

## 0006 Photos of the year (2023-2024)

These photos show some of everyday scenes that I see regularly in Malaysia and Thailand, photographed by myself when I happened to see them. This listing was started in Dec 2022 and each section covers several months.

**BW**



Scroll down to see the photos, arranged in date order.

All images are © Brian Walling 2022-2024.

## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### MURAL ART

A striking mural in the lounge at Penang airport, as we await our early departure for Bangkok on an 0800 am flight. The artist is Lithuanian and has accomplished a number of mural works around Penang.

20 Dec 2023, in the lounge at Penang Airport, Penang, Malaysia.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### SUNRISE

Sunrise at 0721 seen from the airport as we wait to board.

20 Dec 2023, at Penang Airport, Penang, Malaysia.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### PENANG AIRPORT

Good view of the airport terminal from our seats after boarding.

20 Dec 2023, at Penang Airport, Penang, Malaysia.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### RURAL SURROUNDINGS

The airport's seemingly rural surroundings, seen from the aircraft about to take off for Bangkok.

20 Dec 2023, at Penang Airport, Penang, Malaysia.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### MAINLAND MOUNTAINS

Looking eastwards to the mainland and towards the mountains that run down the spine of the Malay peninsula. These are around 100km away and rise to around 1,000-1,200 m

20 Dec 2023, from the aircraft upon take-off from Penang Airport, Malaysia



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### PENANG CRUISE TERMINAL

A large cruise vessel is about to berth at the Penang Cruise Terminal, at the eastern extremity of the island. This one looks like a Celebrity Cruises (part of Royal Caribbean Lines) vessel, due to the white X logo on the funnel. The cruise terminal is essentially an elongated pier at which several large cruise vessels can berth at the same time. There are no large terminal facilities or buildings since Penang's cruise traffic is almost entirely passengers making day-time stopover visits to the city and island; there are few, if any, international cruises that allow passengers to join or terminate in Penang.

20 Dec 2023, from the aircraft shortly after take-off from Penang Airport, Malaysia



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### LAEM CHABANG PORT NEAR BANGKOK

**An early morning view of Laem Chabang port, some 80km south of Bangkok city. This is Bangkok's most important sea-freight terminal.**

20 Dec 2023, from the air, close to Bangkok, Thailand





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### COASTAL RICE FIELDS (1 of 2)

Flooded rice fields at Samut Prakan, on the coast near Bangkok.

20 Dec 2023, from the air, close to Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### COASTAL RICE FIELDS (2 of 2)

Flooded rice fields at Samut Prakan, on the coast near Bangkok.

