

Café Rong Bom

Chiang Mai, Thailand



This stunning restoration project saw the renovation of a series of barns to create two museum buildings, a coffee shop, a restaurant, and an outdoor amphitheater grouped together on Kaomai Estate in Thailand's San Pa Tong district in Chiang Mai province. The original site was a historic tobacco processing center, which housed 50 tobacco-drying buildings surrounded by historic trees.

Located on the grounds of Kaomai Lanna Resort (featuring unique boutique accommodation renovated from former tobacco-curing barns), the burgeoning coffee culture of Chiang Mai inspired the Kaomai Estate 1955 extension, on which Café Rong Bom sits. Prior to this, resort staff began noticing that non-hotel guests were driving to the resort to take pictures and order a cup of coffee. Through this, the estate realized that a new market had opened up, prompting the renovation of the first barn, the launch of Café Rong Bom, and the rejuvenation of the surrounding landscape.