

SARANROM PALACE: THREATS & FUTURE

By

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มหาวิทยาลัยศิลปากร สงวนลิขสิทธิ์

A Research Project in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree

MASTER OF ARTS
Architectural Heritage Management and Tourism
(International Program)

Graduate School

SILPAKORN UNIVERSITY

2004

ISBN 974-464-063-4.

K45056310: ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM

KEYWORD: SARANROM PALACE / CONSERVATION / THREATS

SUTSAN SUTTIPISAN: SARANROM PALACE: THREATS & FUTURE

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83 pp. ISBN 974-464-063-4.

The objective of the study is to identify the contemporary threats of Saranrom Palace (2002-2004). The palace is one of the national heritages, which existing and collecting the information of the linkage not only between the national history and the people, but also the foreign affairs of Thailand.

The study has been done through primary and secondary sources of data associated with visual survey and interviews of people involving. After the process of analysis, the recommendations of treatment have been addressed in term of adding social value for general publics as well as providing information for future options.

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Student's signature.....

Research Project Advisor's signature

Acknowledgement

This study will not be success without helps from many people. I would like to address here that their generosity and kindness have been already acknowledged.

Along the way, thank you, my Lord Jesus, for wisdoms, opportunities and patience. Extremely thanks to my parents and my family for their love and understanding.

Heartfelt thanks go to Prof. Dr. Trungjai Buranasonphob, not only for academic lessons but also lessons in the ways of living; as well as, Assist. Prof. Dr. Pibul Jinawath and Assist. Prof. Somchart Chungsiriarak for many knowledge and advices.

Special thanks to Dr. Sumet Sumsai Na Ayuttaya, Weerapan Shinawatra, Porntep Suwanweerakun, Watanyu Tephaththi, Pairat Laoprasert, Eisorn Prokmontri, Saowaluk Posayanun, Fine Arts Department, all of the staff of SJA-3D Co., Ltd. and Stonehenge Co., Ltd. for all their time and information.

Many thanks to friends in Thai Airways International Public Co., Ltd., Chulalongkorn University, Silpakorn University and all the staff of Intentio Co., Ltd. particularly Denis for all their helps and supports.

Finally thanks so much to Laurent Bedouelle for all the ways that you are and all the ways that you have done for me.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Many kinds of animal can build their structure in differences such as birds ' nests and bees ' combs as well as mankind. We also build our structures (architectures). In contrary, others create through their instinct; we create through our culture. The culture that can be accumulated, developed, selected and passed from generations to generations. In fact, architecture is a way to express culture. As Roth noted "Architecture, then, is like written history and literature-a record of people who produced it-and it can be "read" in much the same way. Architecture is a nonverbal form of communication, a mute record of the culture that produced it" (Roth 1992:4).

In many cases, architectures are not only deteriorated by time or nature; but definitely by mankind. It could be forgiven if they have done that without knowledge or understanding. It might be a disaster as they have done it with a particular purpose, skills, knowledge and understandings. Hopefully, it would not happen to our national heritage of Rattanakosin Island, especially to Saranrom Palace.

In case of Saranrom Palace, the one who established never ever had an opportunity to use it. The palace has already proofed its values by surviving for almost 140 years. It is one of the significant symbols of transition into the modern era of Siam Kingdom. Through time, the palace has been served for many functions; nowadays, it is occupied by Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Few years ago, the government had a policy to delegate its function out of Rattanakosin Island. Many government agencies, including Ministry of Foreign Affairs, have their new offices in alter locations. Its Sriyuttaya Office and Cheangwattana Office are already in service. So, Saranrom Palace would be vacant

for other social function uses. It could be understood that international affairs importantly require the deep -root - the relationship along the past between parties. It seems to be no -root - for the ministry without the palace. It does not mean at all that the palace could not serve the ministry and increase direct social benefits for general publics simultaneously.

By the way, there is a rightful contestation in democracy. Also, there are rights and duties of citizenship of Thailand to protect national identities, which include national architectural heritage. Moreover, the Environment Act 1992 comprises to man-made artistic environment as well.

As a Thai individual, there are rational reasons to get information, study, analyze, debate and share the opinions about the case of Saranrom Palace .

Statement of Problems

Since the functions of the ministry have been moved to alter locations, the conservation project has been applied to the palace. The project is to modify the palace for supporting utilizations of the ministry in major. Truthfully, there are potentially options to incorporate direct social benefits for general publics with the project.

Over than the conservation project, the palace is involved by other two projects, which are the construction of Secretariat of Privy Councilor of Bureau of Crown Property and the Establishment Project of King Rama IV Monument of Ministry of Science and Technology.

These three projects are fascinating individually; but their integrity is very crucial, as they will be the context of each others. Moreover, we -the present generation- will hand the heritage in which way to the next generations, who we borrow it from!

Statement of Objectives

The objectives of this study are:

1. To gather the information of Saranrom Palace, including the contemporary issues for more understanding of the heritage.
2. To identify the contemporary threats those involve the heritage for understanding the problems.
3. To recommend the treatment for sustaining the heritage and create the direct social benefits for general public.

Scope of Study

The study is quite contemporary. The information was verified up to February 2004. During the writing of this report, the decision by authorities is not yet final.

Therefore, the recommendation of treatments, addressed at the end of the report, based on the information for mentioned period. The study has been done for academic purpose only.

Methodology

The study has been done through followed process consecutively:

1. archival research from both primary and secondary sources of data
2. field research by visual survey and assessment at the site
3. interview the stakeholders
4. identification of the threats
5. process of analysis
6. address the recommendation of treatments

Limitation of the study

The limitations of the study are time and budget. If time and budget were permitted; questionnaire, public hearing, professionals and experts interview would be integrated.

Chapter 2

Information of the Place

1. The Location

Saranrom Palace is located in Rattanakosin Island, on the east of the Grand Palace, which is adjacent to places as follow:

- The north: Ganlayanamitree Road and Ministry of Defense
- The south: Saranrom Road and Saranrom Royal Garden
- The east: Ordinance Survey Department
- The west: Sanamchai Road and Sanamchai Field

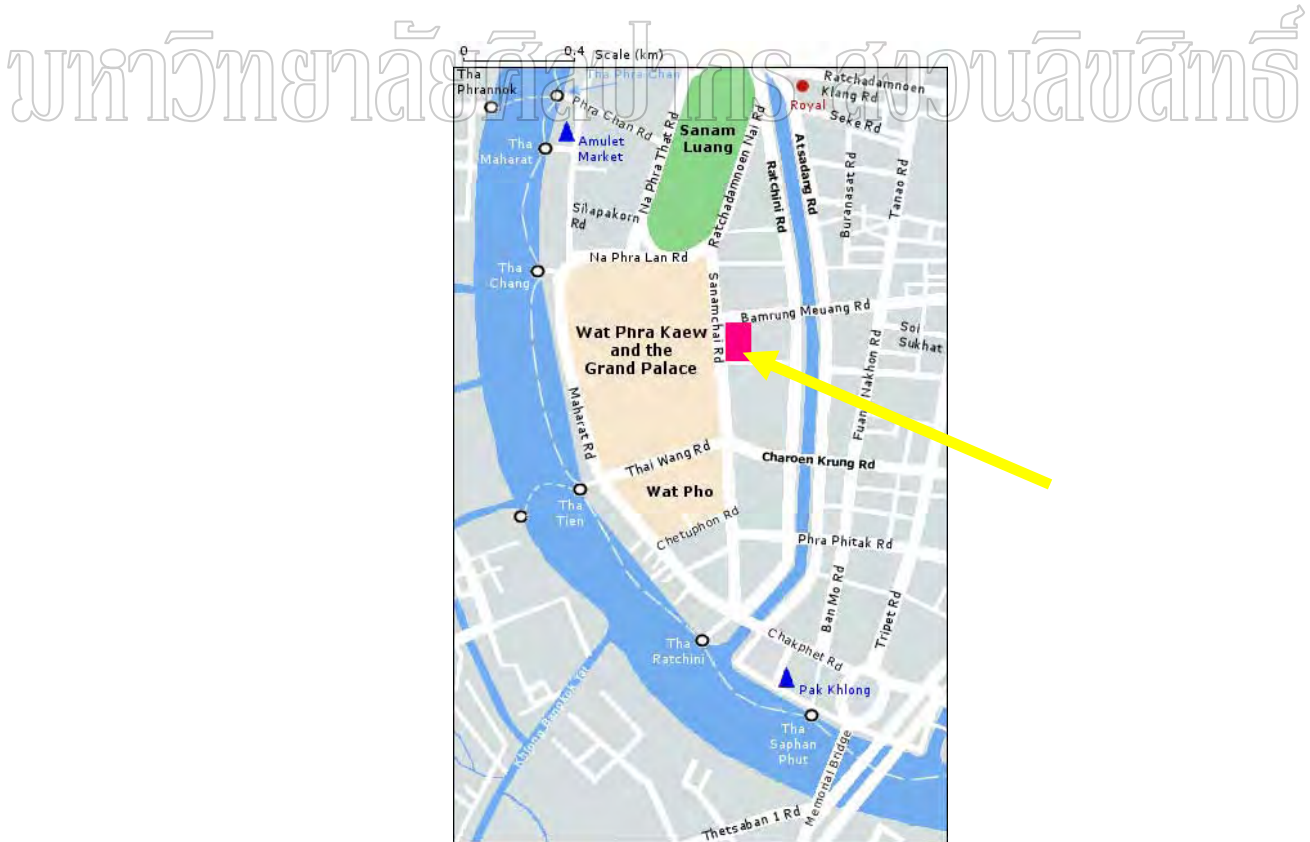


Figure 1 the map showing the location of Saranrom Palace.

2. The Historical Background

Saranrom Palace has been established in 1866 by King Rama IV. He would like it to be his residence after passing the throne to Crown Prince Chulalongkorn, who became King Rama V. Over here, he could be an advisor for the next young king in the position of Prachaoluang -the former living king.

This piece of land used to be the location of Tukdin, where ammunition and gun powder were kept. The construction has been under the supervision of Praya Burutanarachapunlop. The palace is Neo-classic style, which designed by Mr. Egon Muller. The construction could not been done in the reign of King Rama IV due to his death in 1868.

In the reign of King Rama V, Saranrom Palace, in the certain period, was the residence of Somdetprachaobaramawongter Chaofajaturonrasami Kromprayajakapadipong, his next younger brother, before he moved to Prarajawang Derm -the former palace. Then, it was transferred to Somdetprachonongyater Krompraya Panupanwongvoradet, another younger brother, until the construction of Burapapirom finished. In 1885, Prachaonongyater Krommeun Taewawongvaropakarn, the minister of foreign affairs at that time, utilized the place as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Then, the ministry has been moved to many buildings in the Grand Palace in order to leave the place as the residence of Prince Komatsu of Japan. Then, the palace has been used as the residence of other royal guests and state visitors such as Crown Prince of Russia, Prince Oscar of Sweden, Prince Henry of Italy, Prince of Germany, Prince of Denmark or even our princes, who came back during their studying in Europe e.g. Somdetprachaolukyater Chaofajakrapongpuwanart, Somdetprachaolukyater Chaofaboripatsukumpan. After The Crown Prince Vajirawut had been back from his study in England in 1902, the palace was, then, transformed to be his residence. Just in front, there is Saranrom Royal Garden, which was named after the palace. It used to be the location of Rimsanamchai former palace of Prachaorajawongter Krommuernammarentarabordin, which be established in the reign of King Rama I; including the land of Prachaobaramawongter Kromkunjaktaranupap. The royal

garden has been established in 1874 under the supervision of Mr. Henry Alabaster, who was the interpreter of the British Consulate and the origin of Sawetsila Family. There were a lot of plants and animals as British botanic garden.

In this reign, the palace has been modified under the supervision of Mr. Carlo Allegri, an Italian architect. At that time, the army hall along Sanamchai Field has been demolished to extend the palace.

In the reign of King Rama VI, Jitlada Palace was his residence. So, Saranrom Palace* has been served for many social events such as The Cool Season Festival, The Thai Red Cross Fair, and National Scout Meeting. Besides, the Department of Cultural Recreation or Krom Mahorasop (Krom Khone Luang as the former name) has been established here to revitalize the masked play or Khone. So the wooden building as a theater has been created here, but there is no existing at this moment.

On March 9th, 1925, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has moved back to the palace until present day. There were modifications, extensions, demolitions, constructions of new buildings to satisfy the function use of the ministry. Now, many of its units have been moved to the new locations, which are on Sriyuttaya and Changwatana road.

In 1997, the government approved the conservation project of Saranrom Palace by being under the recommendation of Silpakorn University.

3. The Architecture Description

Even the palace has been established since the reign of King Rama IV, the architecture description at that time, the only information is from written records. The information that describe without conjecture is mostly from the reign of King Rama V, which was after the modification by Carlo Allegri, particularly old photographs.

* At that time, the palace and the royal garden were associated to each other.

According to the written records in the reign of King Rama IV, Saranrom Palace has been built in Neo-classical style of architecture, designed by Egon Muller. Before the modification, it faced to the south (like palace in Sukhothai Era; author). The main entrance was from the royal garden (the south), leading to the throne hall by two stairways. The mansion was rectangular in shape with the central courtyard, surrounded by verandas and rooms. Most of the rooms had both front and rear balconies. The royal guests occupied the second floor, while their attendants occupied the ground floor. As other palaces that there is always a temple; here, Wat Rajapradit served as a palace temple.

