

# 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 deals with the architectural, historical, sociological, and legal aspects of an initiative to preserve a group of ancient houses in the city of Ben Tre, in Vietnam. The authors address these aspects in detail, all of which fall outside this reviewer's field of expertise.

The technical aspects of preservation, as implied by the list of key words, are: "Soil Stabilization, Cement-Stabilized Base (CSB), Load-Bearing Capacity". These three issues are only addressed marginally in the body of the paper, in a most superficial manner. They suggest that soils in Ben Tre can be improved with a "cement-stabilized base." By implication, it is stated that settlements under the houses so treated will be reduced and that bearing capacity will increase. The authors did not provide factual information on local soil conditions nor calculations or experimental data to support their suggestion, which is merely conceptual.

The other non-technical issues occupy, by far, the largest part of the paper. In this reviewer's opinion, the abstract is also misleading because it suggests that the technical issues mentioned above will be addressed in detail. Hence, the abstract must be re-written to summarize the main aspects of the paper, which are definitely not the technical issues mentioned above. Accordingly, another set of key words is necessary for the same reason.

The manuscript also requires a revision of other formal aspects. There are some grammar and syntax mistakes that must be corrected, as well as punctuation errors that must also be dealt with.