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SUPOT CHITTASUTTHIYAN : AESTHETICS OF WORLD HERITAGE : THAI TEMPLES AND RUINS, SUKHOTHAI HISTORICAL PARK AND ASSOCIATED SITES. THESIS ADVISOR : PROF.WILLIAM CHAPMAN Ph.D. 297 pp.

The aim of this study is to establish a suitable aesthetic category model of World Heritage, especially for Sukhothai Historical Park and other heritage sites, that will enable the visitors of the heritage sites to meet the objectives of creating enjoyment, appreciating a heritage property, bringing prosperity and creating local pride in the community.

The author used the qualitative research method in this study to gain in depth information of the subject being examined. Content analysis was used to ascertain historical and art information of the khmer art and its architectural influence in Thailand.

The author visited, observed and discussed with the director of Sukhothai National Museum at the heritage site. The study further examined the feedback of the visitors at heritage site for developing the services of heritage site.

To enable the Fine Arts Department to be more value -oriented, the author suggested the Fine Arts department to push the aesthetic study of cultural heritage sites into the national philosophy of education.

The author examined the Buddhist Art which influenced from Buddhism, The Khmer art and architecture which have had influenced to the Sukhothai Historical Park and associated sites. The author found that eventhough the architecture of Sukhothai Historical Park, World Heritage, was influenced by the Khmer architecture but the architects of Sukhothai can created the masterpiece of the stupas, Sukhothai Stupa, in the individual style that absolutely difference from the Khmer architecture.

The conclusion of the study recommended that the aesthetics of World Heritage is based on the pleasure of ruins. This concept can be used at all the cultural heritage sites in Thailand to benefit all stakeholders.

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