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CHOTIMA CHATURAWONG : TAI DAM : A CASE STUDY IN PHETCHABURI.

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The purpose of this research is to study the characteristics of the Tai Dam village lay-out pattern and houses from the past to the present in Ban Mae Phrachan, Phetchaburi province as well as the causes of change to their original village lay-out and house form.

The Tai Dam village and houses relate to spirits, kwan and supernatural beings. They thus combine the domestic areas and the sacred areas. Nowadays their village lay-out and houses in Ban Mae Phrachan are a mixture of the old and new culture. They are their old culture from Sib Song Chu Tai in the Northwestern part Vietnam and the Tai Siam culture in the Central Region of Thailand. The present day houses are classified into 4 styles; 1) Traditional Tai Dam style; 2) Adapted Traditional style 3) Phetchaburi influence style; and 4) Urban influence style.

Changes to the Tai Dam village lay-out pattern and house form is found to be the result of 3 major factors; 1) physical factor -- site, climate and the need for shelter, materials and technology; 2) social factor -- economics, defense and religion ; and 3) socio-cultural factor -- some basic needs, family, position of women and the need for privacy and social intercourse.

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