# Executive report of

## The International Presidents Forum (IPF)

at the JIA National Convention 2017 In Tokushima

> 10:00-12:00 29 September 2017

@ Hotel Clement Tokushima 18F, Sky-banquet GINGA Tokushima, Shikoku

Edited by Prof. Kazuo IWAMURA, FJIA



Published by the Japan Institute of Architects

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## Agenda

10.00 welcome Kemarks by the JIA President	10:00	Welcome Remarks by the JIA President	
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- 10:05 Introduction of the Attendants
- 10:10 Remarks and Q&A (15 min. each) by

1) AIA, 2) ASA, 3) KIRA, 4) KIA, 5) ARCASIA

- 11:25 Wrap-up Remarks by the Moderator
- 11:40 Discussion by All
- 11:55 Group Photo Session
- 12:00 Adjournment

## The International Presidents Forum 2017



## Presidents



>Mr. Thomas Vonier
>Mr. Sathirut Tandanand
>Mr. Ajaphol Dusitnanond
>Mr. Cho Chung Kee
>Mr. Bae Byung Kil
>Mr. Masaharu Rokushika

(President, UIA & AIA) (Past President, ARCASIA) (President, ASA) (President, KIRA) (President, KIA) (President, JIA)



arcasia

## Theme: The Vernacular and our Practice

## Subject Statement

We architects have been busy with new concepts and issues, such as, sustainability, wise energy uses, resilience against natural disasters, computer technology in design and construction, personal safety, national security, social responsibilities, etc. These issues are influenced by, and eventually form the universal norm of, the ever more connected world and become the "universal standards".

In the meantime, we, individual architects come from and/or are more familiar with his or her set of local culture, national identity, economy, legal system, social values, building materials, education system, and maybe peculiarity of lifestyle to a varying degree.

We have done much to introduce the universal standards to the local context. Is there anything we can learn from the Vernacular, and take it back to the universal?

A. What do you as a professional organization, or your architects in general see in your Vernacular as something that is valid in other cultures?

B. Do you as a professional organization offer any program to promote awareness of the virtue of your Vernacular in your country?

(Drafted by Hisaya Sugiyama, AIA, JIA International Relations Committee)

Moderator: Prof. Kazuo Iwamura, FJIA (Past Vice-President, UIA & JIA)



## **IPF 2017 Attendants**

	Name	Affiliations	Position	Note
01	Mr. Thomas Vonier	UIA, AIA	UIA & AIA President	IPF Speaker
02	Mr. Sathirut Nui Tandanand	ARCASIA, ASA	ARCASIA Past President	IPF Speaker
03	Mr. Ajaphol Dusitnanond	ASA	ASA President	
04	Dr. Thana Chirapiwat	ASA	ASA Vice-President	IPF Speaker
05	Ms. Kanchana Chirapiwat	ASA	Head, ASA Cloud Exhibition C.	
06	Mr. Metee Rasameevijitpisal	ASA	ASA Vice-President	
07	Mr. Thanakorm Boontan	ASA		
08	Mr. Cho Chun Kee	KIRA	KIRA President	
09	Mr. Shin Eul Shik	KIRA	Int'l Relations C.	IPF Speaker
10	Mr. Bae Byung Kil	KIA	KIA President	
11	Dr. Kim Yong Seong	KIA	KIA Vice-President	IPF Speaker
12	Mr. Han Cheol Soo	KIA	Chair, Planning & Financial C.	
13	Mr. Kyung Min Ho	KIA	Chair, Int'l Relations C.	
14	Mr. Masaharu Rokushika	JIA	JIA President	IPF Speaker
15	Ms. Nana Rokushika		(Spouse)	
16	Mr. Nobuya Tsutsui	JIA	Executive Director	
17	Mr. Sumito Takashina	ЛА	Chair, Int'l Relations C.	
18	Mr. Masaru Fujinuma	ЛА	K. Chapter President	
19	Prof. Kazuo Iwamura	UIA, JIA	UIA & JIA Past Vice-President	IPF Moderator
20	Ms. Magdalena Prechtl-Iwamura		(Spouse)	
21	Mr. Takanobu Ota	JIA	JIA Past Vice-President	
22	Ms. Keiko Ota		(Spouse)	
23	Mr. Koji Iwama	JIA		
24	Mr. Shin Sakurai	JIA		
25	Ms. Kay Miyashita	JIA	Secretary	

