Curriculum Details
Master of Arts Program in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment
(Revised Curriculum 2022)

Name of Institution: Silpakorn University

Campus/Faculty/Department: Wang Tha Phra/Faculty of Architecture/Department of Architecture

Number and Title of the Program

Number of the Program: 25470081102396

Title of the Program: Master of Arts Program in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment

Name of Degree and Field of Study

Full name: Master of Arts (Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment)

Abbreviation of name: M.A. (Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment)

Major

None

Total Number of Credits

Plan A1   equivalent of 36 credits

Plan A2   not less than 36 credits

Plan B   not less than 36 credits

Character of the Program

1. Type of program: Master's degree 2 years (may be completed within 1.5 years)

2. Language medium: Thai and/or English

3. Student intake: Thai and foreign students who are able to communicate in Thai and/or English

4. Collaboration with other institutes: This program is run exclusively by the organizing institute.

5. Degree conferred: Single degree

Career Opportunities after Graduation

1. Designer of architecture and built environment

2. Lecturer, professor at the level of tertiary education

3. Researcher in public / private organization or institute of higher learning

4. Producer of various information media

5. Specialist in conservation, community development and cultural heritage

6. Entrepreneur in the fields of vernacular architecture, communities and the built environment

7. Other related modern innovative professions such as blogger/vlogger, cultural influencer

Objectives of the Program

        1. To produce graduates who possess knowledge, ability, and research ethics in gathering information on vernacular architecture and built environment for conservation and accumulation of further knowledge on cultural resources that may be applicable to development in the context of contemporary society

        2. To produce graduates who possess 21st century skills and life-long learning ambitions especially with regards to vernacular architecture and built environment

        3. To produce graduates who possess knowledge of vernacular architecture and built environment that forms the basis of creative thinking for furthering academic development as well as development of the architectural and design professions

        4. To produce graduates who possess knowledge of human settlements, vernacular architecture and built environment with profound understanding and respect for cultural diversities within the Asian region so as to help raise the people's quality of life in accordance with sustainable development objectives.

Eligibility to Apply

        1. Applicants must be a holder of a Bachelor's degree in any field

        2. Possess the qualities stipulated under Article 7 of Silpakorn University Graduate Studies Regulations, 2023 and/or subsequent changes thereof.

Number of Credits

        Total of not less than 36 credits

Structure of the Curriculum

        The Master of Arts Program in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment offers the following study plans to choose from:

        Plan A1

Compulsory courses	non-credit	6	credits
Thesis	equivalent to	36	credits
Total number of credits throughout the program		36	credits

        Plan A2

Compulsory courses	a number of	12	credits
Elective courses	not less than	12	credits
Thesis	equivalent to	12	credits
Minimum total number of credits throughout the program		36	credits

Plan B

Compulsory courses	a number of	12	credits
Elective courses	not less than	18	credits
Independent Study	equivalent to	6	credits
Minimum total number of credits throughout the program		36	credits

Note: - Plans A1 and A2 do not require students to take Comprehensive Exam

- Plan B students are required to take Comprehensive Exam after having studied and passed altogether not less than 18 credits of compulsory and elective courses

Courses

Foundation courses (non-credit)

Students with no background in architecture may, at the discretion of the Program Operating Committee, be required to enroll in an architectural drafting course or other supplementary foundation courses

Plan A1

1) Compulsory Courses (non-credit) – a number of 6 credits to be evaluated in terms of S or U

261 510	Field Study in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment	3*(1-4-4)
261 511	Critical Thinking in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment Research	3*(2-2-5)

2) Thesis (equivalent to 36 credits)

261 520	Thesis	equivalent to	36 credits

Note: ***** denotes non-credit courses that are evaluated in terms of S or U

Plan A2

1) Compulsory Courses (12 credits)

261 410	Research Methodology in Architecture	3(2-2-5)
261 510	Field Study in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment	3(1-4-4)
261 511	Critical Thinking in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment Research	3(2-2-5)
261 512	Wisdom and Technology in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment	3(3-0-6)

