

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 paper addresses the issue of conservation and enhancement of recent architectural heritage. It focuses on early 20th-century buildings from the French period in the city of Ben Tre in Vietnam. Although the topic addressed is of great interest to the scientific community, the work is difficult to read and does not present results consistent with the expectations of the title and abstract. The authors should describe the methodological approach of the research, set out the activities carried out, and discuss the results. The chosen case studies should be described in detail in terms of their formal, material, and construction elements and related degradation pathologies. Likewise, conservation interventions should be consistent with the principles of compatibility, reversibility, recognisability, and minimum intervention. Although at present the article cannot be published, special praise is due to the authors for their efforts to safeguard an identity heritage that cannot be demolished because the community does not recognise its value. Scientific research in the field of conservation also has the task of spreading awareness that the built heritage, even the most recently built heritage, is a community resource. The authors will certainly be able to make a contribution in this direction.