After the modification, three porches have been added on the west part, facing the Grand Palace. The central porch has an open veranda framed by a Palladian-style opening. There is the state emblem of the reign of King Rama V on the curved gable of this porch. The porches on either side, have a pediment supported by a pair of columns with Corinthian capital. Within the pediment, there is the royal insignia "Pra Geaw" of King Rama V. These porches have a balcony with stucco balustrades on three sides. The ground floor has stucco rustication and arched windows, while the upper floor has rectangular windows flanked by pilasters.



Figure 2 the picture showing the exterior of the palace after the modification.

Source: Pairat Laoprasert.

For the interior, there are only recent documents during the period that the palace has been utilized as Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Room of Taewawongwaropakan, the former grand ballroom was named after Somdetprachaoboromawongter Krompraya Taewowongwaropakan. It has been restored in 1991 to be a multi-purpose room for conference and banquet.



Figure 3 the picture showing the interior of Taewawongwaropakan Room with paintings that were bought by King Rama V during his second trip to Europe and the marble statue of Somdetprachaoboromawongter Krompraya Taewowongwaropakan modelled by Wenig in 1925.

Source: "Saranrom Palace," *Chayka* 9, 74 (1997):57.



Figure 4 the picture showing the throne hall surrounded by doors, which were mounted by decorative fretwork as ventilation panel. The gold line of the doorframes match on the skirting and curtain surrounds.

Source: "Ministry of Foreign Affairs," *House and Garden* 18, 212 (April 1994): 159.



Figure 5 the pictures showing the details and atmosphere of the surrounding balcony and the inner courtyard.

Source: "Saranrom Palace," *Chayka* 9, 74 (1997):57.

"Ministry of Foreign Affairs," *House and Garden* 18, 212 (April 1994): 159.

4. The Existing Condition of the Place

The existing condition of Saranrom Palace has been done by visual inspection and assessment at the site on 10 January 2004. The existing condition will be described in parts as followed:

4.1 The level of the building

The general level of the building is approximately five cm. higher than the surrounding asphalt road, which is quite low. It could be the result of adding up the surface of the road. The flood will be crucial.

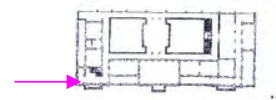


Figure 6 the picture showing the level of the building.

4.2 The roof

The present condition of the roof is fine in general with some tiles missing. Some parts of the roof-end are deteriorated by rain water associated with micro-organism.

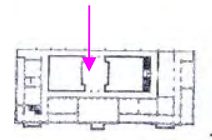


Figure 7 the picture showing the condition of the roof.

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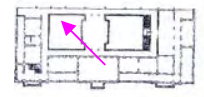


Figure 8 the picture showing the deteriorated roof.

4.3 Doors and windows

In general, the condition of doors and windows are good, except some that exposes directly to the rain. Humidity and micro-organism are causing of deterioration.

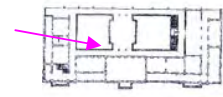


Figure 9 the picture showing the condition of doors.

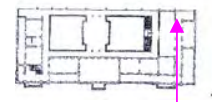


Figure 10 the picture showing the window that deteriorated by humidity and micro-organism.

4.4 Stucco

Most of the stuccoes are deteriorated by humidity associated with micro-organism. Causing by the over flow rain water cannot go through the clogged downspouts. Moreover, some of gutters and downspouts are in bad condition causing leaking out of water. There is also some trace of improper technique of restoration by using alien materials.

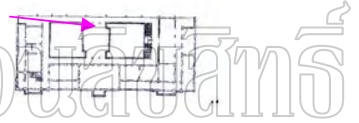


Figure 11 the picture shows the stucco deteriorated by humidity and microorganism, caused by gutter malfunction.

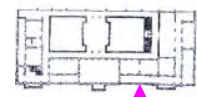


Figure 12 the picture shows the stucco deteriorated by humidity and microorganism, caused by the leakage of downspout.



Figure 13 the picture showing the stucco deteriorated by introducing alien materials.

4.5 Exterior finishes

Most of exterior finishes are deteriorated by moisture, as the results of leakage of the roof and applying paint over mortar. There are termite attacks in many areas.



Figure 14 the picture showing the ceiling of the corridor deteriorated by leakage of the roof.

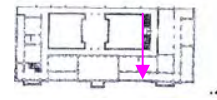


Figure 15 the picture showing the result of deterioration by painting application on mortar.

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Figure 16 the picture showing the deterioration by termite attack.

4.6 Gutters, downspouts and drainages

The condition of gutters and downspouts is very poor. Most of them are leak and be clogged. There are also appearances of vegetation in the gutters. Most of the downspouts are terminated on the side of the building. These can lead more problems afterward.

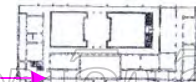


Figure 17 the picture showing the malfunction of the downspout.

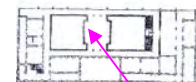


Figure 18 the picture showing vegetations threaten the gutter.

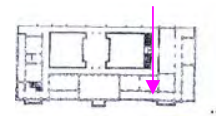


Figure 19 the picture showing the drainage around the building which is obstructed by debris.

4.7 Electric system

For security reason, the electricity is still required at nighttime. The electrical system is degraded. Many wires are left unprotected. It has been found the leakage of a downspout next to electrical boxes.



Figure 20 the picture showing the condition of electrical wiring.



Figure 21 the picture showing the leakage of a downspout next to electrical boxes.

Summary

This chapter contains the general information of Saranrom Palace, which are the location, the historical background, the architecture description and the existing condition. These will create more understanding in the heritage including its physical problems.

Chapter 3

Evolution of the Place

The evolution of the place will be summarized in chronographic series. The historical information emphasized about the place; meanwhile, the historical events would be simultaneously declared for more understanding of the historical fabrics.

King Rama IV (1851-1868)

1866: Saranrom Palace has been established by King Rama IV. He would like it to be his residence after passing the throne to his son -Crown Prince Chulalongkorn- who became King Rama V. Over here, he would like to be an advisor for the next young king in the position of 'Prachaoluang', which means the former living king. This piece of land used to be the location of Tukdin, which was used as the place to keep ammunition and gun powder. The construction has been under the supervision of Praya Burutanarachapunlop (Peng). The palace is Neo-classic style and designed by Mr. Egon Muller. The construction could not been done in the reign of King Rama IV due to his death in 1868.



Figure 22 the combination of two old pictures show Tukdin, the location of Saranrom Palace was built.

Source: Nawigamune 1999: 53, 55, quoting Histories of Places and Objects established by King Rama V, 1925.

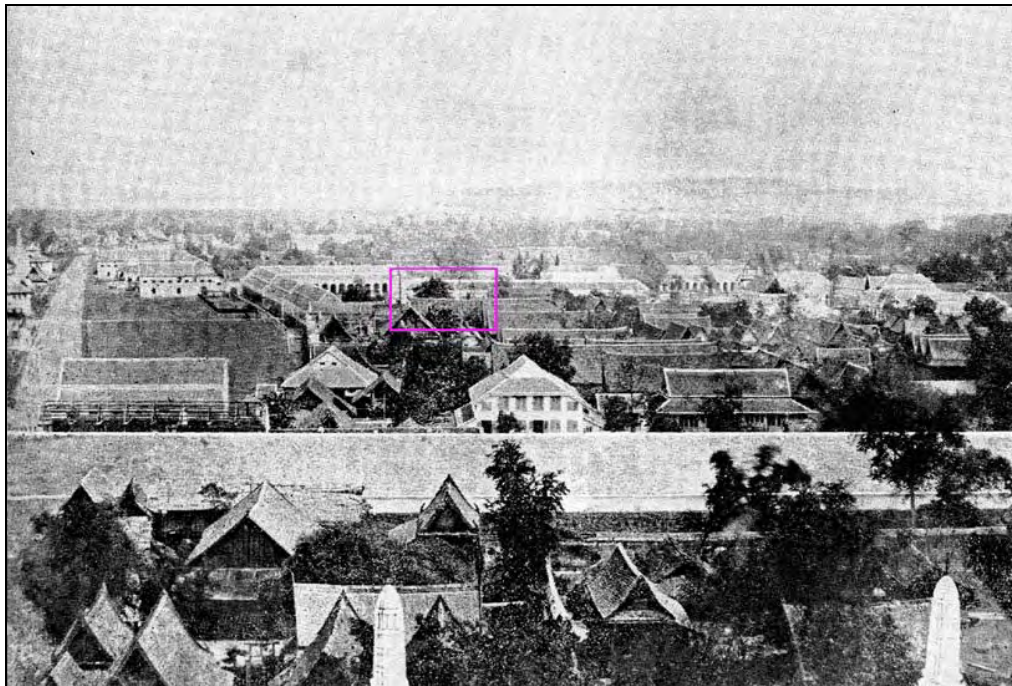


Figure 23 the old pictures of Tukdin and Sanamchai Field.

Source: Nawigamune 1999: 49, quoting Histories of Places and Objects established by King Rama V, 1925.

King Rama V (1868-1910)

In the early of his reign, Saranrom Palace had been used as the residence of Somdetprachaobarmawongter Chaofajaturonrasami Kromprayajakapatdipong, his next younger brother, before he moved to Prarajawang Derm (the former palace). Then, it was transferred to Somdetprachonongyater Chofapanurangsri Sawangwone Krompraya Punupanwongvoradet, another younger brother, until the construction of Burapapirom Palace finished.

1874: The Botanic Garden has been established associated to the palace on the location of former Rimsanamchai palace of Prachaorajawongter Krommuernammarentarabordin, which be established in the reign of King Rama I; including the land of Prachaobarmawongter Kromkunjaktaranupap. It was under the supervision of Mr. Henry Alabaster, who was the interpreter of the British

Consulate and the origin of Sawetsila Family. There were a lot of plants and animals as British botanic garden.

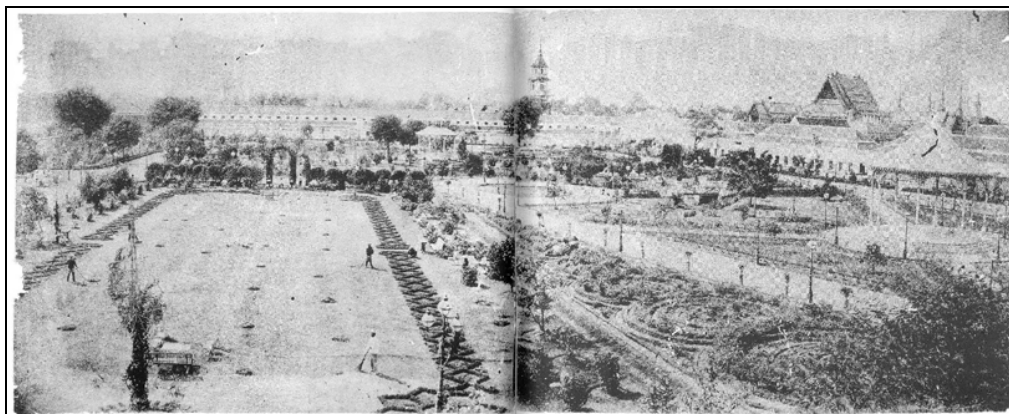


Figure 24 the picture showing Saranrom Garden at the very first period, there were buildings of Rong Tahan Nha (the barracks) along the right side.

Source: Stonehenge Design and Consultant Co., Ltd.

1881: The Monument of Queen Sunanta Kumareerat was established in the botanic garden after her death by boat sinking in 1880.

1883: 28th June, the opening of the monument by Crown Prince Vajiroonahit.

1884: 10th November, the diary of Crown Prince Vajiroonahit was recorded about his visit of Saranrom Palace and the botanic garden that

...in the afternoon, Mae Prom (Chaojommarnda Prom in King Rama V) visited my mother*. Then, we got dress and accompanied the King for visiting Saranrom Palace at first. It was fun and very beautiful. It was prepared for Prince from Sweden and Norway. After that, we went to the garden. There were many red roses, we competed for collecting. Taw**, Lek***my younger brothers and me played with the fountain. Taw was sinking, Aunt Som jumped to help so she was totally wet.”
(Lekhakun, quoted in *Beyond the Fence of Palaces* 2000: 19).

* Queen Sawangwatana.

** Somdetprachaolukyater Chaofavajirawut, who became King Rama VI.

*** Somdetprachaolukyater Chaofajakrapongpuwanart, the origin of “Jakrapong” family.

17th-23rd November, the palace had been served as the Royal Residence of Prince Oscar of Sweden. His daily record noted,

Saranromya Palace or Saranrom Palace, where will be our residence, is the oriental styled building with many courtyards. The floor made of marble. There are pillars lines up. All my attendants stay in rooms that overlooking down to a courtyard. Around the courtyard, there are roofed verandas that be divided in to four parts due to the joining of others. We stay together in the same place and we can meet others along the verandas, which is quite comfortable (they provided chairs), or in the billiard room. It can be seen that we will be extremely engrossed at all times during our stay. There was a musical performance during our dinner as well.... In the area of 'OUR PALACE' there is a beautiful garden and zoo with deer, monkeys, a black tiger and many other animals including birds...

(quoted in "Ministry of Foreign Affairs," House and Garden 18, 212 (April 1994): 157).

1885: 12th June, there was a letter from the king to Krommern

Taewawongwaroprahan for the permission of using Saranrom Palace as the Foreign Office.

18th June, the Foreign Office moved into the palace.

19th June, there was the opening ceremony of the Foreign Office. It was assumed to be the first ministry having its own office.

Beforehand, the office traditionally located at the palace or mansion of the authorized person.

