

The Filipinization of the Philippine Colonial Urban Environment

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Abstract

One of the major impacts of American colonial rule in the Philippines was the restructuring of urban environments. Beginning in 1905 the Philippine urban form was reshaped in accordance with City Beautiful principles. Yet the proliferation of this planning paradigm often centres upon two settlements: Baguio and Manila. Thus what impact did it have in the provinces, and how did Filipino designers engage with this process? Accordingly this paper seeks to examine the Bureau of Public Works, the governmental office charged with designing the Philippine built form. As such the paper will explicate what design activities transpired and, significantly, the revision of the form and meaning of Burnham's City Beautiful planning concept given power mediation between Americans and Filipinos following the Jones Law of 1916.

Key words: The Philippines, City Beautiful, Bureau of Public Works, and Filipinization