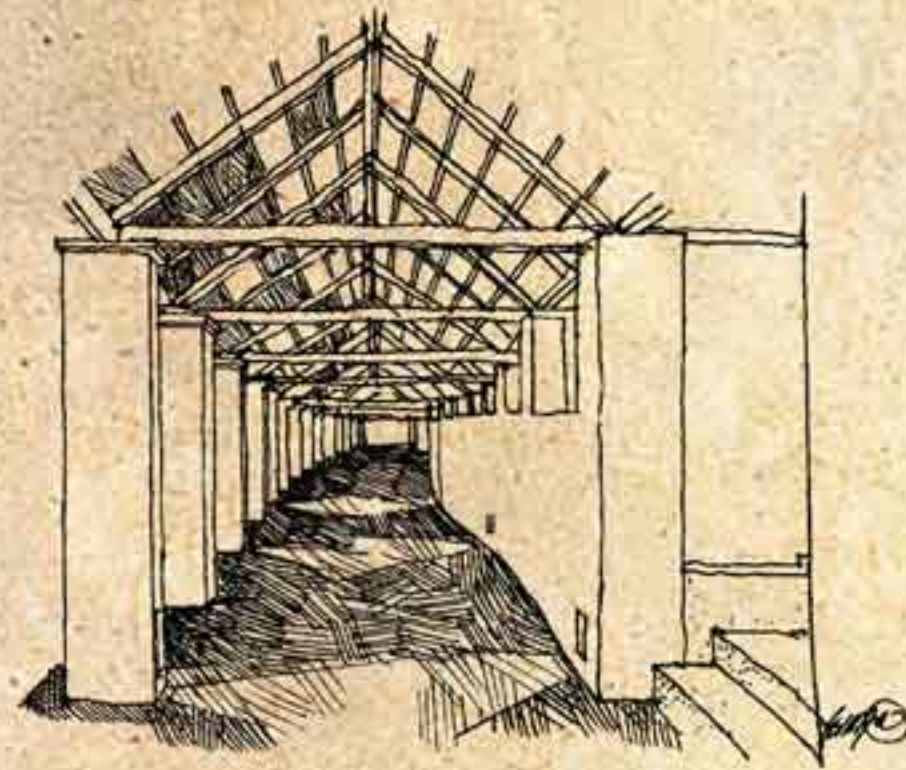


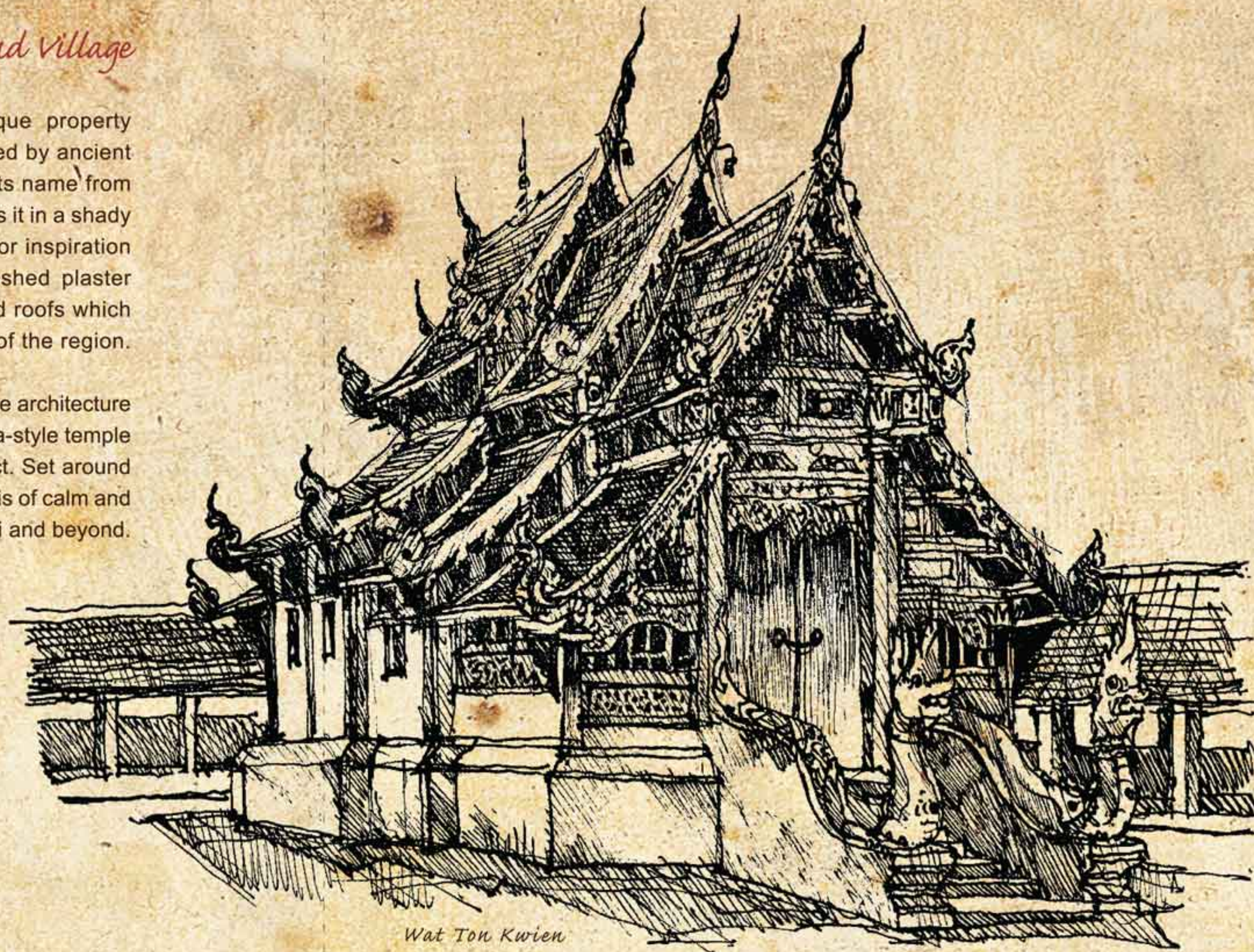
Tamarind Village

Tamarind Village is a unique and charming boutique property situated at the heart of historic Chiang Mai. Surrounded by ancient temples and quaint shopping streets, the hotel takes its name from the magnificent 200 years old tamarind tree that shelters it in a shady embrace. The hotel's architecture draws on the past for inspiration with typical northern Thai features such as whitewashed plaster walls set against dark timber beams and thin clay tiled roofs which are characteristic of the region.

The long gallery at the hotel's entrance was inspired by the architecture of Wat Ton Kwien, a rustic and very well preserved Lanna-style temple located to the south of Chiang Mai in Hang Dong District. Set around a series of garden courtyards, Tamarind Village is an oasis of calm and tranquility and the perfect base for exploring Chiang Mai and beyond.



Tamarind Village Corridor



Wat Ton Kwien

A number of Chiang Mai's historic sites are located right on the hotel's doorstep. Guests can join the *Village Walk* as we explore the back lanes of our neighborhood on foot and discover the area's rich culture which dates back more than 700 years to the founding of northern Thailand's Lanna Kingdom. The 'Village Walk' map is a mini-guide, highlighting some of the area's not-to-be-missed sites. Use it to accompany the guided walking tour we offer with our staff or to go out exploring on your own.

** Please contact our Guest Services for more information on the 'Village Walk' schedule.*

A Brief History of Chiang Mai

The Lanna Kingdom was founded in 1296 by Phaya Mengrai, who gained power through a series of military conquests and clever strategic political alliances. Mengrai chose a broad swathe of fertile valley for the capital of his new kingdom and called it Chiang Mai (meaning 'New City'). He chose a square plan for the city and surrounded it with fortified walls, gates and a moat. Doi Suthep mountain rose to the west and the Ping River flowed to the east. Chiang Mai grew prosperous under Mengrai and continued to flourish for more than two centuries after his death as a center for trade, art and Buddhist teaching.

