



ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY OF THAILAND

The Suvarnabhumi Campus 2009

Assumption University of Thailand

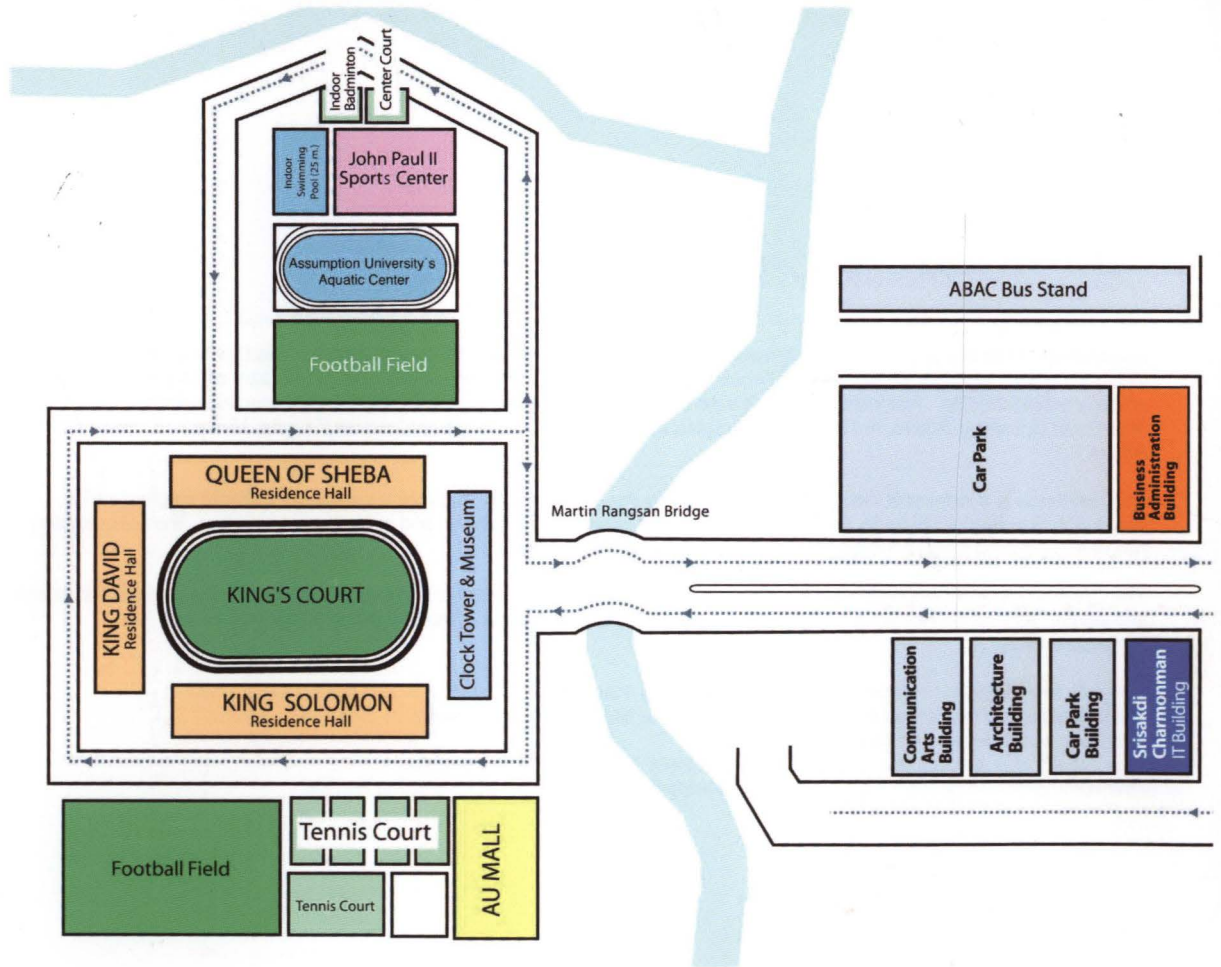
Assumption University originated from Assumption Commercial College in 1969 as an autonomous higher education institution under the name of Assumption School of Business. In 1972, with the approval of the Ministry of Education, it was officially established as Assumption Business Administration College or ABAC. In May 1975, it was accredited by the Ministry of University Affairs. In 1990, it was granted new status as "Assumption University" by the Ministry of University Affairs.

The University is a non-profit institution administered by the Brothers of St. Gabriel, a worldwide Catholic religious order, founded in France in 1705 by St. Louis Marie De Montfort, devoted to education and philanthropic activities. The congregation has been operating many educational institutions in Thailand since 1901.

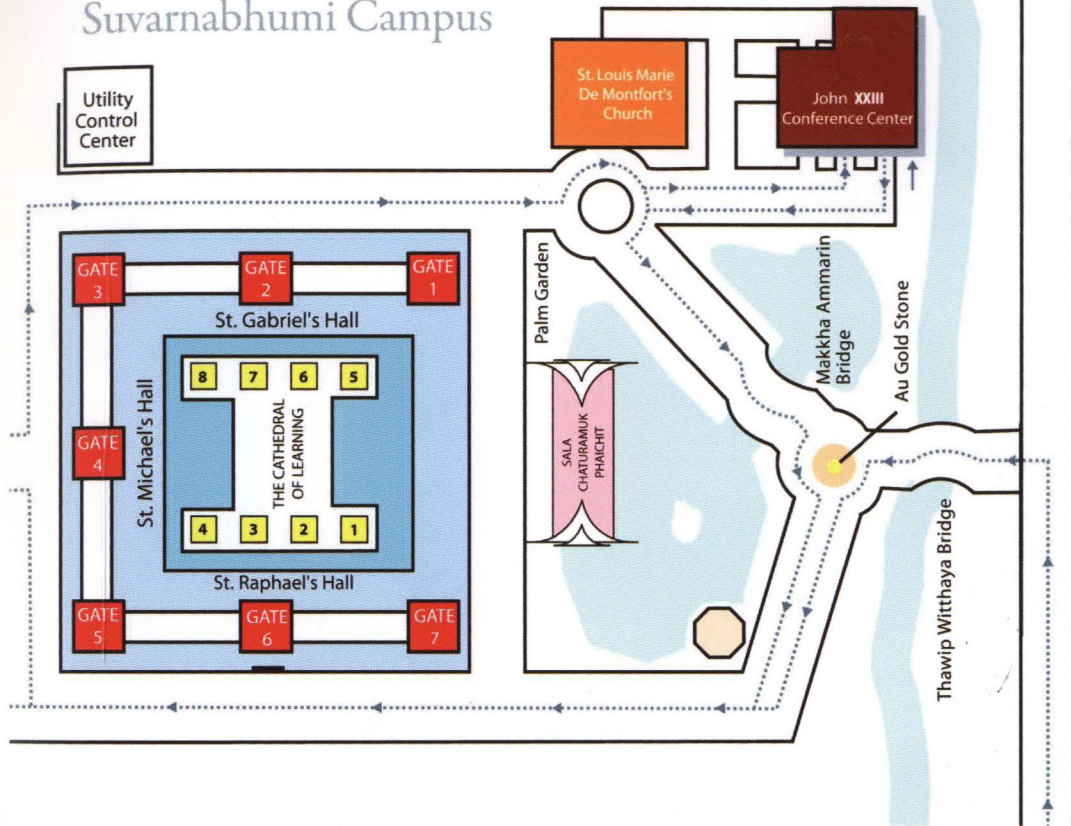
The University is an international community of scholars, enlivened by Christian inspiration, engaged in the pursuit of truth and knowledge, serving the human society, especially through the creative use of interdisciplinary approaches and cybertechnology.