20 Dec 2023, from the air, close to Bangkok, Thailand

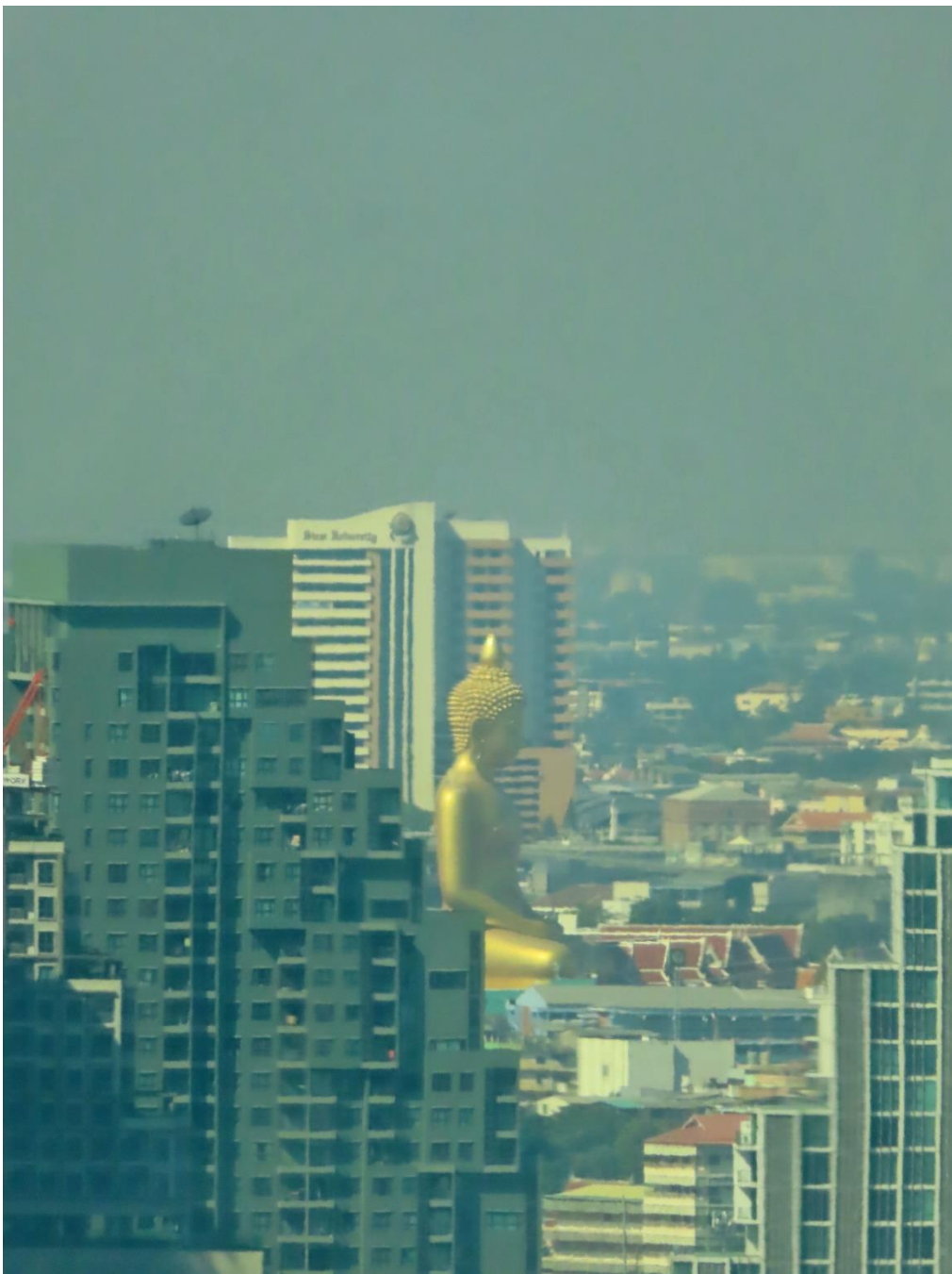


## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### WAT PAKNAM'S GOLDEN BUDDHA

Bangkok's largest seated Buddha statue, seen to the west from our hotel upon arrival – one of our favourite views in Bangkok. The statue is 5.5km away in Wat (= monastery) Paknam, but with a height of 69m (225 ft) it is very prominent. It can be seen from many parts of the city, especially from the elevated tracks of the Skytrain (urban railway). Wat Paknam, whose red roofs can be seen just to the right of the statue, is very old as a monastery, dating back to 1610, but the Buddha statue is very new – completed only in 2021.

20 Dec 2023, from the Eastin Hotel's top-floor lounge, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### VIEW FROM OUR BANGKOK HOTEL ROOM

The view from our room upon arrival, looking eastwards towards the central business district, with the Skytrain line in the centre.

20 Dec 2023, from our room on the Eastin Hotel's 31st floor, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### FIRST LUNCH IN BANGKOK

Good to be back at our usual lunch venue in Bangkok: the bakery in the Intercontinental Hotel.

20 Dec 2023, in the bakery called Butter, Intercontinental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CHRISTMAS TREE AT ICH BANGKOK

**The impressive Christmas Tree in the Intercontinental Hotel lobby.**

20 Dec 2023, in the lobby, Intercontinental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### DAWN SKIES

The pre-dawn glow seen from our hotel room as we prepare to go for our swim.

21 Dec 2023, view east from our room at Eastin Grand Sathorn hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### BANGKOK SUNRISE

As in Penang at this time of the year, we finish our daily swim around the time of sunrise. Part of Bangkok's Chao Phraya river, 5km away, can be seen at the left of the photo.

21 Dec 2023, sunrise at 0735 seen from the hotel swimming pool after swimming, Bangkok, Thailand





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### TEMPLE BY THE RIVER

Breakfast-time view of a temple on the river, about 1km away.

21 Dec 2023, seen from Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### REINDEER

Seen in the garden section on our visit today to Bangkok's Chatuchak market, where we always go for certain purchases on every visit to Bangkok. Reindeer symbols and shapes are a favourite in Thailand for many things – from Christmas decorations to frames for training garden plants and shrubs over (as here).

21 Dec 2023, in Chatuchak market, Bangkok, Thailand

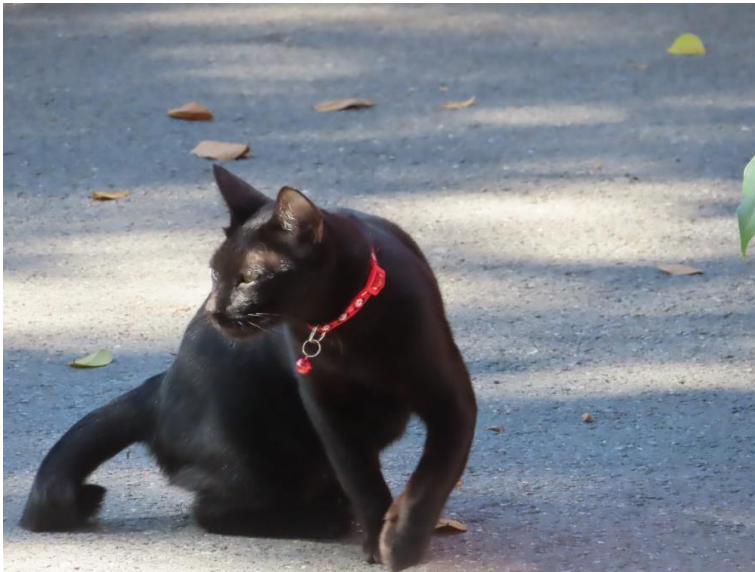


## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CATS

Some of the cats seen on our visit today to Bangkok's Chatuchak market, where we always go for certain purchases on every visit to Bangkok.

