

THE ARCHITECTURAL AESTHETIC DESIGN FOR SUBWAY STATION BENEFITS TO TOURISM CASE SANAM CHAI STATION MRT BLUE LINE BANGKOK THAILAND.

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to focus on the architectural esthetic design which benefits to tourism. In the present time, the Thai government invests a big budget on infrastructure and mass transportation is one of the main projects to connect the people not only Thai but also the foreigner who come for business and tourism. The subway station not only to be designed for the transportation purpose but also benefit for tourist attraction. Bangkok is the most visited city in the world again. Welcoming around 22.7 million international visitors, Bangkok ranked as the top destination for global travelers this year, according to Mastercard's 2019 Global Destinations Cities Index.

MRT Sanamchai Station is the most beautiful MRT station in Thailand. It is located at the center of Rattanakosin Island, a cultural preserved area surrounding the Royal Palace and the old Bangkok city. The station decorations reflect early Ratanakosin architecture designs which demonstrate beauty and grandeur.

Located on Sanam Chai Rd. cross with Phraphiphit Rd. to Sanam Chai Rd. cross with Rachini Rd. around the old moat Canal. Sanam Chai Station, soon to be one of the most beautiful underground stations of Thailand, has an interior designed within early Ratanakosin-period architectural style by National Artist of Thailand and the Architecture Professor Dr. Pinyo Suwankiri

Keywords : Architectural aesthetic, Sanam Chai Station, tourism benefit.

INTRODUCTION

The Ko Rattanakosin Island area is the oldest part of Bangkok. Located by the river, this is where most of Bangkok's main historical attractions are, for example, Wat Phra Kaew and Wat Pho. These impressive sights aren't the only things to do in Ko Rattanakosin however, and many of the other sights are within easy walking distance. 'Ko' is the Thai word for 'island', but this is no longer an accurate term for this area. It was so named due to Bangkok's extensive canals in the late 18th century that surrounded the area but nowadays most are filled in and you'd be hard-pressed to realize what there used to be while walking or driving around it.

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MRT administration wants to create Sanam Chai station the new extension of blue line subway to be an attractive architectural design to benefit tourism by itself and all the areas around which are historical tourism centers in Bangkok old town.



Fig. 1. The Ko Rattanakosin Island area is the oldest part of Bangkok. Located by the river.

OBJECTIVE

The study focuses on the architectural esthetic of the subway station that can create a tourist attraction and benefit to the Ko Rattanakosin island area in the oldest part of Bangkok by the River.

METHODOLOGY

The research methods and sources can be broken down into the following components:

DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

- Collection of published information on Thai history and architectural history, especially that of architectural esthetic.
- Non-systematic observation of the behavior of local communities that involving in architectural esthetic comparison
- Review of available literature pertaining to cultural or sustainable tourism.
- Study of all documents relating to places and activities in Ko Rattanakosin both primary sources and secondary sources, such as diaries, local documents, ancient photographs, maps, reports, and related studies.
- Collection of the original and ancient information (primary sources) on Ko Rattanakosin from national archives.

SITE RESEARCH

- Site survey of Sanam Chai station to gather general information of the existing physical landscape and its
- Architectural heritage. Photographing and Mapping the site.
- Data will be collected from the local community, visitors and local authorities.
- This will be studied, collected and reviewed to establish the architectural heritage of Sanam Chai station assessing and analyzing the potential and planning the promotion of cultural tourism.

WHAT IS AESTHETIC?

The aesthetic is a branch of philosophy that deals with the nature of art, beauty and taste, with the creation or appreciation of beauty a particular theory or conception of beauty or art a particular taste for or approach to what is pleasing to the senses and especially sight.

AESTHETIC IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Architecture is a design process that involves planning, designing, creating, erecting, constructing and executing the construction of various types of spaces that are functionally efficient, economical, and aesthetically pleasing. ... The other aspect is form or aesthetics which related to feelings and emotions.

HOW SUWAY STATION BENEFIT TO TOURISM?

This article aims to provide an overview of research into aesthetic issues concerning architectural design and the environment in general. For this purpose, the article focuses on the architectural conceptual design by the National Artist of Thailand and the Architecture Professor Dr. Pinyo Suwankiri who is claimed to be one of the first rows of Thai traditional architectural designers of Thailand. Learning from the past becomes a particularly important issue, especially when regarding the contemporary cultural position of architecture and interior design.