In loyalty to its Christian mission, Assumption University stands for

- the inculcation of respect for the three institutions of the Nation Religion, Country,
- the King and a democratic way of life.
- the belief that a man justifies himself and his existence by the nobility of his work.
- the commitment to be a light that leads men towards the true source of all knowledge and life.



Assumption University Suvarnabhumi Campus



Message from the President Emeritus

Rev. Bro. Prathip M. Komolmas, f.s.g., Ph.D.

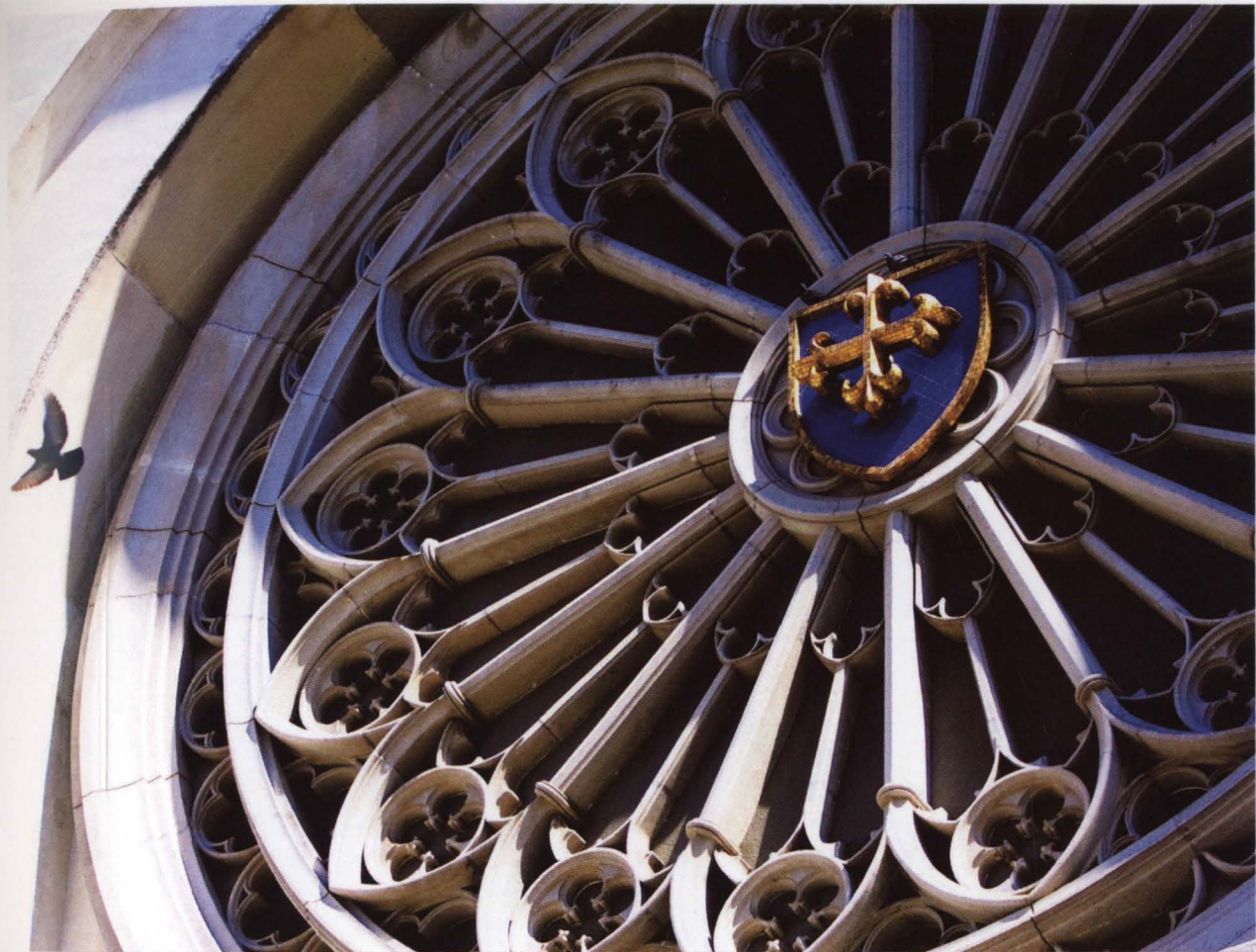
Message from the President

Rev. Bro. Bancha Saenghiran, f.s.g., Ph.D.











The Seat of Wisdom (Sedes Sapientiae)

The golden statue is an original interpretation of "Assumption." Christians venerate the mother of Christ as the seat of wisdom and as taught by St. Louis Marie de Montfort, Christ is the wisdom seated on the throne. The mother of Christ is the dwelling place of the supreme wisdom of all science. The university is the Alma Mater or our mother who is also the dwelling place of knowledge. In this context "Assumption," besides its religious connotation in the glorification of the mother of Christ, has yet another meaning in Thai language, "The Abode of Abiding Knowledge." Rightly, Assumption is the seat of wisdom.



Au Golden Rock

"Au" the abbreviation of Assumption University coincides with the chemical term "Aurum", which means "gold." Gold has been a symbol of goodness and value for ages. The big golden rock, closest to the Taweewithaya Bridge, is to remind students every morning when they arrive that when they graduate from Au they are expected to be as good as gold. The chemistry in the golden rock is an element that forms the virtuous composition of the atmosphere. For most students their student life will end after graduation and they will enter a new phase of life. Whatever career or path in life they choose, goodness will be an ingredient of their success.



The Cathedral of Learning

Bro. Martin derived inspiration from Roman columns and Gothic churches and created an innovative concept of a structure that would inspire students to set lofty goals in life and maintain a lofty principle. He wants Au to be a university that not only gives knowledge, but also its architecture should give inspiration to students. The 39-storey edifice, with 88 columns around its exterior, rose windows, ceiling paintings, magnificent stairway, though unconventional, echoes loftiness and grandeur of ancient and modern civilization. It is surrounded on all sides by ten fountains. It houses the hall of fame, the library, a computer centre and lab, the shopping plaza, etc.

Cathedral Main Entrance

The romanticized flight of steps dominated by the Seat of Wisdom makes all who walk up feel high in spirit. On the foreground of the entrance is a mosaic flooring gloriously reflecting the rose window. On the glass door is Bro. Hilaire's short Thai rhyme to teach children. Written in his handwriting, the rhyme tells children to seek knowledge and heed the words of the Lord and teachers that will bring them wealth, but always remember that Heaven is better. Bro. Hilaire was a distinguished scholar of Assumption College.





