



Bonjour: Da Lat Teachers College reflects architecture popular in eastern France.

by **Minh Thu**
Viet Nam News/ ANN

Nicknamed Le Petit Paris, Da Lat City in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam is known as the most vibrant example of French colonial architecture in Indochina.

Around 1,000 buildings in the city are hailed as typical examples of French architecture at the end of the 19th century, with the city's different facades illustrating styles from various regions across France.

When French colonialists invaded Viet Nam, they sent many talented architects to build up the country. Many headed to Province of Lam Dong's Da Lat city, attracted by the temperate climate and surrounding countryside.

During the reign of Paul Dumer, Indochinese General Governor between 1897 and 1902, Paul Champoudry, mayor of the city, employed a team of well known architects including Ernest Hebrard (1875-1933), Mondet, J.Lagisquet and L.G Pineau to Da Lat.

Up to 1949, over 1,000 residential buildings were constructed, each one unique and in harmony with its surroundings. None of these houses exceeded three floors.

A walk through the town is like a small tour of early colonial architectural fashions from across France. Tran Hung Dao Street follows the architectural style popular in northern France with its wooden walls and more demure fronts.

Turn onto Co Giang Street and the streets are lined with small castles, typical of the south-eastern regions.

A housing estate on Quang Trung Street illustrates the char-

cogwheel system is designed for steep slopes and has a locomotive with a centre cogwheel that engages with a cogged centre rail. The train ride reveals a panoramic view of Da Lat and the surrounding beauty of the Central Highlands. In 2001, Da Lat Train Station became the only building of its kind to gain recognition as a national historical monument.

Because the rail route originates in Da Lat, it is reserved for tourist travel only, says Ngo Minh Chau, director of the station. "French architects designed the station based on the shape of Langbiang Mountain. That's why it symbolises the city," he says. Local government has spent VND800 million (nearly US\$45,700) on restoring four carriages from steam trains produced by Japan around 1936, he says.

Palace royale
Another favourite architectural feature in the town is King Bao Dai's palace on Trieu Viet Vuong

Little Paris charms visitors

acter of houses in the south of France with tiled roofs. Other constructions, including Da Lat Station and Grand Lycee Yersin School (1935) now known as Da Lat Teachers College show architecture popular in eastern France.

Train-shaped station
One of the town's most famous architectural features is Da Lat Train Station, designed in 1936 and completed in 1938 by two French architects Moncet and Reveron.

One of the reasons why the stations is so popular with tourists is because it is shaped like a train. The station was designed distinctly in western style, but also has some characteristics of a Central Highlands communal building with its high and steeply sloping roof. It is decorated with stained-glass windows and arched ceilings. The three roofs represent the three peaks of Langbiang Mountain, the symbol of Da Lat city.

The Da Lat line stretches 84km long through high mountain passes to Trai Mat Station, to the north. A

Street. Located on a forest-covered hill, the palace was built over the period 1933 to 1937 as a summer holiday house for the King, the last one of Nguyen dynasty.

The palace was designed by architects Hebrard and Huynh Tan Phat with detailed ornamental gardens.

The palace has two floors. The first was built to host feasts and welcome guests and officials. All the bedrooms for each of the royal family are upstairs. Their portraits were hung on walls in the palace. Remnants of the king's enthusiasm for hunting are scattered around the palace, including a tiger skin rug and elephant tusks.

One of the most popular parts of the palace for tourists is the balcony outside the king's bedroom, named Lau Vong Nguyet (balcony to watch the moon). From the balcony, tourists can see over the many red roof villas in the pine tree forest and down into the valley: the perfect spot to survey the spirit of French design that still lingers in the landscape.

Bollywood reacts on Slumdog's success at the Oscars

Anil Kapoor: We have no words to express our feeling! Very few movies have performed so well! None of us really imagined it would ever happen to Slumdog. Films like 'Gone with the Wind' have gotten so many awards. Everyone is surprised at the talent India has. I really thought it was an Indian function. It had to be a very happy ending! Everyone is so thrilled...the whole world has loved it. We must think globally now.

Sajid Khan: I wish Gulzar sahib was also at the awards. I am very happy for Danny Boyle.

Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra: I am proud and so happy that it's A.R. He brought north and south India together when he started composing music and now he has successfully bridged the gap between the east and the west. It's incredible! There are more people in the west who know him now than they know about his work.

