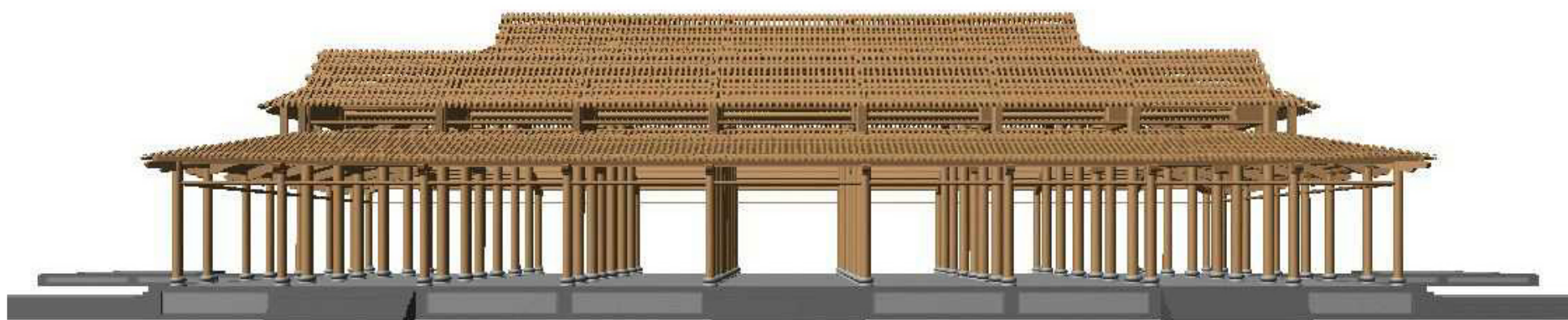


# The 'C an C hanh D ien' Main Palace

## Cần Thành Điện



The Model of Wooden Structure  
The South Front of Main Palace (Drawn by Computer Graphic)

### Mesurement and Analysis of Basic Plan

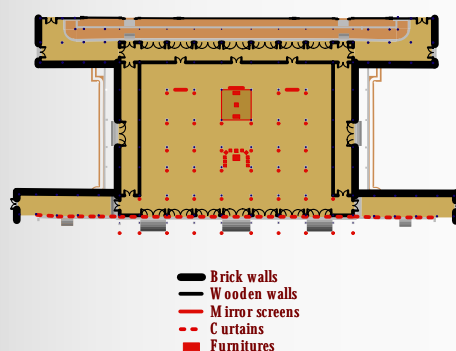


Fig. 1 Assumed layout from analyzed data

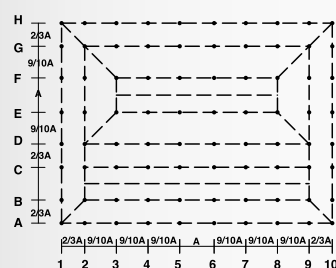


Fig. 2 Proportion of column spacing

#### Contents of studies:

In the measurement survey done on the above, we have gather many related numerical values related to the platform. For example, the numerical values of the column n spacing, the respective sizes of the base column stones, the diameters of the columns from, the trace on the surface of the base stones and so forth.

To analyze these numerical values, we can estimate the aesthetic proportion of the column spacing on a drawing (as you can see on the above Fig. 2). We can also assume the general column placements by calculating from the center column span, a 10% deduction on the distance from each three left and right columns and ending with the last (left and right) columns measuring at  $2/3$  in length from the center.

#### ❖ Features of the Can Chanh Palace:

The 'C an C hanh D ien' Main Palace, built in 1804, was constructed as the main regular court of the N guyen Dynasty. It was a grand wooden architectural building, which stood on a tall platform, vermilion-lacquered and decorated by many elaborate carvings. The size of the 'C an C hanh D ien' Main Palace's wooden frame is 41m in width, 31m in depth and over 10m in height. Next to the 'Thai Hoa D ien' Main Palace (which is the main ceremony court), it was considered the most important palace building in Vietnam in the N guyen Dynasty.

#### ❖ Conditions of the 'Can Chanh Dien' Main Palace:

Due to the French invasion in 1947, the platform is the only remaining structure of the 'C an C hanh D ien' Main palace in existence. It is said that the platform has been repaired at one time after the second Indochina war and, the parts that were repaired; were the structured stones at the perimeter of the platform. Nevertheless, we can assume that the existing platform is in their original state of condition.

#### ❖ Activities of the Joint Research Team:

Heritage-Waseda and H M C C is continuing our joint effort of the reconstruction of the 'C an C hanh D ien' Main Palace on the only remaining platform. Scientific analysis of the few remaining materials is still being carried out. We are reconstructing the basic plan of the 'C an C hanh D ien' Main Palace by studying the numerical values on column spacing, traces on the base column stones and from old photographs taken to analyze the structure, interior and utility of the whole construction. This is a genuine trial in recovering efforts of the lost N guyen Dynasty properties.

### Measurement from the Old Photographs

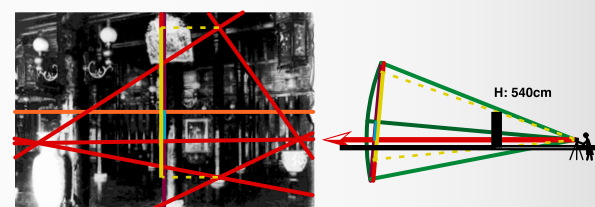
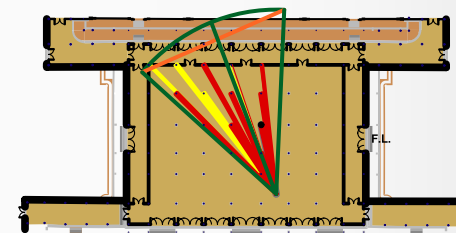


Fig. 3 Analysis method of old photograph

#### Analysis of dimensions from old photographs

We start by analyzing the positioning angle of the picture taken in the old photographs. By estimating the focal distance of the camera lens when the picture was taken, based on the disposition of the pillars and the horizontal lines of the portrait as well as the focus perspective.



The 'Can Chanh Dien' Main Palace in the old photographs

1. Bracket system of eaves support
2. Interior of front hall
3. Wooden structure of front hall
4. Throne room
5. Ceremony held in front
6. Aerial view of the gate, the court and Main Palace

1	2	4	
	3	5	6