IPF: International Presidents Forum UIA: The International Union of Architects ARCASIA: Architects Regional Council Asia AIA: American Institute of Architects ASA: Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage KIRA: Korea Institute of Registered Architects KIA: Korean Institute of Architects JIA: The Japan Institute of Architects



# Welcome Remarks by Masaharu ROKUSHIKA

President, the Japan Institute of Japan (JIA)

Just 30 years have passed since the Japan Institute of Architects was established by Prof. Kenzo TANGE as the first president. Commemorating this turning point, the JIA National Convention 2017 is being held in Tokushima, globally well-known for the *Awa Odori*, one of the three largest *Bon*<sup>\*</sup> festival dances in Japan since 400 years (cf. P6).



The realm of architecture is basically "Local" and at the same time "Global." Because architecture is originally subject to its locality, such as geography, climate, legal system, available materials and techniques, but on the other hand, many of other architectural elements, including the environmental and structural engineering as well as the spatial concept, can be shared globally, no matter where it is located. This is how architects as professionals in the world get sympathy with them, which are consequently disseminated across the regions and the nations. Although the particular solutions for certain local issues are the fruit of local efforts, these could be the hints for finding the solutions in other unexpectedly remote regions. Also state-of-the-art design ideas are immediately wide-circulated through a variety of social media, and promptly shared by architects world-wide. Therefore, architecture is Local and Global.

On behalf of JIA Shikoku Chapter, I urge all the JIA members as well as our international guest architects to gather around in this congress and to try to discover together the solution-finding triggers regarding regional issues in the first place. These triggers, particularly effective for solving the indigenous problems in Shikoku, may be applicable to the nation and/or the globe beyond the region. It should be therefore highlighted that the architectural profession has eternal social values by nature. Retaining the eternal social values, in addition, architects must be always highly sensitive to respond to and cope with ever-changing situation and issues around architecture.

The four congress topics "Disasters Preparedness," "Environment," "AI," and "Vernacular" are currently vital and absolutely indispensable for us, architectural professionals, to put our social responsibility into practice. Accordingly, the IPF 2017 focuses on the forth topic "Vernacular" to be addressed by the six international presidents of the relevant architects organizations; UIA, ARCASIA, AIA, ASA, KIRA, KIA, and JIA.

The JIA would like to deeply appreciate all the honorable IPF guests for their joining us and contributions.



Ar. Masato NOMURA Chair, JIA Shikoku Chapter





<sup>\*</sup> A Buddhist festival for honoring the spirits of ancestors, which are supposed to be visiting with the living on mid August



# Vernacular in practice

Remarks to the International Presidents Forum Japan Institute of Architects

#### THOMAS VONIER FAIA

PRESIDENT, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS SEPTEMBER 2017, TOKUSHIMA, JAPAN



The theme of your convention—"*The Vernacular in Our Practice*"— is a wonderful subject, and one of great personal interest.

Most buildings in the United States are comparatively young—almost certainly fewer than 200 years old—and many of them are based on what is possibly the most "democratic" building system of modern times: the timber platform and balloon framing system, based on two-by-four inch timber frame elements and four-by-eight foot sheets of cladding—usually particle board, plywood, and gypsum board.

This system stems from ancient roots in Europe and England, including so-called halftimber and wattle-and-daub, but it was rationalized and perfected in North America by Albert Farwell Bemis, a powerful industrialist and onetime trustee of MIT.

Bemis completed a series of works in the 1930s, entitled *The Evolving House*. His final volume, *Rational Design*, was devoted to modular theories that eventually found wide adoption in the standardization of dimensions for ordinary building materials. This is most notable today in so-called dimensioned lumber, including the 2-inch by 4-inch fir stud, and the 4-foot by 8-foot plywood and gypsum board cladding elements.

Although it is the product of work by highly educated people and a sophisticated industry, this *is* a vernacular building system: it is based upon relatively crude methods, allowing unskilled, untrained, ordinary people to build, and to build soundly and well enough.

