The Study of Gingerbread Houses in Thailand
Case Study: Bangkok, Vicinity and Phrae

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ABSTRACT: This research aims to study the architectural patterns of the Gingerbread houses and the decorations of the Gingerbread houses in Thailand. Case Study: Bangkok and Its Vicinities and Phrae Province. The research starts with 1.) the study of the details received from related researches 2.) the study of the concepts received from related documents 3.) the creation of the questionnaire 4.) the survey of the actual locations 5.) the interviews with the officials, the houses’ owners and the house attendants 6.) the syntheses and the analyses of the data 7.) the conclusion and the discussion. The Gingerbread houses to be studies this time include:

1. Vimanmek Mansion, Bangkok
2. Abhisek Dusit Throne Hall, Bangkok
3. Gingerbread Monks’ Cells in Suan Plu Temple, Bangkok
4. Golden Teak Museum, Thewarat Kunchorn Worawiharn Temple, Bangkok
5. Diamond Palace, Boorn Niwet Wihan Temple, Bangkok
6. Ban Ekanak Museum, Bangkok
7. Ruean Phra Thanesuan, Sanam Chan Palace, Nakhon Pathom Province
8. Baan Wong Buri, Phrae Province
9. Khum Chao Luang, Phrae Province.

The research result shows that ginger-bread-house architecture in Thailand is mostly designed by wood-twisted pattern. The pattern is soft, pleasant and tiny called “Ginger-Bread Pattern”. This pattern is used for decorating houses for both one-storey and two-storey buildings. Brick-and-mortar buildings are one-storey and row-house buildings made of wood. In Bangkok, the most splendid ginger-bread-house building is Vimanmek Mansion in Dusit Palace. The mansion is a single building decorated by fretwork, it is a large 1-2-storey house. It has a brick-and-mortar base with air passage beneath the floor. Some parts of the house were built without platform. The house is with and without balcony, and it has a hip or gable roof. The roof is a corner-cut gable or covered with Wow tilt. Some parts of the roof may be asbestos tilt, and other parts of the roof are Western-style domes. Its doors have two patterns, including double doors opening out and folding door known as roller shutter decorated with embossed panel or wooden louvers or both. Window pattern is similar to that of the door with double shutters opening out. The shutter is divided into 2-3
parts mixed between panel and wooden louver. In addition, some windows must be knocked out and locked by hook bolts.

Key Words: Architecture, Gingerbread House, Bangkok and Its Vicinities and Phrae Province

Introduction
Nowadays gingerbread houses in Thailand are found in various locations in Bangkok, Nakhon Pathom, Phrae, Lampang and Chanthaburi. There is a small number of researchers studying about this topic, and there is researcher studying about gingerbread houses in Chanthaburi. However, there is no researcher studying about gingerbread houses in Bangkok, Vicinity and Phrae.

For characteristics of gingerbread houses found in Thailand, nobody has truly studied about them yet. By this reason, the researcher is interested in studying gingerbread houses seriously to learn about patterns and characteristics of gingerbread houses in Thailand (Bangkok, Vicinity and Phrae Province) in order to enable youths and future generation to truly understand the patterns and the characteristics of gingerbread houses, aiming to benefit the study of actual architecture of gingerbread house construction, as gingerbread houses are beautiful and neat, and they are a good example of houses for people who see them decorated extravagantly and splendidly with fins and colorful fretwork. The objectives of this research are to study the architecture of gingerbread houses in Thailand (Bangkok, Vicinity and Phrae Province) and to study the decoration of gingerbread houses in Thailand (Bangkok, Vicinity and Phrae Province).

Literature Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gingerbread House</th>
<th>Compositions</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Place Name</td>
<td>Vimanmek Mansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Location</td>
<td>In Dusit Palace (Previously Referred to As Suan Dusit Palace)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Territory</td>
<td>60 Meters in Length and 20 Meters in Height, 3-storey Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Position</td>
<td>16 Ratchawithi Road, Dusit Sub-district, Bangkok 10300</td>
</tr>
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Picture 1: Map of Vimanmek Mansion Museum
Vimanmek Mansion was built with the world’s largest golden teak, and it is the first throne hall in Dusit Palace. King Chulalongkorn had it built in Dusit Palace. (During his reign, Dusit Palace was called Suan Dusit Palace.)

