

Malaysia Paper

Cebuano Tapestry as seen through art and culture

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LOCATION MAPS



I. Traditional Cebuano culture

A glimpse of the Cebuano



This is our traditional home, the *payag*, woven like a basket, of bamboo and thatched palms. Flexible and strong, it bends and sways with the wind, resilient, much like the Filipino soul.

It has no partitions, thus allowing us to cast caring glances at our children at play or the elderly parent seated by the open window. Within its walls, we express sensitivity to one another's needs. We politely look away when someone needs privacy. We gently touch a parent's hand to our forehead to show respect. Gestures of refinement and nobility. Essences of the Filipino.

(In the cities where we now live and work, buildings overwhelm with the glint of metal, the polish of glass and the brute strength of concrete. May the memory of traditional home and a gentle people, put a smile on our lips, and a song in our hearts. And may it continue to infuse pride in our step - because we are Filipino!)

House building has traditionally been an occasion for social bonding in Filipino culture. The men folk pitch in their carpentry skills while the women tend to the makeshift hearth where fish is being grilled, rice or corn is boiled and vegetable soup, (“utan bisaya”) is prepared in huge kettles. The community then share the food during breaks.

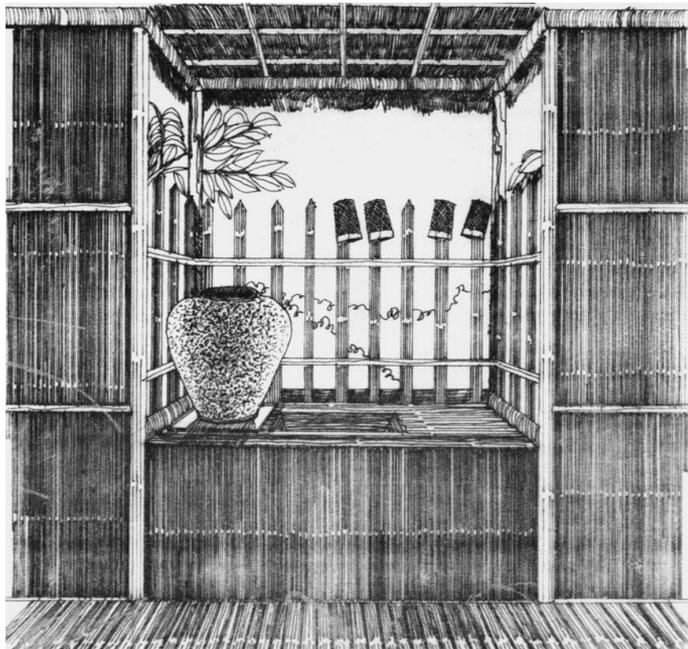


The vernacular house on stilts allows for the circulation of breezes drifting in from the slatted floor.

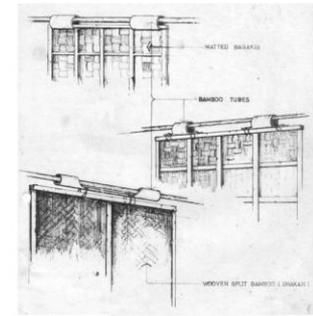


Woven bamboo strips are used for walling

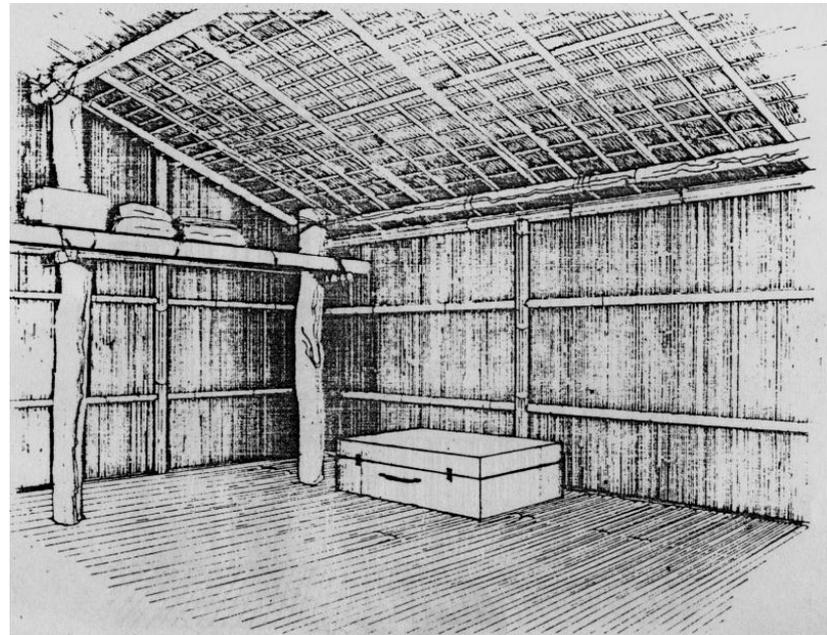
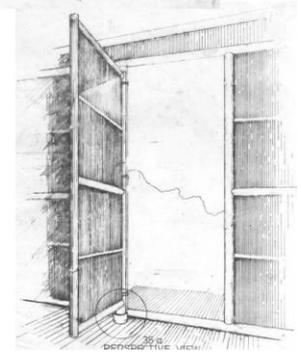
Local craftsmanship.



Amakan for window screens



sheets of flattened bamboo for doors.





A “floating volume” best describes this house on high stilts in Mindanao



The same features, i.e. floating volume and high posts, are evident in this Indonesian structure.

Early Filipinos were a maritime people because the Philippines is an archipelago of more than 7000 islands. People had been adroit seafarers and moved by boats to get food, bring cargo and travel from one island to another. Therefore the sizes of the boats they built differed in sizes. Early Filipinos shaped our maritime tradition.