21 Dec 2023, in Chatuchak market, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CHATUCHAK MARKET - I

One of the shops that we visit regularly for bathrobes etc.

21 Dec 2023, in Chatuchak market, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CHATUCHAK MARKET - II

**A specialist shop for all manner of men's and ladies' hats, that we do not visit regularly!**

21 Dec 2023, in Chatuchak market, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CHATUCHAK MARKET - III

The shop where we buy bed linen.

21 Dec 2023, in Chatuchak market, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### LUNCH-PLACE

Another picture of our favourite lunch place in Bangkok: the bakery called Butter in the Bangkok Intercontinental Hotel in the central business district.

21 Dec 2023, in Intercontinental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### UNUSUAL VACANT LOT

This vacant plot of land, cleared as though ready for redevelopment, is in the heart of Bangkok's business and entertainment district. It is a consolidation of several pieces of demolition projects and now stretches back a gigantic 360 metres from the main Sukhumvit road. It appears still to be on offer for long term lease. One wonders what will eventually fill this site in one of Bangkok'

21 Dec 2023, Sukhumvit Rd adjoining Chidlom Skytrain station, Bangkok, Thailand





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### ANTITO'S RESTAURANT

Our favourite restaurant in the hotel where we stay: Antito's, offering a menu based on Italian cuisine from the north of Italy.

21 Dec 2023, in Eastin Grand Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### ANOTHER SUNRISE

Another beautiful sunrise seen from the swimming pool at the hotel.

22 Dec 2023, from Eastin Grand Hotel swimming pool, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### FATHER CHRISTMAS

Father Christmas driving his sleigh out of the hotel opposite...

22 Dec 2023, across the street from Eastin Grand Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### FATHER CHRISTMAS LOOKS UP

...and seems to look up towards us.

22 Dec 2023, across the street from Eastin Grand Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CHRISTMAS TREE

The hotel's tree reflects beautifully in the marble floor.

22 Dec 2023, in lobby of Intercontinental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### NUTCRACKER SOLDIERS

North German nutcracker soldiers are making a strong showing as Christmas décor in Bangkok this year.

22 Dec 2023, in Central Department Store, Chidlom, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### GEESE TOO

Geese have also appeared (presumably by some connection with the legendary Mother Goose) in the Christmas décor of one department store chain.

22 Dec 2023, in Central Department Store, Chidlom, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE BLUE ELEPHANT RESTAURANT

One of Bangkok's best known traditional Thai restaurants, which also has a cooking school, is situated adjacent to our hotel. It is housed in an old c1900 colonial style building which was originally an Indian department store.

22 Dec 2023, Blue Elephant Restaurant, Silom, Bangkok, Thailand





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE COLOURS OF ANTITO'S RESTAURANT

Antito's restaurant in our hotel is full of colour: the colour of the furnishing; the American artwork that includes Jeff Koons's coloured ceramic "balloon dogs" and Steve Haring's black and yellow murals; the changing colours of the outside lights by the pool (here sowing blue).

22 Dec 2023, at Eastin Grand Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### STILL THERE IN THE DARK

Wat Paknam's big golden buddha stands out well with its night-time illumination.

22 Dec 2023, from Eastin Grand Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CHRISTMAS DECOR

A striking piece of festive decoration at a local shopping centre – this one sponsored by Singapore bank UOB – and unusually featuring a religious theme when almost everything else is much more crudely commercial and oriented towards gifts and retail spending.

23 Dec 2023, at Emporium shopping mall, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### UNIVERSAL BRANDS

You can find almost every international brand in Bangkok. IKEA of Sweden has been here for a number of years with out of town stores positioned for car-access on convenient highways, has now opened a downtown store in a prime shopping area that is geared to regular walk-in customers and with direct access to the Skytrain (urban rail network).

23 Dec 2023, at IKEA Phrom Phong, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### INDIDE IKEA

At the all-important café inside the downtown IKEA store.

23 Dec 2023, at IKEA Phrom Phong, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### DOG CARRIAGE

Increasingly seen today in SE Asian cities is the way in which pet dogs are treated more and more like babies, with their own purpose-designed dog carriages.

23 Dec 2023, in Terminal 21 Shopping Mall, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### TAILOR'S SHOP

Inside the tailor's shop where we have been customers for many years and where we go for a new order of made-to-measure shirts, trousers and jackets on each visit..

23 Dec 2023, at Emporium Tailors, Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### VISITING THE BLUE ELEPHANT RESTAURANT

Approaching the Blue Elephant, next door to our hotel, where we have chosen to eat this evening.

23 Dec 2023, at Blue Elephant restaurant, Silom, Bangkok.





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### DINNER AT THE BLUE ELEPHANT RESTAURANT

Ready to enjoy dinner in the elegant surroundings of the Blue Elephant

23 Dec 2023, at Blue Elephant restaurant, Silom, Bangkok.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CATS AT MBK MALL

Our favourite cat statues at MBK Mall also have some festive attire this year.

24 Dec 2023, at MBK Centre, Bangkok.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### MORE GEESE

More pictures of the geese that are prominent in Central Department Stores' Christmas décor this year.

