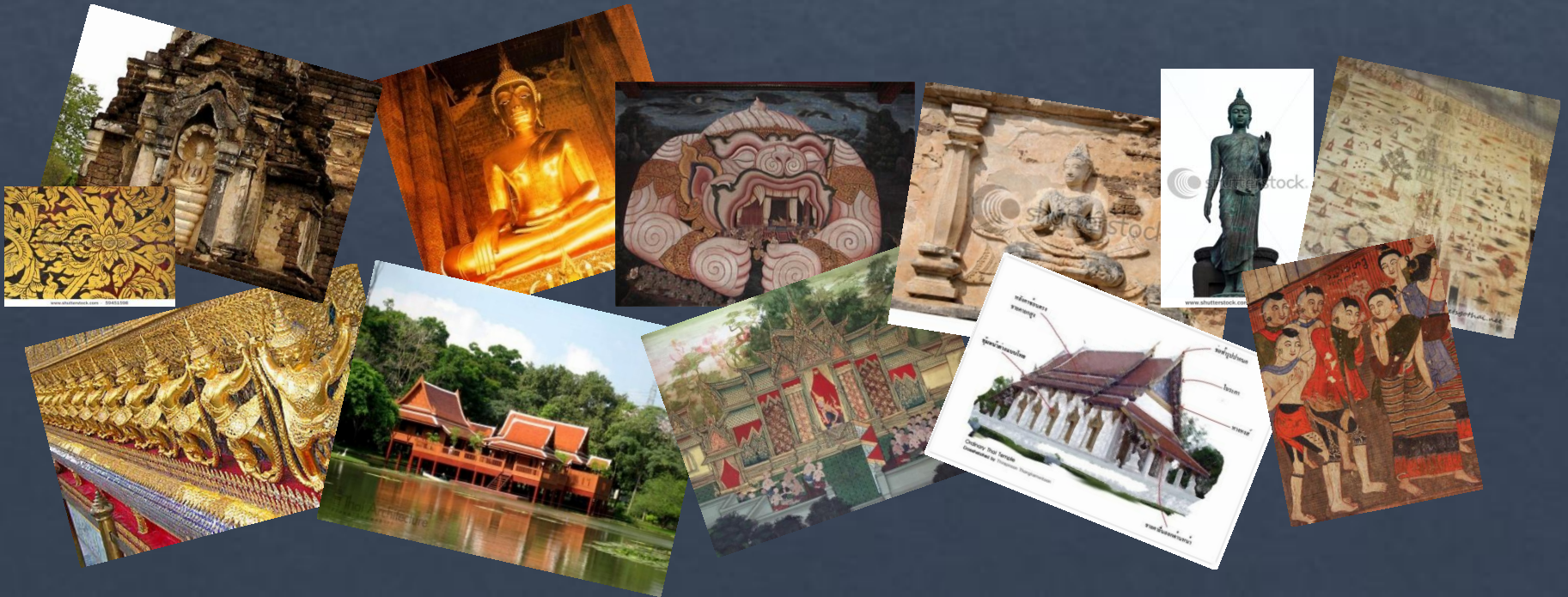


TRM 2207

English for Thai History and Thai Arts



English vocabulary and expressions used in Thai history and Thai arts for performing effectively tour conduct at historical, archeological and cultural sites, English terms for major forms of Thai arts including architecture, painting and sculpture found in Thailand in various periods and regions.

What skill should you be able to develop?

- Tell historical stories / events using appropriate words and correct sentences.
- Describe different Thai arts and architecture, meanings, motifs and values of various styles and periods, using appropriate words and correct sentences.
- Demonstrate your speaking using media technology, on the assigned points of interest.

Assessment (70 / 30)

Class Attendance	5%
Class Participation	5%
Assignments / Tests (mostly speaking)	40%
Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	30%

What are covered in this course?

Unit 1: Art Appreciation and Forms, Meanings and Contexts

- Introduction to the course and evaluation criteria
- Introduction to art and architecture and showcases of Thai arts and cultural heritage

Unit 2: Thai Architecture Composition

- General concept of architecture- the art of shaping of space (physical, perceptual / conceptual and behavioral space)
- Outstanding characteristics of Thai architecture
- Influential factors and design concept of Thai architecture

Unit 3: Describing History

- Telling the narratives
- What to talk about history (what is the place/ where is it located/ what is the historical significance of the place/ experience of the place)
- Vocabulary and expressions
- Case: Sites in Kanchanaburi Province, or others relevant

Unit 4: Describing Old Palaces, Royal Residents and Precincts

- Divisions of Thai royal residence
- Traditional and modern/ applied styles of Thai royal residence
- Some important palaces in Thailand
- Vocabulary and expressions
- Case: a palace and associated surroundings (such as site plan, buildings, gates and forts) or others relevant)

