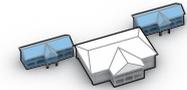


# A rejuvenated Grand Dame

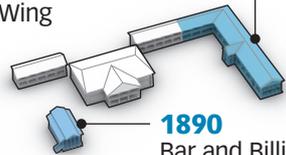
The storied Raffles Hotel Singapore sheds her hoardings, which enclosed the heritage landmark for 18 months, for the Big Reveal. But the 132-year-old hotel, one of the few remaining grand dame hotels of the 19th century, has undergone several expansions. Ahead of its reopening today, *The Business Times* takes a look at its many milestones



## 1878-1896

The original building which stood at Raffles Hotel's present location was a 10-room bungalow known as the Beach House. It was built in the 1830s by Penang-based merchant Robert Scott, acquired by the Alsagoff family in 1870, and leased out to a veterinarian Dr Charles Emmerson in 1878 who ran it as a hotel. On Dec 1, 1887, the Armenian Sarkies Brothers opened Raffles Hotel Singapore as a 10-room bungalow overlooking the beach.

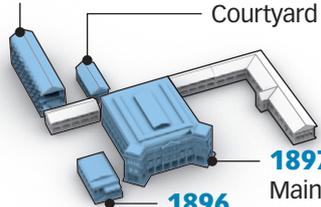
**1894**  
L-shaped extension to Palm Court Wing



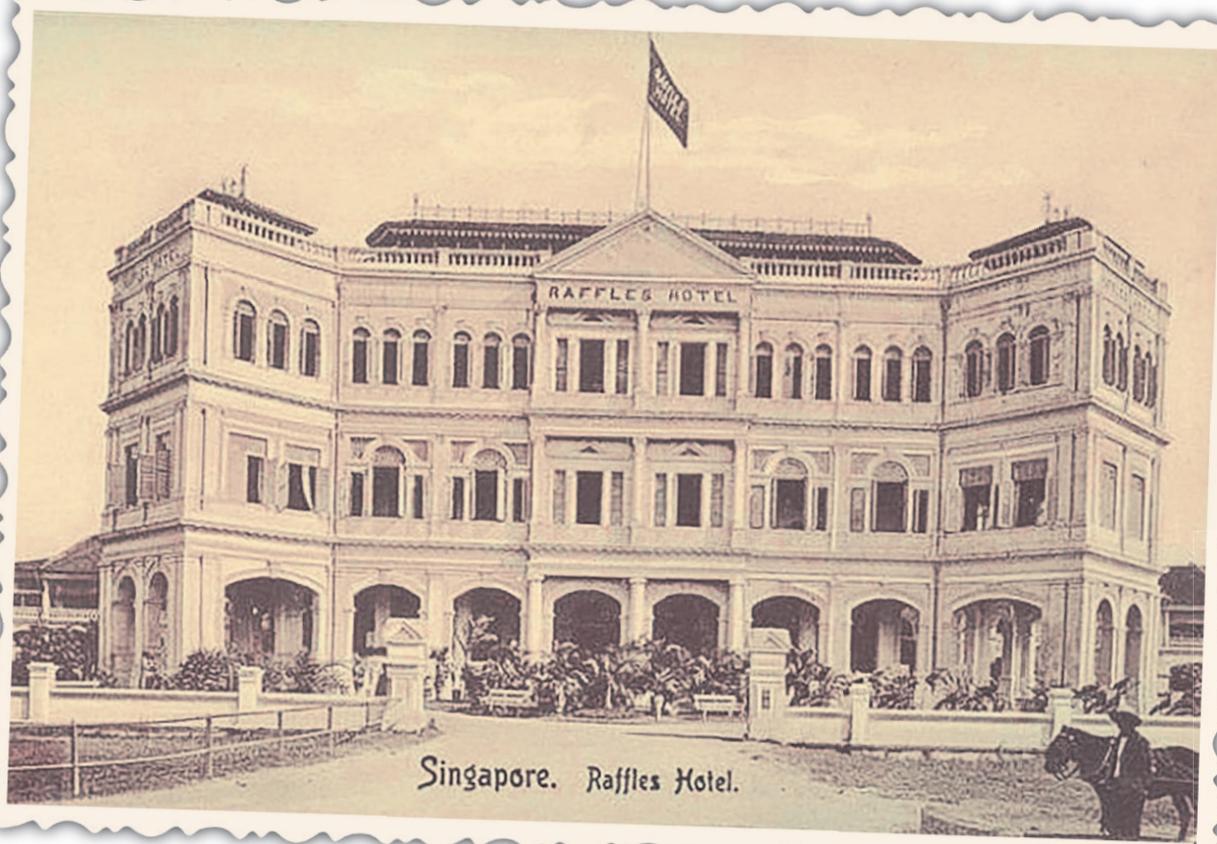
**1890**  
As billiards became popular, Raffles Hotel erected the Bar and Billiard Room with four game tables.

