

ABSTRACT

Bangkok has confronted a number of urban problems due to its sprawl development. This study, then, seeks an indigenous and global approach to amend the urban problems. As one of the local and common mixed-use buildings, the Bangkok shophouses are selected. It aims to revise its flexible building potentials to initiate an alternative urban regeneration via the Flexible Design, Open Building, and Creative City. The study advocates the flexible shophouses building potentials together with the flexible design method can offer an opportunity for diversity of usages and groups of people to improve the quality of living of shophouse community in Bangkok. The study is divided into 3 parts: 1) the degree of shophouse flexible conditions to address the possibility of shophouse diversity and adaptation; 2) the method of design and evaluation of “Support” design and its application through voluntary Thai architects; and 3) the possibility of application of adaptive shophouses for creative city through the international workshop.

The results reveal that the flexible factors impact the degrees of building adaptation, especially, finance and installation factor are the most impact. The study of degree of physical adaptation assists to identify the support-infill components for the shophouse support design. The shophouse support application and method are also positively accepted; however, the method and proposed support components require further improvements to increase architects’ creativities and more comfortable application. Furthermore, the results from the workshop based on the Creative City approach reveal the shophouse potentials can promote shophouse creative community. In order to encourage the idea, the flexible factors and design approach, and Open Building concept should be disseminated in educational institutes and building construction fields. Moreover, the building regulations for flexible design consolation, precast construction system, DIY concept, are necessary and should be promoted.