Unit 5: Describing Archeological and Historical Sites

- Physical sites and heritage significance
- Vocabulary and expressions
- Case: Ayutthaya Historical Park/ Sukhothai Historical Park, or other historical ruins

Unit 6: Describing Buddhist Sites and Objects

- Site plan and functional areas of Thai temple or Monastery
- Temple architectural features
- Important decoratives/ sculpture in Buddhist art (Buddha images in different periods and postures, Buddhist divinities and ornamental works, stucco decoration)
- Vocabulary and expressions
- Cases: Lanna style, Sukhothai style, Ayutthaya style and Rattanakosin style

Unit 7: Describing Cultural and Historic Sites, Old Communities

- Describing characteristics of Thai communities (such as physical and geographical aspects, infrastructure, patterns of settlement, commerce and industry, demographics, history, community culture, institutions, economics, government/ politics, social structure, value)

Unit 8: Describing Vernacular Art and Architecture in Thailand

- Definition of vernacular art and architecture
- Thai houses as the vernacular architecture
- Some important house elements
- Thai houses in different styles by regions
- Vocabulary and expressions

Unit 9: Describing Thai Paintings

- Characteristics of traditional Thai paintings
- Types of traditional Thai paintings
- Materials, methods and equipment used in Thai paintings
- Cases: mural paintings- motifs and spaces in mural paintings
- Vocabulary and expressions

UNIT 1 Introduction and Art Appreciation, Forms, Meanings and Contexts

Topics

- Warm- up activity (reading, writing and speaking)
- Introduction to art and architecture and showcases of Thai arts and cultural heritage

Warm- up with writing:
Answer these questions by your
perception and understanding

- What is history?
- What is art?
- What is architecture?
- What is traditional Thai art and what is contemporary Thai art?

Objectives

Students should be able to:

- Classify Thai arts.
- Describe the outstanding characteristics of Thai arts.
- Give an overview of background of architectural development of humanity.
- Indicate different purposes of architectural buildings
- Indicate factors that influence architectural design concepts in Thai architecture with explanation of how the architecture is influenced by those factors and examples.
- Indicate and explain the outstanding value characteristics of Thai architecture.

Classification in Thai Arts

- Thai Painting
- Thai Sculpture
- Thai Architecture
- Thai Literature
- Thai Music and Performing Arts

Thai Paintings

- Thai painting is in the category of Fine Arts
- Defined as drawing and painting by following patterns that show Thai characteristics
- Usually relate to Thai literature, history, life of Lord Buddha
- Can be usually found on doors, windows, walls of Ubosot, Vihara, or Scripture Hall (mural painting), wooden box that keeps Buddhist scriptures, Niello wares, Thai lacquer ware, gold leaf, jewelry box

Drawing Thai pattern
(Lai Thai)

Painting and gold leaf
painting

Thai Traditional Paintings



Thai Sculpture



Thai sculpture is defined as sculpturing, molding, carving, casting and modeling. Thai sculpture mostly relates to Buddhism especially sculpturing Buddha image.

Thai Architecture

Thai architecture is defined as art of building or construction.

- Houses and residences
- Monastery or temples such as Ubosot, Vihara, Stupa and Chedi, palatial buildings or palaces, halls, pavilions
- Architectural designs and functions vary by geographies and can be categorized by functions.

Thai Architecture

- Background of Architectural Development of Humanity
- Development of Humanity Architecture
- Purposes of Architectural Building
- Factors that Influence Design Concepts of Thai Architecture
- Outstanding Value Characteristics of Thai Architecture



Satchanalai

Living



Function- oriented:
strong, stable,
protecting

Beauty



Form- oriented
(aesthetics) for
appreciation &
happiness of mind

Belief & Faith



Religion, heroic
commemoration,
philosophy

Residences



Houses

Mansions

**Grand
palaces**

**Royal
residences**

Palaces

**Drum
towers**

**Monk's
residence**

Ubosot

**Scripture
hall**

Vihara

**Monasteries
(architecture that
relates to religion)**

**Bell
towers**

Chedi

Stupa





เรือนแพขายของที่เคยมีอยู่ตามชุมชนริมนแม่น้ำในภาคกลางสมัยที่เคยใช้แม่น้ำเป็นเส้นทางสัญจร







Outstanding Characteristics of Thai Arts

Thai art is very much influenced by nature and environment of Thai society and culture.

It's outstanding characteristics include:

- Its delicate beauty; this character reflects the character and mind of Thai people which can be perceived in created arts.
- Most traditional arts in Thailand are created to promote Buddhism or are created from Buddhist faiths and beliefs.