Preity Zinta: It is a fantastic day for everyone. It is



It's a proud moment for the entire India after Slumdog Millionaire especially A.R Rahman's spectacular win at the Oscar's. Check out how Bollywood and few politicians react to the win.

awesome and had to happen. Rahman is a very humble and sweet man. He was knocking on the door for so long. He had done excellent music for Lagaan too. Gulzar can write lyrics you cannot even think of.

Kamal Hassan: Rahman

does not let you know he is so good. You can't but look at India now. Hollywood-Bollywood tie up is the way forward.

Mohit Chauhan: It is very encouraging. Rahman is a great inspiration for all the musicians in the country. And it's a great honour also. Our films are going places and so is our music. We can look ahead to good times.

Farhan Akhtar: This is definitely a spotlight on India now. You can't help but call it an Indian film. Film has connected with lots of people. It has been shot and directed really well.

Usha Uthap: I am proud of him. He is a good friend.

Prabhu Deva: I had goose bumps. Everyone in Tamilnadu is so happy!

Sonam Kapoor: Dad was looking very handsome!

Asha Bhosle: Rahman is very close to me.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh: Slumdog team has done India proud.

Politician P. Chidambaram: No taxation for his win.

Rhythm World Dancesport 2009

The Second Rhythm World Dancesport Competition of the Rhythm World Dance Studio was held in a colourful manner on February 1, 2009.

This year's competition saw something special in that the adjudicator was Ms. Aleena Tan from Singapore - a renowned Latin American & ballroom dancing teacher and Dancesport organizer and adjudicator. She is also the official examiner of Rhythm World Dance Studio as at January, 2009.

Ms. Aleena Tan is also the president of the Singapore Ballroom Dance Teachers' Association, vice president of the Asia Pacific Dance & Dancesport Council and an esteemed examiner of the Federal Association of Teachers of Dancing with almost 40 years' experience in the field of dancing.

The competition consisted of different dances in various categories - The Beginners, Intermediate Seniors, Intermediate and Amateur Level. This year's competi-



tion saw a special category - The Parent-child; which was very touching in nature and enjoyed by all.

Judging from the response and applause of the spectators, everyone present felt that the show was not only greatly entertaining but of a high competitive standard with all competitors of all categories displaying a high sense of dedication and skill in their dancing techniques. In fact, the adjudicator, in her address to the participants, commended them for the high standard displayed in showing their

pro prowess in the various dancing techniques.

The highlight of the evening was when, after the results of the competitions were announced, all the competitors and the audience took to the floor in a dance session.

An onlooker could easily discern the homely atmosphere and spontaneous enjoyment on the faces of both young and old. The climax was when the adjudicator herself, joined in the dancing and danced the 'baila' which she admitted she thoroughly enjoyed it.

TV GUIDE

CHANNEL EYE	
A.M.	12.00 Lunch Time Music P.M.
06.29 Station Opening	01.00 Enthozhi En Kathai En
06.30 Talk for the Day	01.30 Manavi (Tamil)
06.45 Cartoon Programme	01.30 Afternoon News
07.00 Sampath Rekha	01.45 Tamil Feature Film.
07.15 Development Lottery	04.30 Marlin Mystere
07.30 Naledugalli Intru	04.30 Variety New Songs
08.00 Variety New Songs	05.00 Cartoon Programme (Tamil)
08.30 Katali Vanakkam (Tamil)	05.30 Muslim Programme (Tamil)
09.30 Udaya Dharisanam	06.00 Golden Hit Songs (Tamil)
10.00 Udaya Dharisanam 'A Baur' (Tamil)	06.30 AbbiViruthi Padayal (Tamil)
10.15 Udaya Dharisanam Contd.	07.00 News & Weather Report
11.00 Kana Kanam Kalangal	07.30 Puthuyugam
11.30 Kaimanam (Tamil)	08.00 Kana Kanam Kalangal
Noon	08.30 Appavukkaga (Tamil)
	09.00 Jayaviru & Suvasetha

SWARNAVAHINI	
A.M.	03.00 Diriya Doni
06.00 Ehi Passiko	04.00 Jeevithaya Lassanal
06.30 Mul Pittwa	05.00 Anne
07.00 Loka Sithiyama	05.30 Mini Toons
07.30 Never Ending Story	06.00 Musix
08.00 Hello Sri Lanka	07.00 House Full
08.30 Channel D	07.30 Gaja Muthu
11.00 Mahajana Sewaya Pinisai	08.00 Live @ 8
Noon	08.30 Abhimaan
12.00 Live @ 12	09.00 Hima Kandulu
P.M.	09.30 Shadow Star
12.30 Rasa Liya	10.30 Singappuru Charlie
01.00 Hada Rendil Peya	A.M.
02.00 Bhashini	01.00 Close of Transmission