20th October, the Foreign Office was moved into Sala Lukkunnai in the Grand Palace in order to leave the palace for preparing the accommodation of the Japanese Prince.

24th October, the Foreign Office was temporarily moved into Ronglakorn Kangprarabeing Watprasriritanasartsadaram due to the deterioration of the ceiling of Sala Lukkunnai.

25th October, the Foreign Office was finally moved into Rajawanlop Building in the area of Grand Palace.

1887: the palace was the reception residence of Prince Komatsu of Japan during his royal visit to the kingdom.

1893: 13th August, the botanic garden was promoted to be The Royal Garden.

1897: the hand writing from King Rama V to Queen Saowapongsri, who was the regent during the Royal visit of European countries, read

Today, I invited Grand Duchess Xenia*. She accepted to go to Bangkok with her husband. It is quite certain that at the end of this year, there will be the visits of royal families not less than three or four times. Just consider about changing of Saranrom Palace, demolish the barracks, and modify the palace to face to Suthaisawan Pavilion as the result. Start it as soon as possible, do not wait for my arriving. I will give the money from my personal treasure. Somebody who used to see the palace in Europe, they could help. Do not hesitate. It should start in May, definitely.

(quoted in Lekhakun, Beyond the Fence of Palaces 2000: 23).

1898: the palace was modified under the supervision of Mr. Carlo Allegri, an Italian architect, with Department of Public and Municipal Works, as the operator. At that time, there were the addition of the stair porch on the southern, the royal bedchamber on the eastern part and the demolition of the barracks along Samanchai Field. Since then, the palace has been used as the residence of European Royal Families during their kingdom visits such as Prince Henry of Italy, Prince of Germany, Prince of Denmark or even our princes, who came back during their studying in Europe e.g. Somdetprachaolukyater Chaofajakrapongpuwanart, Somdetprachaolukyater Chaofaboripatsukumpan.

* the younger sister of Emperor Nicolas II.

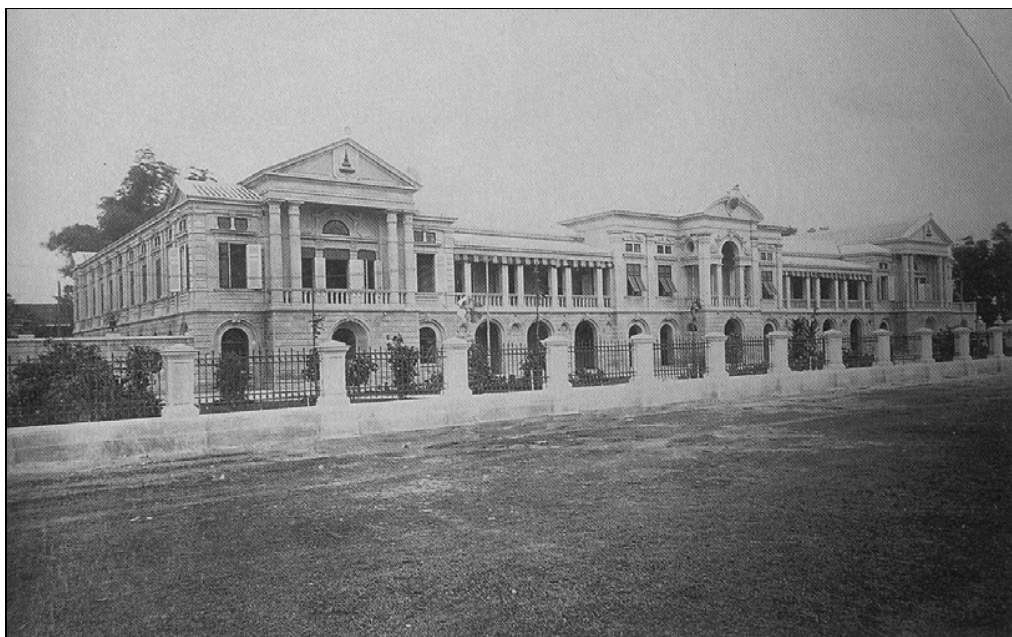


Figure 25 the picture showing the palace after the modification by Carlo Allegri.

Source: Pairat Laoprasert.

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Figure 26 the picture showing the addition of the stair porch on the southern part.

Source: SJA-3D Co., Ltd.

1902: 29th January, the palace was used as the residence of Crown Prince Vajirawut after his arrival from the study in England.

King Rama VI (1910-1925)

In his reign, Jitlada Palace was his residence. So, Saranrom Palace has been served for many social events.

1904: Taweepanya Samosorn (Taweepanya Club) was established in the royal garden, Ruen Krajok building.

1905: Ronglakorn Taweepanya (Taweepanya Theater) was established in the royal garden by extension of Ruen Krajok building. It accommodated approximately a hundred audiences. The performer at that time was Sriyuttayaron Group.

1907: Prayuparat School was established in the palace for teaching the professional courses as a university in the present.

1910: 28th November, the personal diary of King Rama VI noted that

28th November in the afternoon, I went to Saranrom Palace for preparing the reception of Crown Prince of Germany, planed for visiting Siam in the end of 1910. This palace used to be my residence during the late reign of King Rama V, since I have learnt that His Majesty would like to use it to be the residence of Kingdom visitors, I modified and restored in many points, that why is neat and proper. During visiting the palace I felt discouraged due to one, feeling stint for no longer being used for myself after modification and restoration; and the other, I felt this is my home, the place that I used to live peacefully, the association in my spirit still exist. (Ram Vajirawut 2002: 166)

In his reign, there were not only Ngan Rudunow (the Cool Season Festival) held annually at the royal garden, but also Thai Red Cross Fair and National Scout Meeting.

King Rama VII (1925-1934)

1925: 9th March, the hand writing from King Rama VII to Pravorawongter Praongchaotritotprapan declared,

As Saranrom Palace is the proper location for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I would like you to move the ministry back to the palace. There must be an official agreement between the Department of Royal Household and the ministry in case of inventories. And please keep in mind that all still belong to the Royal Treasure, not to the nation. The Ministry will be only the tenant.

(translated by author)

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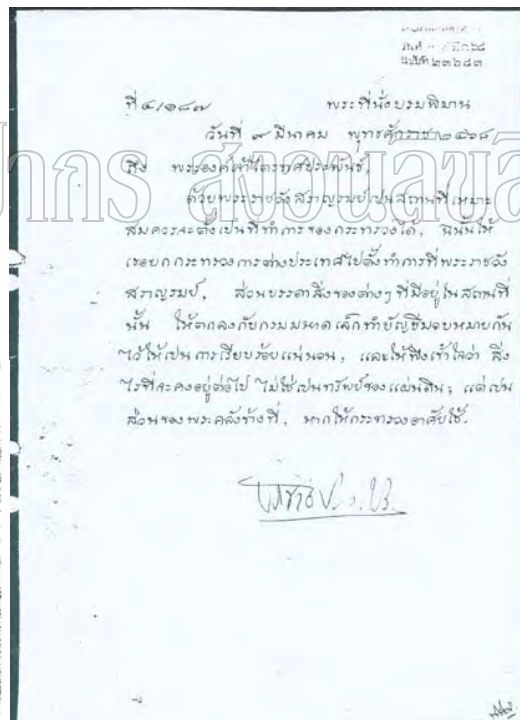
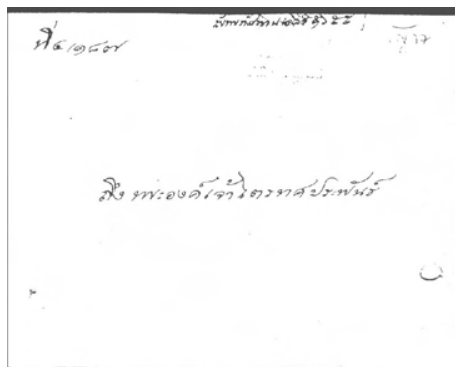


Figure 27 the letter from King Rama VII to Pra-ongchaw Tritotprapun.

Source: Eisorn Prokmontri, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

8th June, the ministry has been moved back to Saranrom Palace.

King Rama IX (1946-Present)

1951: There was a restoration due to the deteriorated condition in general. In the meantime, the three-storied building was being constructed on the northern part, along Ganlayanamitree Road. There was also two-storied building constructed to link the new building to the north eastern part of the palace. The project had been finished all in 1953.

1960: There were two buildings had been constructed in the area of the royal garden, approximately 5,133 square meters, between Sanamchai Field and Wat Rajapradit Satitmahasrimaram. At the beginning both buildings were two-stories, then one more storey had been added for both.

1961: 25th January, the western one of the two buildings was officially opened.

1962: 29th October, the eastern one of the two buildings was officially opened.

1968: Four-storied building was constructed by demolishing the rear (eastern) part of the palace including some of the northern part and the stair porch in the southern part. The building had been suggested and designed by Division of Architecture, Department of Fine Arts. The construction was finished in September 1971.

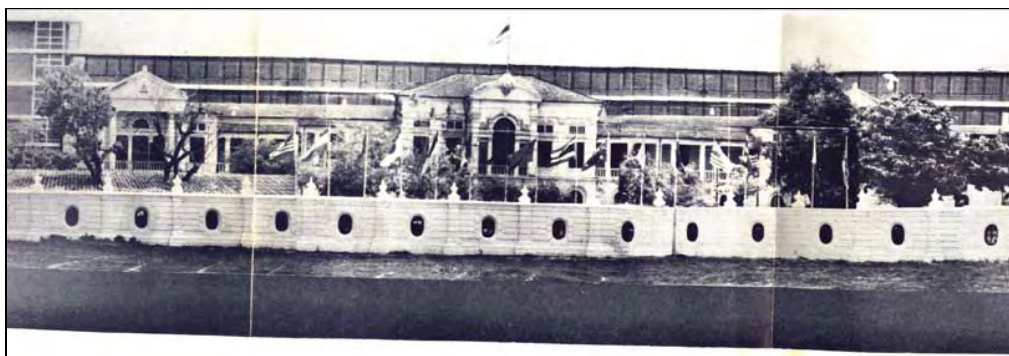


Figure 28 the picture showing the four-storied building behind the front part of Saranrom Palace.

Source: [100 Years of Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1975:24](#).



Figure 29 the picture showing the four-storied building behind the front part of Saranrom Palace and also the three-storied on the left.

Source: National Archives, "Ministry of Foreign Affairs".

1977: after Southeast Asia Treaty Organization has been terminated, some departments of the ministry were moved into Sriyuttaya Office.

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1980: the monument of Somdetprachaoboromawongter Krompraya Taewongwaropakan was established in front of the central porch of the western part. The monument was donated by officers of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Figure 30 the picture showing the monument of Somdetprachaoboromawongter Krompraya Taewowongwaropakan in front of the central porch of the palace.

Source: National Archives, "Ministry of Foreign Affairs".

1984: due to cracking and rain water leaking, the four-storied building was restored by I-beam supporting.

1994: some departments of the ministry had to move out to Paholyotin Place and Kimpo Buildings.

1998: Saranrom Palace conservation by the cooperation between the ministry and Silpakorn University was submitted to the government.

1998: some departments of the ministry had to move out to Cheangwatana Office.

1999: 5th January, the conservation project was approved by the government.

26th August, the new building at Sriyuttaya Office was officially opened in service.

2000: Saranrom Palace was registered in the National Heritage List by Department of Fine Arts. The conservation project has also started.

2002: The conservation project of Saranrom Palace has been started by Stonehenge Design and Consultant Co., Ltd. as the contractor.

Summary

The evolution of the place will be summarized in series of plans as followed:



Figure 31 the index showing color-indicators of following plans.



Figure 32 the plan of the area before 1866; former Tukdin area.



Figure 33 the plan of the area in 1866-1874; after establishment of Saranrom Palace

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Figure 34 the plan of the area during 1874-1951; after establishment of Saranrom Royal Garden.



Figure 35 the plan of the area during 1951-1960; after three-storied building addition.

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Figure 36 the plan of the area during 1960-1968; after two building addition on the royal garden side.



Figure 37 the plan of the area during 1968-2002; after the construction of four-storied building replace the rear part of the palace.

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Figure 38 the plan of the area during 2002-present; after the construction of SPC. Building and demolition of four-storied building.



Figure 39 the plan of the area showing phase I of the construction project of King Rama IV Monument.

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Figure 40 the plan of the area showing phase II of the construction project of King Rama IV Monument.

Chapter 4

Statement of Significance

Saranrom Palace has both national and international cultural heritage significances. The values can be addressed as followed:

1. Historic Value

The palace is one of historical places, which declare the relationship between Thailand and international countries. The palace is the surviving physical evidence demonstrating the utilization of the place for many purposes. And the palace is also outstanding in heritage terms for its ability to demonstrate the change of uses as the royal residence, reception residence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in final. Therefore, it contributes an understanding of cultural history. The palace is also the place of collective memories of Somdetprachaoboromawongter Krompraya Taewowongwaropakan "Father" of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

2. Social Value

The palace is one of the symbols showing the transition period of Siamese society from the classical era into the modern era. The palace is also one of the places that have been served the society as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Moreover, the royal garden has been utilized as a park for public in general at the moment..

3. Architectural Value

The palace is one of the excellence examples demonstrating the architectural knowledge in the certain period of Ratanakosin Era in terms of style, orientation, material, and so fort. In Thai history, these are the remarkably influenced by Western architecture. The palace also demonstrates the harmony between traditional Thai and Western style.

4. Aesthetic Value

The design of the whole complex reflects the aesthetic idea of axis and balance, which is the perfect proportion between the vertical and the horizontal dimensions. It strongly creates the sense of warmth, receptivity and elegance.

