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Headline: Museum gets apt birthday gift – a heritage award

Museum gets apt birthday gift – a heritage award

THE historic National Museum celebrates its 120th anniversary this year – and it has received a fitting gift.

It was told last week that it was one of this year's URA (Urban Redevelopment Authority) Architectural Heritage Awardees, announced museum director Lee Chor Lin at a media conference yesterday.

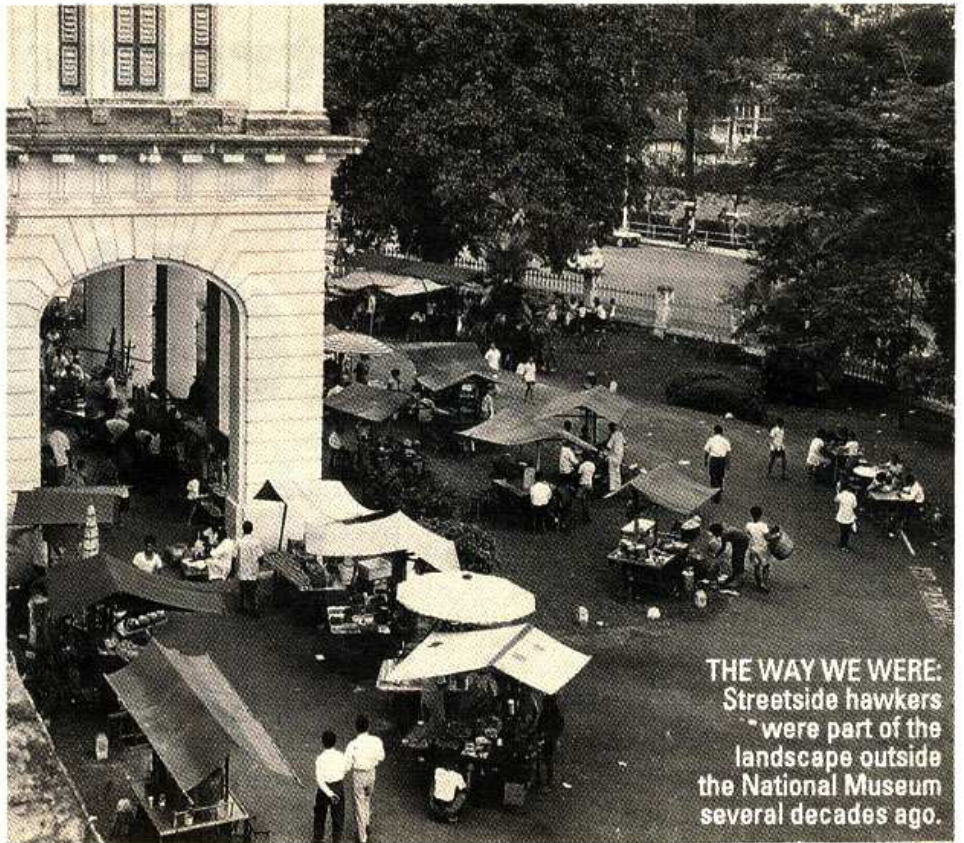
"It's a really pleasant surprise that we were awarded at such a fortuitous time," said Ms Lee, adding that the award may have been given on the strength of the preservation work done and "how the new extension wing has been harmoniously integrated into the historical part of the building."

The anniversary celebrations kick off today with an exhibition of evening dresses by acclaimed Singapore designer Benny Ong. Other highlights include a re-enactment of a *pasar malam* next weekend in front of the museum and *120*, a commissioned performance work by Cultural Medallion winner and

TheatreWorks artistic director Ong Keng Sen featuring 60 local actors, in October.

The museum was founded in 1887 and was initially known for

its South-east Asian natural history collection. It closed in 2003 and temporarily relocated to Riverside Point before moving back last December. — MAYO MARTIN



THE WAY WE WERE:
Streetside hawkers
were part of the
landscape outside
the National Museum
several decades ago.

PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL MUSEUM