

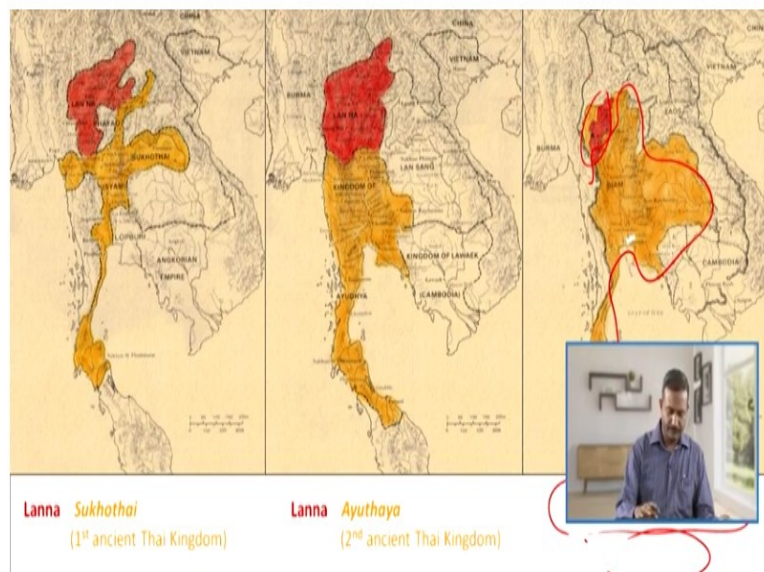
Disaster Recovery and Build Back Better
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Lecture – 07
Ayutthaya at Risk

Welcome to the course Disaster Recovery and Build Back Better. My name is Ram Sateesh, I am Assistant professor, Department of Architecture and planning, IIT Roorkee. Today I am going to discuss on a topic of heritage at risk, especially with the case of Ayutthaya which is the ancient capital of kingdom of Thailand. So I will go through a brief of various reports and very different kinds of analysis, the flood risk analysis and what kind of measures they have taken. So this is a very brief overview of how the heritage context comes under risk.

Before coming into the heritage context, let us also brief you about a kind of historical understanding of Thailand.

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Much of the literature of Thailand goes back to 13th century which we found more evident that is where the Lanna Kingdom where you can see the Lanna Kingdom and this is the data for of the first ancient kingdom which is Sukhothai. So the Lanna Kingdom is in a northern part of the Thailand. And Chiang Mai actually comes from here and the Bangkok, the today's Bangkok comes from here and Ayutthaya some somewhere here.

So now from the 13th century if we go back to the 14th century, this is where the Ayuthaya, Lanna and you can see this Ayuthaya, Ayodhya when you heard this name Ayutthaya or Ayodhya it actually reflects the mythological stories of Ramayana, the epics of Ramayana from Indian subcontinent. There are many similarities between the Indian culture and the Thai culture, in fact, when you say even Indonesian cultures to Thai cultures, we have some similarities which shared this particular epic.

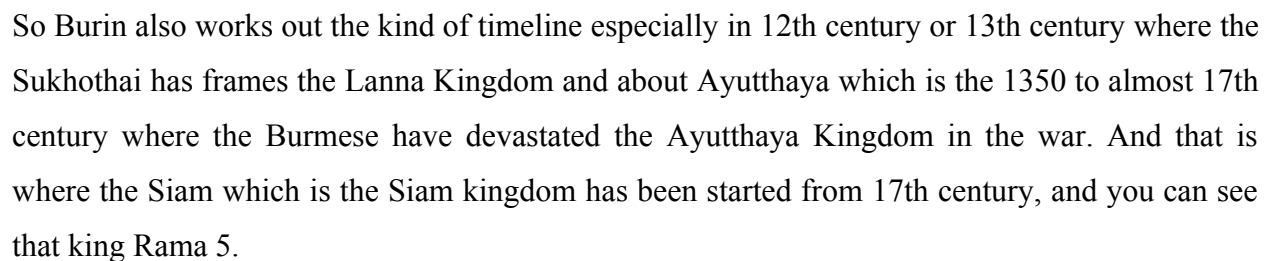
Have you heard about Jatayu which is a kind of bird which protected tried to fight with Ravana when he was carrying Sita to Lanka? So, in fact, the national symbol of Thailand is actually Jatayu. So they share a similar epics of what we shared and it also reflects to the birthplace of Rama. I mean there has been various studies like there is a document on locating Lanka. Where they discussed about different understandings of the how Ayutthaya has been positioned both in Thailand and as well as in the Indian continent.

And there might have been a lot of geomorphological issues from that generation or that time to this time. So maybe we never know how was the situation at that time but the story has been reflected and has been continued for generations and generations even today, and Ayutthaya also reflects back to Rama.

