

## Chapter 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

To understand the scope of previous study works about HTGHs that will help to define the boundary of this research, literature review is conducted, which can be roughly divided into three parts.

The first part gives an overview of the history of Hue including the formation of Hue citadel. A review of fundamental background of HTGHs is also included in this part based on previous study works, such as Thuy, (1999), Thong, (2001), and Tinh, (2005).

The second part provides the basic content of charters adopted by the ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) for conservation of the World Cultural Heritage, the provisions and codes issued by Vietnamese government relating to the conservation of HTGHs. In addition, this part also discusses the correlation between house form and culture based on the theory of Rapoport, (1969).

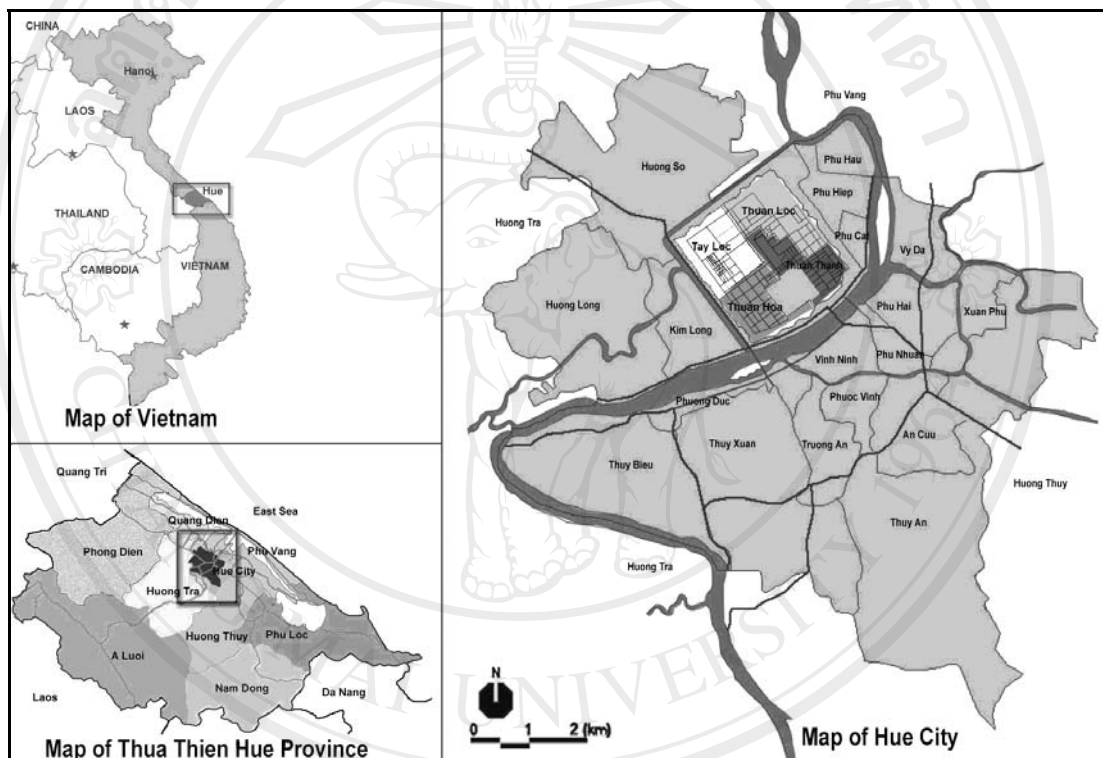
Part 3 is to explore about the research methods of previous study works. For example, the study work of Showa Women University in 2003 concentrates to various aspects of the architecture of Hoi An ancient town in Vietnam such as the history, formation, and transformation of that ancient town. Serial study works of Funo and his collaborations (in 2003, 2004, and 2005) research the typology, formation, and transformation process of Kampung houses in Jakarta.

#### 2.1 History of Hue

From the study works of Tinh (2005), Thong (2001), and Thuy (1999), a fundamental background of Hue and HTGHs are reviewed. At first, this research will start with the brief history of Hue as following section.

### 2.1.1 A Review of Hue History

Thua Thien Hue, a province located in the central Vietnam, is bordered on the north by Quang Tri Province, on the south by Da Nang City, on the west by the Truong Son Mountain Range adjacent to Laos PDR, and on the east by the South China Sea (Fig. 2-1). The province constitutes 5,009sq.m in total area and is 88km in circumference along its borders, with 128km of length coast.



**Figure 2-1:** The location of Hue City

According to archaeological findings in Thua Thien Hue and, specially, to research result of Con Dang archaeological excavations of the Sa Huynh Culture, it has been confirmed that the history in this region data back from 2500 to 2800 years ago. This population of ancient people probably developed into two communities, the Cham and the ethnic minority group living in Truong Son Mountain Range. Archaeological findings such as collected relics of the Stone Age also prove that the history of Hue may date back even further.

In 179 B. C., Hue was a region belonging to Nhat Nam district of the northern dynasty. Then, the region was named “O-Ri” in the period of Cham Pa Kingdom (860-1693). However, the name was changed again to “Thuan-Hoa” in the period of Tran Dynasty (1225-1400), after the wedding between Huyen Tran princess and the King of Cham Pa in 1306<sup>1</sup>.

