



Visut Lohacharoon
Clint Nagata

THAI HOTELS

images
Publishing



THAI HOTELS

Taking influences from its tropical climate, Buddhist history, and Southeast Asian location, Thailand's architecture is both unique and innovative, and a true reflection of the country's rich cultural heritage.

Traditional Thai architecture features natural building materials and embodies human-oriented and environmentally-friendly characteristics developed in response to lifestyle and climatic conditions. Today, Thai hotel and resort design offers a cotemporary take on these traditions, and has gained the recognition of architects and designers worldwide.

A popular tourist destination with stunning beaches, sophisticated cuisine, and preserved historical sites, its no surprise Thailand is home to some of the world's most luxurious hotels and resorts. Thai Hotels is a beautiful collection of the best the country has to offer, and provides a unique snapshot of Thailand's diverse architectural styles, from the traditional to the modern.

Khum Phaya Resort and Spa

Location Chiang Mai, Thailand

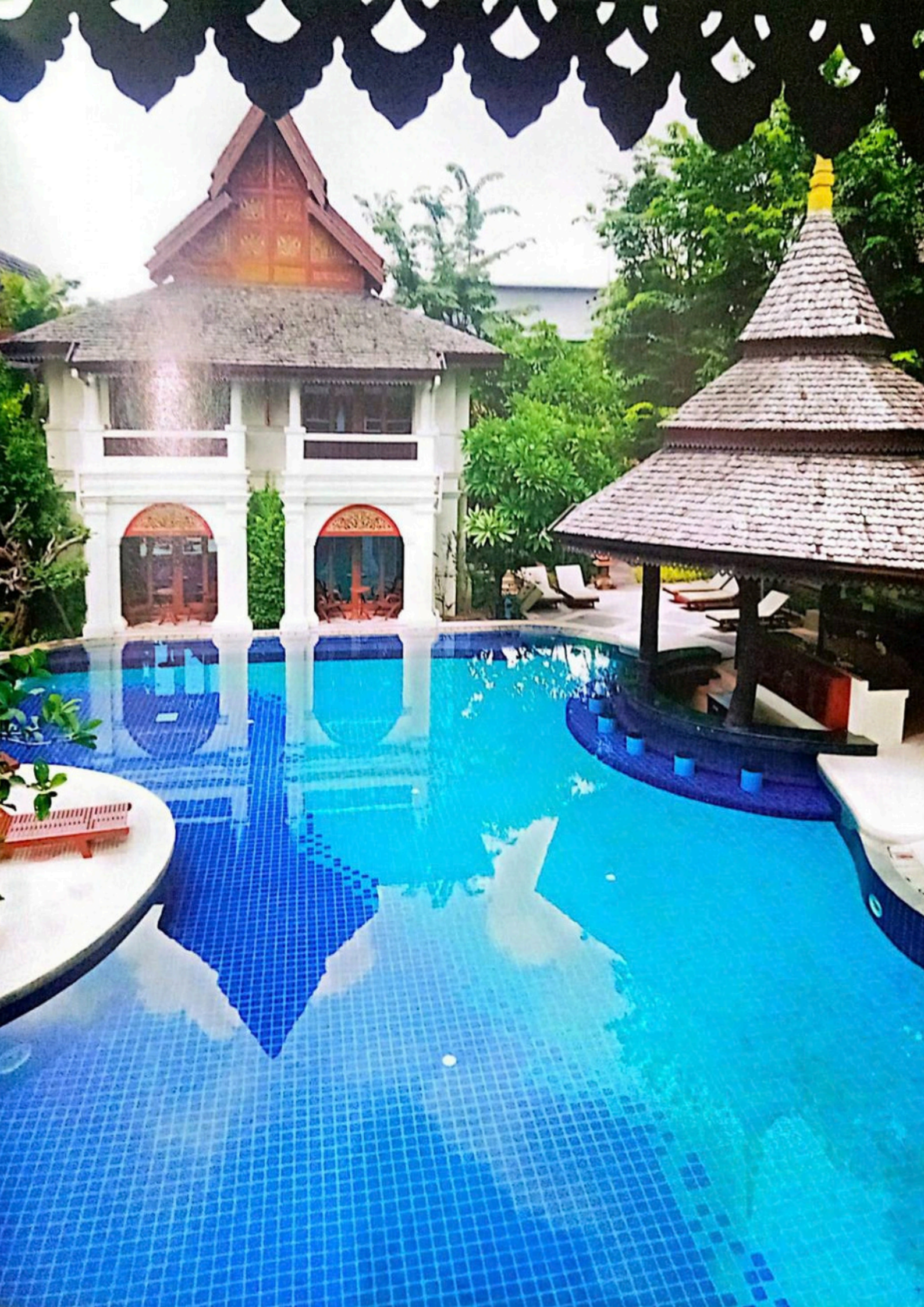
Area 7,514m²

Completion Date 2009

Architecture Design Niwat Architect Co., Ltd.

Photography Niwat Tanyayanusorn

Client Watchara Tantranon

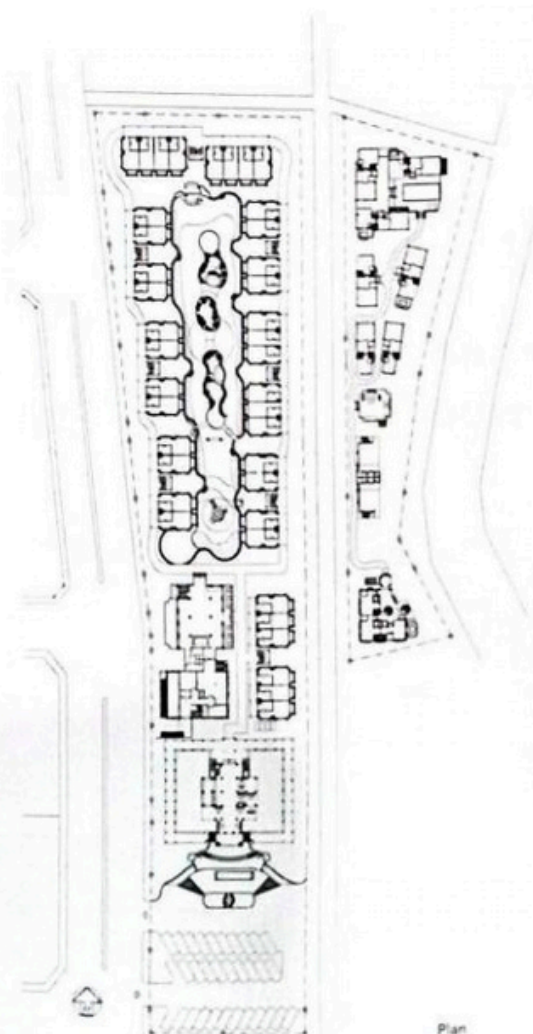
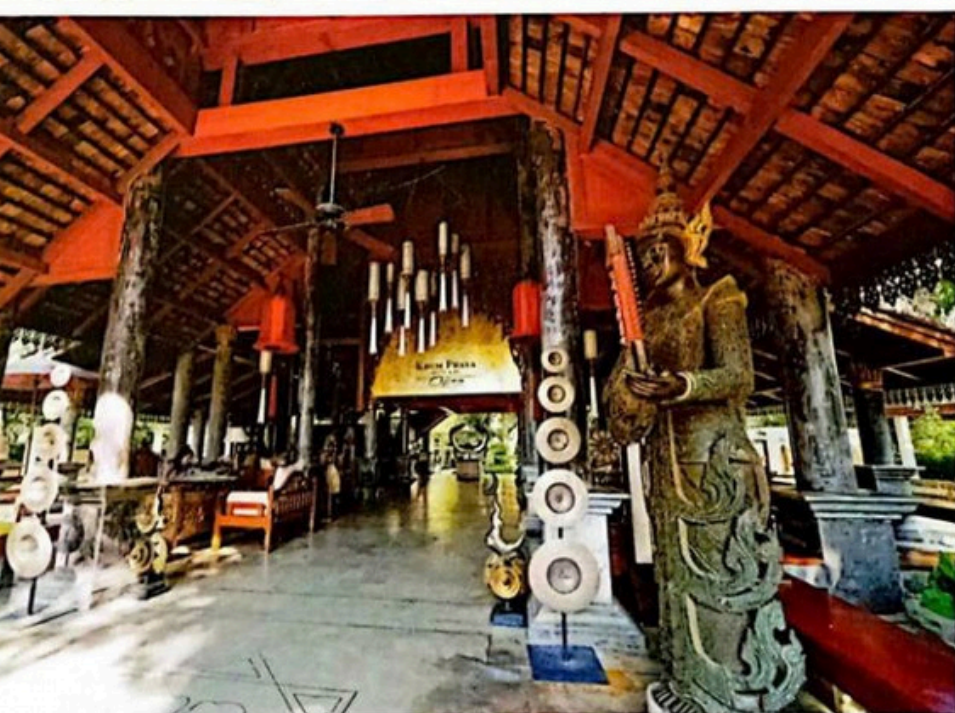