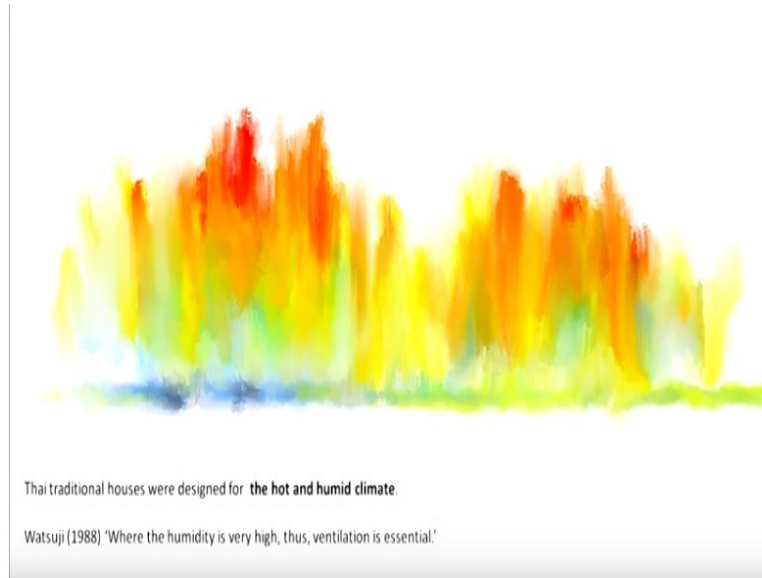
And this is a friend of mine Burin Tharavichitkun from Thailand, he actually worked on the Thai identity. And I could able to see that you know gathered some information from his work basically on the historical aspects of it. So now this Sukhothai have gradually becomes the Ayutthaya you know this is the Ayutthaya Kingdom and which is about a century after 13th and 14th century.

And now the Chiang Mai plus Siam which is the Siamese on the 20th century. So now this whole thing has been now into the Chiang. And now the Lanna part has been very limited, and that is where the Chiang Mai which is still reflecting its traditional identity and the cultural resources. So this is how the overall understanding of how the historical layers have been framing Thailand.

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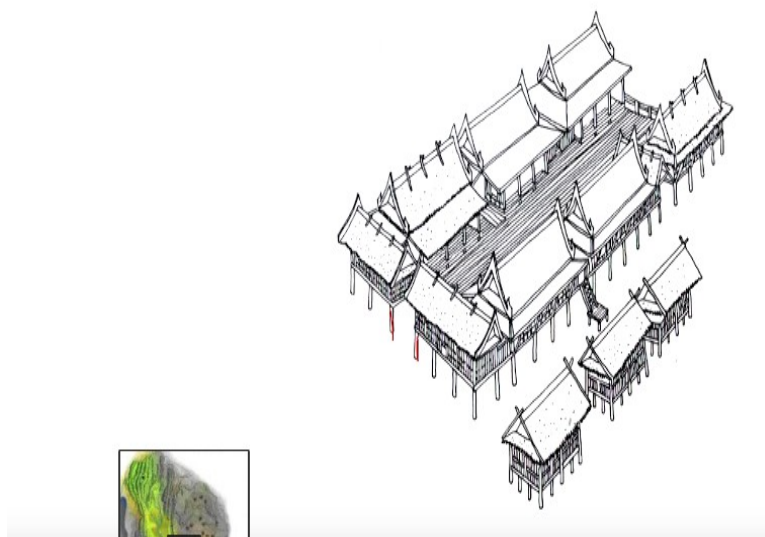
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For instance, many of the traditional houses they were designed for this hot and humid climate, and you know, therefore the ventilation is very much essential for this kind of climate. And that is the climate, and the geography is one aspect, and also there is religious aspect there is a seniority plus Buddhism which frames the form of the building and a steep roof and a long use for heat production and fast drainage for heavy rain because it has been a very flood-prone areas.

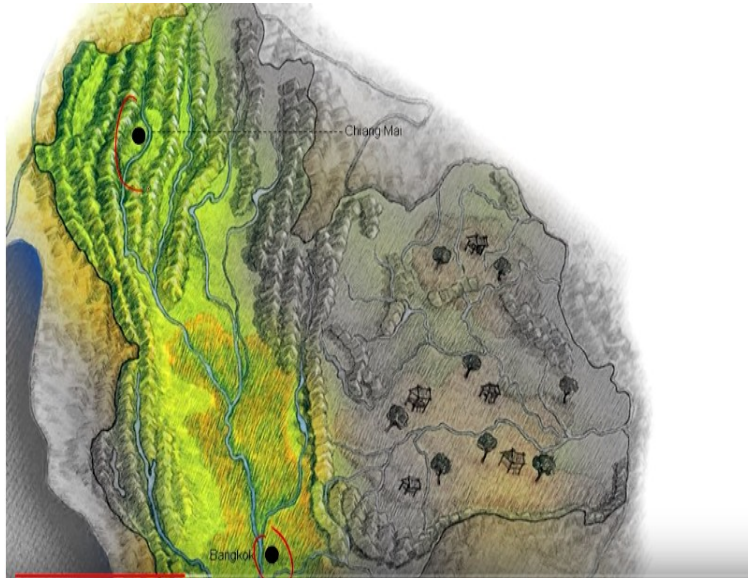
And there is a supporting stilts, a buffer area, provide air circulation to cool living spaces and avoid seasonal flooding because that is one aspect all the houses are raised in a stilt.