- **This is the indigenous, double outrigger small boat called *banka* or *baroto* built and used by the ordinary fisherman until today in all coastal towns in the Philippines. In the past it was dug-out of a single log by the use of ordinary chisels. Today marine plywood or FGBoards are nailed to wooden ribs to form the hull.**

The keel was made of *balayong* or *tugas*. The hull was fashioned out of planks sawn off usually from lawaan (Philippine Mahogany or Tropical Cedar) trees felled for the purpose. The planks were pegged together by dowels of manghe, bahi or Brazil wood, then lashed together inside the hull. A series of ribs are shaped across the hull, each rib joined to the hull by lashing through holes drilled through the planks. Above the hull was a platform roofed with woven mats or thatched grass.

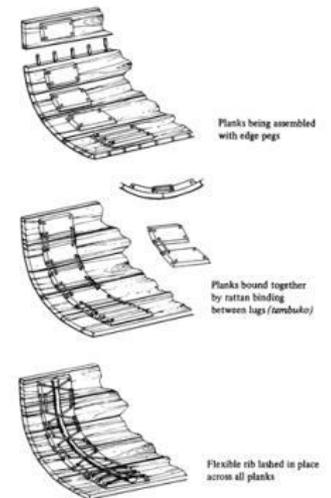
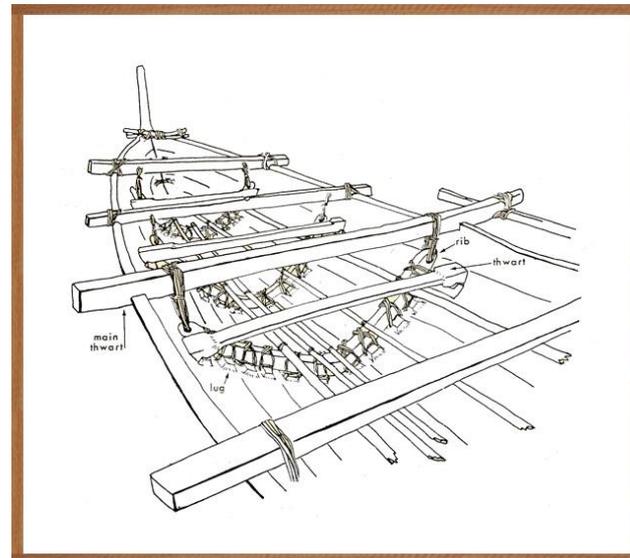
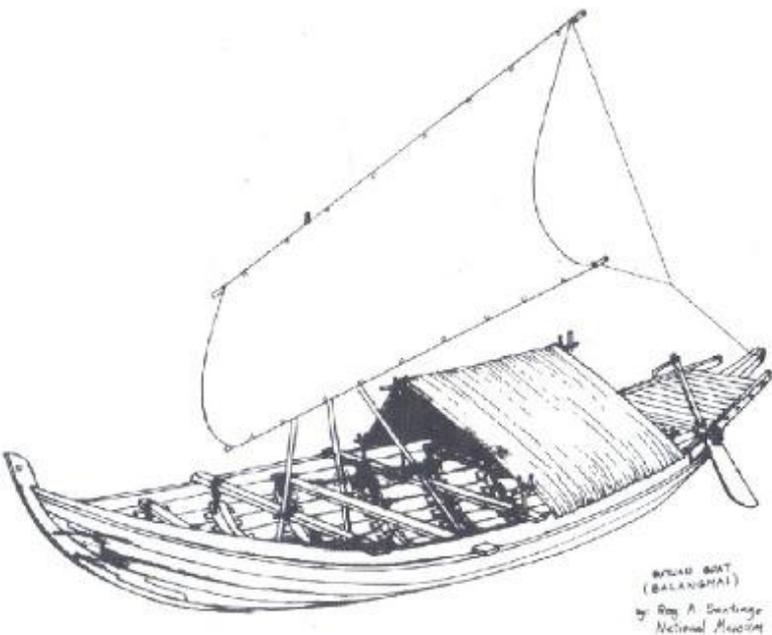


Fig. 2. Construction details of plank-built, edge-peged hull

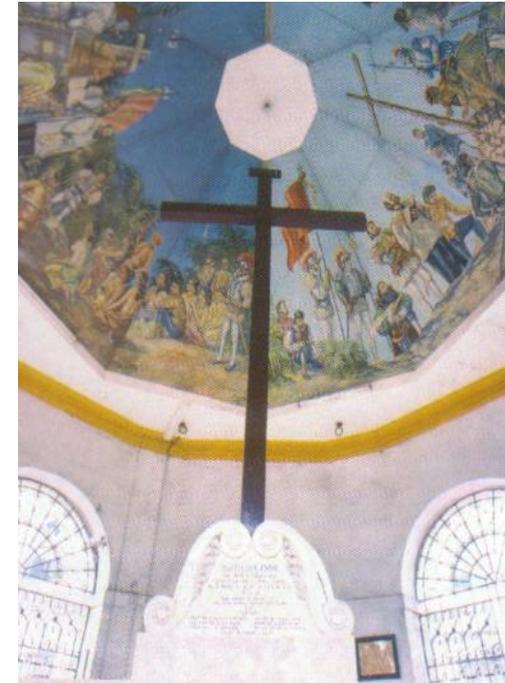
II. 1521 - Enter Spain





Ferdinand Magellan was a Portuguese navigator who worked for the King of Spain in search of the spice islands. His voyage in 1521 led him to call on some of the islands in the Visayas. When he landed in the island of Cebu, Magellan planted a cross to signify this important event. This same spot is said to mark the place where the first Christian Filipinos, led by Rajah Humabon, Queen Juana and their subjects were baptized by Pedro Valderama.

Antonio Pigafetta, Magellan’s scribe, vividly recorded that they planted the cross “on the square in the middle of the place” and a platform for the altar where they held Mass and baptized the royal family and their subjects.



