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"Cultural Sustainability in the Built and Natural Environment"

Cultural Behavior: Climatic adaptive approaches of traditional housing in Vietnam Northern lowland area

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Abstract

This paper presents the cultural behavior to Nature of traditional housing in Vietnam Northern low land area and the discussion around the following issues: (a) Characteristic of climate in Vietnam Northern lowland area, (b) Approaches on environmental sustainability and climate adaptation through the analysis of traditional housing in Vietnam Northern lowland area and (c) Status and architectural trends of rural housing development in Northern lowland area today.

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1. Introduction

Architecture is a synthesis of material culture, spiritual culture and behavioral culture. Understanding and recognizing the distinctive elements of this culture is a critical basis to promote traditional values in a modern architecture with the means and tools of the era. Cultural sustainability will create the values specific to the architecture of the country, compared with other countries in the architecture in the region and on the international scene. However, in many developing countries, cultural sustainability is difficult to maintain and in many cases showed "doped mixed" more private personality.

In recent years, the issue of cultural identity in contemporary architecture has had a pivotal role in creating own and local characteristics in a competitive environment at the global level. Many countries have begun to check the unique culture by studying the traditional rules and values. This process has had

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the impact on the work of contemporary architecture and broke out fierce debates about the "own" that the local architecture can create rather than "why" these details from the past.

Architecture in each region gives us precious lessons of the perception, behavior and specific solutions to natural environment which formed the regional specific culture.

The traditional rural houses are characterized the representative architecture of 80% of Vietnam agricultural population. Viet people resided in the three large low land delta parts of Vietnam. Especially, Northern low land area is the cradle of Viet age-old culture. The traditional housing in Northern low land area is an intact architecture model and an important part of Vietnamese vernacular architecture. They contain profound characteristics of folk culture through furniture disposition, decoration, function, direction and campus. The traditional housing in Northern low land area represents lifestyle, kinship, religious opinions, economic foundation, social structure, the characteristics of the ecological environment, the aesthetic concept, etc. The house associated with fluctuations in human life is an important component of the architectural heritage and cultural heritage of Vietnam in general.

Along the evolution path, houses in the Northern rural area have learned how to respond to adverse climate conditions and put together valued lessons in climate adaptation. In times of urbanization with the challenges of global climate change, building on these valuable experiences and integrating with advanced technologies is what it takes to look to modern green rural housing models.



Fig. 1. "Doped mixed"

2. Natural, cultural, social and economic conditions of the Northern lowland

The Northern lowland is the cradle of the Hong River civilization based on paddy rice farming. The Northern lowland now encompasses 10 provinces and cities: Bac Ninh, Ha Nam, Hanoi, Hai Duong, Haiphong, Hung Yen, Nam Dinh, Thai Binh, Ninh Binh and Vinh Phuc.

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