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PARAMAPORN SIRIKULCHAYANONT: CHINESE SETTLEMENT IN  
THAILAND: FORM, CHARACTER, AND CULTURAL INFLUENCE. THESIS  
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This research focuses on the relationship between place and people that reflect on the Chinese settlement in Thailand. It concentrates on cultural ideologies: ways of believing, ways of doing things, and ways of living, that people put into their place and shape it. Place is shaped through time by its people and reflects in its form and character. Through place making process, it becomes enriched with meanings that lead to sense of place, sense of belonging, attachment, and concern for that place. Place is full of messages, representing values from past, for present and future generations, that can be read.

The term “settlement” is used in the geographical sense that places are occupied by people and have particular forms, components and patterns, which are shaped by people living in them. The research approach of this work is based on cultural approach, combining documentation and cross-sectional survey of different Chinese settlements in Thailand. This research explored and revealed various aspects of place significance of Chinese settlement in Thailand, which reflects the relationship between people and place, and is expressed in the settlement pattern, form, and development of tangible structures through time. It reveals that Chinese settlement in Thailand is a social and cultural construct with its people as a key. This dissertation contributes to the study of place significance of Chinese settlement in Thailand, which enables the realising of its meaning and character. Meanwhile, it also suggested a role of tourism to enhance the sense of belonging of the community, which will lead to the heritage conservation of Chinese settlement in Thailand.

Student’s signature.....

Thesis Advisor’s signature.....

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