24 Dec 2023, in Central Department store, Chidlom, Bangkok.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CHRISTMAS EVE AND SANTA'S VISIT

Hotel staff dressed up for Santa's visit to Hotel guests on Christmas Eve.

24 Dec 2023, during dinner at Antito's Restaurant in Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CHRISTMAS DAY BUDDHA

A clear view of Wat Paknam's giant Buddha on Christmas morning.

25 Dec 2023, from Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### POLAR BEARS TOO

A polar bear joins the other obligatory décor in the upmarket supermarket at Central Department store.

25 Dec 2023, in Central Department Store supermarket, Chidlom, Bangkok.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### TROPICAL GARDEN

**A view of the tropical garden surrounding Jim Thompson Company's outlet store in the Bangkok suburbs.**

26 Dec 2023, at Jim Thompson factory outlet store, Bang Chak, Bangkok.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

**ZEBRA DOVE (*Geopelia Striata*)**

**Puffed up against the unseasonal cold weather.**

26 Dec 2023, at the Jim Thompson Factory outlet shop at Bang Chak, Bangkok, Thailand



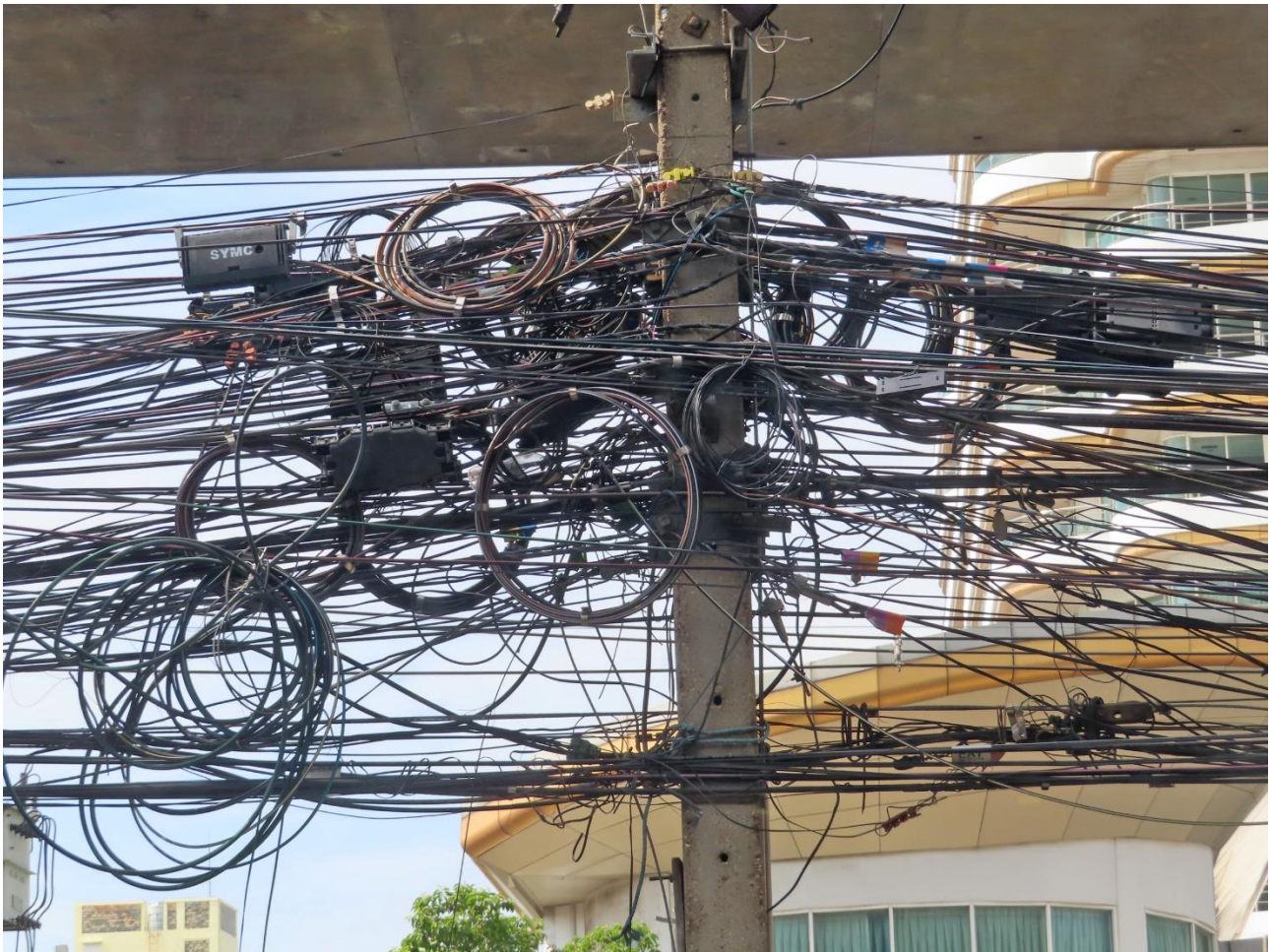


## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### TANGLE OF POWER LINES

A typical street scene in Bangkok. Seen from the coffee shop window looking across Sukhumvit Road.