5. Route
Located behind the Ananta Samakham Throne Hall in Dusit Palace

6. Importance of Gingerbread House
Vimanmek Mansion was built with the world’s largest golden teak. It was the first permanent throne hall in Dusit Palace. His Majesty King Chulalongkorn had it built in Dusit Palace.

7. Uniqueness of Gingerbread House
It is a Victorian style building influenced by European and Thai-contemporary architecture. The throne hall has an L shape with 60 meters in length and 20 meters in height, and it is a 3-storey building, except for the throne section, it is octagon with four-storey construction. The ground floor is brick-and-mortar. The next floor was built with golden teak painted in light beige, and the roof with Thai-contemporary style was painted in red. Windows and air passages were perforated called gingerbread. Vimanmek Mansion has five rooms with five colors, including light blue, green, pink, ivory and coral.

8. Age/Era
His Majesty King Chulalongkorn

9. Land Type
Private Museum of His Majesty King Chulalongkorn

10. Caregiver or Owner
It is a museum in the care of Bureau of the Royal Household. It also includes group of palaces of royal families.

11. Architectural Characteristic and Pattern
It is a Victorian style building influenced by European and Thai-contemporary architecture.

12. Present Condition
Perfect

13. Present Use
The museum is under the care of the Bureau of the Royal Household

14. Data Source
Vimanmek Mansion Museum

1. Place Name
Gingerbread Monks’ Cells in Suan Plu Temple

2. Location
58 Charoen Krung 42/1 Alley, Charoen Krung Road, Bang Rak Sub-district, Bangkok
Picture 3: Map of Gingerbread Monk’s Cell, Suan Plu Temple

Picture 4: Suan Plu Temple is located at No. 58 Charoen Krung Alley (Shangri-la Hotel Alley) 42/1 Charoen Krung Road, Bang Rak Sub-district, Bang Rak District, Bangkok. The temple is currently in the care of Phra Ratchawatcharamoli (Sorat Maha Sorajjo) or “Phra Maha Sorat”, Deputy Monk Dean of the Regional Administration of the Sangha, Region 10, the abbot. The temple is not very large, and the outside of the ubosot was built with stucco with glass. The roof timbers of the monk’s cell were decorated with gods and goddesses.

3. Route

From Taksin Pier or from Taksin BTS Station, turn left behind Shangri-La Hotel. Walk to the end and go straight for about 50 meters. Suan Plu Temple is on the left, or from Charoen Krung Road, the temple is at the entrance of Charoen Krung 42/1 Alley opposite Lerdsin Hospital. The name of the temple can be clearly noticed. Call 02-234-4471 for more details.

4. Importance of Gingerbread House

One of the outstanding characteristics of Suan Plu Temple is that the temple is a 2-storey monk’s cell painted in yellow, beige and dark brown. The monk’s cell is not very large, so monk’s section and layperson’s section are not clearly separated.

5. Uniqueness of Gingerbread House

It is a gingerbread 2-storey house with chopped wood and sewn tucks, and eaves are decorated with sun-proof fretwork. Above the entrance on the upper floor are bar handrails, and sun-proof panels are among corridor pillars. In addition, the monk’s cell at Suan Plu Temple was awarded for preserving architectural heritage in Thailand by the Association of
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<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Place Name</td>
<td>Abhisek Dusit Throne Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>In Dusit Palace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Territory</td>
<td>In Dusit Palace</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Dusit District, Bangkok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Route</td>
<td>Dusit, Bangkok</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Importance of Gingerbread House</td>
<td>It is one of the first throne halls built in Dusit Palace. It is a single storey throne hall mostly decorated with fretwork called “Floral Pattern” and colored glass. In addition, it has pediment stucco with Moore’s art. The throne hall is very splendid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Uniqueness of Gingerbread House</td>
<td>The wooden pattern is called “Floral Pattern” decorated with colored glass, and pediment stucco is Moore’s art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Age/Era</td>
<td>Built in 1903 and Completed in 1904</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Land Type</td>
<td>Dusit Throne Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Caregiver or Owner</td>
<td>Folk Arts and Crafts Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Architectural Characteristic and Pattern</td>
<td>The building structure is E shape with three extending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Siamese Architects in 2002.

