



## KANTANA FILM AND ANIMATION INSTITUTE

### Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

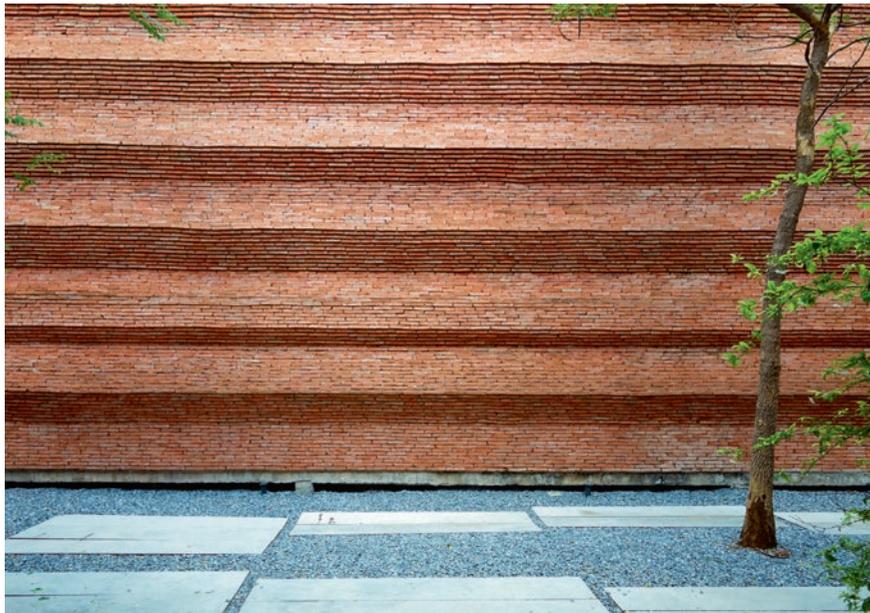
Massive eight-metre-high, undulating brick walls distinguish the Kantana Film and Animation Institute that was set up by the Kantana Group, one of the largest film and animation production companies in Thailand, to offer undergraduate studies in filmmaking and animation for aspiring filmmakers.

The Institute is located in the town of Klong Yong in Nakhon Pathom province, some 56 kilometres from the capital Bangkok, in an open rural site of grasslands and paddy fields. Enclosed within their rippling brick walls pierced by irregularly placed square openings, the five main functional areas of the complex – lecture hall, library, studio-workshops, administration and canteen – are arranged around two prominent intersecting, open-air, cobbled walkways. Planted with 10- to 20-metre-high Peeb trees, these walkways are called “inserted forests” by the architect, keen to blend architecture and nature – the main inspiration for the design and a direct reference to Thai culture. These wide walkways run centrally east-west and north-south through the layout, allowing efficient pedestrian circulation and connections, good ventilation and additional natural shade, interesting plays of light effects, and areas for quiet meditation and inspiration in their window-seating niches.