2) Elective Courses (not less than 12 credits)

Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment Heritage group of courses

261 530	Cultural Ecology, Cultural Landscape and Historic Urban Landscape	3(3-0-6)
261 531	Settlements and Vernacular Built Environment of Ethnic People	3(2-2-5)
261 532	Sacred and Religious Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment	3(2-2-5)

Management of Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment group of courses

261 533	Social, Cultural and Built Environment Based Economy	3(3-0-6)
261 534	Conservation and Development of Built Environment and Community	3(2-2-5)
261 535	Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment in Urban Context	3(2-2-5)

261 536 Adaptation of Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment for Contemporary 3(2-2-5)
Context

Design Related group of courses

261 537 Material and Tectonic Construction in Vernacular Architecture and Built 3(2-2-5)
Environment

261 538 Contemporary Architecture Design in Vernacular Context 3(2-2-5)

261 539 Vernacular Architecture and Design for Comfort 3(3-0-6)

Research Related group of courses

261 540 Geographic Information System for Built Environment Research 3(2-2-5)

261 541 International Field Study and Workshop in Vernacular Architecture and Built 3(2-2-5)
Environment

Apart from the above electives, students may also choose to enroll in any other courses offered by other programs at the Graduate Level, subject to the approval of respective professors responsible for each course, and/or student's academic/Thesis advisor.

3) Thesis (equivalent to 12 credits)

261 521 Thesis equivalent to 12 credits

Plan B

1) Compulsory Courses (12 credits)

261 410 Research Methodology in Architecture 3(2-2-5)

261 510 Field Study in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment 3(1-4-4)

261 511 Critical Thinking in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment Research 3(2-2-5)

261 512 Wisdom and Technology in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment 3(3-0-6)

2) Elective Courses (not less than 18 credits)

Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment Heritage group of courses

261 530 Cultural Ecology, Cultural Landscape and Historic Urban Landscape 3(3-0-6)

261 531 Settlements and Vernacular Built Environment of Ethnic People 3(2-2-5)

261 532 Sacred and Religious Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment 3(2-2-5)

Management of Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment group of courses

261 533 Social, Cultural and Built Environment Based Economy 3(3-0-6)

261 534 Conservation and Development of Built Environment and Community 3(2-2-5)

261 535 Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment in Urban Context 3(2-2-5)

261 536 Adaptation of Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment for Contemporary 3(2-2-5)
Context

Design Related group of courses

261 537 Material and Tectonic Construction in Vernacular Architecture and Built 3(2-2-5)
Environment

261 538 Contemporary Architecture Design in Vernacular Context 3(2-2-5)

261 539 Vernacular Architecture and Design for Comfort 3(3-0-6)

Research Related group of courses

261 540 Geographic Information System for Built Environment Research   3(2-2-5)

261 541 International Field Study and Workshop in Vernacular Architecture and Built   3(2-2-5)
        Environment

Apart from the above electives, students may also choose to enroll in any other courses offered by other programs at the Graduate Level, subject to the approval of respective professors responsible for each course, and/or student's academic/Independent Study advisor.

3) Independent Study (equivalent to 6 credits)

261 522 Independent Study   equivalent to 6 credits

Study Plans

   Plan A1

Year 1 Semester 1

Course No.	Course Title		Credits (L-P-E)
261 510	Field Study in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment		3*(1-4-4)
261 520	Thesis	(equivalent to)	6
Total			6

Year 1 Semester 2

Course No.	Course Title		Credits (L-P-E)
261 511	Critical Thinking in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment Research		3*(2-2-5)
261 520	Thesis	(equivalent to)	6
Total			6

Year 2 Semester 1

Course No.	Course Title		Credits (L-P-E)
261 520	Thesis	(equivalent to)	12
Total			12

Year 2 Semester 2

Course No.	Course Title		Credits (L-P-E)
261 520	Thesis	(equivalent to)	12
Total			12

