



## VILLAROMAN FUNCTION HALL

Used to be a dining hall in the 1950s. Lighter shades on the *terrazzo* floor are indicative of a former kitchen and restrooms, which were added in the 1960s. Kitchen's and restrooms' old walls were removed to maximize the hall for Casa's auctions and as a venue for events.



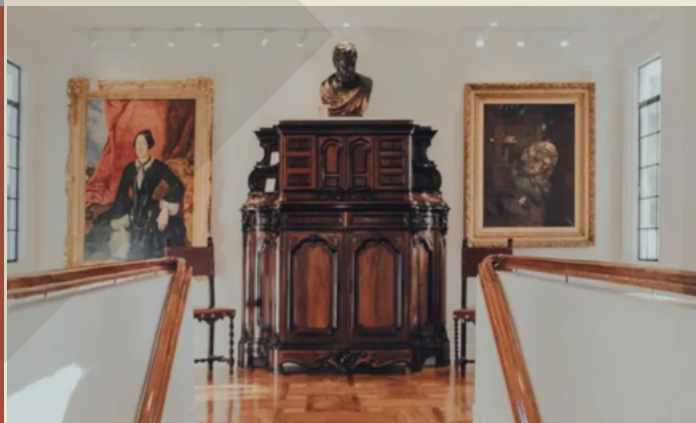
## PDM MUSEUM

During prewar, the structure was a part of Los Tamaraos horse stable. The Villaromans turned it into their garage in the 1950s. Currently, the Lhuilliers transformed it into a museum of Christian art and heritage from Europe. The only Filipino piece in this collection is a *de vestir* Madonna and Child, with ivory face and hands, dating back to the late 18th century.

## CASA DE MEMORIA SHOWROOM

Having the third floor up as additions from the 1950s, the third floor used to be Drs. Francisco and Esperanza Villaroman's masters bedroom.

Now the area serves as the showroom for Palacio's in-house auction house, Casa de Memoria.



## MOSPIL LOUNGE

An original late 1950s to early 1960s Antonov An-24B, later used by Mosphil Aero — a short-lived airline based in Makati, from 2005 to 2006, operated both domestic passenger and cargo services, with a planned Zamboanga – Sandakan – Kota Kinabalu route.

Now named Mosphil Lounge, the plane is an ideal spot to unwind and relive the period of a funky town Manila, curated with vintage mid-century modern furniture and curios.



## PALACIO DE MEMORIA



Palacio de Memoria is a restored seven-storey prewar mansion in Spanish colonial revival style, dating back to the late 1930s. Originally owned by

Don Antonio Melian y Pavia, third count of Peracamps, and Doña Margarita Melian y Zobel de Ayala. After the war, the mansion was acquired by Drs. Francisco and Esperanza Villaroman, who added five more floors as their family grew throughout 1950s. The tower on top, initially an observatory, later housed the engine of the original Otis elevator in the 1960s.

Purchased by the Lhuillier family in the early 2000s from the Villaroman heirs, the mansion and its grounds have undergone a complete restoration. The Palacio serves as a home to the auction house, Casa de Memoria, and is also open as an arts and events venue.

Palacio de Memoria is a recipient of the NCCA's 2021 Heritage Award for Adaptive Reuse category.

Mondays to Sundays 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
hello@palaciodememoria.com





## THE FIRST OWNERS (CA. 1937 - 1951)

Doña Margarita Melian y Zobel de Ayala and Don Antonio Melian y Pavia, third count of Peracamps, Spain, had the mansion built by the late 1930s. After the war, they revived the mansion prior to selling it to the Villaroman family in 1951.

## LHULLIER FAMILY (2004 - PRESENT)

Around 2004, the Villaromans sold the seven-storey mansion within its 1.3 hectare lot to the Lhuillier family. Restoration began in mid 2010s, when it was yet unbeknownst that the *terrazzo* floor and Art Deco extended ceiling exist. The original brass Otis elevator was looted when the mansion was still abandoned, and is now replaced with another model.



## THE GRAY ROOM

Used to be Villaroman's sala and guest room.

Inspired by the prewar high society's late afternoon "high tea" parties along Dewey Boulevard, the *Gray Room* recreates the "lady's tea room." Graced with an early 20th century portrait of Portugal's last queen, Doña Maria Amelia of Orleans.

The original two-storey mansion during the February 1945 "Liberation of Manila." The Nichols Air Base (today's NAIA) being bombed at afar.



## LOS TAMARAOS BALLROOM

The main ballroom, named in honor of *Los Tamarao's Polo Club* (est. 1937). The ballroom features original neoclassical arches and columns, and the festive Art Deco *terrazzo* floor, mixed with mother-of-pearl, attributed to the National Artist Juan Nakpil.



## VILLAROMAN FAMILY (1951 - MID 1980S)

In 1951, the Melians sold the property to the Villaroman family, who added the upper floors as their bedrooms, the terrazzo at the ground, and the tower in the 1950s. Earliest photo of the already seven-storey mansion dates back to 1959.



Villaroman Mansion ca. 1959.  
Photo courtesy of Parañaque  
Tourism Office's local historian,  
Arvie Hernandez

## THE RED ROOM

One of the two salas at the ground floor, which also served as Dr. Villaroman's receiving office during their stay from 1950s through mid 1980s. The Venetian-inspired design is a homage to the present owner's patriarch, Amb. Philippe J. Lhuillier's passion for European antiques.



## AMBASSADORS' DINING HALL

The hall was also a dining area during the Villaroman's time; used to have two large tables to accommodate three generations of its former owners. A secret passage runs underneath the grand staircase, leading to the kitchen area on the other side.

A damaged 2-story concrete building on an improved lot of 13,487 square meters in Baclaran, Parañaque, was sold by Doña Margarita Zobel de Ayala to Francisco Villaroman Foundation for P260,000;

Source: *Journal of the American Chamber of Commerce*, July 1951, p. 264.