Background of Architectural Development of Humanity




- Architecture is not just a science of construction but it is a kind of “Visual Art” which is defined as tangible art.
- Architecture must compose of the following compositions:

- stable form and size
- ordered and well- planned structure
- mass as well as massive
- space
- proportion
- unity
- purpose
- creativity
- artistic value
- serving human desires, physically and mentally (mind & imagination)

Development of Humanity Architecture

- Human had been living in caves, cliffs, mountains, or other kinds of natural protecting areas.
- The living was not comfortable due to many reasons



- Living like a nomad in order to find new clean place and more space for family 
- Wandering to a new place that was stronger, more stable and safer. 
- Living place served very basic (except hygienic safety and cleanliness) --- protecting them from weather (sun, rain, cold) 
- Later, human learned to decorate their living places with natural materials that were easily found, to serve aesthetic beauty purpose.

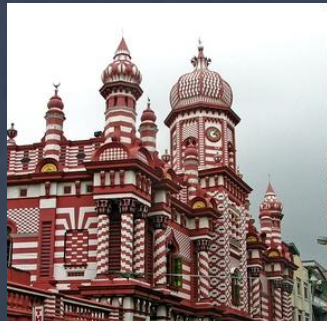
- As there were more people, human learned to expand from small to larger societies. In order to keep the groups in order, they needed to find things for the members to follow such as social patterns, traditions, rules and regulation, as well as faith, beliefs, values and customs that hold the group's members together.



Human's beliefs and faiths appear in the form of the following

- Ritual activities, performing arts, religions
- Tangible form such as religious architectural buildings
- In order to express or tell other groups of people what they believe and value, they usually add their faith and beliefs whenever they build things or create architectural arts.

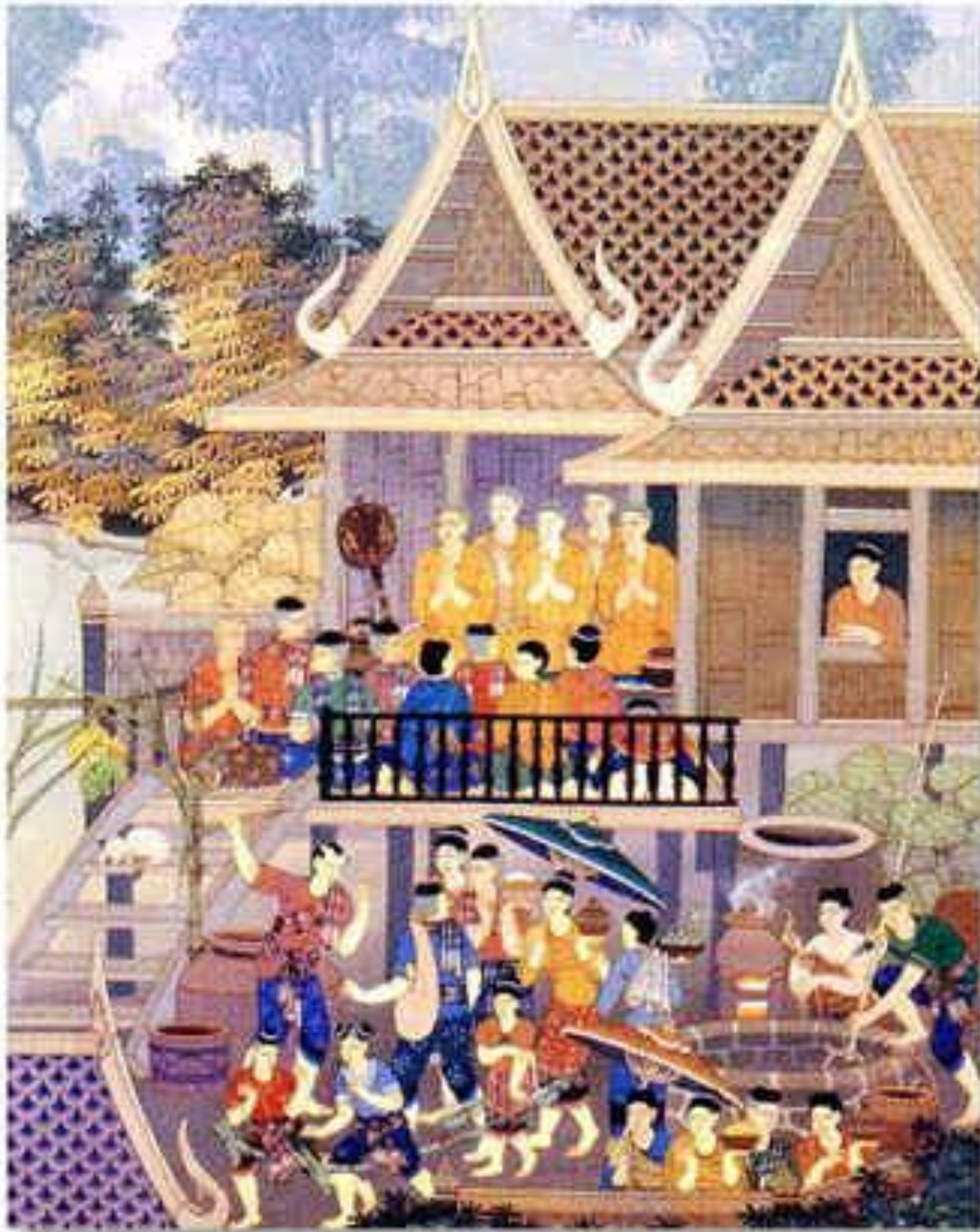
e.g. Human builds religion- based architecture which has the religious philosophy behind in order to express their beliefs and faiths of that religion.



