

Abstract of Dissertation

A Study on Place Identity of Urbanized Agriculture-based Settlement

Process of Change and Transformation in Urban Village in Hanoi

都市化された農業集落の場所のアイデンティティに関する研究
ハノイの都市内集落における社会及び空間構造の変化の過程

レ チ キューン

The world is in the midst of the phase of globalization, triggering a whole set of change; social-cultural, economical, and political. Due to these changes at an astonishing speed, new “million cities” are developing and existing urbanism experience immense transformation. Contemporary urban transformation is shaped by economic, cultural, social, and political globalization process that are characterized by the specific connection of a locality with globalization process. Global processes adapt to a locality where as local processes adapt to international ones. International elements, imageries are increasing localized while local elements, imageries are increasing displaced and internationalized. The process of globalization increases the international data transfer between different contexts and, instead of homogenization, leads to a great diversification: local contexts adapt in very different ways to the process of globalization resulting in a great variety of locally- based novelties. As such, globalization has increased our notion of the complex nature, diversity, and multiplicity of the world. When looking at the influences of the globalization processes to a specific context, local realities exposing radically different approaches to globalization can be seen. Thus, globalization has changed our perception of the world; specifically it has increased our awareness of the complexity of the world and thus of our cities. As a result, this increasing awareness demands the reading, understanding, adapting, and strengthening local identity in the context of built environment dynamics.

Urban village refer to traditional agriculture settlement remained inside city, inhabitant change their job to non-agriculture one. Traditionally, village in Vietnam is an agriculture-based economic, faith, and culture community, possessing unique physical fabric, cultural landscape, associating with ritual and daily activities, reflecting folk beliefs, way of living, reassuring sense of the stream of time. Nearly

thousand year of history has witnessed the existence of traditional village as component of Hanoi physical fabric. The urban village today exposes dynamic mixture of indigenous culture and external influence in its morphology. Different components, elements, and styles mix and merge in all segments of village in both social term and physical term.

Since the connection of Hanoi with the global market economy in 1986, the start of economic reform, *Doi Moi* in Vietnamese, and in particular the increased liberalization of the economy in the mid 1990s, urban village has developed as a highly complex environment which is chaotic and organized by non-control. However, at the same time, there are many underlying patterns and rules within the dynamics of the transformation of the morphological form. Based on this observation, the original underlying question of this study has been how does urban village organize itself? How does indigenous practice respond to the external influences, and relate to this, what are the hidden rules within this system and how are they developing? What is urban village identity, and how to strengthen this identity?

The question which has been developed from these original questions, and which is posed in this thesis is how in our global era one can understand of mechanism of transformation of traditional built environment. This study departs from the theory that “complexity science is defined as the interaction among constituent of the system, and that the interaction between system and its environment, are of such nature that the system as a whole cannot fully understood by simply analyzing its component”. The transformation of system can be triggered from within the system (local influences) and from the outside system (global influences).

Up until now, there are several publications on the change of traditional village in Vietnam. Doctoral dissertations, including *Planning strategy for villages in Tokin under industrialization and modernization trend* by Ngo Quoc Huy (2002), and *A study on planning strategy for villages to transform to urban neighborhood* by Pham Hung Cuong (2001), focus on how to integrate traditional structure into modern neighborhood theory. *Village Architecture in Hanoi: Pattern and Changes* by Dinh Quoc Phuong (2008) concerns on identity conservation of a traditional handicraft village in urban fringe. Michel Leaf (2002) in *A Tale of Two Villages Globalization and Peri-Urban Change in China and Vietnam* mostly discuss on current

fundamental economic and social changes, and how it influence on local spatial transformation. All publication studies on village in urban fringe and rural area, mostly base on current condition. This study is first research focus on urban village transformation in Vietnam.

Recent theories examining globalization and the dynamics of form and process is said to be remained abstract and captured within the boundaries of theory itself. The examining/reading of the urban village in Hanoi is presupposed as a potential to contribute to contemporary urban theory, it investigates the relation between form and process with specific attention to the interaction of external influences and indigenous changes. Moreover, urban professionals are searching to understand globalization and the fast changes of traditional settlement. The research presumes it can provide new insight for intervention in the dynamics between process and built environment with sensitivity to local global interactions. The research conserve the identity of the local building culture in Hanoi by studying the physical fabric of urban village developed in different historical periods.

The logic of research is following process of (1) reviewing the complexity theory and place identity theory to form research framework (2) reviewing the context of Pacific Asian region and Vietnam to understand global influence (3) clarifying the physical elements of Vietnam traditional village and its characteristic (4) understanding political, socio-economical, and institutional change in Vietnam to under local specific (5) understanding of Hanoi physical and social transformation (6) elaborating the transformation of case studies in different scales with attention to Form, Activity, and Image (7) Discussion and Conclusion

The original work mostly bases on detailed maps with scale 1:500 in 1940-1960, 1990s, and 2000s. Everyone researching in Vietnam understands the difficulty to get information, especially map because it is considered as military tool. It took nearly one year to go through different institutional documents to get maps officially. The fieldwork existed of observation, deep interview with local elderly and extensive orientation interview (based on questionnaire) with 250 inhabitants.

