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LACQUERED DOORS AND WINDOWS AT WAT KAMPANG TEMPLE, BANGKOK. Analyzing the Current Protection System and Finding Alternatives to Prevent Further Damages

Abstract:

Like many other traditional Thai palace and temple buildings built during the Ayutthaya period (1351–1767), the doors and windows shutters of Wat Kampang temple in Bangkok have rich decorations of lacquering technique named – Lai rod nam, in which gold leaves are applied on black lacquered background. Even though lacquer is one of the most durable natural binders, these art works are facing deterioration and irreversible damages due to their exposure to severe weather conditions. The aluminum framed acrylic protection system that was introduced at a later time on the lacquered door and window shutters of Wat Kampang temple is studied. The research tries to find an appropriate solution for the protection of the lacquered surfaces that can sustain in the long run.

Keywords: Lai rod nam, lacquer work, Wat Kampang temple, aluminum framed acrylic protection systems, photodegradation