The formal Christianization and colonization of the islands came 44 years later with the arrival of Miguel Lopez de Legaspi on April 28, 1565.

He established in Cebu the first Spanish settlement in the Far East and built the Fort San Pedro, the oldest fort in the country.



Fort San Pedro

1565 of wooden palisades; 1738 of stone



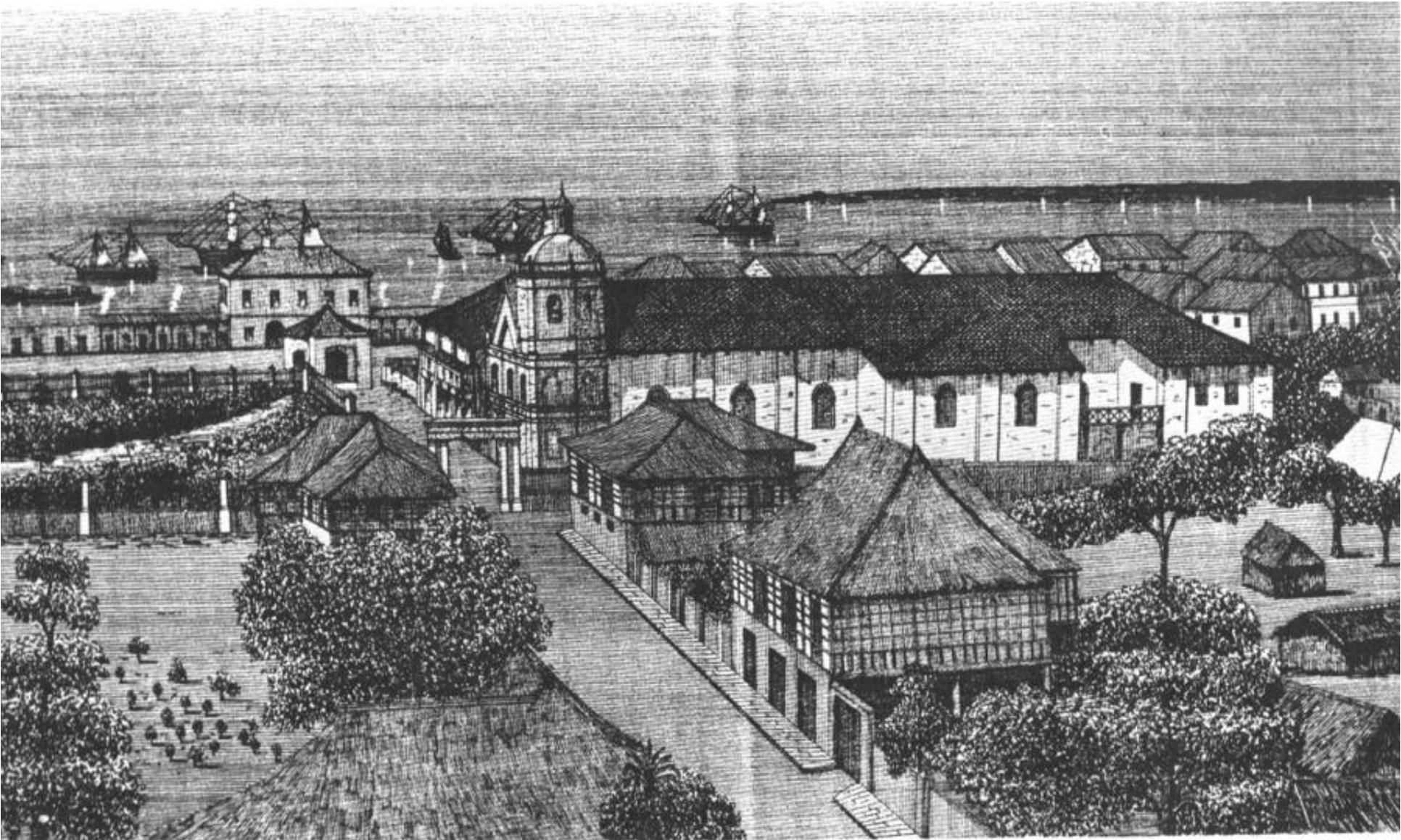
The Santo Niño Church began as a provisional chapel made of nipa by the first Augustinian Missionaries in 1565. In this poor and small chapel, the Image of Santo Niño was housed after it was found inside a burnt structure on April 28, 1565.

1576 the Superiors of the Augustinian Province decided to change these buildings from the light materials to strong and more solid ones.

1628, a big fire razed to the ground the two buildings. Only the Image of the Santo Niño and the mortal remains of the first bishop of Cebu, Agurto, were saved.

1733 Father Jose Bosqued, O.S.A., began a new church. Augustinian priest Juan de Albarran (who wrote the first work on engineering in the Philippines entitled “Arte de construir iglesias en Filipinas”) worked as engineer of the present church and convent which were completed in 1740.





Villages in Cebu now assumed a grid pattern

PLANO

DE LA

CIUDAD DE CEBÚ - 1873.

por D.^o Domingo de Escondillas. Arq.^{to}

Explicacion

1. *Bandera de la Cruz, colocada en el sitio en que se erigió la primera casa á la llegada de los primeros Españoles.*
2. *Catedral y panteón.*
3. *Palacio Episcopal.*
4. *Priorato del Sto. Niño de PP. Agustinos.*
5. *Convento de la Concepcion de PP. Recoletos.*
6. *Spedia de S. Juan Bautista y Tribunal del Porcion.*
7. *Id. y Seminario Cavallero.*
8. *Casa Gob.^{na} en construccion.*
9. *Puerta de S. Vidal.*
10. *Comisaria de la marina Nacional.*
11. *Carcel y cuartel de S. Pedro.*
12. *Cuartel de Infanteria.*
13. *Tribunal de la Ciudad.*
14. *Casa parroquial.*
15. *Capitania del Puerto.*
16. *Castro del Reyvarado.*