Built in 1927, 80 Years Old

Suan Plu Temple (Public) Monastery Land

Suan Plu Temple – Phra Ratcha Vachira Moli

Some walls are damaged, and they are repainted. Some materials are replaced.

Perfect

Monk’s Cell

Picture 5: Abhisek Dusit Throne Hall

Picture 6: Abhisek Dusit Throne Hall is one of the throne halls in Dusit Palace, Built in 1903 and completed in 1904. It was built after Vimanmek Mansion for approximately two years and celebrated on April 16, 1904.
Characteristic and Pattern

balconies, and each balcony is unique with curved arch decorated by fretwork. The patterns include beautiful Moore’s art and Nouveau art. This architecture is called “Gingerbread”, and the building is also decorated with colored glass.

12. Present Condition
Perfect

13. Present Use
Folk Arts and Crafts Museum

14. Data Source
Abhisek Dusit Throne Hall

1. Place Name
Golden Teak Museum

2. Location
90 Sri Ayutthaya Road, Vachira Phayaban Sub-district, Dusit District, Bangkok

3. Territory
The space of the 2-storey building is 505 square meters on each floor, totaling 1,010 square meters.

4. Position
Si Sao Thewet Intersection

5. Importance of Gingerbread House
This building was constructed to be a museum for displaying golden teak history and the learning source of Buddhism

6. Land Type
Built on the Land of Thewarat Kunchorn Temple

7. Caregiver or Owner
Golden Teak Museum Foundation

8. History of Gingerbread House
The house was formerly built with golden teak, and it is located in Phrae Province named “Ban Kao”. In 1987, Prof. Dr. Ukrit Mongkolnavin bought it and rebuilt it in Rangsit Khlong 2, Pathum Thani Province. In 2006, the professor offered the golden teak house to Thewarat Kunchorn Temple.
The museum has been opened for the public since April 6, 2009.

1. Place Name: **Diamond Palace**
2. Location: Bovorn Niwat Wihan Temple
3. Territory: Single Storey Palace
4. Position: Bang Lamphu

This palace is used as a meeting venue of Sangha Supreme Council and as a meeting venue of Dhammayut Dispute Settlement Committee, settling the dispute between Maha Nikaya and Dhammayut Nikaya. In addition, Diamond Palace was awarded for outstanding arts and architecture preservation by Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage in 1996.

5. Importance of Gingerbread House: King Mongkutklao had it built to be a throne hall for Somdet Phra Maha Samana Chao Krom Phraya Vachirayan Varorot in 1914.
6. Land Type: Built on the Land of Bovorn Niwat Wihan Temple
7. Caregiver or Owner: Bovorn Niwat Wihan Temple
8. History of Gingerbread House: It was formerly the location of printing house, having it built by King Rama 4 when the king owned this temple as a place for printing prayer books and other books of Buddhism in replacement of ancient palm leaf manuscripts by using Ariyaka alphabet newly invented by His Majesty.

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**Ban Ekanak**

1. Place Name: **Ban Ekanak**
2. Location: Ban Somdet Chao Phraya Rajabhat University
3. Territory and Position
Ban Somdet Chao Phraya Rajabhat University 1061
Itsaraphap 15 Alley, Itsaraphap 15 Road, Hirun Ruji Sub-district, Thonburi District, Bangkok

Picture 11: Ban Ekanak

4. Route
Take Bus Nos. 40, 149, 57, 56. For private car, take Itsaraphap Road to Itsaraphap 15 Alley. Ban Ekanak is located in Ban Somdet Chao Phraya Rajabhat University, behind Building 28, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

5. Importance of Gingerbread House
Ban Ekanat is a Thai and European style building, or it is called “Panya Style House”. It is built during the reign of His Majesty King Mongkut by Phraya Prasong Sanpakan, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Royal Thai Police Bureau at the time. He was a high-ranking official. It is a 2-storey house with splendid architecture and applied patterns, carved wood air passages on the corridor surrounding the gingerbread house.

