

Thesis Abstract

No. _____

| | | | |
|---|--|------|--------------------|
| Registration Number | <input type="checkbox"/> “KOU” <input type="checkbox"/> “OTSU” No. _____ *Office use only | Name | FUJISAWA, tadamori |
| Thesis Title Formation of Living and Cultural Spheres in the City Center of Phnom Penh | | | |
| Thesis Summary <p>Many Southeast Asian countries, including Cambodia, were once colonies of Western powers. While retaining their own histories and cultures, these countries have developed unique identities by integrating cultural elements from their former colonizers. In Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, it is crucial to identify and visualize historical conservation areas and pass this information on to future generations to ensure sustainable urban development in growing Buddhist countries, particularly in Southeast Asia. Cambodia has experienced rapid population growth and economic development in recent years, with urban development progressing in Phnom Penh. As a result, issues such as the deterioration of urban landscapes, the destruction of historical buildings, and the loss of regional and local characteristics have emerged.</p> <p>The ultimate goal of this study is to identify the formation of “living and cultural spheres” centered around Buddhism in Phnom Penh’s city center and to make these spheres visible. The study examines both developed and undeveloped areas within the city center and its suburbs, focusing on urban transformation, the functions of urban facilities, and relationships between urban functions and people’s daily activities. It identifies the regional characteristics of the city center, large-scale development projects in the suburbs, and the resulting urban sprawl. The study also assesses the current state of historical buildings, such as colonial and New Khmer architecture. Additionally, fieldwork highlights the urban functions of temples which play a central role in daily life in this Buddhist country, as well as the significance of residents’ interactions around markets, shophouses, and temples that support their daily lives.</p> <p>The findings reveal two distinct cultural spheres which can be defined as historical conservation areas: one characterized by many historical buildings that have remained since the French colonial era in the Tonle Sap River basin, and the other featuring modern buildings developed alongside the city’s expansion.</p> <p>Keywords: Urban transformation, Urban sprawl, Phnom Penh’s city center, Living and Cultural Spheres, Southeast Asia, Buddhist countries, Markets, Temples, Shophouses, Colonial Architecture, New Khmer Architecture, Historical buildings.</p> | | | |