



# COUNTRY REPORT 2024

**The Association of Siamese Architects  
under Royal Patronage (ASA)**  
248/1 Soi Soonvijai 4, Rama 9 Rd.,  
Bangkapi, Huaykwang,  
Bangkok 10310 THAILAND

**ARCASIA Forum 22**  
in Colombo, Sri Lanka  
January 13 – 19, 2025



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**COUNTRY REPORT CONTENT:**

**by The Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage (ASA) of THAILAND**

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## 1. BRIEF HISTORY OF INSTITUTE

The Department of Fine Arts granted permission to establish the Association of Siamese Architects (ASA) on 28 August 1934 with the aim to promote and nurture the prosperity and awareness of the profession as well as to provide a forum of knowledge among its members. At its founding, ASA had 33 initial members who drew up rules and regulations as well as appointing an administrative committee to carry out routine works of the Association.

ASA initiated its operation due to the Indo-China Dispute and World War II in 1941 and was revived in 1945. Though the Kingdom's name had changed to "Thailand", ASA retained its original name as a way of preserving a link to the founding principles.

From 1947, ASA concentrated on building an organization that served both the profession and society. Activities addressed the following areas:

- Professional practices
- Professional standards
- Professional ethics
- Code of conduct
- Cooperation among members in pursuing shared goals
- Promoting architectural research
- Professional advocacy

In 1954, ASA was granted His Majesty's permission to be an association under His Royal Patronage and became known as "The Association of Siamese under Royal Patronage" ever since.

In December 1965, the Architectural Profession Act enacted by the Ministry of Interior, which required architecture firms and architects to be licensed before practicing or soliciting business. The Board of Control of Engineering and Architectural Professions passed a resolution to certify ASA as a professional association allowing ASA to play a vital role in the regulation of professional practice in 1973.

In 2000, reflecting the evolution of the design professions in Thailand, the Architect Council of Thailand (ACT) was established under the Architect Act and encompasses four main design disciplines: architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, and urban architecture. ASA is a member of ACT.

Currently, ASA services to members including:

- Ethical oversight
- Publications
- Lectures
- Seminars





**Honorary Registrar**

Mr. Sakarin Khiewsen, Pol.Col.

**Social Events Director**

Mr. Toontam Sukosit

**Public Relations Director**

Ms. Kulthida Songkittipakdee

**Executive Committee**

Mrs. Pongkwan	Lassus	(Heritage Division)
Mr. Thongchad	Chinasi	(Membership Affairs, Professional Practice)
Mr. Rattapong	Angkasith, Asst.Prof., Arch.D.	(Foreign Affairs)
Mrs. Tonkao	Panin, Prof., Ph.D.	(Academic Division)
Mr. Adul	Kaewdee	(Institute of Siamese Architect; ISA)
Mr. Nathathai	Jansen, Asst.Prof.	

**Chairman of Northern Chapter (Lanna)**

Mr.Santaya Kotchasanmanee

**Chairman of Northeastern Chapter (Esan)**

Mr.Pakit Hangwah

**Chairman of Southern Chapter (Taksin)**

Dr. Karn Phiancharoen

**Chairman of Eastern Chapter (Burapha)**

Mr. Pulchai Ruengsilpanan

**Executive Advisor**

Mr. Smith Obayawat

**Office Manager**

Ms. Kasama Vanasilpa



### 3. CURRENT MEMBER STRENGTH

Membership and Annual Subscription status of year 2024.

Total Membership:	13,073
consists of:	
Honorary Member	32
Member from Central	8,460
Member from Northern Chamber	878
Member from Northeastern Chamber	654
Member from Southern Chamber	869
Member from Eastern Chamber	368

The 7 most membered provinces are Bangkok (6335), Nontaburi (976), Chiangmai (548), Pathumthani (449), Songkla (340), Samutprakarn (336), and Cholburi (222).