6. Importance of Gingerbread House
The uniqueness of the house is that the building was decorated with patterned tiles and cement. Its ceiling edge is open and extended being similar to that of Vimanmek Mansion, which was very popular during the reigns of King Rama 5- early King Rama 7. Apart from its beauty, the house has shown the designer’s talent, as it has air passages...
Due to hot weather in Thailand, so it is not good to build opaque house. Thus, this house was designed for wind blow from all sides. All windows and doors in the house are folding windows and doors, and corridor walls can be opened to allow wind to get into the building.

7. Age/Era  
Built in 1919 during the Reign of His Majesty King Mongkut

8. Land Type  
Government Place, Ban Somdet Chao Phraya Rajabhat University

9. Caregiver or Owner  
In the Care of Contemporary Art and Culture

10. Architectural Characteristic and Pattern  
It is a Panya style 2-storey house, half wood, half brick. The roof is made of wood and Wow tiles, and the left of the building has extending air passages being similar to those of Vimanmek Mansion, which was popular at the time.

11. Present Condition  
The house was renovated by elevating its ground floor for 1.70 meters, the former height. The renovation included repair of patterns and carving around the house, including damaged tiles.

12. Present Use  
Nowadays the house is used as Krung Thonburi Center, a source of cultural knowledge of Krung Thonburi. The information can be used for study and research in order to build cultural knowledge and local intellectual property. The center is also used as a museum to display Thonburi people’s way of life.

13. Data Source  
Miss Worachaya Jinorot, Educator of Office of Contemporary Art and Culture, Ban Somdet Chao Phraya Rajabhat University

1. Place Name  
**Ban Wongburi, Phrae Province**

2. Location  
50 Kham Lue Road, Nai Wiang Sub-district, Mueang District, Phrae Province 54000

3. Position  

![Map of Ban Wongburi](image-url)
Ban Wongburi was built in 1907 by Chao Prom (Luang Prom Piboon) and Chao Sunanta Wongburi, a daughter of Chao Buri (Phraya Burirat). The craftsman building this house came from Guangdong, China, working with local carpenters. This two-storey house was built with teak in European contemporary style.

4. Importance of Gingerbread House

Residence of Wongburi Family

5. Uniqueness of Gingerbread House

The building was built with Thai and European architecture decorated by gingerbread fretwork. Decorations include utensils, silverware, Buddha images, ancient utensils, ancient documents - slave dealing documents, elephant and horse sculptures, wood concession documents, etc. Ban Wongburi was awarded for preservation in 1993 by the Association of Siamese Architects under the Royal Patronage. The house has been used for filming several dramas and published in magazines. In addition, Ban Wongburi has organized promotion activities of Khan Tok for Thai and foreign tourists by making reservation in advance.

6. Age/Era

119 Years, During the Reign of His Majesty King Chulalongkorn, Built in 1890 and Completed in 1900. The construction took three years.

7. Land Type

It is a private land owned by Mr. Sahayot Wongburi

8. Caregiver and Owner

Generation 5 of Wongburi Family, Mr. Sahayot Wongburi

9. Art and Architectural Characteristic and Pattern

The house is Thai-cum-European style decorated with fretwork called “Gingerbread”.

10. Present Condition

Perfect

11. Present Use

Museum (Private) Accommodation of Heir and Reception Venue for Khan Tok Dinner

1. Place Name

Mueang Phrae Museum, Khum Chao Luang

2. Location

Khum Doem Road, Nai Wiang Sub-district, Mueang Phrae District, Phrae Province
3. Territory and Position

Connected to Suan Luang Rama 9 (Chalerm Phra Kiat Health Park) and Public Library, Opposite Nareerat School, Phrae Province

Picture 15: Mueang Phrae Museum, Khum Chao Luang

4. Route

Government Land

5. Importance of Gingerbread House

It is a historical building with Thai-cum-European style, and its roof is covered with wood called “Pan Klet”, carved beautifully.