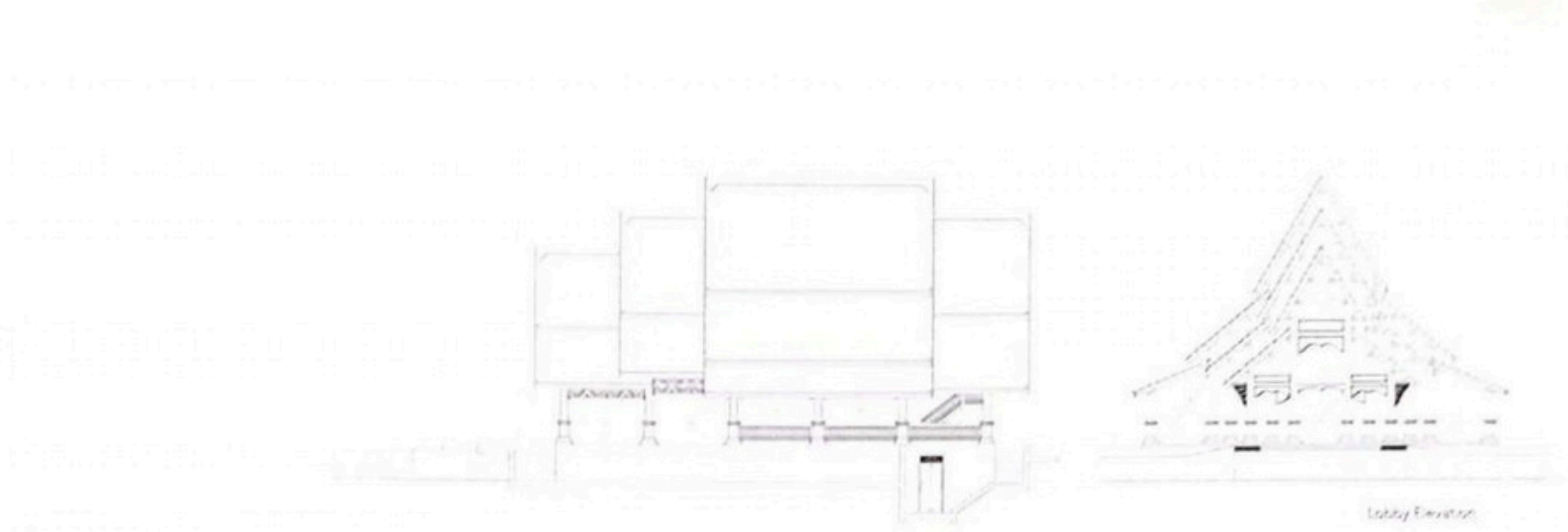
- 01 View toward the lobby
- 02 Lobby interior
- 03 The front view of the lobby

The typical Thai house, just like those found in many other Southeast Asian countries, is a wooden structure raised on posts. It has acquired its own unique style over many centuries — its distinguishing marks are an elegantly tapered roof and various finials and decorations, which differ regionally. The Lanna (northern Thai) house, or Ruen Ka-lae, is similar to the traditional Thai house in that it was originally constructed completely from teak and built elevated from the ground to protect from flooding during the wet season.

Due to its location in Chaing Mai, in northern Thailand, Niwat Architects wanted to base Khum Phaya Resort and Spa on local Lanna-style architecture, hoping to spread Lanna culture and create a better understanding of Thailand's history. They undertook a lot of research on Lanna housing before commencing the project. There are few resorts designed in the Lanna style today — most original Lanna buildings are old temples and wooden houses — however they finally found a new direction.

The design and architecture of Khum Phaya Resort and Spa takes particular inspiration from the Lanna art of teak wood carving, which has been used to embellish the majority of decorations throughout the resort, including the 80-year-old teak wood roof. Building structures and shapes are also influenced by traditional Thai elements, as is the interior decoration, with in-room furniture and facilities also embodying the Lanna style.



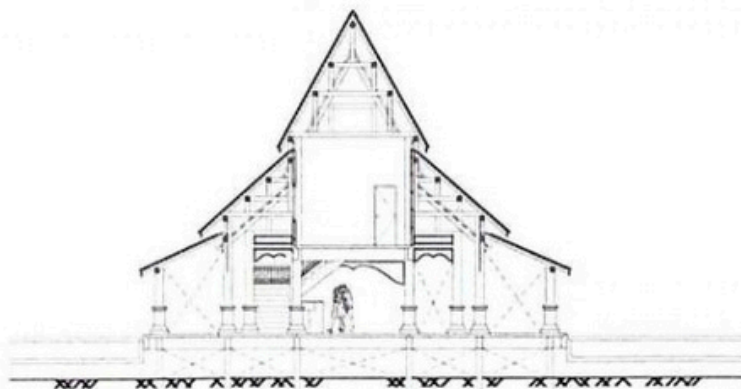




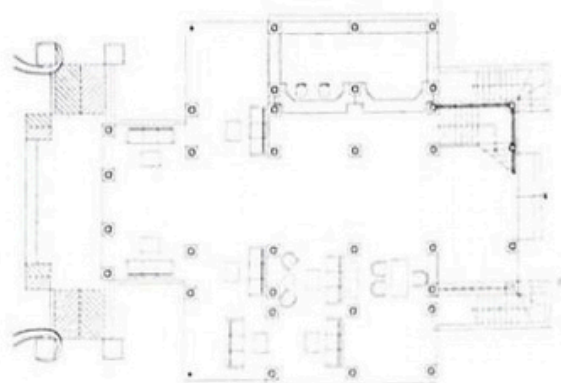
04. The main pool, which runs through the center of the resort
- 05-06. The lobby's interior is full of traditional Thai elements

The pleasant landscape is an assembly of mythological trees and flowers, some of which are more than a hundred years old. The swimming pool — one of the longest in Chiang Mai (110 meters) — weaves through the center of the resort, linking many of the guest rooms together.

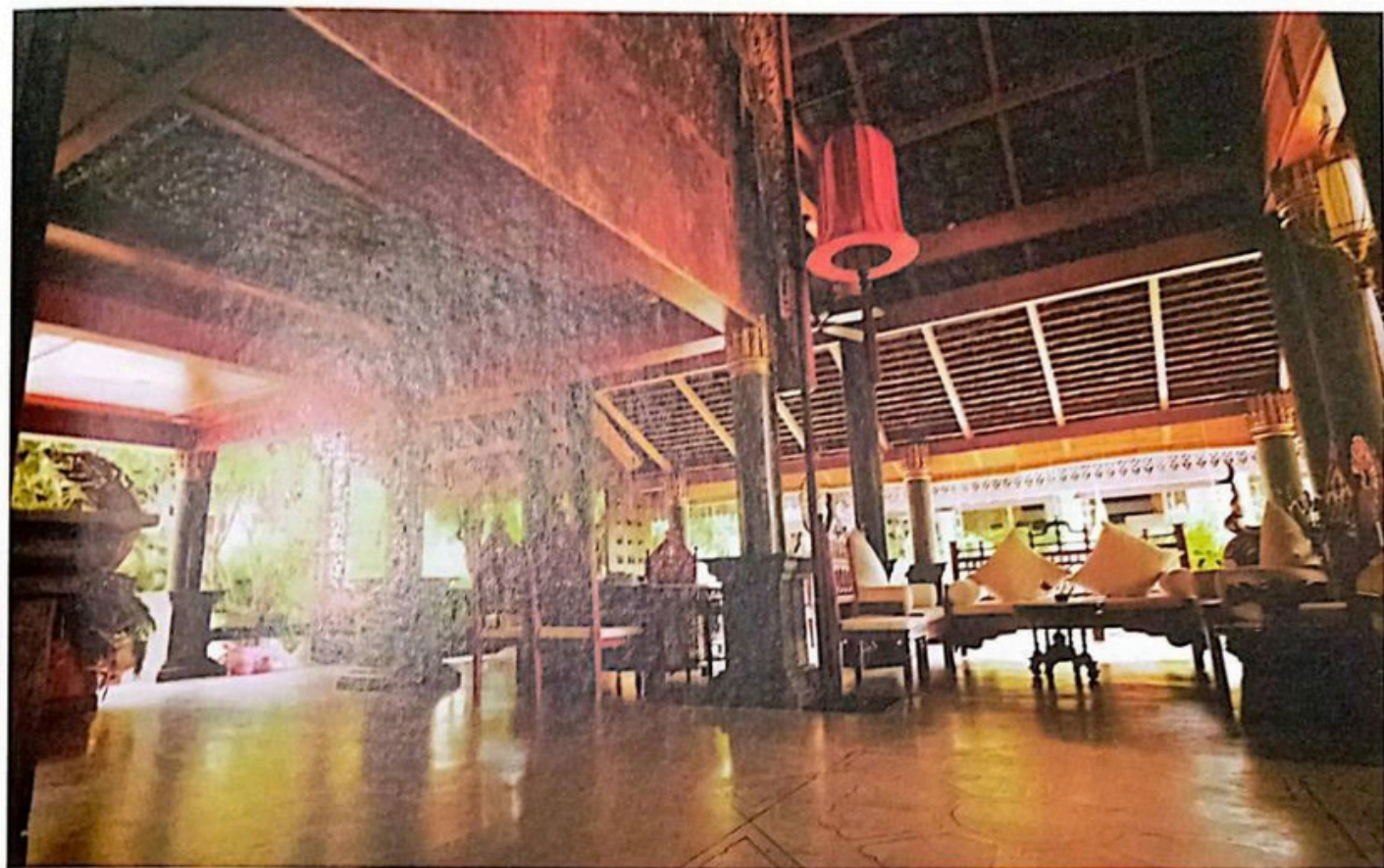
The Khum Phaya Resort and Spa has a strong cultural flavor, and visitors can appreciate the charming architecture and scenery while relaxing their minds and bodies.

