

S-34 EXPERIENCE OF THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN HUE, VIETNAM

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1. OUTLINE OF THE INTERNSHIP

- Host Organization: Architectural Division, Hue College of Sciences
- Term: From 15th August to 10th November, 2011

2. BACKGROUND OF THE INTERNSHIP

Hue city in Thua Thien Hue province located in Central Vietnam is well-known as a historical city. It was the imperial capital of the Nguyen Dynasty in the 19th to 20th century and still remains an imperial city surrounded by walls. Although some of the historic monuments in Hue have been registered as UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in 1993, many people live their daily lives in the city with the monuments, and experience urbanization. The Traditional Garden House in Hue (hereby known as Hue Traditional Garden House (HTGH)) is originally from Nguyen Dynasty and still widely remains in and around the imperial city. However, in contrast to the historic monuments registered as World Heritage Site, a large number of HTGHs has been decreasing and renovated over time. This internship aims to know the way to people live in under the different conditions with the central focus on HTGH. Much support has been received from Mr.

T. H. Phuong, a lecturer at Hue College of Sciences, at that time and Mr. N. N. Tung, a doctoral student from the same laboratory, who has been conducting research on HTGH's spatial transformation.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE INTERNSHIP

As mentioned before, the main objective of the internship is experience and to know the way people live in under the different housing conditions in Hue. Specifically, the study also aims to:

- (1) Know the culture and lifestyle in Hue through the 3 month stay.
- (2) Gain knowledge of Traditional Garden House (HTGH)
- (3) Experience and practise measurement survey of the houses in Hue
- (4) Create relationship with people related to the survey and get information about Hue and Traditional House in Hue.



Fig 1. City life in Hue

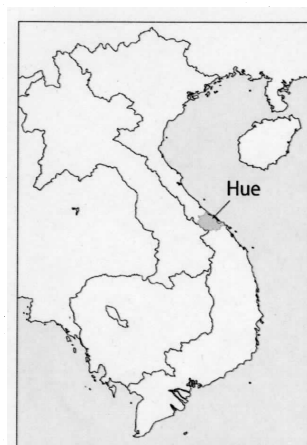


Fig 2. Map of Vietnam

4. INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES

Main activities of the internship can be divided into the followings:

(1) Activities related to Hue Traditional Garden House (HTGH)

- Participation of the measurement survey of several houses conducted by Mr. N. N. Tung
- House visits and interviews at one HTGH.

(2) Activities related to Traditional Garden House in a well-conserved old village, Phuoc Tich.

- Participation in measurement survey of a traditional garden house in the village with members of an architectural office.

- Participation in a class of traditional house survey in the village

(3) Participation in the measurement and drawing class of Architectural division of the University.

- Practise drawing and measurement of a traditional building in Hue, and study about history and the building.

(4) Participation in a study tour conducted by Associate Prof. Mizuno Kei

- get to know other housing types in other areas and establish communication with ethnic minority people.

5. AN EXAMPLE OF THE HTGH THAT I HAVE VISITED

In this article, I would like to focus on one of the HTGH that I visited.

During the internship, I visited one HTGH several times. In the house, 2 people, the 76 year old owner of the house and his wife, are living there. I joined and observed the daily activities of the residents for several days at different periods of time. During that time, I interviewed them about their family, neighbors, history, daily activities and spatial uses of the house.



Fig 3. The HTGH I visited

(1) Findings

(a) There are elements which have changed and which have not changed.

In the house, the changes are mainly observed in the elements related to occupant's daily life, for example, kitchen, shower room and so on. The unchanged elements are related to ritual observance conducted strictly or in daily life. For example, each HTGH has some elements related to feng shui principle, Gate, Be can, and Binh Phong. They are closely related to strict ritual of the death anniversary of the ancestors and daily worship. Therefore elements which are said to be important factors of the HTGH are closely related to their important culture and seem to be intentionally left untouched.

(b) Ritual observance itself is also inherited with the house.

The main house of HTGH is known for its function as the ancestor hall. The house I visited also has been used as the ancestor hall and as their residential space as well. The residents organize a 2 day-death anniversary worship for 14 of their ancestors that cost a lot of time and money, and serve great meal for the ancestors. Furthermore, the observance of the death anniversary is very punctual and seems strictly adhered at different parts of the house which is also said to be important elements of HTGH. Therefore not only the house, but ritual observance and residents' culture too are inherited along with the house.



Fig 4. Ancestral altar of the house



Figure 5. Gathering at the death anniversary of ancestor at the Garden House

(c) Personal character is also an important factor in ensuring cleanliness of the house.

The house has been kept very clean, but it takes a large amount of time and effort to do so. Having a large garden and a lot of trees, both of which are important factors of the HTGH, create a lot of fallen leaves. The residents sweep up the leaves twice a day, and also clean up the house. I also found that the residents have a lot of friends and enjoy inviting friends, families and neighbors over and serving meals to them. I felt that their personal characters give motivation to keep their house clean, and that is one of the reason this HTGH remains in good condition.

6. THROUGH THE INTERSHIP

Through the internship, I could study not only about HTGH, but also other houses. For example, traditional garden houses in Phuoc Tich village are

similar with the HTGH in first glance but are different from the HTGH's residents' occupation in the past. Also ethnic groups have different types of wooden stilted house, whereas, old commercial buildings were developed by Chinese-Vietnamese.

The most impressive thing was the differences of the housing style between ethnic groups. Around Hue city, most of the residents are majority ethnic group, Kinh-people, whose houses were originally from earthen floor type dwelling. However, upon entering the forest area, one could see a lot of minority ethnic group living in wooden stilted houses. Their housing style has a big difference from that of Kinh-people, which was impressive to me who grew up in the relatively homogeneous country, Japan.



Figure 6. Gathering at the death anniversary of ancestor at the Garden House



Figure 7. With the residents