Purposes of Architectural Building

There are 3 main purposes of building architecture as follows:

1. Functional- oriented purpose >>> strong, stable, protecting, for daily uses.
2. Purpose of religion, heroic commemoration and philosophy
3. Form- oriented (aesthetics) purpose; mainly for appreciation and happiness of mind



Factors that Influence Design Concepts of Thai Architecture

Architecture is influenced by many factors.

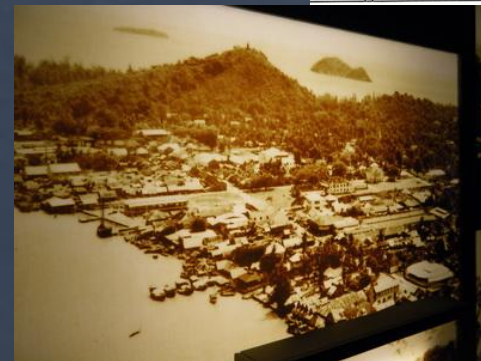
In the past, building had normally been under the force of nature and the law of nature.

Nowadays , with technology and forces of social and environmental changes, building styles are more various

Human live under various types of ecology, landscapes and cultural landscapes

There are many factors that influence and interrelate within the ecology. When human builds things, these factors come into consideration.

- ✓ Knowledge
- ✓ Nature
- ✓ Social factors
- ✓ History
- ✓ Religion
- ✓ Natural resources



(1) Knowledge, imagination, wisdoms:

these things are for solving problems and for indicating patterns and recognizing values and customs

(2) Nature: human architecture is forced by nature (in both reactive and proactive ways).

This includes:

