



RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST TEMPLES IN AUSTRALIA

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ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the design of Buddhist temples in traditional Vietnamese style and characteristics within the context of the Australian environment.

Chapter one studies the background of Buddhism. The legends of the Buddha and his teaching are described with regard to the symbolism in temple components and the meaning of temple form. The chapter looks at the spread of Buddhism in south-east Asia.

Chapter two examines the Buddhist temple architecture in Asia. In particular, the chapter analyses the Buddhist temple architecture of India, China and Vietnam in order to show the variations of temple form against the background of local history and culture.

Chapter three analyses six traditional temples in Vietnam. Aspects of the site and design are studied, which include building layouts, floor plans and elevations, and the construction techniques in relation to symbolism, legend and history. The characteristics of Vietnamese pagodas are deduced. The study also compares Vietnamese pagodas with temples in China.

Chapter four studies the introduction of Buddhism in Australia, the development of Vietnamese Buddhist communities and the growth of the Buddhist population. The chapter also shows the existing Vietnamese Buddhist temples and discusses the need for temples in Australia.

Chapter five presents five case studies of Buddhist temples in Australia showing the project data, history of establishment, interviews with abbots, architects, and local authorities related to the projects.

Chapter six analyses and compares the facts from the five case studies. The problems of design are discussed by looking at the planning and building regulations, building construction, finance and community relations. The comparison studies axial planning, building layout, orientation-Feng Shui, building areas, ornaments, myths, characteristics of site, car park and finance. The study also compares the temples in Australia with temples in Vietnam.

Chapter seven introduces guidelines and recommendations for designing Vietnamese Buddhist temples in Australia. The guidelines discuss traditional temple design and its meanings. The recommendations address the problems which arose from the case studies.

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text. The writer consents to the thesis being made available for photocopying and loan if accepted for the award of the degree.

Signed:

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