

Manila Architecture at Crossroads from mid 1800's to 1941

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Abstract

More than 400 years ago, the Spanish Conquistadores colonized the Philippines. They played a major role in the early urban development of Manila which provided planning patterns for other urban centers in the archipelago through the Laws of the Indies circa 1573. These constituted an entre pot for new economic and social growth but most importantly the spread of Christianity evidenced by the building of many majestic awe inspiring churches which adopted the concept of earthquake resistant Baroque Architecture from Mexico.

As a result of the signing of Treaty of Paris in 1898, the Spaniards ceded the Philippines to the United States for \$20,000,000. The American colonizers brought about a change in building design following processes totally different from their Spanish predecessors. The Americans developed Manila based on the axial patterns of the City Beautiful Movement and they built civic structures based on the geographical and climatic context, socio-cultural aspects which were made possible by new building technology and materials.

The study provides a focus directed on how the architecture contributed by the Spanish and American colonizers left positive foundations towards the emergence of a unified enlightened truly Filipino contemporary and sustainable future urban development.