26 Dec 2023, from Starbucks Coffee shop at Bang Chak, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### TEMPLE ELEPHANTS

Seen from the coffee shop window looking across Sukhumvit Road.

26 Dec 2023, from Starbucks Coffee shop at Bang Chak, Bangkok, Thailand

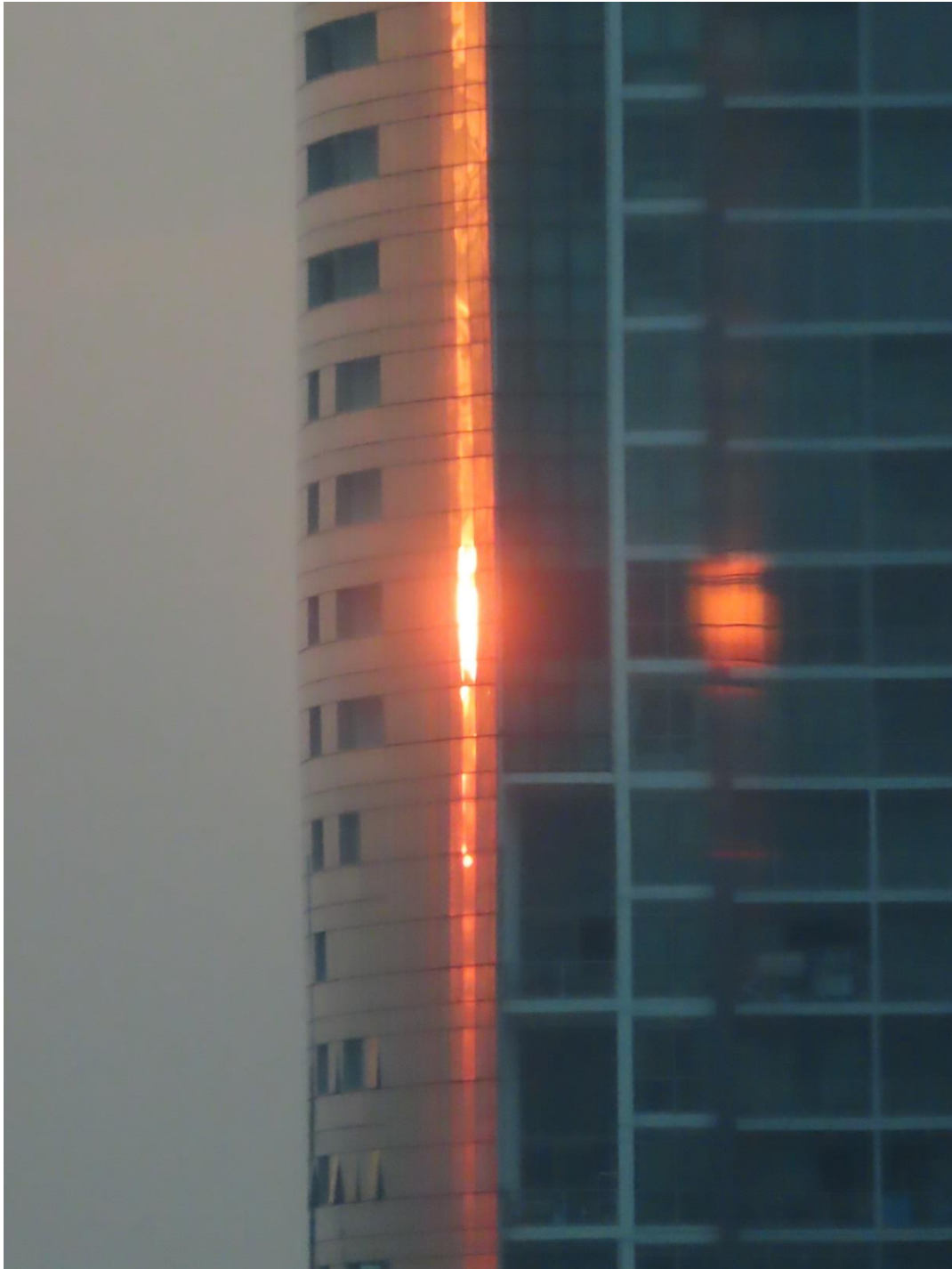


## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### SUNSET REFLECTED

**The setting sun reflected in the building opposite.**

26 Dec 2023, from top floor lounge at Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### A SURREAL VIEW

Today's setting sun reflected in another building, the W Hotel in North Sathorn Road, with the full moon rising above that hotel and the Mahanakhon tower building looming grotesquely to the left.

26 Dec 2023, from top floor lounge at Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Thailand



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### WINE TASTING

Residue of some wine tasting with the F&B manager at our table in Antito's Restaurant.

26 Dec 2023, at Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE DUSIT THANI SPIRE RE-ERECTED

From 1970 to 2020 the Dusit Thani Hotel stood on this site at one of the city's key intersections – one of the city's first great luxury hotels. Its Japanese design included an iconic gold spire on top that took its height to 100m (330 ft), making it the city's tallest building when it opened. The spire and the hotel below it were visible from many parts of the city. A new Dusit Thani hotel and commercial centre and residences is now under construction on the site, due to start opening at end-2024. The spire of the old hotel is now being re-erected on top of the new hotel structure, as a nod to the iconic old Dusit Thani that was demolished in 2019-2020.

