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 appears to have been significantly aided by AI, as indicated by complex phrasing and high redundancy. To enhance the paper's originality and readability, I recommend the authors infuse it with their unique style and synthesis.

The structure requires thorough revision. Initially, a brief chapter should be dedicated to the location of the city being studied. This should include a map with the buildings under investigation highlighted in color, accompanied by a pie chart depicting the typology distribution of these buildings.

Following this introduction, the authors should delve into the specifics of the buildings, highlighting their vulnerabilities. This section should propose tangible improvements and retrofitting strategies. The current state of the paper suggests redundancy and poor organization, making it challenging to follow a logical flow. This feedback is intended to offer the authors an opportunity to revise the paper with a clearer structure: start with introducing the location, then the buildings, and focus on the relevant structures and their weaknesses, supported by original figures. Subsequently, discuss the retrofitting approaches.

Regarding the legal aspects, either reduce the mentions of laws or include a dedicated chapter on code recommendations.

The literature review is currently limited. It should be expanded to include other papers that discuss both the flaws and qualities of buildings from various perspectives. In this regard, the authors should include a comprehensive introduction to the problem with references to scientific papers, such as:

- Aloisio, A., De Santis, Y., Irti, F., Pasca, D. P., Scimia, L., & Fragiacomo, M. (2024). "Machine learning predictions of code-based seismic vulnerability for reinforced concrete and masonry buildings: Insights from a 300-building database." Engineering Structures, 301, 117295.
- Balica, S. F., Dinh, Q., & Popescu, I. (2023). "Vulnerability and exposure in developed and developing countries: Large-scale assessments." In Hydro-meteorological hazards, risks, and disasters (pp. 103-143). Elsevier.