

## Abstract

The objective of this study is to understand the architectural qualities and values of Tai-Dam vernacular house. Tai-Dam is one of the oldest ethnicity group in Thailand which has distinct housing identities. The study examines traditional Tai-Dam house's identities which are evolved from beliefs, culture, way of life, construction materials, and environment. The study emphasizes on 3 issues as follow: 1) the formation of an architectural form; 2) physical transformation; and 3) architectural development of Tai-Dam vernacular house from past to present.

The study covers the physical survey of 8 Tai-Dam houses in Nhong Phrong district, Kao-Yoi, Phetchaburi province. The selected houses are more than 40 years old and were influenced by local wisdom, religious, and cultural beliefs. Archival search, direct observation and in-depth interview are methods used in this study.

The comparative study between physical characteristic of Tai-Dam Sib-Song Jutai and the present Tai-Dam house found 2 distinctive trends as follows: 1) the physical form — for example, the orientation, two-storey house, ventilated-wall, etc. — remains the same pertaining to traditional beliefs; 2) the functional space — such as the extension of house, kitchen position, modern roof style, etc. — is adapted to accommodate present lifestyle while sustaining traditional beliefs.

Both trends are closely related and can be concluded into 3 architectural qualities of Tai-Dam vernacular house which are 1) concern with natural environment; 2) reflection of cultural beliefs; and 3) local wisdoms in providing the comfort condition and ventilation system of the house. The architectural qualities and values of Tai-Dam vernacular house can be taken and integrated by the architects into architectural design and their consideration.