Escala de 1:25000
0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 Metros

Long.^o Oriental del meridiano de Cádiz 130° 18' y 20"
Latitud Norte 10° 47' y 32"



Plano de la Ciudad de Cebu - 1873

*Structures that faith
built*



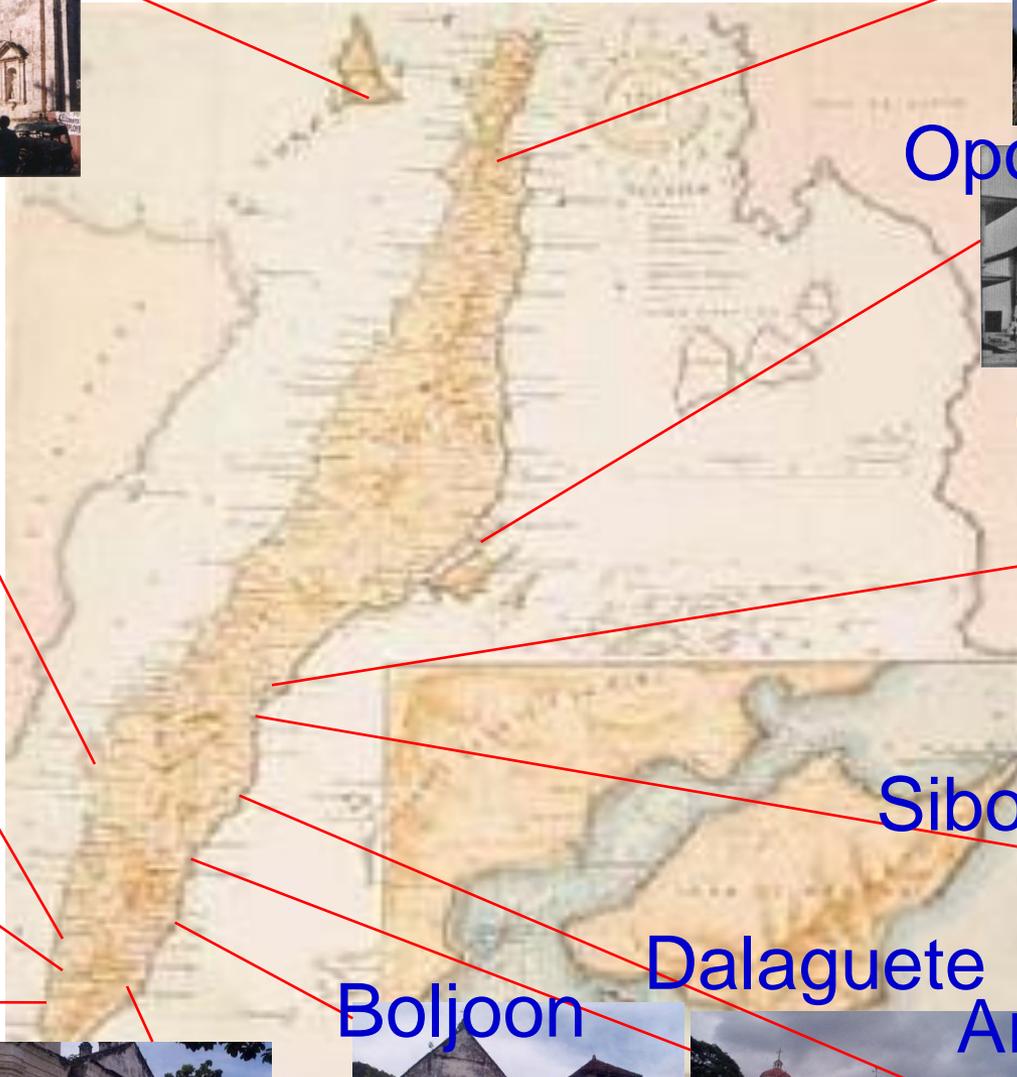
Bantayan



Bogoto



Moalboal



Opon



Malabuyoc

Carcar



Ginatilan

Sibonga

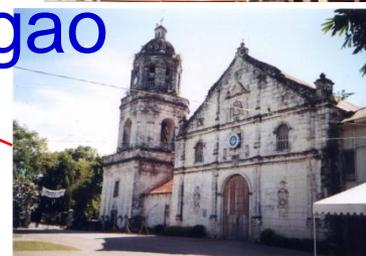


Samboan

Dalaguete



Argao



Oslob



Boljoon

Typical example: Argao Municipality

Archaeological items of the Ming and Yuan Dynasties unearthed in Argao indicate that it had a thriving community before it was settled in by the Spaniards in 1608.

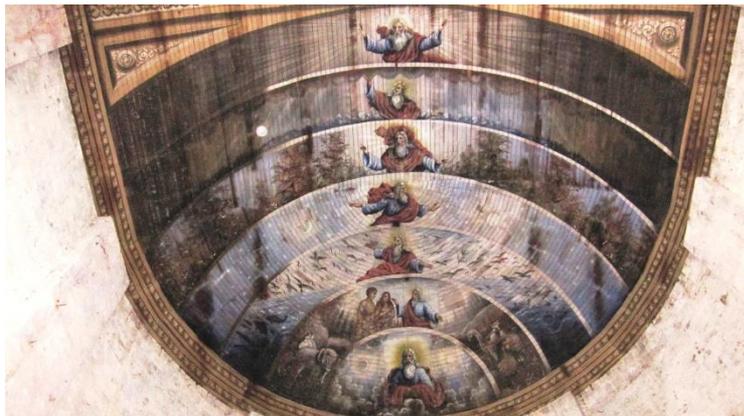
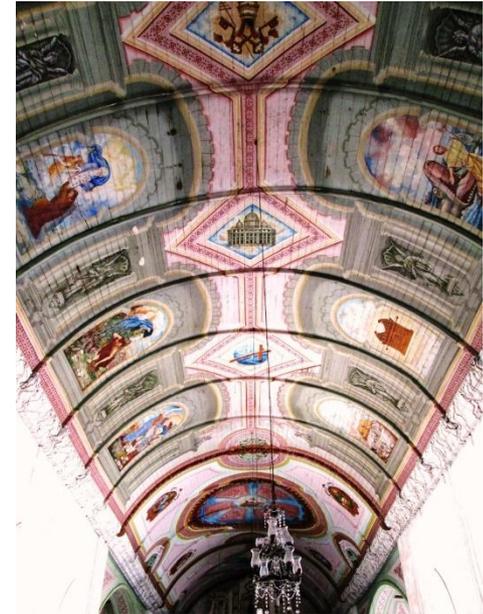
The Spanish colonizers reduced the people into compact communities and the Catholic Church became the focal point. Argaoanons embraced the Christian faith which became the motivating agent for major events in the town.



