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Lee Kip Lin

~ Recommendations ~

- [Lee Seng Gee](#)
Lee Seng Gee (b. 25 June 1921, Singapore–d. 10 May 2016, Singapore) was the former chairman of Lee Foundation and Lee ...
- [Alex Abisheganaden](#)
Alex Abisheganaden (b. 31 January 1926, Singapore–) is a musician who received the Cultural Medallion in 1988. He is ...
- [Dollah Kassim](#)
Dollah Kassim (b. 13 March 1949, Singapore–d. 15 October 2010, Singapore) was a footballer who represented Singapore ...
- [Brother Vincent](#)
Guy Joseph Janvier Barbe, popularly known as Brother Vincent (b. 1919, Laval City, Montreal–d. 14 October 1992, Singapore), ...
- [Lou Mee Wah](#)
Lou Mee Wah (b. 30 March 1951, Singapore–) is a Cantonese opera singer well known for her role as a male impersonator. ...
- [David Lim Kim San](#)
David Lim Kim San (b. 7 May 1933, Singapore–) has a diverse career in music which spanned over four decades, including ...
- [Low Ing Sing](#)
Low Ing Sing (b. 1924, Sibul, Sarawak–d. 2002, Singapore) was a pioneer of Mandarin drama and theatre in Singapore. An ...
- [Sir Robert Black](#)
Robert Brown Black (Sir) (b. 3 June 1906, Edinburgh, Scotland–d. 29 October 1999, Reading, England), also known as Robin, ...
- [Leong Yoon Pin](#)
Leong Yoon Pin (b. 5 August 1931, Singapore–d. 13 April 2011, Singapore) was a composer, conductor and educator. Described ...
- [Chinese street storytellers](#)
Chinese street storytelling was a popular form of entertainment in Singapore during the colonial period and up till ...
- [Stanley Warren and the Changi Murals](#)
Stanley Warren (b. 1917, London, England–d. 20 February 1992, Bridport,

England), a bombardier with the 135th Field ...

- [Paul Abisheganaden](#)

Paul Selvaraj Abisheganaden (b. 27 March 1914, Penang, Straits Settlements–d. 31 August 2011, Singapore) was a musician ...

- [Ho Ho Ying](#)

Ho Ho Ying (b. 23 January 1936, Wenchang, Hainan, China–) is a prominent pioneer of modern art in Singapore and an influential ...

- [Goh Eng Wah](#)

Goh Eng Wah (b. 1923, Muar, Johor, Malaysia–d. 5 September 2015, Singapore) was one of the pioneers of Singapore's film ...

- [Rahimah Rahim](#)

Rahimah Rahim (b. 9 December 1955–) is a veteran performer in the local music scene, and one of the most popular entertainers ...

- [Lady Yuen-Peng McNeice](#)

Lady Yuen-Peng McNeice (also known as Lady Percy McNeice), née Loke Yuen Peng (b. 1917, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya–d. 3 June ...

- [Daisy Tan](#)

Daisy Tan Quee Hong née Lim (b. 12 February 1926, Singapore–d. 26 January 2004, Singapore) helped establish the Singapore ...

- [Charles Joseph Pemberton Paglar](#)

Charles Joseph Pemberton Paglar (b. 1 September 1894, Alor Gajah, Malacca –d. 9 December 1954, Singapore), surgeon, ...

- [Tan Keong Choon](#)

Tan Keong Choon (b. 29 October 1918, Amoy, Fukien, China–d. 27 October 2015, Singapore), nephew of the late Tan Kah ...

- [Lim Yew Kuan](#)

Lim Yew Kuan (b. 16 November 1928, Xiamen, China–) is a well-known second-generation Nanyang Style painter, printmaker ...

- [Foo Tee Jun](#)

Foo Tee Jun (b. 15 December 1935, Singapore–) is a highly regarded and artistically distinguished salon photographer. ...

- [Navroji R. Mistri](#)

Navroji R. Mistri (b. 3 June 1885, Bombay, India–d. 29 October 1953, Singapore) was a prominent Parsi entrepreneur who ...

- [Metro](#)

A household name in Singapore's retail industry, Metro was first established in Surabaya, Indonesia, in 1953 by Ong ...

- [Maurice Baker](#)

Maurice Baker (b. 24 March 1920, Alor Star, Kedah, Malaya–d. 11 July 2017, Singapore) was an academic and one of Singapore's ...

