

*Archaeological Survey* described the practical aspects of this methodology. Canilao also recognised the value of using the triangulated approach in looking into 'Benguet early settlement accounts based on oral traditions as a point of entry and at the same time, re-examine these accounts against the literature of archaeological, ethnographic, historical, and ethnohistorical sources on Benguet, and broader Southeast Asia from the Spanish pre-contact and contact periods'(p. 89). The author likewise characterised the climatic and geological make-up of sites in Benguet.

Mr. Canilao ends the book with a final chapter on *Considerations Crucial to Ibaloi Early Settlement Archaeology* where he presented the final synthesis of data sets obtained from the study. Among others, the author also concluded that indeed, gold extraction is the socio-economic base of early Ibaloi society. With his recommendations concerning *Oral history, historical archaeology*, and the advancement towards 'a more thorough archaeological study, or further archaeological investigations of early Ibaloi gold-mining settlements' (p. 120).

Humbly recognising that his study is 'but an initial exploration that remains largely uncharted', Michael Canilao echoes Sinai Hamada's challenge which remains to be a "continuing dare" to "braver searching souls"(p. 121).

### ***CASA BOHOLANA: Vintage Houses of Bohol***

Erik Akpedonu and Czarina Saloma

2011. Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press

Review by Arch. Ferdinand Isidro dela Paz

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The book *CASA BOHOLANA: Vintage Houses of Bohol* is indeed a pioneer in the realm of architectural heritage conservation. Encapsulating the rich collection of vintage houses spread throughout the beautiful province of Bohol, this book provides not only a typology of Boholano houses but also serves as a 'quick guide' for an impromptu architectural heritage tour.

Structured in two parts, the first presents an analysis resulting from architectural surveys conducted by the authors, Erik Akpedonu and Czarina Saloma. With their respective backgrounds in architecture and sociology, Akpedonu and Saloma were successful at showcasing the remaining relics of the past. This part of the book is further divided into four chapters tackling various aspects of Bohol's vernacular architecture.

Chapter 1: *The Cultural Study of the Boholano Built Environment* provides a 'framework for understanding how people "live" in vintage houses' (p. 3) citing the three central elements to its understanding namely: contexts, practices, and meanings. The authors also included a detailed approach in 'screening' a town's landscape when searching for potential vintage houses. They further provided a three-step process in the identification of vintage structures. The chapter continues with a discussion on the how to contextualise the vintage houses of Bohol; the features of Boholano vintage houses; and a periodisation of the history of Bohol and evolution of the Boholano house. The first chapter is concluded by a set of plates showing images of houses from different time periods.

The second chapter: *Profile of Boholano Vintage Houses* begins with a description of the distribution of vintage houses followed by a suggested approach in determining the age of these vintage houses. In addition, the authors looked into the social background of the houses' original owners. Further, this chapter provides a general typology of these houses as a reflection of the owner's position in the society which is 'determined by wealth, power and prestige' (p. 46). Interestingly, these factors are 'reflected in the size of his/her house and in the quality of its materials and execution' (p. 46). In presenting the profile of the Boholano houses, Akpedonu and Saloma also tackled the issue of ownership, maintenance, uses of, and modifications to these vintage houses. As a specific illustration, the chapter also provides an approach in determining changes in the roof. Physical problems brought about by current 'natural' threats to these vintage houses.

Chapter three: *Vintage Houses in a Changing Environment* further explores the changes encountered and experienced by both the houses and the owners themselves. In presenting this reality, the chapter discusses the various ways of living in and the threats to these vintage houses. In similar fashion, a discussion on these vintage houses and the environment provides valuable information on the state of our natural heritage, which obviously serves as the main source of building materials for these structures. In addition to the framework of heritage preservation in the Philippines, this chapter also includes a primer on the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 which clearly demonstrates the urgency of the need to protect such valuable built artefacts. Also explored were the controversial and pressing concerns on scavenging and antique trade pertinent to these vintage houses. On a more positive tone, the authors likewise explored the dynamics between poverty, tourism, and economic

opportunities as they relate to the existence and survival of these vintage structures. Towards the end of this chapter, the authors recognised the contributions of overseas migrants to the Boholano architectural landscape and emphasised the importance of urban and town planning in the preservation of these heritage houses.