Threads of memory from archeological finds and baroque altars ...



...to art forms in church ceiling paintings

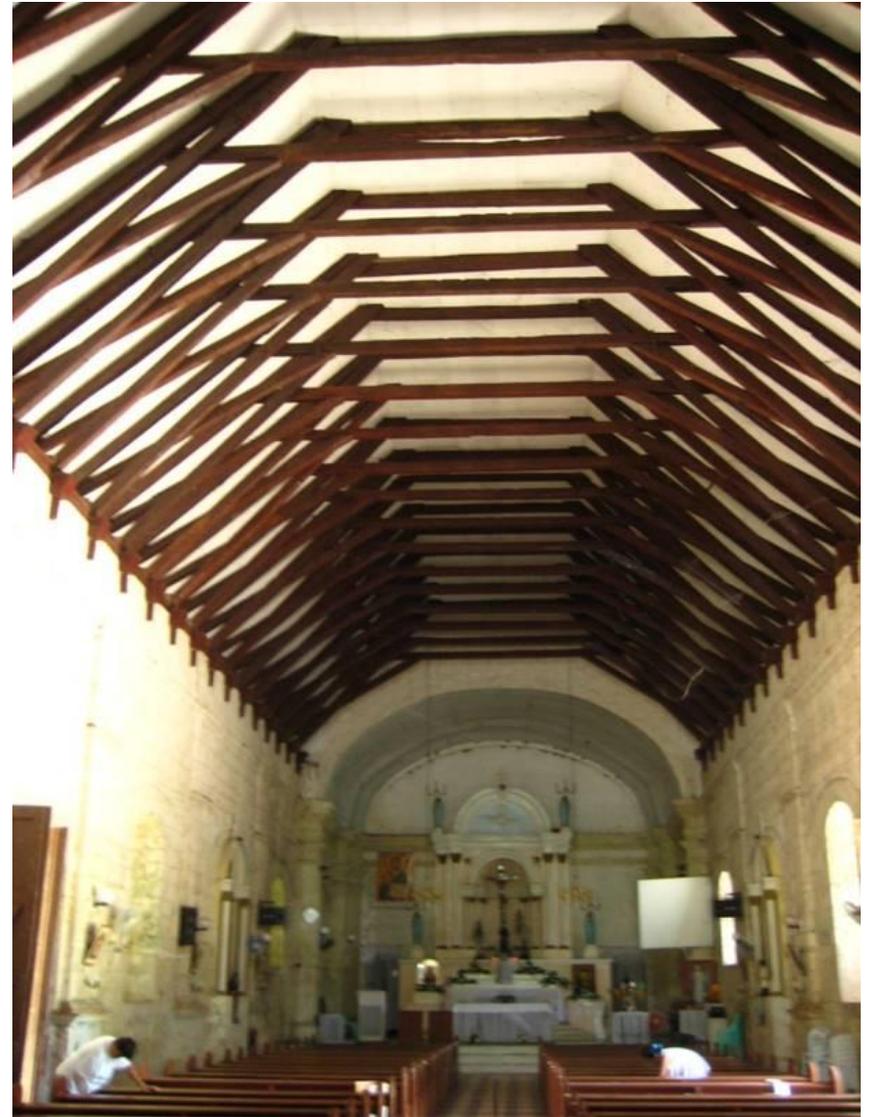


...carvings on stone walls



Argao, Cebu

...and exquisite carpentry



The heritage core today

Within the Heritage Core lies the site of the historical Spanish Colonial City, with its Spanish colonial grid. By most accounts the city was well established being built along the Spanish town planning principles in the early 1600s.



The Sinulog pageantry

The sinulog is a dance of faith, a festival held in honor of the Santo Nino, celebrating the origin of the Christian faith in the island of Cebu.

It is a dance ritual in honor of the miraculous image of the Santo Niño. The dance moves two steps forward and one step backward to the sound of the drums.

This movement resembles the current (Sulog). Sinulog was traditionally danced by the natives in honor of their wooden idols and anitos.

Historians conclude that Sinulog, which is of pagan origin is the link between the country's pagan past and its Christian present.



Source:

The Santo Niño church and Monastery, An Augustinian Legacy to the Filipino People

Other types of structures

Carcel



In the 1800s, the Spanish colonial government in Cebu commissioned the construction of the city's first large-scale penitentiary.

