

隆泰

Long-tai

這坎店由蕭家買下居住已歷經 3 代，店口作過雜貨、布行等生意，目前為代書事務所。原本的規模為「四落三過水」，由於「四落起」的店屋居住人口較多，房間數亦多，位在二落大廳後的房間是由當家夫婦所居住，所以可以從房間居住者的改變，得知其家庭結構的變化。頭落店口現作為辦公室，其他則仍為住家空間。

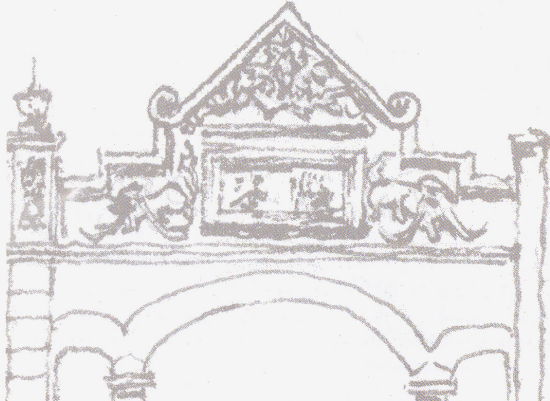


隆泰的牌樓立面。
Façade of the arcade of Long-tai

討個吉利——祥獅獻瑞！

三段式清水紅磚砌築的圓弧形拱，以優美的弧線跨坐在仿多立克 (Doric) 式柱頭上，其下兩根圓柱再隔成三開間牌樓面。騎樓內部可直視屋頂天花，原有的屋瓦樑仔、斑駁的清水磚面更增添幾分古意。

牌樓面的兩側各有一隻銜著花草綵帶的小獅，一左一右相互對看凝視，左邊獅子齜牙裂嘴似乎玩得正開心，而右邊獅子神情較堅毅嚴肅。獅子象徵吉祥的動物，銜著綵帶更引伸有「祥獅獻瑞」之意。再依老街居民的解讀，因為獅子的本性是猛獸，一般人印象中會咬人且不易親近的，所以若是讓牠銜著柔軟的綵帶嬉戲，也就無法作怪，亦讓人們對獅子減少了恐懼，見其溫順可愛的一面。看倌們，你的解讀呢？



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牌樓面上的小獅子生動可愛，尤其是左邊張開口笑的獅子，頗具趣味性。
Lion with a big smile on the left adding some amusement; lion with serious expressions on the right seeming deep in thought

It's now the third generation living here since the Siao Family bought this store. The store has been used to engage in the business of sundry goods and fabrics and is presently an office providing legal services. With a scope of "four *luo* three *guoshue*" Long-tai accommodates a good many people as the four-*luo* house has many rooms. The couple in charge of the household lives in the room behind the main hall of the second *luo*. In this regard, we can learn the change of the family structure from the change of people dwelling in the rooms. The first *luo* provides the space for an office and the rest of the building provides the space for living.

An auspicious lion bringing along a good omen!

A three-span arch in the shape of a circular arc made of red bricks sits elegantly on the column capitals modeled after Doric order. Two columns under the capitals divide the façade into three spans. Standing inside the arcade, you can see the ceiling and the original tiles and crossbeam of the house. The worn surface of red bricks adds a little antique touch to the architecture.

There is a small lion holding colored ribbons, flowers and plants in the mouth on each side of the façade and looking steadily at each other. With a wide-opening mouth and teeth shown the lion on the left seems to be playing happily while the lion on the right looks serious with unswerving determination. Lions are auspicious symbols and moreover a lion holding colored ribbons contains the metaphor of bringing along good omens. According to the interpretation of the residents on the old streets, the public are in the opinion that lions bite so it's difficult to get close to them because they are savage beasts in nature. Accordingly, lions won't be able to cause trouble if they hold soft colored ribbons in the mouth and play games. In addition, people would be less afraid of lions and find a docile and adorable side of lions. My dear friends, what's your interpretation?