The integrity of the palace and other architectures in Ratanakosin Island, especially The Grand Palace, can still be appreciated. Strong visual elements of the palace; including buildings, planning layout, open spaces and gardens, convey the realities of its activities.

Chapter 5

Threats

As being seen in the evolution of the place, many threats can be noticed trough times such as the construction of two buildings on the royal garden area in 1960. The two buildings terminated the association of Saranrom Palace and Saranrom Royal Garden and also frustrated the linkage between the Grand Palace and Wat Rajapradit Satitmahasrimaram.

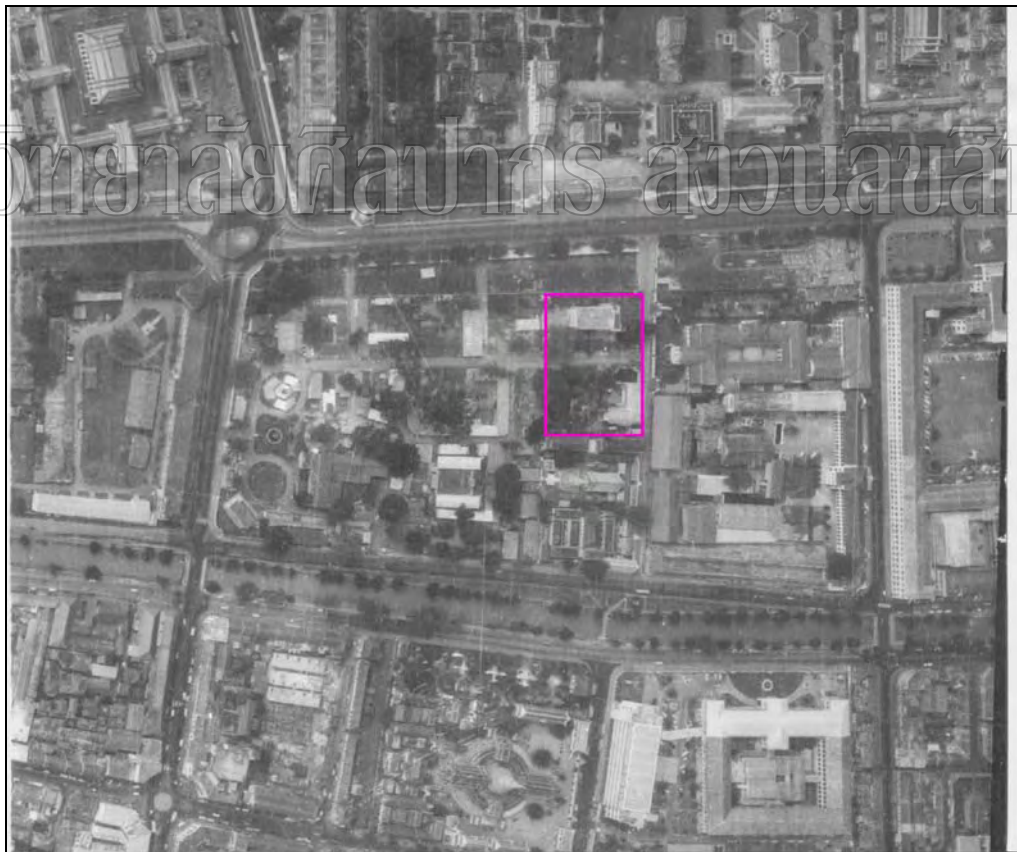


Figure 1 the aerial image in 1965 showing the condition of the area before the construction of the two buildings between the palace and the royal garden.

Source: Department of Ordinance Survey, R6, no. 687, 1965.

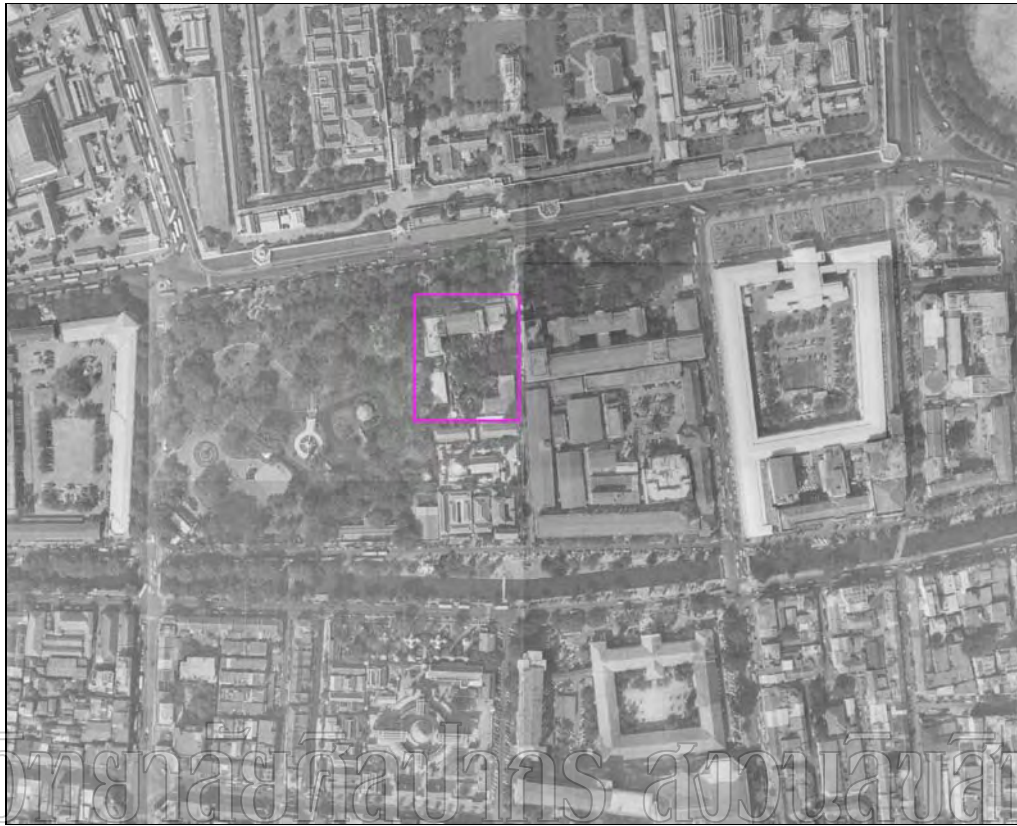


Figure 2 the aerial image in 1998 showing the condition of the area after the construction of the two buildings between the palace and the royal garden.

Source: Department of Ordnance Survey, MEA 17/41, no. 046, 20 February 1998

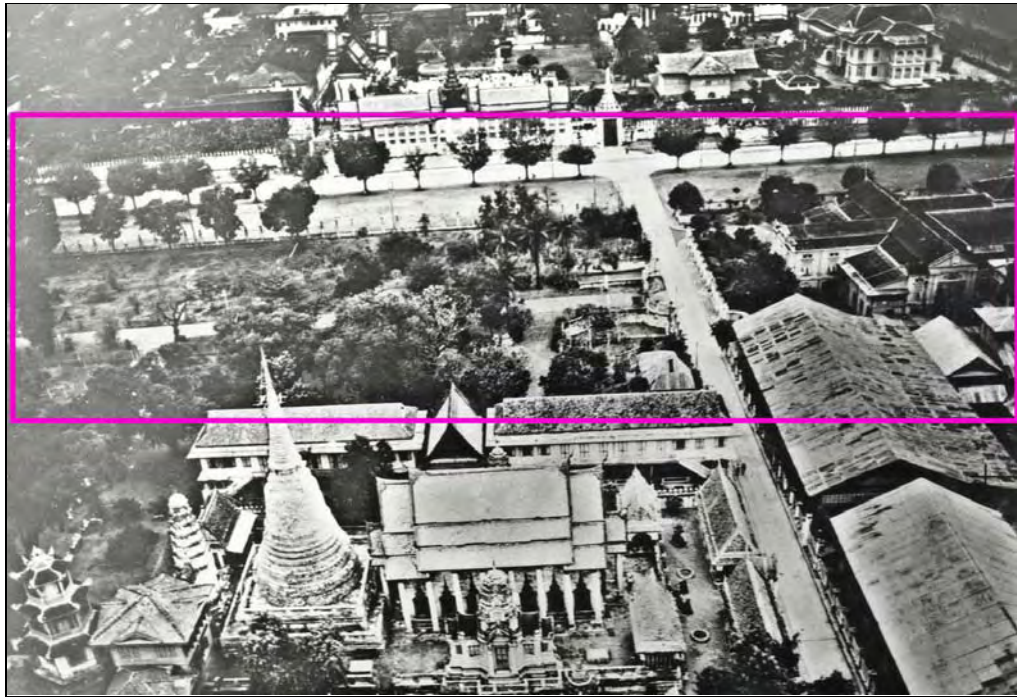


Figure 3 the old picture showing the royal garden leading to the main entrance of the palace.

Source: SJA-3D Co., Ltd.

The significant threat was in 1968 by the partial demolition of the palace in order to construct four-storied building. The initial plan was to build a six-storied building but because of the public criticism the ministry agreed to reduce it to a four-storey. The crucial point was the demolition in order to build the new building. The design was suggested by Department of Fine Arts.

At that time, the ministry addressed the clarification of its project as it shows in the newsletter on 19th November 1968.

LETTERS

Demolition of palace

THE PARTIAL DEMOLITION of Saranrom Palace, site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is to be deplored. The ministry's need for physical expansion, which is continual, deserves sympathetic hearing but to no degree condoning a permanent disfigurement of a public building of undoubted historical and architectural worth. The new block to be erected behind the present facade will at best provide intermediate solution to the recurrent problem of demand for space. The destruction on the other hand, of a major surviving architectural showpiece from early modern Thai history will be quite final and irreversible. It is an outrage, the more so for being perpetrated in this centenary year of King Chulalongkorn's ascension.

An urgent case exists for a list of protected historical buildings and sites by the recently-appointed Fine Arts Commission. In the meantime, the entry of the original Saranrom Palace must now be considered well booked as yet another item for nostalgic head-shaking in the next scheduled bicentenary photographic exhibition of old Bangkok.

Songkram Gra-
changnetara
Bangkok

I HAVE LEARNT with regret that a substantial part of the Royal Palace, Phra Rajwang Saranrom, presently the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is to be soon demolished to make way for a mere four-story office building. This is a pity, as Dr Sunet Jumsai has pointed out, as the action represents neither a solution for expansion nor sensible behaviour for a civilised nation.

In the past, most landmarks of historical or cultural value have been demolished at the hands of uneducated hoodlums. It is surprising that such an act could be repeated by those who are supposed to represent our country's traits, cultural, social and political, abroad. I am utterly at a loss as to who originated the idea of demolition and how such an unthinkable scheme could have ever got through to the present stage.

Likit Hongladarom
Bangkok

Figure 4 the article showing some opinions from public.

Source: Bangkok Post, 16 November 1968



Figure 5 the picture and the article showing the demolition of the front porch of the palace.

Source: [Bangkok World](#), 21 November 1968.



Figure 6 the picture and the article showing the demolition of the front porch of the palace.

Source: Bangkok World, 26 November 1968.

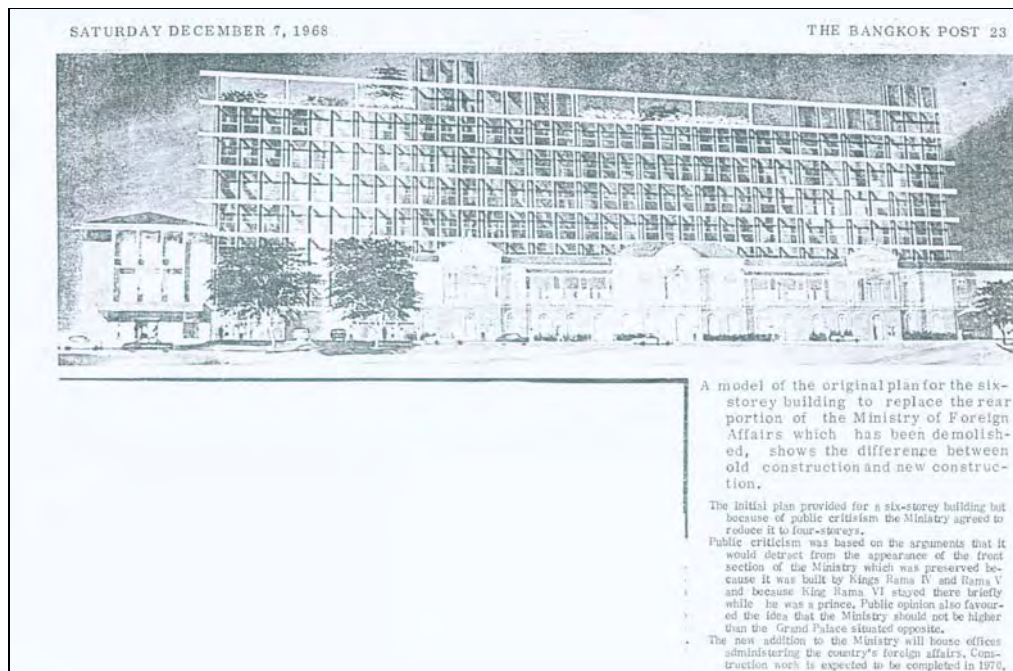


Figure 7 the picture and the article showing the model of the original plan for the six-storey building to replace the rear part of the palace.

Source: [Bangkok Post](#), 7 December 1968.

