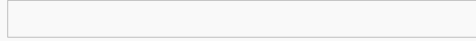

HK's Top 10... Demolished buildings

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Demolished 1946

Between 1867 and 1946, Mountain Lodge served as the summer retreat for the Governor of Hong Kong. There were two versions of the home – the first being demolished in 1868 after typhoon damage; the second, built in Renaissance style, was demolished just after the Second World War. Victoria Peak Garden now rests on the site.

General Post Office, Central

Demolished 1976

The General Post Office has had four different locations on Hong Kong Island since 1841. But its most iconic stood at the junction of Des Voeux Road and Pedder Street from 1911. Known as the 'Old Lady of Pedder Street', the Edwardian architecture, red bricks and granite made it stand out in Central. It was demolished to make way for the MTR station in 1976 and relocated to Connaught Place, where it stands today.

Kowloon-Canton Railway Terminus, Tsim Sha Tsui

Demolished 1978

Only the clock tower next to the Star Ferry remains of this landmark. The tower used to be accompanied by a giant station, which was completed in 1910 and served thousands of commuters every day. Despite huge amounts of preservation efforts – including a petition with 15,000 signatures sent to Queen Elizabeth II – the beautiful red brick and granite terminus was demolished in 1978.

Demolished 1994

Druggies, gamblers and criminals all once congregated in this densely populated, practically lawless area in Kowloon. After a colourfully seedy history, though, plans for demolition were announced in 1987 and, following a hugely complicated eviction process, Kowloon Walled City was finally demolished in 1994, with a park and some preserved remnants located on the site today.

Demolished 1997

Many Hongkongers spent the happiest days of their childhood at this theme park. Once the largest amusement park in Hong Kong, the buildings at Lai Yuen housed classic rides like the Ferris wheel, bumper cars and a carousel, as well as an ice rink and a snow garden during the winter. It closed its doors in 1997 after the land was allocated for public housing.

Tiger Balm Garden, Tai Hang

Demolished 2004

Another theme park. Costing a whopping \$16 million to build back in 1950, the eight-acre Tiger Balm Garden featured the seven-storey Tiger Pagoda as well as beautiful sculptures. In 1998, the land was sold for redevelopment and the garden and its buildings were eventually demolished in 2004.

Kai Tak Airport, Kowloon Bay

Demolished 2004

Ah, the low-flying planes, the loud roar of plane engines and, yes, the occasional shaking of flat windows. Kai Tak was Hong Kong's main airport up until 1998, when it was replaced by Chek Lap Kok, and finally met demolition in 2004.

Edinburgh Place Ferry Pier, Central

Demolished 1997

This iconic pier was the main docking point for the Star Ferry and was a key transport hub, with pulled rickshaws being a common sight up until its closure. In 2006, the government's desire to reclaim the land stirred up huge controversy. Despite protests, the iconic clock in the clocktower was removed first – a symbolic show of power.

Queen's Pier, Central

Demolished 2008

Although, architecturally nothing special, this pier was an iconic part of Hong Kong's history, serving as a main arrival and departure point for many ceremonial occasions – including the welcoming of her highness Elizabeth II and the Prince and Princess of Wales. However, just after the Edinburgh Place Ferry Pier, it met the same fate, despite rallies from conservationists.

Ho Tung Gardens, The Peak Demolished 2013

A spectacle of a building, Ho Tung Gardens was a villa built in 1927 by millionaire Robert Hotung. Spanning an impressive 120,000sq ft, this massive plot of land contained a two-storey main building, beautiful lush gardens and various elaborate pavilions. After a long legal battle regarding its heritage, demolition on finished in October, readying for some new – and no doubt lucrative – development.

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