27 Dec 2023, from the entrance to Silom MRT station, Bangkok, Thailand.



2013 view of old hotel and iconic spire

## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### VIEW OF RIVER

**Breakfast-time view of Bangkok's Chao Phraya river from our hotel.**

28 Dec 2023, from Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### FRENCH EMBASSY EXTENSION

View from our hotel of the ugly extension of the old French Embassy building close to the river. The Embassy and all the neighbouring buildings (one of which can be seen in white in the centre of the image) are good examples of Bangkok's historic or Italianate/neo-classical style. The new French building, which is now several years old, is an eyesore. This misfit will be accentuated when the old riverside Custom House, adjacent to the Embassy, completes its conversion into a new luxury hotel soon, while still retaining its former historic appearance – see later note and photo on this.

28 Dec 2023, from Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn Road, Bangkok, Thailand.





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### MARKET SHRINE

A close up of the shrine that is a focal point in part of Bangkok's Chatuchak market – the part in fact that we most visit for household linens and similar.

28 Dec 2023, at JJ Plaza in Chatuchak market, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE JIM THOMPSON HOUSE SITE

A view over the grounds of the Jim Thompson House and museum site .

29 Dec 2023, from top floor of Jim Thompson Art Centre, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### **VARIABLE SUNBIRD (CINNYRIS VENUSTUS)**

A small (typically 10cm long overall) but brilliantly coloured bird living in the urban foliage in this part of central Bangkok. This bird is also popularly known as the Yellow-bellied Sunbird – a name that is informally used for several subspecies of sunbird, including the fairly common Olive-backed Sunbird seen in Malaysia . It is believed that “variable” in this bird’s English name refers to the fact that it is found in different places with many variations in the standard colouring. The Variable Sunbird is fairly common in the highlands of eastern Africa, less so in parts of Asia further east

