

Office of the University (Rector/President's Administration) Building 2
Chiang Mai University 239 Huay Kaew Road, Suthep Subdistrict, Mueang Chiang Mai District
Chiang Mai 50200, Thailand
president@cmu.ac.th

Delft, 15 September 2026

Letter of Support
Ang Kaew Dormitory and the Fai Hin Flat, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

Respected President, Dear Prof. Pongruk Sribanditmongkol,
Dear CMU executives,

We the undersigned Chair and Secretary General of DOCOMOMO International express our serious concern for the uncertain future of the emblematic Ang Kaew Dormitory and the Fai Hin Flat, Chiang Mai University, and we like to offer our support for the documentation, safeguard and preservation of this significant building. We share the arguments of local scholars, architects, students, and professional bodies—including **the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage (ASA)**, **DOCOMOMO Thai**, **SCONTE** for example—issued in formal petitions and public appeals urging to halt demolition and reconsider the protection/conservation scheme or adaptive reuse options.

The Ang Kaew Dormitory and the Fai Hin Flat, both designed in 1965 by the pioneering, non-conformist Thai architect Amorn Srivongse. These buildings are not merely housing; they are highly significant, physical monuments of Cold War-era modernization in Southeast Asia, marking the historic early introduction of modern architecture to a provincial university campus in the country's history. The building features expressive concrete structures, clever natural ventilation solutions, and deep-set balconies that reflect the international principles of modern architecture adapted to the local context. Architect Amorn Srivongse is widely recognized as a pivotal figure who shaped the modern architectural significance of public functions in the regional higher education (such as Chiang Mai University) in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

To prove that the nation was rapidly modernizing and aligning with the Free World, technocrats of the era required a physical "scenery of change." Amorn Srivongse delivered precisely this by discarding the slow, superficial tropes of "Applied Thai" architecture, which was the norm for governmental buildings at the time. Instead, he deployed tropical modernist principles, climate-responsive design, and local materials to forge a fast, dynamic, and forward-looking aesthetic. The Ang Kaew and Fai Hin complexes embody this radical shift.

The professional architectural community firmly rejects the premise that these structures are beyond salvation. We need only look at Amorn Srivongse's concurrent projects at Prince of Songkla University—where structural cracking in the Faculty of Science's Lecture Theatre and rust in the Faculty of Engineering's space frame were successfully resolved through rigorous structural retrofitting and phased maintenance, rather than demolition.

As decades of conservation practice have proven, reinforced concrete can always be renewed. Instead of turning architectural history into rubble, the professional community advocates for an adaptive reuse strategy. These dormitories could be reimaged as campus archives, creative incubators, or cultural spaces for a new generation, keeping them alive through continuous, active occupation. We call for an

immediate moratorium on the demolition process.

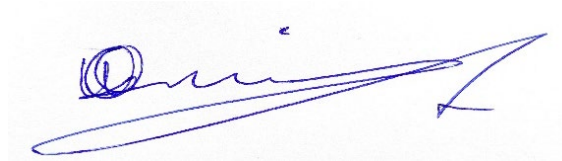
DOCOMOMO International is a non-profit organization dedicated to the documentation and conservation of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the Modern Movement. We represent 85 national working parties (chapters) and more than 3,000 members, in Europe, Americas, Asia, Oceania and Africa. Thank you for your consideration of the concerns and recommendations presented here.

The undersigned and DOCOMOMO International and the national working party DOCOMOMO Thai stand ready to assist in the preservation or adaptive reuse and the creative and respectful development of the site.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.
Sincerely,



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Uta Pottgiesser
Chair



Dr. Wido Quist
Secretary General