

Cleaners build temple out of recycled materials

港都清潔隊打造「環保宮」



A group of street cleaners from Kaohsiung's Sanmin East District have constructed a temple made entirely from recycled materials and named it the Temple of Environmental Protection. Even the decorations and **beam** artwork were done by hand, and it has been said that this is Taiwan's first environmentally friendly temple.

The cleaners decided to build the temple because in the course of their street cleaning duties, they had accumulated a lot of discarded statues of revered gods and goddesses, such as the Earth God and Matsu. They worried that it was disrespectful to the gods for the statues to be covered in dust with **grubby** faces. Since they didn't dare destroy the statues, they decided to help the gods build a home for themselves.

After much creative thinking, the cleaners decided to build the temple underneath a large tree. Everything in the Temple of Environmental Protection was assembled entirely by hand, from the ceiling made from a door curtain, to the recycled light bulbs. Inside the temple, the **altar** and candles are also made from recycled materials, making this Taiwan's first environmentally friendly temple.

The cleaners are good at holding more than just brooms. Once they pick up a paintbrush or a **chisel**, they turn into talented artists. The most surprising thing about the temple is that even the colorful and realistic paintings of dragons and phoenixes were painted by the cleaners. They also engraved the name of the temple on the board that hangs above the entrance, and every day they burn incense and prepare offer-

ings to the temple's gods.

The temple's unique characteristics have won it a lot of praise. Its uniqueness has prompted many passers-by to go inside and worship. In recent years more and more people have come to pray here, and it has become one of the area's notable temples.

(LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY TAIJING WU)

高雄市三民東區清潔隊員搭建一座廟，取名「環保宮」，全部以回收物當作建築材料，裝潢跟樑柱彩繪也是純手工，堪稱全台灣第一座環保廟。

建造這座廟的原因，是因為清潔隊員在打掃市區時，撿了上百尊遭遺棄的神像，當中包括土地公、媽祖等。神像堆在一塊累積許多灰塵，各個灰頭土臉，清潔隊員因為怕對神明不敬，不敢銷毀神像，所以幫神像打造了這個家。

清潔隊員利用回收物發揮想像力，在一棵大樹下建造這間環保廟。「環保宮」以純手工搭建，不但活動門簾充當天板，還以回收燈泡做成廟燈。廟內的神桌、蠟燭等，也全是回收物，所以稱為全台首座環保廟。

清潔隊員不只會拿掃把，當他們拿起畫筆跟雕刻刀時，各個都成為多才多藝的藝術家。最令人驚訝的是，廟裡柱子與橫樑上的彩繪五彩龍鳳，各個栩栩如生，都是隊員們自己畫的。連雕刻木頭匾額也都自己來。隊員每天上香祭拜，還準備新鮮供品，供奉落難神明。

廟宇深具特色，大家讚不絕口。許多民衆路過發現，直呼很特別，因此也引來大家祈福保佑。近年越來越多人前來拜拜，廟裡香火鼎盛，儼然成為地方特色廟宇。

(自由時報記者陳文輝)

Left: A cleaner and an unidentified woman inspect the Temple of Environmental Protection in Kaohsiung on Aug. 24.
Below: A discarded light bulb picked up by street cleaners is given a new lease of life at the Temple of Environmental Protection in Kaohsiung on Aug. 24.

PHOTOS: CHEN WEN-CHAN

左圖：八月二十四日，高雄市一名清潔隊員與一不具名女性視察「環保宮」。

下圖：八月二十四日，高雄清潔隊員回收的廢棄燈泡在「環保宮」重現光明。

照片：記者陳文輝攝



TODAY'S WORDS

今日單字

1. **beam** /bim/ n.

樑 (liang2)

例：We replaced the beams after they became damaged by woodworm.
(樑木被蟲蛀壞，所以我們進行更換。)

2. **grubby** /'grʌbi/ adj.

污穢的 (wu1 hui4 de5)

例：The boys sat in the corner of a grubby little restaurant.
(男孩們坐在某髒亂小餐廳的一角。)

3. **altar** /'ɔltə/ n.

供桌 (kong4 zhuo1)

例：The worshippers placed their offerings on the altar.
(信徒把祭品放在供桌上。)

4. **chisel** /'tʃizl/ n.

鑿子 (zao2 zi5)

例：Make sure you regularly sharpen your chisel.
(記得要定期磨鑿子。)