

Project to Design a 500-Seat Auditorium at Mahamakut Buddhist University, Srithammaram Soekraj Campus

Mahamakut Buddhist University was established under the royal wish of King Chulalongkorn in 1893 to honor King Rama IV. Initially, it was set up within Wat Bowonniwet Vihara. Later, in 1946, it was organized as a Buddhist university called the "Mahamakut Educational Council." In 1997, the "Mahamakut Buddhist University" Act was enacted, making it a state university and a legal entity under the Office of Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education. Subsequently, it was transformed into a state-controlled higher education institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation. Currently, Mahamakut Buddhist University has expanded its educational offerings to the regions with 7 campuses and 3 colleges.

The Srithammaram Soekraj Campus of Mahamakut Buddhist University was established to conduct teaching and learning in 1992. Initially, it used the premises of Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan in Nakhon Si Thammarat for its educational activities. In 2011, the campus relocated to Wat Pa Huay Phra in Napru Subdistrict, Phra Phrom District, Nakhon Si Thammarat. Currently, construction of additional buildings is underway to accommodate the expansion.

Due to the demand for various buildings within the university, Assistant Professor Thanasan Thepratan and Lecturer Narisa Noitaphim from the Faculty of Architecture and Design at Walailak University were coordinated with to design a 500-seat auditorium within Mahamakut Buddhist University, Srithammaram Soekraj Campus. This auditorium aims to support students who will study and produce graduates with good knowledge and behavior, serving as a knowledge hub and an institution with the potential to provide academic education in accordance with universal Buddhist principles, as well as other activities in line with the university's mission.

The design concept established the main axis of the building in both horizontal and vertical planes, ensuring balance on both the left and right sides of the building to create a sense of stability and formality for viewers. The exterior shape of the building was inspired

by local southern architecture, adapted to create a more contemporary design by using a two-tier gable roof shape. The building also features a front porch to attract the attention of users, along with arched alcoves on both sides of the entrance to give the building an impressive appearance.

In addition to defining the building's shape, the design process involved consulting with project users to understand their needs, leading to the development of drafts that best meet the requirements of those who will use this building.

The knowledge and experiences gained from designing the 500-seat auditorium at Mahamakut Buddhist University, Srithammaram Soekraj Campus, have been shared through an exhibition aimed at disseminating this knowledge to students both inside and outside the university. The objective is to allow these individuals to learn about the steps and processes involved in designing an auditorium, as well as understanding the layout of the auditorium that is suitable for its intended use.