6. Uniqueness of Gingerbread House

Built during the Reign of His Majesty King Chulalongkorn, 123 Years, Built around 1892

7. Land Type

Royal Land by Having Two Potions of Land

Land A: Approximately 3 Rai 38 Square Wa

Land B: Approximately 1 Ngan 62 Square Wa

8. Caregiver or Owner

It is in the acre of the Provincial Administration Organization of Phrae Province, and it was registered under the Protection of Historic Artifacts Act B.E. 2504 in pursuance of Government Gazette, Book No. 115, Section 380 Dated May 20, 1999.

11. Present Condition

Still Perfect

12. Art and Architectural Characteristic and Pattern

Thai-Cum-European Style
1. Place Name | Ruean Thanesuan  
2. Location | Sanam Chan Palace, Phra Pathom Chedi Sub-district, Mueang Nakhon Pathom District, Nakhon Pathom Province  
3. Position |  

| Image | Map of Ruean Phra Thanesuan  
|---|---  

Ruean Phra Thanesuan was formerly used as a residence of Phraya Burut Rattana Ratchawallop. There is a room showing a gondola and items derived from several places, such as Suan Chit Lada Palace and Bang Pa-In Palace.

4. Territory | Sanam Chan Palace  
5. Importance of Gingerbread House | It was formerly used as accommodation of Chao Phraya Burutrattanawallop for displaying royal activities of His Majesty the King and royal family. There is a room for displaying gondola and items from numerous places.  
6. Land Type | The land belongs to Silpakorn University, Sanam Chan Campus, in an area of 888 Rai 3 Ngan 4 Square Wa  
7. Caregiver or Owner | Bureau of the Royal Household  
8. Present Condition | Perfect  
9. Art and Architectural Characteristic | It is Thai style architecture with Panya style roof and gingerbread fretwork.  

**Literature Review** | None  

**Method**  
Data are collected from documents when research starts, so that they can be used as supporting data for the research. The documents are used for establishing
The researchers have gathered and verified documents, including academic documents, aerial photography books, related historical evidences, etc. After all concepts received from documents have been studied, field trip has been started with an aim to collect data by surveying actual locations (study of field trip data). Prior to collecting field trip data of gingerbread houses, the researchers have studied relationship building method and prepared for readiness. The studies are as follows.

1. Vimanmek Mansion, Bangkok
2. Abhisek Dusit Throne Hall, Bangkok
3. Gingerbread Monks’ Cells in Suan Plu Temple, Bangkok
4. Golden Teak Museum, Thewarat Kunchorn Worawihan Temple, Bangkok
5. Diamond Palace, Bovorn Niwat Wihan Temple, Bangkok
6. Ban Ekanat Museum, Bangkok
7. Ruean Phra Thanesuan, Sanam Chan Palace, Nakhon Pathom Province
8. Khum Chao Mueang Phrae, Phrae Province
9. Khum Chao Luang, Phrae Province.

The period of survey of actual locations is during February 6-13, 2016. Interviews and questionnaires are applied for collecting data, and data received from interviews are synthesized and classified into groups for convenience. In addition, descriptive data are gathered to sum up the characteristics of gingerbread houses.

Results/Discussion/Implication

Gingerbread architecture in Bangkok, vicinity and Phrae Province has several patterns both influenced by western architecture and being popular in Bangkok and other major provinces. The most outstanding gingerbread houses include Vimanmek Mansion and Museum made of the world’s largest golden teak with Victorian style influenced by European and Thai-Contemporary architecture. The throne hall is built in L shape with fretwork roof, windows and air passages called “Gingerbread”. Meanwhile, gingerbread monk’s cell in Suan Plu Temple was awarded for outstanding preservation by the Association of Siamese Architects in 2002. The monk’s cell is outstandingly decorated with fretwork called “Gingerbread”. The 2-storey building was painted in yellow, beige and dark brown. Its walls were made of wood with sewn tuck. Meanwhile, the eaves were decorated with sun-proof fretwork. At the entrance, there are bar handrails on the upper floor and sun-proof panels between pillars. Golden Teak Museum of Thewarat Kunchorn Temple was built in gingerbread style architecture, and the museum has been opened for the public since April 6, 2009. Diamond Palace is used for the meeting venue of Sangha Supreme Council, and the palace was formerly used for the meeting of Dhammayut Winitchai Board to settle dispute between Maha Nikaya and Dhammayut Nikaya. In addition, Diamond Palace was awarded for outstanding art and architecture preservation by the Association of Siamese Architects in 1996.

