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NITHI STHAPITANONDA

Founder

National Artist of Thailand
In Architecture

Our founder, Nithi Sthapitanonda, an alumnus of Chulalongkorn University and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, founded Architects 49 in 1983. During his years at A49, he has held the position of President of the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage between 1992-1994 and the Secretary General for the Architect Council of Thailand from 2000-2002. In 2002, he received the honor of being named by the Ministry of Culture as a “National Artist” in Contemporary Architecture.

Nithi was appointed Honorary Member of the Japan Institute of Architects (JIA) in 1995 and Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in the USA in 2008. In 2013, he received an Honorary Doctorate in Science in the field of Architecture from Sripatum University. Additionally, he has served on a number of boards and acted as a trustee for various organizations. Nithi has also chaired several judging committees for numerous prestigious awards, ranging from the Thai Ministry of Culture to Silpakorn University.

A prolific master of drawing, Nithi has, over the past 40 years, collated a vast collection of his own ink drawings from his early school years onwards. He has developed a style and technique in pen and ink drawing that is well recognized among Thai architects and students. Approaching his retirement from A49, Nithi started Li-Zenn Publishing Limited, the publishing company of his dreams, and began to work on the design of religious buildings. Over the last ten years he has designed a number of wats (temples) and stupas, a few of which have received awards from the ASA. In undertaking such works, he has re-established a public interest in Thai religious architecture, long absent from local scene.

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