29 Dec 2023, on an upper floor of Jim Thompson Art Centre, Bangkok, Thailand.

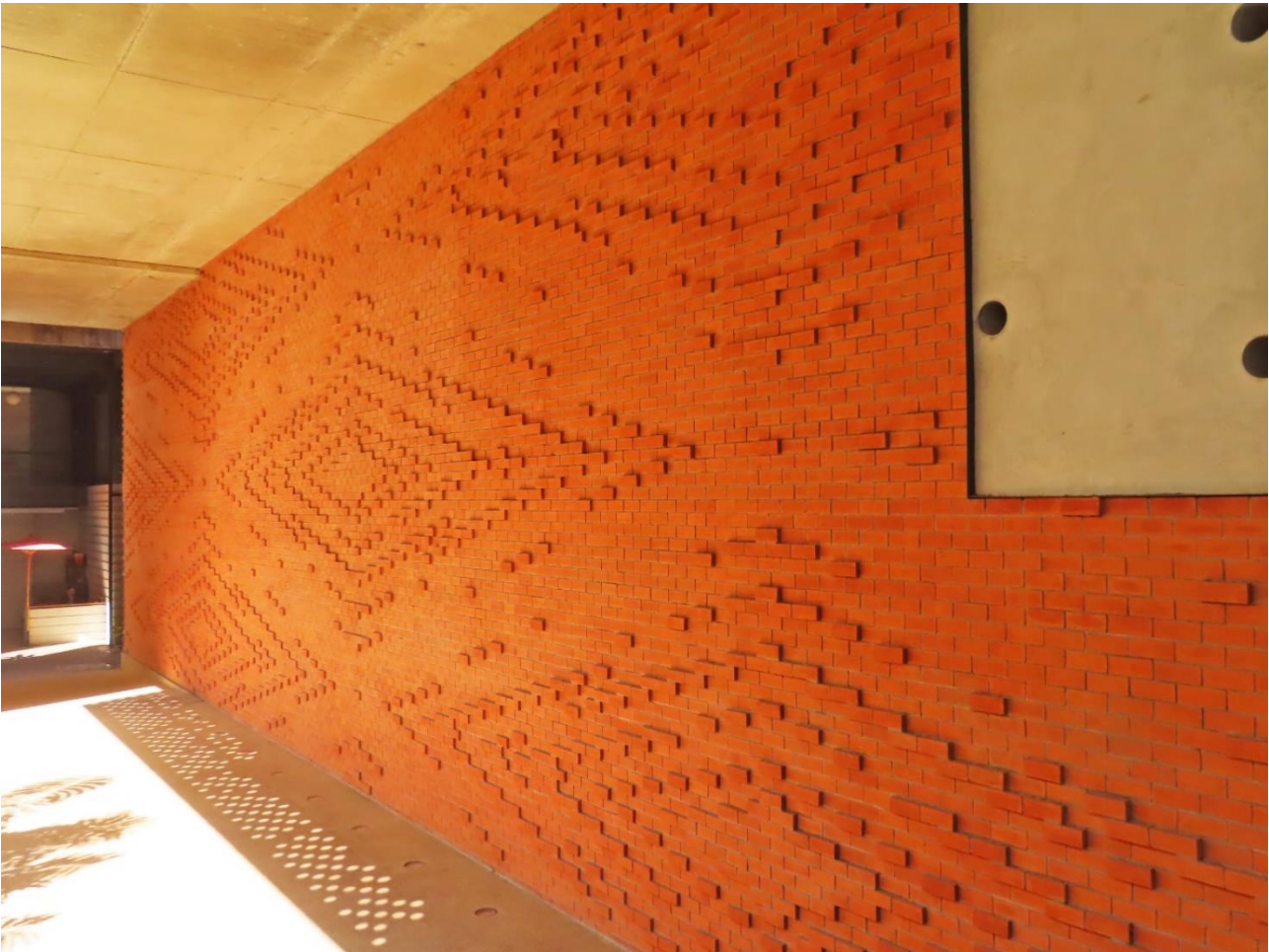


## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### A DECORATIVE WALL

A nicely patterned interior wall at the Jim Thompson Art Centre – reminiscent of old Thai brick structures but showing an innovative modern design.

29 Dec 2023, at Jim Thompson Art Centre, Bangkok, Thailand.

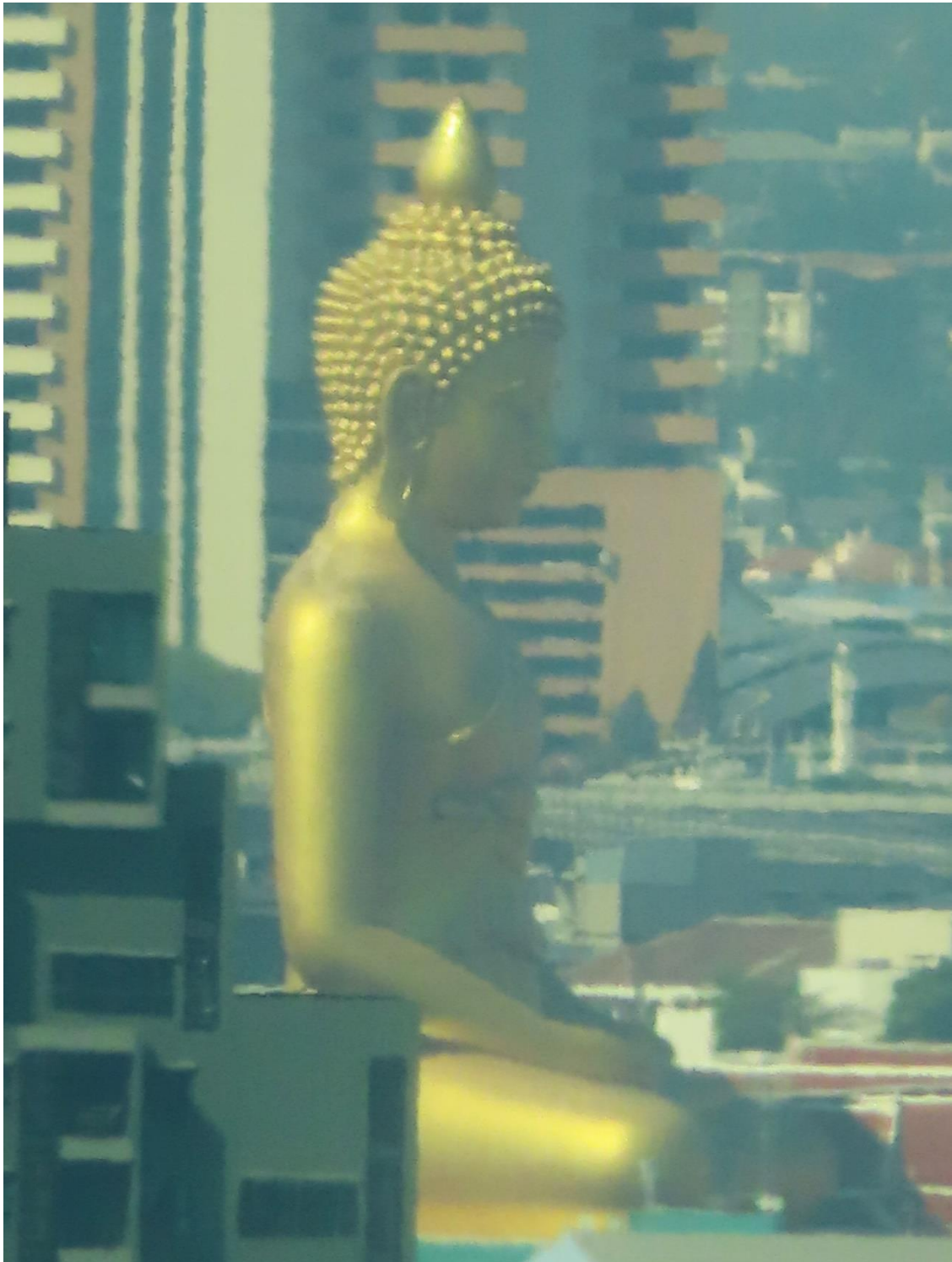


## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE GIANT GOLDEN BUDDHA – RECAP OF EARLIER PHOTO

This is the statue as seen with the zoom lens 5.5 km away from our hotel when we arrived this time on 20 December 2023 – provided here again as lead-in to the images of our visit to the site today 31 Dec 2023.

