

Review of: "Ancient Houses in Ben Tre City: A Multifaceted Approach to Preserve Artistic Architectural Heritage and Boost Local Tourism"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article "Ancient Houses in Ben Tre City: A Multifaceted Approach to Preserve Artistic Architectural Heritage and Boost Local Tourism" discusses issues related to safeguarding cultural heritage in Vietnam that have relevance and contribution to the protection of cultural heritage as a public asset. The authors' regard for this topic inspires optimism and hope that the cultural heritage of Vietnam, which is also valuable for the global community, will be preserved for future generations.

However, the manuscript required a major revision.

It was written without constantly maintaining the formality of academic style. There is also a lack of analysis of major theories and ideas and, sometimes, not constantly used scientific vocabulary. The terminology doesn't correspond to the topic and object of the study. The first word in the title "Ancient" needs to be clarified: the term "Ancient Architecture" refers to the earlier period of human civilization's architecture. The term "Artistic Architectural Heritage" needs to be clarified too in accordance with the national and local legislative framework of cultural heritage conservation and international documents of UNESCO and ICOMOS.

The structure of the manuscript is not clear enough, including the research aim, research questions, and methodology of the study. The abstract listed a wide range of research objectives: from analysis of "the preservation and promotion of the rich values encapsulated within Ben Tre's ancient house system", to technical solution (Cement-Stabilized Base (CSB)), and the development of cultural tourism. This ambiguity is reflected in the list of keywords and other sections of the manuscript, including the Conclusion. The Introduction section also required revision. The survey of scholarly sources in the literature review doesn't contain international publications and a discussion of theories and ideas that would form a strong foundation for developing a methodology and evaluating the collected materials.

The authors need to once again substantially overview the studied material, select the key theories according to which to strengthen arguments and, based on this, improve the manuscript.

Wish you success in this difficult but interesting task – writing an academic article.