

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 manuscript under review explores the rich history of Ben Tre houses, delving into the artistry, materials, and manual labour skills exhibited by its people since the French colonial period spanning over a century. The significance of this intangible heritage is acknowledged; however, several critical issues require attention before it can be considered for academic publication.

Clarity in Title:

The title requires clarification for a more concise and direct representation of the content.

Quotations and Flow:

The self-quotation from the authors' book is not sufficient for a literature review and is not seamlessly integrated into the article's flow. It needs careful repositioning to enhance coherence.

Cultural Values and Literature Review:

The discussion on the cultural values of houses lacks clarity, and repetition occurs. A better paragraph structure and clearer sentences are needed, supported by additional literature in the review.

Research Focus:

The manuscript lacks a clearly stated research question, and there is a need to identify and articulate the specific problems and gaps within the research area. Aims and objectives should be clearly outlined to guide the study.

Introduction and Context:

An introduction providing context to the locality, along with a map illustrating the area and the houses, is essential for reader comprehension.

Visuals:

The inclusion of better-quality images will significantly enhance the manuscript's visual appeal and aid in conveying the discussed concepts.

Academic Sources:

The manuscript should incorporate clearly stated academic sources, including data, to strengthen the scholarly foundation of the research.

Language and Format:

The written format and English language need improvement for clarity and academic rigor.

Conclusion:

The conclusion should explicitly refer back to the research problem and reiterate the key terms highlighted at the beginning of the paper.

In conclusion, while the topic is undoubtedly important and relevant, the manuscript requires substantial revisions to meet the standards of academic publication.