Type of membership

Honorary Member	Distinguished persons who have been of substantial benefit to ASA and/or the profession and who have been nominated by a unanimous vote of the ASA board of directors.
Regular Member	A person granted a professional license under the Royal Decree governing architects and has not had such license withdrawn. Lifetime 500 Baht/5 Years (≈ \$15/5 Years)
Associate Member	A person with a bachelor's degree or above in architecture, as certified by ACT or ASA, or a person who has received an associate degree, a certificate, or accreditation in architecture, as certified by ACT or ASA, and has worked in the field of architecture for a period as set by ACT. 100 Baht/Year (≈ \$3/Year)
Supporting Member	A student enrolled in an architecture program at an educational institution recognized by ACT or ASA. 100 Baht/Year (≈ \$3/Year)  Any person interested in the field of architecture. 500 Baht/Year (≈ \$15/Year)
Corporate Member	Any registered company providing services in the architectural field, including design and related services, and must have at least one member of senior management who is a regular member of ASA. 4,000 Baht/2 Years (≈ \$120/2 Years)



#### **4. Revenues and Expenditures**

ASA annual revenue derives from the annual architecture exposition. Additional sources of revenue include: membership fee, professional and academic seminars, social events and activities, recreational activities, architectural tours, publications (books, journal, and newsletter) and merchandise.

In 2000, ASA established ASA Fund as a fixed-deposit account to serve as the primary revenue source, to provide financial security, any annual operating surplus goes into the ASA Fund account and cannot be withdrawn. ASA can use only the interest generated.

According to current ASA bylaws, Committee members must propose an annual operating plan with budget for approval at least 60 days prior to the annual general meeting to the Fund Committee, the membership of which consists of past presidents and honorary members. After approval, the Board of Committee presents the plan and budget at the annual general meeting, along with a report of the prior year's performance. The annual operating budget for the fiscal year beginning May 2023 through April 2024 is approximately 84 million baht (2.35 million USD).

#### **5. Number of Chapters**

##### **Headquarters**

ASA headquarter is located in Bangkok where serves as a capital city of Thailand. The primary operational role of the ASA headquarter is to provide services to members and architects in general through general administration (administrative and financial services) and by implementing the various aspects of the Board's annual operational plan: professional, technical, preservation, architecture, international, and recreation. In addition, the ASA provides up-to-date information to members and architects concerning building codes through publications, seminars, and inquiries. The ASA headquarter provides membership information, processes new members, renews memberships, and sells publications and merchandise.

##### **ASA Chapters and Subchapters**

ASA has 4 Chapters which are Northern Chapter (Lanna), Northeastern Chapter (Esan), Southern Chapter (Taksin), and Eastern Chapter (Burapha).

Each of the chapters and subchapters operates as a commission comprised of ASA members who practice architecture in the region. Chapter chairs are elected every two years with terms concurrent with ASA president and each chapter has the same structure as the ASA with a Board. Subchapter chairs are appointed by ASA President and functions under its chapter. The chapters undertake such activities as an annual regional architectural exhibition, professional and technical seminars, architectural research, recreational events, support professionals in the region, coordinate in the implementation of the annual plan, and provide information to the ASA board.



## **6. Annual General Assembly**

The Annual General Assembly was latest held on 2 May 2024 during the ASA Architect'24 Expo to present an annual report on the association's activities, approve an annual operational plan and budget of each fiscal year, approve a proposed revision of the bylaw and resolutions.

## **7. Legal Status of the Institute**

ASA is registered as a private association under the laws of Thailand. After the establishment of the Architect Council of Thailand (ACT), all licensing and registration of architects came under ACT. It is, by law, a regulatory body for the design professions in Thailand and replaces the Board of Control of Engineering and Architectural Professions, which had been made up entirely of government representatives. However, the ACT Board is made up of a majority of architects, elected by ASA and ACT members.

## **8. Legal Status of the Architect in the Country**

The Architect Act B.E. 2543 prohibits any person to practice the controlled architectural profession of all disciplines unless granted license(s) on particular discipline(s). Personal licensing by the council is derived from the Architectural Profession Act B.E. 2508 and classified into four levels as follows:

- 1) Chartered architect
- 2) Professional architect
- 3) Associated architect
- 4) Specially-associated architect

A juristic entity engaging on business related to the controlled architectural practice must register with the council for a corporate license and must be operated under the license of personal architect (s).

Qualifications and requirements for licensing of both persons and juristic entities are stipulated in the Architect Council of Thailand (ACT) ordinances.

## **9. Architects Registration Authority in Thailand**

The Architect Council of Thailand (or "ACT"), founded in 2000, is an independent administrative body that is responsible for practice of profession regulation throughout Thailand. The Council manages the architects register authorization and certify all levels of academic degree along with providing standards, disciplinary action, and guidance for architects practicing in nation.

