

The Architecture of Thammasat University, Tha Phrachan Campus

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ABSTRACT—This article investigates the architectural history of the Tha Phrachan Campus of Thammasat University, with a focus on the chronological development of the campus layout and architectural styles. The university was officially founded in 1934 after the Siamese Revolution of 1932. The campus site had been a part of the Front Palace of the deputy king (formerly the designated heir to the throne). The history of the university has always been intertwined with the country's politics, and its architecture is historically significant. The history of the university is here divided into eight periods, each marked by a transformation of the university's layout. Buildings in the Tha Phrachan Campus are categorized into four architectural styles related to dynamic movements in Thai society. Certain buildings have aspects of architectural value and importance, which deserve conservation as examples of Modern architecture in Thailand.

Introduction

From its establishment as the University of Moral and Political Sciences in 1934, Thammasat University has had a recognized place in the country's political history. The university's layout and architecture have value as heritage. Most of the buildings have significance in relation to the history of Thai society and politics. They reflect nationalism and Westernization since the Siamese Revolution led by the People's Party in 1932. The various buildings have their own uniqueness in terms of concept, planning, construction technique and material designation, as well as building composition.

This article addresses the question: Is the architecture at Thammasat University's Tha Phrachan Campus historically and architecturally valuable and important? The article focuses on the development of the campus layout, the university's architectural styles, and a primary evaluation of the value and importance of key buildings. The research is based on historical evidence such as photographs, maps, and construction documents; surveys of buildings around the campus; analyses of the layout and architectural styles; evaluation of selected buildings; and development of 3D computer-generated and physical models of selected buildings in their original form.

The campus layout

The development of the campus has been divided into seven periods in two studies (Charnvit et al., 1992; Charnvit, 2005) and in documents from the Thammasat University Archives. We propose the addition of an eighth period, giving the timeline:

1. Development era (1934–1947)
2. Political disturbance era (1948–1957)
3. Wind and sunshine era (1958–1967)
4. Student movement era (1968–1976)
5. Thammasat rehabilitation era (1977–1986)
6. Education extension era (1987–1993)
7. Move or stay era (1994–2004)
8. Current era (2005–present)

At the end of the Ayutthaya era (1767), villages and markets were situated around the fortress in the area. In the Thonburi period (1767–1782), there was an influx of Chinese immigrants. When Bangkok was established in 1782, the Chinese community was relocated to Sampheng district and the Grand Palace was constructed (Phonchai, 1994: 261). The future site of the campus became the Front Palace, the residence of the heir to the throne, from 1782 to 1885. In the Fifth Reign (1868–1910), the Front Palace was abolished and all power was centralized under the absolute monarchy (Asa, 2012: 12–20). The land was used as the 11th Infantry Office, which became the 4th Infantry Battalion and Ammunition Depot in the reign of King Rama VI (Figure 1). In 1935–1936, a law was enacted to transfer these two plots from the Ministry of Defense to Thammasat University.

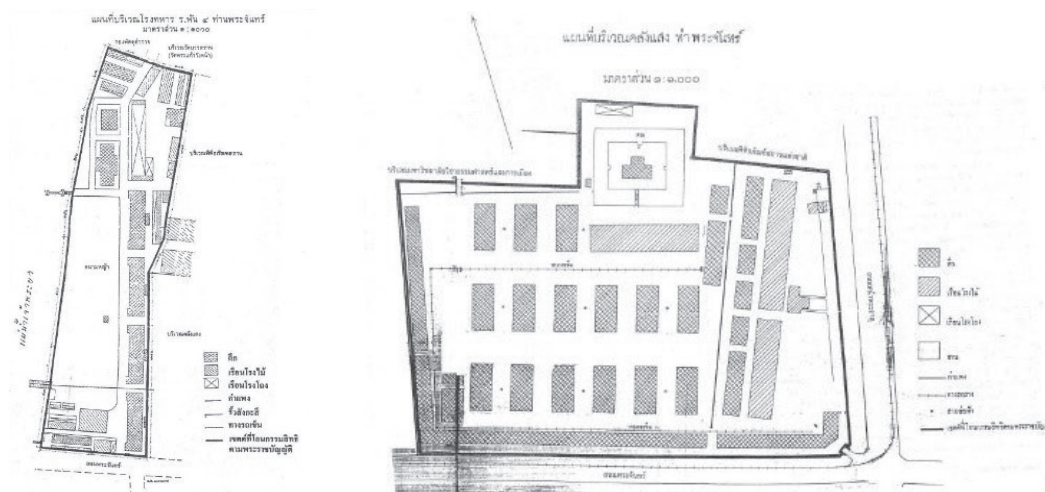


Figure 1. (Left) Map of 4th Infantry Battalion, Tha Phrachan (Right) Map of Ammunition Depot, Tha Phrachan (Source: Nangsue Thammasat 60 pi, 1994: 267, 268–269)

In the transition from the Front Palace to Thammasat University, the site changed (Figure 2). The Front Palace had three sections (Thamrongsak, 2004: 171–173):

The outer royal residence area housed ceremonial pavilions, a military exercise building, an armory, elephant and horse pens, and a jury and internal affair officer pavilion. Later King Rama V ordered that the buildings be demolished in order to extend Sanam Luang (the royal plaza) to the north, along with Na Phra That Road.

The middle royal residence area housed three throne halls—Siwamokkaphiman Throne Hall, Putthaisawan Throne Hall, and the Itsaretrachanuson Throne Hall—and the Bowonsathansutthawat Temple or Wat Pra Kaew Wang Na. The Itsaretrachanuson Throne Hall later became the National Museum. The site of the temple was developed as an office building for the Ministry of Education and later the Ministry of Justice, and after 1932, became the site of the National Theatre and College of Dramatic Arts.

The inner royal residence area housed the ladies of the court. After the outer royal residence area was modified, a wall was built to enclose the eastern area and a fortress was built on the corner of Phrachan and Na Phra That roads for the court ladies. The campus occupies this area.