- [SYC Ensemble Singers](#)

The SYC Ensemble Singers, formerly known as the Singapore Youth Choir (SYC), is an award-winning and well-travelled ...

- [S. Varathan](#)

S. Varathan (b. 22 February 1934, Singapore –), recipient of the National Arts

Council Cultural Medallion in 1984, has ...

- [Teo Soon Kim](#)

Teo Soon Kim (b. 23 June 1904, Singapore–d. 23 April 1978), also known as Teow Soon Kim and later Lo-Teo Soon Kim, was ...

- [Beach Road Police Station](#)

The Beach Road Police Station was built by the colonial government in the early 1930s. Part of the expansion plans of ...

- [Rufino Soliano](#)

Rufino Soliano (b. 10 January 1932, Singapore–22 April 2017, Singapore) was an accomplished musician, composer and conductor. ...

- [Goh Sin Tub](#)

Goh Sin Tub (b. 2 December 1927, Singapore–d. 16 November 2004, Singapore) was a “first generation” Singaporean writer, ...

- [Hedwig Anuar](#)

Hedwig Elizabeth Anuar née Aroozoo (b. 19 November 1928, Johor Bahru, Malaysia–) was the director of the National Library ...

- [Gunong Sayang Association](#)

The Gunong Sayang Association, or Persatuan Gunong Sayang in Malay, is a Peranakan (Straits Chinese) social club that ...

- [Deepavali](#)

Deepavali, or diwali (literally translated as “a row of lights”; also known as the Festival of Lights), is a festival ...

- [Fred de Souza](#)

Frederick Benjamin de Souza (b. 13 April 1918, Singapore–d. 9 July 1964, Singapore) was one of Singapore’s most successful ...

- [Khong Guan Biscuit Company](#)

Khong Guan Biscuit Company is a local biscuit manufacturer that has grown into a multinational group of companies with ...

- [Constance Mary Turnbull](#)

Constance Mary Turnbull (Professor) (b. 9 February 1927, Northumberland, England–d. 5 September 2008, Oxford, England), ...

- [George Edwin Bogaars](#)

George Edwin Bogaars (b. 25 October 1926 Singapore - d. 6 April 1992, Singapore), prominent Dutch-Eurasian, was the ...

- [Lim Hock Siew](#)

Lim Hock Siew (Dr) (b. 21 February 1931, Singapore–d. 4 June 2012, Singapore) was a medical doctor, politician and political ...

- [Lin Chen](#)

Lin Chen (b. 1919, Singapore–d. 29 August 2004, Singapore) was a pioneer theatre director and playwright who was active ...

- [Mamoru Shinozaki](#)

Mamoru Shinozaki (b. 19 February 1908, Fukuoka, Japan–d. 1991, location unknown) came to Singapore in 1938 as a Japanese ...

- [Eric R. Alfred](#)

Eric Ronald Alfred (b. Johor, Malaya–) is a zoologist who became the first

Malayan-born curator of zoology of the Raffles ...

- [Percival Frank Aroozoo](#)

Percival Frank Aroozoo (b. 13 April 1900, Singapore–d. 15 March 1969, Singapore) was headmaster of Gan Eng Seng School ...

- [Change Alley](#)

Change Alley is a lane located in the downtown core of the central region. Stretching from Raffles Place to Collyer ...

- [Ong Sam Leong](#)

Ong Sam Leong (b. 1857, Singapore–d. 7 February 1918, Singapore) was a successful and respected Chinese businessman. ...

- [Goh Beng Kwan](#)

Goh Beng Kwan (b. 26 December 1937, Medan, Sumatra, Indonesia–) is a pioneer Singapore modern artist known for his distinctive ...

- [Beach Road](#)

Beach Road is bounded by North Bridge Road, Tan Quee Lan Street and Seah Street. It was historically designated a part ...

- [Mandai Orchid Gardens](#)

Mandai Orchid Gardens (MOG) was a commercial entity located at Mandai Lake Road. It was owned by Singapore Orchids Private ...

- [Bahau settlement](#)

Bahau was an agricultural settlement established during the Japanese Occupation of Singapore (1942–45) at Bahau in the ...

- [Beauty World](#)

Opened in 1947, Beauty World was a popular market and shopping destination in Singapore during the 1960s. Located at ...

- [Amber Road](#)

Amber Road is an “L”-shaped road that connects the junction of Haig Road and Mountbatten Road to Tanjong Katong Road. ...