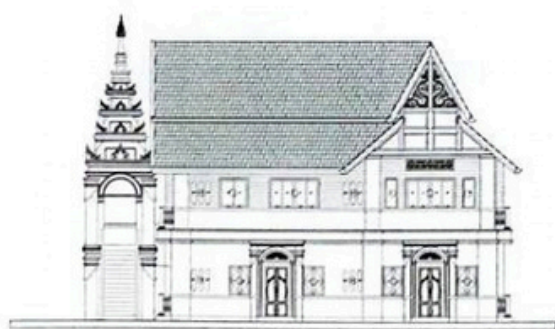


Lobby Elevation



Lobby Plan

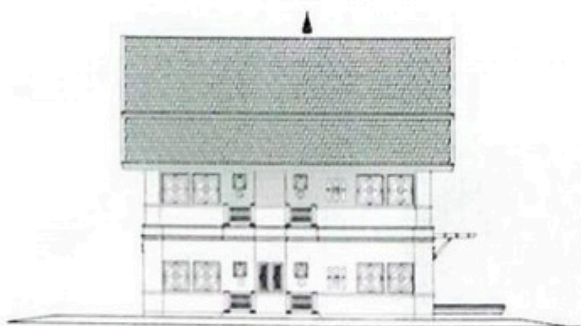




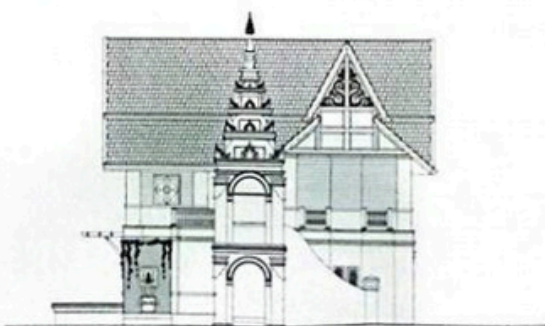
West Elevation



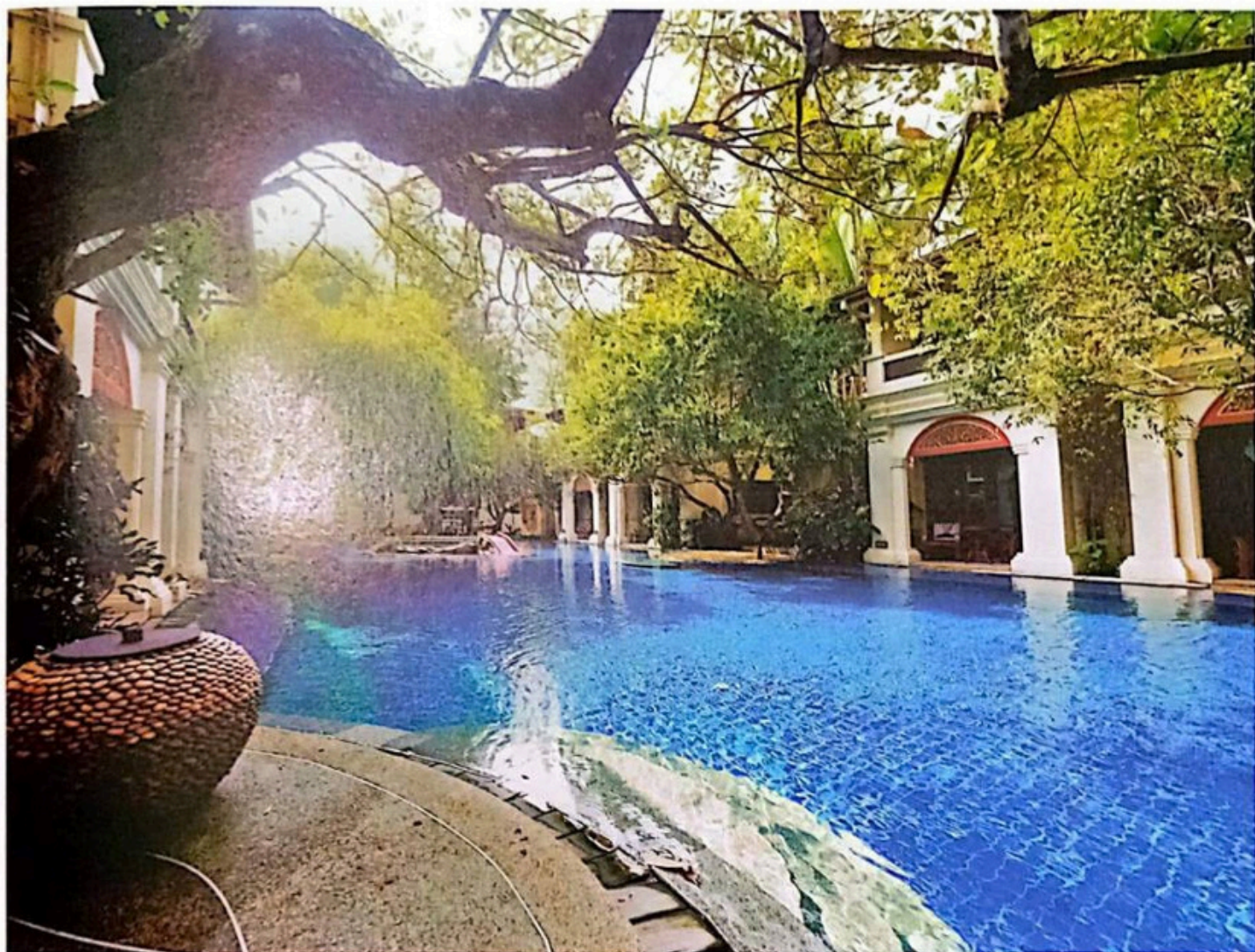
East Elevation



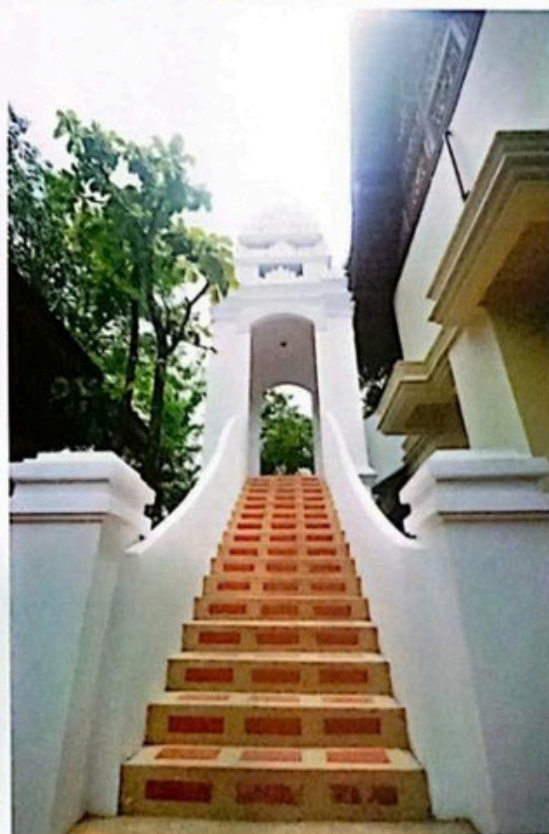
South Elevation

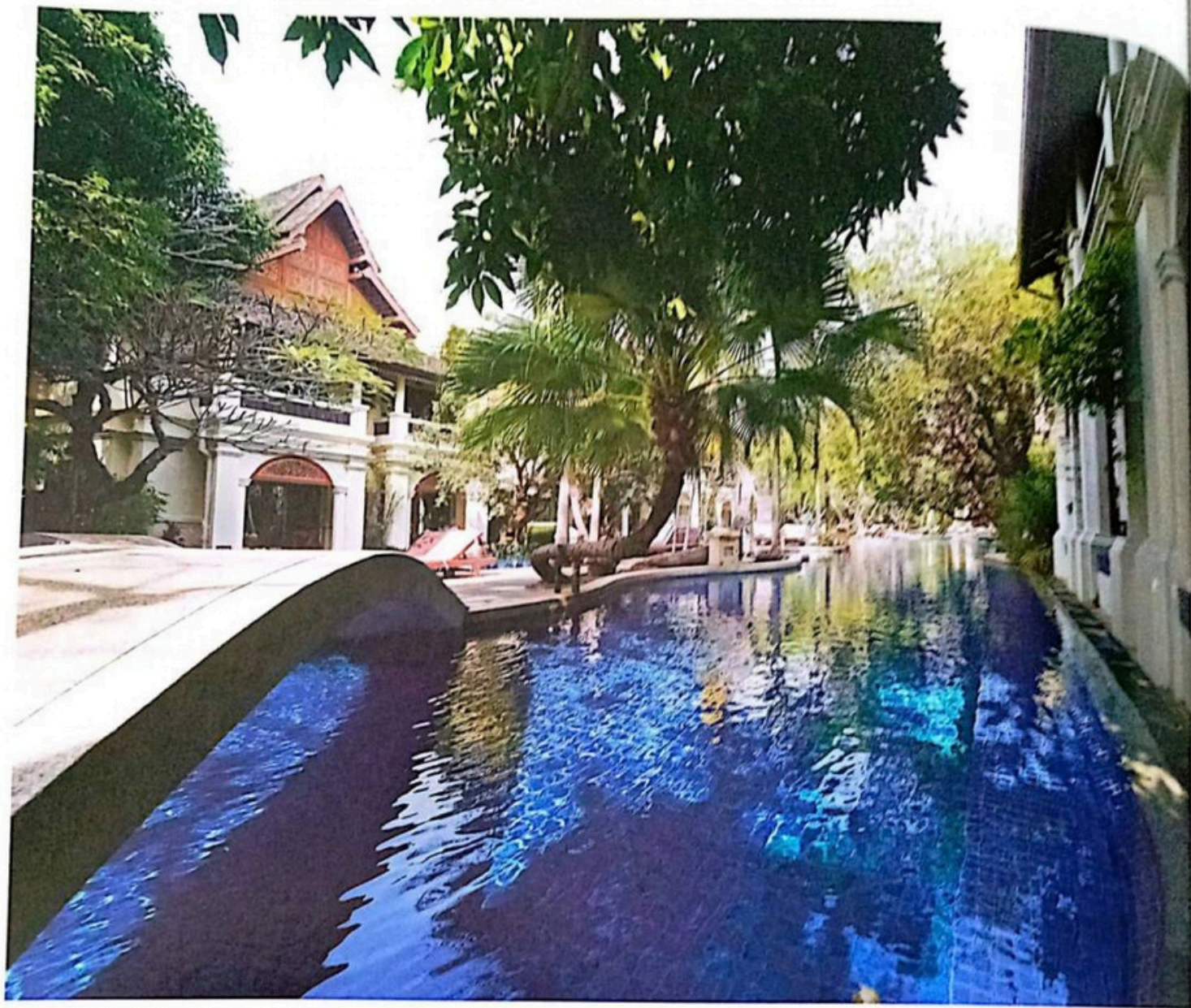


North Elevation

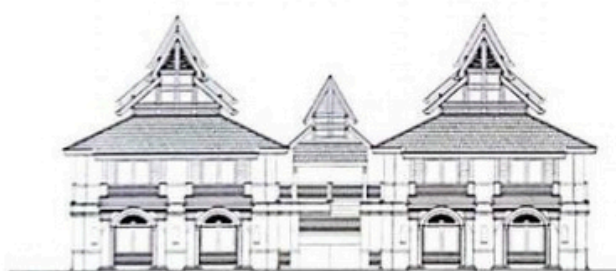
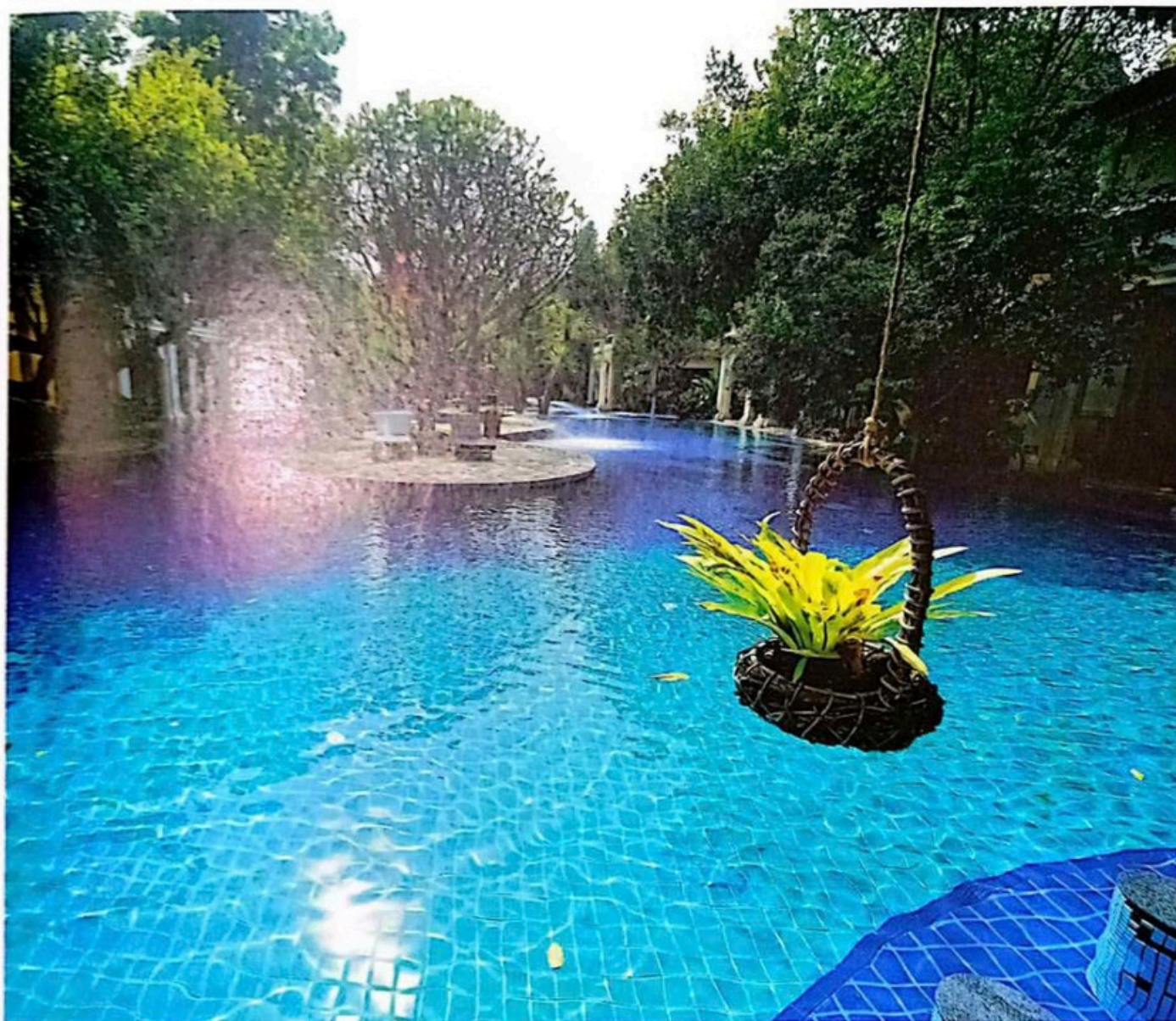


07-08 The central pool, which is surrounded by guest rooms
09-10 The staircases to the higher level

