



An Analytical study of Panyha-Shaped Houses in Chanthaburi province

Poei Sathian

Abstract

The purpose of this master thesis is to study Panhya-shaped houses in four districts of Chanthaburi provinces which were very popular in the age of King Rama V. Panhyashaped houses in Chanthaburi were found in Muang, Thamai, Khlung and Laemsing districts. Most of the houses were wooden house, concrete-wooden house and brick- concrete house. Types of houses were two-storey houses, one-storey houses with basement and one-story grounded- level houses. These houses were singer houses, gardener houses, official houses, temple, school and row houses for rent. The roofs of Panhya-shaped house in Chanthaburi are single top shape, two top shapes in one house, L shape and U shape. Panhya-shaped houses were mostly roofed with kite shape tile and cement wave tile which can frequently be seen at present. Many Panhya-shaped houses' roofs were changed into modern tile roof because of deterioration. These modern tiles are coated with wave tile, double wave tile, small wave tile and flat tile. Often, they were decorated with Look Phak or Look Phak mixed with Louver on windows, doors, and front poles. Many houses were decorated with stencil cut more than pattern and on Koh Song at front doors, Koh Song below ceilings, balconies, window frames, ventilator below ceilings and ventilator below upstairs floors. Information of carpenters was not stated, but most of them were the locals, Thai, Chinese and Yuan carpenters when some of villagers ordered from Central.

Keywords: Panhya-shaped House, Form, Material, Decoration.

Introduction

Foods, residences, clothes and medicines are four key factors for human beings. House is the first component of residence since people use it as shelter to live in. Therefore, house is the place to study about human beings and cultures. Located in the East of Thailand, Chanthaburi province has a long history and background. The province is popular in weather atmosphere, history and architecture. Architecture had been developed since the past and was inherited to the next generations. Being not far from the capital city of Thailand, Bangkok, Chanthaburi was a thriving city. It resulted in a number of Chinese

people moving to this city for their career reason.

There were some old Panhya-shaped houses in Chanthaburi which were located in an old market, as well as way rim merchant houses and gardener houses. Most of them were influenced by the Western Culture: some by locals and the rest by Chinese culture. N.na Paknam (2000: 1) said that, "There were the influences of Western culture in building constructions found all around Eastern Hemisphere. Most of Chinese influences were found in Chinese's stencil-cut community. Some of Panhya-shaped houses were decorated with stencil-cut: they were mixed with

design from West, Thai and Chinese. The format of architecture in Chanthaburi received from Western culture reflected in most of the houses that had been left over. At the same time, many evidences called Ginger Bread (Paradee Pantupakorn and Seksan Kanyapirom. 2547: 8) were found to be studied. The researcher said that some old Panhya-shaped houses in Chanthaburi were lessen; some of them were decadence and were demolished, and the rest, neglected. Thus, the locals were worried about the situation and became the reason that researcher decided to study on the issue to restore the precious housing form and pattern, Panhya-shaped houses, as the architecture culture of Chanthaburi and the East side of Thailand.

Aims

The purpose of this research was to study Panhya architecture of an ancient house in Chanthaburi, in terms of forms, material and decoration.

Material and Method

Research significance

Information from this research was useful at conservation, inheritance and development in architecture of Panhya-shaped house in Chanthaburi. Accordingly, the information received from this research can also be used and applied to the study about local culture of an identified community.

Scope of research

This research was emphasized on 23 Panhya-shaped houses in Meaung, Tamai, Leamsing and Khlung districts, in Chanthaburi in terms of forms, material and decoration.

Populations used in the research

Populations used in this research were consisted of 23 Panhya houses in different locations as follow:

- Meaung district: amount 7 houses
- Tamai district: amount 4 houses

- Khlung district: amount 8 houses
- Leamsing district: amount 4 houses

Research Methodology

The research was initially conducted with the collection of data by studying through form, material and decoration of Panhya-shaped houses in Chanthaburi. The researcher collected data by himself and presented the data by description and pictures. Ways to study were as follow:

1. Surveying Panhya-shaped houses in Chanthaburi
2. Setting population
3. Collecting the data
4. Analyzing and summarizing the data

Conclusions and Discussion

From researching 23 Panhya-shaped houses in four districts of Chanthaburi; Meaung, Tamai, Khlung and Leamsing districts, in terms of forms, material and decoration, it could be analyzed as follow:

1. Forms

From this research, the researcher divided forms of Panhya-shaped houses into three main forms.