In the last chapter of Part 1, Akpedonu and Saloma positively discussed *The Future of Bohol's Vintage Houses*. The often incorrect use of the terms 'renovation' and 'restoration' was aptly described citing the various factors contributing to the widespread lack of interest in the latter by most Boholano homeowners. At the end, the chapter challenges and argues the need to reexamine our beliefs in what to do with these vintage houses. A multi-player and imperative task, the successful protection and promotion of these Boholano heritage structures lay in the hands of its homeowners, the academe, individual crusaders, the local and national government, as well as in organised groups.

The more visual section of the book is its Part 2 which showcases 300 Boholano vintage houses organised geographically. Arranged into its location, this sumptuous collection of photographs depicts the Boholano vintage houses found not only in the southern, western, and northern coastal towns; and the southwest and central interior towns; but also in the capital towns of Tagbilaran, Dauis, and Panglao Island. Each section provides a map of the town or city indicating the locations of vintage houses followed by a detailed description (and photograph) of each of these structures. The colourful photographs show images of the vintage house in various time periods and in varying scales ranging from perspectives of the whole house in most cases, and intricate details in some. A good number of these plates also included images of the remarkable craftsmanship of these houses as seen through its interiors.

The book also appended, as a justification, the three basic reasons why the key informants, despite the conduct of interviews, 'often only had limited knowledge about the history of the house, particularly with regard to modifications'(p. 450). As a valuable tool, the authors also provided a glossary of terms commonly used in understanding the basic anatomy of Philippine architecture in general, and the Boholano vernacular architecture in particular.

As a suggested expansion, the study presented in the book could perhaps benefit from looking beyond the three-dimensional aspect of the houses' exterior and interior structure. In fact, it might also be equally interesting to present and analyse the two-dimensional properties of these vintage houses. Considering both the vertical (facade) and the horizontal

(floor plan) aspects, a thorough profiling and comparative analyses would better illustrate the evolution of the Boholano vintage house forms and consequently, provide a more complete much better understanding and characterisation of *Casa Boholana*.

*Contestations of Memory in Southeast Asia*

Edited by Roxana Waterson and Kwok Kian-Woon

2012. Singapore: National University of Singapore Press

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Memory is integral in historical reconstruction. It serves not only as a source in writing accounts and narratives, but a framework itself; a structure in which realities of the past can be depicted and illustrated in a substantially truthful manner. The book *'Contestations of Memory in Southeast Asia'* tackles the complex issue of memory and memory representations and manifestations in different areas and periods in Southeast Asian history. It includes stories and struggles during the major watershed periods in the region's history - colonial, post-colonial, independence wars, Pacific War and domestic conflicts. The book is divided in 3 parts: the first lays down the theoretical framework of the book, which is, *memory as a social phenomenon and as an alternative to official and singular histories* (p. 5). A dozen of historians, anthropologists and sociologists contributed in the volume where they presented historical experiences from different Southeast Asian countries where manifestations of memory challenge the dominance of state-promoted narratives.

The first part contains the introductory chapter that discusses the role of memory as a knowledge that verifies succeeding generations' familiarity of the past. Roxana Waterson and Kwok Kian-Woon discussed the dimension/s where memories as psychological and historical domains intersect. They elaborated on the stages of the memory process: *encoding, storage, retrieval, and transmission*. With particular emphasis on the transmission - the stage by which memories become 'social' or a public domain (p. 19), the authors established the theory the articles in the book want to prove. Within this process, *'memory provides a crucial site for the exploration of the links between the individual and the social'* (p. 23). The chapter argues that memory as central in historical narratives is