



TRANSFORMATION OF BUILT CULTURAL HERITAGE IN OLD SAIGON (HO CHI MINH CITY), VIETNAM

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1. INTRODUCTION



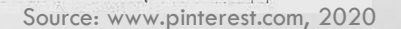
Source: thailand-construction.com, 2020

- THE RAPID TRANSFORMATION OF HCMC'S ECONOMY IN THE LAST TWO DECADES IS ONE OF THE SUCCESS STORIES OF ASIA.
- OLD URBAN ARTIFACTS AND FABRIC, WHICH REPRESENTED THE DISTINCTIVE CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IDENTITIES OF THE VIETNAMESE, KHMER, CHAM, CHINESE, FRENCH, AND INDIANS, ARE BEING REPLACED WITH MORE GIGANTIC MODERN GLASS SKYSCRAPERS.
- HCMC HAS LOST ABOUT 30% OF ITS TOTAL 108 REGISTERED ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE ITEMS SINCE 1993 AND 18 SIGNIFICANT HERITAGES OF SAIGON AS WELL

- FIRST FORM OF COMMERCE- PORT CITY
- SECOND FORM OF TRADING AND RELIGIOUS TOWN

- A WATER AND COOL CLIMATE CITY

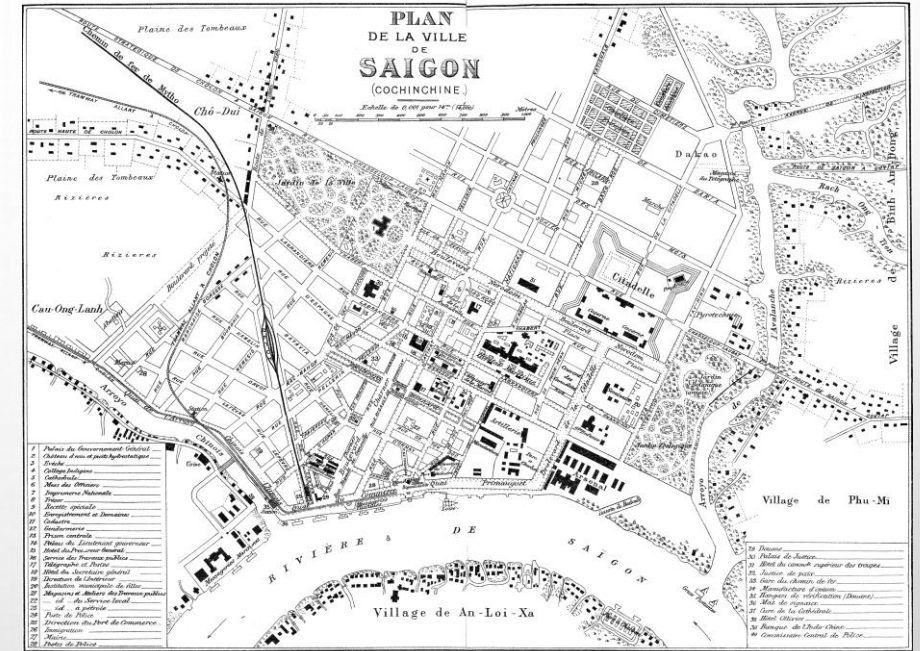
- IN 4 FEB 1790, GIA LONG- THE FIRST EMPEROR OF NGUYEN DYNASTY, WHO WAS INSPIRED BY MILITARY ART OF FRENCH FORTIFICATION, ORDERED TO BUILD BAT QUAI CITADEL (EIGHT TRIGRAMS, VAUBAN FORM [8], DESIGNED BY OLIVER DE PUYMANUEL AND LE BRUN)
- THE CITADEL, UNDER MINH MANG- THE SECOND EMPEROR OF NGUYEN DYNASTY, WAS *FIRSTLY* DESTROYED BY THE LAW ON 'NO BIGGER CITADEL SCALE' AS STRICTLY AS 'TO BE IN LINE WITH HIERARCHY'. THE LARGEST CITADEL OF THE SOUTH, CONSEQUENTLY, HAD FINISHED ITS ROLE IN 1835. IN OTHER WORDS, IT HAD EXISTED ONLY 45 YEARS (1790-1835).



