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Local wisdom of housing culture in Southern of Thailand under the context of beliefs in the World and Universe

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Abstract

Lifestyle and Society in the Southern of Thailand was influenced and based on local knowledge is gained from the experience, knowledge management, and creativity, as well as realize the profound wisdom of beliefs natural conditions and the range of naturally used to advantage for life. Therefore, the creation of housing in rural Southern based on beliefs about nature inherited from ancient time which have stressed the importance of respect for all beings in the world. From the smallest things that cannot be seen until the biggest things like the World and Universe. These are substances that the shape and energy are formed from the four elements include earth, water, wind, and fire. Context of belief in a natural part of human beliefs about astronomy in ancient times was associated to beliefs about the World and Universe. In the past, did not have the technology or modern science, as in the present. Astronomy in the past there is a least science, most of the beliefs about the Universe, stars, sun, moon, or anything else that natural appearance in the sky.

People in Southern of Thailand have a lifestyle based on the context, beliefs about the World and the Universe that affect their livelihood, such as culture, religion, and ritual. In addition, the culture of living in a society of people. Influenced and based on local knowledge to subsistence in accordance with different geographical conditions in each area. Such a lifestyle is indicative of the respect for nature, but also affect the function of the residential buildings, architectural splendor, charming personality, and become to cultural heritage of the housing culture that inherited continuous for a long time.

Keywords; *local knowledge, beliefs, housing culture.*

Introduction

People in Southern of Thailand have inherited a culture of housing on the basis of a variety of ethnic groups, including Thais, Chinese, Muslims, Indigenous people, and Malays. Society and way of life of the people in Southern are influenced by a variety of ethnic groups in beliefs of the people who have respect for nature, coupled with learning

scientific knowledge about the World and Universe, and send everything that exists in the Universe, known as the astronomical. A belief about the planets, comets, stars, nebulae and galaxies. The science of astronomy is one of the oldest science that develop parallel to the prosperity of human civilization in the territories around the world. People in the South, the ancient way of life that does not have the technology or modern science, as in the present, making a science of astronomy in the past, the major story of the universe stars, sun, moon, or anything else. The natural appearance of the sky. Thus, life must be based on religious beliefs, rituals, which is consistent with the way of life and geographical conditions vary in different civilizations. For this reason, the context of the World and Universe is believed to influence the culture of living, a lifestyle of people in Southern of Thailand, inherited from the past to the present.

The beliefs of people in Southern of Thailand under the context of the World and Universe

Attitudes and beliefs of the World and Universe, based on the belief that early humans has looked up in the sky at night and began to question whether the object on the sky twinkled, what is that? It is the beginning of the study about things up in the sky. Phenomena that occur daily as a result of the natural World and Universe beliefs influence the course of human life with ties to astronomical phenomena for a long time. And familiar to notice the change cycle of a system of objects, many of these natural phenomena, such as the presence of Comet, Lunar eclipse, and Meteor as the early humans can not understand those things that appear in the sky, what is it?, and those things will bring disaster upon all the living creatures on the Earth or not. Natural phenomena have dominated the human fear and trying to get rid of them perished.

People in Southern of Thailand beliefs about the World and Universe that deal with the creation of works of architecture based on the movement of the astronomy and stars in the sky and for their livelihood, such as agriculture and to observe celestial objects, because of this phenomenon, thereby influencing the daily life of those living in the present and residential building rituals that led to believe for a living. And preach to the people was common practice in the community to become involved in social culture inherited from the past.

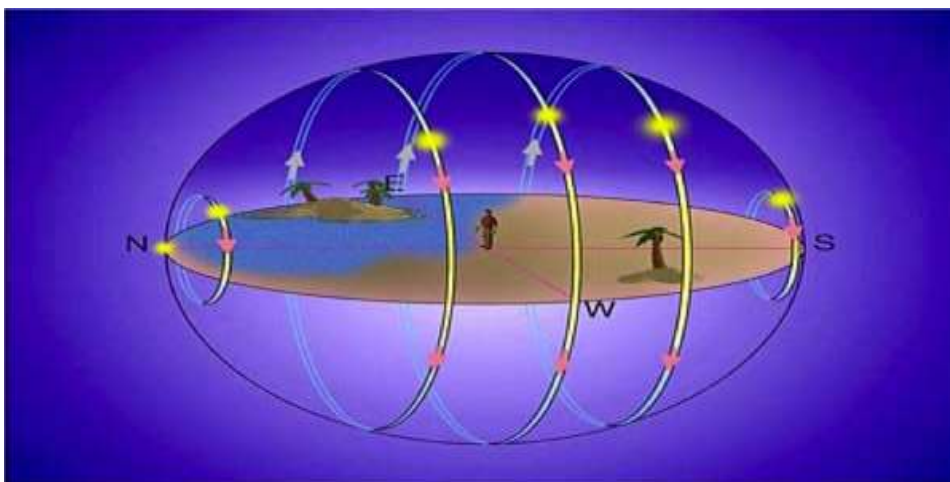


Figure 1. The direction of the constellation latitude 0 degrees. (Search on; <http://www.narit.or.th/index.php/astronomy-article>, February, 12, 2015)