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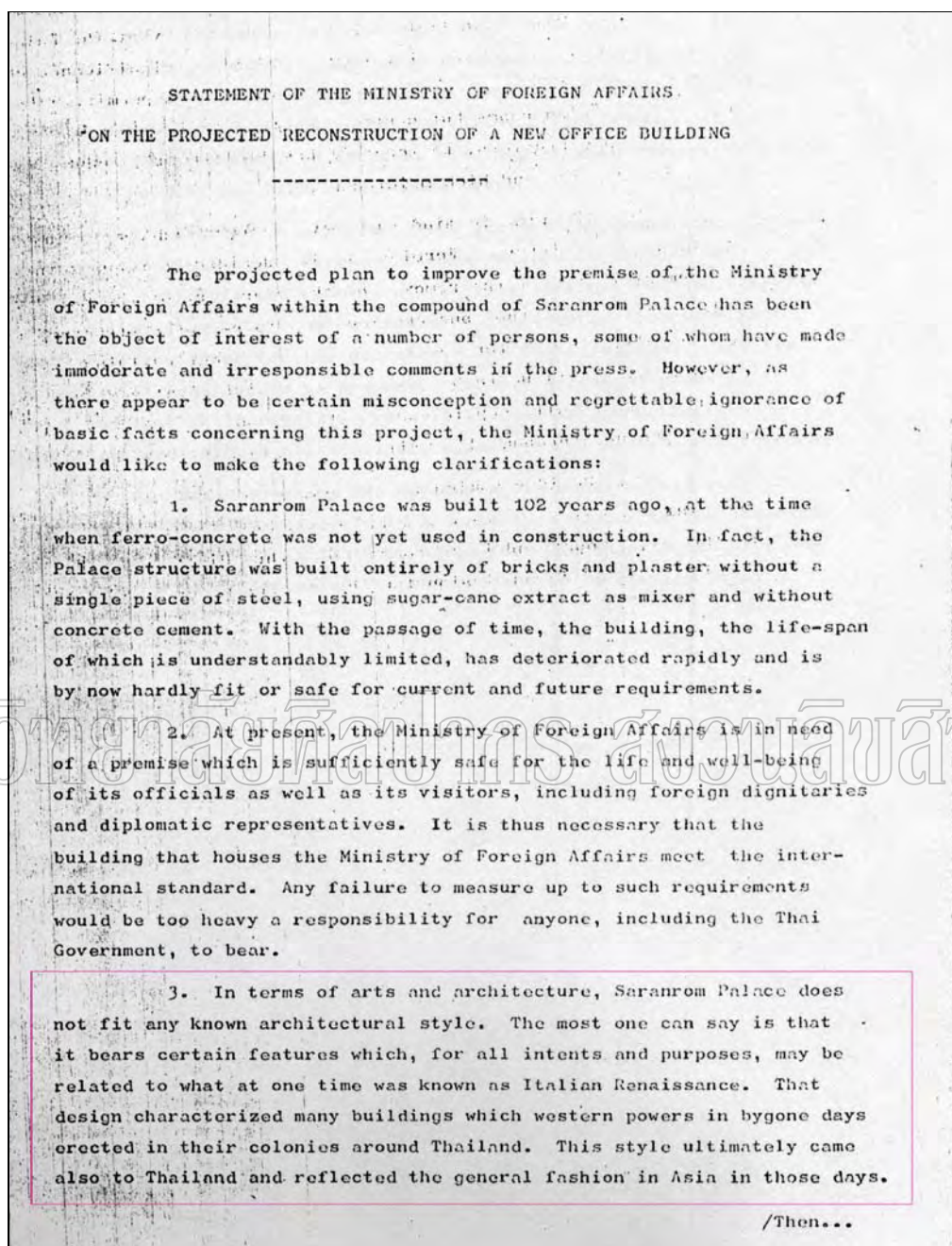


Figure 8 the first page of the statement of Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the projected reconstruction of a new office building.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Information, "Newsletter," 19 November 1968.

Then as now, it is devoid of any significant architectural value.

4. On the other hand, it must be said that Their Majesties Kings Rama IV and V graciously commissioned the building of Seranrom Palace to be built for use by the Crown Prince, who later became King Rama VI. The Crown Prince stayed only briefly at the Palace. In this respect, the Palace has certain historic significance and should be preserved as far as its conditions would permit, only to be used as reception rooms but certainly not as office space. It is difficult, nevertheless, to foretell how long it will endure, even with expensive repairs and high maintenance cost.

5. Bearing in mind the above factors and compelling circumstances, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to request the Government to permit the removal of the rear part of the main building and, in its place, the construction of a four-storey structure to be used as office space for the Ministry. The front building, with its facade, will continue to be preserved for historical purposes as long as it can last while repair works will be done to strengthen its infrastructure through all available techniques of modern architecture.

6. Besides asking the Government to consider its request, the Ministry has also respectfully brought this matter to the attention of the Royal Court and it is to be noted that His Majesty the King has graciously granted permission for the project to be carried out.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

November 19, 1968

Figure 9 the second page of the statement of Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the projected reconstruction of a new office building.

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Information, "Newsletter," 19 November 1968.

Threats in the past mentioned above have already been replaced by threats in contemporary. Therefore, the discussion in this study will be emphasized in the contemporary threats, which are:

1. The conservation project of Saranrom Palace

After the construction of the offices on Sriyuttaya road and Cheangwatana road, all functions of Ministry of Foreign Affairs were moved to its new offices. During that time, the first project has been initiated by the Ministry with the cooperation of Silpakorn University for the primary study; and then, submitted to the government and Budget Bureau in 1998. The project has been suggested to demolish the four-storied building at the rear (eastern) part and the three-storey building along Ganlayanamitree road. After the process of conservation, the palace will be served as a museum of international relationship in priority. To generate the economic benefits for sustaining the palace, the integration of banquet service was recommended. According to the plan, most of the museum functions will be on the ground floor and the banquet function will be on the upper floor.

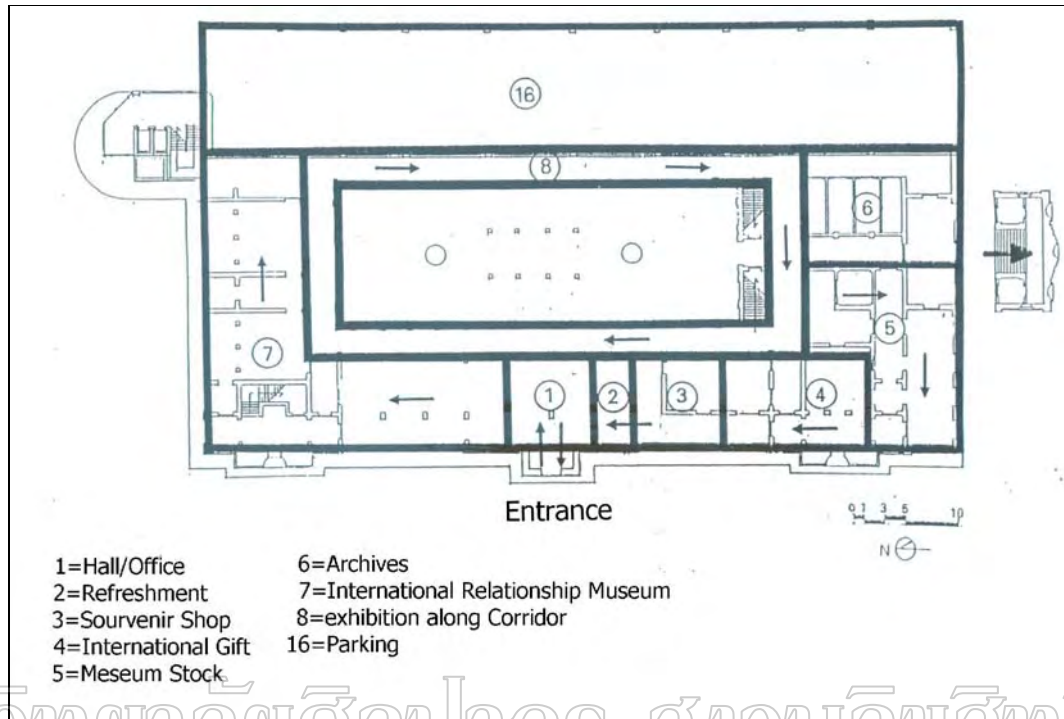


Figure 10 the plan of the ground floor showing space utilization suggested by Silpakorn University.

Source: Trungjai Buranasomphob et al.

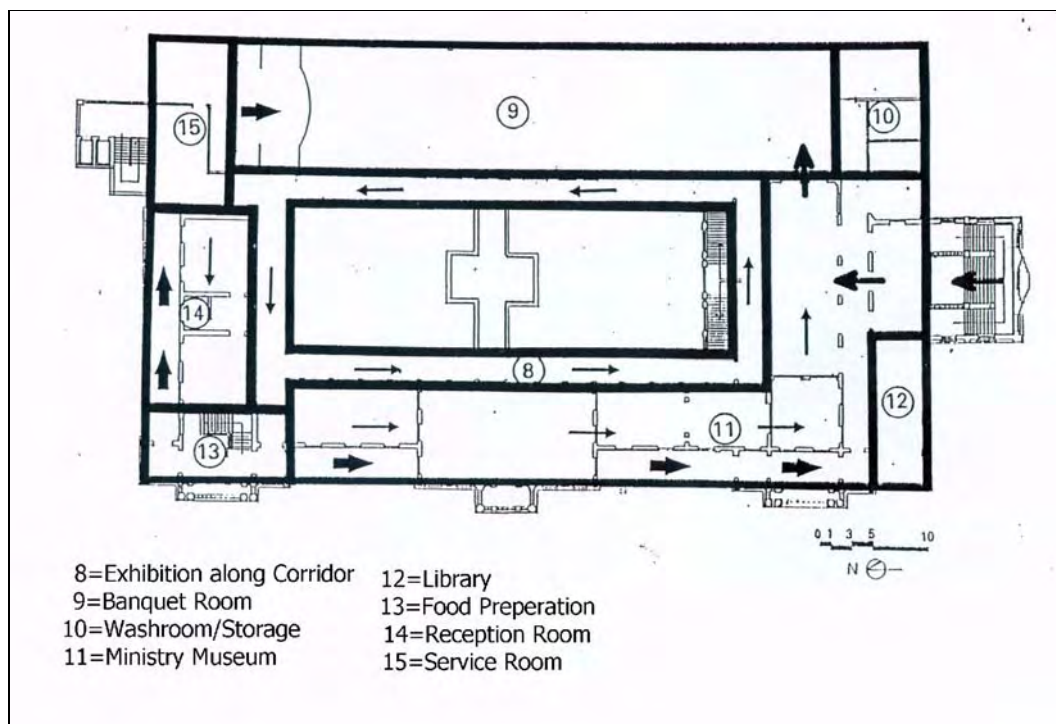


Figure 11 the plan of the upper floor showing space utilization suggested by Silpakorn University.

Source: Trungjai Buranasomphob et al.

Even the project has been approved in early of 1999; the project had to be temporary suspended due to budget difficulties. Anyway, the project was continued in mid of 2000. The consultant of the project is Stonehenge Design and Consultants Co., Ltd. The demolitions of the four-storied building, at the rear (eastern) part and the three-storied building along Ganlayanamitree road were also suggested. Then, the building archaeological excavation will be applied to the area. While this report is written, the excavation still keeps going. The result will be presented mid of this year (2004). The project was planed to reconstruct the rear (eastern) part of the palace for revitalizing the past.

After the process of conservation, the Ministry will utilize the palace for its own function in priority, which will be the reception place for state visitors, conference room, training office, archives. Moreover, the museum of the Ministry will be integrated. Concerning the design, the ground floor of existing part will serve as

galleries, conference rooms and offices; the upper floor will serve as reception halls, function rooms and dining rooms. The reconstructed part will serve as archives, museum, utility system, catering facility and parking space.

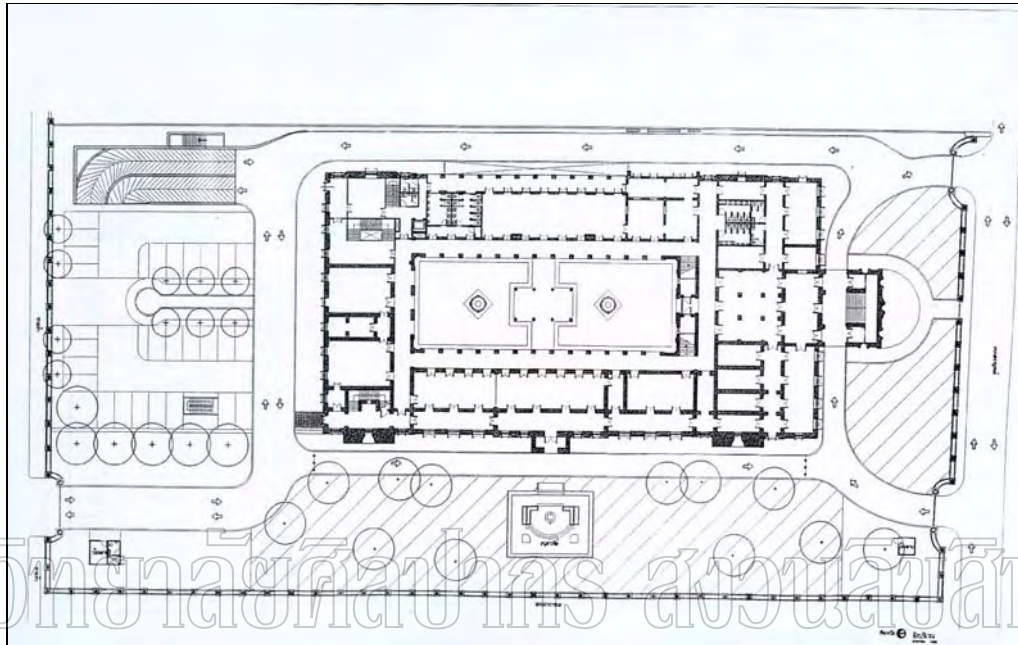


Figure 12 the plan showing the palace in general including traffic circulation after the conservation project.