Here are some features of this system we might consider relation to our own practices:

**It is easy**: Just about anyone can build walls and roofs using this system, with windows and doors, all of them detailed well enough. Things can be cut and put together easily enough, by just about anyone, using simple and basic tools.

It is inexpensive: The pieces are easy to manufacture, distribute, carry, and store—and they can be salvaged and re-used.

It is forgiving: Mistakes in measuring, cutting and assembling can easily be fixed and covered up in subsequent stages. Paints and sealants help: When gaps are too wide, or joints are imperfect, the answer is mastics and sealants.

It is flexible: It is applicable in a wide variety of situations, adaptable to many heights and sizes, to varying sites, to very different climate conditions.

**It is redundant**: The resulting structures are generally stronger than necessary for most purposes, including resistance to damage from hurricanes and earthquakes.

It has small, lightweight elements: One person, working alone, can carry and assemble just about any component, even building an entire house singlehanded.

Most homes in the United States are built from this system—even those covered with brick and stone veneers—and there are no signs of its influence diminishing. This is not all good.

Bemis and those who later refined his work probably did not foresee the persistence of shabby, rough and ugly results—and maybe they did not care. Its primary virtues are economic and practical, not aesthetic.

It *is* a cheap form of building, and this often shows. Wood-framed buildings are vulnerable to serious fire and water damage risks, although these can be mitigated. They do not resist mold and moisture very well, and the cheapest types of framing lumber can twist after drying, loosening fasteners and ruining finish materials.

Nonetheless, what we call "stick-built" houses and small buildings remain dominant throughout the US and elsewhere, for good reasons.

Other aspects of vernacular buildings are of interest today, largely because they demonstrate how to build simply and sparingly, from indigenous materials, using natural ventilation and renewable sources of energy.

Rural and agricultural buildings in America—which, after all, had their origins in England, Belgium, Holland, Scandinavia, and, yes, even in Japan—offer especially rich examples of how to fashion and exploit native timber, earth and stone. Here, too, are many sources of inspiration for everyday practice.

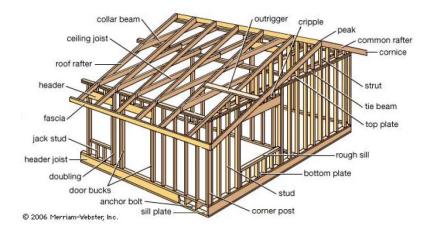
And in vernacular buildings there is an aspect of the enduring ties that bind architects in Japan and the United States, beyond our ties of friendship and shared global purpose: admiration for the simplicity, elegance, harmony, economy and beauty of ancient ways, especially in building and in landscape design. Our best architecture invokes and reinterprets tradition.

Architecture has enormous power to affect lives, to bring harmony, dignity, ease, and beauty to a chaotic, often ugly world. It is my honor to be here on behalf of the American Institute of Architects, to strengthen our friendship and renew our commitments to designing a better world.



#### The balloon-frame house with wood cladding:

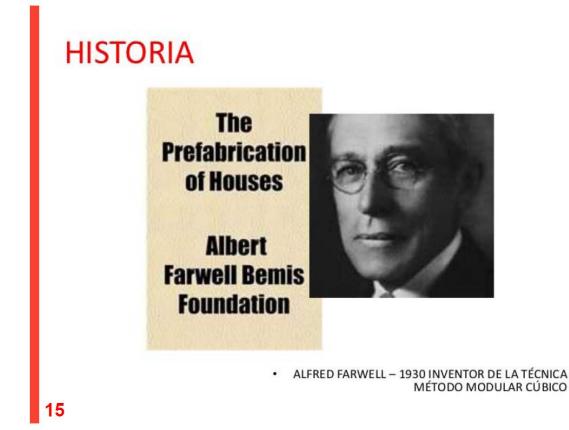
It was invented in Chicago in the 1840s, aided the rapid settlement of the western U.S. In North America, with its abundant softwood forests, the framed building enjoyed an extensive revival after World War II in the form of platform frames.