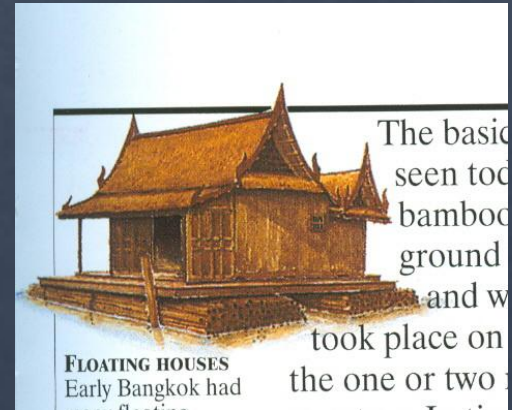
(2.1) geography and landscape

(2.2) season

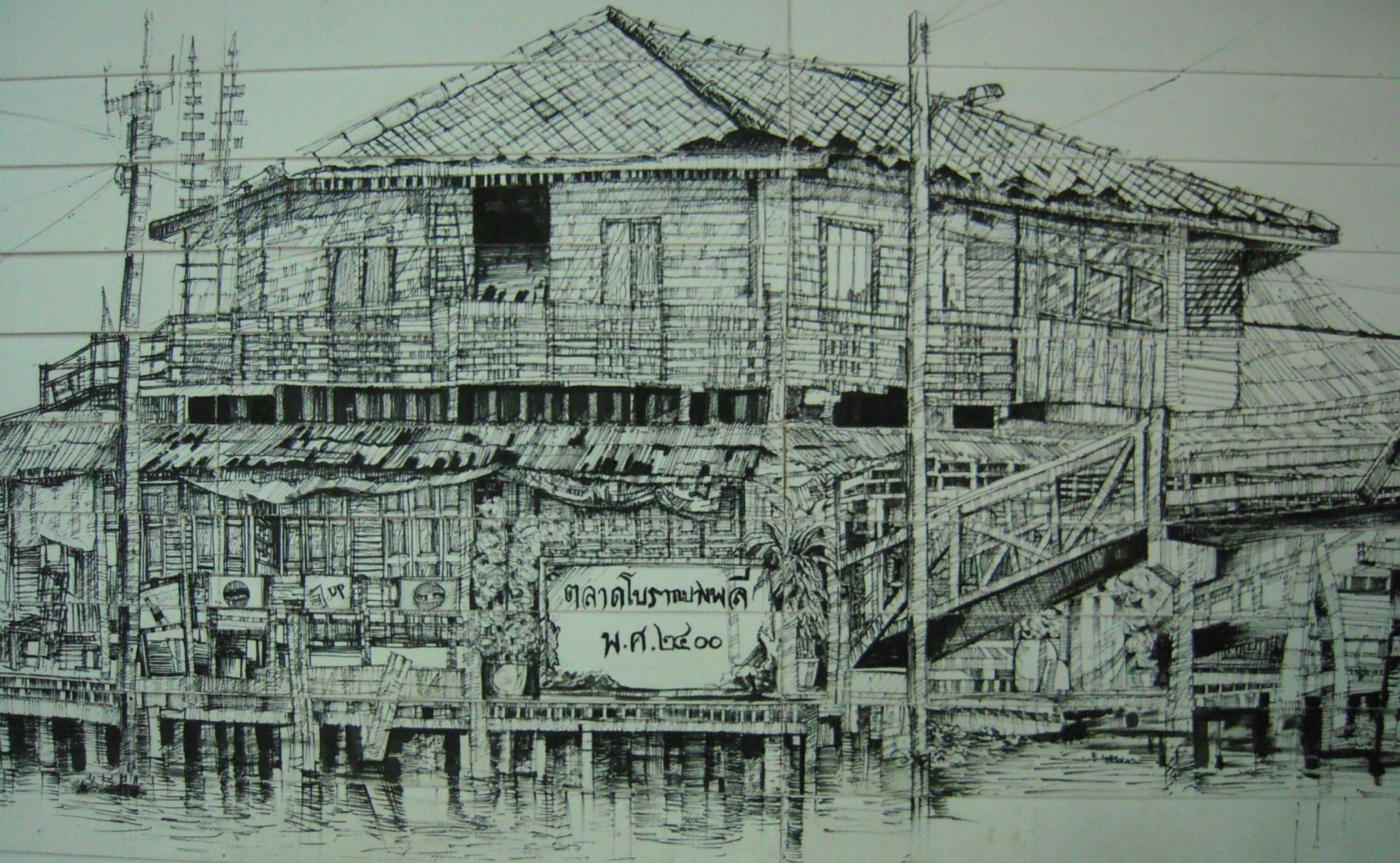
Geography & landscape

- Selecting geography, landscape and location that serve comfort, convenience purpose such as near river

- Natural landscapes force architectural styles such as geography vs. the height of Chedi (plain for higher Chedi and mountain for low structure Chedi), river in central Thailand vs. floating house or house on stilts







ตลาดโบราณพุด

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Exchange and influences between a region and neighboring regions could cause the art of architecture

