



Wat Arun



Bangkok Thailand



HISTORY OF WAT ARUN

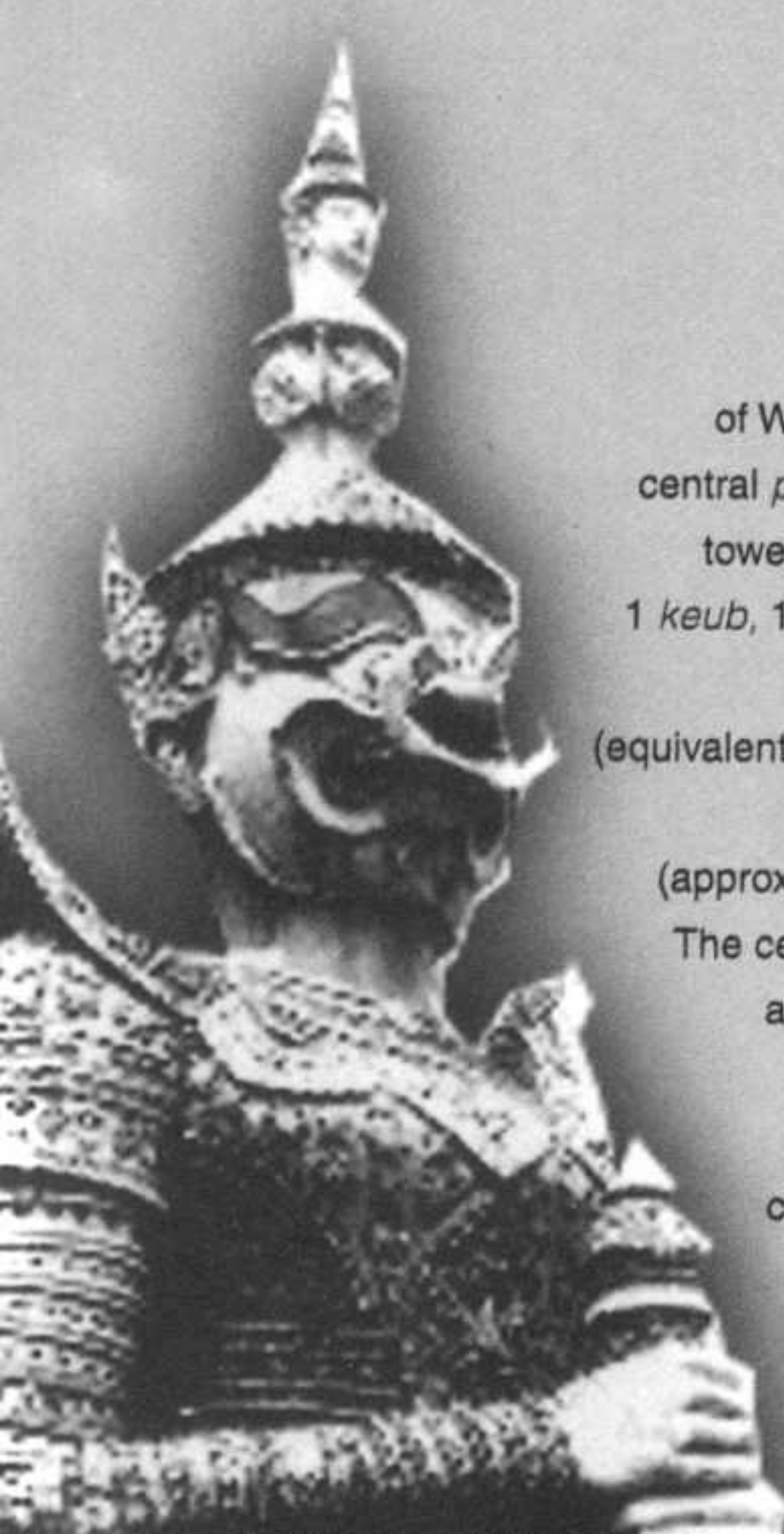
Wat Arunratchawararam is classified as a principal class (*"Chan Ake"*) Royal temple, sited on the east bank of the *Chao Phraya River*. It is an old temple, built in the days of Thailand's ancient capital of Ayuthaya and originally known as *"Wat Makok"* (The Olive Temple). In the ensuing era when Thonburi was the capital, King Thaksin changed the name to *"Wat Chaeng"*. In a later reign, King Rama II restored the temple and bestowed the new name as *"Wat Arunratchatharam"*. King Rama IV later made additional restorations and once more changed the temple's name to the present one *"Wat Arunratchawararam"*.

