

Thesis Title	The Studies of The Architectural Development of Two Different Types of Stupas: The Rounded Type Stupas and The Rounded Stupas With The Octagonal Base in Ayutthaya Province
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to study the shapes and development of rounded stupas; especially in the province of Ayutthaya where these had been established for 417 years (1350-1767 A.D.). This Thesis is done in description and Analytical research methods which are the methods in the syllabus of History of Architecture. These are the studies of shape, element, development and role-function of stupas during Ayutthaya period.

145 stupas have been studied and can be divided into 2 categories. These are the rounded stupas on malai thao (A series of superimposed lotus moldings placed below the dome or anda) and the rounded stupas with the octagonal base. These two types of stupas show their differences in origin. This carried on all through the Ayutthaya period. The development have been divided into 3 stages. In the first stage there are 2 types of rounded bell-shape stupas, like the ones situating at vihara or ubosot which are for religious means (Buddism). Both compositions including base, bell's body and the summit are quite similar. This is typical of stupas from Pre-Ayutthaya period.

In the second stage, both stupas show the influence of Singhalese Theravada Buddhism which was spreaded in Ayutthaya rapidly. This makes this type of stupas differ from the ones from the first stage in respect of shape. The layers of the base were increased, the bell was smaller, The sao han (Short small pillars fixed on harmika for supporting the pinnacle) had been introduced to decorate the kan chattra (the core of chattravali); and there were more changes due to the influence from other types. This is like prang (sanctuary tower) with porches attached to the sides or having octagonal base mixing with malai thao style.

Thirdly and finally, in this stage the stupas had changed their position. They changed from being in the centre point to being scattered in any directions. The shapes were also changed, depending on personal taste. For example, it became popular to built the stupas with rabbeted-angle base rather than tapered shape bell with a big broad base. The malai thao and the octagonal base shapes were replaced by bua klum (the lotus bulb shape). These show the development in skill of local people in that period.

The rounded stupas had been the most prominent figure during Ayutthaya era. Even they had been altered to suit the changes in tradition, society and culture. There were the factors that evolute the shapes of stupas during Ayutthaya time and development during Rattanakosin (Bangkok) period ever since.