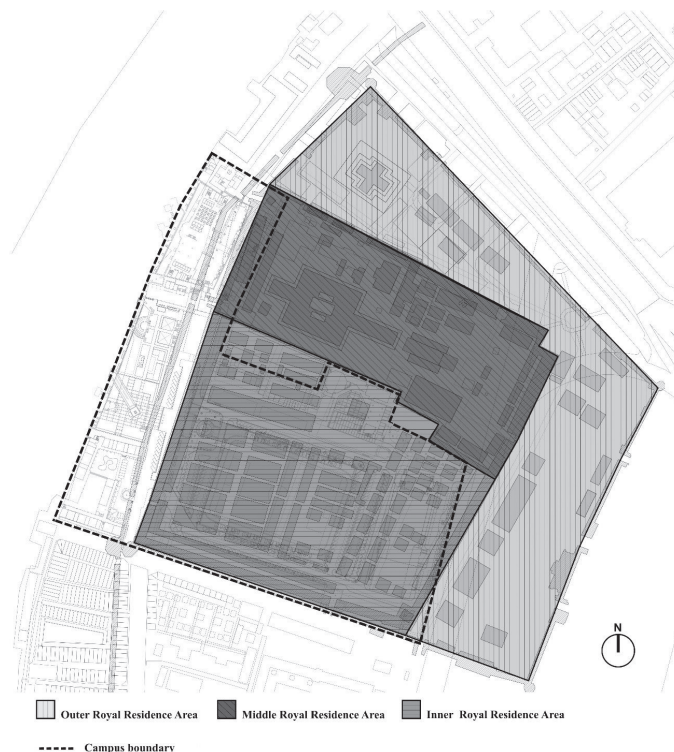
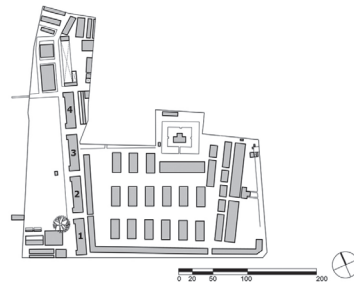


Figure 2. Plan of the Front Palace overlaid by the current plan of Thammasat University, showing three sections of the Front Palace. (Source: Researchers, January 2020)

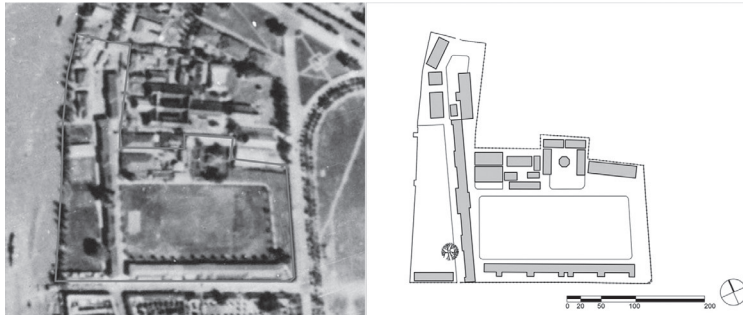
The two-dimensional mapping technique of figure-ground diagramming is here used to illustrate the relationship between each building (as solid mass or figure) and unbuilt space (as vacant area or ground) in the campus. Each diagram, based on aerial photographs of the period, shows the built environment including the building orientation, building proportion, campus density, and urban setting (Table 1).

Table 1. Campus layout, 1934 to present, aerial photos and ground plans

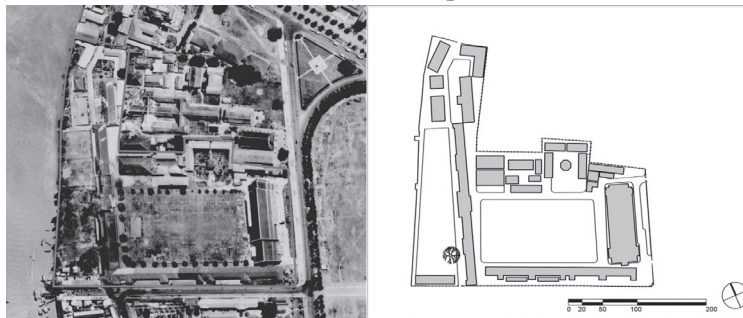
1. Development era (1934-1945); presumed 1934 plan before Dome Building.



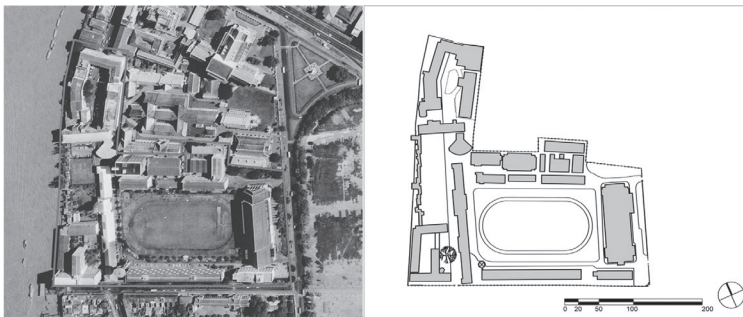
2. Political disturbance era (1948-1957); aerial photo in 1952.



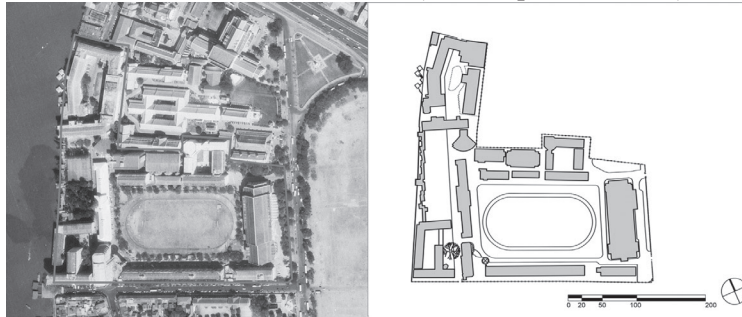
3. Wind and sunshine era (1958-1967); aerial photo in 1958.



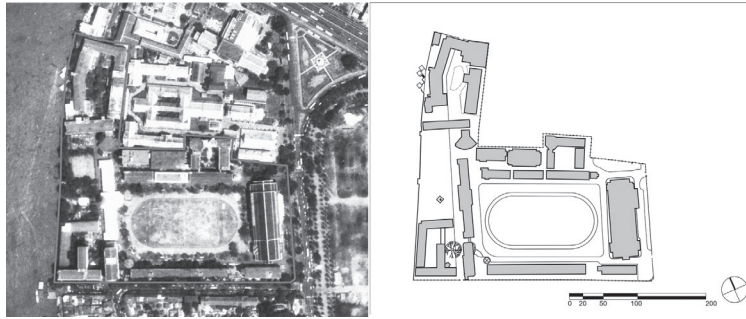
4. Student movement era (1968-1976); aerial photo in 1973.