Highlights

The outstanding feature of Wat Arunratchawararam is its central *prang* (pagoda), with its spire towering to 1 *sen*, 13 *wah*, 1 *sork*, 1 *keub*, 1 inch according to traditional

Thai units of measurement (equivalent to 66.80 metres) and a base measuring 5 *sen*, 18 *wah* (approximately 236 square metres).

The central *prang*, satellite *prangs* and porches (*mondop*) are all completely covered in thousands of porcelain and china decorations in a myriad of patterns - a spectacle which is hard to find elsewhere.





Prang Wat Arun



Ordination Hall

The structure has a raised base with a double tiered roof. Its outer walls and pillars are decorated with china in floral patterns. Pillar finials are detailed with gold leaf and coloured glass. The temple boundary markers are housed in marble porches and intricately carved. Each of the pagodas' corners features the Thai architectural innovation of 12 indents. The Niramitr Buddha image dates from the reign of King Rama II and is housed in front of the Ordination Hall.



Peripheral balcony

The peripheral balcony runs along on all 4 sides of the Ordination Hall, with ceramic roof tiles in yellow and forest green. There are 4 entrances centrally positioned at each of the 4 sides. Inside, 120 Buddha images in the posture of subduing mara(demons) preside at intervals.



The Chapel(Phra Viharn)

The door and window panels are decorated in the intricate Thai *rot nam roob dok mai* pattern. Inside the chapel is the main Buddha image in the posture of subduing mara, cast in copper and sheathed in gold.



The 4 satellite *chedi*(pagodas)

The *chedi* are slender, tapering brick pagodas, marked by the Thai architectural innovation of 20 indented corners at each edge.



The buddha's footprint niche

The niche itself is of brick, covered in floral ceramic patterns. It contains a finely carved replica of the Buddha's footprint



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Principal prang , satellite prangs and porches(mondop)

Every inch is exquisitely picked out in china,
with some portions artistically highlighted by
seashells, pieces of dishes or the traditional

5 coloured Thai chinaware known as
"benjarong", it is an impressive
and rare sight to behold. Around the
base of the prang are various figures
of ancient Chinese soldiers
and animals.



Riverside pavilions(sala)

These 6 pavilions are in the Chinese
style and contain bridges, which meet
the Chao Phraya River. The pavilions
have raised floors for visitors to rest,
and are made of green granite