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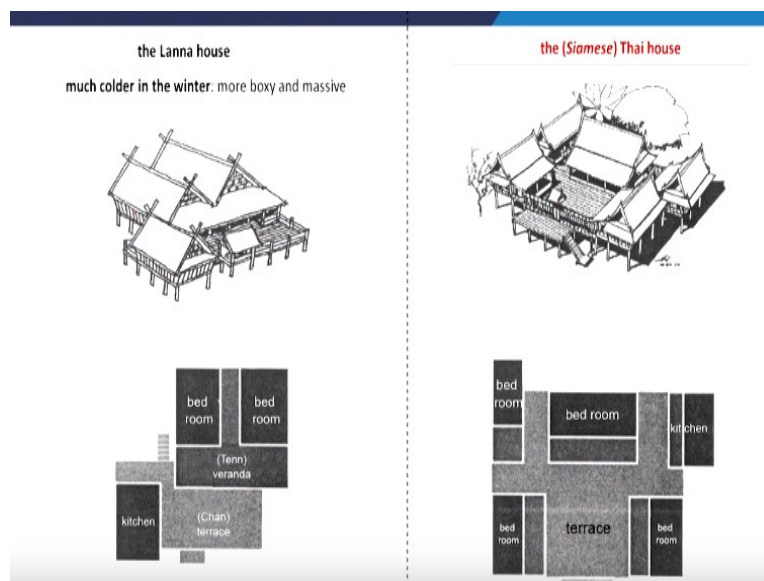
So this is how a traditional houses in the central parts of Thailand which you see like you have the whole house is raised in stilts, and that is how the whole program.

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And in Chiang Mai and Bangkok these are the two important places one has to look at it because this is more of a kind of metropolitan, so capital city and this is more of a cultural capital.

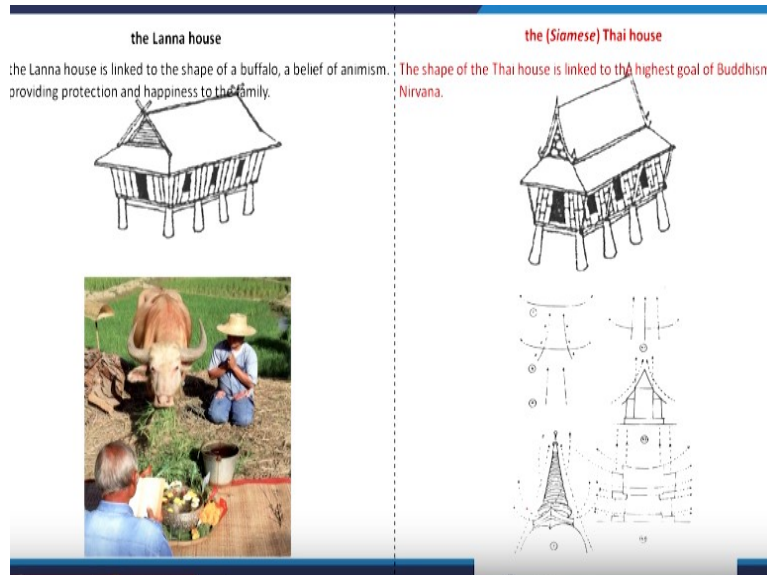
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And the Lanna house and the Siamese house how they differ you know in terms of their orientation, and in terms of their organizers, like you have the Chan they call it is the terrace the Tenn veranda and the kitchen has been little isolated from it and that is how this is a kitchen and this is a Chan where they do even some kind of agricultural activities like taking out the seeds

and other things, and this is how the common terrace so this is a very slight difference in there in terms of the layout.

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And the Lanna house is very much linked to the animist approach you know the animist beliefs systems that is where they tried to portray that in the shape of a buffalo because they believe in animism which is providing the protection and happiness to the family. Whereas the Siamese house or the Thai house it reflects to the spiritual aspects of the highest goal you know of the Buddhism which is talking about the Nirvana.

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