This thesis has used complexity theory in general and the theory of place identity in particular to understand the transformation of traditional structure. The complexity theory has used as a metaphor to understand the traditional structure as a human

organization that adapts to dynamics under influence of external shocks and local change. Three key aspects of space-based and place-based research of complexity theory is defined including (1) relationship between people and the environment (2) spatial variability (3) multiple and interlocking geographic scales. By reviewing theory on place identity, spatial variability is identified as Form, Image, and Activity of spatial component. By reviewing historical maps and previous researches on Vietnam traditional village, eight key spatial components including Bamboo hedge, Village Gate, Communal Hall, Village Pagoda, Temple, Village House, and Village Market has defined. With regard to multiple and interlocking geographic scales, at least two scales were analyzed, that of the individual elements, and that of the whole system. The thesis moves back and forth between two approaches; including the study of the built environment which is the core study of architecture, design, and urban planning, and the study of the process of change which is the core study of social science. The theory was grounded on Hanoi urban village; the analysis generally follows three main steps:

The first step is to identify the region of the city and the influences of this region on the city to be studied (global influence). Chapter 2 shows that within the Pacific Asian region, despite of different urbanism form due to difference in culture background, political history, and urban development policy, aspects connecting different styles of urbanism include (1) a strong competitive environment for a region that has been at the forefront of integrating into the world economy accompanied by rapid urbanization (2) a hierarchy of cities: core cities trigger the economy and thus urbanization in other cities (3) a combination of existing dense agrarian hinterland with the emergence of mega-cities that leads to a specific morphology of high-rise and dense cities (4) a mixtures of modern and traditional land-use. More specifically, within South-east Asia cities, aspects connecting different forms of urbanism include (1) a rapidly expanding middle-class (2) proliferation of multiple urban centers and (3) a vague urban-rural boundary. Therefore, there are very strong competitive regional demands for a newcomer as Hanoi (connected to the global world late, 1986, and suffered from the American trade embargo till early 1990s) to rapidly develop and provide a good built and non-built environment for international trade and foreign investment which is needed to boost the development of capital of Vietnam. Due to thirty years of disconnection to the global capitalist economy, Hanoi exposes a greater persistence of the local morphological form.

The second step is to identify the change in cultural, socio-economic, political, institutional environment, and the transformation in the city's built environment (locally specific). Chapter 4 shows that economic reform introduced since 1986 has brought radical changes toward privatization and decentralization, and therefore, has strong influence on Hanoi urban morphology. The promulgation of laws and regulations on investment has increased the amounts of foreign capital, mobilized multiple resources which lead to commercial redevelopment, particular in inner city. The introduction of the 1988 and 1993 Land Laws and related regulations has resulted in making land become a commodity in practice. The elimination of housing subsidized system introduced in 1993 has resulted in diversifying housing models. However, inappropriate regulations and conflicting goals, lacking authority lead to uncertainty about official procedures and corruption, and the lack of constructive communication mechanisms between the private and public sectors involved in urban development has resulted in spontaneous development and illegal individual construction activities in settlements in Hanoi.

Chapter 5 shows that (1) the urban form of Hanoi is comprised of five distinguished areas; each area is representative for specific ideology and cultural icon along historic development (2) Hanoi has been the entwinement of rural and urban (3) Urban villages are largely located in two areas, area formed in Soviet era and area developed after Reform Policy. Urban village in each area is pre-supposed to have different transformation process and process of change due to (a) development history (b) conversion of agriculture land to different built form (c) contrast situation in population growth and population density and (d) big gap in land value. Based on this category, two urban villages, Ngoc Ha – Huu Tiep in area formed in Soviet era and the Dich Vong Hau in area developed after Reform Policy, were selected for detail study as representative for each area.

The third step is to identify how the transformation and changes in case studies during a specific critical point in its development are generated: or what was the “external shock” and what was the “indigenous change”. The identification of the transformation of eight spatial place-identity components and the processes of cultural, social, economical, and political change during different crucial points (1940-1960, the 1990s, the 2000s) expose the evolution of the area. Based on the knowledge of evolution and specific character of the city, the transformation of

spatial components and, the processes of societal change in urban village can be adequately understood. Chapters 6 and 7 show the development of the emerging urban village in Hanoi's transition period. This analysis showed different processes: while urban village's morphology in urban core is largely under the influence of fundamental socio-economic change, urban village in urban fringe is under strong influence of external shocks directly.