**1894**  
An L-shaped extension was built to meet the increasing demand for accommodation as the hotel was getting popular.

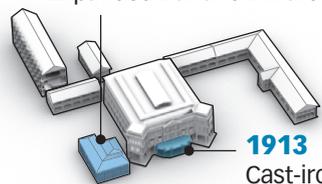
**1904** Bras Basah Wing  
**1904** 10-bedroom Courtyard Wing



**1897**  
The three-storey main building and the prominent facade of present-day Raffles Hotel was built in 1897 and began operations in 1899. The building has wide verandahs, spacious lounges, and a T-shaped dining hall that can seat 500.

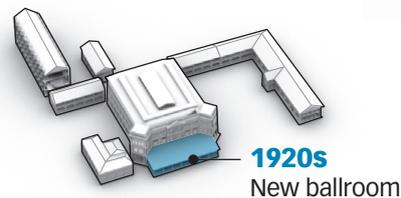


**1917**  
Expanded Bar and Billiard Room

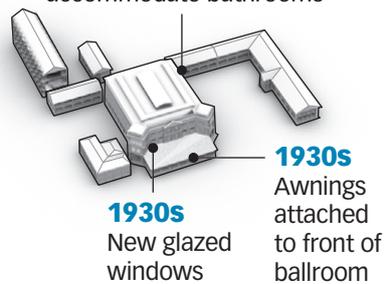


**1913**  
A cast-iron verandah was added to the main building but it was removed by 1920. This cast-iron portico was replicated in the 1989 hotel restoration to function as the main drop-off point.

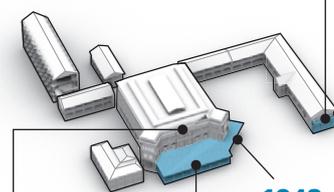
**1917**  
The Bar and Billiard Room was enlarged in anticipation of crowds who would visit Singapore during the Centenary year in 1919.



**1933**  
Verandahs filled out to accommodate bathrooms



**1947**  
Palm Court Wing extension

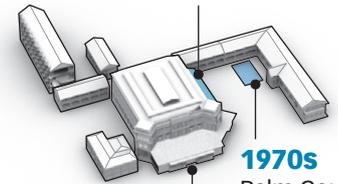


WWII: Pediment removed

**1942-46**  
The hotel was occupied by the Japanese as Syonan Ryokan during World War II. The triangular pediment was in disrepair and was replaced by a rectangular one, which remained until the 1989 restoration.

**1948**  
Ballroom upgraded

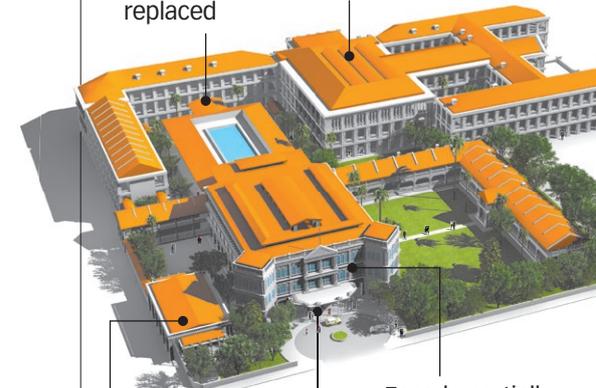
**1980s**  
Al fresco dining along East Facade



**1960s**  
New stage & neon signs

**1960s - 1980s**  
Raffles Hotel was faced with increased competition from other major hotels as the Singapore government promoted tourism.

**1989** Courtyard Wing replaced  
**1989** Raffles Hotel Arcade added



Bar and Billiard Room reconstructed

Facade partially reconstructed  
New cast-iron portico replaces Ballroom

**1989-1991**  
In 1989, the hotel underwent a two-year major restoration and renovation at a cost of S\$160 million. Local firm Architects 61 helmed the design while Bent Severin and Associates handled the interiors. The ballroom was removed to reveal the full facade of the original building. Surrounding properties such as shophouses were bought and redeveloped into the Raffles Hotel Arcade.