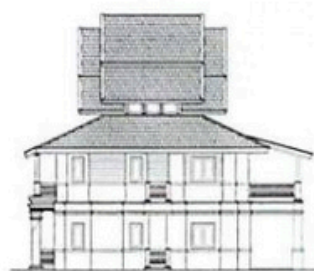




- 11. The blue pool under the central arch
- 12. View from the pavilion to the pool
- 13. Panorama of the central pool



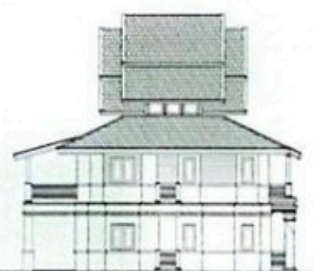
West Elevation



South Elevation



East Elevation



North Elevation

Marndadee Heritage River Hotel

Location Chiang Mai, Thailand

Area 4,880m²

Completion Date 2013

Architecture Design Niwat Architect Co., Ltd.

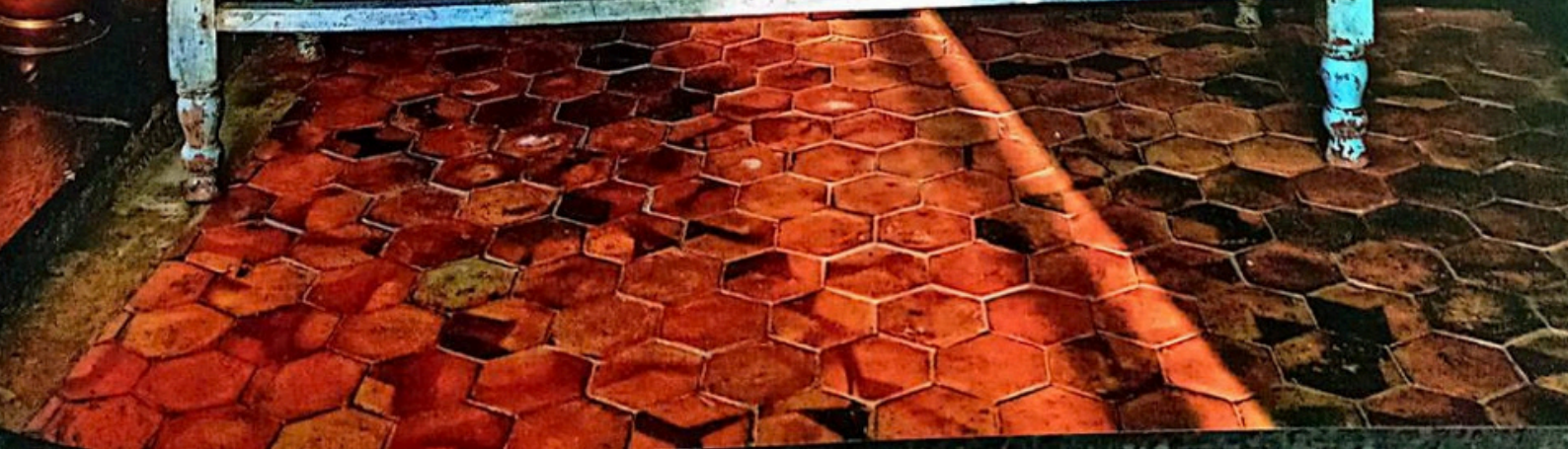
Photography Niwat Tanyayanusorn

Client Purima Co., Ltd.