Furthermore, ACT is the competent authority in the Thailand for the implementation of the Architectural Act on the recognition of professional qualifications of its subsidiary professions. It also holds responsibility for drafting and enacting regulations pertaining to membership, licenses



and qualifications, selection and election of committee members, enforcing standards of practice and policing violations of the professional code of ethics, as well as the general administration of the Council. The Council acts as a conciliator to resolve disputes among members; educating the general public and providing counsel to the government with regards to architecture and architectural technology.

Architect profession in Thailand is governed by the Architect Council of Thailand, (ACT) which comes under the purview of the Ministry of the Interior. ACT is responsible for the issuance of rules and regulations and providing licences for the 4 types of architecture.

Among ACT's other functions are:

1. to promote the education, research and practising of the architectural profession;
2. to promote harmony and conciliation among its members;
3. to promote the welfare of and to honour the members;
4. to control the behaviour and operation of persons practising the controlled architectural professional in compliance with the standards and etiquette of the architectural profession;
5. to support, advise, disseminate and service academic subjects for the people and other organisations in connect with architectural science and technology;
6. to provide consultation or advise for the government relating to architectural and technological problems and policies;
7. to act as a representative of persons practicing the architectural profession in Thailand;and
8. to perform any other activity as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

The architecture profession in Thailand includes architecture; urban design; landscape architecture; and interior architecture.

## **10. International Affiliations**

### **10.1 Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA)**

ASA has been a member of Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA) since 1972 and has been active ever since. ASA has set up representatives to work with the ARCASIA's committee as follows:

- ARCASIA Committee of Architecture Education (ACAE)
- ARCASIA Committee on Professional Practice (ACPP)
- ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility (ACSR)
- ARCASIA Committee on Green and Sustainable Architecture (ACGSA)
- ARCASIA Committee on Young Architects (ACYA)



## 10.2 Union Interantionale des Architectes (UIA)

The International Union of Architects (UIA) is a global organization made up of national architectural associations working together toward a common goal of uniting architects across the world. Founded in 1948, UIA unites national architect associations in more than 100 countries. UIA organizes every three years a World Congress of Architects. The World Congress is held every three years in different countries.

ASA renewed its membership to the Union Interantionale des Architectes (UIA) in April 2002. ASA latest participant was at the UIA International Forum 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in December 2024.

## 10.3 Four-Nations:

ASA has initiated joint collaboration with Malaysian Institute of Architects (Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia, PAM) and Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) to organize Tri-Nations Meeting since 2009. In 2017, the Tri-Nations meeting has been expanded to include Indonesian Institute of Architects (Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia, IAI). The expansion of other countries joining Four-Nations will be done on an ad-hock basis or through invitation by Four-Nation host country. The core countries will always be Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

## 10.4 MoU

ASA is in active a Memoranda of Understanding with the following institutes;

- Aoyama Design Forum (Japan)
- Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers (Laos)
- Japan Institute of Architects (Japan)

The Japan Institute of Architects and ASA have been actively engaged in international exchange. Institutes also discussed the revival of the mutual training system for young architects, which has been continuously implemented. Furthermore, discussion on inclusive design refers to broad-spectrum ideas meant to produce buildings, products, and environments that are inherently accessible to older people, people without disabilities, and people with disabilities.

At the latest JIA Convention 2024 in Beppu Japan, JIA President SATO Naomi awarded ASA President Asae Sukhyanga with the JIA's Honorary Member.

- Vietnam Association of Architects (Vietnam)
- Four-Nation alliances with the Malaysian Institute of Architects (Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia, PAM), the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) and the Indonesian Institute of Architects (Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia, IAI)"

And ASA is in the process of signing with the Taichung Architects Association (TCAA) of Taiwan .



ASA entered into these relationships to exchange information about architectural education, professional practices, and standards and to organize joint activities among organizations and their members.

## 11. Major Programs in 2024

ASA has organized board and committee meetings; lectures and seminars; awards and competitions; exposition; publication, as well as member outreach programs.