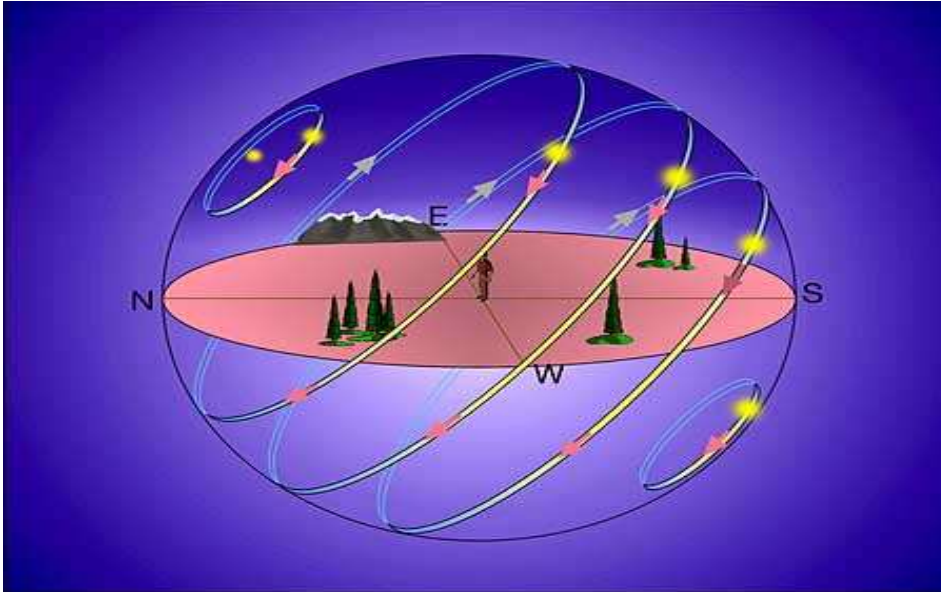


Figure 2. The direction of the constellation latitude 40 degrees. (Search on; <http://www.narit.or.th/index.php/astronomy-article>, February, 12, 2015)

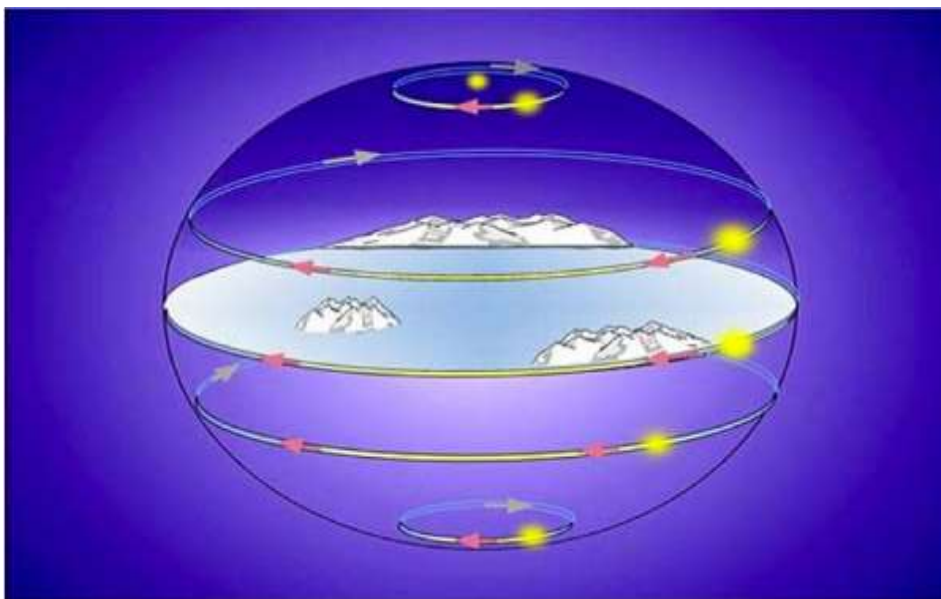


Figure 3. The direction of the constellation latitude 90 degrees. (Search on; <http://www.narit.or.th/index.php/astronomy-article>, February, 12, 2015)

