have the correct answer in mind?

11 The façade of the arcade on the old streets consists of three elements, namely columns of the arcades, brick arch or concrete beam, and gable. Yu-bao-tang is no exception. The façade of the arcade is of three spans and in other words columns are used. The exterior surface coated with mini pebbles and whitewash appears like stone but, in fact, it is internally composed of bricks.

The curved gable of a ruyi shape is the most fascinating element of the façade of Yu-bao-tang that catches visitor's eyes. To our amazement, the back of the splendidly decorated gable is built of poorly baked bricks and/or broken bricks with a mixture of lime and glutinous rice paste used as the bridging material. Moreover, it is not decorated at all, thereby reflecting that the builders back then wasted no time in decorating parts that people cannot see and thus saved labor and materials.



The decoration of bats on the gable of the façade is very unique and a symbol of good fortune. I urge you to make a guess at the metaphor of the vase and plant at both sides of the gable.

如意形山牆牌樓面背後之火頭磚。
Poorly baked bricks behind the gable of the façade of the arcade