In the 15th century Chiang Mai fell into decline and came under Burmese rule. During this time, the city was largely abandoned. In the 17th century, a local prince, Kawila, with the assistance of Siamese forces from the south, pushed the Burmese out and regained control. Kawila then set about repopulating Chiang Mai by relocating villagers from neighboring Shan State. Groups such as the Tai Khoen, Tai Lue and Yong settled in and around Chiang Mai. With their varied dialects, customs, crafts, costumes and cuisine, they gave the city a diverse heritage that survives to this day. This period from the late 18th century onwards marks what is often referred to as the 'Lanna Revival' and most of the historic buildings and temples one encounters date to this period.

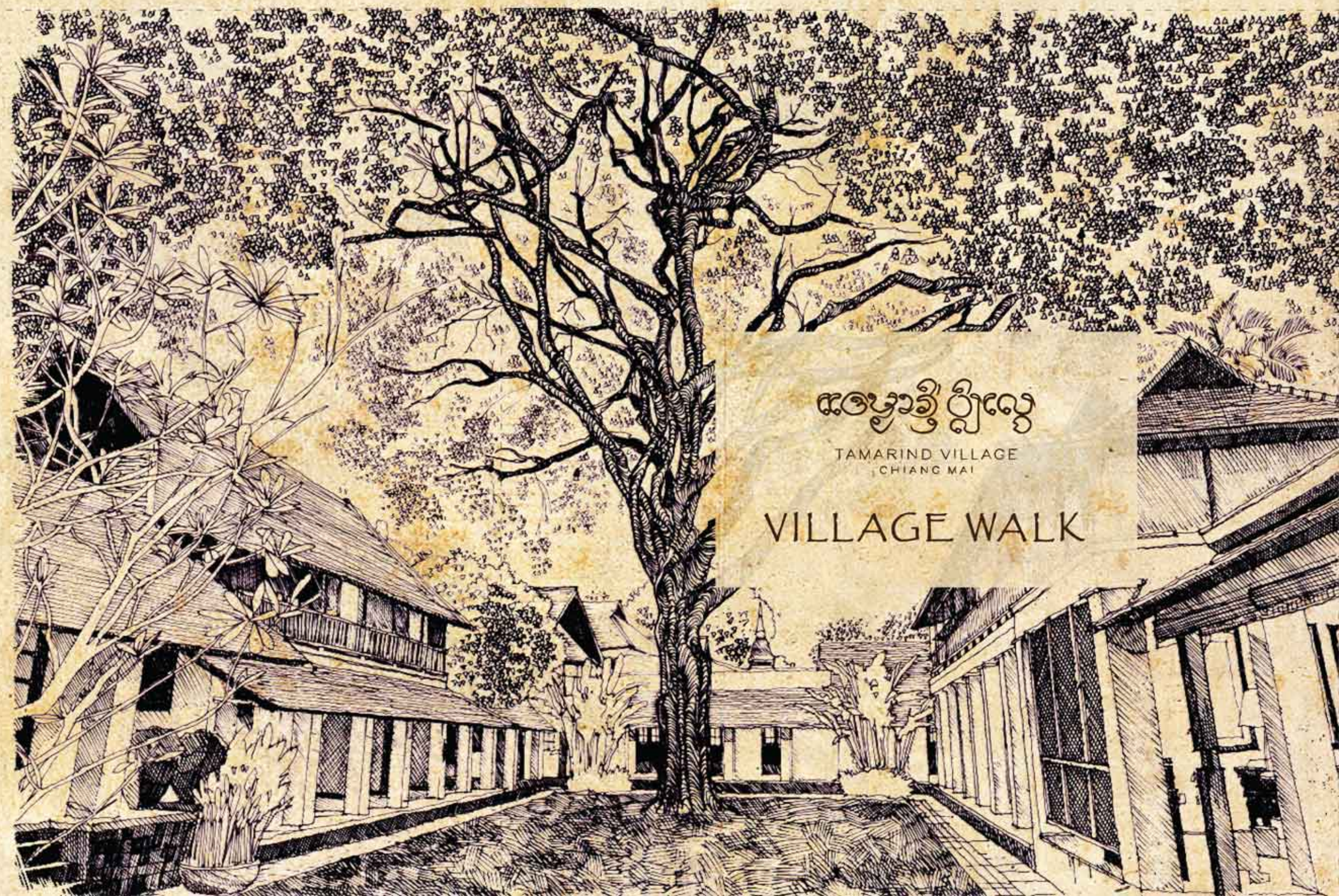
In the 19th century, missionaries from England and America began to arrive in the area to build churches and hospitals as did other foreign travellers looking to profit from the growing teakwood trade. The first telegraph came to Chiang Mai in 1885 and the railway followed soon after in 1921. King Rama VII was the first Siamese ruler to make a visit to the city in 1926 and this visit marked the beginning of the total integration of the Lanna Kingdom with the powerful Siamese court to the south. Despite this, the northern Thai people maintain their distinctive traditions and way of life till today.

