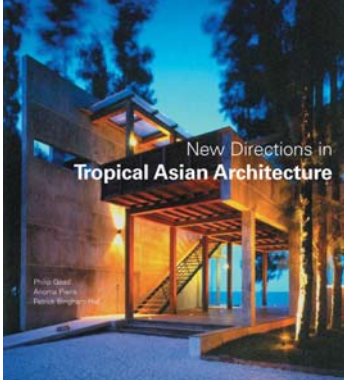


BOOK REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION



NEW DIRECTIONS IN TROPICAL ASIAN ARCHITECTURE

by Philip Goad, Anoma Pieris & Patrick Bingham-hall

Featuring works by renowned architects like SCDA, WOHA, Kerry Hill, Kanika R'Kul (to name a few), the book starts with essays by Philip Goad (of same title as the book) and Anoma Pieris entitled *The Search for Tropical Identities : A Critical History*.

The book then moves in to give examples (I'd call them inspirations) of Tropical Asian Architecture by approaching projects around the region, neatly categorizing them by the Practices of their Architectural Designers. Each project has been painstakingly (though I believe it was enjoyed very much by the authors) described, item by item, space by space, detail by detail, on the attention given to them by their designers, in the interpretation of how Tropical Asian Architecture is perceived.

Points of interests, in my view, would be the understanding by the reader, the reasons for the use of certain details, materials, colours & "volumetric expanses" each project commands due to locality, amongst many other considerations that are not purely design and/or usage-driven.

One can only feel the warmth these buildings offer, whatever their scale might be, perhaps due to the sensitivity each designer has refined each project with, by paying close attention to the tropical weather as well as the "borrowing of the outdoors in" as seen very clearly through the dazzlingly illustrated pages with photos and drawings.

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