

ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

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Dissertation title: *Metallic decorative patterns in architectural works of Hanoi during the French colonial period*

Major: Theory and History of Fine Arts

Code: 9210101

Scientific supervisor: Assoc.Prof.Dr Ngo Van Doanh

Institution: Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies

CONTENT OF THE ABSTRACT

1. Aims and Objects of the study

1.1. Aims of the study

The dissertation focuses on studying MDPs in architectural works of Hanoi during the French colonial period. It also aims to discuss relevant issues concerning the symbolism, history, development and usage of MDP in more modern architectural works of today's Hanoi.

1.2. Objects of the study: the dissertation analyzes metallic decorative patterns on architectural works in Hanoi.

2. Methods of the study used:

Desk research: this method was used to formulate a literature review, inheriting results of previous studies.

Field research: the author selected specific architectural works built during the French colonial period in Hanoi.

Comparative study: this method helps concretize the similarity and differences between the appearance and expression of various metallic decorative patterns used in specific historical periods and for specific architectural styles and fine arts trends.

Statistics and classification: the dissertation made inventories of metallic decorative patterns by two main phases of the history of Hanoi's architecture during the French colonial period.

Analyzing and synthesizing: the author analyzed different components of decorative patterns to discover the trait and essence of each element. Based on these results, further analyses and generalizations were conducted to form a broader understanding of the nature and principle applied to all metallic decorative patterns that are the focus of the dissertation.

3. Main results and conclusion

Metallic decorative patterns on architectural works of Hanoi during the French colonial period contain symbolic meanings, being vehicles to convey messages of their owners.

Metallic decorative patterns in architectural works in Hanoi during the French colonial period are characterized by diversity and richness of patterns as well as by their use of line-based visual language. They constitute an artistic phenomenon of high aesthetic value and unique artistic heritage, thereby contributing to the formation of the urban fabric of Hanoi during that time and later becoming part of the modern Vietnamese visual arts.

Metallic decorative patterns on architectural works of Hanoi during the French colonial period are a result of the French – Vietnamese acculturation and exchange. They are, thus, evidential to the sustainability of Vietnamese tradition and culture which have adapted, incorporated and absorbed the quintessence of Western culture to enrich their identities.

Even though there have been certain achievements in the exploration, inheritance and promotion of metallic decorative patterns in French colonial architectural works, the use of these patterns nowadays is somewhat problematic due to the uncontrollability, turbulence and the fading of identity.

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