

COMPLETION REPORT

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【Subject of Research Project】

The Influence of Japanese Architecture and Culture on Thai Architecture in The Post-War Period

【Research Summary】

The scene of Japanese architecture on the development of Thai architecture can be traced back to the midst of World War II in 1943 when the result of competition for Nittai Bunka Kaikan was announced. Kenzo Tange who won a prize used Kyoto Imperial Palace as the model for his design but the proposal was unbuilt. Then, Thai-Japan Bangkok Youth Center is one of the earliest built projects from the support of the Japanese government in 1982. Other buildings had been also designed and constructed under the support of Japanese government, for example, Thailand Cultural Centre, The Japanese study center at Thammasat University, National Institute of Health, and Ayutthaya Historical study Centre. In the following period of bubble economy, design works of Japanese architects can be seen in Thai Daimaru and World Trade Center, Bangkok.

After bubble economy came to an end in the early of 1990s, Japan's economy entered a decades-long period of stagnation affecting the Japanese support for building design and construction which no more subsidized projects could be found during this period. Nevertheless, the influence of Japanese architecture still constantly flowed to Thai architecture as can be seen in the works of Krisda Rochanakorn, a Kyoto university graduate. He has design architecture of tranquil atmosphere which is a uniqueness of Japanese space via his design office, Habita Architects.

During 1990s, academic activities done with Japanese architects also influenced Thai architectural students and architects. In January 1996, Toyo Ito gave his first lecture in Bangkok and held the workshop called "Tomorrow Where Shall We Live?" In March 1996, another workshop themed "Bangkok in 2 Weeks" was held by the cooperation between JIA and ASA. In the same year, Tadao Ando also came to give a lecture for ASA Expo 1996. Since then, the number of Thai students who went to study architecture in Japan have gradually increased.

In 2000s the influence of Japanese Architecture in Thailand was not so distinct comparing to the influence from the west while Japan's economic recovery remained weak. An exemption of visa for Thai tourists from July 1, 2013, gave a chance for Thai people to get directly close to Japanese culture. Popular use of social media in mobile phones and the advent of low-cost airlines catalyzed Thai tourists to go to Japan. Impression of Japanese architecture by Thai tourists encouraged place making projects by the replica construction of Japanese urban scape. The piecemeal composition of Japanese townscape in these projects can be seen, for example in Nomisuke Ramen, Chonburi and Mogokoro Teahouse, Chiang Mai.

In this period Japanese architects also quietly designed their works, for example, Amanpuri Retail Pavilion by Kengo Kuma in 2018. Nikken Sekkei Thailand was also found in 2018 and tried to

express its vision in Bangkok Design Week 2021 by building of Stay Cool Pavilion from brick and Timber Interface Pavilion in Bangkok Design Week 2023.

It can be observed that Japanese architecture has inserted strong influence in the creation of Thai architecture. The flow of influence from Japan starts from state to state, government to government, private sector to private sector and person to person, while the initial privilege Japanese architectural culture gradually moved to academic world of educated groups, pop, mass, kitsch and sub-culture respectively.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

- 8th Biennial International Conference of the Japanese Studies Association of Southeast Asia (JSA-ASEAN), Chiang Mai, December 21-22, 2023. **Japan-ness in Thai Architecture**, Nawit Ongsawangchai.

-The 14th International Symposium on Architectural Interchanges in Asia (ISAIA), September 10-13, 2024, Kyoto, Japan, by the Architectural Institute of Japan (AIJ), **The Influence of Japanese Architecture on Thai Architecture in the Post-War Period**, Nawit Ongsawangchai.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)