

CHAPTER 6

Conclusion

After years of researching that looked across the documented information, fresh data from field surveys, and analysis work, the research eventually answered the objectives postulated in the beginning. Modern private houses in Boeung Keng Kang revealed two important aspects, the story of urban development of Boeung Keng Kang and the characteristic of modern private houses.

1-The relation between urban planning of Boeung Keng Kang and modern private houses

Boeung Keng Kang was a residential area for upper class, probably wealthy government officials. Firstly, this was clearly shown in urban space pattern in which land was divided into plots which mostly could be afforded by rich people. Secondly, the construction of importance projects such as the development of new state projects such Bassac River Front project that comprised of modern apartments, government offices, arts and culture facilities and public spaces, Chamkarmon State Compound that included offices and resident of Prince Sihanouk, Independence Monument which symbolized identity and sovereignty of Cambodia, and National Sports Stadium which would become a popular public space promoting sports activities and healthy living for the citizens. The urban planning of Boeung Keng Kang and the introduction of these development projects to the city of Phnom Penh, particularly their immediate location to the urban space of Boeung Keng Kang, vitalized the urban space of Boeung Kang Kang as one of the best location for wealthy private living. People who lived in Boeung Keng Kang area would have easy access to public spaces and public institutions which were their working places, particularly for high ranking official who work closely with Prince Sihanouk.

The design of modern houses also reveals some relationship with the urban space of Boeung Kang Kang. Most of studied houses showed the integration of car drop-off

and car park which suggested the importance of cars for modern living. It also indicated how wealthy the families. The design of access way from the road to the car parking implied the consideration of fast and easy access for the vehicles.

2-The characteristics of modern private houses of the 1960s within Boeung Keng Kang.

Modern private houses of the 1960s in Phnom Penh are another modern architectural legacy of the post-independence. The modern aesthetic of the modern private houses of 1960s are diverse, but this research identified six main characteristics.

The first, the characteristics of modern private house could be recognized from roof design of the houses. There are some variations of the design of the roof, but the most common designs include: double gable roof, combination of gable roof and flat roof, half-gable roof and flat roof. Secondly, climatic adaptation design are identical characteristics of modern private houses of 1960s. These features include verandah, large windows and doors, window canopy and large overhang. Thirdly, the style employs little, or almost no, traditional ornament. The fourth, they use modern architectural language such as geometrical form and clean line expression to show simplify form, for instance vertical fins and flat roof. The fifth characteristic is structural expression. The most distinguishing structural form of the modern private house of 1960s is V-shape column and cantilevered floor. Houses tend to have upper cantilevered floor for space extension as well as offering shade for lower floor. Lastly, the most unique features of modern private houses of 1960s is the use of zigzag-shape element and traditional symbol of Bayon temple.

6.2 Implication

Study of houses in Boeung Keng Kang offers an in-depth learning beyond what already has been known on the city space, architectures and social development of Phnom Penh. What we learn from these houses fills the missing link of private architectures and public architecture, as well as broadening knowledge on modern architectural movement in Cambodia.

After independence, Cambodia was aspiring for modernization through having new products, better living standard, better social welfare and modern education system. But at the meantime, Cambodia also aimed for revitalizing traditional culture that

looking into the romantic past of Angkor era. Such aspiration was materialized through built-form as a way of retracting of genuine past and empowering with new form, materials and manufacturing methods which aimed for making a better future world. In this sense of aspiration, the adoption of global modernist architecture ideology which claimed their disconnection with the past confronted with the national identify movement. Modernist architects Vann Molyvann genuinely combined the modernist architectural languages with the languages of vernacular architecture and the glorious past temple architecture to symbolize new architectures of the post-independence of Cambodia. Such concepts were highly appreciated and were embedded in a number of architectural work of that time.

Then, such aspiration of modernization had become the inspiration for local people and architectural practitioners who likely to sought to echo the movement. These was manifested in the adoption of design features of public building design by state architects into the design of private building, particularly houses in Boeung Keng Kang. Furthermore, Cambodia's experiment in architectural modernization was also severely restricted because of shortages of materials. With the limited technology and the exception of concrete, plaster, brick, steel, glass, imaginative architects turned this disadvantage of scarcity of materials to opportunity, a stylistic design of difference shapes and form that mainly built from concrete which then the design became identical to the period of post-independence .

In other words, along with the architecture that would make a distinguished modernist architecture with represent the thoughtful synthesis of old and new, the fusing of regional and universal and the blending of local craft with modern technology, modern private houses in Boeung Keng Kang represent the evolution and diversification of Cambodian architecture after the masters of modernist architectures.

Therefore, with the wave of development on building construction that are enthusiastically transforming Boeung Keng Kang into highly dense high-rise district, new development, house owners, authorized government should pay attention on how to maintain the historical route of this area, as well as the value of historical implication of modern houses to the national triumph of the post-independence. New architects could also learn from these pieces of architecture as an idea of how to adapt new architecture to the new location and how to use what is available to make great architectures.

6.3 Suggestion for further researches

This study began with my interest in modern architectural movement that had happened during the post-independence period. It took me a while to develop my interest further in this area, until I eventually found that houses were also subject of architectural modernization. Even though, this research had conceptualized around urban development and modern house in Phnom Penh, this study is still missing a large chunk of information to solidify on this area of understanding, mainly on relation between the human aspect and houses.

- 1- The next research should focus on way of living of people in these modern houses through anthropological approach so as to understand how the people adopt to the modernization.
- 2- The sustainability of houses to climate was still a question, although this aspect is mentioned in this research. Therefore, science approaches such as measuring airflow and temperature in the house on this aspect would further enhance architectural value of these houses.

Besides houses, there are other form of architectures that should also be subjected to detail study such as schools and education institutions. Their existence and built form could profoundly provide implication about the social development and national policy. For instance, as education had been the regarded as the core of national policy for developing the newly emerged nation, the number of schools and universities had increased dramatically during post-independence. Other piece of architectures includes factories, small scale built forms, private buildings. These pieces of architecture are likely overlooked thus could easily disappear as the time pass by and the development rage in. These built forms are as significant as the other highly appreciated architectures. They would offer more knowledge about the social modernization, especially the history of architectural movement in Cambodia during the post decades.