

Chapter 7

CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the previous chapters, a comprehensive analysis of HTGHs in the citadel area was done to understand the whole mechanism of their formation, transformation, and to propose some preliminary guidelines for conservation and contemporary use.

This chapter consists of two parts. The first part is the summary of the results, while the second part is some preliminary recommendations for further studies about the conservation of Hue citadel.

7.1 Summary of the Results

HTGHs are the famous traditional dwelling houses in Hue and they have contributed to the beauty named “Garden City” of Hue. At present, HTGHs have been disappearing and altering gradually due to various reasons such as the growth of population and the need of space for business purpose.

The citadel and HTGHs located within the area have a special relationship that can be observed clearly in the layout. All elements of them are arranged similarly and based on Feng Shui principle. The similarity reflects the viewpoints of the owners and also their respect to the Kings.

In term of physical relationship, the formation and the distribution of facilities in the citadel area have influence on the formation and transformation of HTGHs located in it. In general, HTGHs located in commercial areas have altered for business purpose, while the growth of population is the main cause of the transformation of HTGHs located in alleyways.

Based on the field surveys, we pointed out that the main factors that influence on the transformation of HTGHs are the growth of population, the need of space for business activities, the purpose of clan worship, and the flood protection. Three directions of physical transformations of those HTGHs are horizontal plane, vertical plane, and the combination of both planes. Further to this, the transformation of the spatial organization of HTGHs in the citadel area could be divided into nine directions.

The results of the analysis about the transformation of HTGHs from the elements and designs of the façade, the layout arrangement to the spatial organization are the criteria that the research uses for establishing preliminary guidelines for conservation in contemporary use of HTGHs in the citadel area.

It is unavoidable that the study research still has some limitations derived from the process of the field surveys. The data collected from the field surveys was inadequate in some aspects. For example, the family members in some HTGHs did not properly record alterations and/or extension by them to the houses. Moreover, a short period of the time for making the survey is another limitation of the research.

However, it is expected that the whole understanding of the physical configurations, formation, and transformation of these HTGHs can satisfy the requirement of recording as mentioned in the Principles for the Recording of Monuments, Groups of Buildings and Sites ratified by ICOMOS (Appendix 1.8):

“Recording is the capture of information which describes the physical configuration, condition and use of monuments, groups of buildings and sites, at points in time, and it is an essential part of the conservation process”.

7.2 Recommendations for further studies

More comprehensive studies of HTGHs not only in the citadel area but also in other ancient villages of Hue such as Kim Long, Vy Da, and Nguyen Bieu, in the future, can use the results of this research as the fundamental data. The study of

HTGHs in different areas of Hue can expand the understanding of the whole mechanism of formation and transformation of HTGHs in Hue and also their problems. Based on the above discussion, the further studies for a design and sustainable usage of HTGHs should be done.

At present, Hue citadel is endeavoring to conserving and maintaining the beauty of its area within the condition of rapid urbanization, as the spatial organization of many dwelling houses and HTGHs located in the area increasingly alter into modern structure due to the adaptation for contemporary use. Elements of the citadel such as the distribution of facilities, the street pattern, and sewage system have an effect on formation, spatial organization of HTGHs in the citadel area and their transformation. This is the reason why the research also intends to provide some preliminary recommendations for further studies about conservation of citadel area in the future. The whole intention is:

- 1) To promote the sewage system and water treatment in the citadel area for reducing the influence of flood disaster;

At present, flood protection is one of the main factors that influence the transformation of spatial organization of HTGHs and other buildings in the area (Fig. 7-1). Due to the problem of flood disaster in the citadel area, several beneficial solutions could be provided such as a project for dredging Ngu Ha River-bed and other pools-bed should be worked because they play the vital role for adjusting water system in the citadel area. The drainage system should be improved and the use of water surface for agriculture such as raising duckweed and vegetables should also be restricted because they may block the flow of stream (Fig. 7-2).



