

# **Urban Morphology of Phetchaburi City**

Kattika Kittiprasan

Faculty of Architecture, Silpakorn University,  
Tha Phra Palace, 31 Na Phra Lan Road, Phra Nakorn, Bangkok 10200 Thailand,  
ma\_prang001@yahoo.com

Arising from urban study and landscape planning, spatial orders and their relationship in a city planning reveal not only city evolutions but influences from urban form and subsequent transformation. These orders provide structures of land use, economy, politics, and social systems. One of the methods for studying city evolutions through their physical forms, changes of land uses, alterations, spatial characteristics and orders is called urban morphology.

Recurrently, today's city planning in Thailand is influenced by the Western school of urban and city planning. Thai city planners then define or regulate land use of an urban area by functional approach based on recent land use patterns, infrastructures, development plans and politics. This approach tends to be suitable for modern cities rather than the historical cities where their traditional city planning was influenced by various aspects, such as religious beliefs, social orders, socioeconomic structures and natural forces. Hence, the city planning of historical cities should respect these hidden spatial orders and relationships. It is essential to study these hidden dimensions by using urban morphology method with modern technology, like GIS. GIS is helpful in synthesising data, representing some abstract information into physical-spatial attributes, and lastly designing an integrated city planning as the whole.

This paper explores application of GIS in urban morphology as an efficient tool to seek hidden relationship of these spatial orders in a Thai historic city, named Phetchaburi. Studying urban morphology of Phetchaburi City provide better understanding of city structures and orders, their roles and influences. This knowledge can be applied in landscape conservation, urban renewal, resource management, and sustainable design and planning of a historical city.

Keyword: Urban Morphology, Phetchaburi, landscape planning, GIS, historic cities