

Singapore Then and Now

By Angeline Nah

A scene from Chinatown in the 1970's. There were many shop houses in need of repair and many streets filled with pushcarts and hawkers selling their wares. Chinatown today is very different. With many shop houses now housing modern business offices and fashionable restaurants, Chinatown has changed in the same way Singapore's economy and Singaporeans' lifestyles have changed.

Orchard Road back in the 1970's. There were a few high-rise buildings then. Old shop houses lined Orchard Road. The landscape of Orchard Road has changed dramatically. Low-rise shop houses have given way to shopping centres and modern office blocks. Packed with shops, restaurants and hotels, Orchard Road is the premier shopping and tourist district in Singapore.

Boat Quay in the 1970s. Shop houses occupied by small trading businesses lined the riverside and the Singapore River was cluttered with bumboats. Boat Quay was quite a different place. Today, the small trading businesses have gone and so too have the bumboats. The same buildings now play host to restaurants and bars. Converted bumboats take tourists on rides up and down the River. It has gone from being a place of business and trade to a place of leisure.

The change to Singapore's landscape since the 1970s has been nothing less than dramatic. It is a reflection of the changes that have taken place to our economy and lifestyles these past decades.



Present day Chinatown



1970's Chinatown



1970's Orchard Road



Present day Orchard Road



1970's Boat Quay



Present day Boat Quay