2. HISTORICAL SAIGON AND ITS TRANSITION

2.4. FOURTH PHASE: THE FRENCH COLONIZED SAIGON (1861-1954)

- CHECKER-BOARD TOWN/ STRICT GRID-FORM OF THE MILITARY, CIVIL ENGINEERING STYLE, PRACTICALLY AND DETERMINATIVELY, FOR PRIORITY PURPOSE OF TRADE
- SAIGON CITY WAS CLEARLY SEPARATED INTO TWO SPACES: *FIRST- SAIGON AND SECOND- CHOLON* BECAUSE OF PLAYING DIFFERENT ROLES FUNCTIONALLY
- THE SAIGON- CHOLON WAS CALLED TWIN-CITIES [13] UNDER THE FRENCH COLONY
- THE CITY HAD SUCH MOVEMENTS BY PLACING THE FRENCH MILITARY BARRACKS ON THE PHUNG CITADEL'S FOUNDATION AND LOW-GROUNDS OF THE RIVERBANKS SURROUNDED BY SWAMPS, SHANTIES, AND WOODEN HUTS



Source: www.pinterest.com, 2020



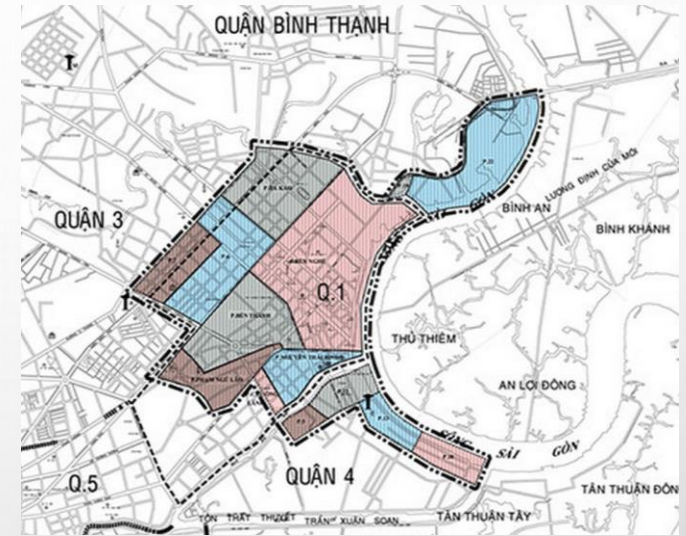
Source: saigoneer.com, 2020

2. HISTORICAL SAIGON AND ITS TRANSITION

2.5. PRESENT HO CHI MINH CITY

REGARDING THE SUB-DIVISIONAL PLAN OFFICIALLY APPROVED IN 2012 AND PARTIALLY REVISED IN 2019, THE CENTER OF HO CHI MINH CITY, COVERING 930 HECTARES OVER DISTRICT 1, PARTIAL DISTRICT 3 AND 4, HAS DIVIDED INTO FIVE FUNCTIONS, WHICH ARE (1) COMMERCIAL-FINANCIAL CENTRAL AREA, (2) CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CENTRAL AREA, (3) WESTERN BANKS OF SAIGON RIVER, (4) THE VILLA AREA AND (5) CBD ADJOINING AREA AND. IN THE PLAN, IT FIRSTLY FOCUSED ON DEVELOPING COMMERCE AND FINANCE IN DISTRICT 1

REGARDING THE MASTER PLANS OF HCMC AND DISTRICT 1 APPROVED RECENTLY, IT SHOWED THE CONSERVATION AREA HAD BEEN DETERMINED TO FOLLOW THE POLITICAL AXIS (NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST) MADE BY THE FRENCH PREVIOUSLY. THIS AXIS ALSO IS THE PRIMARY DEVELOPMENTAL DIRECTION OF INNER DISTRICTS OF PRESENT HCMC EVENTUALLY