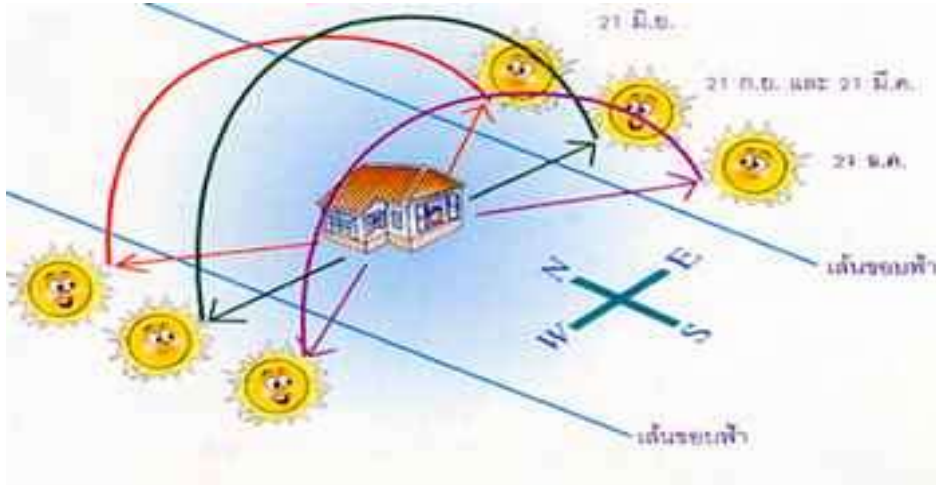


Figure 4. The image for the rise and fall of the sun in one year. (Search on; <http://www.narit.or.th/index.php/astronomy-article>, February, 12, 2015)

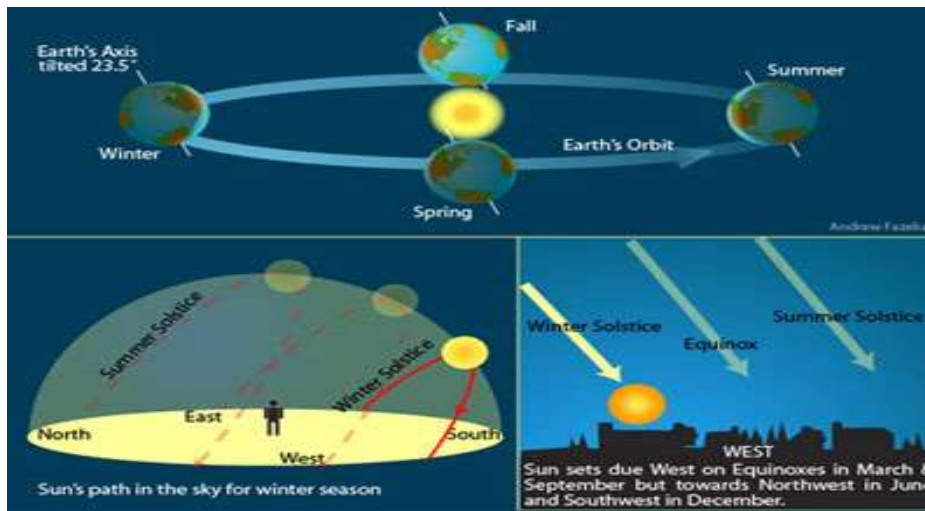


Figure 5. The image for the rise and fall of the sun in one year. (Search on; <http://www.narit.or.th/index.php/astronomy-article>, February, 12, 2015)



Figure 6. The image of building according to the north - west of the sun . (Search on; <http://www.narit.or.th/index.php/astronomy-article>, February, 12, 2015)