Boulevard des Nations

The boulevard connects the front part of the campus to the residential halls. It is a baseline that marks the straight positioning from the King David hall; the bell tower, to the Cathedral of Learning and the Thai Pavilion in the front. In the middle of the long boulevard is the highest flagpole with the Thai national flag, and along both sides are displayed flags of some 50 countries from which their nationals have come to study at Au. At the end of the boulevard is the Martin Rangsang Bridge which leads to the bell-cum-clock tower. The tower is also an observatory and houses a museum. The reverberations of the bell can be heard from a distance, but the thrust of the university's policy will reverberate beyond Thailand.



King David, King Solomon and Queen of Sheba

The three 13-storey halls almost form a U-shape embracing the basketball grounds and the middle pyramid. The centre area, with rows of seats all round it, is called the King's Court. Named after characters in the Old Testament, the salubrious halls have all modern facilities and an underground car park. The safety measures to protect against fire include smoke detectors, sprinklers, fire escapes and emergency lighting. The halls are located in a breezy area with plenty of sun and fresh air. They are on the western side of the campus so in the evening one sees sunset rays suffuse the colorful flags on the boulevard.

King David

Long before Jesus Christ was born, King David ruled Israel. He was a valiant soldier. But King David here is a residence for visitors with 266 rooms in the same style as the other two halls. The back terrace of every room overlooks a wide green field. It is quiet at daytime and in the night. Only at the King David Hall are a store, a laundry shop and an ATM. The convenience store named U-Mate, was created by an ABAC Dummy Company Perpetual Fund and a Student Affairs Fund to give financial support for needy students in rural areas and Au's student development program. The total surplus generated by the store will be contributed to the Funds.

King Solomon

In the Old Testament, King Solomon, noted for his great wisdom, inherited the kingdom from his father, King David. He built a temple dedicated to God which transformed Jerusalem into an important centre during his time. The King Solomon Hall is a residence for male students. It has 505 rooms with an interior and facilities akin to a standard hotel, designed for quiet rest and study. Each room has a TV set; cable TV; direct-line telephone and a pair of line-ups for computer and Internet access. It faces the Queen of Sheba Hall.

Queen of Sheba

The Queen of Sheba was charming and clever. The legendary love of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba not only had a deep influence on Jerusalem but also on numerous cultures. The Queen of Sheba Hall is akin to that of the King Solomon Hall in the number of rooms and its exterior, but it is for female students. There is an infirmary and a study room on the second floor. Behind both halls are outdoor sports grounds. Together, the inspiringly named twin buildings, which stand testimony to their faith, should infuse their qualities into young students who are bound for a bright future.

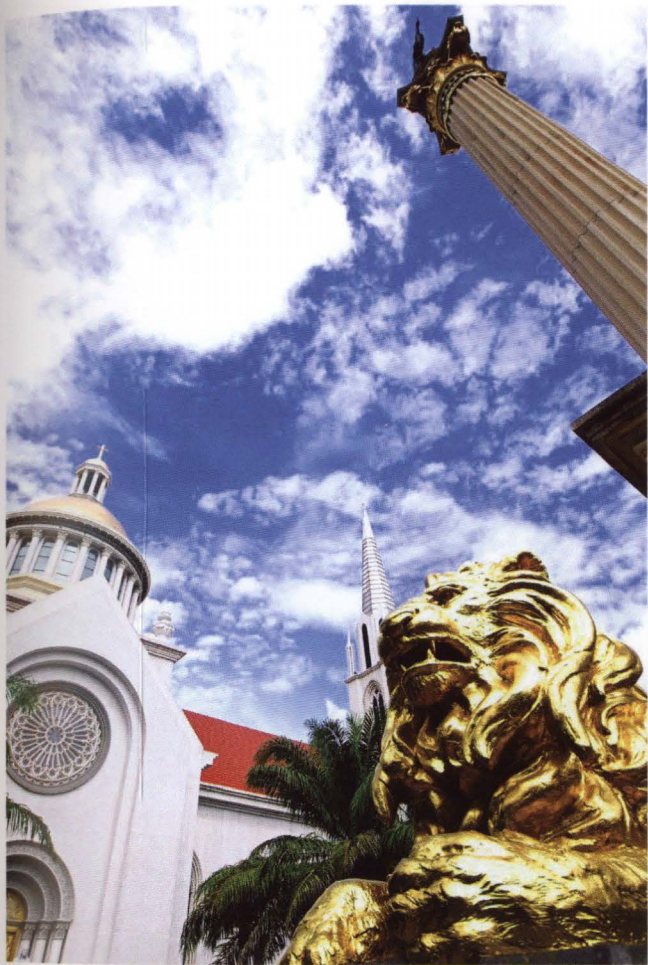




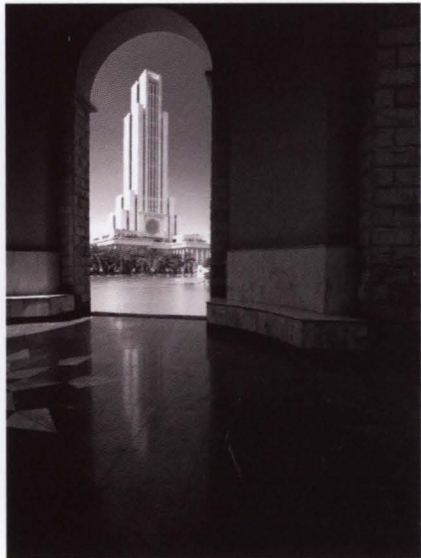








Right : The Residential Hall : King Solomon & Clock Tower & The Museum and Queen of Sheba | St. Louise Marie de Montfort Church







Sala Jaturatham



The Pavilion of Four Virtues is so named by virtue of being inscribed on its upper part with the words "Prudence; Justice; Fortitude; Temperance." These were cardinal virtues of great kings and perfect men in ancient Greek and Roman times. It is intended to edify and infuse into the students these qualities which would mould them to perfection. This imposing stone structure has arched doorways marked on each of its four sides by twin Roman columns. Perched on the corner of the incoming road, it directly overlooks an island of trees in the big pond. It is a nice breezy place to view the water mirroring the "university in a park," the theme created by Bro. Martin.

Makkha Ammarin Bridge



The name of the bridge in Thai means "the path of angels". It is so named to bless people who cross this bridge. The high reliefs on the bridge rails depict the angel of light with radiating rays around an angel's face. They bear a resemblance to Medusa so the bridge is dubbed "Versace Bridge" by the students. It crosses over the sprawling pond and near the entrance, but it serves as the exit is from the university.

The Scholars' Square



The Scholars' Square consists of three main buildings named St. Gabriel, St. Michael and St. Raphael, after Archangels. The four-story buildings are all connected and punctuated by seven gates with domed roofs. The classrooms in the three buildings overlook the Cathedral of Learning surrounded by fountains so the mind of students is enlivened by what they see. This design is to create an atmosphere conducive to learning, reflecting meditating and interiorising. The Office of the President is on the right side, and meeting rooms are on the left.









Sala Thai

The Thai Pavilion is for Thai ceremonies and cultural activities. This is the biggest four-patio Thai pavilion in the world and is indicative of the location of the university in Thailand. It has been named "Sala Jaturamookpaichitr" by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Being in the middle of all structures in the front part of the campus, it suggests that Au is the centre of many nations. It is close to the pond and is therefore the most delightful place to watch the gentle breeze ripple the surface of the water.