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TAMARIND VILLAGE
CHIANG MAI

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အေဗျာခွဲ ဂျီလွေ

TAMARIND VILLAGE
CHIANG MAI

VILLAGE WALK

THE VILLAGE WALK

Leaving the hotel via the back entrance past the The Village Spa, the ancient temple of *Wat Umong* is located directly ahead of you. It is this temple's sacred spire that offers the scenic backdrop to Tamarind Village's central courtyard and whose monks can sometimes be heard chanting during morning and evening prayers. The viharn or prayer hall was renovated in a more modern style with colorful Buddhist murals within, yet the temple maintains a certain ancient charm and is a peaceful place to spend time.



Wat Umong ①

Exit through the temple's back entrance with Tamarind Village on the left and follow the small lane straight ahead due west to arrive at another early Lanna temple, *Wat Duang Dee*. Its auspicious name (The Temple of Good Fortune) draws visitors from afar who come to pay respect to the Buddha here. The early history of the temple is not well known, however records show there was a school on the grounds for local aristocratic boys in the 19th century before the founding of the Chiang Mai Boy's school in 1889.

Wat Duang Dee

②



Wat Duang Dee's Ho Trai (Scripture Repository), with its square shape and tiered roof is well known in artistic circles for its refined stucco decoration, which while damaged, still reflects the sophistication of Lanna Art during the city's Golden Age. Another important feature of this repository is the collection of lacquered scripture boxes within which contain original Buddhist texts inscribed on palm leaf manuscripts. Ask the resident monks to open the door for you if you would like to see them. In 2008, Tamarind Village worked with a number of local businesses and private residents to raise funding to restore the temple's surroundings in order to preserve its traditional Lanna character.

Exit the temple through the back (to the west) and emerge onto busy Phrapokklao Rd. Cross over the road and on the right you will see the Chiang Mai Cultural Centre. In front, you will see one of the city's most famous landmarks, the *Three Kings Monument*. The monument represents the allegiance of King Mengrai, the founder of Chiang Mai city and his two political allies, King Ram Khamhaeng of Sukhothai and King Ngam Muang of Phayao.

③ Three Kings Monument



Wat Sadeu Muang

⑤



The elegant colonial style building located just behind the Three Kings Monument was built in 1924 as a palace for the local ruler. Later it became the Provincial Hall with a series of administrative offices. In 1997, the building was renovated and re-opened in its current incarnation as the *Chiang Mai Art & Culture Center* ④ which aims to provide knowledge and understanding of Chiang Mai's history and culture. It is open to the public.