Note: 1. ***** denotes non-credit courses that are evaluated in terms of S or U

   2. may be completed within 1.5 years

Plan A2

Year 1 Semester 1

Course No.	Course Title	Credits (L-P-E)
261 510	Field Study in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment	3(1-4-4)
261 511	Critical Thinking in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment Research	3(2-2-5)
261 512	Wisdom and Technology in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment	3(3-0-6)
Total		9

Year 1 Semester 2

Course No.	Course Title	Credits (L-P-E)
261 410	Research Methodology in Architecture	3(2-2-5)
	Electives	6
Total		9

Year 2 Semester 1

Course No.	Course Title	Credits (L-P-E)
	Electives	6
Total		6

Year 2 Semester 2

Course No.	Course Title	Credits (L-P-E)
261 521	Thesis (equivalent to)	12
Total		12

Note: may be completed within 1.5 years

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Plan B

Year 1 Semester 1

Course No.	Course Title	Credits (L-P-E)
261 510	Field Study in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment	3(1-4-4)
261 511	Critical Thinking in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment Research	3(2-2-5)
261 512	Wisdom and Technology in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment	3(3-0-6)
	Electives	3
Total		12

Year 1 Semester 2

Course No.	Course Title	Credits (L-P-E)
261 410	Research Methodology in Architecture	3(2-2-5)
	Electives	9
Total		12

Year 2 Semester 1

Course No.	Course Title	Credits (L-P-E)
	Electives	6
Total		6

Year 2 Semester 1

Course No.	Course Title	Credits (L-P-E)
261 522	Independent Study (equivalent to)	6
Total		6

Note: may be completed within 1.5 years

Curriculum Details Master of Arts Program in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment (Revised Curriculum 2022)

Course Descriptions

261 410   Research Methodology in Architecture   3(2-2-5)

        Types of research, case studies, methods and procedures for application in undertaking architectural research work and academic writing.

261 510   Field Study in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment   3(1-4-4)

Note: Plan A1 students will be evaluated in terms of S or U

    Plan A2 and Plan B students will be evaluated in terms of grades

        Practical fieldwork in areas with diverse cultures so as to study site planning and site ecology; advanced techniques in data collecting and using survey instruments; drafting, advanced presentation; three-dimensional computer graphics techniques and Building Information Modelling (BIM); data processing and analysis; writing detailed and in-depth report illustrating interrelationship between vernacular architecture, built environment and cultural ecology.

        Field trips required.

**261 511   Critical Thinking in Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment   3(2-2-5)
Research**

Note: Plan A1 students will be evaluated in terms of S or U

    Plan A2 and Plan B students will be evaluated in terms of grades

        Understanding problems and their related factors with discerning, observant and questioning mind; critical thinking process; systematic problem-solving methodologies; creative mindset and lateral thinking; techniques and tools for creating ideas and solutions; facts and opinions; logic and fallacy; critical listening and rational argument related to vernacular architecture and built environment research.

        Field trips required.

**261 512   Wisdom and Technology in Vernacular Architecture and Built   3(3-0-6)
Environment**

        Local technical wisdom and knowledge acquired through problem solving, coding and application; materials, structure and construction techniques; transformations in vernacular architecture and built environment based on the concept of sustainable living; management issues concerning vernacular architecture and environment in rural and urban contexts.

        Field trips required.

261 520   **Thesis**   **equivalent to 36 credits**

    Individual research on a topic related to vernacular architecture and built environment; presentation according to thesis format under the supervision of a Thesis advisor.

261 521   **Thesis**   **equivalent to 12 credits**

    Individual research on a topic related to vernacular architecture and built environment; presentation according to thesis format under the supervision of a Thesis advisor.

261 522   **Independent Study**   **equivalent to 6 credits**

    Independent study on a topic related to vernacular architecture and built environment under the supervision of an Independent Study advisor.

261 530   **Cultural Ecology, Cultural Landscape and Historic Urban Landscape**   3(3-0-6)

    Relationship between ecology, settlements, and way of life; cultural factors associated with the natural environment and development of architectural forms; concept of cultural landscape and historic urban landscape; identifying values, categorization, evaluation and management approaches for sustainability.