The Library (page 37-38)

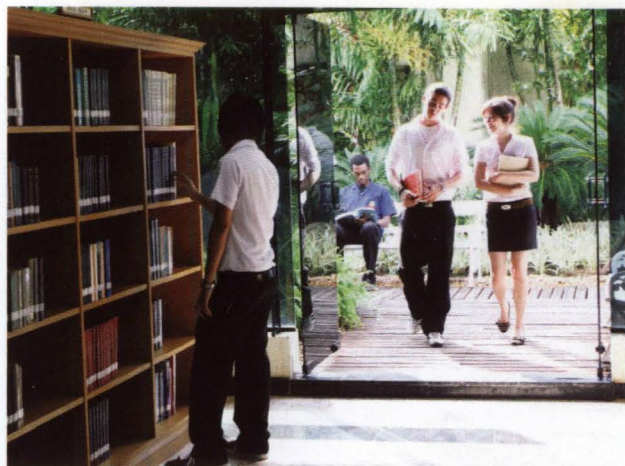
Occupying the second-eight floors of the Cathedral of Learning, the library has a seating capacity of 1,600 with study areas designated by a sign "Quiet study". Its resources consist of over 500,000 volumes; approx. 2,000 current periodical subscriptions, plus theses, dissertations, audio-visual materials, CD-ROM databases, etc. Most materials are arranged according to the Dewey Decimal Classification System. Its services include computerized literature search, microfiche and interlibrary loan services. Every floor has a great view and on the third floor is a hanging rock garden with Dan-kwian sculptures on the wall and plants along the walkway.















John Paul II Convention Centre

John Paul II Convention Centre is a two-story building for conventions and receptions. Its modern facilities include language translation capability to and from several languages. On the second floor are seven conference and meeting rooms. The largest room, which can accommodate 300 people, is in the same format as a United Nations conference room. Ideally located near the entry and exit of the university, it is an idyllic place that overlooks natural and architectural beauties. Its name is a tribute to the Head of the Roman Catholic Church. This international convention centre is another venue where different human races can unite and exchange their ideas and ideals for the benefit of future generations.

Wild Horses (page 40)

One of Au's students, Nakorn Kamolsiri, won a gold medal in equestrian sports at the 13th Asian Games in 1998, the first gold medal achieved by an Au student. Inspired by his success and the natural characteristics of horses, Bro. Martin chose horses to be the mascot of Au. Horses exude physical and mental agility, strength and endurance. The statues of five wild horses in the middle of the huge pond, seemingly running towards the academic buildings, are to invoke enthusiasm in the students to study with gusto. They awaken everyone who looks at them as they are portrayed in postures that demonstrate their stamina and swiftness.

The Museum (page 41)

The first-third floors of the bell-cum-clock tower house a museum. One of the university's valuables kept there is a golden crown used in the Crowning Ceremony of the mother of Christ at the Seat of Wisdom every 15 August, which is Assumption Day. The clock ticks every fifteen minutes and every hour the bell rings a song. It is so designed to ring more than 200 songs. The base of the tower is an enormous flight of steps redolent of the Victor Emmanuel Monument in Rome.



John Paul II Convention Centre

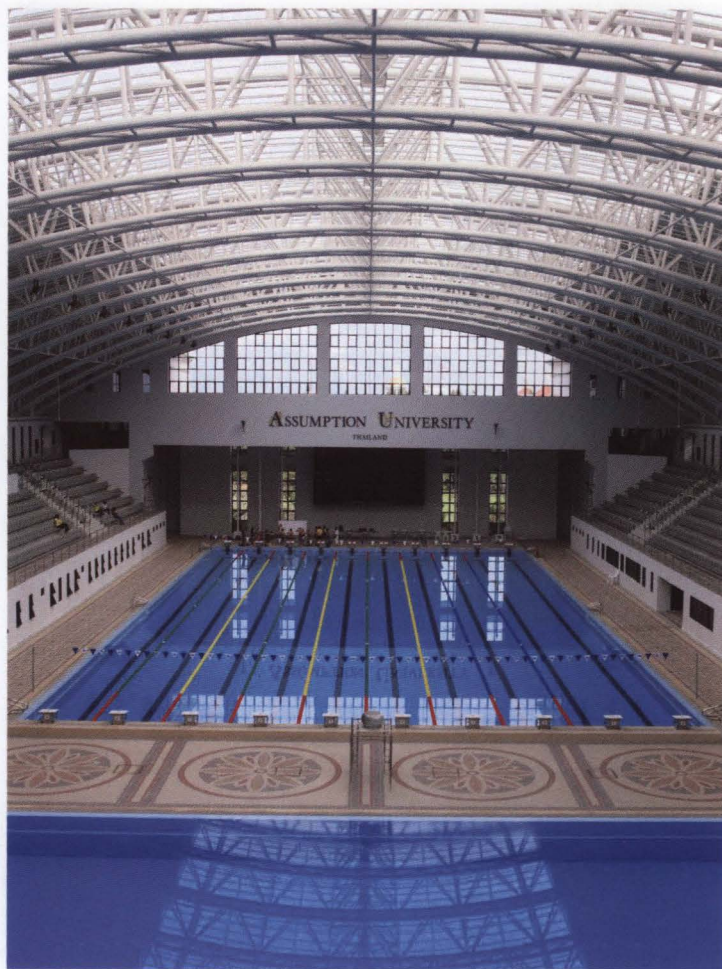




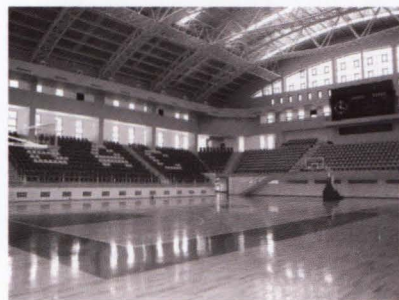
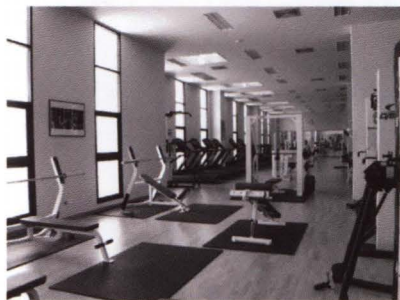




Rev. Bro. Bancha Saenghiran, f.s.g., Ph.D. President



Indoor Swimming Pool and John Paul II Sport Center



St Michael (page 50-53)

This building houses the registration, finance and administration. Standing at Si Rattanakosin gate one sees the Cathedral of Learning to the front with the Au logo above the entrance door, and to the rear is the long boulevard leading to the Martin Rangsang Bridge. The bridge is the gateway to the clock tower and residence halls.

On the external wall are two high reliefs. One of them depicts foreign dignitaries having an audience with Siam's King Narai and the other depicts a Siamese diplomatic mission having an audience with France's King Louis XIV. The arched doorway in the middle of the St. Michael Building is called Si Rattanakosin. In the porch is 'a white statue of Sir Isaac Newton opposite that of Albert Einstein. Both were geniuses whose discoveries and experiments led the world to a new era of high technology.