1.1 Roof forms

1.1.1 Single top (18 houses or 78.2%): This type of roof was the only roof covered the entire house. Probably, it would provide Palai, balcony or gable for more space.

1.1.2 Two tops (2 houses or 8.7%): Two tops means the entire roof was designed to have two levels. The first part was the main roof of the house which had two floors and the other for the kitchen area that had only downstairs floor.

1.1.3 L shape (3 houses or 13.0%): This shape of roof would cover along the whole house and was separated to one side at the end. So, the left and right side of roof were not equal in size.

1.1.4 U shape (2 houses or 8.7%): This shape of roof would cover along the whole house

with the left and right side of the roof equal in size.

1.2 Forms of houses

1.2.1 One-storey, grounded-level houses (1 house or 4.3%): It was adjacent to the ground level with concrete surface.

1.2.2 One-story houses with basement (4 houses or 17.4%): In this type of house form, there were basements for activities purposes. Most of the houses in this type belonged to gardeners who wanted to protect themselves from dangerous animals such as snakes, poisonous insects and from flood or other kinds of natural disasters. Basements' poles were constructed with concrete in the ground floor, and the other with wooden poles.

1.2.3 Two-storey houses (18 houses or 78.3%): This type of houses shared the largest percentage of the other houses types. There were such as wooden houses, concrete-wooden houses and brick-concrete houses.

1.3 Forms of useful houses and building

1.3.1 Singer houses: amount 15 houses or 65.2%.

1.3.2 Gardener houses: amount 2 houses or 8.7%.

1.3.3 Official house: amount 1 house or 4.3%.

1.3.4 Temple: amount 1 temple or 4%.

1.3.5 School: amount 1 school or 4.3%.

1.3.6 Row house: amount 1 house or 21.7%.

1.3.7 Merchant houses: amount 4 houses or 17.4%.

2. Material

From this research, the researcher divided Material used in construction of Panhya-shaped houses into two different aspects as follow:

2.1 Building's material

2.1.1 Wooden houses. Most of the houses employed wood into house construction. Chumsri Siwasriyanon (2537:48) had said about ways of house bulding that "Most of Thai

buildings were built with wood since wood is strong in quality and is easy to use." Turng Singhasan (2552: Interview) said that "People have used many types of wood such as Teak, Takian, Chan, Payamai, Santol wood, Heuampoo wood, Tanhok wood, Katid wood and Rubber wood to build houses. The carpenters would choose quality wood from woods whereas host would choose types of wood to be used from sawmill." Interestingly, it was found that basements of the houses were constructed by concrete poles, but the upstairs floor with wooden poles. There were 14 one-story wooden houses with basement (60.9%).

2.1.2 Brick-concrete house. There was only one house built with brick and concrete. (4.3%)

2.2 Roof's material

2.2.1 Kite shape tile was an old flat tile that was made with cements. There were 12 houses or 52.2%.

2.2.2 Carved tile was an old small carved tile that was made with cement. There were 3 houses or 13.0%.

2.2.3 Modern tile. There are modern carved tiles for sale at present. Pachara Mattawarat (2552: Interview) said that "the modern tiles are brought to changed instead kite shape tiles and carved tiles that are easily-broken and are not for sale" There were 8 houses or 34.8%.

3. Decoration

The researcher divided decoration of Panhya-shaped houses in Chanthaburi into 2 types as follow:

3.1 Wood decoration

3.1.1 Look Phak Ekhgreign. Found on many parts of the houses as follow

- 1) Windows. Often used 2, 4 windows.
- 2) Doors. Often used Ekhgreign doors (panel and single door).

