

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 subject is very interesting, and the text is well written, explaining clearly the problem. All the text can be used as an introduction to a scientific paper on this subject.

In the second paragraph of the Abstract, it can be read:

This article not only presents initial research findings on the preservation and promotion of the rich values encapsulated within Ben Tre's ancient house system but also explores additional crucial technical solutions. Beyond the study of the effectiveness of the Cement-Stabilized Base (CSB) additive in enhancing soil load-bearing capacity, the paper introduces various technical strategies aimed at conserving the artistic architectural heritage. The focus extends to sustainable construction practices, ensuring the longevity of these historical structures.

However, no technical aspects are covered in this article. There is a general description of the problem, which is the intention to demolish two old houses, but nothing is said about the style of architecture and its importance in the general context of architecture in the country, the materials used, the building techniques, the maintenance problems that were identified, and what solutions could be proposed.

Regarding the historical values of the houses, the mere mention of the names of different people does not add any value to the work or to the preservation of the houses. These people must be mentioned for some reason. They did something that stood out from the average. Therefore, authors should add to their names (these or others) information about the relevant role they played in their time.

The introduction presents, in the various aspects in which the authors consider the importance of the site and architecture, very vague ideas that need to be worked on in more depth. All the text is very superficial.

The writing of the text has to be improved at some specific points. Example on page 6

The French public office building is located on a land area of about 600 m² and built in a combination of Asian and European architecture; the interior of the ceiling, windows, and dome are decorated with precious wood patterns. The house has a construction area of about 300 m² with 1 ground floor, 1 floor, and a yard of nearly 80 m²; in front of the main