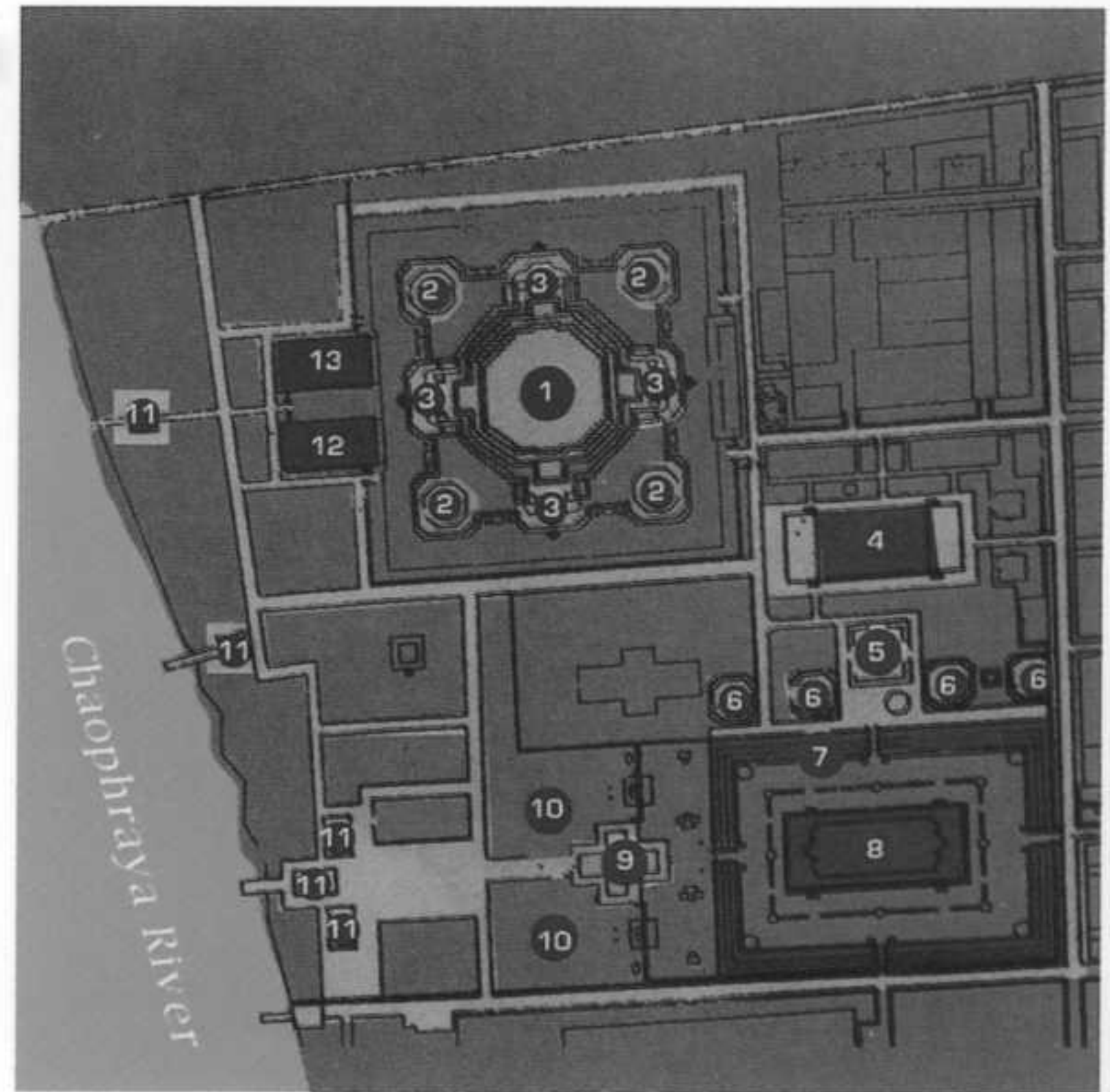


Entrance way with spire roof

The front entrance to the Ordination
Hall has a roof with a central spire,
decorated in coloured ceramic and
stuccowork sheathed in coloured
china. There are 2 demons, or temple
guardian figures in front, fashioned
in stucco and decorated with
ceramic. The white figure is named
"Sahasateja" and the green
guardian is known as *"Tasakantha"*
in *Ramayana*



Map of Wat Arun



- 1 Principal prang
- 2 Satellite prangs
- 3 Porches (mondop)
- 4 The Chapel (Phra Viharn)
- 5 The Buddha's footprint niche
- 6 The 4 satellite chedi (pagodas)
- 7 The peripheral balcony (Phra Viharn Kot)
- 8 Ordination Hall
- 9 Entrance way with spire roof
- 10 Demons (Sahasateja, Tasakantha)
- 11 Riverside pavilions (sala)
- 12 Borse Noi
- 13 Viharn Noi