    Field trips required.

261 531   **Settlements and Vernacular Built Environment of Ethnic People**   3(2-2-5)

    Mythology, beliefs and notion-influenced formation of settlements, built environment and vernacular architecture of marginal communities; multicultural communities; complexity and contradiction; continued existence; replication and change related to culture, socio-economic and political contexts of vernacular architecture and changes in both historical and contemporary societies that bring about local styles, changes, and developments in architecture.

    Field trips required.

261 532   **Sacred and Religious Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment**   3(2-2-5)

    Religions, beliefs, and cultures that influence layout planning and vernacular religious architectures related to myth and religious concepts, philosophy, religious symbols, concept and perception in cosmology, supernatural and environmental factors reflecting worldviews of their builders and inhabitants; functions and spatial organization; values and roles of vernacular architecture on social systems, beliefs and religious systems and local community.

    Field trips required.

261 533   Social, Cultural and Built Environment Based Economy   3(3-0-6)

Socio-economic aspects of various local communities in relation to social history; issues concerning productivity, social groups, culture, way of life, and environment that reflect dynamism and adaptation of communities within the context of contemporary society.

Field trips required.

261 534   Conservation and Development of Built Environment and Community   3(2-2-5)

Theories and principles concerning management of vernacular architectural heritage and built environment; international conservation charters, related laws and regulations; various conservation methods and techniques; concept of participatory community development based on knowledge and understanding of vernacular architecture; field exercises in data collection, implementation workshop, and public presentations.

Field trips required.

261 535   Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment in Urban Context   3(2-2-5)

Definitions of vernacular architecture in constantly changing context of contemporary urban society; ways of thinking, observing and decoding; technical know-how and application of experience accumulated through problem-solving in a rural context to an urban situation; construction skill and use of materials; interrelationship of dwellings at individual, household, community and city levels; formation of settlements and livelihood of inhabitants with regards to physical, social, economic and political issues.

Field trips required.

261 536   Adaptation of Vernacular Architecture and Built Environment for   3(2-2-5)
Contemporary Context

Principles, framework, laws and policies on conservation and development of old towns, heritage districts and communities in Thailand, international contexts and trends; survey and investigation of vernacular buildings and the built environment; value analysis; creating business model canvas and recommendations based on value; project's value given to the society; social returns on investment.

261 537   Material and Tectonic Construction in Vernacular Architecture and Built   3(2-2-5)
Environment

      Relationship between design and materials, tectonic construction and details in vernacular architecture and built environment; traditional and modern knowledge and wisdom related to vernacular and built environment in both rural communities and urban context; process of shaping design through aesthetic processing of material and construction.

      Field trips required.

261 538   Contemporary Architecture Design in Vernacular Context   3(2-2-5)

      Theory and principle; decoding and interpretation; idea development from local wisdom and cultural context for creative design of built environment and contemporary architecture in relation to its contexts.

      Field trips required.

261 539   Vernacular Architecture and Design for Comfort   3(3-0-6)

      Local wisdom of vernacular architecture and built environment in adapting itself with its environment and creating thermal comfort based on passive design strategies.

      Field trips required.

261 540   Geographic Information System for Built Environment Research   3(2-2-5)

      Definitions and principles of Geographic Information System; framework for data analysis; characteristics of geographic data; database structure, data input, collecting and filing spatial data and attribute data; analyzing geographic information; mapping and using computer graphic programs to produce maps; use of remote sensing for making interpretations and conducting research on built environment.

      Field trips required.

261 541   International Field Study and Workshop in Vernacular Architecture   3(2-2-5)
and Built Environment

      Conducting international practical fieldworks and workshops in various countries; creating academic and research collaboration networks; improving international mindset and skills in research and design; understanding and respecting diversity in ways of living, cultures, ethnicity and indigenous people, beliefs and religions; developing skills in presentation and collaboration for the fieldwork and workshops.

      Field trips required.