

# Review of: "Ancient Houses in Ben Tre City: A Multifaceted Approach to Preserve Artistic Architectural Heritage and Boost Local Tourism"

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This paper presents a comprehensive exploration of the historical and cultural significance of ancient houses in Ben Tre City, emphasizing their role in both preserving artistic architectural heritage and boosting local tourism. The authors effectively highlight the intricate blend of Indochina and Western architectural styles, providing a detailed account of the aesthetic, educational, and economic values these structures contribute to the local and broader community.

- **Positive Aspects:** The paper provides a thorough historical examination of Ben Tre City's ancient houses, showing their extensive cultural and artistic significance. The authors' multifaceted approach, analyzing architectural, cultural, educational, and economic values, presents a well-rounded view of the houses' importance. Additionally, the connection made between heritage preservation and sustainable tourism development is both practical and beneficial for the cultural conservation and economic prosperity of the region.
- **Areas for Improvement:**
  1. **Lack of Methodological Detail:** While the paper discusses various aspects of the ancient houses, there is a notable lack of detailed methodology regarding the research approach, particularly in data collection and analysis. Future research could benefit from a more explicit outline of the methods employed.
  2. **Limited Discussion on Contemporary Challenges:** Although the paper mentions the threats of demolition, it could further delve into the contemporary urban development challenges facing these heritage sites. A deeper exploration of the conflicts between modernization pressures and heritage preservation would enrich the discussion.
  3. **Need for Broader Stakeholder Perspectives:** The paper could benefit from incorporating a wider range of perspectives, especially from local residents, heritage conservationists, and urban planners. This would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the community's relationship with these structures.
  4. **Technical Solutions and Retrofitting Strategies:** The paper briefly touches upon technical solutions like the Cement-Stabilized Base (CSB) for soil stabilization. However, it could further elaborate on specific retrofitting strategies and their implications for heritage conservation, especially in the context of environmental sustainability.
  5. **Comparative Analysis:** The study could be strengthened by comparing Ben Tre's situation with similar cases in other regions or countries. This comparative perspective might offer novel insights and alternative approaches to preservation and tourism development.
  6. **Future Research Directions:** The conclusion could outline specific future research directions, such as the

development of policy frameworks for heritage preservation in urban planning or the exploration of innovative tourism models that integrate cultural heritage.

Overall, this paper makes a significant contribution to the understanding of heritage preservation in the context of urban development and tourism. By addressing the suggested areas of improvement, future research could provide even deeper insights into the sustainable preservation and utilization of heritage sites like the ancient houses of Ben Tre City.