Cross the small road south of the Chiang Mai Art & Culture Center to visit the small, open-sided temple *Wat Sadeu Muang* (The Monastery of the City Navel), which was originally built in the 13th century. It is believed that the temple marks the symbolic center of the city. It is also sometimes referred to as Wat Inthakin as the Inthakin city pillar (similar to a city's founding stone) was originally placed here.

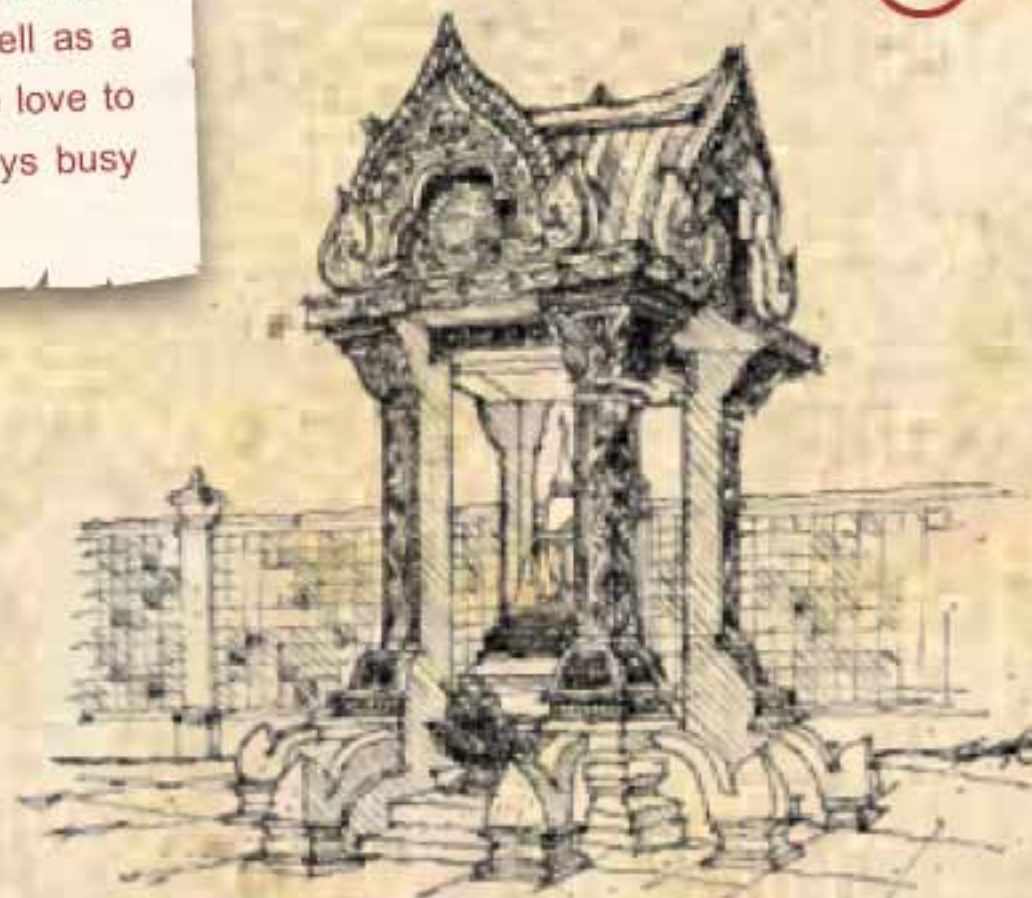
THE VILLAGE WALK MAP



Within the walls of the three-and-a-half square kilometers of old Chiang Mai City visitors can experience more than thirty temples. All of them have unique qualities and attributes worth discovering. Take your time and explore the city on foot with a member of our staff or on your own and Chiang Mai's many charms will reveal themselves to you. Over the centuries, Chiang Mai has had its ups and downs and survived till this day. Nowadays Chiang Mai is a place where visitors come to seek out the beauty of the past and where local people strive to maintain their unique culture and traditions in an ever-modernizing world. *Enjoy!*

Shrine to King Mengrai

⑥



Head back to Phrapokklao Rd and turn right, walking south to the intersection with Rajdamnoen Road. On the right hand side (northwest corner) stands the *Shrine to King Mengrai*. The shrine was erected in memory of the city's founder and people still come here to make offerings and pay respect to Chiang Mai's first king.