Awards First price from 'Thailand
Boutique Awards 2014 –
2015' in the category of
'concept and culture' along
a river



UMBRELLA HOLDER



- 01 The courtyard with lush plants
- 02 Entrance gate

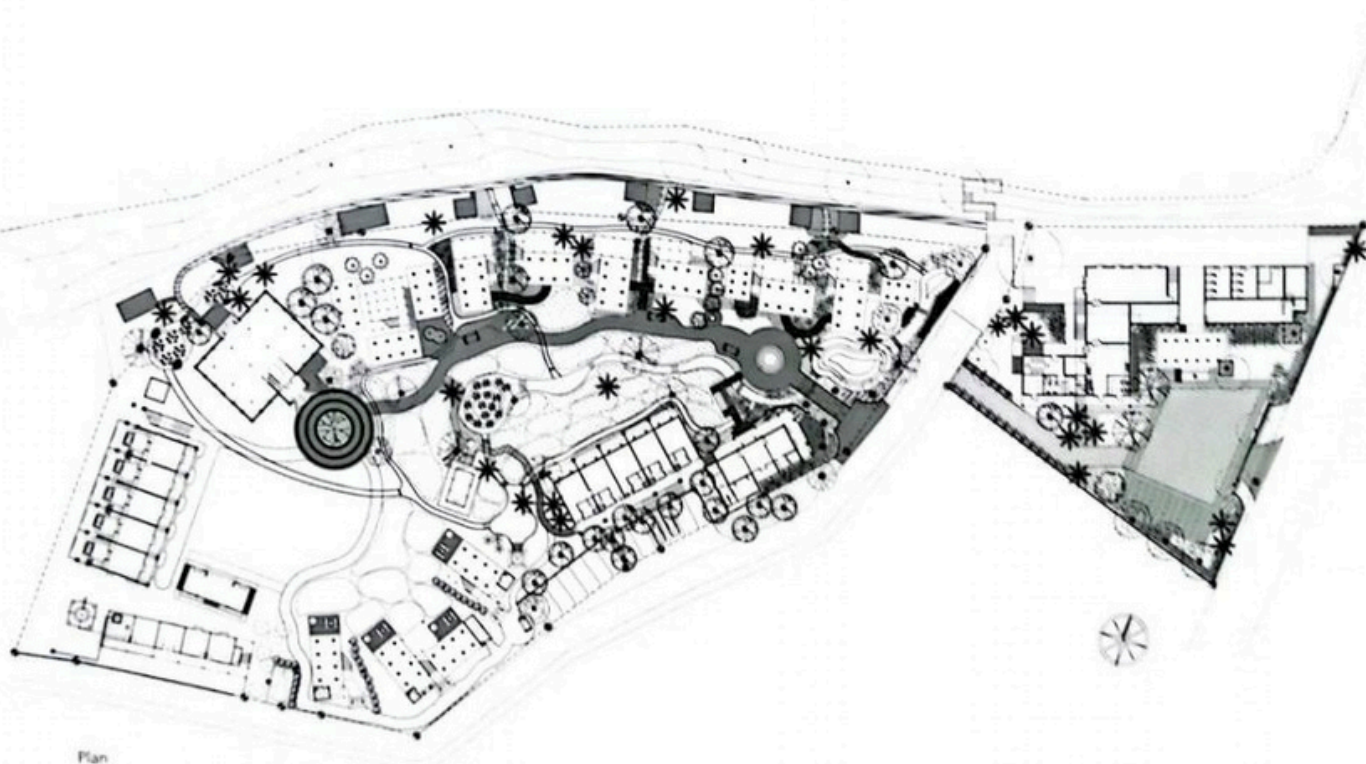
This villa sprang from the mutual understandings of three parties: the owners, the architects, and the constructors. All three parties had the same goal — to create a unique project consisting of artistic, cultural and natural values. As a result, any problems that occurred throughout the planning, construction, and decoration stages were a big test to conquer, as they all had the same dream to fulfill.

When the owners first brought the architects to survey the property, located in Chiang Mai along the Ping River, both parties agreed to develop a Lanna-style resort. They wanted to construct different kinds of Lanna homes so that visitors could learn about its culture. There are three main accommodation themes at Marndadee. Rice storage barns, which the owners possessed, have been converted and renovated into separate villas, and suites have a Chinese or colonial theme. The Chinese influence on Lanna architecture can be seen at nearby Wat Gate in Chiang Mai, and colonialism references a time when

westerners had businesses in Chiang Mai. These three themes are brought together in a unique village setting, and represent different aspects of Lanna culture. In addition, 80 percent of the furnishings and decor at Marndadee are antiques. This eclectic collection helps to distinguish every room with an individual touch.

The landscape design has a tropical theme, and native trees are well positioned throughout the site and offer welcome shade.

The owners, a young couple with a mutual interest in art and antiques, named the village after their mothers — 'Marndadee' meaning 'good mother'. After running out of space to house their growing antique collection, they decided to build a boutique resort to display their wares. The resort therefore acts as a small museum, and visitors can relax their body and mind while at the same time learning more about traditional Thai culture.