The Sanam Chai station will be a tasteful showcase of traditional Thai art conceptualized by Professor Dr. Pinyo Suwankiri, Thailand's National Artist in the Visual Arts, esteemed for his expertise in Thai architecture, traditional pattern drawing and woodcarving. Having been selected by contractor CH. Karnchang, his vision is seen in the now completed interior of MRT Sanam Chai.

Inspired by the desire to preserve the majestic heritage of Thai architecture, Dr. Pinyo tastefully highlights elaborate Thai art and culture while underlining the spectacular architectural lines that future generations can appreciate. As a result, the MRT's Sanam Chai station is a one-of-a-kind masterpiece.

The station's main highlight is located on the ticketing floor, just before patrons descend to the platform level. Resembling an ancient royal court hall, this part of the station will feel familiar from history books, while commuters also experience a visit to the magnificent Grand Palace outside.

MRT Sanam Chai's imitated royal court interior is elaborately decorated with ancient-style columns adorned with exquisite bullet wood flower tile patterns. Lotus-shaped decorations in the gold plate are above each column, all of which from floor to ceiling visualizes an ancient city gate.

Another spectacular sight is the ceilings decorative carved pattern known as Dao Lom Duean, meaning “Moon Encircled with Stars.” Lavishly ornamented, the pattern is a sight to behold with a mesmerizing use of white, gold, and crimson as the setting and gold leaf plate covering the patterns.



Fig. 2. MRT Sanam Chai’s imitated royal court interior is elaborately decorated with ancient-style columns.



Fig 3. The suway station and tunnel are under constructed.



Fig. 4. The esthetic of architectural design created Sanam Chai station to become the most beautiful subway station in Thailand.



Fig. 5. This station is located in the center of Rattanakosin Island, which is one of the most famous tourist areas in Thailand.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

One interesting aspect of this MRT station in this historically-rich area of Bangkok is the archaeological discoveries during its construction. Site excavations uncovered an underground foundation of a former palace that could date back to the early Rattanakosin era. Further research revealed that the area was once the location of the residence of His Royal Highness Prince Adisorn Udomdej. Many artifacts like pearl shells, intact horses' bones, and glazed clay items were unearthed.

ARCHITECT BIOGRAPHY

Prof. Dr. Pinyo Suwankiri (1937) is an architect born in Songkhla, Thailand. Suwankiri began painting and carving as a child and created decorations for various festive occasions. His carvings were used to decorate local temples, monks' residences, and schools. Suwankiri received his primary school education in his home province. When it was time for high school, he was tutored by a senior at a temple in Bangkok to prepare him for the university entrance exam. As a result of his efforts he was accepted into the Faculty of Architecture at Chulalongkorn University. He graduated from Chulalongkorn University in 1964. After his graduation he applied for a teaching position at his faculty in order to teach Thai Architecture. In 1972 Suwankiri began studying toward a master's degree at the School of Architecture at University of Pennsylvania. Nine months later he successfully finished his studies and returned to teach again at his home university as the specialist for Thai Architecture.

TOURIST ATTRACTION AROUND RATTANAKOSIN ISLAND

Sightseeing Tram around Rattanakosin Island Bangkok Metropolitan Administration provides another atmosphere of sight-seeing which allows you to absorb the history value around Rattanakosin Island. Mon. – Fri. 09.00 am – 04.30 pm, Saturday – Sunday: 10:00 am – 08.00 pm.



Fig. 6. Tourist attraction map that was benefit from Sanam Chai subway station

CONCLUSION

Bangkok is believed to have been settled in the 14th or 15th century. Over the centuries the small town gradually became more important due to its strategic location on the Chao Phraya River and the Gulf of Thailand.

Rattanakosin, the historic center of Bangkok, is located on the Chao Phraya River in Phra Nakhon district, centered around the Grand Palace.

As the area is an artificial island bordered by the Chao Phraya River to the West and canals to the North, East, and South, it is also known as Rattanakosin Island. This area houses some of Thailand's most famous landmarks, including the Grand Palace, the Wat Phra Kaew, and the Wat Pho.

In the past, there are no BTS sky train or MRT metro stations in the Rattanakosin area. The best ways to get around are taxi, tuk-tuk and riverboat.

Today The MRT Blue line make more easy for local and tourist to approach this historical area. The MRT Sanam Chai Station not only has its own significance esthetic in architecture design but also benefit for Thai tourism to welcome all tourist to the most famous landmark of Thai tourism.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University for invaluable help throughout this research.

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