- [Chinese Swimming Club](#)

The history of the Chinese Swimming Club on Amber Road began in 1905 as an informal gathering of a small group of swimming ...

- [Lee Choon Guan](#)

Lee Choon Guan (b. 1868, Singapore–d. 1924, Singapore) was a Straits Chinese businessman and philanthropist. Together ...

- [Mandalay Villa](#)

Mandalay Villa at Amber Road was built in 1902 by Lee Cheng Yan (b. 1841–d.1911), a prominent businessman from the Peranakan ...

- [Operation Sook Ching](#)

Operation Sook Ching was a Japanese military operation aimed at purging or eliminating anti-Japanese elements from the ...

- [Dick Lee](#)

Lee Peng Boon (b. 1956, Singapore–), popularly known as Dick Lee, is one of Singapore’s best-known personalities in ...

~ **Related Pictures** ~

Lee Kip Lin (b. 11 February 1925, Singapore–d. 9 July 2011, Singapore) was an architect, professor and author. He practised architecture while teaching at Singapore Polytechnic and the University of Singapore (now the [National University of Singapore](#)), and was a mentor to prominent local architects such as Tay Kheng Soon. After his retirement in 1986, Lee authored several books on architecture in Singapore, including the landmark work *The Singapore House 1819–1942*, published in 1988.¹

Throughout his life, Lee was a vocal advocate for the conservation of old buildings in Singapore.² In October 2009, Lee's collection of rare Singapore memorabilia was donated to the [National Library](#).³

Early life

Lee was born in a seafront house at 19 [Amber Road](#), next to the [Chinese Swimming Club](#). He was the fourth of five children in a wealthy [Peranakan](#) family and enjoyed a comfortable and cultured upbringing. His father, Lee Chim Huk, was a businessman who enjoyed music and books. A keen golfer, Lee's father was enthusiastic about sports and fitness, and often took his sons on brisk walks. He also gave Lee special golf clubs and sent him to the [Singapore Island Country Club](#) for lessons with a professional golfer. Lee's mother, Tan Guat Poh, was from a wealthy Malaccan family. She was a homemaker who had received an education in her youth, which was unusual in an era when girls usually did not attend school.⁴

Lee spent his early primary school years at the [Singapore Chinese Girls' School](#) at Emerald Hill,⁵ before transferring to Anglo-Chinese Primary School at [Coleman Street](#) in 1933. He later attended Anglo-Chinese Secondary School at [Cairnhill](#). In 1942, the year he was due to sit for the Senior Cambridge examinations (the equivalent of the [GCE "O" Levels](#) at the time), the school closed due to the invasion of Japanese forces in Singapore. His education was put on hold for almost four years and he was able to continue with his studies only after the [surrender of the Japanese](#) in 1945.⁶

At the start of the Japanese Occupation in February 1942, Lee survived a mass screening of thousands of male Chinese civilians at the Telok Kurau English School, which had been converted into a concentration camp. Between September 1942 and December 1945, he worked as a bill clerk in an estate and trust agency where his father, unable to continue his own business, worked as a manager. To avoid being assigned to forced labour, Lee enlisted in the Japanese Medical Auxiliary Service in 1944.⁷

In the 1980s and 1990s, Lee recorded his memories of the Japanese Occupation in a series of oral history interviews for the [National Archives of Singapore](#). [Operation Sook Ching](#), one of the worst atrocities of the period, had taken place on a beach near his house. While he did not witness the massacre, he recalled hearing gunshots as civilians were executed and seeing bodies washed up on the beach thereafter.⁸

Lee had not done well in school before the war, but his experiences during the war made him determined to complete his education. He began attending private tuition classes in English language and Mathematics in late 1944 to prepare to return to school after the war.⁹ In December 1946, at the age of 21, he was part of the first post-war batch of students to sit for the Cambridge

examinations.¹⁰ He obtained his Malayan School Certificate with a Grade One pass.¹¹ He read Mathematics at Raffles College for three months before leaving for Britain in March 1948 to train at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London. After graduating in 1955, he worked for a year at the Housing Division of the London County Council. He returned to Singapore in October 1956.¹²

