

What is a Spirit House?

The belief in nature spirits is as old as human kind. While we in the West have grown more alienated from the spirits of our ancestors, Thais embrace them.

All over Thailand, the spirit house plays a central role in maintaining respectful relations with the guardian spirits of the land. Human activity, such as building a home or starting a business, can only be properly conducted after considering the residency rights of a good and powerful spirit. A Brahmin is called upon for proper ritual. A respectable spirit house, often set on a pedestal in a sunny spot, entices the spirit to take up residence. Now offer incense, flowers and fruit, perhaps a couple of servant dolls and some miniature furniture, and be assured of good fortune and protection as symbolized in the carved dragon ornaments.

Over the centuries, Buddhism has influenced the use and look of spirit houses. More recently, urbanization has led Thais to adapt the spirit house from communal to more personal uses. Despite its ancient roots, this is one tradition that has been strengthened rather than weakened by modern times. Gaily coloured spirit houses made from concrete have largely replaced the traditional teak. They adorn gardens, courtyards, driveways, balconies, shops, businesses, roadsides, walls, nooks and crannies everywhere in Thailand. Spirit houses provide punctuation in the rhythm of life, marking entrance and exit, and beginning and ending of the day.



We at Spirithouse believe there is a “spirit housing crisis” in the West. Our mission is to adapt the Thai spirit house to the West while respecting its origin.

We are proud to support the few Thai families that still produce traditional carved teakwood spirit houses and add value to such a precious resource. Due to the legendary waterproof properties of teak and quality craftsmanship, our spirit houses are suitable for outdoor placement in temperate climate zones.

A spirit house is a unique way to bring a guardian spirit into your life. Give them due respect and feel ensured of good fortune and protection.

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