

Vira Inpung 2010: The Diversity of Thai-House-Building Cultures in the Phetchaburi Basin. Doctor of Philosophy (Built Environment), Major Field: Built Environment, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Professor Ornsiri Panin, M.S.Trop.Arch. 260 pages.

Apart from the Thais, there are many other ethnic groups living in the Phetchaburi basin. While numerous traditional Thai houses have been built as living spaces for those ethnic peoples, it is notable that they have adopted traditional Thai style to build their houses which giving them interesting characteristics. The main objective of the present study is to find out the relationship between cultures, especially belief, and the features of traditional Thai houses occupied by different ethnic groups.

Methodologically, the research was mainly based on field-survey conducted in the communities of three groups of peoples: Thais, Chinese, and Muslims. Ten traditional Thai houses of each community were selected as a sampling for collecting primary data by means of measuring, long-term observations, and non-structured interviews. Then, all data collected were examined through planning analysis, morphological analysis, and comparative analysis.

The results show that when different ethnic groups built their houses in traditional Thai style, they have not only to adapt themselves to reside in their new houses but also to shape their houses to suit their particular cultures. Therefore, while the houses of the ethnics are different from and similar to traditional Thai houses, new characteristics of Thai houses have begun to take shape within the area of the Phetchaburi basin.

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