3.1.2 Poles. Often used Look Phak wood pole. Every side of the pole was Pha Fiam

adhered with the other one

3.1.3 Ekhgreign Look Phak mixed with louver as follow:

1) Windows. Often used 2, 4 windows, set on or middle or below the window. Most of them were set on windows.

2) Door was Pha Fiam that was adhered to be panel at the front of house.

3.2 Stencil cut decoration. There were 11 houses or 47.8% constructed with this form.

Stencil cut. Often decorated on Koh Song at front door, Koh Song below ceiling, balcony, window frame, ventilator below ceiling, ventilator below upstairs floor. Aspect of stencil-cut. This was vertical and horizon pattern and there was design from wood grain.

3.2.1 Vertical stencil-cut. This design was made by pierced wooden to be opened hole and closed hole.

Closed hole, there were Looknam, drops, leaves, flowers, clubs and geometry designs.

Opened hole was pierced woods edge. Then arrange two pieces of wood from left to right to be opened hole in many patterns. Compose with many pattern of small stencil-cut. A vertical pattern, there was stencil-cut with two designs alternated left with right sides. Then, arranged them together. Another one is design from opening or stencil-cut hole from arranged closed and opened holes of stencil-cut.

There were patterns from space or stencil cut hole that had stencil cut in closed hole and opened hole which would bring another piece of wood with same pattern to stick them together. There were only one piece of wood that were

stencil-cut when the left-right side was the same. Arrange them together or punctuate them both in left and right side. And another pattern was closed-hole pattern. It was the pattern finished in a piece of wood, and then arrange them together.

3.2.2 Horizon stencil-cut. They would made this to be intertwined sprays stripes design and separated to be braches, flowers and leaves such as sharp leaves, curly leaves and petal leaves. The most important thing was the design should be gentle, clear, waver and crinkled.

1) Stencil-cut in Square frame. They would be in the middle of frame from left to right. Decorated on doors, below ceiling or on windows frame.

2) Stencil-cut in curve frame. They would be in the middle of frame from left to right. Decorated on windows frame.

3.2.3 Small stencil-cut. Set up to be ventilating below the floor. At the End of the piece of wood was obtuse, roundness or three curly-liked pattern design of crochet.

Recommendations for further research

1. Further research should be emphasized on management process of producing groups, marketing and an impact from shortage in craftsmen of the young generation.

2. There should be study on the pattern of bamboo basketry product in Bang Chao Cha Sub-District, Pho Thong District, Ang Thong on the pattern of bamboo basketry product manufacturers in other sources.

3. It is suggested to study on inheriting traditional knowledge relating to bamboo basketry of the villagers in Ang Thong.

References

- Phanutkorn Jittaruk. (2008, 20 April). Interviewed by Sudjai Khwandam, at the community network center of Bang Chao Cha Sub-District, Pho Thong District, Ang Thong.
- Phonchai Bunruen. (2009, 3 September). Interviewed by Sudjai Khwandam, at the community product distribution center, Ang Thong Provincial Administrative Organization, Ban Yang Thong, Moo 8, Bang Chao Cha Sub-District, Pho Thong District, Ang Thong.

Saifon Thongngam. (2006, 5 May). Interviewed by Sudjai Khwandam at the community network center, Bang Chao Cha Sub-District, Pho Thong District, Ang Thong.

Tourism Authority of Thailand. (1992). **H.M. Queen Sirikit and Traditional Arts and Cultures.** Bangkok: Polachai Printing Center

Viboon Leesuwana (1999). **Folk Culture Heritage.** 2nd ed. Edition. Bangkok: Ton Or.

Waraphon Taneakachon. (2009, 7 September). Interviewed by Sudjai Khwandam at house no. 11, Moo 7, Bang Chao Cha Sub-District, Pho Thong District, Ang Thong.

Yupha Niemsong. (2006, 22 May). Interviewed by Sudjai Khwandam at house no.13, Moo 8, Bang Chao Cha Sub-District, Pho Thong District, Ang Thong.