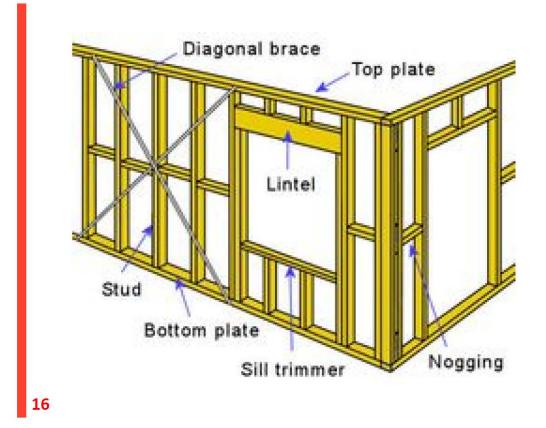


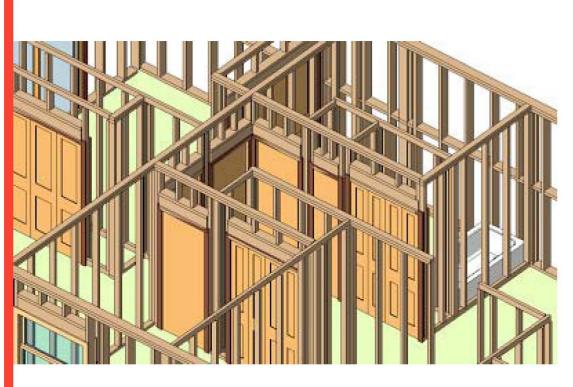
In platform framing, each floor is framed separately, as contrasted with balloon framing, in which the studs (vertical members) extend the full height of the building. Freed from the heavy timbers of the post-and-beam system, platform framing offers ease of construction.

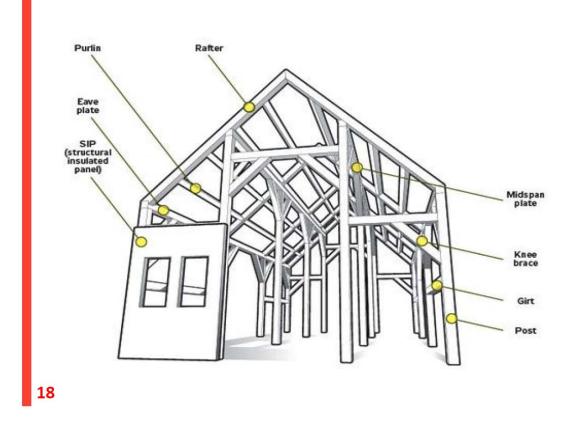
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(Source: Encyclopedia Britannica)