Khum Chao Luang Mueang Phrae is a building used for displaying Mueang Phrae history. It has Thai-cum-European architecture, the roof of which was covered with wood called “Pan Klet”. It was perfectly and beautifully carved. It was formerly used as Phrae provincial governor residence. Meanwhile, Ban Wongburi is the residence of Wongburi family. The building was built in Thai-cum-European architecture beautifully decorated with pink gingerbread fretwork. The 2-storey house was built in Panya style with high ceiling. The uniqueness of the building was a carved wood gable, eaves, corridor, air passages, rain drainage, windows and doors.
The house was awarded for outstanding preservation in 1993 by the Association of Siamese Architects. It has been used as a location for several films. In addition, Ban Wongburi has organized promotion activities by arranging Khon Tok dinner for groups of Thai and foreign tourists by making reservation in advance. The Wongburi house is now used as a museum (private) and the residence of heir, and the place is also used for wedding ceremony and Khan Tok style reception. It has been opened as a tourist attraction since 1998.

Ban Ekanat Museum is the learning center for Krung Thonburi, the former capital of Thailand. It is located in Ban Somdet Chao Phraya Rajabhat University.

Ruean Thanesuan in Sanam Chan Palace, Nakhon Pathom Province is used for displaying the royal activities of His Majesty the King and the royal family. There is a room displaying gondola and items from numerous places. It was decorated in gingerbread style, and the handrails, corridors and sun-proof panels as well as air passages under the roof are in Panya style.

“Gingerbread” is a pattern and architecture being contorted and twisted like ginger. It was very popular in Europe during the reign of Queen Victoria 2 of the United Kingdom. The architecture arrived Thailand during the reign of King Rama 5. The gingerbread style was popular for residences, both single storey and 2-storey houses. The houses might be brick-and-mortar single houses and row houses. The most splendid gingerbread architecture is Vimanmek Mansion in Dusit Palace. The gingerbread architecture includes being contorted, twisted, curled and curved or with tiny floral and lace or crochet knitted. However, gingerbread style was formerly known as tulip pattern, being the heart of gingerbread style. Gingerbread style has no exact pattern, depending on work, decoration area, owner’s needs and architect’s design.

Conclusion
Gingerbread style architecture was influenced by patterns in Gothic art, especially cloverleaf, cross, flame, etc. However, gingerbread style derived from Gothic art was developed to several patterns, but the most unique pattern is tulip pattern, both frowning tulip and flipping tulip. In addition, the popular patterns include vine pattern, geometric pattern, mosquito larva pattern and fruit and vegetable patterns.

Roofs of wood houses are simple, including hip roof, gable roof and half hip roof. In addition, there are also mixed roofs - mixed between hip roof and gable roof or half hip roof. Doors and windows of wood houses are brick-and-mortar with double doors opening out and folding doors made of wood panels and wood louvers. However, windows of houses are often long opened by knocking with hook bolts. Long windows are often connected with corridors with bars as partitions to allow wind to blow in. Meanwhile, stairs or cement stairs are built with straight and curve styles of 4-5 steps. Inside the house are also wood stairs. One of the most uniquenesses of wood houses is wood shutter for air ventilation beneath windows.

Based upon the research on Gingerbread Houses in Thailand, Case Study: Bangkok, Vicinity and Phrae Province, the following topics must be studied.
1. The Study of Gingerbread Fretwork, School of Craftsmen in Bangkok, Vicinity and Phrae Province
2. Local Intellectual Property of Gingerbread Houses in Phrae Province
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