

# **Reinterpretation of Daylight in Thai Architecture: From the Past to Future Possibilities**

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## **Abstract**

This study discusses how contemporary architects re-interpret traditional craft practices such as ironwork, woodwork, stonework, knitting, lacework, and paper craft in their building designs in accordance with cultural aspects. It argues that digital technology contributes to contemporary architecture by being a tool for restoring traditions of craftwork and an innovative medium for rendering images and presenting architecture. Through the virtuous use of CAD (computer-aided design) and CAM (computer-aided manufacturing), contemporary architects approach facade as a design instrument with a controversial manoeuvre. Their achievement of digital mastery consists of reinvention; yet it also indicates imitation. They use digital technology as a medium with the intention to attract public attention and encourage image consumption. Yet, they also use technology as a tool to shift the place of conventional craft from material practice to pure image. Simulating craftwork or reinterpreting traditional handicrafts in building-scale locates history within contemporary urban context. It creates a sense of tradition and a touch of history. By reviving traditional craftwork as a current interest, the architects seem eager to seek the soul of cities.

**Keywords:** daylight, architecture, digital technology, culture, smart city, Thai