e.g. Towns in the North of Thailand

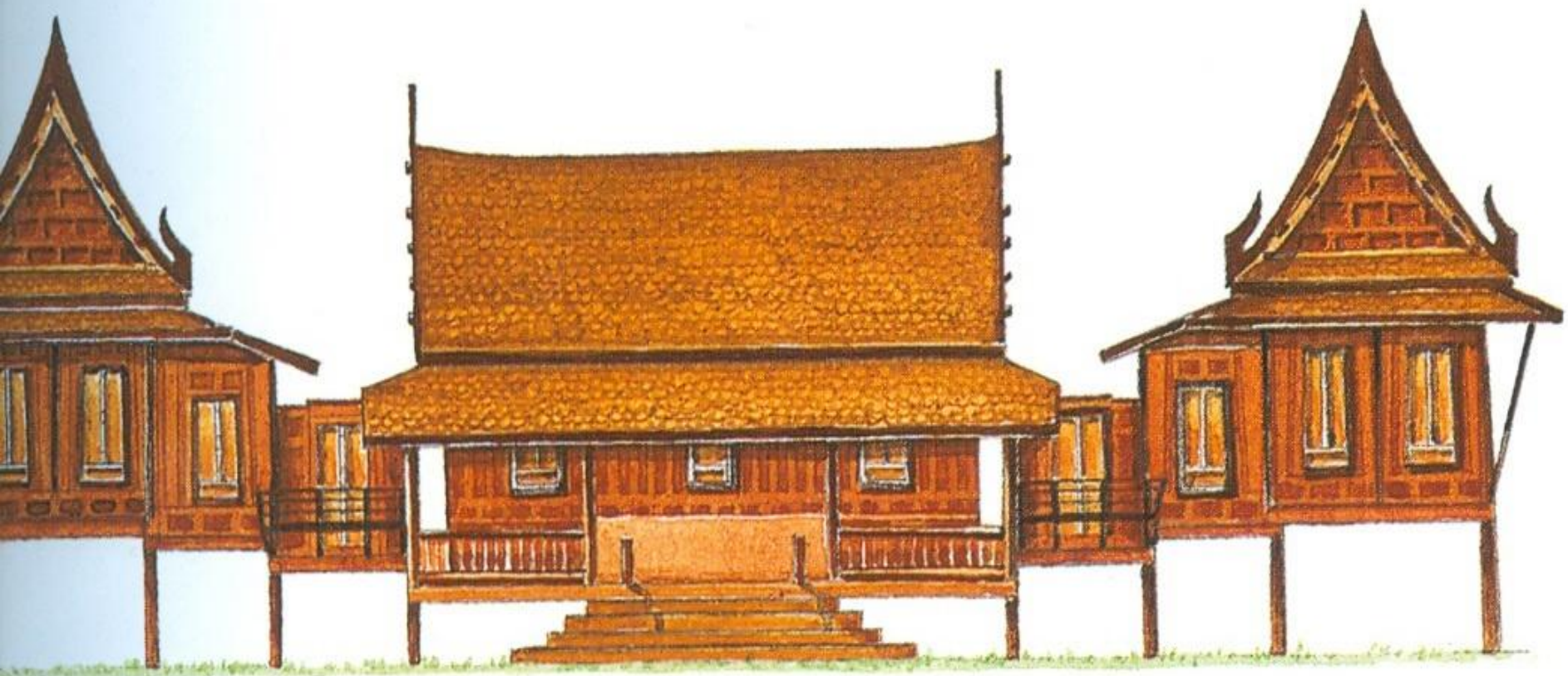
Nan, Phrae, Phayao, Lamphoon, Lampang, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai

Season

- Different patterns of seasons in each region determine styles of architecture especially residential architecture.

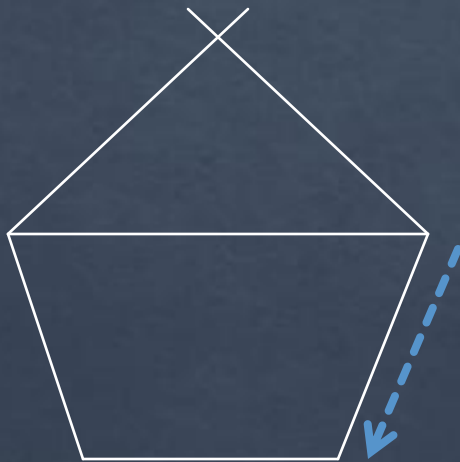
Examples are way of building Thai houses in the Chao Phraya River Central Plain influenced by rainy season when flood usually happens. Therefore, central Thai houses are built on high posts (pillars) to prevent the house body from flood that can happen any year and any dangerous animals that may come with the flood.

Or the steep roofs with curved bargeboards with gable or “Jua” so that water (rain) will be running down out of the roof quickly



Or houses in the north of Thailand- usually built in low structure as a result of cold weather. Therefore the house stands on the lower posts or pillars.

Or the wall of the house that is designed to prevent cold wind to flow into the house



The basic Thai house of the past, rarely seen today, was a simple structure of bamboo and thatch, raised off the ground for protection against floods and wild animals. Most family life took place on a veranda-like platform outside one or two rooms that served as sleeping quarters. In time, this model evolved into more complex structures of wood, varying in both form and decoration to suit conditions in different regions but always retaining their essential simplicity.

ROYAL HOUSES
Royal houses were similar in design to those of commoners except that they were generally closer to the ground and had more decorative features.

A famous example that survives from early Bangkok is the Tamnak Daeng, or "Red House," ▲ 157 now in the compound of the National Museum. Built by King Rama I as a residence for one of his queens, it was originally in Ayutthaya style but acquired more Rattanakosin elements during several moves. King Rama V presented the house to the museum as a reminder of an architectural style then becoming rare.

"SALA"
Sala, or pavilions, are open structures with characteristic Thai roofs where people relax and watch the world go by. They can still be seen in many parts of the country: near the entrance to temples, along roadsides and canals, and in several private compounds.

THE NORTHERN HOUSE
The northern Thai house differs significantly from its counterpart in the Central Plains. The walls lean outward, giving it a sturdier look, and windows are often smaller. A notable decorative feature, especially in the Chiang Mai area, are the V-shaped designs at the ends of the roof, called *kalae*. Some authorities believe they represent a pair of buffalo horns.

NORTHERN RICE BARN
A rice barn is a component of most traditional compounds in the northern region. Raised on pillars and with a ladder for access, it is a solid structure with few windows, used to store grain.