In 1558, Nguyen Hoang decided to escape from the control of Trinh Kiem, who held power of Le dynasty, therefore he went to occupy the land of Thuan Hoa and Quang Nam. After he could control the area, he built palace and strengthened his force for opposing the power from the North. From that time until 1777, Vietnam was divided into two parts; the northern part belonged to Trinh clan and the southern part belonged to Nguyen clan.

During Tay Son period (1777-1802), Vietnam was in the stage of civil war among four powers; Le royals, Nguyen lords, Trinh lords, who occupied the power of Le dynasty, and Tay Son, the movement that rose up in arms at Tay Son region<sup>2</sup> (against the oppressive rules of feudal system). In 1788, the head of Tay Son movement, Nguyen Hue, won the civil war and became the King of Vietnam. However, in 1802, Nguyen Anh, the remaining descendant of Nguyen clan defeated Tay Son power. He then unified the country and found the capital in Hue, where he came to the power as the first King of Nguyen Dynasty.

In the period of Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1945), Hue was the prosperous capital of Vietnam. The citadel was constructed by the coordination of good city planning and auspicious belief derived from Nguyen Anh, French consultants, and a mandarin named Le Van Hoc, who studied architecture in France (Hai, 2002). However, (An, 2002) described in his book that the citadel was constructed by Nguyen Anh and his high-ranking mandarins, such as Nguyen Van Yen, Do Phuc Thanh, Nguyen Hoc, Nguyen Thong, and Truong Viet Suy.

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<sup>1</sup> The name “Hue” was a corruption of the native word “Hoa” in “Thuan Hoa”.

<sup>2</sup>This region is Binh Dinh province at present.

In 1945, Nguyen dynasty was collapsed and the Capital was moved to Hanoi in North Vietnam. After the war period (1945-1975), Hue has been the main city of Thua Thien Hue province of the unified Vietnam. In 1993, Hue city was registered to be the World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO and it is growing as one of the main tourist destination in Vietnam.

### 2.1.2 Formation of Hue Citadel

After the land is chosen for the citadel, the residents of eight villages located in this land had to moved to other places and they were compensated by Nguyen Court for the emigration such as land and money<sup>3</sup>. The construction of the citadel was started by Gia Long King (1805-1820) and continued by Minh Mang King (1820-1841). The citadel consists of three walled enclosures with more than one hundred of royal buildings. The first wall, known as the citadel of Hue (*Phong Thanh*), is about 10,000m in circumference and solidly built for the protection of all court activities. Imperial City (*Hoang Thanh*), the second wall, about 2,400m in circumference, is dotted with office buildings where the monarchs and high-ranking mandarins came for daily works. Forbidden Purple City (*Tu Cam Thanh*), the third wall, about 1,200m in circumference, is private quarters of the Emperor and his family. The citadel at present includes the areas of Phu Xuan 1 (1687-1712), Phu Xuan 2 (1738-1775), and overcomes both Kim Long and Bach Yen Rivers-turn them into the ponds and Ngu Ha River within the citadel area.

The formation of Hue citadel was constructed based on Feng Shui principle, Vauban model, and the repetition of use of former palace site<sup>4</sup>.

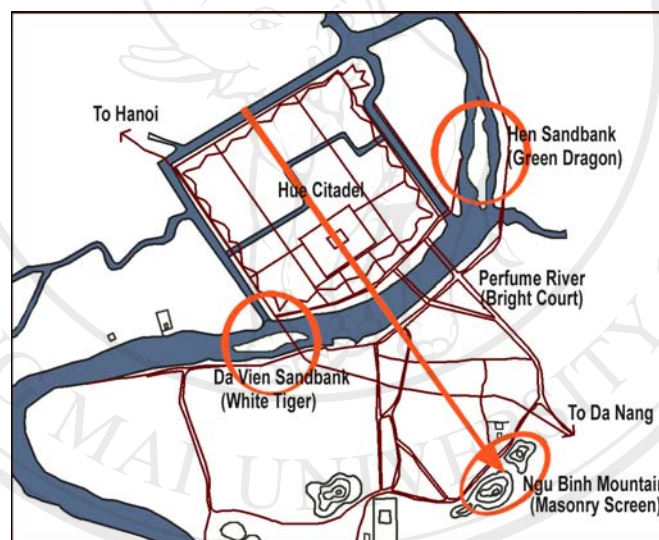
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<sup>3</sup> The citadel is the land of eight villages: Phu Xuan, Van Xuan, Dien Phat, An Van, An Hoa, An Y, An Bao, and The Lai.

<sup>4</sup> Vauban is the name of a French engineer (1633-1707), owing to his expertise in military architecture, he was appointed to become Marshal and member of the French Academy in 1699. Under Emperor Louis XIV period, Mr. Vauban was in charge of constructing hundreds of strongholds and fortresses to defend his country. He was the person, who created the military construction type called "fortified city" or "inalienable city".