St Gabriel (page 53)

The big arched doorway in the middle of the St. Gabriel Building is called "St. Ayutthaya Anuson." Looking up one sees a red ceiling ornamented with gilded flowers. On both sides of the wall are 7 mural paintings, one of them depicts three Ayutthaya pagodas and the other is a dramatic scene of the Loy Krathong festival at Sukhothai's historical park, Sukhothai and Ayutthaya were former capitals of Thailand. The paintings were done by Au's art section. Below this doorway is the exit from the underground parking lot.

St. Raphael (page 54-59)

The St. Michael and St. Raphael buildings are connected at gate 5 - Navamintmaharaj. At this point is a marble Spiral stairway, the highest one in Thailand. The wrought-iron banister that curls up to the fourth floor resembles that of The Louvre Palace in Paris. Each step is wide and shallow. On the way up one sees white winged angels blowing small trumpets overhead.

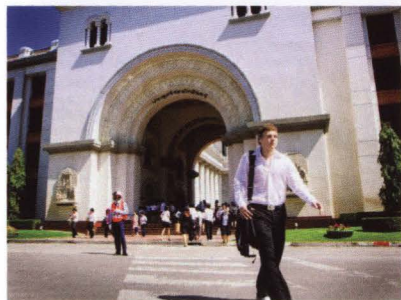


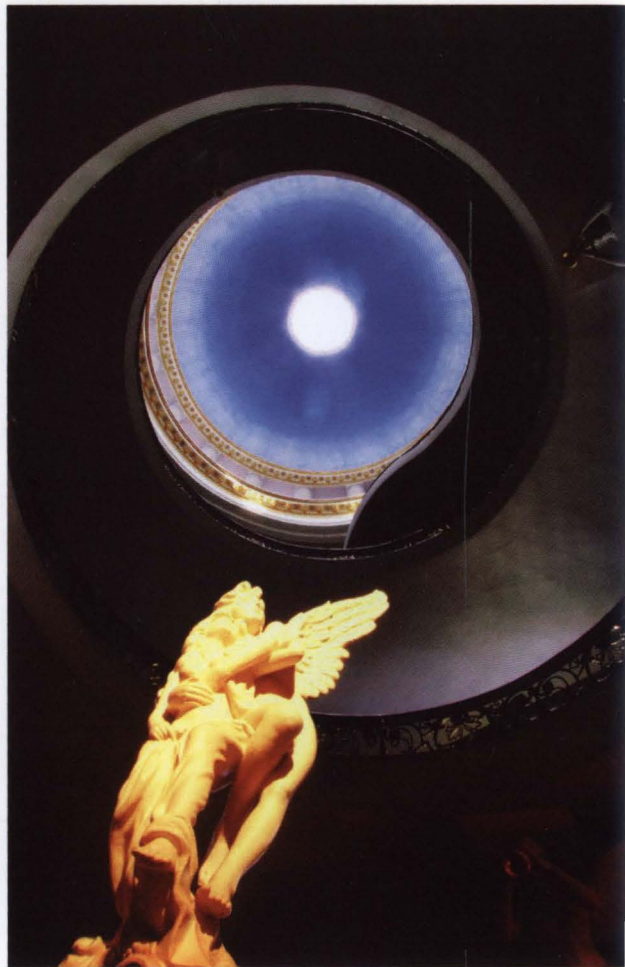
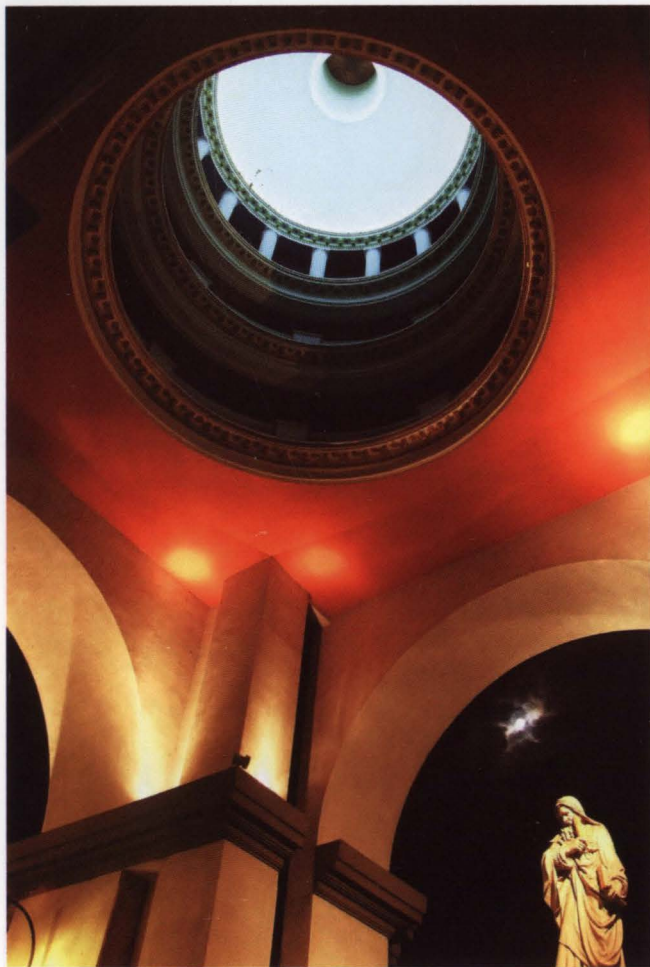