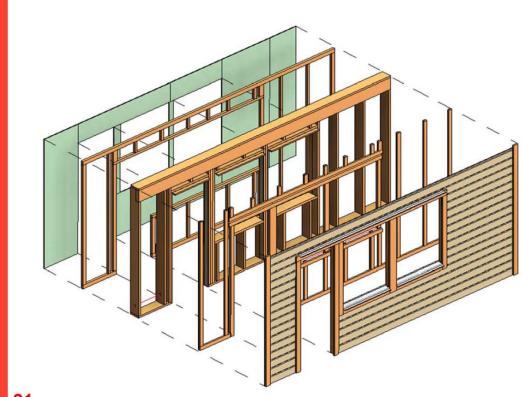


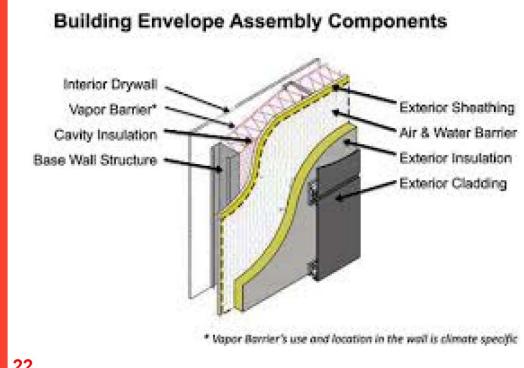




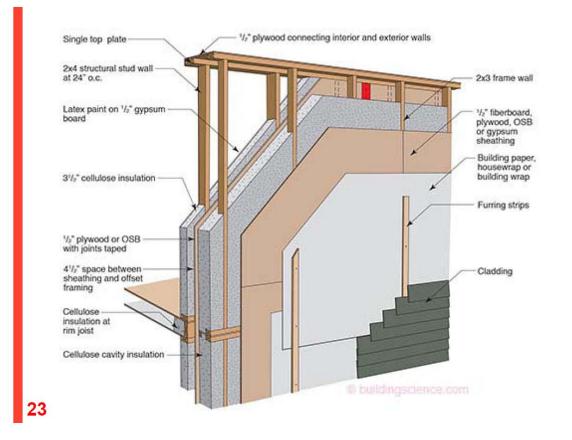
# Walls Floors Doors Ceilings Trim

Windows **Finishes** 









Easy Inexpensive Flexible Redundant Forgiving









<image>







Indigenous materials Local energy resources Economical techniques Climate-responsive forms Culturally expressive



## Remarks by Ajaphol DUSINANOND

President, Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage

Vernacular Architecture, in the past couple of decades, has redrawn attentions as an important and relevant topic among academic scholars, researchers, students, and practicing architects in Thailand.

Local wisdom and local culture appear to be effective counterbalances to the force of globalization. ASA as a professional organization with the first mission to provide supports to improvements of architecture, environment, and protection of the culture of the nation.

We feel strongly that the culmination of the wisdoms of our ancesters can lead our way to the sustainable future. More and more efforts have been put into studies of vernacular architecture.

In-depth knowledges on this have been emerging and been applied to create new architecture of today that are more responsive to socio-eonomic condition, culture, and lifestyle and fit better to the environmental settings than a few decades earlier.

Dr. Thana CHIRAPIAT, my Vice President for International Affairs, presents how ASA recognizes and supports the searches for higher knowledge of the Vernacular and brings such knowledge to actions that benefit the public in Thailand and the Region.







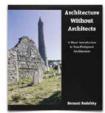
### Presentation by Dr. Thana CHIRAPIAT

Vice-President, Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage

#### VERNACULAR

[mass noun] Architecture concerned with **domestic** and **functional** rather than *public or monumental buildings*.

- Oxford Dictionary of English



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Bernard Rudofsky's *"Architecture without Architects"* (1964) provides a demonstration of the artistic, functional, and cultural richness of **VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE**.

"VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE does not go through fashion cycles. It is nearly immutable, indeed, unimprovable, since it serves its purpose to perfection."

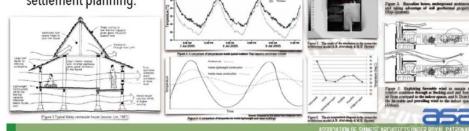
- Bernard Rudofsky





#### VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Studies of vernacular architecture have been largely involving the scientific/technical analysis of its performances – energy efficiency, thermal comfort, passive climate controls, cost-effective, sustainable design and construction by the uses of materials, forms, floor plans, settlement planning.



A number of practitioners are also inspired by building traditions, given that the local vernacular forms **have proven to be** *energy efficient and "green," honed by local resources, geography, and climate* (Fathy and Shearer, 1986; Curtis, 1996; Lewis, 2014).

 Rashid, M., Ara, D.R. Modernity in tradition: Reflections on building design and technology in the Asian vernacular. Frontiers of Architectural Research (2015) 4, 46-55.

**Vernacular architecture** is a **possible answer** to the necessity of accommodation to the inhabitant of a region, which depends on the *natural environment and socio*economical characteristics of the social group.

Building adaptation to the **social, economic and cultural changes** of the rural areas is basic to avoid their abandon and inevitable wreck. Hence, **vernacular architecture is NOT an outdated architecture** and it has to be understood **as a learning tool** which is the **result of analysis and evolution** if it is analyzed with architectural awareness.

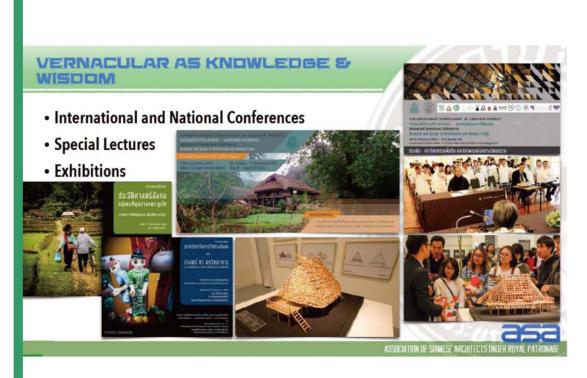
> Gil Crespo, et.al. 2015. Climatic analysis methodology of vernacular architecture. Mileto et.al. (Eds), Vernacular Architecture: Towards a Sustainable Future. Taylor & Francis Group, London.

#### VERNACULAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

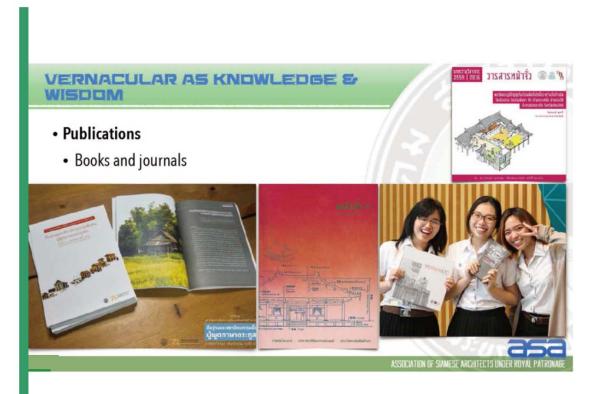
- Common Characteristics shared among Southeast Asian countries
  - Tropical Architecture
    - · Architectural forms roof, structure, floor plan
    - Materials: Timbers, woods, bamboo, bricks, stones
    - Architectural elements shading, roof's eave, walls,
- Differences
  - Culture: religion, believe ornaments, orientations
  - Way-of-life: customs, social structure functions and spatial characteristics

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# ASA ON VERNACULAR

#### EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

#### Past

- Hosted ARCASIA Committee on Green and Sustainable Architecture's Roundtable and Public Workshop Theme: Future of Vernacular Sustainability February 24, 2017, Bangkok
- Aceh VERNADOC: Research collaboration on Vernacular Architecture and Urbanism – Thailand, Australia, and Indonesia, July 2017
- ASA VERNADOC exhibition in KLAF2017, Malaysia, July 2017
- ASA VERNADOC part of Architectural Heritage exhibition at UIA 2017 Seoul, September 2017



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Q2: DO YOU AS A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OFFER ANY PROGRAM TO **PROMOTE AWARENESS** OF THE VIRTUE OF YOUR **VERNACULAR** IN YOUR COUNTRY?

# CONSERVATION OF THE VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

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#### CONSERVATION OF THE VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Since 1982 (35 years) ASA has given "Architectural Conservation Awards"
in recognition of architectural conservation efforts by both the public and private sectors in Thailand. The annual awards are presented to multiple winners in 5 categories:

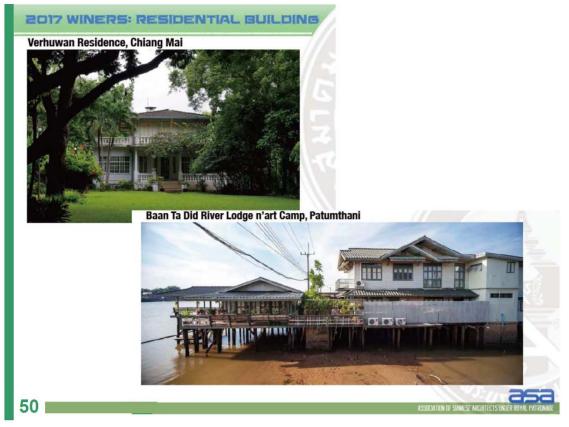
Buildings
People
Organizations
Communities
Certifications on Valuable Building for Conservation