GATE
Houses belonging to more prosperous families usually have a gate, often sheltered by a Thai-style roof that opens on to the central platform. A jar of water is placed at the bottom of the steps so that visitors and residents can wash their feet before ascending.

PANELING
Paneled walls are a relatively recent addition to the Thai house.

Social Factor

- Members in rural society usually have similar value as the community is a close and collective system while values of members in bigger society (City) may vary as the city is an open and individual system.
- This fact shapes the way or style of architecture. For example, collective and expanded family, houses are built in the same compound or the same fence (called Reun Moo) or Condominium in city for individual living

History

- Architectural buildings that are designed with influences of the historical traits.
- Example is Lanna Kingdom that has long history and had been occupied by different kingdoms from Burma to Ayuttaya, and the fact that it had been contacting with its contemporary kingdoms such as Sukhothai

For example, architectural buildings especially religious ones in Lanna Kingdom had been developed with a mix of influences from Hariphunchai, Hiran Nakorn Ngern Yang, Burma, Sukhothai.

Or Sukhothai (Sri Satchanalai) influence found in the Stupa Chedi named “Chang Lom” of “Wat Chiang Man” in Chiang Mai, whose base is encircled by the sacred elephants / or Chedi decorated with color glass as the influence from Burmese art.

Wat Chang Lom, Sri Satchanalai



Chedi Chang Lom, Wat Chiang Man, Chiang Mai



Religion

- Religious influence plays a great role in architecture. This includes religious beliefs, faith and values of people in a particular community/society.

Significant example is when Buddhist laymen devote labor and money for building Viharn, Chedi, Ubosot.



Other example-

Wat Sri Sawai in Sukhothai Historical Park is Hindu temple, or Wat Pra Pai Luang in Brahma / Khmer and Ta Pha Daeng Hindu Shrine that had been in the area before the Sukhothai empire



**Wat Sri Sawai,
Sukhothai**

ของศูนย์กลางบางเมืองในดินแดนทางภาคกลางของไทย ในราว



Ta Pha Daeng Hindu Shrine, Sukhothai

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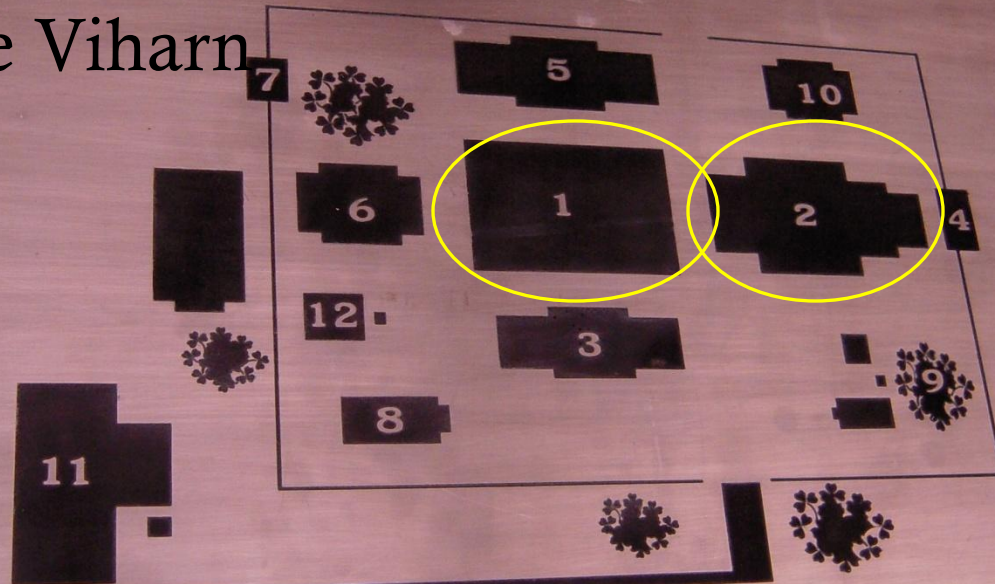
Other examples:

- Chedi or Stupa valued as the architectural building built for representing Buddhism or Lord Buddha or housing Lord Buddha relics. Stupa is built to house ancestors' relics as well.
- Monastic complex plan that reflects meaning behind such as the temple complex plan of Wat Phra That Lampang Luang, Lampang.

No. 1 = The Chedi

No. 2 = The Viharn

VG



The Chedi was built behind the Viharn as Viharn is the place for Buddhist laymen to pay homage to the Buddha image, and at the same time, they pay homage to the Chedi behind.