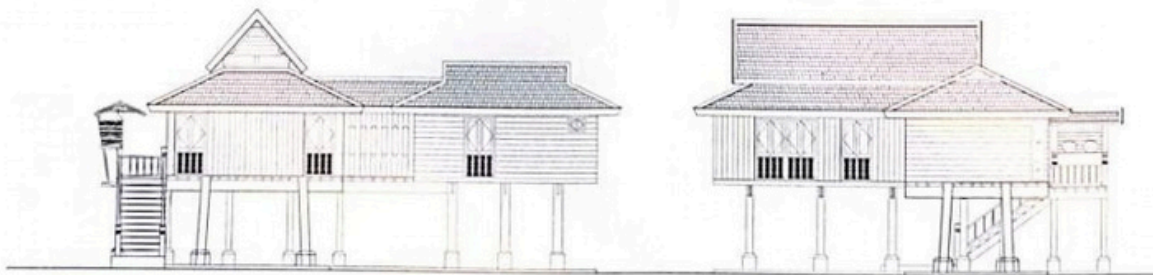


Plan



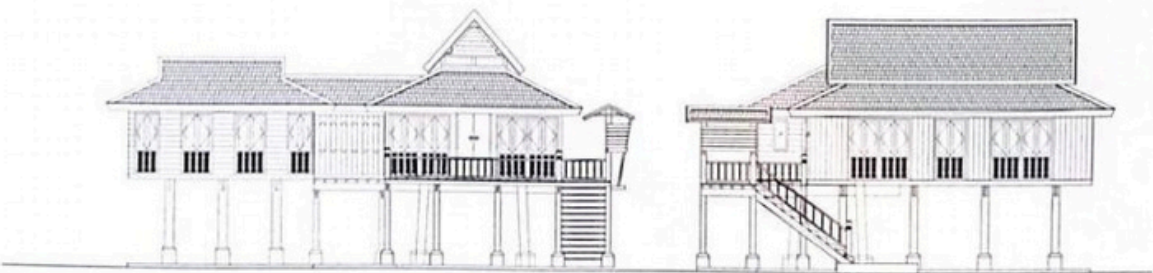


03. Wooden deck path in front of the courtyard
 04. Hammock hanging inside the pavilion
 05. Panorama of the courtyard



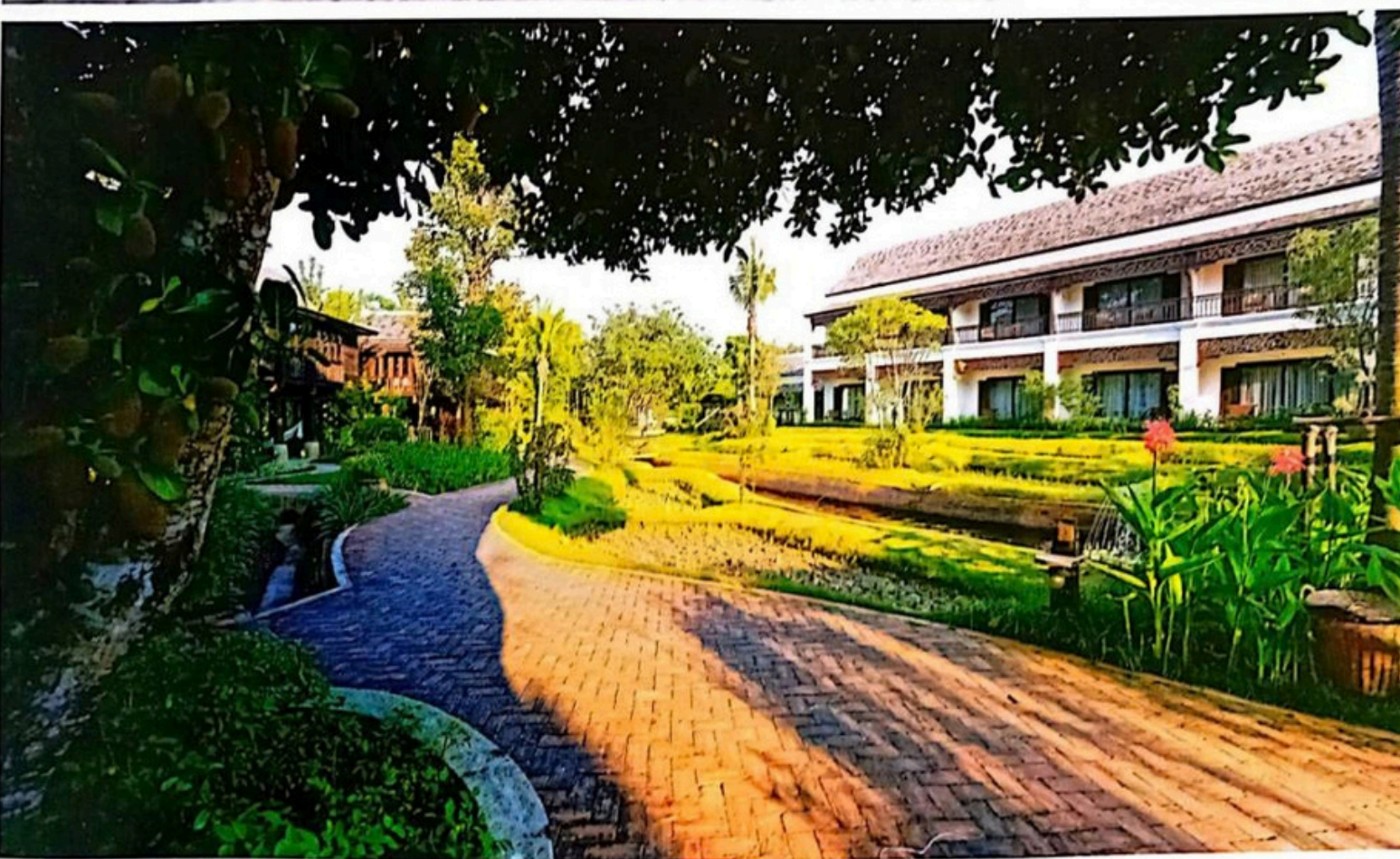