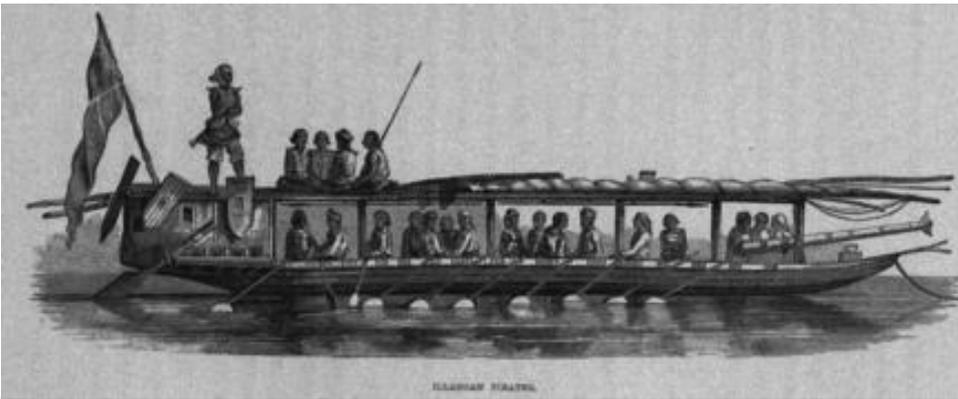
Domingo de Escondrillas, the only architect in Cebu at the time, was tapped to design the penitentiary in 1869.

As the Philippine revolution broke out in 1898, the Carcel de Cebu not only housed convicted criminals but also Filipino revolutionaries.

Today it has been repurposed as the Museo Sugbo



The watch towers or baluartes



Spanish-Moro Conflict

Vital to the towns' history was the prevalence of attacks by raiders during the 1600's-1700's due to the Spanish-Moro conflict. It was a 400 -year long war that sprung from the Spanish colonization.

El Padre Capitan Bermejo

Under the orders of the Augustinian warrior-priest, Fr. Fray Bermejo (Boljoon Parish priest in 1802 through 1848) several watchtowers or *baluartes* made of coral stones were simultaneously constructed along the coastline of Cebu to serve as the town's first line of defence. This defence system stretched as far as Carcar town in the north of Boljoon and at the Southern stretch towards Santander up to Sumilon Island.

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Source: USC Cherish



Aloguinsan



Alegria



Oslob



Samboan

Chain of watchtowers

Residential houses



A word about boat building



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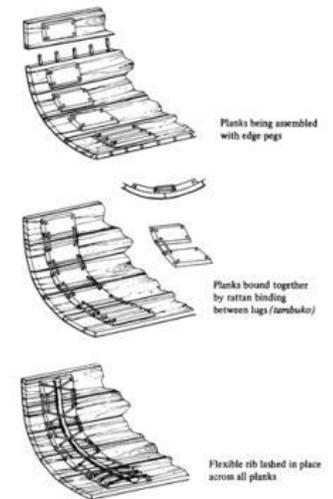
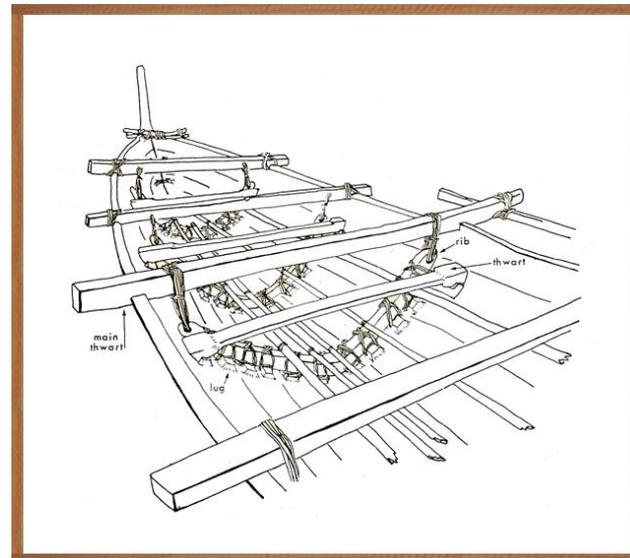
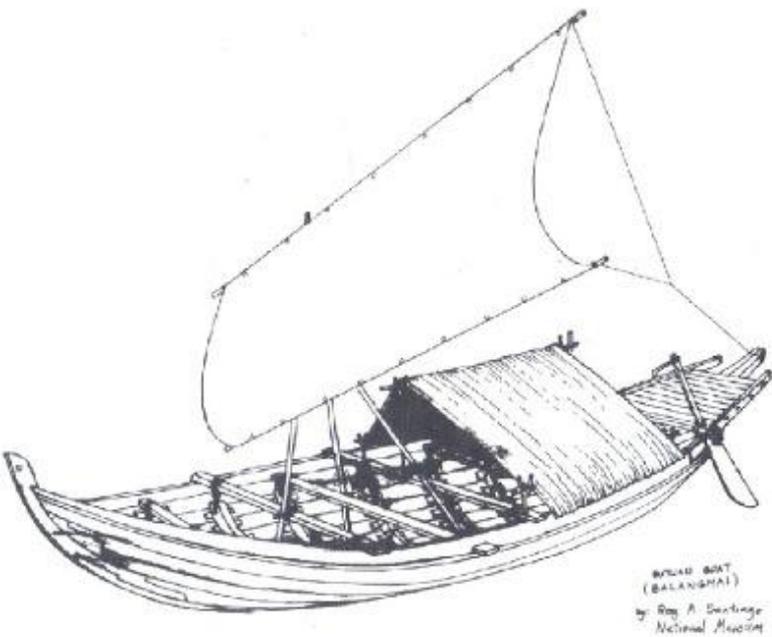
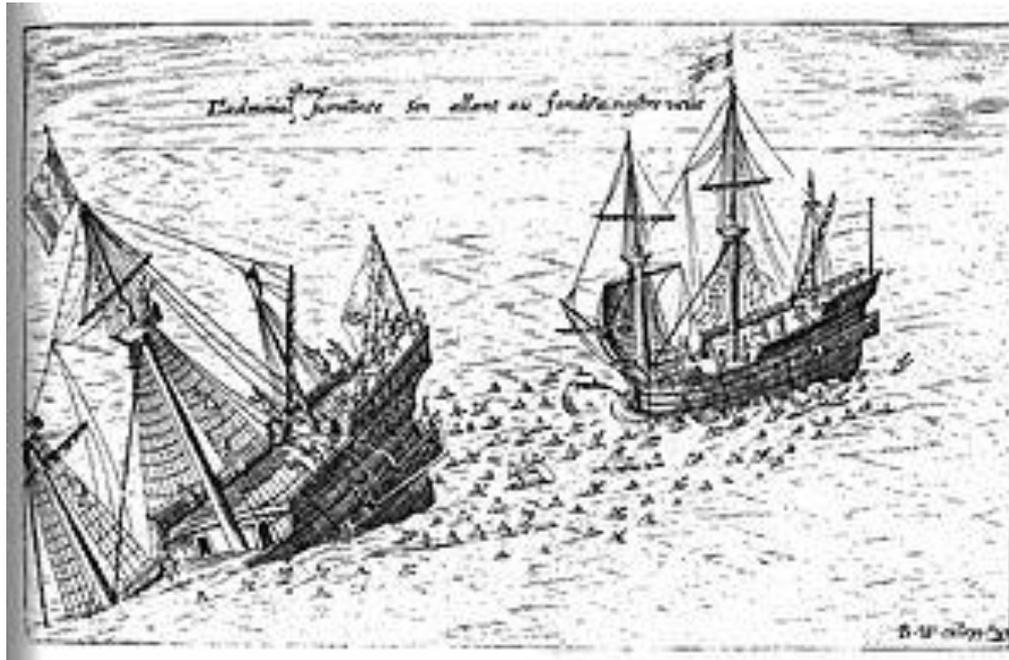