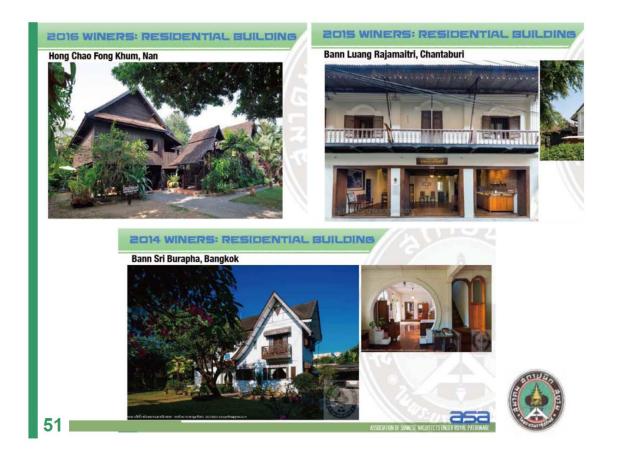


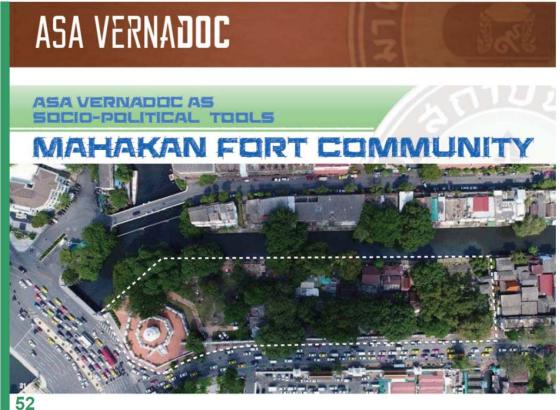
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Photographs of building

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  - al background
  - tural characteristics
  - functions
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  - ation of cultural nts
  - Conservation plan
- Contact information



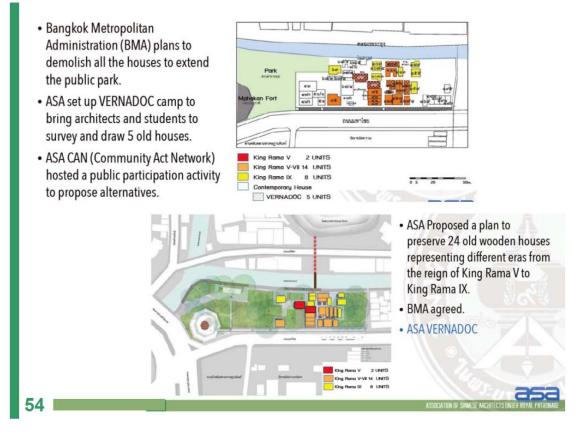


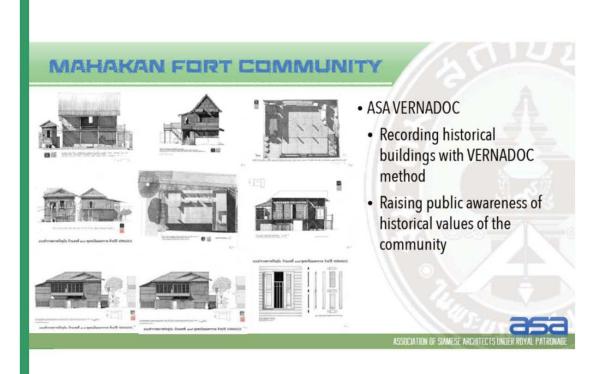


#### MAHAKAN FORT COMMUNITY

- Historic community since early Rattanakosin Era (King Rama I)
- Village of true commoners
- Active and lively community
- Consists of many old wooden houses reflecting way-of-life of the community

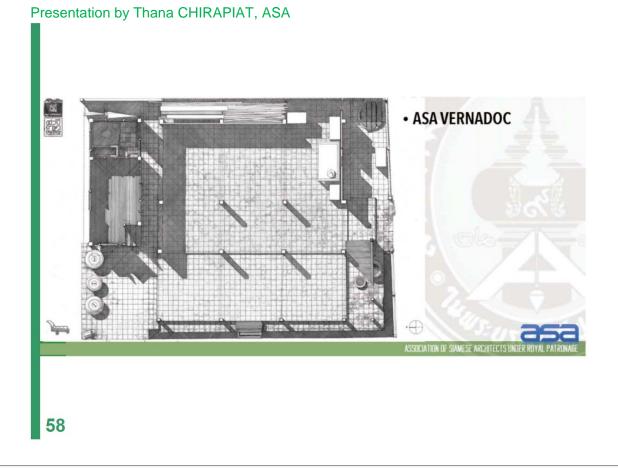
















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