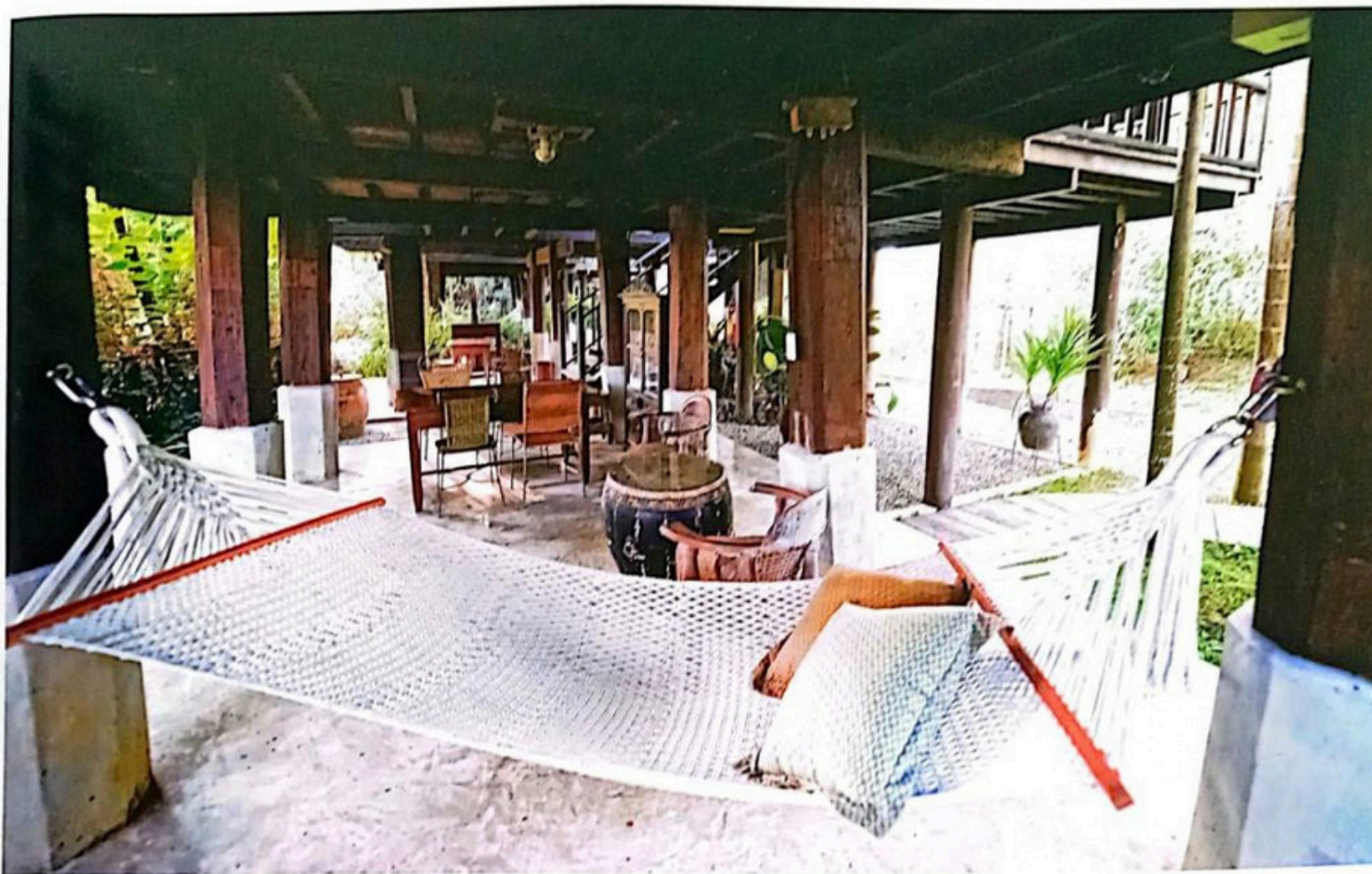
Front Elevation

Right Elevation



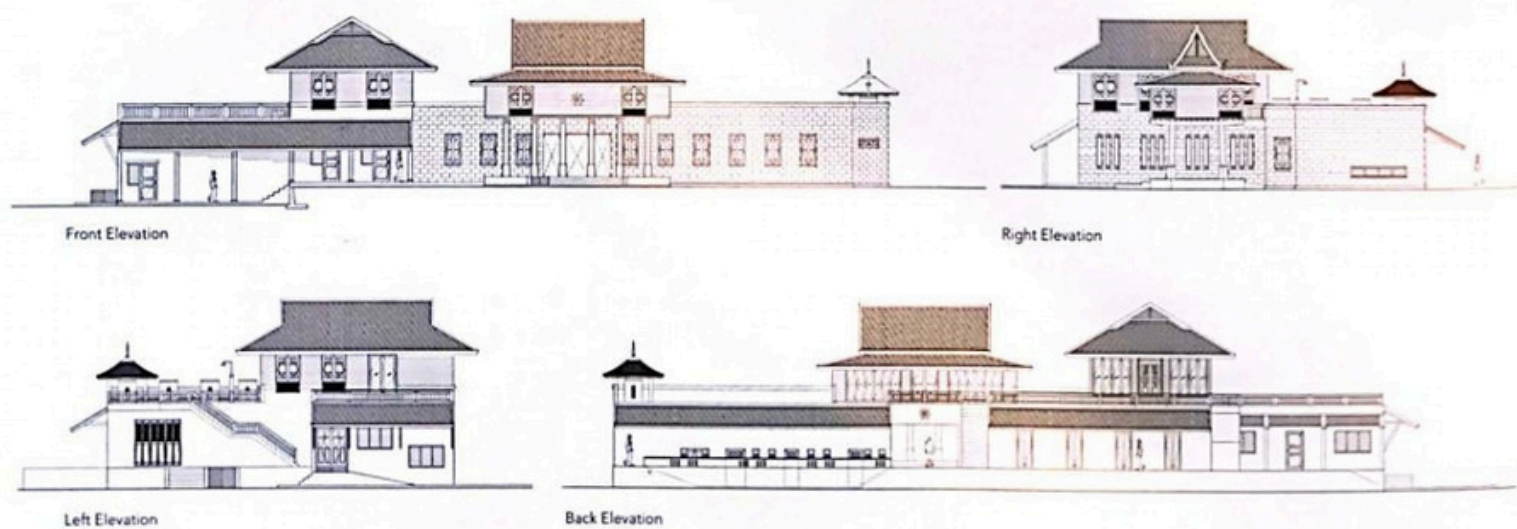
Back Elevation

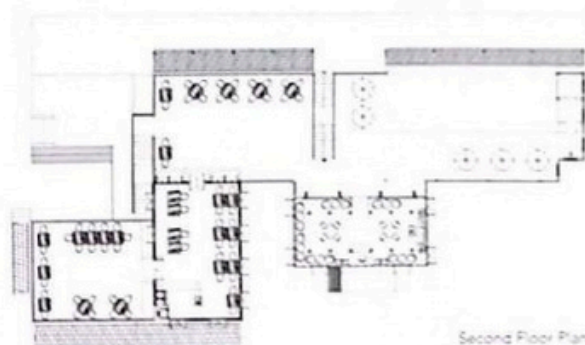
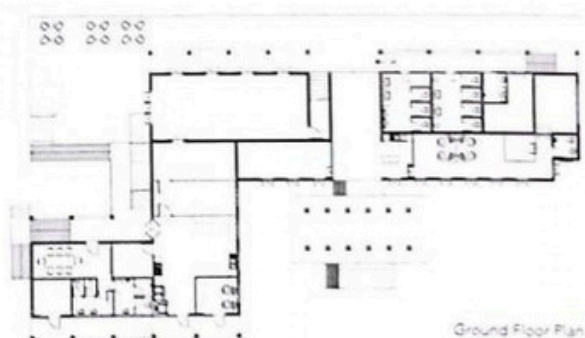
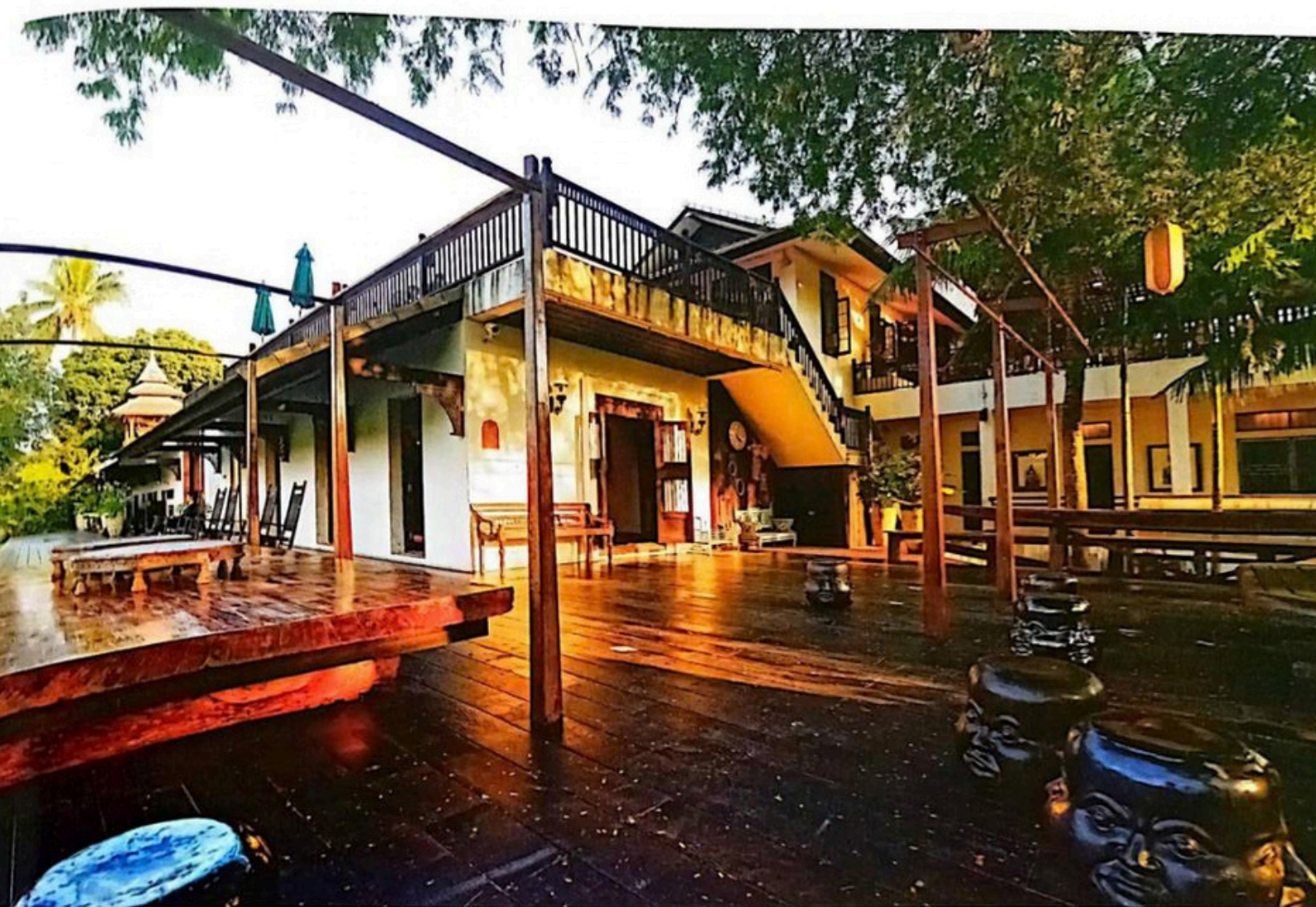
Left Elevation