Fig. 2. Construction details of plank-built, edge-peggod hull



It was believed that what really depleted the forest cover in Cebu and elsewhere in the archipelago during the Spanish times was the construction of the Spanish Galleons that were used in the trade between Acapulco and the Philippines. In the 1600s.

The very first Galleon that plied the route was the San Pedro. It was built in Cebu. Another Galleon, the trading ship San Antonio was converted into a gunboat and renamed San Diego when Vice-Governor Antonio de Morga ordered it to be used in the battle against the Dutch ship Marittius. It sank off the coast of Manila in Dec. 14, 1600 and was excavated by French underwater archeologist Franck Goddio. In 1963

Art works in houses



Cottage industry (Hablon)



III. The American Period

Bridges, dams, dispensaries, schools

1912 Plan for the City of Cebu prepared by William E. Parsons

320

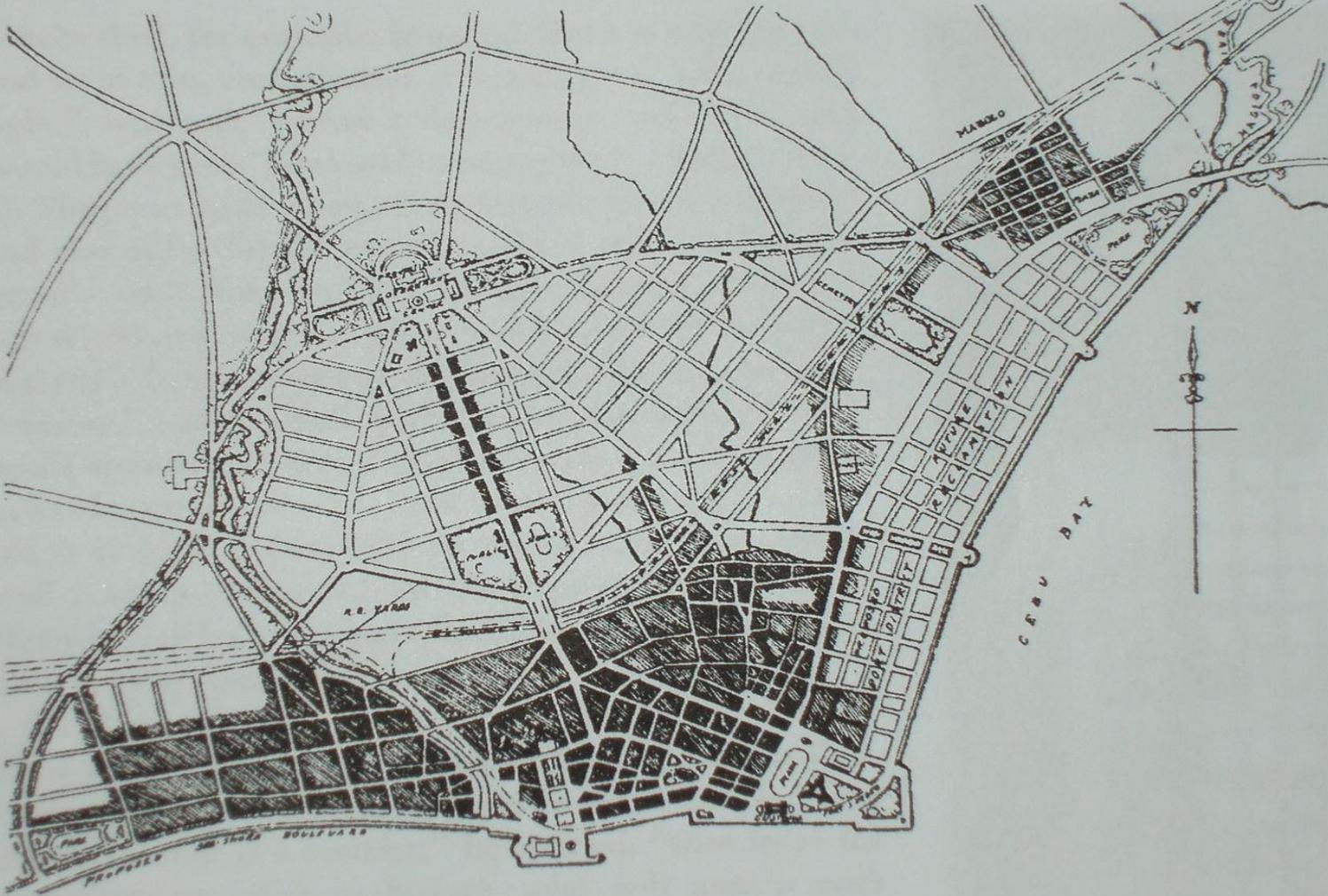


Fig
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191
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high buildings for the national government, un-



Tomas CH. Osmeña | <http://www.cebuh heritage.com>



CEBU CAPITOL BUILDING: The seat of the provincial government.