## Feng Shui Principle

The location of the citadel is known as the best location for setting up the royal architecture in the citadel because it contains auspicious geographical features such as river, mountain, plain, and other metaphorical characteristics representing fertile, verdant, and luxuriant attributes. According to Feng Shui principle, *Huong* River (representing Bright Court) and *Ngu Binh* Mountain (representing Peacock) are the masonry screen of the citadel. The river passing in front of the citadel brings a good fortune for the Nguyen dynasty since water means wealth and power of the Kings and their descendants, while *Hen* and *Da Vien* sandbanks represent Green Dragon and White Tiger, two guardians for the citadel (Fig. 2-2)<sup>5</sup>.



**Figure 2-2:** The symbols of Feng Shui of Hue citadel

## Vauban Model

With the country that had just been unified, Nguyen Anh wanted to construct his citadel strong, solid, and protective in order to show his political and military power. Moreover, the citadel must be the defensive stronghold for protecting from enemies. Therefore, Vauban style, the typical defense rampart in the West at that

<sup>5</sup> According to Feng Shui principle, the four symbols used for choosing position of architectural work are Left Green Dragon, Right White Tiger, Front Peacock, and Behind Black Tortoise. However, the site of Hue Citadel was also chosen according to natural geographical elements, hence, the symbol of Black Tortoise is omitted in this case.

period, was chosen as a model for constructing the citadel (Fig.2-3). The citadel has 10 gates and are surrounded by the system of moats called “*Ho Giam Thanh*” totaling 7km in length connecting with the *Huong River*.



**Figure 2- 3:** Front gate of the citadel

### **Repetition of use of former palace sites**

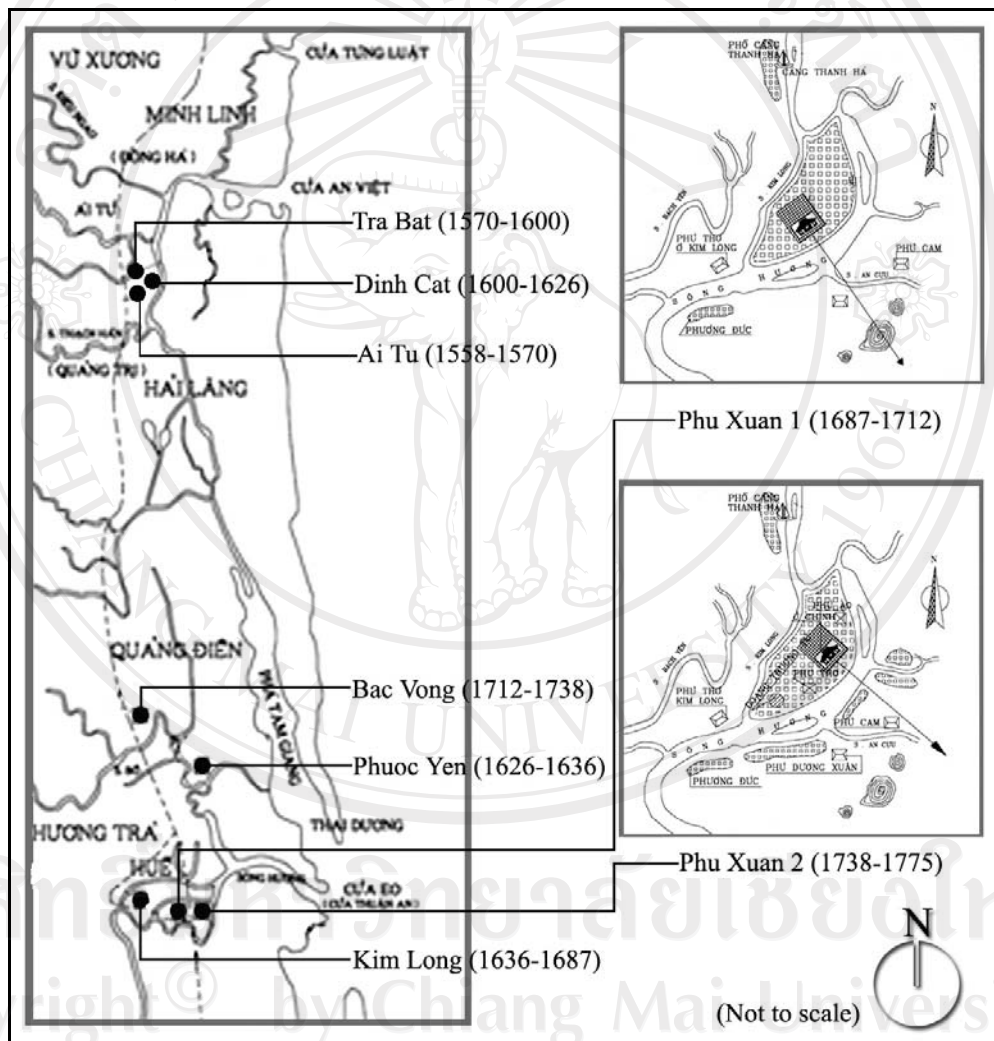
Vietnamese people always have the traditional inheritability. Experiences of ancestor are followed and developed by the descendants in various areas such as mode of life, society, etc. For constructing building, folklore says that “*Lay vo hien hoa, xay nha huong Nam*” (A house naturally should face to the south just as a man should marry a woman). The South is always the best orientation that building should face. However, the Southeast can be as the South according to Feng Shui principle.