St. Michael (the external wall): France's King Louis XIV

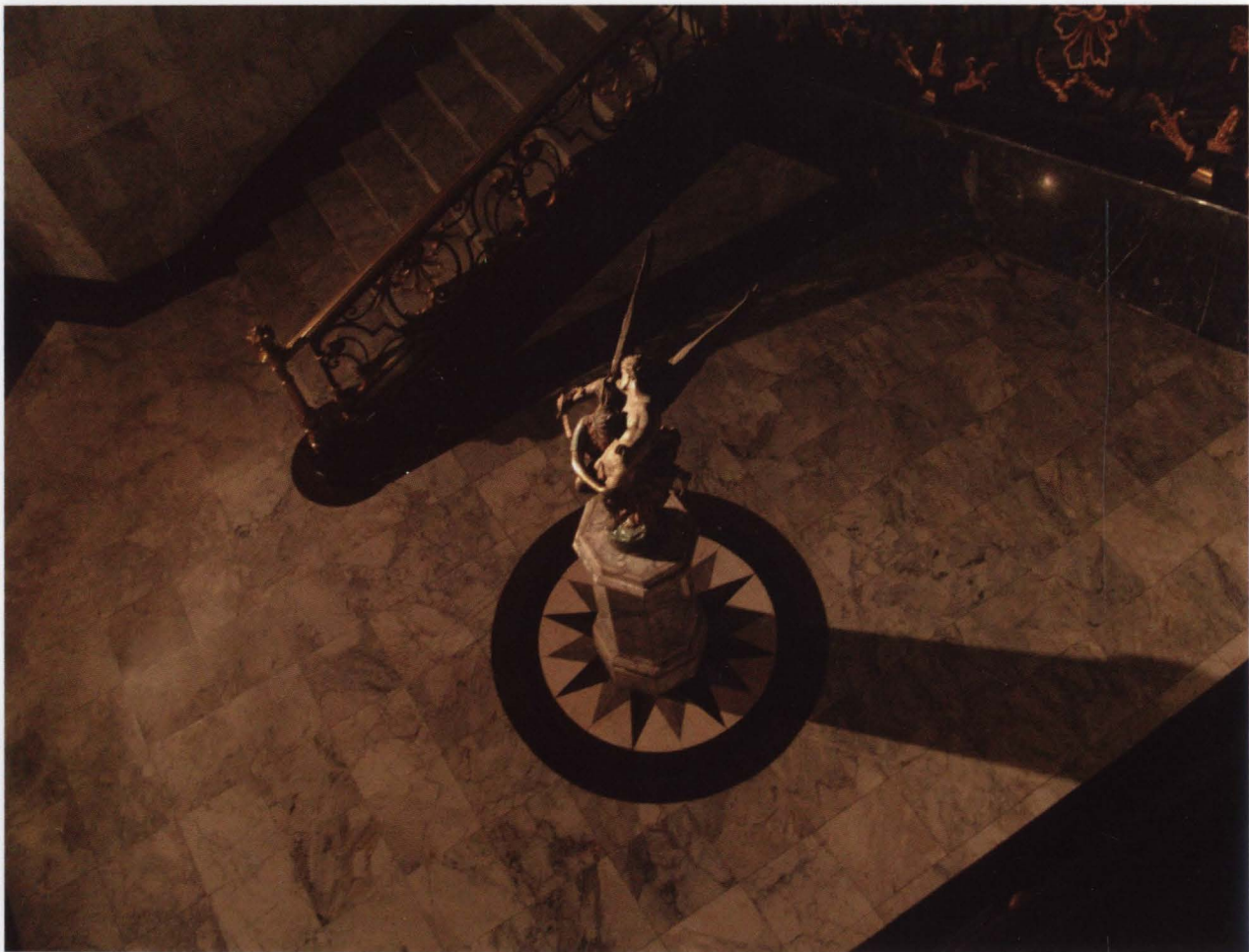








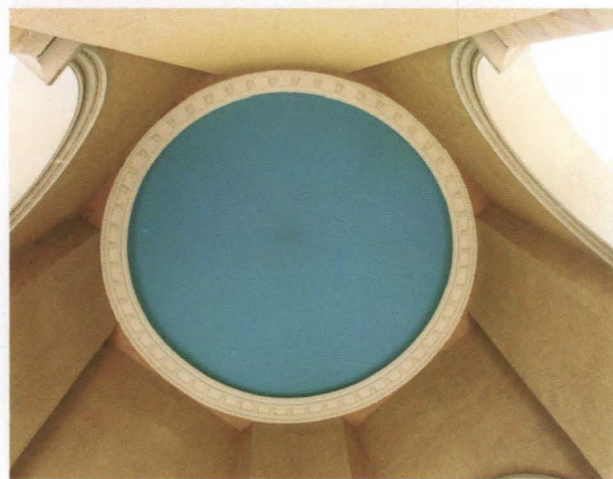
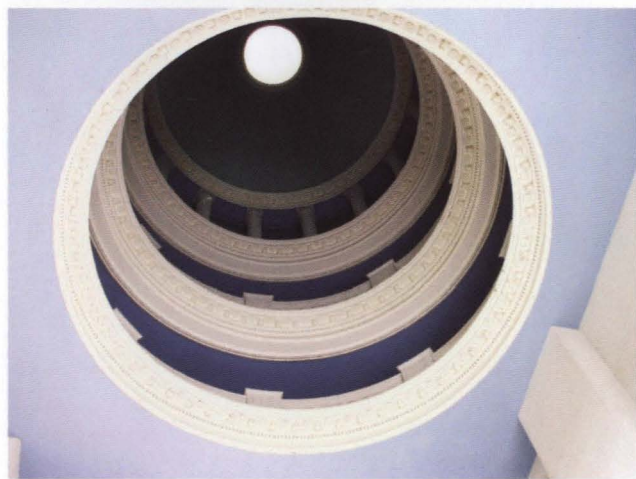
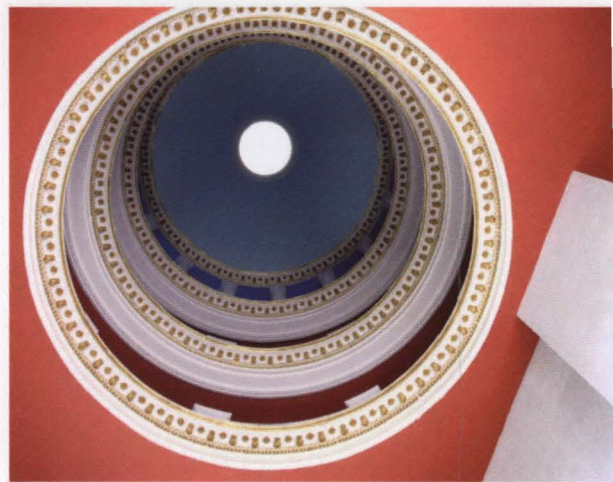
St. Raphael (A marble spiral stairway)











St. Raphael

Above the seventh gate, called Thewan Raksa, is also a domed roof painted ivory, known as the ivory tower, under which is a teacher's lounge that can only be reached by a spiral stairway from the fourth floor. The murals in the ivory tower depict scenes from the famous Ramakien. The history of Au is inscribed on the external wall of the ground floor and opposite it is a white statue of St. Paul, one of Jesus' disciples. St. Paul was a writer of great wisdom whose writing helped spread Christianity. One of his great literary works is "What is love?"

Hall of Fame (page 62-63)

The grand marble hall encompasses reception rooms for The King and The Queen and six conference rooms. The marble wall provides a suitable backdrop for big paintings and photographs - the treasures of this hall. There are paintings of The King, The Queen, The Crown Prince and HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. In Apirak Nawamin Room, one of the conference rooms, is a photograph of King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola of Belgium. A ceiling painting depicts the mother of Christ ascending to Heaven surrounded by Angels, Saints and Brothers of St. Gabriel. On the high marble walls will be inscribed the names of model students and alumni; outstanding sportsmen and researchers.

The Coat of Arms (page 65)

The coat of arms of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, which is Au's logo, is shown and engraved on many places but the biggest and noticeable one is on the wall at a stairway in the Hall of Fame. It depicts four signs with meaningful content: the ship in the sea symbolizing the sea of life with difficulties that we have to struggle through; the OS Cross which represents Divinity and Science; A.M. and the white lilies to remind students to love their institution as their Alma Mater (Dear Mother) and be as pure in their thoughts, words and mind as the white lilies; and the star and the boat which symbolizes spiritual hope. The four symbols are framed by a shield under which is Au's motto "LABOR OMNIA VINCIT", which means: We can overcome all difficulties through working hard.