Source: Stonehenge Design and Consultant Co., Ltd.

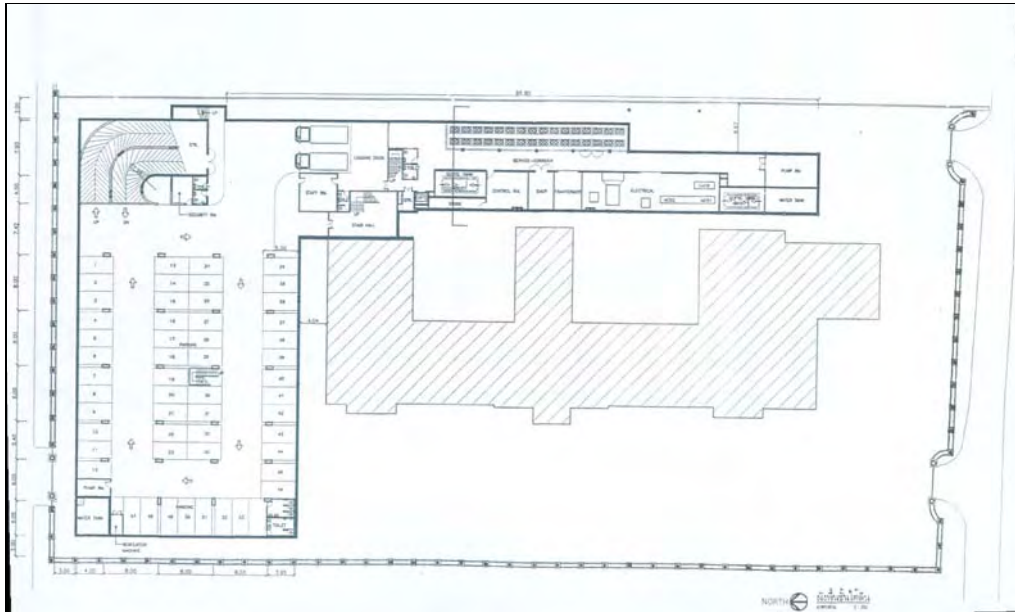


Figure 13 the plan showing the underground floor including parking space and facilities after the conservation project.

Source: Stonehenge Design and Consultant Co., Ltd

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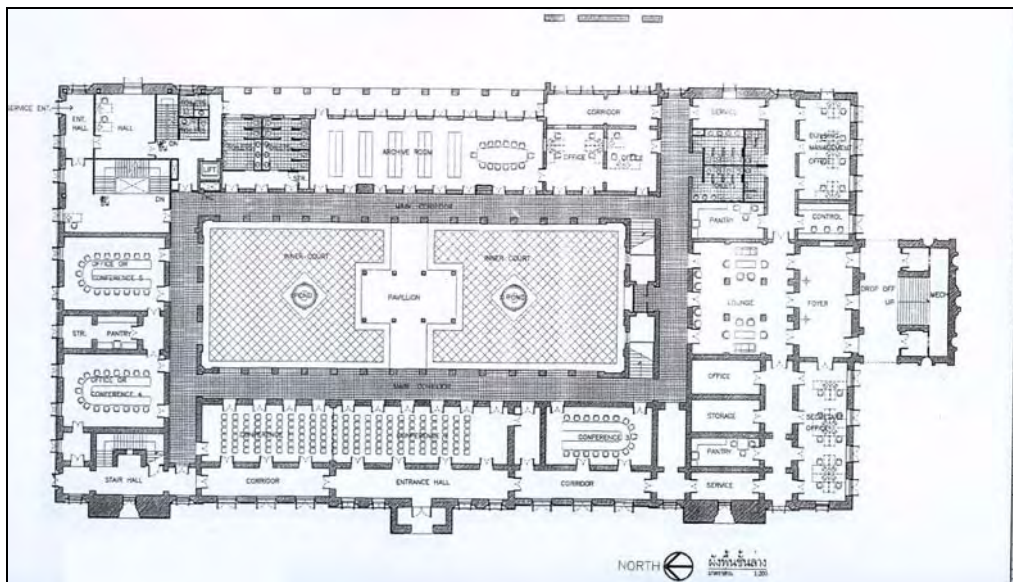


Figure 14 the plan showing the ground floor including its function after the conservation project.

Source: Stonehenge Design and Consultant Co., Ltd.

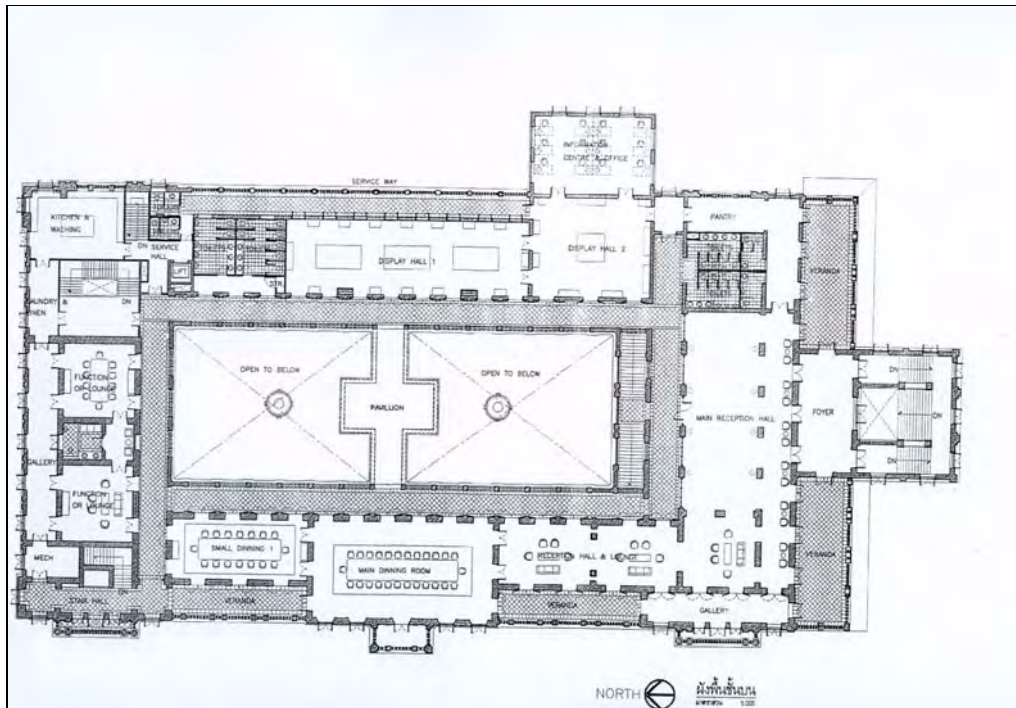


Figure 15 the plan showing the upper floor including its function after the conservation project.

Source: Stonehenge Design and Consultant Co., Ltd.



Figure 16 the perspective picture showing Saranrom Palace after the conservation process.

Source: Stonehenge Design and Consultant Co., Ltd.

2. The construction of Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building

During the preparation of the palace conservation project, the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building (SPC; the abbreviation by author) has been constructed on the former area of the two buildings of Ministry of Foreign Affairs between the palace and the royal garden. In fact, the palace and the royal garden belong to the Bureau of the Crown Property.

SPC building was designed and constructed under supervision of SJA-3D Co., Ltd. It is a post-modern style of architecture. The five-storied building, two under the ground and three above, is used as offices of twelve privy councilors and royal secretary. Their offices were moved from Bureau of Royal Secretary in the Grand Palace. Anyhow, many functions of the bureau are still in the former building.

In an interview conducted on 9th January 2004, Dr. Sumet Jumsai Na Ayuttaya, the architect who designed SPC building, said that the project started by the delegation plan of Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Saranrom Palace to its alternative locations. Privy Councilors utilized corridors of Bureau of Royal Secretary in the Grand Palace as their offices. It was improper for their comparatively higher responsibilities with many international contacts. The Bureau of Crown Property as the owner of Saranrom Palace gave the permission to utilize the two buildings of Ministry of Foreign Affairs between the palace and the royal garden. At the beginning, it was considered to adapt the former buildings for the new function. But, the rear part of the complex including septic tanks, condensing units of air condition faced to the Grand Palace. Moreover, the intelligent building has been the design concept for supporting the future. Finally, the construction of the new building has been agreed. So, the design of SPC building was quite difficult due to the location of the site. It is surrounded by totally different context, which are Neo-classic style of Saranrom Palace, traditional Thai style of Wat Rajapradit Satitmahasrimaram and Suthaisawan Pavilion, and park style of Saranrom Royal Garden. Therefore, all elevations will be the front. The new building must not be higher, dominate or compete with the Grand Palace. In addition, it must comply with the municipal law such as the restriction that the building must not stand over 16 meters height. The

building has been officially opened already by His Majesty the King on 20th January, 2004.

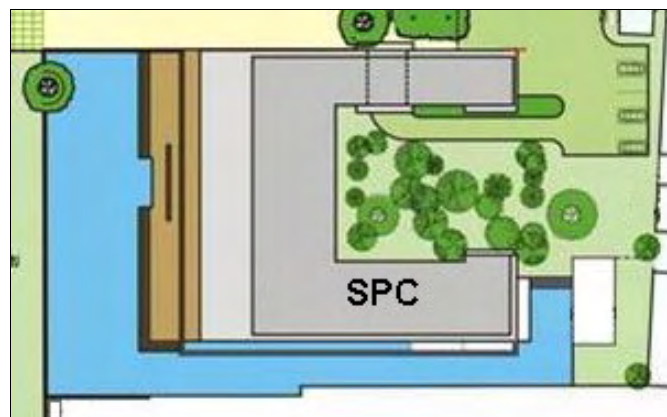


Figure 17 the plan of the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building (SPC).

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Figure 18 the picture showing the model of the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building.

Source: SJA-3D Co., Ltd.

3. The Construction Project of King Rama IV Monument

The project has been initiated in 2003 under the supervision of Ministry of Science and Technology. It must be finished before 1st October 2004 for preparing 200 years celebration of King Rama IV on 18th October 2004. The project will include the restoration of Songtam Pavilion in Wat Rajapradit Satitmahasrimaram, which used to be the meditation place of King Rama IV. The statute of the monument will be increased in size of King Rama IV statute in the stupa of Wat Rajapradit Satitmahasrimaram.

There were four concepts of the monument and its open space that have been considered. Their details are concluded as followed:

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Concept 1 is the former one that was submitted by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

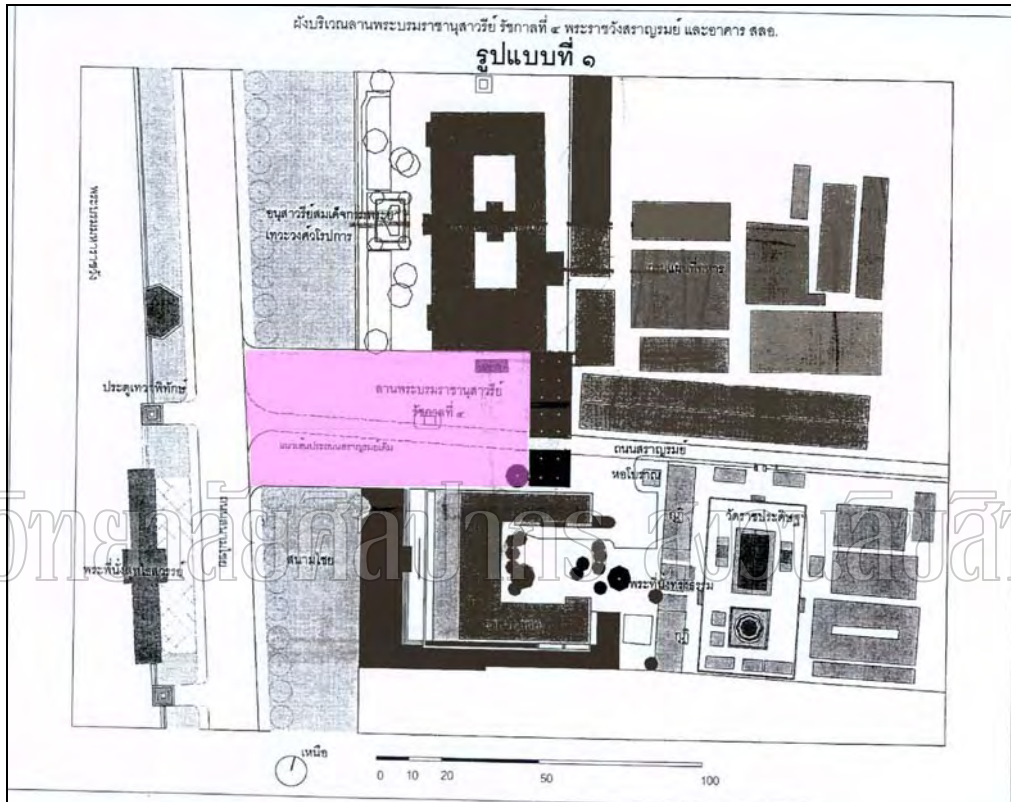


Figure 19 the plan showing concept 1 of the monument and its open space.

