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Pattaranan Takkanon (ed.)

## **Architectural Guide Bangkok**

Bangkok attracts several million tourists every year. Travellers are drawn to the mixture of exoticism and modernity of the city, fascinated by its art, cultural diversity, its colourful street life, and architecture. The city's skyline is shaped by a wide range of architectural styles: historic buildings such as palaces, temples or colonial buildings – although Thailand was never a colony – as well as modern skyscrapers.

From the traditional Thai temple to high-tech buildings of the business district - the *Architectural Guide Bangkok* presents the architectural diversity of the Thai capital. The author and editor Pattaranan Takkanon, who teaches architecture at the University of Bangkok, presents 138 award-winning buildings, which have not yet been documented in travel or architecture guides, and are well worth a visit. The Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage chose all of the buildings presented in this book for their outstanding design or exemplary restoration. This book, divided into five chapters, guides its readers from the characteristic buildings of the eighteenth century Ayutthaya period – when Bangkok became the new capital of the Kingdom of Siam – to contemporary projects. One chapter focuses on examples from the twentieth century, which testify to the steady growth of the city, a time when many traditional canals with their water markets had already given way to the broad boulevards and were oriented towards Western architecture. This architectural guide is based on the geographic itineraries along the Chao Phraya River and on Bangkok's main thoroughfares, from the city's birthplace across the western shores to the business and administrative districts, and peripheries. Tourists, as well as locals, will find an architecturally specialised companion to guide them through the exploration of this pulsating mega-city.

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The Architectural Guides by DOM publishers are handy travel companions for readers interested in architecture and culture. Projects are carefully selected and researched to make each individual book a ready work of reference, while background information and attractive design inspire armchair travellers to imaginary journeys. In 2014, the series was awarded with the "Iconic Award" by the German Design Council, and in 2016 with the "German Design Award Special".

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