For this case, Hue Citadel faces to the Southeast and it is the land that was chosen by Nguyen lords, ancestors of Nguyen Anh. During the period of Nguyen Lords (1558-1775), there are nine generations of Nguyen Lords and eight times that Nguyen Lords moved the palaces<sup>6</sup>. The locations of eight palaces are Ai Tu (1558-

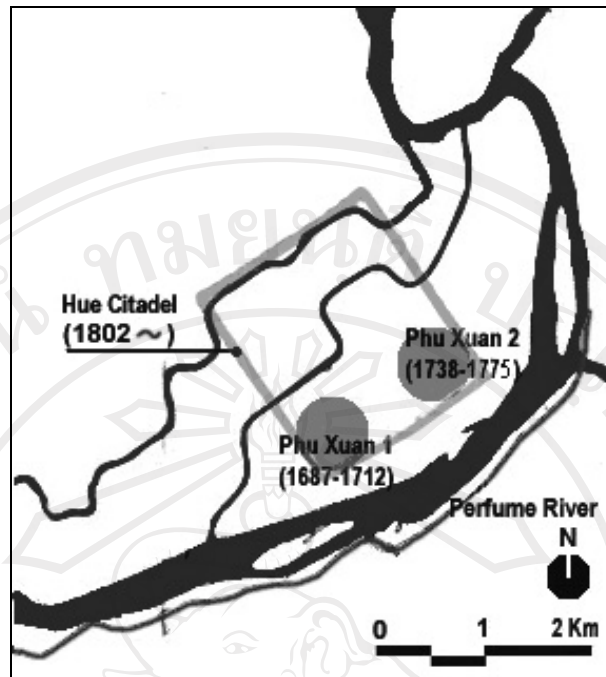
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<sup>6</sup> Nine generations of Nguyen Lords include Nguyen Hoang (1558-1613), Nguyen Phuc Nguyen (1613-1635), Nguyen Phuc Lan (1635-1648), Nguyen Phuc Tan (1648-1687), Nguyen Phuc Thai (1687-1691), Nguyen Phuc Chu (1691-1725), Nguyen Phuc Chú (1725-1738), Nguyen Phuc Khoat (1738-1765), and Nguyen Phuc Thuan (1765-1777).

1570), Tra Bat (1570-1600), Dinh Cat (1600-1626), Phuoc Yen (1626-1636), Kim Long (1636-1687), Phu Xuan (1687-1712), Bac Vong (1712-1738), and Phu Xuan again (1738-1775) (Fig. 2-4). Hence, Phu Xuan is chosen two times for the palace of Nguyen Lords. This expresses that Nguyen Lords believed that Hue land is the sacred place for founding of Nguyen Dynasty. It is the crucial reason that conducted Nguyen Anh to choose Hue for his Citadel afterward (Fig. 2-5).



**Figure 2- 4:** Location of the eight palaces of Nguyen Lords (1558-1777)



**Figure 2-5:** Location of palaces in Phu Xuan periods and Hue Citadel

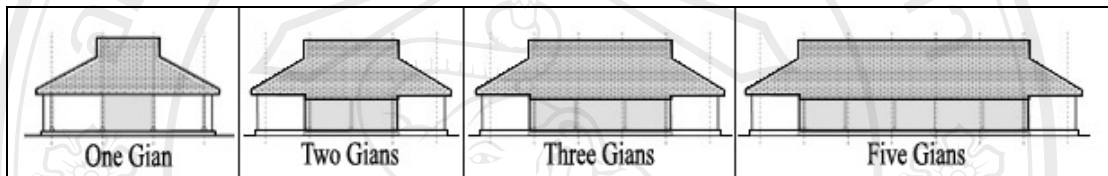
### 2.1.3 Hue Traditional Garden Houses

Whereas Nguyen Kings lived in the citadel, the royal families and high-ranking mandarins lived in HTGHs around the house (Citadel) of their King. HTGHs are formed by the combination between *Nha Chinh* (*Ruong* house in general), *Nha Phu* (Out house), garden, and other elements such as *Binh Phong* (Masonry screen) and *Be Can* (Dried basin).

