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JINTANANT CHAYA SUBHAMITR : VIMANMEK: PROPOSAL FOR
REINTERPRETATION OF A THAI ROYAL PALACE. THESIS ADVISOR :
PROF. WILLIAM CHAPMAN Ph.D. , 286 pp.

The study addresses the following problems: the current state of the Vimanmek Mansion interpretation programs, the perceptions of local residents and tourists towards Vimanmek and its interpretation program, and the problems and obstacles visitors encounter while visiting the Vimanmek Mansion.

Vimanmek Mansion is the biggest house museum in Thailand and is one of the key elements of the Thai's nation cultural heritage. Vimanmek Mansion is regarded as Thai cultural heritage, because the place not only represents the memorable history of King Rama V, one of the beloved and most respected Kings of Thailand, but also a place of national historic interest. Since Vimanmek is one of Thailand's graceful and worthwhile heritages, the author would like to explore the interpretation programs for Vimanmek Mansion in multi-dimensions. By which the information will be search from many resources, such as related documents, tourists, museum officers, experts and visitors in relevant fields.

During five years between 1901-1906, King Chulalongkorn lived in Vimanmek Mansion, many important decisions for Siam during that time came from the cabinet meeting there such as the legislations that became important to run the country. There are many important events took place there such as royal guests from abroad and some royal ceremonies.

Vimanmek was opened as a royal museum to the general public in 1985 and the presentation has been so far little touched.

The instruments used for gathering data were mixed research methods. One was qualitative interview or in-depth interview to collect qualitative data. The interviewer enters the interview with a plan to investigate specific topics and to ask specific open-ended question. The other was quantitative method. The researcher confines 300 samples to represent total visitors during that period of time.

The research's findings are presented in three sections. The first section provides details of analysis in quantitative form. The second section presents more qualitative data. The final section draws conclusions from the findings. Qualitative data are gathered through interviews using an interview-guide protocol. The results of this study can improve the quality of the Vimanmek operation and can be used to guide future program implementation and a reinterpretation plan. The reinterpretation plan was suggested based on the result of this study and also based on the methodologies and samples of house museums operation and interpretation from other countries.

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