Centenary Monument

Akin to the Columbus statue pointing to America as the newfound land, a scholar pointing to the Cathedral of Learning guides students to the land of knowledge. On four sides of the stone plinth on which the towering pillar stands are inscribed the motives for its construction; the names of twelve Headmasters of St. Laurent Sur Sevre, from 1716-1842, from where the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel have spread to four corners of the world; Bro. Martin's concept of education and Montfort's last will and testament. This monument, erected in 1999 is to pay tribute to H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of his sixth cycle birthday; to mark the third millennium and the centenary celebration of the Brothers of St. Gabriel's arrival in Thailand.

AU Mall or Les Galeries Royales De L' Assomption (page 68-69)

AU Mall comprising a two-storey commercial zone with 5031 square metres of space and a 1879 sq-m three-storey building to accommodate foodstalls. The tenants including concinience stores, book and stationary stores, bank, a recreation centre, a food court, a 100-seat cinema.

Shopping Plaza (page 70)

The ground floor of the Cathedral of learning is a delightful place for students. A microcosm of ubiquitous shopping centres in Bangkok, the plaza caters to their age, with food and ice cream shops; gift shops; a drug store; Au book store and a photo shop; and even a bank and a post office. The small shops line along four sides and in the middle, juxtaposed with stone benches where students can sit and chat. There are also two dining rooms, called "le Coq D'or" and "Cafe de Paris." The overall interior is simple and tidy yet coloured by shop signs.

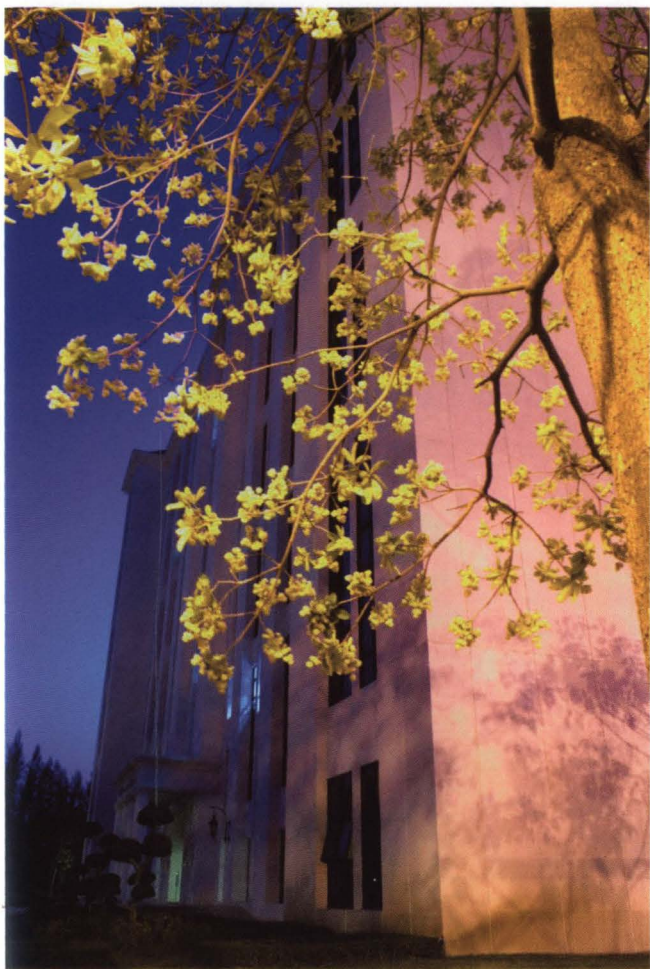


AS MALL
2004



AU Mall or Les Galeries Royales
De L' Assomption
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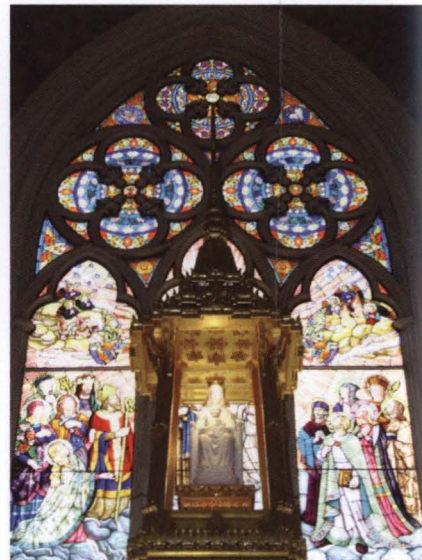
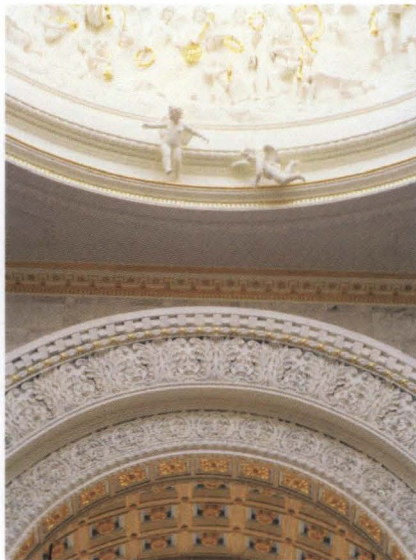


St. Louis Marie de Montfort Church (page 73-83)