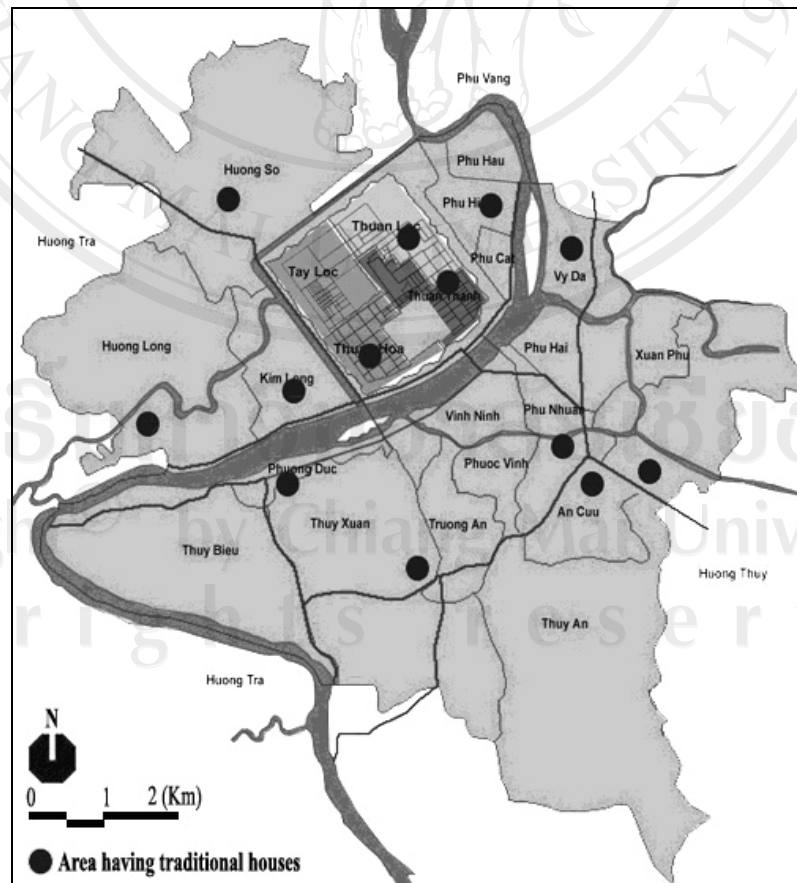
Until now, there are a few study works focusing on HTGHs. Most of researches concentrate on study about royal architectures such as royal tombs and royal palace buildings in the citadel. One of the notable work, entitled “*Nghien Cuu Va Xay Dung Ban Do Phan Bo Nha Truyen Thong Hue*” (A Study on Condition and Distribution of Hue Traditional House) is written by Tinh (2005). The work is based on field survey for collecting and clarifying vernacular houses in Hue and the southern part of Quang Tri province, however, it superficially describes about physical characteristics and spatial organization of *Ruong* houses and *Roi* houses. Tinh (2005) classifies these houses into four types according to the structure and the number of *gians* (chambers). They are one *gian*, two *gians*, three *gians*, and five



*gians*, which are clearly observed on the façade (Fig.2-6). As the claim of Tinh (2005), the number of *gians* in *Ruong* house follows the social status of the original owners, the higher the social status, the more number of *gians*. The outcome of this study is a rough distribution map of existing traditional houses in Thua Thien Hue province (Fig. 2-7). The figure shows the distribution of traditional house in Hue city. The study concludes that the traditional houses concentrate in the north bank of *Huong* River. In the citadel area, those houses concentrate mainly in three precincts Thuan Thanh, Thuan Hoa, and Thuan Loc.

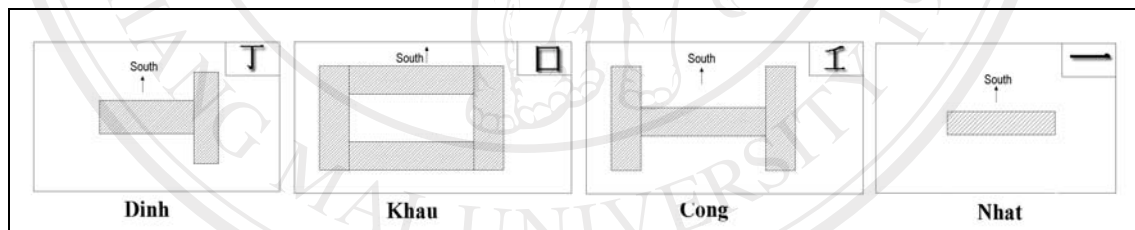


**Figure 2-6:** Classification of *Ruong* house and *Roi* house based on the structure and the number of *Gians*



**Figure 2-7:** Distribution of traditional houses in Hue city (After Tinh, 2005)

A research by Thong (2001), named “Nghien Cuu Va Bao Ton Hop Ly Nha Vuon Truyen Thong Hue” (A Study on Hue Traditional Garden Houses for Possible Conservation), studied gardens in Hue, while the object of study is Garden Houses. He discusses the spatial arrangement of HGHs as well as the classification and the distribution of their planting system. In the research, the arrangement between the *Nha Chinh* and *Nha Phu* is organized following Chinese letters such as Dinh (⊞), Cong (⊗), Nhat (!) and Khau (⊔) (Fig. 2-8). These arrangements will be approaches for exploring the arrangement of *Nha Chinh* and *Nha Phu* of HTGHs in this thesis. The author concluded his research by pointing out the causes that exacerbate the condition of HGHs and suggesting preliminary approaches for conservation of Hue Garden Houses. Although the work does not focus on formation and transformation process of HTGHs, it helps to understand the arrangement of gardens, *Nha Chinh*, and *Nha Phu*.

