

Thesis Title

AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY FOR HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL  
PRESERVATION OF RATTANAKOSIN CITY

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ABSTRACT

Environmental deterioration of the inner area of Ratanakosin City Island has extensively spoiled this city of historic and archaeological value. The unfavourable condition was brought about by demolition of and changes made to historic places and by construction of new building void of architectural value and of attention to public health. Those are problems which have resulted from the fact that the responsible persons have paid no serious attention to the manner in which the city has been growing and from the lack of discipline on the part of the people living in the inner areas of the island. These problems should be rectified. In the research on actual causes of the problems, a study was made of data obtained from various documents such as historical records and journals, in addition to a study of town plans and a field survey which covered collection of data, taking of pictures and drawing of a plan of the city. The plan was then used in the classification of areas

for different purposes on the city island. Classification was made also of historic monuments and environments such as the city island's moats and canal, old and new bridges, the river, boat landings, areas for commercial purposes and measures for conservation of historic monuments.

Based on the findings of the study, it may be concluded that there is the lack of control on the utilization of the inner areas of the Ratanakosin City Island. This has accounted for dilapidated conditions of the city, which was caused by destruction of historic monuments that have been replaced at will by new buildings which are without value in respect of architectural arts and which do not blend with the historic monuments. Besides, invasion on public property and littering of places with grabage have had destructive effects on the physical environment of the city island.

Improvement and rectification of those problems should be based on these 5 elements, namely, paths, edges, districts, nodes and landmarks. Remedial measures should include the moving of Pak Klong Talat and Tha Tien markets to other places such as at Siyaek Bang Pho, dismantling of new buildings which possess no artistic value from the tracts of land between Tha Chang Wang Luang and Tha Phra Chan landings, prohibition of hawkers on the roads and footwalks in the city island, improvement of the areas and scenery along the eastern riverside of the island, and reconstruction of the destroyed historic monuments as well as restoration of various activities and facilities which existed in the past such as the use of the city's moats, tram-cars and others. Such measures will contribute to reviving the past life of the city island and to creating orderliness

and attractive environment to glorify the country. The suggested improvements and remedies will further serve as a fine model for development of the outer area of Ratanakosin City Island and other historic monuments in other parts of the country. Those improvements will also be most beneficial to the tourist industry.