**Seat of the Provincial
Government of Cebu:**

The Capitol building



Water supply at Buhisan dam



School buildings



The Cebu Normal University

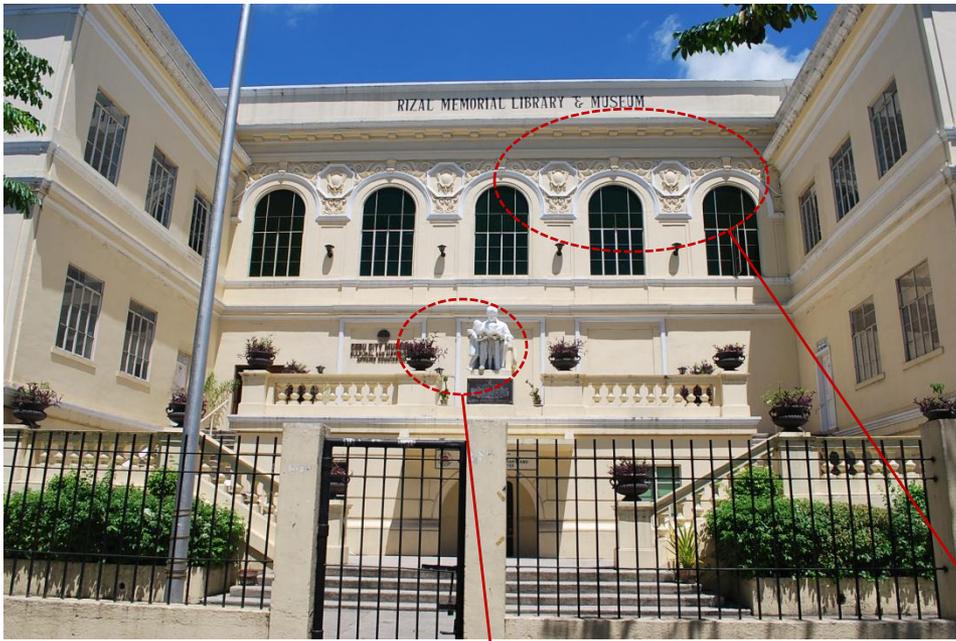
(designed by American Ar. William Parsons)



Cebu City Library

Osmena Blvd., Cebu City (1930s)





Façade details



Theater

4



1. facade
2. moulding - detail
3. wreath moulding - detail
4. scroll moulding - detail
5. moulding - detail

5



2



3

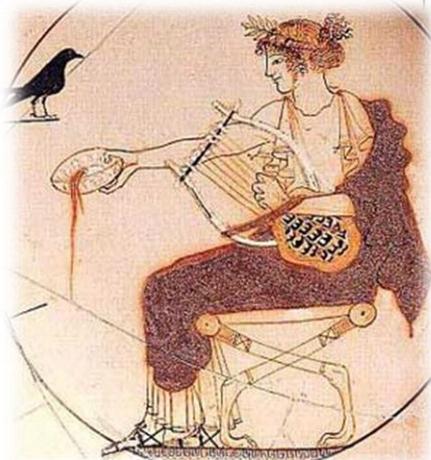


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Source: USC Cherish

Façade details of Vision Theater



APOLLON (or Apollo) was the great Olympian god of prophecy and oracles, healing, plague and disease, music, song and poetry. He was depicted as a handsome, beardless youth with long hair and various attributes including:--a wreath and branch of laurel; bow and quiver; raven; and lyre.

(source: <http://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Apollon.html>)

(source: <http://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Apollon.html>)

Early 20th century wooden houses



1920s



1930s



1930s



1940s



1950s

IV. Present-day Cebu

Natural Sites and products

Tourism sites



Aloguinsan



Bojo river cruise



Argao



Kawasan

Cebuano food





Beverage



Industry:

weaving in Argao has been revived



Furniture and crafts



Wood continues to have an infinite number of uses ranging from daily household implements, furniture, decorative items, structural components, construction material and in boat-building.



Holder of holy objects *urna*



Knife and bolo handle



Bakya or wooden shoe



Mortar and pestle



Wooden plates

Urban fabric





Cebu Urban Core

Architecture

Terminal Two of the Mactan International airport in Cebu, Philippines





Place
CEBU

WORLD



Conclusion:

- **The traditional patterns of cultural behavior is still being practised in the less urbanized places in Cebu.**
- **Three centuries of Spanish presence in the country has influenced Cebuano art forms to this day - dances, cuisine, religious rituals, language and built heritage can be traced to Spanish influence.**
- **American presence in Cebu in the first half of the 20th century remains visible in roads and bridges as well as in infrastructure for education, sanitation and governance.**

Challenges:

- **The noticeable crowding of infrastructure in urban areas indicates loss of good relationship between the buildings and the surrounding landscape making the sites inhospitable and less healthy for the people.**
- **At present, Filipino identity is overlaid by modern designs in furniture, fashion, art and architecture that tend to look the same as those of other Asian countries.**

- **In the cities where we now live and work, buildings overwhelm with the glint of metal, the polish of glass and the brute strength of concrete. May the memory of traditional home and a gentle people, put a smile on our lips, and a song in our hearts. And may it continue to infuse pride in our step - because we are Filipino!**

Thank you