

THE SLUM IN THE FISH FARM

YAU TAM MEI #1

Don't be fooled by appearances! At first glance this residence looks nothing like a refugee ghetto. It was constructed in an upmarket Gold Fish Farm that attracted an affluent clientele.

After the previous owner passed away, the new one stopped raising gold fish. With few profitable options, he turned to ISS-HK to settle refugees in blatant contravention of land use.

Today 31 refugees live in this slum that floods in light rain and always stinks of festured water. Insects, rats and snakes thrive in this filthy, neglected compound that is nauseating to inspect.



In the lowlands of
Yau Tam Mei Tsuen

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The grand
entrance remains

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The structure
conceals secrets

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The puzzling
low windows

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Internal low windows?



Low passage?





This deep, unsecured well provides a clue

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A villager explained
the windows' use



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Water seeps out
in the dry season

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The stench is unbearable





Mosquitos breed in
a flooded kitchen

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Stinky, stagnant
drains don't flow

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Only the front side
is tidy and painted

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The squalid underbelly





Back view of the
subdivided *rooms*



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Chinese family
rents the house

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31 refugees live
in illegal structures

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Illegal
electrical works

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His room has no
lights for 6 months

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Shared kitchen and shower





Don't be fooled by
the false ceiling

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Rats rule under the metal roof



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Rats rule under the metal roof



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