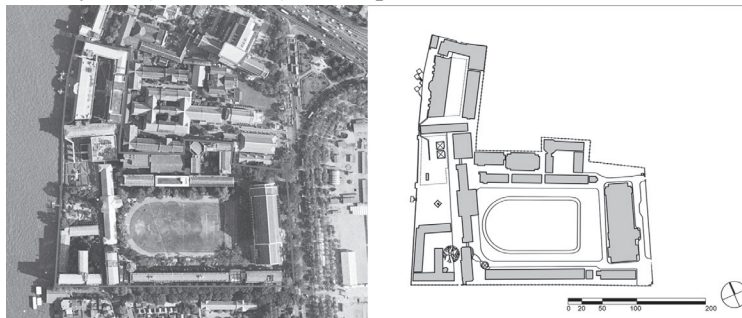
5. Thammasat rehabilitation era (1977–1986); aerial photo in 1979).



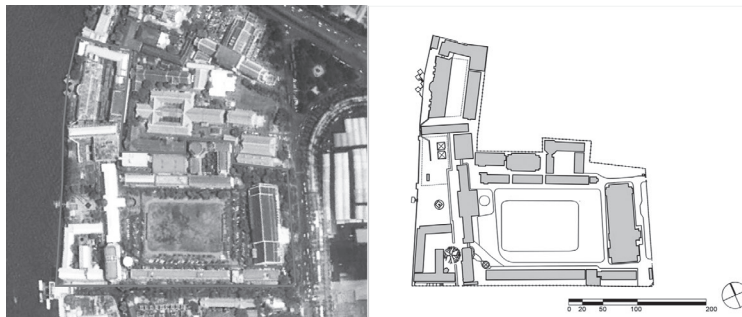
6. Education extension era (1987–1993); aerial photo in 1987.



7. Move or stay era (1994–2004); aerial photo in 2002.



8. Current era (2005–present); aerial photo in 2017.



1. Development era (1934-1947)

The foundation of the University of Moral and Political Sciences was a direct result of the Siamese Revolution on 24 June 1932. One of the six pillars of the People's Party's programme was "to provide full education for the people". The university was conceived as an open university providing a "knowledge market" for degrees in the moral and political sciences following the concept of the founder and first chancellor, Pridi Banomyong (Luang Praditmanutham). At first, the university used the law school building at the foot of Phiphoblila Bridge. In 1935 the university was granted the plot of land along the Chao Phraya riverbank from Tha Phrachan Gate to Tha Phra Athit Gate and in 1936 the plot which formerly served as the ammunition depot (Charnvit et al., 1992: 50).

In this first period, the university buildings faced the Chao Phraya River since the river was still a major means of transport. There was a grass lawn along the river parallel to the Dome Building, the first building which housed classrooms, the library, a male dormitory and meeting room (Figure 3). Behind this building, in the area that had served as the military ammunition depot, the old buildings were demolished and replaced by a lawn rimmed by new buildings. In addition, some small buildings formerly used by the infantry battalion were used by the university. To the south of the Dome Building, a long rectangular two-story building was constructed for the preparatory school, which offered tutorials for high school students planning to enter the university. From 1941 the Japanese Army used the university area as a prison camp for English and American inmates, while some parts of the Dome Building were used to store arms for the Anti-Japanese Resistance Movement.



Figure 3. (Left) Side view of Dome Building during restoration work in 1983 (Source: Chatri, 2007: 25). (Right) Dome Building.

2. Political disturbance era (1948–1957)

In 1947 a coup d'état terminated the power of the People's Party, sent Pridi Banomyong into exile, and ushered in major changes for the university. The concept of a "knowledge market" was replaced by a closed university recruiting students by examination; the program of moral and political sciences was replaced by four

faculties of law, political science, commerce and accountancy, and economics. In 1952 the government of Field Marshal P. Pibulsongkram passed the Thammasat University Act, changing the university's name to Thammasat University, canceling the position of chancellor, and creating a new position of rector, first held by the Field Marshal himself. Thammasat University became a government agency receiving a state budget. These changes were opposed by "progressive" students. In 1951 the army took control of the university for four months after the "Manhattan Rebellion", when the navy's flagship was sunk in the river during armed conflict between military factions. Because of these political tensions, students had to move temporarily to classrooms at the Thai Bar and Triam Udom Suxsa School (Charnvit et al., 1992: 150-152).

In this era of political disturbance, more buildings were needed for the four faculties, such as the two-story building of the Faculty of Political Science on the Chao Phraya riverbank. In the same period, the Grand Hall was constructed to mark the university's twentieth anniversary. The cornerstone was laid in 1954 (Figure 4). The old wall and East Gate on the Sanam Luang side were removed for the construction. The football field, previously the site of a military ammunition depot, became a large green space for the campus.

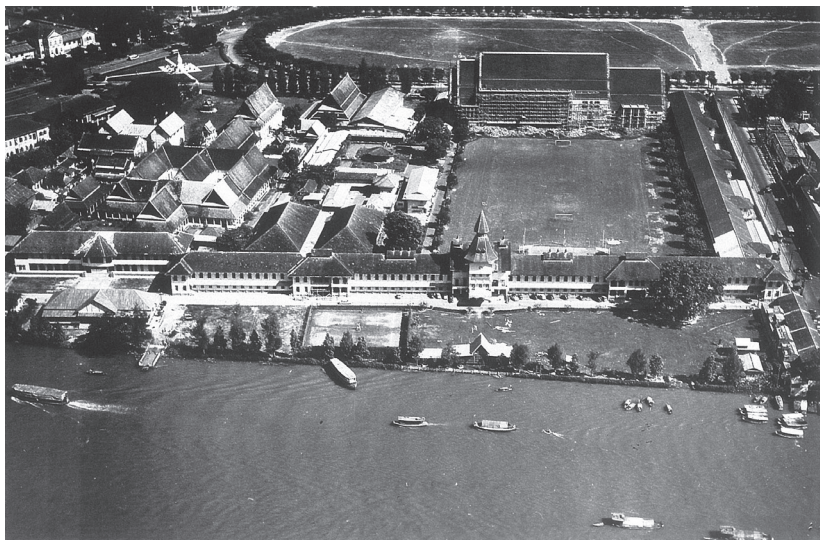


Figure 4. Aerial photograph of Thammasat University, Tha Phrachan in 1957. (Source: *Nangsue phap thammasat*, 1998)