ETV	
A.M.	06.00 Channel News Asia
06.00 Prime Time Morning	07.00 VH1
06.45 Debrief	07.45 Debrief
06.55 Lanka Business Online	07.55 Lanka Business Online
07.00 Channel News Asia	08.01 The Hills
10.00 Telemarketing	08.30 My Super Sweet 16
10.30 Channel News Asia	08.55 Lanka Business Online
11.00 Telemarketing	09.01 The Bold & The Beautiful
11.30 Channel News Asia	09.45 Debrief
P.M.	09.55 Lanka Business Online
12.30 Telemarketing	10.01 Channel News Asia
01.00 VH1	10.55 Lanka Business Online
02.00 Channel News Asia	11.01 VH1 Special
04.30 Telemarketing	12.00 End of Transmission
05.00 Rocket Power	

MTV	
A.M.	04.30 Captain Zed & Zee Zone
05.55 Station Opening	05.00 What A Maess
06.00 Voice of America	05.30 Conan & The Young Warriors
06.30 News First	06.00 G.I. Joe
07.00 Good Morning Sri Lanka	06.30 TV South Asia
08.00 Fox News	07.00 Tiny Toons Adventure
12.30 News	07.30 Tom & Jerry Kids
12.45 VOA	08.00 Cricket Classics
01.15 Fly Tales and Untalkative Bunny	09.00 News
01.30 Fox News	09.30 Biz News
	10.00 Night Movie
	10.30 Top Story

DERANA	
A.M.	01.30 Mix Songs
05.55 Station Opening	04.00 Dragon Tales
06.00 Cartoon	04.30 Cartoon
07.00 Derana Aruna	05.00 Bid To Win
08.00 Suba Dawasak	06.00 Mal Hathai
08.30 Eka Dawasak Ude	07.00 Dream Star Academy
10.30 Teledrama	07.30 Soora Goviya
11.00 Sith Gimana Hala	08.00 Ada Derana
P.M.	08.30 Saraa
12.00 Ada Derana	09.00 Doo Kumariyo
12.15 Sinhala Songs	09.30 Sikurada Ra
12.30 Sathutu Wila	11.00 Bid To Win

SIRASA TV	
A.M.	01.30 Sinhala Movie
04.00 Pirith & Jayamangala	04.00 Cartoon
04.30 Mahamaluwa	04.30 English Lesson
05.00 Bana	05.00 Scooby Doo
05.30 Cartoon	05.30 Tom & Jerry
06.00 English Lesson	06.30 Magic Box
06.30 News First	06.30 Nethara
07.00 Inspector Gadget	07.00 News 1st
07.30 Sonic	07.30 Situ Gedara
08.00 Jeevithayata Eda	08.00 Mahagedara
08.30 Denna	08.30 Kindurangana
10.30 Game Show	09.00 Praveena
12.00 Lunch Time News	09.30 Gando Nongando
P.M.	10.00 News 1st
12.15 Lunch Time TV	10.30 Asuru Serin
01.00 Nonawaruni	A.M.
	12.00 Diganthaya
	01.00 MTV News

RUPAVAHINI	
A.M.	03.30 Tele Drama
05.48 Station Opening	04.00 News
05.50 Homage to the Triple Gem & Karaniya Metta Sutta	04.05 Vinoda Samaya
06.00 News	04.30 Sarisara
06.06 Sivadisa	05.00 News
06.30 Pathihara Sirasthala	05.05 Havasa Paya
07.00 News	06.00 Defence News
07.05 Aadaraaneyya Yavuvanya	06.05 Sanga Puwath
08.00 News	06.30 Sri Lanka New Vision of Archeology and Creative Skills
08.05 Nuga Sevana	06.58 Vismitha Charika
09.00 News	07.26 News Headline
09.05 Nuga Sevana	07.27 Isuru Bhavana
10.00 News	08.00 News (Sinhala)
10.05 Nuga Sevana	08.30 Pasubima
11.00 News	08.35 Tele Drama
11.05 Aluth Sri Lankawak	09.05 Tele Drama
Noon	09.30 Sakura Mal
12.00 Sri Siri Mal	10.00 Jayawiru & Suvasetha
P.M.	10.05 Sandha Vasanava
12.30 News	10.10 News
01.00 Hiru Vyanana	10.27 Viyaparika Vilith
01.00 News	10.30 The X Files - Series 8 - Ep.
02.05 Tele Drama	11.30 Bollywood Gee Mini
02.30 A Documentary	A.M.
03.00 News	12.00 End of Transmission
03.05 A Documentary (Cont.)	