Source: Subcommittee of King Rama IV Monument and the Open Space Construction Project, "Report of the Meeting 10/2546," 22 December 2003.

Concept 3

- The monument will be corresponded in scale with its context.
- The location will be the same axis of Sithaisawan Pavilion.
- The whole Saranrom Palace will be returned as the former pattern.

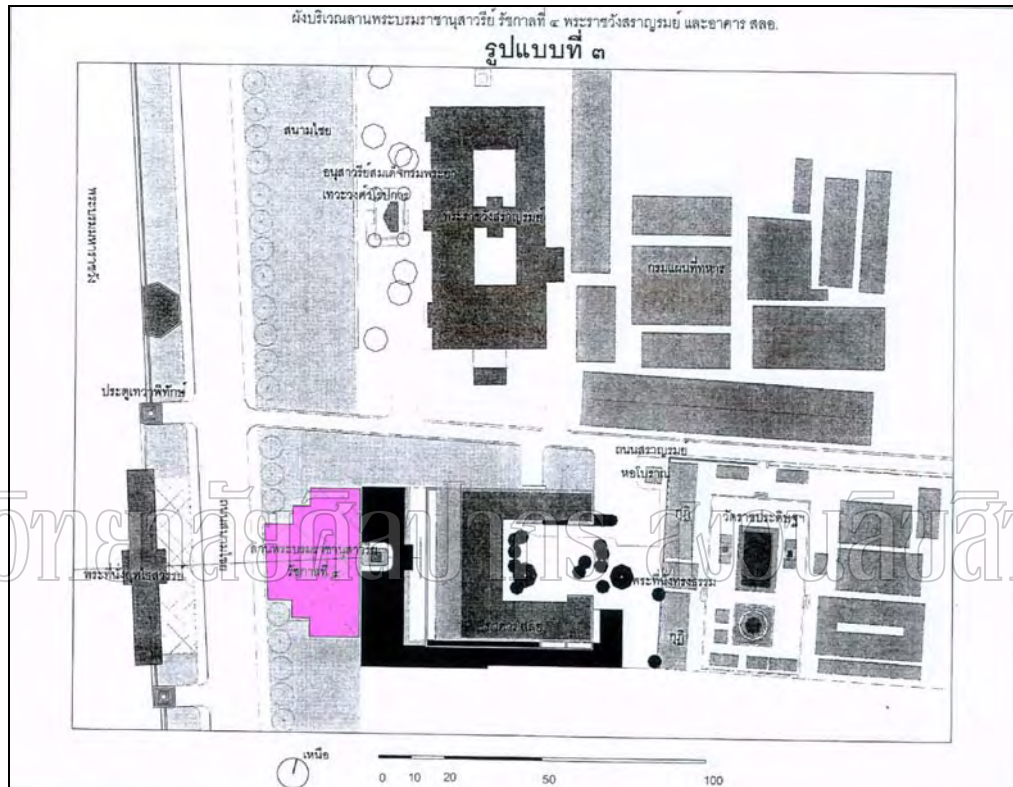


Figure 21 the plan showing concept 3 of the monument and its open space.

Source: Subcommittee of King Rama IV Monument and the Open Space Construction Project, "Report of the Meeting 10/2546," 22 December 2003.

The project committee has agreed as followed:

- the location of the statute will be in between Saranrom Palace and Secretariat of Privy Councilor; adjacent the line of Sanamchai Field on the west and adjacent the line of Saranrom Road on the side of Saranrom Palace
- modify the area to be an open space; however, Saranrom road must be visually identified by different material of pavement
- reconstruct the front canopy (the grand staircase) of Saranrom Palace as the former pattern and size
- demolish non-value buildings of the Department of Ordinance Survey and integrate to the monument and its open space
- the implementation will be divided into two phases:

Phase I, the establishment of the monument and its open space by the Ministry of Science and Technology; and the revitalization of Saranrom Royal Garden by the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority.

Phase II, conservation project and modification of the area of the Department of Ordinance Survey supported by the committee of conservation and development of Rattakosin Island and the old city.

(Subcommittee of King Rama IV Monument and the Open Space Establishment Project, "Report of the Meeting 10/2546," 22 December 2003)

By that agreement, the palace including its wall*, which was registered as the national heritage will be revised, then the wall will be partially demolished to create an area for the open space of the monument

From an interview with Sumet Jumsai Na Ayuttaya (9 January 2004), it can be concluded that even, there are many monuments of King Rama IV in the country, but none of them is in Rattanakosin Island. In his reign, it was the origin of changes of Siam, especially the new era of foreign affairs, as many results have remarkable

* The registered wall is the existing one, which has been modified during 1898-1971. See the differences in Figure 9 and Figure12.

seen in the reign of King Rama V. Moreover, the open space or King Rama IV plaza will introduce the vista of Songtam Pavilion, which has been hidden for many decades.

Summary

There were many threats to Saranrom Palace. Three contemporary threats are the conservation project, the construction of the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building and the establishment of King Rama IV Monument. For more understandings, plans of changed layer are provided in the summary of the last chapter.

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Chapter 6

Recommendation of Treatments

There is nothing that is completely good or completely bad. This is the case of the treatments which will be addressed in this chapter. The treatments will one way or the other inevitably affects the stakeholders but at the same time they are proposed in order to preserve the essential integrity of the national cultural heritage for our future generations. The recommendation derived from such treatments will emphasize the social benefits for the general public as UNESCO (agree in Nairobi 1976) noted that “social functions and continuous uses are of fundamental importance for their conservation” (quoted after Feilden and Jokileto 1993:62)

From the threats addressed in previous chapter, the proposed treatments in the case of Saranrom Palace will only discuss the contemporary threats. Concerning the threats in the past, both of them had already expired and superceded by the contemporary threats.

1. The Conservation Project of Saranrom Palace

Following an assessment and an analysis of the Conservation Project of Saranrom Palace, the positive and the negative aspects of the project are summarized in the following table:

Positive aspects	Negative aspects
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the conserving the national heritage 2. the revitalizing the past of the heritage 3. the increasing understanding of the historical fabrics 4. the adaptive re-use of the heritage 5. the interpreting the foreign affairs history of Thailand 6. the function uses of the ministry 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the stabilization of the existing part 2. the restoration of the existing part 3. the partially reconstruction 4. the integration with other projects 5. the social benefits for general public 6. the conservation management structure

Figure 63 the table showing the positive and the negative aspects of the Conservation Project of Saranrom Palace.

The recommendations derived from treatments of the negative aspects are addressed consecutively:

1.1 The stabilization of the existing part

This is based on the visual inspection and in accordance with China ICOMOS, which noted, "The main goals of conservation and management measures are to preserve the site's existing condition and to slow deterioration" (Principles for Conservation of Heritage Sites in China 2002, article 19). As a preventive measure, the stabilization of the existing part of the palace before the restoration is necessary in order to ensure that it does not continue to deteriorate prior to a final treatment as the result of prolonging life span of the original materials and structures. In practice, damage and deterioration (such as that caused by water, chemicals, insects, plants and microorganisms) must be managed. In addition, routine monitoring program should be established in order to identify and deal with damages or deterioration as soon as discovered

1.2 The restoration of the existing part

The general aim of conservation is to preserve the authenticity of all the elements of the entire heritage place and to retain for the future its historic detail and all its values. In the case of Saranrom Palace, the conservation project will revitalize the palace back to the reign of King Rama V, which was its peak period, by

reversing the existing exterior existing color to the original color of that period. At this point, Feilden and Jokileto noted, "the aim of modern restoration-to reveal the original state with in the limits of still existing material-thus differs from the past aim of bringing back the original by rebuilding a lost form. The French term *mise-en-valeur* is closely linked to this notion" (1993:63). Therefore, the restoration of the palace should not be confined the reversing of the exterior color, but the material to be used is also crucial. The introduction of new material can be considered as resulting in a new building as well as losing historical authenticity. There are some buildings in the Inner Palace of the Grand Palace which are of the same period such as the residence of Queen Sukhumanmarasri, the residence of Princess Aphantripracha, and the residence of Chao Dararassmi. Moreover, all processes must be reversible and fully documented. To prevent any misunderstanding, the interpretation is strongly recommended.

Feilden and Jokileto also noted, "Although, stylistic restoration was considered an acceptable practice in the past, contemporary restoration strategies should be base on the condition of the resource at the present moment, so that the valid contributions and additions of all periods of its historical time line are acknowledged" (1993:71). Therefore, restoration according to the existing conditions is also an option.

1.3 The partially reconstruction

The reconstruction of heritage buildings is very crucial. Concerning this point, Australian ICOMOS and China ICOMOS noted;

Reconstruction is appropriate only where a place is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the fabric. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a use or practice that retains the cultural significance of the place. Reconstruction should be identifiable on the close inspection or through additional interpretation. (The Burra Charter 1999, article 20)

Reconstruction in situ is an exceptional measure undertaken only in special circumstances. When approval has been given to undertake reconstruction in situ, priority should be given to conserving the remaining ruins without damaging them in process. Reconstruction must be based on direct evidence. Conjectural reconstruction is not permitted. (Principles for Conservation of Heritage Sites in China 2002, article 33).

Therefore, reconstruction must be based on accurate archaeological and architectural documentation and evidence, never on conjecture. In the case of Saranrom Palace, there are sufficient evidences for the reconstruction without conjecture such as old photographs, aerial images and even the evidences from existing part. The reconstruction will also increase an adaptive re-use opportunity to the palace. So, it will bring more social benefits for the society. Moreover, IN SITU interpretation is recommended for avoid any misunderstanding.

The Second International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments and China ICOMOS also noted;

Replacements of missing parts must be integrate harmoniously with the whole, but at the same time must be distinguishable from the original so that restoration does not falsify the artistic or historic evidence.
(Venice Charter 1964, article 12).

Appropriate aesthetic criteria should be observed. The aesthetic value of a site derives from its historic authenticity. Alterations to the historic condition may not be made for cosmetic purposes or to attain completeness.
(Principles for Conservation of Heritage Sites in China 2002, article 23).

Replica or imitation will, therefore, not be accepted. The authentic part and the reconstructed part must be clearly identified by visual observation. In the mean time, the harmony in form, scale, character, color, texture and material are still required. In differentiating new elements from old, care should be taken to ensure that their contrast is not excessive. The aim is to indicate the distinction, not to emphasize the difference between new and old. In addition, the extent of new parts should be limited compared with the original fabric.

1.4 The integration with other projects

Phase II of construction project of King Rama IV Monument and Open Space will involve a modification of the compound of Department of Ordinance Survey. In so for, the eastern side of the palace will not be the back part of the ground anymore. According to the proposed conservation project of the palace, the plan is to use the corridor along the eastern end of the palace as the service way and for housing supporting facilities. It is therefore recommended that the modification of the Department of Ordinance Survey compound be taken into consideration in order to protect the visual environment of the eastern side of the palace.

1.5 The social benefits for general public

The primary aim of cultural heritage conservation is provocation and education. So, the uses of locality and general public are priorities. China ICOMOS noted;

Public education should be enhanced to ensure the general public's support and participation in the protection of heritage sites.
(Principles for Conservation of Heritage Sites in China 2002, commentary 2.4.4).

An important part of heritage conservation is the proper protection and display of the value of a site through rational use.
(Principles for Conservation of Heritage Sites in China 2002, Commentary 4.1).

The particular social function of a heritage site in a city, country, town or community should be emphasized so that it can play a role in contemporary social life of the locality or become a representative symbol for the area
(Principles for Conservation of Heritage Sites in China 2002, Commentary 4.1.5).

The social benefits of places of cultural heritage can be maximized through the following means:

- Education or research uses; a place may provide material for the verification of research findings in many disciplines and may also inspire new lines of research or education.
- Social uses; a place may commemorate significant events or important historic figures and subsequently become tourist venue or be a recreational area.
- Aesthetic function uses; a place may enhance public's artistic appreciation and enjoyment, may generate cultural and artistic interest among the public through the influence of the aesthetic values of the place and may enhance artistic creativity as well as techniques by learning through direct experience of the aesthetic values of the place which leads to an understanding of the past.

Concerning the conservation project of the palace, most of the benefits will go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As the palace is one of the national heritages, the general public has their rational right in terms of education, appreciation and commemoration their national identity. So, in accordance with the general principle of cultural heritage conservation, the site should be opened and used for the public to some extent. So the Ministry, as the organization that utilizes the palace, should

set aside some area for general public. It also follows that security consideration to take care of the implementation of intensive management could be the solution. The recommendation is to accept visitors in small groups with guided tour that also requires reservation in advance. This will, of course, be suitable for the limited space as well as the requirement of the Ministry.

Moreover, the Ministry has planned to incorporate the Museum of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in the conservation project of the palace. In fact, Saranrom Palace has been utilized for many purposes in addition to being the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The interpretation of the palace in other purposed should be integrated into the plan.

1.6 The conservation management structure

Australia ICOMOS noted, "The conservation policy should identify a management structure through which the conservation policy is capable of being implemented" (Guidelines: Conservation Policy 1899, 15). Management structure will be an important measure to undertake effective conservation. It will be useful in terms of evaluating or auditing the conservation. Therefore, it is recommended as a safeguard for the final result of conservation. The management structure should cover routine maintenance, physical protection, physical consolidation, minor restoration and major restoration.