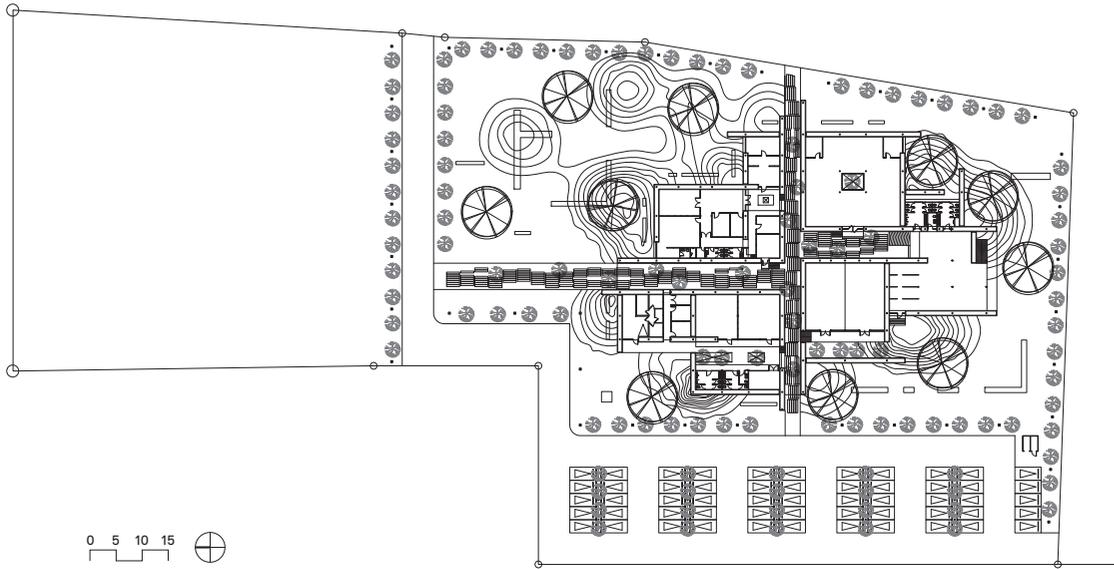
The monumental walls – the hallmark of the project – called for over 600,000 handmade bricks which were made one by one from the soil of the site, reviving not only a traditional building material and technique but also a declining local factory, while creating jobs for 100 brick makers from two neighbouring villages. The bricks were laid in a staggered fashion to create the spectacular recessions and protrusions of the double-layer walls, internally supported on a steel frame: the double layer creating an air space providing insulation from the tropical heat. The careful siting of windows, insertion of inner courtyards in the quadrangles, abundance of new planting in the immediate surroundings and two water features also aid cooling and the quality of light entering the interiors. Within its brick walls, the building stands on a reinforced-concrete post-and-beam frame system (a prevalent construction system in the province) and partition walls are hollow concrete: a successful blend of modern materials – concrete and steel – with an extraordinarily innovative use of Thailand’s traditional brickwork, as seen in the stepped and banded work on brick temples.

The project has undoubtedly triggered a renewed interest on the part of Thai architects in brickwork.









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Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

### CLIENT

Kantana Group Public Company, Bangkok, Thailand:  
Jareuk Kaljareuk, chairman

### ARCHITECT

Bangkok Project Studio, Bangkok, Thailand:  
Boonserm Premthada, founder  
Ittidej Lirapirom, Piiasak Mookmaenmuan, project team

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Preecha Suvapabkul, Bangkok, Thailand

### MECHANICAL AND SANITARY SYSTEM ENGINEER

Tanete Chaiyaphong, Bangkok, Thailand

### ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

Wittaya Nakasan, Bangkok, Thailand

### CONTRACTOR

Deco Decorate and System, Bangkok, Thailand

### BRICK MANUFACTURER

BBK Brick Factory, Angthong Province, Thailand

### PROJECT DATA

Site area: 16,000 m<sup>2</sup>  
Ground-floor area: 2000 m<sup>2</sup>  
Cost: 1,000,000 USD  
Commission: March 2006  
Design: March 2006–June 2009  
Construction: August 2009–June 2011  
Completion: June 2011

### BOONSERM PREMTHADA

Born in Bangkok, Thailand, Boonserm Premthada graduated in 2003 with a Master of Architecture degree from Chulalongkorn University and went on to establish his own practice, Bangkok Project Studio, in 2004. Boonserm's approach is one of adventurousness and artistic daring, particularly in the application of atmosphere. His design-creation approach to human sensation and the touch of nature uses diverse criteria: connectedness to place, appropriate use of local materials and technology, and cultivation of environment. His ideal focus is on the phenomena of atmosphere, such as silence, slowness, meditation, dimness and timelessness. In addition, his works are a reflection of social responsibility and improve the quality of life by adopting self-sufficient strategies.

At present, besides working as an architect and artist, Boonserm also lectures at the Faculty of Architecture of Chulalongkorn University.

### WEBSITE

[www.kantanainstitute.ac.th/en/home](http://www.kantanainstitute.ac.th/en/home)