ART TV	
A.M.	04.57 State of Business (3 min)
06.30 World Business Today	05.00 Flipper and Lopaka
07.00 The State of Business	05.30 World News Asia
07.15 Music +	05.57 State of Business (3 min)
07.30 CNN Today	06.00 Telescreen Marketing
08.30 Anderson Cooper 360	06.30 International Correspondents
09.30 Eco Solutions	06.57 State of Business (3 min)
09.57 State of Business (3 min)	07.00 Music +
10.00 Telescreen Marketing	07.45 World News
10.30 CNN Today	08.15 The State of Business
10.57 State of Business (3 min)	08.30 World Business Today
11.00 Telescreen Marketing	08.57 State of Business (3 min)
11.30 CNN Today	09.00 CSI
11.57 State of Business (3 min)	09.57 State of Business (3 min)
Noon	10.00 Movie (Contd.)
12.00 Telescreen Marketing	11.00 The State of Business (3 min)
P.M.	11.30 Your World Today
12.30 CNN Today	M.N.
12.57 State of Business (3 min)	12.00 The Campaign Trail
01.00 World Sport	A.M.
01.30 CNN Today	12.30 Business International
01.57 State of Business (3 min)	01.30 World News Europe
02.00 World Business Today	02.30 Back Story
02.30 World News	03.00 World Sport
03.00 International Correspondents	03.30 World News Europe
03.30 Larry King	04.30 The Situation Room
04.30 Fireman Sam	05.30 CNN Today

SHAKTHI TV	
A.M.	11.00 7788
06.00 Breakfast News	Noon
06.15 Filler	12.00 Super Dancer
06.30 Sangetha Medal	12.30 Cine Choice
07.00 Rasi Palan	01.00 Movie
07.30 S-Kutties Srikravulagam	01.00 Nalam
08.00 S-Kutties	01.30 Maya Lialam Magic
08.30 Kids 1st	02.00 Nagavalli
09.00 Vinoha Ulagam	02.30 ISAI Ilavarasargal
09.30 Meedum Meedum	03.00 News 1st
Sirippu	03.30 Shakti Grand Master
10.00 Naan Avan Ialai	04.00 News 1st (English)
10.30 House Full	



My Super Sweet 16 (4)

ITN	
A.M.	03.03 Sinhala Film - Cont.
04.30 Station Opening	04.00 Peyen Peya Puwath
04.35 Pirith Deshanaya	04.03 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom
04.42 Jayamangala Gatha	04.30 Dedunu Hendewa
04.46 Davase Sithuvilli	05.00 Peyen Peya Puwath
05.00 Thakshilawa	05.03 Dedunu Hendewa
06.00 ITN Puwath	05.30 Lama Puwath
06.15 Davase Pathihara	05.45 Theruvan Namadimu
06.55 Jeevithaya Jayaganna	06.50 Jaya Piritha
07.00 Halthwa Peya	06.50 News - Tamil
08.00 Peyan Peya Puwath	06.30 Ritzbury Journey Day
08.05 Pahan Dora Magazine	07.00 News & Current Affairs
08.30 Sal Mal Yaya	07.30 Atappatama
09.00 Peyan Peya Puwath	08.00 Kopl Kade
09.05 Battl	08.30 Ithin Eeta Passel
10.00 Peyan Peya Puwath	09.00 Rupees & Sense
10.05 Nimthera	09.30 News
11.00 Discussion	09.45 Biz News
Noon	09.50 News - English
12.00 Noon News Bulletin	10.05 Aluth Para
P.M.	M.N.
12.30 Sapitiwara - Tele Drama	12.00 News - Sinhala
01.00 Sinhala Film	A.M.
02.00 Peyen Peya Puwath	00.20 Pirith Deshanaya
02.03 Sinhala Film - Cont.	00.30 Close
03.00 Peyan Peya Puwath	