Across the street on the southeast corner of the intersection stands *Khum Chao Buriratana* the former residence of a member of Chiang Mai's ruling family. Built in 1889, the building was the first of its kind to combine elements of colonial style (i.e. a brick base and rounded archways) with traditional Thai wooden architecture. The building is now under the care of Chiang Mai's Faculty of Architecture and is open to the public for visits.



Khum Chao Buriratana ⑦



Wat Pan Tao ⑧

On the southwest corner of the intersection (about 110 meters down the road) you will find one of Chiang Mai's most beautiful temples, *Wat Pan Tao* (The Temple of a Thousand Kilns). The name may refer to the casting of Buddha images which is thought to have taken place on this site. The temple's prayer hall is one of the only remaining all-wood, religious buildings in the city and the carved wooden peacock with inlaid, colored glass which hangs above the entrance is considered by many an artistic treasure. In the 18th century, a Lanna King donated his wooden palace to the monastery for the construction of this building.

Right next door south of Wat Pan Tao is *Wat Chedi Luang*, (The Temple of the Great Chedi) which was built in the 15th century and which houses the Inthakin city pillar. The temple is also home to the city's largest religious monument, the great brick chedi situated behind the main prayer hall. The chedi was damaged in an earthquake in 1545. The revered Emerald Buddha, now located in Bangkok's Grand Palace complex, was installed here in 1468 when it was brought back from neighboring Laos, another indicator of the temple's historical importance.



⑨ Wat Chedi Luang



* Please respect proper dress and conduct when visiting sacred sites.

⑩

Wat Phra Singh

Backtracking to the intersection of Phrapokklao and Rajdamnoen Rds, turn left and walk west to the end of the road to explore another of Chiang Mai's most important temples, *Wat Phra Singh*, (The Temple of the Lion Buddha). Wat Phra Singh is a large compound with several prayer halls, a large ordination hall and a Buddhist high school. The small but beautiful Viharn Lai Kham, situated to the west of the main prayer hall, offers a wonderful example of traditional Lanna architecture and is decorated with some of the finest Lanna mural paintings within. Fragile and damaged in parts, the murals still offer insight into northern Thai life in the past. The bronze Buddha Sihing, one of the country's most sacred images can also be found here. Take some time to stroll around the temple grounds or sit quietly in the prayer hall and watch as people come and go. This is a peaceful way to spend some time.

Exit from Wat Prasart and walk east to the intersection of Singharat Rd. Continue along Inthawarot Rd., turning left on Singharat Rd., and then right on Ratchawithi Rd., the last lane before you reach the moat and you will arrive at *Wat Chiang Mun*, the city's oldest temple. King Mengrai erected this temple in 1297 near his palace and legend has it that his elephants were kept here. The inscription stone is located in the compound and there is an impressive collection of Buddha images kept here as well. The chedi is a 19th century restoration of an earlier one and its distinctive base with elephant heads makes it unusual

Wat Prasart ⑪

Wat Chiang Mun

⑫



From here you can walk back to Tamarind Village easily in about 7 minutes. Turn right when you exit the temple and follow Ratchapakinai Rd., across the intersection to the south to reach the hotel.

Exit the temple, turn left and walk north to the next intersection with Singharat Rd. Turn left here on Inthawarot Rd. and not far down on the right hand side you will come to a lesser known temple, *Wat Prasart*. The temple's viharn with its low roof line, thick plaster walls and delicate gold lai kham paintings illustrating the Buddha's life is one of the best examples of Lanna buildings from the past. The ordination hall next to is renovated. Viewed together, it is easy to compare the craftsmanship and style of the past with that of today.