3. *Wind and sunshine era (1958–1967)*

After a coup d'état by Field Marshall Sarit Thanarat in 1957, there were several major transformations in society. The role of the king expanded with the reintroduction of major royal ceremonies. The first National Economic and Social Development Plan, launched in 1961, set a course of liberal capitalism. The administration of all Thai universities was transferred from the Ministry of Education to the Office of the Prime Minister in order to control student activities. In 1961 Thammasat University founded

the Faculty of Liberal Arts to provide teaching in social sciences and humanities. At the same time, students cultivated their attachment to their institutions and faculties through entertainment activities and sport competitions between faculties and universities. This was named an era of “wind and sunshine” when students were not focused on social and political issues as much as on entertainment (Charnvit et al., 1992: 327).

The university reduced its focus on lecture-based courses, developed academic standards to international levels, and established the Central Library. The student body inaugurated several social and cultural activities such as a traditional football match with Chulalongkorn University, troupes for Khon dance theatre and Chinese opera, a Royal Music Day, and student publications.

The major change in the university layout was the opening of the Grand Hall and two flanking gates, which reoriented the campus away from the riverbank side to the west and towards Sanam Luang to the east. The football field thus became the forefront space of the campus, surrounded on all four sides by newly constructed buildings. At the Phra Athit Road Gate to the north, the Faculty of Political Science building was demolished to make way for the Central Library and Student Club. Alongside the football field, buildings for the Faculty of Law and Public Administration were built in a similar design. At the Tha Phrachan Road Gate to the south, a five-story reinforced concrete building was built on the riverbank to house the Faculty of Liberal Arts. The building encircled internal and external courtyards with a Bodhi Tree as the main focal point. To the west, a gymnasium with a basketball court was constructed as a place for gathering, recreation and exercise. It was one of the first long-span reinforced concrete structures in Thailand.

4. Student movement era (1968–1976)

This period was marked by dramatic academic changes under a liberal educational atmosphere, and by an active student movement. During the political incidents that occurred on 14 October 1973 and 6 October 1976 respectively, the university became a gathering place for thousands of people. On 6 October 1976, protestors were massacred inside the campus, several buildings were damaged by gunfire and burning initiated by organized right-wing groups.

During this era the university’s layout changed with the construction of several lecture buildings including the five-story Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy alongside the football field, the five-story Faculty of Political Science at the Tha Phra Athit Gate, the five-story building of the Faculty of Social Administration next to the Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, and the arc-shaped two-story A.T. building. The left wing of the Dome Building (Building 4) was demolished to accommodate this building. The five-story Faculty of Economics was built near the river above the road linking the Tha Phrachan and Tha Phra Athit gates. The former Faculty of Public Administration was renovated to become the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication. The Faculty of Law was expanded with the addition of the Sanya Dharmasakti Library. An eight-story building was constructed for the Language Institute with vertical sunshades and circular-shaped openings at the main stairwell.

The university also built a covered way along the riverbank to link the Faculty of

Liberal Arts and the Faculty of Economics. The roof was made of smooth-surfaced concrete of uneven height. The Faculty of Liberal Arts was expanded by adding three more stories to the five-story T-shaped building. A new L-shaped building was constructed for the Faculty of Law in the north. The right wing of the Dome Building near Tha Phrachan Gate was demolished to accommodate the nine-story Multipurpose Building 1, the tallest building in the campus at that time. The building was designed in a staircase shape in order to highlight the Dome Building.

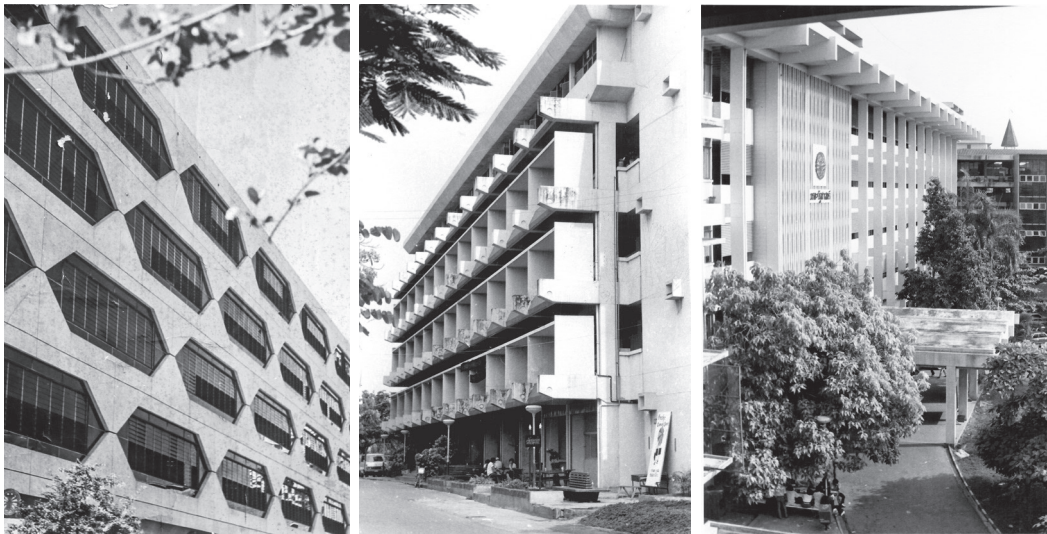


Figure 5. (Left) Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy building. (Middle) Faculty of Social Administration building. (Right) Faculty of Political Science building. (Source: Thammatsat University Archives)

5. *Thammatsat rehabilitation era (1977–1986)*

The plan changed little in this era because the campus area was now almost completely occupied. By the football field, an old wooden two-story Student Affairs Building was replaced by a new building. To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the university in 1984, an extension was built onto the eastern side of the Dome Building to house a memorial to the founder, Pridi Banomyong, and a statue of him was installed in the space between the Dome Building and the Chao Phraya River. After ten antique canons from the Front Palace were found in the fortress at the southeast corner of the old wall, the fortress was renovated and the canons displayed in front of the Grand Hall.