### 11.1 ASA ARCHITECT'24 Exposition: Collective Languages

This is the largest; most complex annual event organized by the ASA and is handled by a subcommittee appointed specifically for this purpose. The exposition consists of the Building and Construction Materials Exhibition and Architectural Exhibition and Seminars. Activities during the event included the following:

#### Exhibition:

- Conservation Project under the Royal Initiation of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
- ASA Member
- Thailand Interior Designers' Association: TIDA
- Thai Association of Landscape Architects: TALA
- Thai Urban Designers Association: TUDA
- Delineation of Architectural Masters
- Local Innovation
- Professional Collaboration
- Architecture Competitions
  - ASA Experimental Design 2024
  - ASA Architectural Awards 2024
  - ASA Architectural Conservation Award 2024
  - Thesis of the Year Award 2024
  - BlueScope Design Awards 2024

### 11.2 Wonder of Well-Living City 2025 or WOW Festival 2025

ASA hosted a bi-annual festival, “ASA WOW: Wonder of Well-Being City”, initially launched the first edition in November 2022. The event will be focus on a sustainable urban foresight and planning for 10 years with a collaboration between private and public sectors in all professions, including urban design and planning, real estate development, and design industry. The festival consists of workshop, symposium, exhibition and outdoor activities. Visitor count shown 22% increment during the exhibition which drew more than 88,000 visitor to the venue throughout 5 days. Medias launched across all platforms reached more than 22 million eyeball.



WOW 2025 as the second edition held in Bangkok, Thailand during January 2025 has changed the name slightly to Wonder of Well-Living City 2025 or WOW Festival 2025. It covers the theme of “Healthy City Empowers People” aiming to be the most influential event dedicated for tomorrow cities and urban innovation.

WOW Festival will bring together leaders from government, the private sector, and other stakeholders to showcase solutions that help cities thrive and create greener, safer, and more efficient urban spaces that leave no one behind.

This edition, we will focus on “How-to” through 3 key pillars of activities.

- People Engagement
- Foresight (awards, exhibitions, forum)
- Forming the Future (showcase, business matching)

### 11.3 Competitions/Awards

- **ASA Architectural Design Awards**  
In 1982, ASA Architectural Design Awards was established under the name of “Siam Sathapat” to promote and honor outstanding architectural design. The list of nominees will originate upon the proposal of architects, architectural firms or building’s owners. The criteria of the award will consider overall design concept, degree of functional utilization of the project, integration of architectural design with the engineering structural system, construction materials, and suitability of the building to the particular site and general environment and general aesthetic standard of the project. The projects will be evaluated and the shortlisted projects will be visited to collect additional data before the final judgement is rendered.
- **ASA Architectural Conservation Awards**  
In 1982, ASA Architectural Conservation Awards was initiated to nominate conservation projects and people or organizations involved in conservation. The list of nominees will originate from the committee or from suggestions by ASA members, or upon the proposal of the building’s owners or other people. The committee will undertake the primary survey and gather the relevant information. The conservation project will be evaluated and the final judgment will be rendered. The criteria of the award will consider architectural value, historical value, social value, maintenance, and conservation according to academic guidelines and give equal value to regulations, laws and traditions.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has been extremely kind to grace the occasion by presiding over the award presentation ceremony, thus bestowing great honors to the award recipients as well as other participants and all involved.

### 11.5 Publications



ASA has launched Book Translation Program to promote the translation of foreign-language books in the field of architecture and to increase the accessibility to reading materials. To date, over 20 titles have been published.

ASA has also launched series of manual of architecture practice to be the essential reference and guidance for architects as follow;

- Building Regulation Updates
- Frequently Used Law and Regulations
- Qualifications for Architect Specialist Registration

In addition, ASA has collaborated with Singapore Institute of Architects, Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia and Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia to create a publication to promote knowledge-sharing in the field of architecture.

#### 11.6 Member Outreach Programs

ASA provides architectural information to members and the public through various media;

- ASA Journal is a free, bi-monthly, online publication, available for members and general public.
- ASA Newsletter is a monthly publication distribute to members to keep them informed of ASA activities.
- ASA has had a website ([www.asa.or.th](http://www.asa.or.th)) since 1997 with up-to-date information on various architecture-related subjects, Architect Expo, ASA news and activities, ASA media and publication, seminars, member directory, job opportunities, downloadable forms, manuals, and building codes.
- ASA Line Official Account and ASA Platform provided information about ASA and architectural designs and products for the purpose of promoting ASA to the general public and our members.

#### 11.7 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programs

Over the last few years, the CPD program has been introduced to registered architects, but hasn't been implemented. When the CPD is implemented, all licensed architects will have to successfully obtain annual requirement of 60 credit points in a 5-year period and allowed to have 20 credit points maximum per year.

