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The Living Environment 宿舍生活環境

I moved into the Staff Quarters in 1996, with my wife, son, daughter and housemaid, altogether 5 members.

我在 1996 年搬入宿舍，我和太太、兒子、女兒及傭人，一共五個人居住。

The building envelop was made of ancient-style bricks and mortar. The interior space was warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Possibly due to the thick external walls, despite the hillside location and severe winter winds outside, it was very warm inside the house. During the summer, it was not hot at all and was quite comfortable to stay in the house with its 14-feet high ceiling headroom. The downside was that it was difficult to modify internal configuration. It would not be easy either if you wanted to change the iron window frame to aluminum.

宿舍外牆是用古舊磚砌成，初入住我便發覺房子冬暖夏涼。可能牆身較厚，所以冬天時屋內特別暖，雖然鄰近山邊，外面大風 應該很寒冷，但一進屋內卻很溫暖。夏天時，屋內也不太熱，可能是樓底高的關係，約有 14 呎高，因此住起來挺舒適。至於不方便的是，若想改動室內間隔，如把鐵窗框改為鋁窗，就可能有難度。

In retrospect, it was an unusual experience to have lived in such a characteristic building, with its unique wooden window frames, huge doorway, and expansive terrace at the backyard that was an ideal place for BBQ, or sitting there listening to music, or chatting... Due to the small number of residents, the environment was tranquil and calm, especially at night time, and was therefore suitable for those who preferred a peaceful living. And you can play ball games with the kids outside. Besides, with its proximity to the Peak, we used to walk up the hill at Lung Fu Shan via a footpath at the back which took around 30 to 45 minutes, and then took the same route back home. That was convenient and was a special experience.

但回想過來，能夠住在這樣富有特色的房子實在很難得，木造的窗戶，寬闊的大門，後園還有個頗大的平台，可用來進行燒烤，又或擺放椅子，坐著聽音樂、聊天，挺寫意舒適。加上環境寧靜，所住的人數少，晚上較清幽，適合喜歡寧靜生活的人居住；又可以和孩子們在屋外踢足球。另外因鄰近山頂，周日可從後面小路直通山頂，我與家人不時從後面龍虎山走路上山頂，需時約 30-45 分鐘，遊玩完畢便由原路下山，相當方便，也是個頗特別的體驗。

As there was not security guard at this rather remote spot, the steep slope was not an issue for me as I used to drive, but posed great problems for my wife and kids. At the beginning, I worried about their safety very much and had to ask the housemaid to walk the kids home from school. But later I had come to realize that security in the area was alright, at least there had never been a robbery or theft during our residency there. Perhaps that partly owed to its vicinity to HKU, and was partly because the secluded location was not known to many. The security at the Quarters was by and large quite good.

因為宿舍沒有保安人員，位置偏僻又清靜，加上有一條大斜路，我駕車出入，所以問題不大，但我初時很擔心太太和孩子出入的安全，他們在附近上學，放學後要傭人接送。但住下來發覺都挺安全，沒有發生過搶劫或偷竊之類事件，可能因為鄰近香港大學，加上這裡較隱蔽，沒太多人知道有這個地方，總括來說，宿舍治安算是不錯。

Neighbours 鄰里之間

At an earlier time, the Workmen's Quarters accommodated 6 households, and were vacated without further renewing tenancies in preparation for the handover of the property to HKU. Those who lived

in there were mainly couples or single occupants. We used to have brief chats with each other but my kids seldom had interactions with them.

工人宿舍早期是有六戶人家，後來因水務署要陸續歸還地方給物業處，準備移交給香港大學，所以當租約完結後便不會續約，除了我家有兩個小孩外，工人宿舍多是夫婦或一人居住，平時我也會與他們閒話兩句，但我家孩子鮮有跟他們接觸。

We had closer ties with colleagues who lived in the same building as ours. When my family had parties or BBQ gatherings, I often invite them to join. The family upstairs used to plant papaya trees which were of unknown breeds but very tall in size. They were there before I moved in. There were also pomelo trees outside my apartment. Although they didn't bear fruits, their leaves were good for baths and were believed to be useful for driving away the evils and bad luck during the Spring Festival. And my neighbor upstairs always gave me papayas for tasting and I was delighted to accept these sweet treats.

至於同住在高級職員宿舍的同事，交往較緊密，我家舉行聚餐或燒烤聚會，都會邀請一同參與。我家樓上的住客喜歡種木瓜，不知是什麼品種，木瓜樹長得很高，我搬進宿舍時已有了，而在我的屋外也種有柚子樹，雖然長不出柚子，它的葉可用來辟邪，春節時可採摘下來用作洗澡。樓上的住客不時會送贈木瓜給我，叫我試試味道。這些我都欣然接受，而吃下去真的很香甜。

Six Years of Family Memories 六年生活點滴

When we first moved into the Staff Quarters, my kids were still small, one being 3 years in age and the other six months only. They mostly stay indoors. When they gradually grew up requiring more outdoor activities, I started to let them ride a bicycle, play football and run around outside the house. Our apartment was huge in size. We adapted one of the rooms into a play area fitted with a kid's slide and ball pit, which were very popular among our kids and those of our guests. The place was like a joyful playground.