6. *Education extension era (1987–1993)*

In 1986 the university decided that all first-year students would study at a new campus in Rangsit, to the north of the city. This decision was driven by several factors including the rapid expansion of the country's economy, a wish to prevent the Tha Phrachan campus from being a center of political activism, and the addition of science and technology faculties. As these new faculties were located at Rangsit from their beginning, there was no major change in the layout of the Tha Phrachan Campus, only some additional buildings planned to mark the university's sixtieth anniversary in 1994.

7. Move or stay era (1994–2004)

Throughout this period, the question of relocating to the Rangsit Campus was debated back and forth. Outside factors influenced the debate, including a Rattanakosin Island Masterplan proposed in 1994, and Thailand's hosting of the 13th Asian Games using the Rangsit Campus as a main stadium in 1998. Internal factors included the university's aim to develop more graduate studies, international programs, special programs and academic services at the Tha Phrachan Campus, reducing the space for undergraduate facilities. Those who did not want to relocate raised the issue of the "Thammasat Spirit" associated with the Tha Phrachan location and its historical significance.

On the sixtieth anniversary, the Pridi Banomyong Library and the sixtieth Anniversary Building (Multipurpose Building 2) were constructed on the riverbank side. During the construction, the remains of walls from the Front Palace were discovered, along with several antique items. The buildings were redesigned so that the walls could be preserved and displayed in a courtyard in front of the Faculty of Political Science. A plan to build a parking lot underneath the football field was mooted but not pursued (Phonchai, 1994: 270-273). Instead, the jogging track around the football field was partially demolished to build an on-ground parking lot adjacent to the Grand Hall.

8. Current era (2005–present)

Since the completion of the sixtieth Anniversary Building, the layout of the Tha Phrachan Campus has not dramatically changed. The landscaping on the riverbank was renovated, including a covered way between the Tha Phrachan Gate and Tha Phra Athit Gate, and the landscaping on the eastern side of the football field was redone. Several buildings underwent renovation including the Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication. The only new building was the College of Interdisciplinary Studies in the space between the Faculty of Social Administration and the Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy.

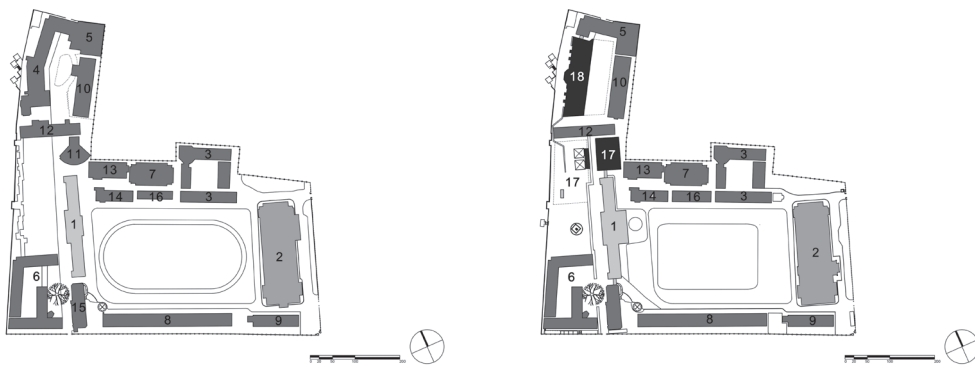



Figure 6. (Left) Campus Layout 1979; (right) Campus Layout 2018. (Source: Researchers, February 2019)

Table 2. Architectural styles of Thammasat University, Tha Prachan Campus

Architectural Style	Building	Completion year (presumed)
Historic Revival	1. Dome Building	1936 (Building 4 in the north was demolished in 1972. Building 1 in the south was demolished in 1977. Memorial Site was built in 1985)
Applied Thai	2. Grand Hall	1960
Modern	3. Faculty of Law	1960 (Sanya Dharmasakti Library was built in 1969. L-Shaped Building was built in 1977-1978)
	4. Faculty of Public Administration (later the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication)	1960
	5. Student Club	1961 (The building was torn down in 1999)
	6. Central Library	1961
	7. Faculty of Liberal Arts	Three-story building was built in 1963 Five-story building was built in 1964, and extended to eight floors in 1973)
	8. Gymnasium	1965
	9. Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy	1969
	10. Faculty of Political Science	1970

	11. Faculty of Social Administration and Faculty of Sociology and Anthropology	1971
	12. A.T. Building	1970-1972 (Demolished in 1994)
	13. Faculty of Economics	1972
	14. Language Institute	1973
	15. Multipurpose Building 1	1977-1978
	16. Student Affairs Building	1979
Postmodern	17. Pridi Banomyong Library	1999
	18. Sixtieth Anniversary Building (Multipurpose Building 2)	2001

Architectural styles

Architectural styles are an expression of the *Zeitgeist* or spirit of the age. They reflect the factors which defined and shaped their time. The four architectural styles found on the Tha Phrachan campus can be classified as: Historic Revival, Applied Thai, Modern, and Postmodern. Each has its own concepts, theory and physical appearances.

Historic Revival Style

Historic Revival was a major movement in Europe in the 18th century when scientific advances and new perspectives in knowledge led to the revival or rehabilitation of classical architecture. Old styles were studied and codified in rules. Neo-Gothic or Gothic Revival was a popular fashion, along with aesthetics from European vernacular architecture in rural areas. Gothic features were used to decorate new buildings such as pointed arches on roofs, doors and windows.

The Historic Revival style came to Siam during the reign of King Rama IV (1851-1868) with increased Western influence following the signing of the Bowring Treaty between Siam and Britain in 1855. The Siamese elite thought Western culture was modern and “civilized.” In the reign of King Rama V (1868–1910), reforms were made in administration, infrastructure, dress, and behavior. New buildings were designed to portray the country’s “civilized” status. Foreign architects were imported from Germany, England, and Italy.