Lee lived in his family home at [Amber Road](#) for a number of years. In 1960, he demolished the house and designed and built a new one on the same site. The Bedok-Tanjong Rhu reclamation works at Amber Road in the late 1960s, however, led to the loss of the house's seafront and was followed by the construction of the new [Chinese Swimming Club sports complex](#) in front of the house in the late 1970s. These developments led Lee to regard the house as "intolerable to live in" and he subsequently sold it.¹³

Lee and his family moved to a two-storey brick house that he designed and built on the site of a former fruit plantation in Binjai Park. The house was notable for its architectural simplicity and use of design features suitable for a tropical climate, such as high ceilings for better internal ventilation and a wide veranda to keep the house cool. He also retained three old *binjai* trees within the property.¹⁴

Architect and professor

Lee began practising as an architect in 1956.¹⁵ In 1965, he served for a year as a member of the Board of Architects together with his contemporary Alfred H. K. Wong, another prominent local architect,¹⁶ who was at one time a partner with the firm Architects Team 3.¹⁷

Lee entered academia while remaining a practising architect. In 1961, he started teaching architecture at the Singapore Polytechnic Department of Architecture and Building before moving to the University of Singapore in 1969.¹⁸ Some prominent architects he mentored include Tan Kay Ngee and Tay Kheng Soon, who designed the [Singapore Management University](#) and [Golden Mile Complex](#) respectively. Tay and Tan both credit Lee with teaching them about architecture as well as fostering an appreciation of culture and history. Lee retired from the practice of architecture in 1986.¹⁹

In April 1990, Lee was part of a three-man delegation selected to represent Singapore at the First ASEAN Architecture Symposium and Exhibition held in Bangkok, Thailand. The symposium was part of the Intra-ASEAN Cultural Programme, which aimed to study and promote indigenous architecture and encourage the development of the architectural profession in the ASEAN region.²⁰

Conservationist and author

Throughout his career, Lee was a leading voice in the public discourse on the preservation and conservation of old buildings in Singapore, and was often consulted for his views on conservation issues. He was a member of the Preservation of Monuments Board during its early years from 1971 to 1977, during which he chaired the Board's Research, Documentation and Publicity Committee for three years.²¹

After his retirement, Lee published several works on Singapore architecture. These include *Telok*

Ayer Market (1983) and *Emerald Hill: The story of a street in words and pictures* (1984). In 1988, he published *The Singapore House 1819–1942*, a landmark work that traces the history of architecture in Singapore. He also contributed a chapter in *Tanjong Pagar: Singapore's cradle of development* (1989).²²

The Lee Kip Lin collection

Lee had a keen interest in Singapore history and amassed an extensive collection of rare memorabilia. In October 2009, the Lee family donated a valuable collection of more than 19,000 items to the National Library Singapore. The historically significant collection comprises monographs, including the complete collection of early [Raffles Institution](#) annual reports; letters and related documents of the East India Company; rare Singapore and Southeast Asian maps and rare photographs. The collection also includes slides and negatives of early and modern Singapore, including pictures that Lee, an avid photographer, had taken of Singapore over the years, in particular of shops and streets, many of which have been demolished due to urban renewal.²³

In 2015, a publication featuring Lee's photographs donated to the National Library was produced. Called *Through the lens of Lee Kip Lin – Photographs of Singapore 1965-1995*, its objective is to be a resource for future research and an important resource of architectural and urban history in Singapore.²⁴

Death

Lee was in ill health in his later years and suffered from dementia. He died of pneumonia at the age of 86.²⁵

Family

Wife: Lee Li-ming.

Children: Son Lee Peng Hui and daughter Lee Pek Yen.²⁶

Siblings: Elder brother Kip Lee and sisters Alice (Joo Lee), Eileen (Joo Har) and Peggy (Joo Leng).²⁷

Lee Kip Lee is a prominent Peranakan figure in Singapore and the former president of the Peranakan Association.²⁸ Lee's nephew (Lee Kip Lee's son) is composer and [Cultural Medallion](#) recipient, [Dick Lee](#).²⁹

Relatives: Lee's paternal grandfather was merchant Lee Keng Kiat, a manager at the [Straits Steamship Company](#) and after whom Keng Kiat Street in [Tiong Bahru](#) is named.³⁰ Lee's paternal granduncle was businessman and philanthropist [Lee Choon Guan](#), who owned the land at Amber Road on which Kampong Amber once stood.³¹ Lee's maternal uncle was Tan Cheng Lock, a founding member of the Malayan Chinese Association and one of the founders of modern Malaysia.³²

Author

Joanna HS Tan

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