- Seminars and CPD Programs organized by ASA are as follow;
  - ASA Talks Series
  - ASA Emergency Talks
    - Bangkok Flooding and Resilience
  - ISA Behind the Scene Talks Series: Materials Matter
  - ISA Behind the Scene Talks Series: Iconic Development Projects
  - ASA International Young Architects Talks Series



## 11.8 Green and Sustainable Programs

ASA established a working group call ‘ASA Green Committee’ to take responsibilities for promoting green building design and construction programs like publications, seminar, lectures, and green building award for many years. In 2010, ASA, in cooperation with the Engineering Institute of Thailand under H.M. the King’s Patronage (EIT) have established the Thai Green Building Institute (TGBI) and developed the Thai’s Rating of Energy and Environmental Sustainability for New Construction and Major Renovation (TREES-NC), Core and Shell Building (TREES-CS) and Home (TREES-HOME), the rating system specially designed for green buildings with Thai context.

TGBI also focuses on promoting TREES and green building practices for Thai practitioners. They launch 2-days training and testing program. The participants who pass the exam will become TREES Associate New Construction (TREES NC), TREES Associate Existing Building (TREES EB) and TREES Associate Core and Shell Building (TREES CS). TGBI Seminars and Workshops include;

- ASEAN – US Energy Efficiency Education Workshop
- Training courses on green building for Thai architects and engineers
- LEED for Existing Building and Case Studies
- LEED for Commercial Interior and Case Studies
- Thai Green Building for Sustainable Economy
- Green Building Site Visit



## **12. Key Issues facing the Architects, Architectural Profession, and Institute**

While plenty of architectural firms around the world are deploying digital data with AI in the design process, there should be a long way until AI can generate characteristics like human work. The advancements in technology have effects on architecture in some disciplines. Thus, architects can focus on leveraging AI for generative architecture as a tool to augment practice, replacing mundane tasks. ASA aims to support and inspire architects to coexist with new technology for sustainable development through open forums, contest, and space for creativity and collaborations showcase.

## **13. Resources**

### **Siamese Architects Foundation (SAF)**

Siamese Architects Foundation was established on 3 November 2014. The main objective of the foundation is to assist members with welfare benefit, provide loans or grants of money for training candidates and academic research in the architectural profession, encourage and support activities that enhance the prosperity of the architectural profession, engage or support charity organizations for the public benefit. Current SAF projects include, study scholarship to students from recognized universities and illness benefit.

### **Event Sponsorship**

Institute actively seeks for sponsors who are aligned with ASA event's mission aiming to continuously encourage collaboration and networking among different entities. The showcase opportunities for the events are designed to provide exposure and recognition for participating ASA programs.

## **14. Institute Efforts to Implement ARCASIA**

ASA maintains continuous participation in ARCASIA programs. We have been creating common ground that facilitates continuous growth among architects by providing training programs and development opportunities for local professionals to engage with member countries.



## 15. Plan for the Future

ASA embraces and supports collaborations that shape the future of architectural design and empower professionals to deliver sustainable practices. We have panned out next year plan as follow;

- **Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Initiatives**  
ASA is now working on an urban development that maximizes the amount of residential, business and leisure space within walking distance of public transport around Ramkhamhaeng station in Bangkok.
- **Architec'25**  
The largest construction material tradefair and architecture gathering will be held during 29 Apr - 4 May 2025 at IMPACT Exhibition Center nearby Bangkok. This will be the 37th edition of the series which is the largest, most complex nationally endorsed annual event dedicated to the architecture, design and development industries attracting over 300,000 visitors and brings together professionals visitor from all over the world and 40+ forum speakers to our platform. The event also brings 1,000+ local and international exhibitors to showcase their products and services where over 30% are from overseas. The venue spans over 75,000 sq.m.

ASA is a non-profit organization representing more than 10,000 architects and public interest from all over Thailand and we have been continuing our effort to host the Architect Expo since 1986. For further info please visit our official website: <https://www.asaexpo.org/>

- **ISA Talk Series**  
ASA ISA talk is a part of Career Development Program where content is vital to professional growth where panel with speaker provide current informative knowledge to spark deep discussion and connection.  
ASA plan to launch the continuous series of ISA Talk, for instance, Behind the Scene Talk series which reveals stories behind iconic construction projects.