The original Dome Building was a cluster of four two-story buildings in a line parallel to and facing the Chao Phraya River, built in the reign of King Rama VI (1910-1925) in European architectural style. The buildings were symmetrical with a hip roof, elongated eaves, and continuous balconies. In 1935 Pridi Banomyong assigned the architect Chitrasen Aphaiwong (Miw) to link the four buildings by constructing covered ways between the first and second buildings and between the third and fourth, and by adding at the midpoint between the second and third buildings a new three-story building facing the river with a pointed dome on an octagonal base and a protruding roof.

According to one interpretation, the dome was designed in the Gothic Revival style, seen on several Thai palace buildings constructed in the early 20th century such as the Phiman Chakri Throne Hall (Chatri, 2006-2007: 32-35). The dome was unusual in not having the round base found in European religious sites. Chitrasen had studied architecture in France where the Gothic Revival was popular (Chua, 2019: 66). The pointed dome seemed to be a deviation from the style of other buildings built during the ascendancy of the People's Party which were in Modern style with flat roofs (Sura, 2013: 91). The style of the Dome Building portrayed a conflict between modernism and antiquity and between Asian and European, since the European design was combined with long eaves needed to block the sunlight and rain of the tropical climate (Somchat, 2010: 540-543).

According to another interpretation, the Dome Building was designed to portray the Six Principles of the People's Party, as were other buildings of the era. The number six was signaled by six small windows around the dome. The sharp-pointed double domes represented pencils writing on the sky about the wisdom of Thammasat people (Charnvit et al., 1992: 51-52). As a result the Dome Building became a symbol of the university, along with a Dharmachakra (wheel of the law) in yellow and red.

Later the Dome Building was modified. The buildings on either end were demolished to make way for the A.T. Building and Multipurpose Building 1. In 1985 an extension was added on the eastern side facing the football field to house a memorial to Pridi Banomyong. This extension was designed in the Postmodern style popular in Thailand at the time, and smoothly integrated with the existing building.

Applied Thai style

The Applied Thai style combined elements of traditional Thai architecture with modern construction materials. This style arose in the reign of King Rama VI when a "cultural identity crisis" took place in the clash between Western civilization and local tradition, and when "royal nationalism" emerged. Both the Applied Thai and Historic Revival styles were popular among the Siamese elite (Chatri, 2007: 211-241). During the reign of King Rama VII (1925-1935), when absolute monarchy and social hierarchy faced opposition, the Applied Thai style was simplified to reflect the mood of the time. After the Siamese Revolution in 1932, when the Modern style was adopted to express the "New Thainess" of democracy and equality, the Applied Thai style was not discarded but was modified to become "Thai style using concrete as material". Decorative patterns and motifs were simplified for use in reinforced-concrete construction, creating a different feel from the delicate impression achieved

in wood (Vimolsiddhi et al., 1993: 86-94). The “Thai style using concrete as material” was able to express the “New Thainess” and “nationalism” under a democratic regime and became widely adopted all over the country, especially by government agencies and religious institutions. Most of the buildings, however, were similar in design and lacking in aesthetic merit.

The Applied Thai style was used for the Grand Hall built to be the most advanced conference hall in Asia to mark the twentieth anniversary of the university in 1954 when Field Marshal P. Phibulsongkram was prime minister and the university’s first rector. The architect was Sanit Chimchom. The building was in “Thai style using concrete as material,” adorned with simplified concrete molding, following the “New Thainess” and “nationalism” policies. It had a double-gabled roof with green tiles without the elongated eaves found on other Applied Thai-styled building in the same period.

Modern style

The Modern style appeared in Europe after the industrial revolution in the 18th century, when new materials and construction techniques came into use. Modern style architecture used geometric simplicity, free from decoration, and emphasized the utility of buildings for new activities in society. The construction made use of columns and beams and new industrial materials such as steel and glass.

The Modern style was imported to Siam after 1932 to reflect the People’s Party’s emphasis on equality, democracy and constitutionalism. New buildings for government agencies all over the country adopted this style. The new style was free from traditional Thai features, such as gabled roof and decorative patterns. The Modern style favored simple geometric shapes, exposed materials, and flat or gabled roofs concealed behind concrete parapets. The Modern style rapidly became popular with strong support from Thai architects who graduated from foreign countries and from architecture schools newly founded after 1933 which mostly adopted a Western approach to teaching.

Most of the buildings in Thammasat University, especially those built in the wind and sunshine era, were in Modern style. They were a concrete reflection of new concepts influenced by the Western culture without any reference to the history of Thailand and Thai traditional identities. However, the designs incorporated elements required in the tropical climate, such as sunshades and protruding eaves to block sunlight and rain, open spaces under buildings at ground level, gabled roofs concealed behind concrete parapets, and large glass panels.

Postmodern style

The Postmodern style came into fashion in Western society in the 1960s as a reaction against the simplicity, repetitiveness and anonymity of the Modern style. The Postmodern style favored a complex and ambiguous mix of motifs (Postmodern Pluralism), and integration of architectural components from the past (Postmodern Historicism), intended to be ironic and nostalgic. In Thailand, this style became popular in the late 1970s with the adoption of classical elements such as Roman columns and moldings to adorn modern buildings with a pretence of luxury, but was regularly criticized for lacking any Thai elements and being inappropriate in the Thai social content.

The Postmodern style was applied in the memorial extension of the Dome Building and in Multipurpose Building 2. Sumet Jumsai Na Ayudhaya, a famous architect who designed several Postmodern buildings during the 1980s, adopted architectural patterns from the reign of King Rama V, such as hip roofs, and reminders of the local past from the fortress and city wall, especially sequences of arched doorways and windows. Multipurpose Building 2 was designed to create a better view of the river from the campus, and thus to reclaim some of the traditional atmosphere of the site (Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage, 1997: 74-86). The extension to the Dome Building seemed to be a signifier of the past which was not historically authentic but an invented tradition intended to create a sense of nostalgia. The garden between the Dome Building and the river was in European style with geometric patterns and none of the shade found in traditional Thai garden design. Unlike the Modern style buildings that dominate the campus, these two Postmodern buildings linked the history of the site to the present time and created a new identity for both the university and the waterfront of Rattanakosin Island.