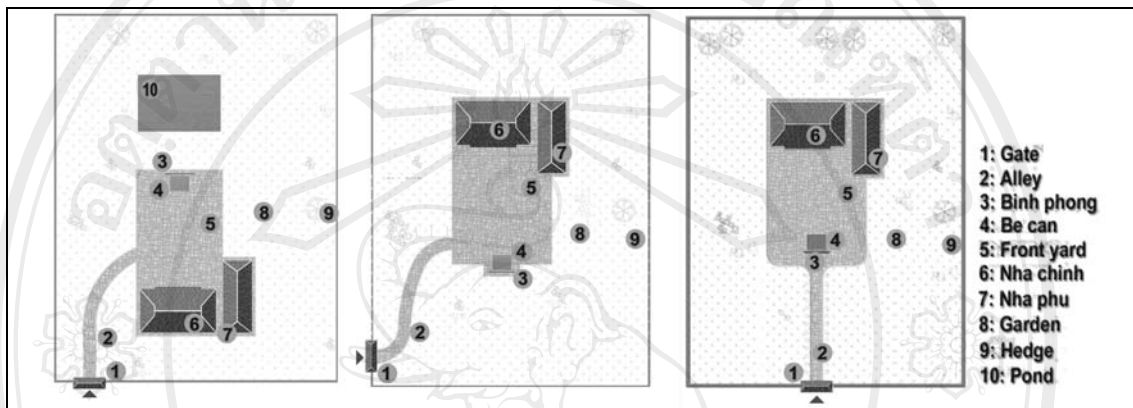


**Figure 2-8:** *Nha Chinh* and *Nha Phu* are arranged following Chinese letters.

The master thesis of Thuy (1999), named “Tam Thuc Nguoi Viet Va Nha Vuon Xu Hue” (Representation of Vietnamese People’s Belief in Hue Garden House), illustrates general concept of vernacular houses in Vietnam including Hue Garden Houses. Her thesis does not only show the relationship between belief and lifestyle of Hue people and spatial arrangement of the houses, but also illustrates four examples of Garden Houses in Hue. The research, finally, concludes the study by raising three typical types of Hue Garden Houses (Fig. 2-9)<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> Not only Traditional Garden Houses, but also the modern one is included in this study.

To sum up, the above mentioned study works provided the basic information of HTGHs in various aspects. The purpose of this research is to fill up the unclear knowledge about architectural characteristics, the formation and transformation process of HTGHs, which will contribute to the practical guidelines for conservation and contemporary use of HTGHs.



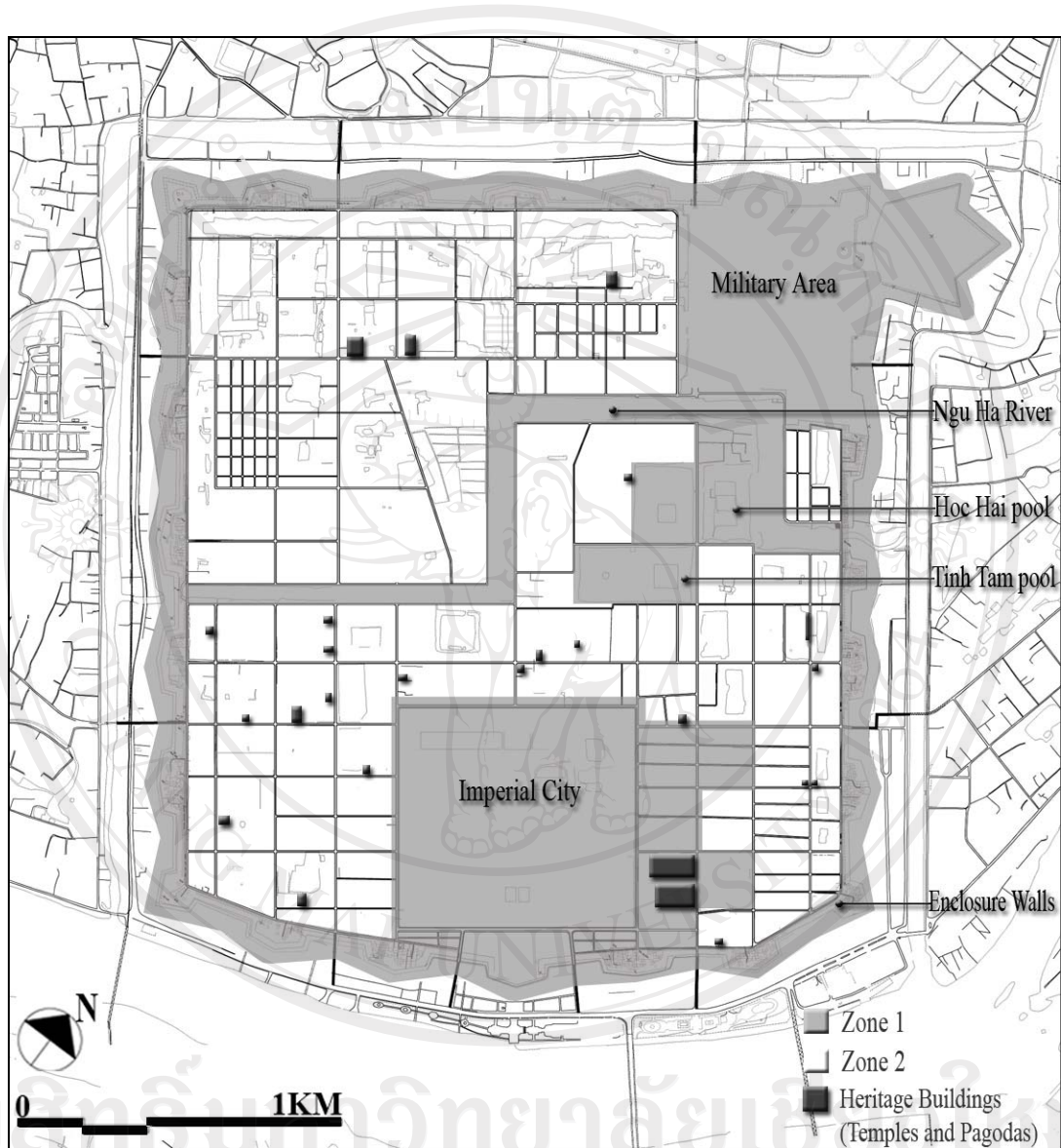
**Figure 2-9:** Three typical types of Hue Garden Houses (After Thuy, 1999)