Figure 7-1: Hue after the flood in 2006 (Source: www.TTVNOL.com)



Figure 7-2: Duckweeds can block the flow of water in Ngu Ha River

- 2) To reduce the density of traffic system for protecting the atmosphere site of both Hue citadel and HTGHs in the area;

Most streets in the citadel are quite narrow, which is various in the range of 2 to 12m. Especially, the width of all gates in the citadel is approximately 3.82 meters, while the height is approximately 5.19 meters. That size can restrict big vehicles such as big cars and vans from the outside come into the inside of the citadel. However, a large number of touring cars and motorcycles are still observed within the citadel (Fig. 7-3). The problem decreases the value of HTGHs and other monuments as mentioned in Article 6 of the Venice Charter when the conservation of a monument implies preserving a setting, which is not out of scale.



Figure 7-3: Touring cars should be restricted to park in the citadel area

In Vietnam, Hanoi ancient town faces the same problem (Fig. 7-4). For protection of Hanoi ancient town, the government prohibits motorbikes and large vehicles to come into the town in the specific hours of each day for reducing the traffic jam in the town during rush hours. The condition in Hue citadel is not as serious as that of Hanoi but the rules is needed for restricting the traffic level such as all car parks should be established in the outside areas of the citadel.



Figure 7-4: Hang Ngang Street in Hanoi ancient town

3) To maintain green and open space for keeping recreation spaces and increasing the hidden charm named “Garden City” of Hue;

In the citadel, the maintenance of open spaces is very important because they play the role in providing the spaces for recreation. In addition, they can increase the beauty of the citadel and also contribute to maintain the name “Garden City” of Hue.

For the above mentioned reason, suggestions for maintaining the green and open spaces in the citadel area must be proposed. For example, all parks and open spaces in the citadel area should be maintained, while the areas located surrounding the group of pools in the citadel should be protected and any constructions should be forbidden based on the law of Decision No. 624.

4) To reduce the population density in the citadel area for restricting the condition of land subdivision and transformation of HTGHs for purpose of family growth;

The table 6-1 shows the population in the citadel area in 2004, 2005 and 2006. It demonstrates that the population in the citadel has increased from 62,860 in 2004 to 64,660 in 2006. That population growth could lead to the condition of land subdivision and the transformation of HTGHs. Consequently, many buildings with improper scale and design were constructed while the site of heritages around the ramparts and the group of pools within the citadel area has been occupied by many dwelling houses. Therefore, it is urgent need for providing regulations that can solve the above problem.

Table 7-1: The statistics of population in Hue citadel and its four precincts from 2004 to 2006 (Source: Hue annual publication of population statistics)

Year/Area	Tay Loc	Thuan Loc	Thuan Hoa	Thuan Thanh	Hue citadel
2004	17955	15413	14303	15189	62860
2005	18253	15603	14399	15300	64247
2006	18680	15900	14590	15490	64660

5) To preserve street system for getting the beauty of the whole townscape and also maintaining the original checkerboard layout of the citadel;

Even though the street system of the citadel is planned follow checkerboard layout, the streets in several areas have been altered making the original checkerboard layout broken. Once the street system in the citadel is preserved, the hidden charm of it will be emerged and the beauty of HTGHs will be increased as well. It will be beneficial for preserve the street system if some following suggestions are approved.

All streets and sidewalks need to be upgraded, while more green trees should be planted. If the land subdivision takes place, it should be divided into a rectangular shape. All buildings must be constructed and located in some ways that not to violate the distance from them to the red line according to the Article 1 of Decision No. 624¹.

6) To create tourist routes in the citadel area as the significant profit for widening the cultural values of Hue and their conservation according to the International Cultural Tourism Charter adopted by ICOMOS.

Without HTGHs, there are many monuments and beautiful landscapes in the citadel area, which are the source for applying new tourist routes.

Before closing this chapter, author hopes that this thesis can complete the task of conservation of HTGHs for contemporary use, and establish some regulations to protect and develop the hidden charm of Hue named “Garden City” as Mr. M. Bows, the ex-director of UNESCO, said in his visit of Hue in 1982:

“Washed by the Huong River, surrounded by wooded hills, ornamented by verdant gardens, set off by canals flowing around it, the city is a masterpiece of urban poetry”.

¹ The red line is the boundary between public and private land that had been drawn up which established the area to be the public highway in the street system of the citadel. It can be signed by the physical form on the ground by rows of bollards on both sides of the streets.