Case studies of value and importance

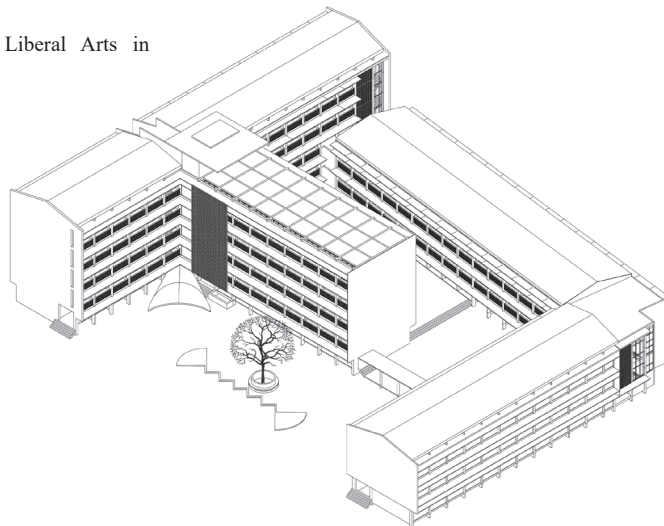
This exercise focuses on a sample of five buildings from the wind and sunshine era (1958-1967) and student movement era (1968-1976): Faculty of Liberal Arts, Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, Faculty of Political Science, Faculty of Social Administration, and Faculty of Law (Figure 7). These buildings, all in Modern style, have been criticized as having no aesthetic and architectural value at either national or international levels. Such buildings are at risk of being demolished for redevelopment, unlike older buildings for which there are lobbies in favor of conservation (Yongthanit, 2008: 50-54).

The primary value and importance of these buildings was evaluated using the four major criteria of Docomomo International:¹ social, technical, aesthetic and historical along with fundamental architectural aspects such as design concept, building plan, building enclosure, building structure, and building elements. The evaluation was classified into three levels (high, medium, and low) based on comparison to other buildings constructed during the same period.

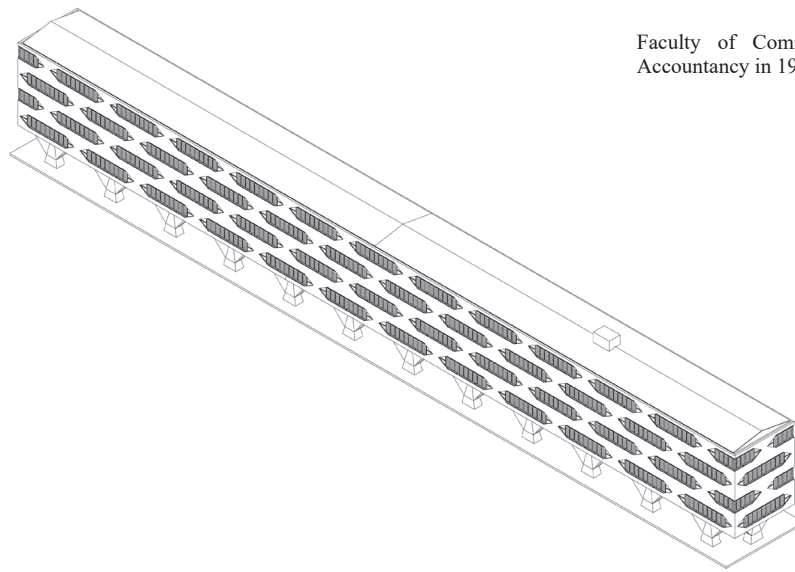
The axonometric drawings of the five buildings show their original conditions (Source: Researchers, February 2019)

¹ Docomomo International is a non-profit organization dedicated to documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the Modern Movement, see www.docomomo.com.

Faculty of Liberal Arts in
1964



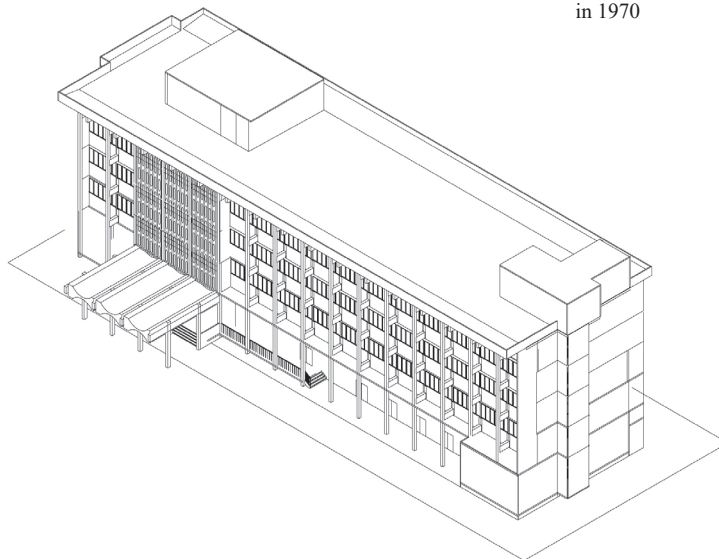
Faculty of Liberal Arts	<i>Social: Design concept</i>		<i>Social: Building plan and utility</i>	
	High		High	
	Being a new model for an academic community in the campus by providing spaces for multi-disciplinary courses and diversity of students.		Cluster planning with two different courtyards (Thai and Japanese styles) and providing common spaces on the ground floor for river views and wind	
	<i>Technical: Building enclosure</i>		<i>Technical: Building structure</i>	
	Medium		Low	
	Building enclosure separate from structure having special features on each wall.		Concrete mixed wood structure which was popular in its period.	
	<i>Aesthetic: Building elements</i>		<i>Historical</i>	
	High		High	
	Special features such as exterior walls inscribed with Old Thai language and interior walls installed with unique air-ventilation elements		The Bodhi tree court and the buildings were the stage for political incidents such as the democracy movement of 14 October 1973.	