## 2.2 The Legal Documents for Conservation and Protection of Hue Heritage

The protection of historic monuments in Vietnam is governed by the Law on “The Protection and Use of Historic and Cultural Vestiges and Scenic Spots” (Appendix 1.1). In accordance with this legislation, the Protection Plan for Hue Heritage was officially approved on 23 July 1992, by Thua Thien Hue Province Popular Committee and the Ministry of Culture. The law defines the extent of the protected site (700 hectares) and two conservation areas. Zone 1, which is intended to ensure the strict preservation of Monument, designed “World Heritage”, such as the Rampart walls of the citadel, the monuments and pools within the citadel, and the royal tombs. Zone 2, which is extended to serve as a buffer zone where the use of land in the proximity of historic monuments can be controlled, such as four precincts in the inner area of the citadel, village areas located surrounding the royal tombs, and the river banks between Con Hen and Da Vien sandbanks (Fig. 2-10).

After 1993, when Hue was registered to be the World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO, the activities for conserving and protecting the monuments have been

done based on relevant and legal documents derived from ICOMOS and the government<sup>8</sup>.



**Figure 2-10:** Illustration of Zone 1, Zone 2, and heritage buildings in the citadel area of Hue

<sup>8</sup> The documents include the International Charter for Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Site in 1964 (The Venice Charter), other International Charters adopted by ICOMOS, the Decision No. 166/1999/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister for ratifying the amendment of the overall planning of Hue city up to 2020, the Law on Cultural Heritage approved by the National Assembly in 2001, and the Principal features of the provisional regulations approved by the City of Hue Popular Committee (Decision No. 624/1998/QD/UBND/12 June 1998). The detail of these documents is in appendices 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, and 1.7.

According to the Decision No. 166 of the Prime Minister, the area in the citadel is the conservation zone that must be renovated and built according to the Ordinance on the Protection and Use of Historic and Cultural Vestiges and Scenic Spots and the International Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural Heritage of UNESCO (No. 5 of Article 1). Therefore, there are specific rules for conservation and protection of this area such as the traffic density must be restricted, main streets along the North-South and East-West direction should be upgraded, and the road surface should be monitored to fit to the width of the 10 citadel gates (No. 6 of Article 1). In addition, the existing population inside the citadel should be reduced (No. 7 of Article 1).

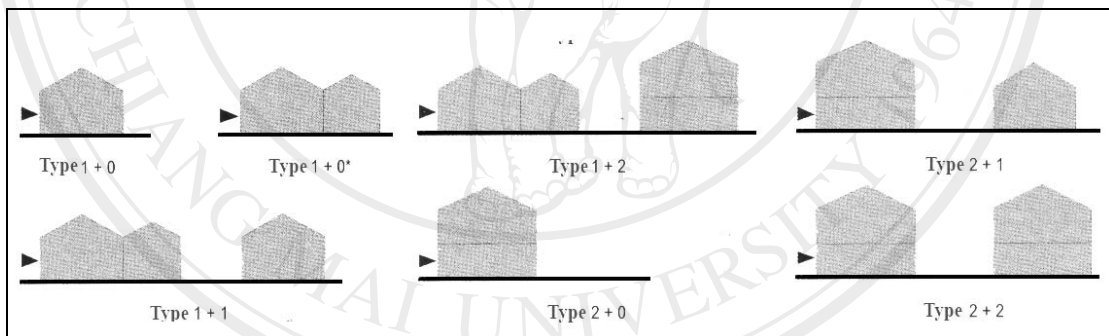
Moreover, according to the Decision No. 624 of the City of Hue Popular Committee, a blanket height limit of 11 meters is applied to new buildings throughout the citadel, except along the streets where specific rules apply such as street areas bounding the imperial city, the areas in the ramparts and the Tinh Tam group of pools. In addition, there are general rules applicable to the building work in the citadel area. For example, only pitched roofs are permitted; architectural forms with the historic value should be kept with the surrounding landscape; and buildings should be set back from the red line (3 meters in case of building with one upper storey and 6 meters for buildings with 2 upper stories).

With the book entitled “House Form and Culture”, Amos Rapoport clearly discusses about the relationship between culture and architectural form. He demonstrates that climate, material, construction and technology, economics, and site are the factors that shape transformation of house form, but they are not the factors that we can use for determining the difference in house form. The main factor that determines the built form of house is culture. The methodology and theory of Amos Rapoport are useful for the study to clarify and analyze the architectural characteristics of HTGHs.