After the process of conservation, management program will be an essential measure to ensure the sustainability of the heritage. Management program should identify the threshold of uses, routine maintenance, physical protection and strengthening, minor restoration and major restoration.

2. The construction of the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building

Australia ICOMOS noted, "New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate" (The Burra Charter 1999, article 8). Therefore, the construction of the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building is quite crucial in case of Saranrom Palace. Under normal circumstances, introducing of new structures or architectures in the setting of a heritage place is limited to providing facilities to the heritage such as

service buildings, exhibition or visitor facilities. Moreover, they should be located some distance away from the main features of the place; be complementary in design; and, be of limited scale as possible. They should be reversible for allowing the place to return to its historic condition when necessary. Thus, the construction of buildings on a heritage site for the sole purpose of profiting from the potential of the site should not be permitted.

In the case of the construction of the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building, it has satisfied the present needs with respect to the location and function. However, it can be reversed in order to link the palace with the royal garden while there is and no significant prospect of such linkage at the present or the nearest future. In addition, misinterpreting and misunderstanding of the fabric are also very critical. Following an assessment and an analysis of the construction of the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building, the positive and the negative aspects of the project are summarized in the following table:

Positive aspects	Negative aspects
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the utilization of former location of office complex of ministry of Foreign Affairs 2. the satisfaction of present function use 3. the reversible option 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. too large in scale 2. the eclipse of view and vista of Wat Rajapradit 3. the lack of harmony with surround heritages 4. the disengagement of the linkage between the palace and the royal garden 5. no archaeological study before construction 6. the benefits for general public

Figure 64 the table showing the positive and the negative aspects of the Construction of Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building.

The negative aspects of the construction of the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building will be discussed consecutively:

2.1 Too large in scale

Even through the Municipal Law of Bangkok Metropolitan of 1985 allows a construction of government building in the inner Rattanakosin area to be not more than 16 meters in height, but the land use policy agreed by the Committee of Ratanakosin Island concluded in 1981 addressed, "...for the construction of a new building, it should not be higher than any building, which has been built before the reign of King Rama V; and not more than 16 meters in height...". As for the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building, it is not over 16 meters in height and is lower than Suthaisawan Pavilion, which was originally built in the reign of King Rama I as an open wooden hall and reconstructed in brick and mortar in the reign of King Rama III. However, the building is taller than Songtam Pavilion and, of course, Saranrom Palace.

2.2 The obstruction of view and vista of Wat Rajapradit

As the result of too large in scale, the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building obstructs the visual environment of Wat Rajapradit, particularly Songtam Pavilion. View and vista of the national cultural heritage is a kind of social benefits for both locals and visitors. Moreover, appreciation of its aesthetic values and experience of the heritage for general public are definitely impaired in this case.

As mentioned before, view and vista of Wat Rajapradit used to be obstructed by the office complex of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the ground of the royal garden. There was an opportunity to open the aesthetic visibility of the heritage once permission was given for the buildings to be demolished. A result of exposing aesthetic visibility of a heritage can be seen in the case of the demolition of Sala Chalermthai which opens the view and vista of Loha Prasart and Wat Rajanaddaram in 1990.

2.3 Lack of harmony with surround heritages

As the building of Secretariat of Privy Councilor is surrounded by many national cultural heritages; it is in the setting of entire cultural heritage. Cultural heritage and its setting cannot be differentiated because they are intertwined. Setting may be

integral to the cultural heritage significance of the place and conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting.

Australia ICOMOS noted;

New work such as additions to the place may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the cultural significance of the place, or detract from its interpretation and appreciation. New work should be readily identifiable as such" (The Burra Charter 1999, article 22).

Therefore, the building should be in harmony with the surround heritages in such terms as form, scale, color, texture, material and landscape. Also, it should not dominate the original fabric by visual perception. The Nara Document of Authenticity noted that "All culture and societies are rooted in the particular forms and means of tangible and intangible expression which constitute their heritage, and these should be respect" (1994, article7). In addition, the aesthetic value of a heritage area also derives from the integral of its historical authenticity. Therefore, the cultural heritages surroundings should be respected by the building. This may result in increasing integrity.

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2.4 The disengagement of the linkage between the palace and the royal garden

In this aspect, it seems that the building has repeated the threat posed by the buildings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In effect, the building led to the disengagement of the linkage between the palace and the royal garden. There was an opportunity to link them and that should not be accidentally ignored.

Feilden and Jokileto noted, "Authenticity in setting is reflected in the relationship between the source and its physical context" (1993:73). Misinterpreting and misunderstanding of the historical fabric and pattern are also very critical.

2.5 No archaeological study before construction

Following to the approval of demolition of the buildings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the ground of the royal garden, there was an opportunity for archaeological study of the linkage between the palace and the royal

garden. It could have caused a delay in the construction of the building but the outcome would be worthy. Even though nothing was to be discovered, it would lead to better understanding of the fabric. In general, assessment is the foundation of cultural heritage management. Assessment of heritage values should be the conjunction with textual research and the physical remains of the place. Assessment of associated setting of the heritage should be also incorporated.

2.6 Benefits for general public

This aspect is the accumulative result of all mentioned aspects. Benefits of general public have been compromised in such terms as aesthetic appreciation of national cultural heritage, understanding of the fabric and experience of the place. Moreover, it may impair the sense of pride in national identity.

Taking the above discussion into consideration, the recommendations proposed here provide some options for the treatment. Following the approval of the relocation of Ordinance Survey Department, the buildings in that compound will become available for alternative use. There is a heritage building in such compound. With respect to its location and space, the adaptive re-use of that heritage building may be appropriate for the Secretariat of Privy Councilor. Thus, after modification and transformation of the building, the secretariat should be relocated into the building. Then, the present building should be partially demolished by keeping only underground levels. This will open the view and vista of Wat Rajapradit and Songtam Pavilion. It would also reunite Saranrom Palace with Saranrom Royal Garden. Moreover, the integrity of heritages will be the result.

3. The construction project of King Rama IV Monument and Open Space

In actual fact, the project was approved in late 2003 but the deadline will be on 1st October 2004, in time for the 200th anniversary of King Rama IV on 18 October 2004. Given such consideration, any decisions concerning the project are bound to be made at an instant. Following the assessment and the analysis the construction

project of King Rama IV Monument and Open Space, the positive and the negative aspects of the project are summarized in the following table:

Positive aspects	Negative aspects
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. increasing associative value 2. increasing social value 3. increasing integrity of the heritage area 4. increasing public space 5. improving view and vista of the heritage area 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. causing the re-registration of national cultural heritage list of the palace 2. causing the partially demolition of the wall of the palace and affect the plan to rebuild a grand stair case. 3. changing in setting pattern of the heritage area

Figure 65 the table showing the positive and the negative aspects of the Construction project of King Rama IV Monument and Open Space.

The negative aspects of the construction of Project of King Rama IV Monument and Open Space will be discussed consecutively:

3.1 Causing the re-registration of national cultural heritage list of the palace

Theoretically, all national cultural heritages should be registered as a measure of conservation. Traditionally, the registration of national cultural heritage site that belong to the crown property has never been practiced except the case of Saranrom Palace. The reversal of such the registration may cause confusion and hesitation in the conservation policy. The Department of Fine Arts as the authority should take responsibility by clarifying this to the general public.

3.2 Causing the partially demolition of the fence of the palace

It is universally agreed that cultural heritage is fragile, non-renewable, and irreplaceable; its authenticity should be maintained. Although the existing wall of the palace is not the original version, it is one of the historical fabrics. In this point, the fabric should be identified through interpretation. It may create more understanding of the palace. Moreover, the existing condition is extremely good. The partially demolition of the fence for creating an area to accommodate the monument and the open space is not recommended as it may create misinterpreting and

misunderstanding in orientation, entrance and linkage with the royal garden. As already mentioned, the aim of conservation is to preserve the authenticity of all the elements of the entire heritage place to retain for the future its historic information and all its values. During writing this report, the wall is still registered as a national heritage and is not yet demolished.

3.3 Changing in setting pattern of the heritage area

The partial demolition of the wall will result in changing the setting pattern of the place. Values of the national cultural heritage may be proportionately reduced. Plan and design of the heritage should be considered. The intact of the heritage should be preserved. In the global concept of conservation, any process applying in heritage place should be reversible and any change should not cause major significance. The authenticity in the setting is reflected by the relationship between the heritage and its physical context.

Taking into consideration the above, the recommendations proposed here has just one option for the treatment. The recommendation will of course complement the previous recommendations. After the partially demolition of the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building the monument of King Rama IV should placed on the axis of Suthaisawan Paviloin and Songtam Pavilion. The statute of King Rama IV is significantly small, comparing to the existing building. The open space of the monument will integrate the surround heritages including the Grand Palace, Samanchai Field, Wat Rajapradit, Saranrom Palace and Saranrom Royal Garden. In addition, it will accommodate the compound of the Ordinance Survey Department. After the relocation of that department, the compound should be transformed to a park or an open space and integrated with the whole area.

The Concept of “Heritage Complex Linked with Green Corridor ”

As the result of recommendations above, it will create the heritage area by integrating individual heritages together. For increasing integrity and creating unity, the concept of “Heritage Complex Linked with Green Corridor ” is further proposed. The concept is to link the individual heritages with plant corridors and to demolish

non-valuable walls to create the heritage complex. For realistic understanding, the photographs of the Old Parliament House of Singapore will be shown as followed:



Figure 66 the photograph showing the landscape of the Old Parliament House of Singapore that identifies its area by plants.

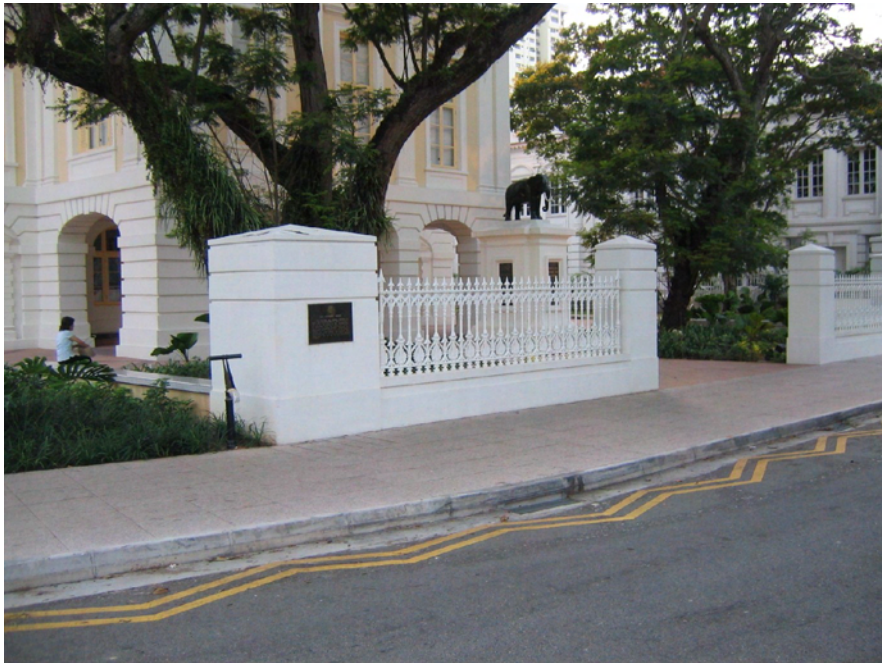


Figure 67 the photograph showing the landscape of the Old Parliament House of Singapore that parts of heritage fences be kept and interpreted through a signage .

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Figure 68 the photograph showing the security guard inspecting the area and the space is utilized for the public.



Figure 69 the photograph showing the area increase the function of public space.

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Summary

Following a process of assessment and analysis of the threats, the recommendations of treatment have been addressed. For the conservation project of Saranrom Palace, the recommendations have been based on the international criteria of conservation, which are Venice Charter, Burra Charter, Principles for Conservation of Heritage Sites in China and Nara Document of Authenticity. The recommendations for the relocation of the Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building and the construction project of King Rama IV Monument and Open Space have been suggested together, which are:

- to relocate the Secretariat of Privy Councilor to the heritage building of the Ordinance Survey Department once that agency has moved out and building renovated
- to partially demolish the existing Secretariat of Privy Councilor Building while keeping the underground levels
- to place King Rama IV Monument on the axis of Suthaisawan Pavilion and Songtam Pavilion

- to transform the compound of Ordinance Survey Department into a park and open space
- to create the heritage area in the concept of "Heritage Complex Linked with Green Corridor"



Figure 70 the plan showing the area after all the process finished.

Chapter 7

Conclusion

Since Saranrom Palace has been established, it passed through many modifications, extensions, demolitions and reconstructions. All those were just for satisfying utilization of people. In the past, the palace used to be beautiful, elegant and a place of pride. Anyway, whatever has been threatened; it keeps serving us until this moment.

What was found after this study is the origin of problems from authorities in both intra-organization and inter-organization. Most of their works based more on competition than cooperation. In fact, among threats, there are always opportunities. In case of national heritage, it would be better for making a decision on the whole truth than hidden individual profits.

Anyway, an important discovered fact in this study is:

HERITAGE tells the PAST,
HERITAGE derives the PRESENT,
HERITAGE inspires the FUTURE.

Finally, this study has already gathered information of Saranrom Palace including its contemporary issues. The study has already recommended the treatments in order to maximize the benefits and sustain the heritage in the mean time. Hopefully, the treatments will help us -the present generation-make the right decision to utilize the heritage for satisfying our needs and deliver the future options for our next generations for satisfying their own needs.

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