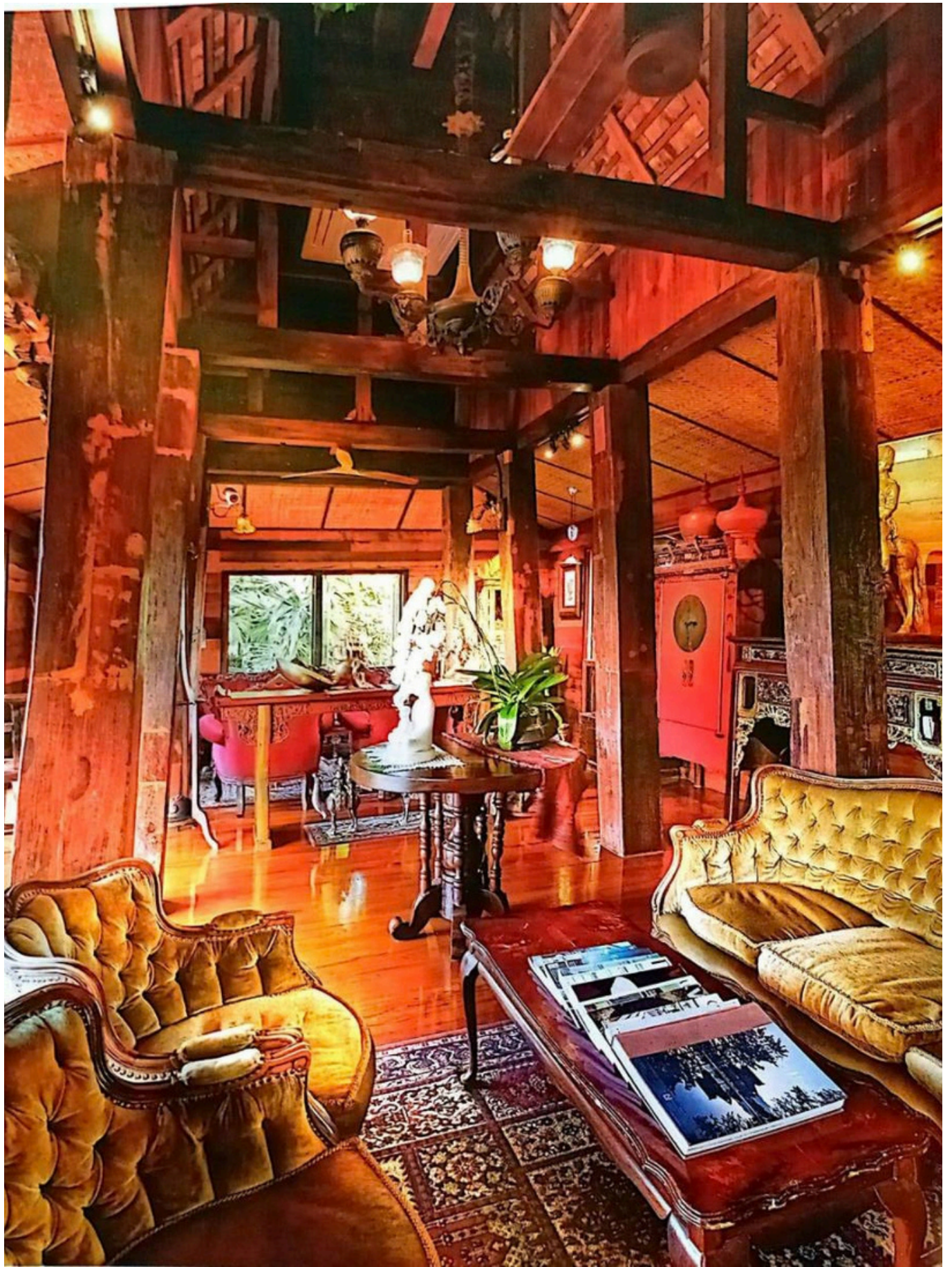


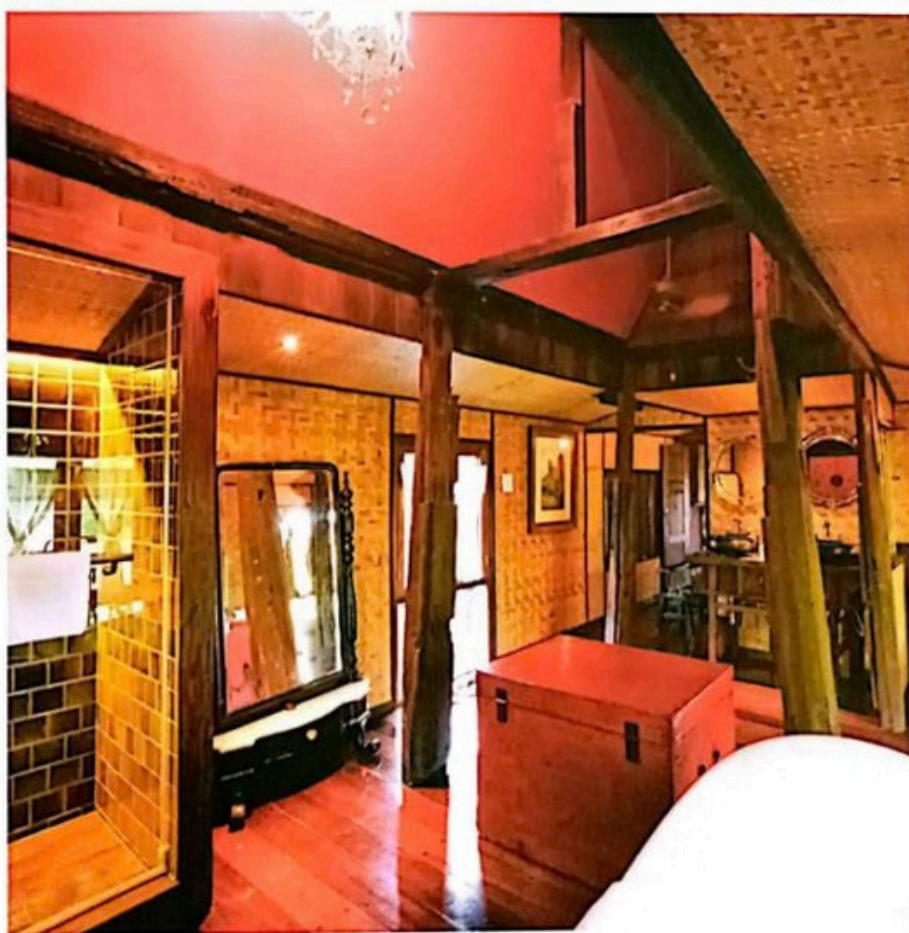
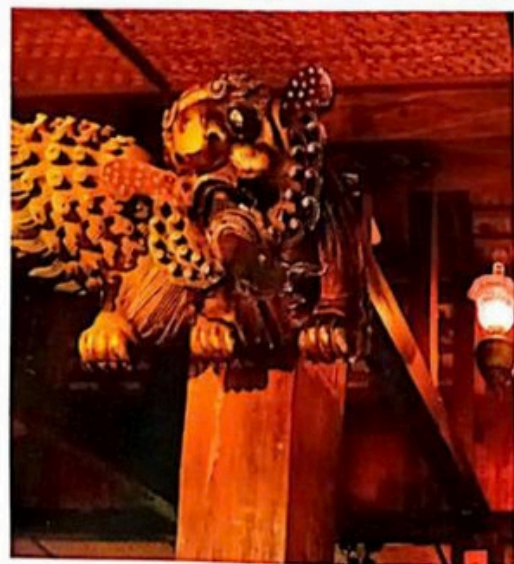
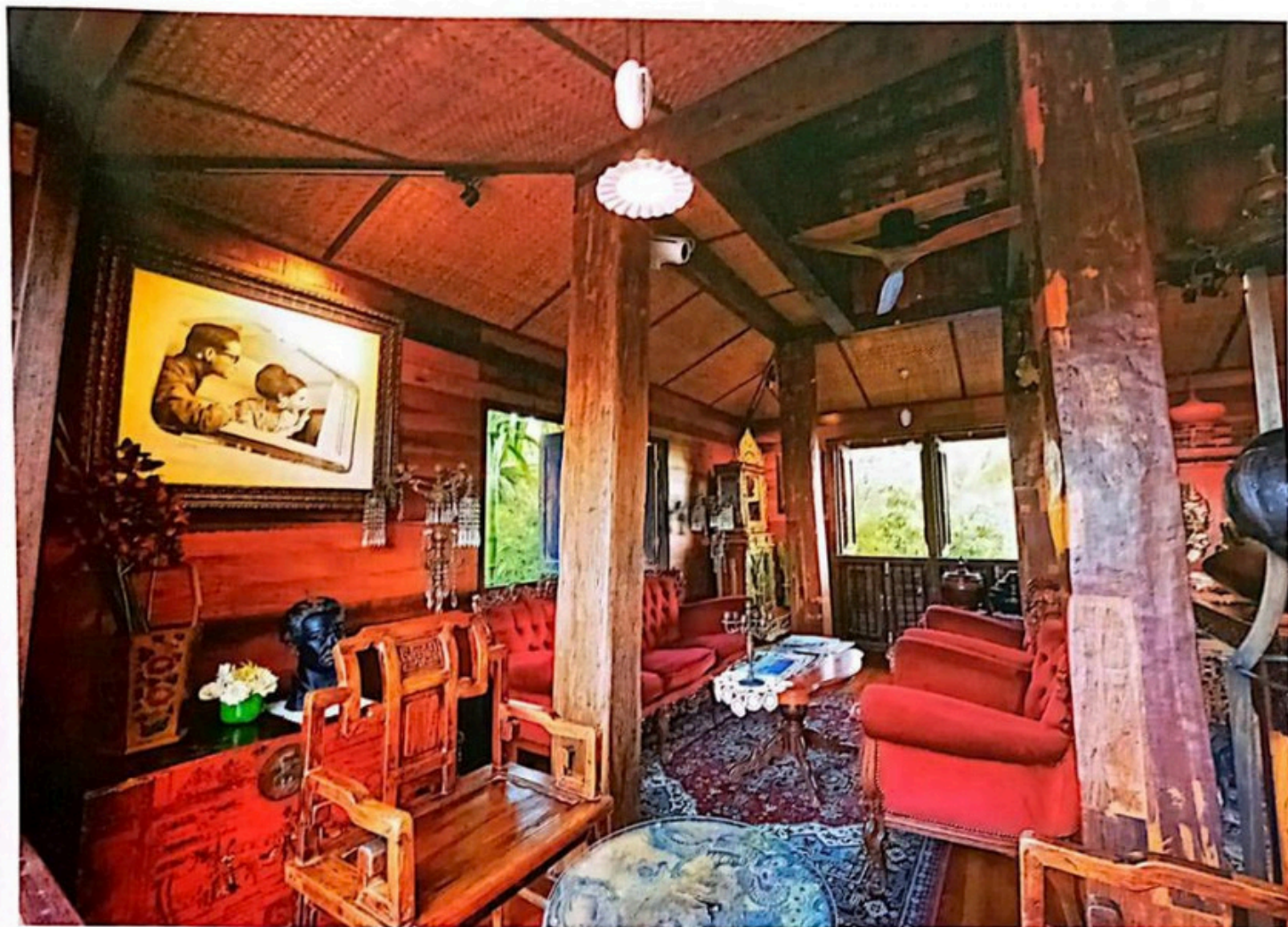


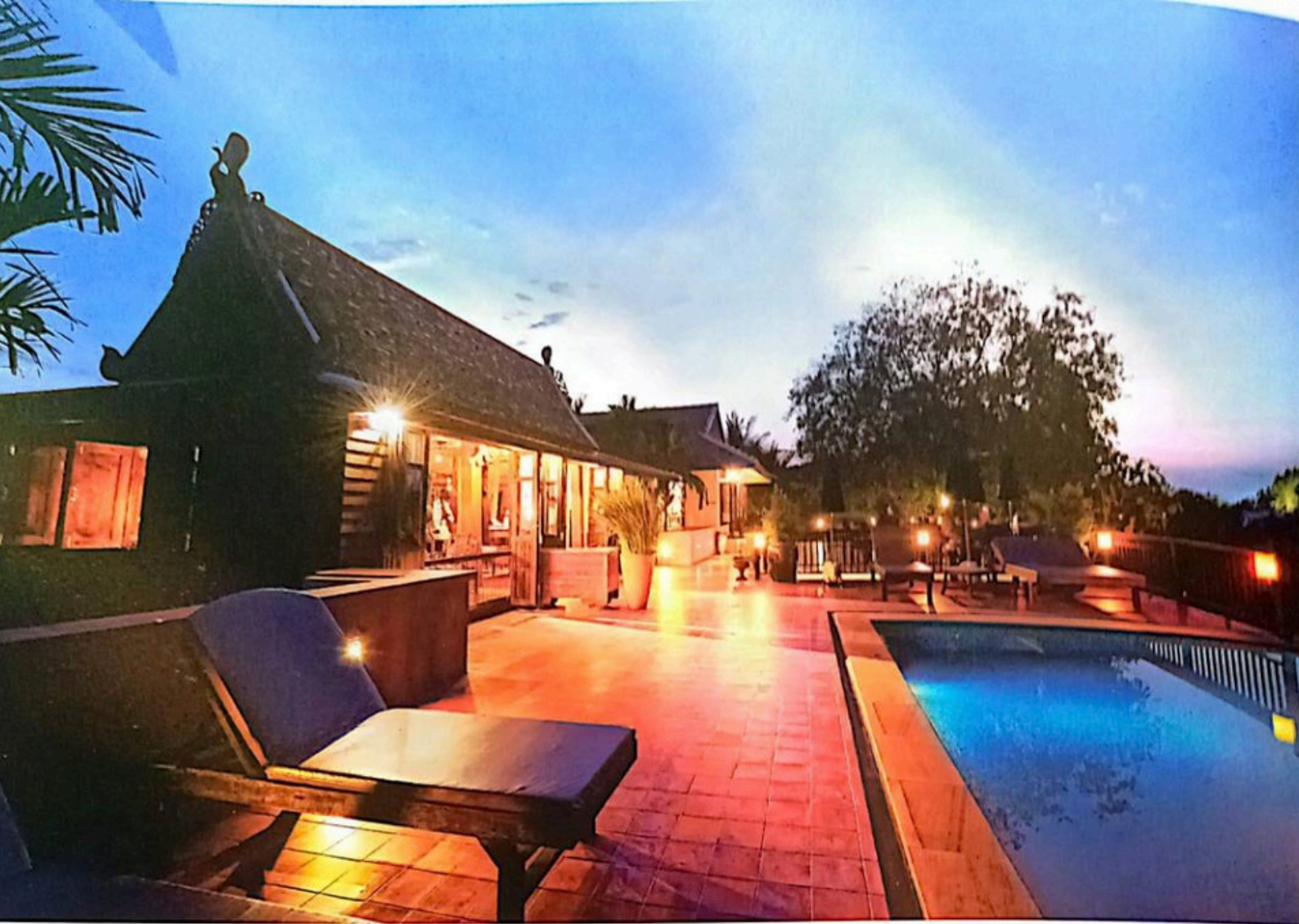
06. The lush courtyard as seen from the pavilion
 07. Outdoor activity space with distinctive Thai flavors
 08. The main entrance of the small museum inside the resort





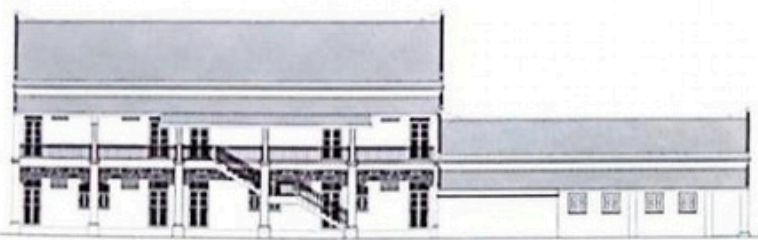




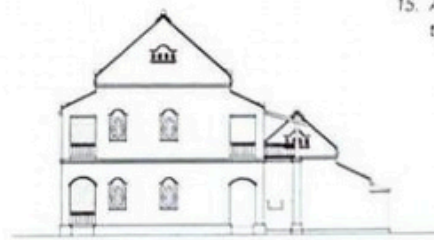




13. The courtyard with a pool at night
 14. Front view of the two-story building at sunset
 15. A serenity pool located in the courtyard



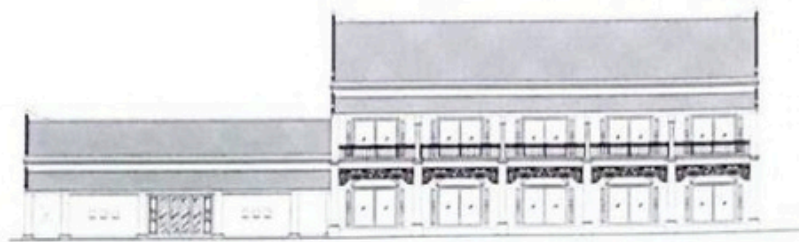
Front Elevation



Left Elevation



Right Elevation



Back Elevation