

The purpose of this study is to identify the Rattanakosin Image, from considering of its physical characteristics, and to recommend some guidelines and measures to improve the Rattanakosin form for suitable conservation and development.

This study had 4 main parts ; (1) the theories and the concepts of conservation, (2) the development of the area, (3) the general condition of the Rattanakosin City and (4) the city image, for this last case, applying Kevin Lynch's method as presented in "The Image of the City, 1960" by using citizens and tourists perception in town techniques.

It was found that having 5 basic elements in the Rattanakosin Image; that is, (1) Paths, the channels along which the observer occasionally moves. It's the predominant elements in many people image. The path characteristic in the city form was the transportation on land, spreaded outward from the center or the Glang Palace, and related by others streets net work. The Chaophaya River and the canals became useless and unimportant. (2) Edges, the linear elements. They were usually, but not quite away, the boundaries between 2 kinds of areas. The strongest edge was the water edge of the Chaophaya River and 3 levels of city canals. So its characteristic was the similarly island city. (3) Districts, the relatively large city areas which the observer could mentally go inside of, and which had some common character. The Rattanakosin districts had 2 types; Physical districts, perceived by its grouping of the same architectural style, activity districts, perceived by its grouping of activities. The Rattanakosin district characteristic was the various and different appearance with thematic continuous boundaries. (4) Nodes, the strategic foci into which the observer could enter, typically either junctions of paths, or concentrations of some characteristic. Nodes in the city image had 3 types; that is, the important pier near by the bus terminal, the important crossings or squares and the important commercial area. The city form perceived through nodes show the confuse of people and transportation, losing the original simply surroundings and peaceful way of life throughly. (5) Landmarks, the point references considered to be external to the observer, or the dominant points visible from many positions, and the local landmarks, visible only in restricted localities. Its characteristic was the city of the temples, and the city of vivid culture, but, unfortunately many new high buildings and row houses usually destroy its significant and its outstanding.

The result of this thesis described many important characters of the Rattanakosin Image ; that's very interesting. Urgently conservation and development could serve these vital cultural heritages and can raise the human being quality.