剛搬進宿舍時，兩個孩子還小，一個3歲，一個半歲，活動範圍多數在室內，後來他們漸漸長大，需要較多戶外活動，便開始讓他們在宿舍外面踏單車、踢足球、跑步，活動便由室內轉移戶外。這所宿舍面積很大，我們將其中一間房間用作遊戲室，擺放兒童滑梯、波波池等設施，孩子都喜歡在這裡玩耍；假日更可廣邀親朋帶同孩子到訪，像個兒童樂園，十分愉快。

The electricity bill for living in this apartment was costly, given it large number of rooms, each of which were fitted with individual air-conditioning units. Water supply expenses were also high because of the huge size of indoor space that required massive cleaning. The utilities expenditure doubled that of living elsewhere. The mosquito mesh of the large windows had to be cleaned every week for the sake of our kids because of the dust from Pokfulam Road nearby. The expensive water bill was largely due to the cleaning need.

住在這裡宿舍，電費開支很大，房間眾多，每間有獨立冷氣機。至於水費開支也很大呢，因為地方大，傭人清潔範圍相對也大，如抹門窗，洗刷地板等，電費和水費開支比以往要多一倍，加上宿舍裡的窗戶裝有蚊網，每星期都會拆它們下來沖洗，因鄰近薄扶林道，沙塵很多，一個星期下來蚊網已佈滿灰塵，由於孩子年幼，所以每星期都吩咐傭人逐一清洗，因此水費開支主要來自清潔方面。

Due to the remote location, living in the Staff Quarters was like living overseas. Every Sunday, we would do shopping at the large supermarket in Chi Fu Fa Yuen for buying all the necessities and food for the entire week. It was really like living in a foreign country .

宿舍位置偏僻，感覺像生活在外國一樣，每逢假日便是家庭日，我跟太太和孩子都會到附近置富花園的大型超市購買足夠一個星期所需的日用品及食物，除了特別用品需要傭人外出購買，其餘都是在週末一次購買，實在好像在海外居住一般。

I used to drive as there were parking provisions both at the Staff Quarters and my workplace because of the operational needs of my work to attend emergencies. But for my wife and kids, most of the time they had to walk up and down the steep slope for 6 -to 7 minutes each trip. That was arduous for them. Another problem was the Staff Quarters were not accessible by school bus, which could only stop at the bottom of the slope near the pumping station. At times of bad weather, my kids had a really difficult time.

我是駕車的，因宿舍及公司都有車位，而我負責行動方面的工作，隨時要駕車前往處理緊急事故，所以多駕車出入，但太太和孩子便要當步兵團，由山下走上大斜路回家需時約 6 - 7 分鐘，相當吃力。另一個難題是：因山路陡峭，校車不駛入宿舍，只停在山坡下泵房附近，因此遇上刮風下雨的日子，孩子上課要沿斜坡步行一段路再等校巴，便十分狼狽。

There were two other things that were both impressive and worrying me. The first was the wandering dogs in the neighbourhood. My wife and kids were so scared that they had to ask the housemaid out for escort. The second was snakes. I recall there were 3 occasions when we ran into one inside our house. My wife had to seek help from the police twice when I was not home. Another time I was home and I killed it on my own.

住在這裡，令我印象最深刻，也教我們頗擔憂的有兩件事：

第一是野狗，太太和孩子遇見牠們時都很害怕，應付不來，便要致電家傭出來接送；

第二是蛇，在我印象中曾經三次發現有蛇入屋，有兩次需要報警，另一次剛好我在家，親手打死牠，另外兩次我不在家，要勞煩警察幫忙捉蛇。

Moving Out from the Quarters 離別依依

I felt a bit upset when moving out the Staff Quarters as that had been a very good gathering place. In contrast, my wife didn't care about that as she said those 6 years were a difficult time for her for the fear of the dogs and hardship in walking up the hill. For me and my kids, that was however a very nice place to live in.

有點失落的感覺，因為失去那麼好的一個聚腳點，但我太太反而不太在意，她回說那六年艱苦的宿舍生活，每天都要擔驚受怕，雖然早上上班時我會駕車載太太一起外出，但因大家下班時間不同，太太要自己走路回家，感覺很辛苦，加上有野狗出沒，經常要擔驚受怕，所以這段時間對她來說並非一件樂事，相反，在我和孩子而言，那兒是一個相當不錯的居所。