

WHAT'S WHAT IN A WAT

Thai Buddhist Temples



CAROL STRATTON

August 2010

130 x 195 mm

104 pp. (vi + 98)

8 drawing, 72 b/w illus., 58 color
illus.

978-974-9511-99-2

Paperback

THB 395

Keywords

Thailand

Thai temple

Thai monastery

Buddhist temple

Buddhist architecture

Highlights

- detailed guide to Thai temple compounds
- definitions and explanations of architectural elements and structures
- richly illustrated with examples
- presents the temple in the context of Thai society
- author is an art historian specializing in Thai Buddhist art

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What's What in a Wat

Thai Buddhist Temples: Their Purpose and Design

A Handbook

Carol Stratton

As you walk through a Thai temple, a host of unfamiliar objects, shapes, and patterns tug at you from every direction. This handy and lucid guidebook will help you distinguish what is what. It takes you through a representative Thai Buddhist temple, guiding you from structure to structure and element to element, explaining the function and purpose of each, and the symbolism behind the forms. A Thai *wat* can be a place of bewildering beauty, but this illustrated companion will help you focus your eye and identify what you see. Tourists and residents, novices and scholars will all gain a clearer sense of what a *wat* is and the role it plays today in the lives of Thai people.

About the Author

CAROL STRATTON, has been researching and writing on Thai Buddhist art history for over forty years. She is the author of *The Art of Sukhothai: Thailand's Golden Age* with Miriam McNair Scott (Oxford 1981) and *The Buddhist Sculpture of Northern Thailand* (Silkworm Books, 2004).

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