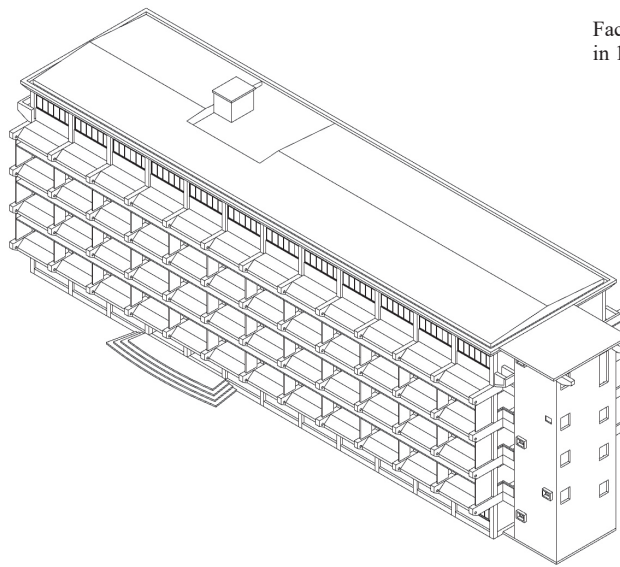
Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy in 1969.

Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy	<i>Social: Design concept</i>	
	<i>Social: Building plan and utility</i>	
	High	High
	Design concept focusing on structural strength and stability (RC truss system) to protect against damage during political disorder.	Elongated floor plan with open space on the ground floor connecting to the football field and creating a social space for student activities
	<i>Technical: Building enclosure</i>	
	<i>Technical: Building structure</i>	
	High	High
	Building enclosure uniquely expressing structural system as an iconic object with the same repetitive patterns on 4-sides of the building's façade.	A series of concrete diagonal structures transferring building loads to V-shaped mushroom columns which are very rare.
	<i>Aesthetic: Building elements</i>	
	<i>Historical</i>	
	High	High
	Unusual and refined architectural elements such as V-shaped mushroom columns, diamond-shaped windows and repetitive patterns on building enclosure.	Backdrop to a major event in the political history of Thailand, the massacre on 6 October 1976.

Faculty of Political Science
in 1970

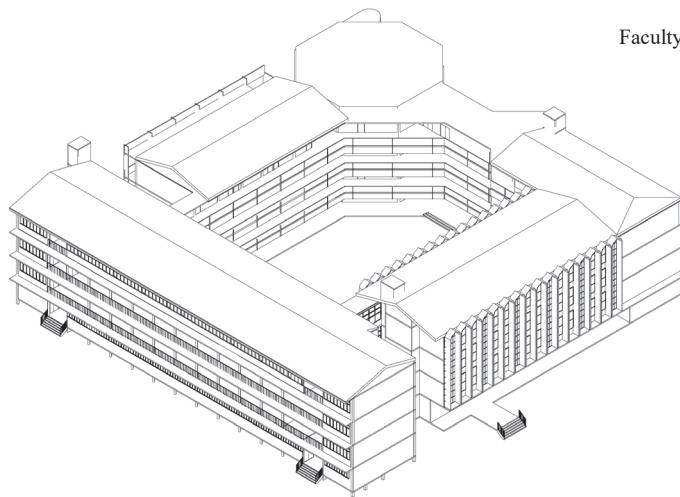


Faculty of Political Science	<i>Social: Design concept</i>	<i>Social: Building plan and utility</i>
	Medium	Low
	Applying concept of tropical design with modern architectural vocabulary reflecting architectural influence from Western culture during the time.	Design for tropical climate, building utilization and limited state budget, similar to other government buildings.
	<i>Technical: Building enclosure</i>	<i>Technical: Building structure</i>
	High	Medium
	Outstanding concrete overhang roof supported by vertical floating columns, recessed wall niches and precast concrete vent blocks.	Applying a unique one-way joist slab system for long-span concrete floors.
	<i>Aesthetic: Building elements</i>	<i>Historical</i>
	High	Medium
	Expressing unique design features such as customized vent block walls and special joints between floating columns and concrete beams.	Adaptation of tropical design concept to the Modern-style.



Faculty of Social Administration
in 1971

Faculty of Social Administration	<i>Social: Design concept</i>		<i>Social: Building plan and utility</i>	
	Low		Medium	
	Focusing on building utilization and tropical building design.		Focusing on utilization of interior spaces - double-loaded corridors for faculty's offices and single-loaded corridors for classrooms.	
	<i>Technical: Building enclosure</i>		<i>Technical: Building structure</i>	
	High		Low	
	Unique building enclosure – double-layered exterior concrete walls.		Typical column-beam structural system.	
	<i>Aesthetic: Building elements</i>		<i>Historical</i>	
	High		High	
	Unique elements such as protruding beam and anti-fall balcony.		Associated with Field Marshal P. Pibulsongkram's national policy on social welfare and security.	



Faculty of Law in 1978.

Faculty of Law	<i>Social: Design concept</i>	
	Medium	Low
	Harmonious usage of each building and the Library, Thai elements integrated with Modern style.	Three buildings enclosing a central courtyard.
	<i>Technical: Building enclosure</i>	
	High	Low
	Different and unique building's façades depending on building type and period of construction.	Typical column- beam structural system.
	<i>Aesthetic: Building elements</i>	
	High	Medium
	Library building's uniqueness of 4-pointed, tapered columns and lotus-shaped exterior concrete walls.	Being the first educational building of the campus and the Sanya Dharmasakti Library as the first library separated from the main library.

Conclusion

The layout of Thammasat University's Tha Phrachan campus changed through eight time-periods under two influences: first, changes in national politics, which affected policy, administration and the physical management of space; second, the expansion of the university's provision of teaching and other activities. The largest change came in the Student movement era (1968-1976) when many new buildings were constructed in Modern style.

The buildings can be classified into four main architectural styles: Historic Revival, Applied Thai, Modern, and Postmodern. Each reflected a certain period, and each combined external influences, mostly from the West, and traditional elements from local culture and context. The buildings are concrete reflections of changes in society, culture, politics, administration and economics over almost a century.

A sample of five buildings in Modern style were evaluated on social, technical, aesthetic and historical criteria. These buildings have not been earmarked for preservation, and so risk being modified or demolished without awareness of their value and importance.

Since the 1980s, Modern buildings have been modified or demolished all over the world. Several international organizations, including ICOMOS (International Council On Monuments and Sites) and Docomomo International (Documentation and Conservation of Buildings, Sites, and Neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement) have registered examples of Modern architecture in a list of significant buildings. In Thailand, a movement to preserve buildings in Modern style has begun through cooperation between the Department of Fine Arts, the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage, and Docomomo Thailand. Further assistance from international agencies is needed to build higher awareness of their cultural significance.

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