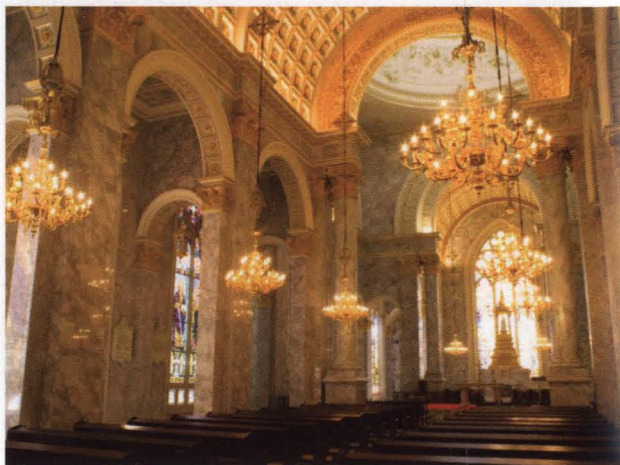
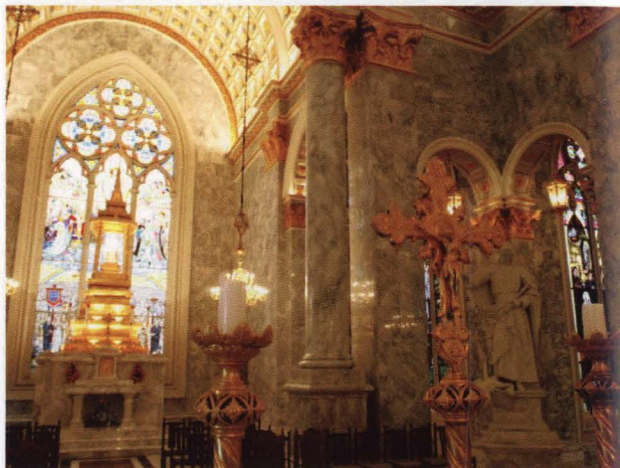
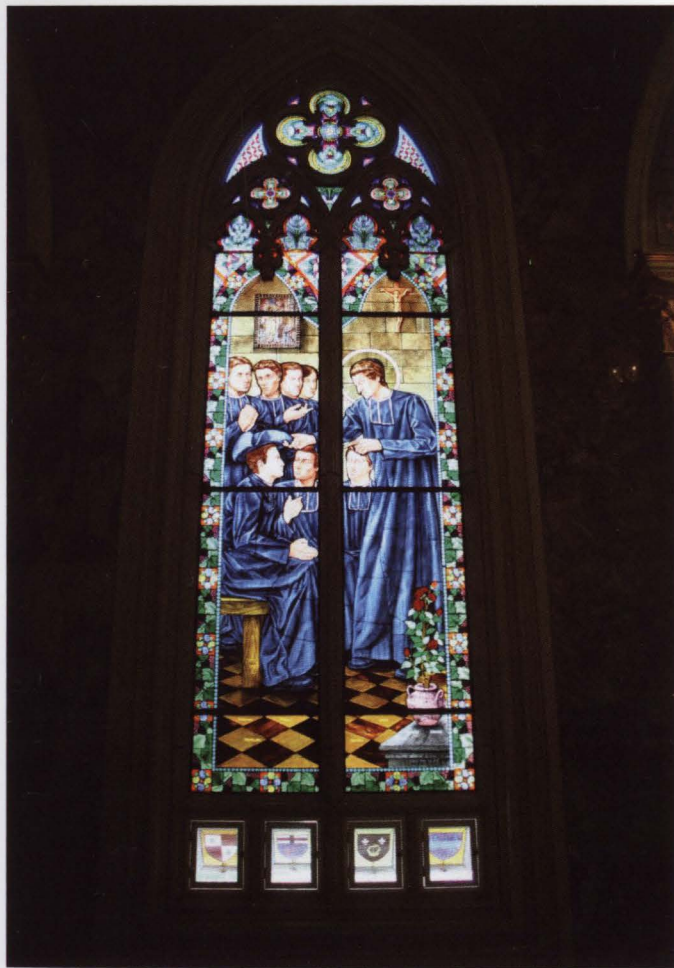
The physical features are a combination of French and Italian architecture, with a dome, stained glass windows and a bell tower, all designed by Bro. Martin. He christened it "St. Louis Marie de Montfort Church," after the founder of the Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. Together with the adjacent Centenary Monument, it was built to commemorate the centenary celebration of the arrival in Thailand on October 20, 1901 of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, sons of St. Louis Marie de Montfort. They formed an educative mission which has contributed significantly to educational growth in Thailand. The church is used for the university's religious functions.



Wild Horses and St. Louis Marie de Monfort Church





















The Suvarnabhumi Campus

The Suvarnabhumi Campus, constructed as a "University in a Park", comprises 400 acres of a beautifully landscaped assembly of mixed architecture surrounded by lush tropical gardens and trees. Designed to host the university's undergraduate degree programs, it offers everything: a meeting/exhibition center, hotel, non-coeducational dormitories, a magnificent chapel, a museum, three academic halls, and much more. The centerpiece of the campus is the Cathedral of Learning, a 35-story tower, which houses student support services, the library, reception halls, seminar rooms and offices. Transportation between the two campuses is convenient and inexpensive. Shuttles run throughout the day between various points in Bangkok and the Suvarnabhumi Campus.



The Cathedral of Learning | Right: The wild horses



IDEAS AND PRODUCTION

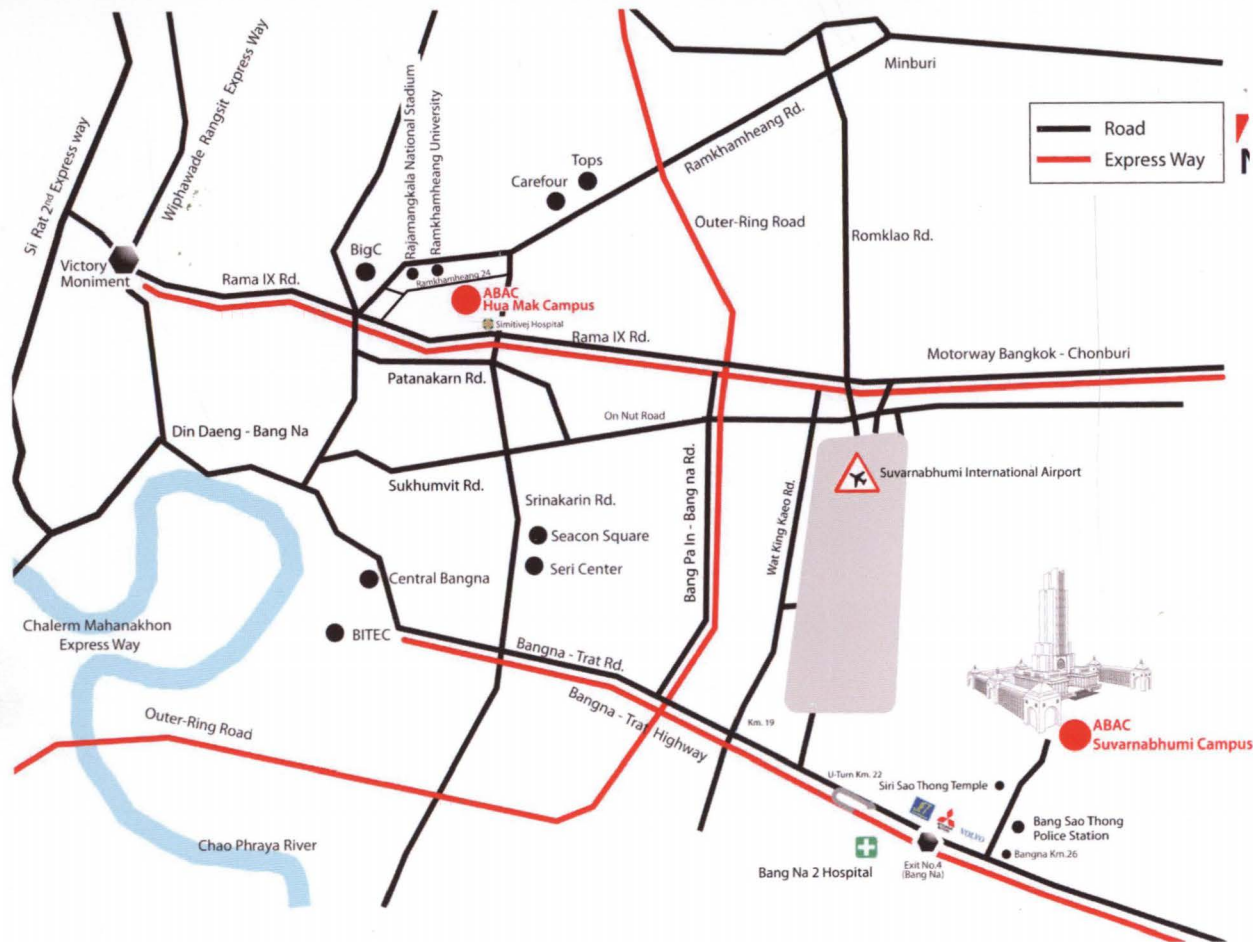
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