### 2.3 Previous Methodological Approaches

There are various study works about typology, formation and transformation of dwelling house in various regions.

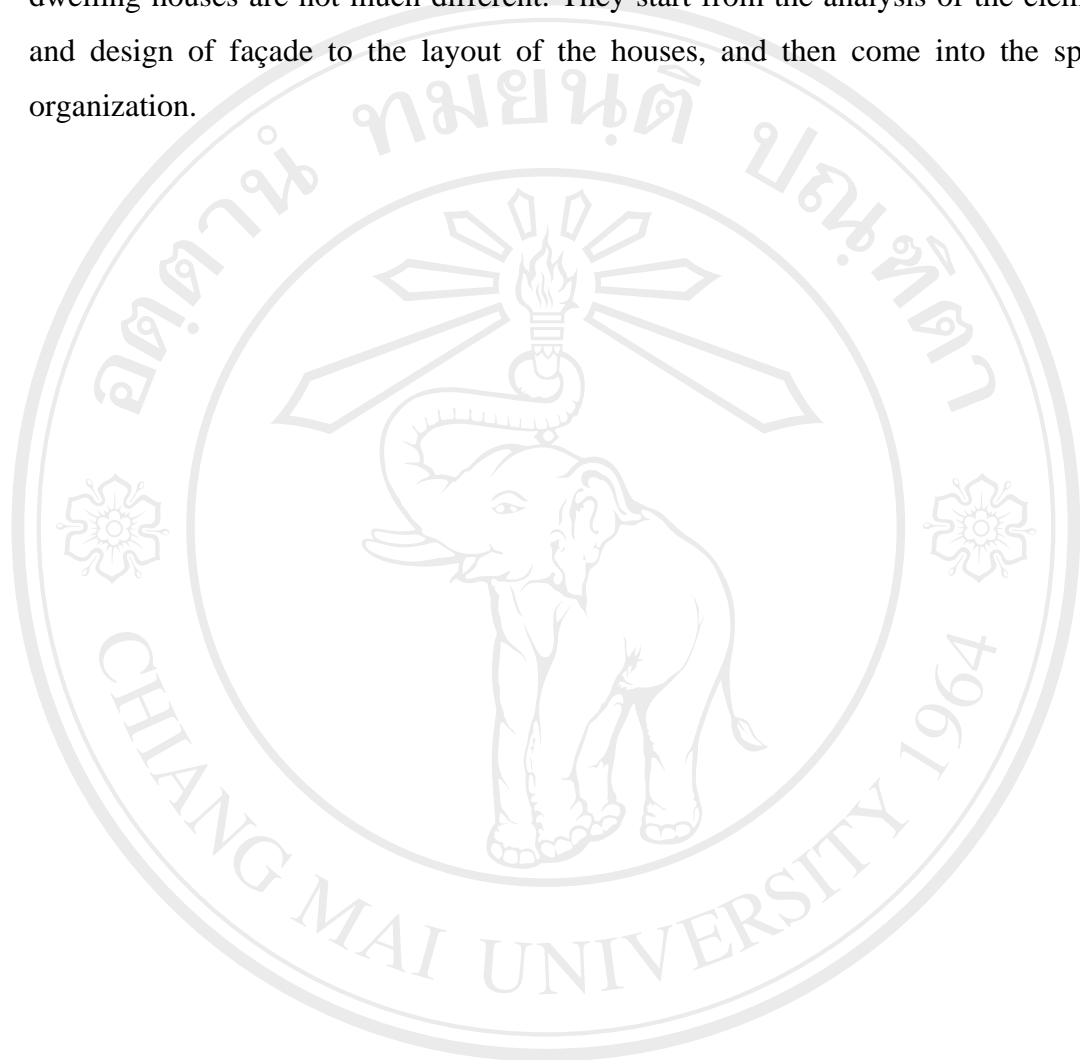
The research report named “Architecture of Hoi An Ancient Town” of Showa Women’s University discusses various aspects about history, formation, typology and transformation process of architecture in Hoi An mainly based on field surveys. Firstly, Hoi An traditional houses are classified based on façade elements and its designs. Then, the formation and layout of these houses are discussed based on the classification of their distinctive elements. After that, the research discussed the spatial organization and transformation process of these houses (Fig. 2-11). The report, finally, discusses the principles and directions for conserving and planning the ancient town.



**Figure 2-11:** Classification of Hoi An traditional houses

Another useful work is the research about typology, space formation and transformation of Kampung house (Jakarta) done by Funo and his collaborators. The method of the study works can be the model for analyzing the transformation of HTGHs. Firstly, Kampung houses are classified, based on the different roof shapes and spatial organization, for finding the typology and formation process of Kampung house. In the last part, the authors analyzes the transformation of Kampung house according to the directions of transformation (horizontal direction, vertical direction, and combination of both directions) and the causes of transformation such as family growth and business expansion.

Although these previous study works have done the different types of dwelling houses in the different locations, the method for analyzing the transformation of these dwelling houses are not much different. They start from the analysis of the elements and design of façade to the layout of the houses, and then come into the spatial organization.



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