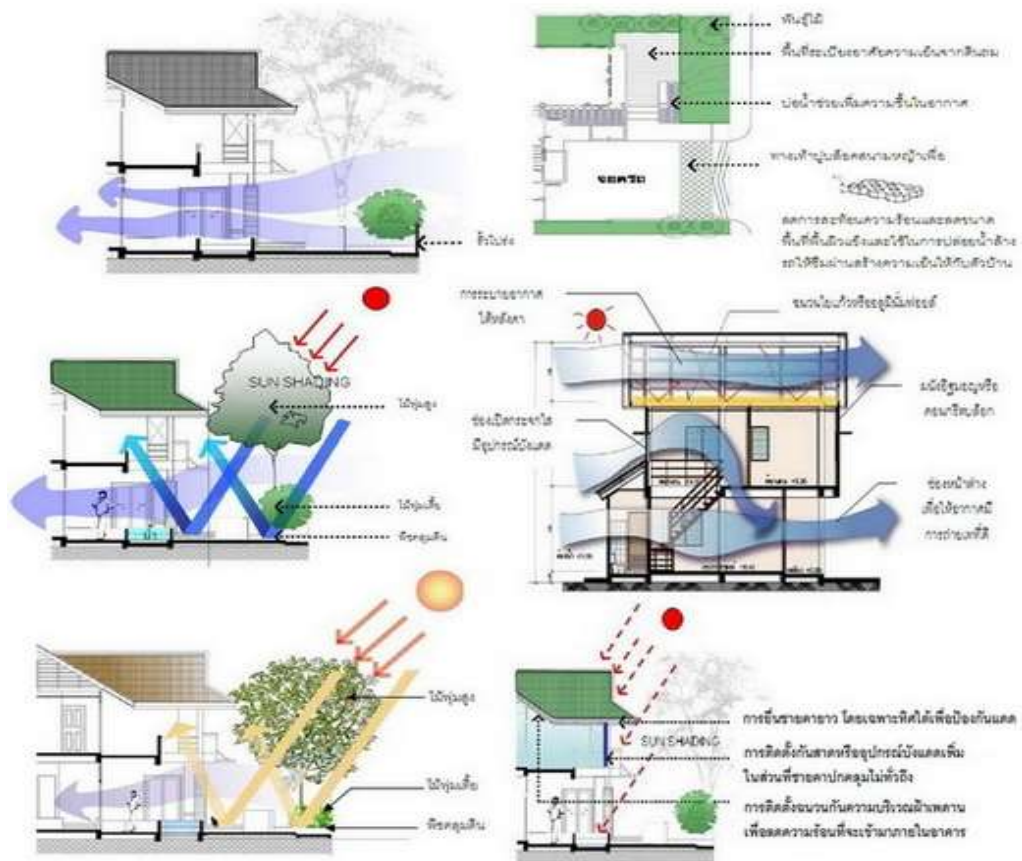


Figure 7. The image for the rise and fall of the sun in one year. (Search on; <http://www.narit.or.th/index.php/astronomy-article>, February, 12, 2015)

The housing culture under indigenous beliefs in the context of the World and Universe in Southern of Thailand

Although in the present, the construction of a residential building in Southern of Thailand not to focus seriously on the context of the World, Universe, and astronomy beliefs. However, residential construction is in relation to the movement of the sun during the year which has a budget that does not require refractories expensive and unnecessary and saving the electricity consumption in the home dramatically. Due to the rising and setting of the sun and the seasons affect the amount of light entering the building and its relation to the temperature of each part in house area by leveraging the architecture and astronomy. The textual content regarding the design of a housing plan in relation to the movement of the sun on the celestial sphere.

The residential design in Southern of Thailand has given priority to the sun is in the vertical with the roof and are rounded up to the north. However, because the Earth is from the sun over the winter it is not too hot. Therefore, to design the structure, thermal resistance from the top without wasting like being in the desert. We use only the thermal protection materials, such as aluminum foil by placed on steel for prevent heat from entering the attic and ceiling should be used to prevent heat into the building by the heat. Hot air to rise above the top of the roof vents would be more appropriate.

The design space in direction of the house, for example;

1. Should design a living room nearby the main entrance. The bedroom should not adjacent kitchen. Bathroom, toilet and laundry should be located toward the sun can shine up.

2. When the building facing to the east, should be bedroom in the south, living room in the north, kitchen is to the west, and laundry is to the southwest.

3. When the building facing to the west, should be bedroom is to the south, living room in the north, kitchen in the east, and laundry is to the southeast.

4. When the building facing to the south, should be bedroom is to the north, living room in the east, kitchen is to the west, and laundry is to the north.

5. When building facing to the north, should be bedroom is to the south, living room in the east, kitchen is to the west, and laundry is to the southeast.

In addition to the beliefs of the World and Universe to affect the relationship with the living conditions of people in Southern of Thailand about the Feng Shui. Especially with Thaichinese is believed to build the house based on the principles of the natural world, the four elements include earth, water, wind, and fire. The Feng Shui is a technical reason and local wisdom to build the houses on the basis of geography and climate associated with the function of the building. It becomes a way of life that is an indication of the respect for nature, but also affect the function of the residential buildings and beautiful architectural heritage since ancient times.



Figure 8. An example of creating a house in Southern of Thailand to live with comfortably under Thai wisdoms and setting the direction for the building in accordance with the sun and wind direction. (Search on; <http://www.baanjomyut.com/library/thaihouse/>, February, 17, 2015)



Figure 9. An example of creating a house in Southern of Thailand to live with comfortably under Thai wisdoms and setting the direction for the building in accordance with the sun and wind direction. (Search on; <http://www.baanjomyut.com/library/thaihouse/>, February, 17, 2015)

Conclusions

The way of life in Southern of Thailand is based on the beliefs that everything in the World has inherited from the past. The creating of housing culture that rely on local wisdom based on the beliefs the World, Universe, and astronomy, and developed a process to learn from the experience of the culture in the community. The understanding and respect for nature and the environment that exists in society is one that everyone should be involved in treatment and transmitted from generation to generation. In order to maintain social and cultural capital to live together in peace, national and regional levels.

Therefore, the study of housing culture within the context of the beliefs in the World and Universe, it is paramount that everyone must be involved in maintaining the cultural heritage to sustainable remain.

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