Source: gkg.com.vn, 2020



Source: cafeland.vn, 2020

3. THE CITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACTING THE BUILT HERITAGE

- MISUSE OF URBAN PLANNING IN HCMC
- FROM THE PLANS 1993 AND 1998, THE MAIN DEVELOPMENT DIRECTION STRESSED EAST-WEST BY IMPLEMENTING UNREALISTIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. FOR INSTANCE, PROJECT WEST-EAST EXPRESSWAY, AN ODA PROJECT FUNDED BY JICA-JAPAN, BUILT-IN 2005-2011, HAD REMOVED ENTIRELY THE ANCIENT TRACE, SUCH AS THE PIERS BINH DONG, BA BINH, AND ME COC AND LE QUANG LIEM, OLD CHINESE GROUP AND ROW OF SHOP-HOUSE ALONG TRAN VAN KIEU STREET AND THE STORE BUILDINGS OF THE SAIGON, AND TRADING ACTIVITY AT THE PORTS AND ALONG THI NGHE CANAL. MOREOVER, THE OLD COMMERCIAL CENTER (THUONG XA TAX- A 134 YEARS OLD BUILDING- ENDED 30 SEP 2014) AND ROWS OF THE HERITAGE TREES (63 TREES FOR THU THIEM BRIDGE NO.2 PROJECT; 51 TREES IN FRONT OF HCM OPERA HOUSE AND 57 TREES IN BEN THANH MARKET FOR THE METRO PROJECT), IN THE CENTER OF DISTRICT 1 JUST HAVE BEEN DESTROYED RECENTLY.
- ACCORDING TO THE LIST OF PRESERVED RELICS, IT SHOWED THAT TOTAL RELICS OF THREE DISTRICT IS ABOUT 41 BUILDINGS, COVERING 26 NATIONAL RELICS AND 15 MUNICIPAL RELICS IN TERM OF LEVELING. IN OTHER WORDS, IT INCLUDES A RELIGIOUS MAJORITY (20 RELICS), MAINLY IN DISTRICT 5. MOST OF REVOLUTIONARY RELICS (6 OF 11) NEXT ARE LOCATED IN DISTRICT 1 WHILE ITS HISTORICAL RELICS IS LESS THAN, ABOUT 7 RELICS. FROM THIS DATA, IT MAY BE ARGUED THAT THE MUNICIPAL RECOGNITION SEEMED TO STRESS SUCH PLACE AND SITE CONCERNING THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD (1954- 1975) MORE THAN OTHERS WITHIN DISTRICT 1.



Source: namrom64.blogspot.com, 2016



Source: lesanh.com, 2020



1880



2015



12/10/2016

4. CONCLUSIONS

OLD SAIGON OR PRESENT HO CHI MINH CITY, AS CONSIDERABLY AS THE PEARL OF THE FAR EAST, HAS DEVELOPED NEARLY 320 YEARS AND EXPERIENCED 5 DIFFERENT STAGES (FIRST INITIATION OF SAIGON, THE VIET LOCALIZED GIA DINH, SAIGON CITY, THE FRENCH COLONIZED SAIGON AND CURRENT HO CHI MINH CITY). THE HISTORICAL AND ITS TRANSFORMATION FIGURED OUT THE FINDINGS RELATIVE TO THE FORMS OF THE COMMERCE-PORT CITY, TRADING AND RELIGIOUS TOWN, THE DIRECTION SE-NW OF THE SPIRITUAL AXIS, THE FUNCTIONAL TWIN-CITIES, THE UNIQUE VAUBAN-FORMED CITADELS OF GIA DINH IMPERIAL AND SAIGON CITY TOGETHER WITH BUILT HERITAGE ELEMENTS.

NOWADAYS, THE LOCAL AUTHORITY EMPHASIZES THE POLITICAL AXIS (NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST) MORE THAN THE SPIRITUAL AXIS (SOUTHEAST-NORTHWEST) DETERMINED BY VIET'S ANCESTOR AND THE FOUNDER OF GIA DINH LAND AS FOUND IN RECENT SUB-DIVISIONAL PLAN PARTIALLY REVISED IN 2019. ACCORDING TO THE REMAINING HERITAGES OF HO CHI MINH CITY, THOSE RESEARCH FINDINGS AND ANALYSES ASSIST LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND URBAN MANAGERS IN UPDATING POTENTIAL ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN HERITAGES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS INTO COMING MASTER PLAN OF HO CHI MINH CITY TO 2040 AND VISION 2060 FINALLY.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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