



# *Bangkok Project Studio*

Bangkok-based Boonserm Premthada draws from a material palette of humble and overlooked items, which he hopes to elevate through the power of design.

Thai architect Boonserm Premthada understands the value of patience. He founded Bangkok Project Studio in 2003, a year after graduating with a master's degree in architecture from Chulalongkorn University, but his first architectural projects were not completed until 2011. Since then, however, he has achieved worldwide recognition. He was one of the winners of the 2018 Global Award for Sustainable Architecture, under the patronage of UNESCO, and, in 2019, he received the Royal Academy Dorfman Award for his sensitivity to local contexts.

Although based in Bangkok, Premthada is not interested in working within the congested city sprawl. He focuses on Thailand's countryside. "The rural area needs architects to create opportunities and an economy so that people do not have to relocate and struggle

in cities," he explains of his opinion that there is no need for additional city structures. "I prefer to work in less-developed places because I know that my architecture is meaningful to people there." Commissioning artisans from the small towns in which he works, he instills every project with traditional local knowledge.

In this way, he attempts to unlearn what he was taught during his studies. "What I learned at university are rules and formulas, but I have found that they do not work everywhere. What I have learned from villagers is necessity and priority. I have learned about humanness, human instincts, and that we should aim for natural learning—the simple way."

Premthada uses endemic materials and traditional crafts in an effort to respect his country's innate wisdom. He founded Bangkok Project Studio to "prove