Natural Resources

- This is quite normal when natural resources in an area are the main materials for building architecture such as
 - bamboo in the north used for building houses
 - Laterite used for building temples in Sukhothai and Sri Satchanalai
 - Din Kho roof of Thai Lanna Viharn made by clay because we didn't have nails yet in the past



Outstanding Value Characteristics of Thai Architecture

Thai architecture also has its values which become the customs that have been considered and practiced when artisans create architectural works. Some values are universal, being practiced in most cultures. These values considered in Thai architecture include the following:

- Value about choosing “Location” (harmonious with living style, serving agriculture-based living, convenient for transport)
- Value about choosing “Material” (strong, durable, functional performance)
- Value about choosing “Right Time” (star, auspicious date & time)

- Value about choosing “Right Direction” (weather, religious beliefs)
- Value about choosing “Right Size and Proportion” (for function and form purposes—relation with human needs)
- Value about “Beauty”

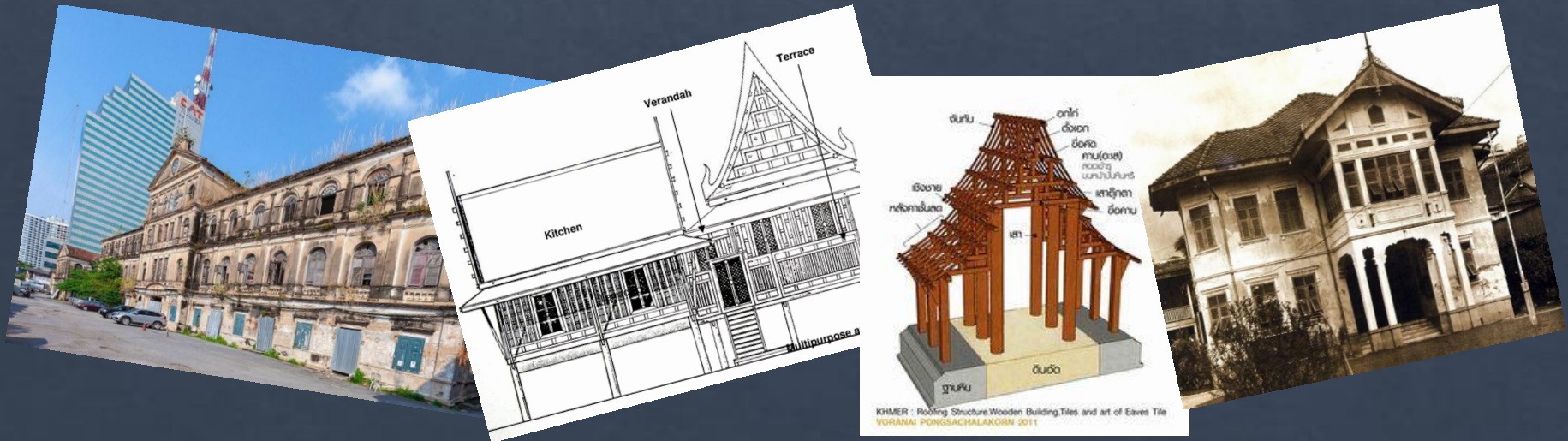
Forms, meanings and
contexts

Form

Physical description/appearance

Such as

- Describe appearance/ dimension/ plan/ landscape
- Architectural profile
- Indicate the components



Meanings

Belief and function values, concept behind

Such as

- Why was it built?
- What is the concept behind the building/ object?
- What are values about location, materials, direction, time, size and proportion and beauty of the construction of buildings/ creation of objects?
- Expectation/ aims/ objectives of the making of buildings/ objects

Context

Significance and relation with event(s)/ the circumstances that formed or have formed/ shaped the setting for an event, statement, or idea

Such as

- Describe history/ events related to buildings/ objects
- Describe significance as a result of particular events, statements or ideas arisen/ provoked during the time.
- Describe elements of buildings/ objects created as a result of particular events, statements or ideas arisen/ provoked during the time, that define particular context / identity.

Warm-Up Activity

- Students get in pair see pictures of various Thai arts and places
- Choose 1 object and 1 building
- Help each other find the information (in Thai).
- Help arrange the description in Thai and translate into English sentences (no use of Google Translate at this point, but you can use general online dictionary) to provide their physical description and meanings (belief and function values/utilities).
- List new words (nouns) of your writing.





















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Introducing Glossary of Terms in Thai Arts

- Buddhist art
- Decoration
- Ornamentation
- Traditional Thai painting
- Architecture
- Sculpture
- Aesthetic
- Dimension
- Perspective
- Composition
- Depiction
- Motif
- Wisdom
- Architectural style
- Contemporary
- Lay out
- Element
- Roof form
- Roof finial
- Tier
- Function
- Structure
- Characteristic
- Artistic value
- Design
- Concept
- Landscape
- Residential architecture
- Monastic architecture
- Roof gable