

A Place to call Home

Have you ever wondered about the type of houses people used to live in?

Houses in Southeast Asia were generally raised above the ground and had an open layout to combat the heat and humidity we face all year round in this region. These houses were mostly made of wood, not the bricks to build the high-rise buildings we see today. Let's discover more about these old houses, some of which still exist today!



Shui Tit Sing. *Longhouse*. 1980. Teak, 47 x 69 x 29 cm.
Collection of National Gallery Singapore.

Singapore painter and sculptor Shui Tit Sing travelled around Southeast Asia and observed how people went about their everyday lives in the village. He was captivated by their simple routines and wanted to show scenes of village life in his sculptures.

➤ This is a wood carving made from teak. Take a closer look at the details of the sculpture highlighted below. Can you guess what activities the villagers are doing?



While the type of houses we live in may have changed, we continue to engage in the same activities depicted in the sculpture, such as hanging clothes to dry, buying groceries, cooking up a delicious feast.



Lim Cheng Hoe. *Kampong*. 1971. Watercolour on paper, 42.5 x 58 cm. Collection of National Gallery Singapore.

Singapore painter Lim Cheng Hoe was a self-taught watercolourist who would often travel to different places in Singapore to find inspiration for his paintings. Kampong (village) scenes were commonly seen in many of his paintings.

- In Lim's landscape paintings, he paints more of nature such as greenery and the sky, as well as the built environment such as the Malay kampongs.

To have a closer look at both the teak sculpture *Longhouse* and the watercolour painting *Kampong*, visit DBS Singapore Gallery 2!



What are some of the daily activities you see happening at home? Draw them in the space above!



Pick at least one of the scenes you have sketched out and recreate them using materials found at home!

Let your creative juices flow! For example, wooden chopsticks can be arranged to form a bridge; while cotton buds can be tied together to make a bouquet of flowers. The possibilities are endless!

Sketch your ideas here before looking for your materials.

