

## Abstract

The development of architecture in Bangkok has been partly influenced by foreigners of both the East and the West. It appears that there are a number of studies concerning the western influences on architecture in Bangkok but those are rarely found for the East particularly the Chinese despite a lot of Chinese connections with the Thai society. This study is therefore focused on the influences of the Chinese architecture in Bangkok. The research begins with the analysis of the thoughts and policies of the Kings of Rattanakosin that had timely affected the Chinese activities in Bangkok. The data has then been collected by way of interviewing the executives of five Chinese clans: Hokkien, Chaozhou, Hainanese, Cantonese and Hakka. Finally the information of four important types of Chinese architecture which are temples, school, assembly halls and hospitals were gathered from field investigation.

The study finds that the development of Chinese architecture in Bangkok can be divided into 4 periods. The first period is called the Early Settlement period (1782 – 1914 AD) in which the creation of architecture deeply reflects the original culture and ways of life of the Chinese. The second period is the Modern Western Adaptation (1914 – 1945 AD) while the auspicious Chinese designs were still preserved. The third period is the Control of Chinese Ethnic period (1945 – 1975 AD). In the third period, the architecture had changed to conform with other contemporary architectural style in Bangkok at that time. The last period is the Liberalization (1975 AD - present). This period is about freedom of design and creativity. The Chinese architecture has shown the uniqueness in the modern contemporary design that served well with their ways of life. In summary, the Chinese architecture in Bangkok, which has evolved overtime and blended with the Thai society, still possess the traces of beliefs and traditional designs that is distinguishable from other types architecture in Bangkok.