20 Dec 2023, from top floor of Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE GIANT GOLDEN BUDDHA – RECAP OF EARLIER PHOTO

This is the full view from the hotel's top floor. The Buddha. 5.5 km away in the centre of the image, is visible only if you search for it – see next photo.

20 Dec 2023, from top floor of Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE GIANT GOLDEN BUDDHA – RECAP OF EARLIER PHOTO

In this partially magnified view, the gold Buddha can be seen exactly in the centre of the image, at 8 o'clock (ie down and to the left) from the ERGO red-on-white name sign on top of a nearby building.

22 Dec 2023, from top floor of Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE GIANT GOLDEN BUDDHA – RECAP OF EARLIER PHOTO

The statue seen above the Skytrain tracks in an earlier photo taken from the first Skytrain station across the river.

7 Aug 2023, from Krung Thonburi Skytrain station, Bangkok, Thailand.





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE GIANT GOLDEN BUDDHA – GETTING CLOSE TO IT

The statue looms over everything in its vicinity. This is a view that you catch from the platform at the nearest MRT station when you get off the train en route to visit the site. It's still a 20 minute walk away through some back lanes and across a canal from here.

30 Dec 2023, from Bang Phai MRT station, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### WALK THROUGH THE BACK LANES – 1 OF 4

Some images from the 1km walk through the lanes from the Skytrain to the monastery where the Buddha is located.

30 Dec 2023, between Bang Phai MRT station and Wat Paknam, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### WALK THROUGH THE BACK LANES – 2 OF 4

Some images from the 1km walk through the lanes from the Skytrain to the monastery where the Buddha is located.

30 Dec 2023, between Bang Phai MRT station and Wat Paknam, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### WALK THROUGH THE BACK LANES – 3 OF 4

Some images from the 1km walk through the lanes from the Skytrain to the monastery where the Buddha is located.

30 Dec 2023, between Bang Phai MRT station and Wat Paknam, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### WALK THROUGH THE BACK LANES – 4 OF 4

Some images from the 1km walk through the lanes from the Skytrain to the monastery where the Buddha is located.

30 Dec 2023, between Bang Phai MRT station and Wat Paknam, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### MONASTERY CAT

**One of the Wat Paknam Monastery's cats ready to spring into action.**

30 Dec 2023, inside Wat Paknam, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### INSIDE THE MONASTERY

One of the courtyards inside Wat Paknam Monastery.

30 Dec 2023, inside Wat Paknam, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE GOLDEN BUDDHA AT THE WAT - I

Unusual view of the Buddha's head from close-by.

30 Dec 2023, inside Wat Paknam, Bangkok, Thailand.





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE GOLDEN BUDDHA AT THE WAT - II

It's difficult to capture the entirety of the statue in a single close-up. Note the scale of the people below the statue at bottom.

30 Dec 2023, inside Wat Paknam, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CAFÉ NEAR THE WAT

A nice local café, Café Meili, close to the Wat – views outside and inside.

30 Dec 2023, across the canal from Wat Paknam, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### FEATURED IN THE LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES

Wat Paknam's Golden Buddha featured on the cover of the London Financial Times' "How to Spend it Magazine" on 28 Oct 2023. The magazine featured fashion shots in various unusual Bangkok locations. The cover shot was the only location out of about 20 that was not specifically identified, but we recognised the Buddha instantly.

28 Oct 2023 (date of publication in FT), near Wat Paknam, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE FT'S VIEWPOINT

We found the exact viewpoint from which the FT's November 2023 photo was taken.

30 Dec 2023, near Wat Paknam, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### BEFORE THE SUNRISE

Pre-sunrise glow in the eastern sky, seen from the hotel swimming pool.

31 Dec 2023, at Eastern Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### LAST SWIM OF THE YEAR COMPLETED

2023's last swim completed in the hotel pool.

31 Dec 2023, at Eastern Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### JIM THOMPSON HOUSE

The traditional teak house in its atmospheric tropical garden.

31 Dec 2023, at Jim Thompson House, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### SQUIRREL (1 of 2)

Some local variety of grey squirrel seen in the Jim Thompson gardens.

31 Dec 2023, at Jim Thompson House, Bangkok, Thailand.





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### SQUIRREL (2 of 2)

Some local variety of grey squirrel seen in the Jim Thompson gardens.



31 Dec 2023, at Jim Thompson House, Bangkok, Thailand.

## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### SPLASH OF COLOUR

Some decorative parasols at the Jim Thompson House .

31 Dec 2023, at Jim Thompson House, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER

Getting ready for the New Year' Eve Dinner.

31 Dec 2023, in the modern SOCAL (= Southern California) restaurant in the Bangkok Intercontinental Hotel



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

After the dinner.

31 Dec 2023, outside the Bangkok Intercontinental Hotel after dinner on New Year's Eve.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### NEW YEAR SWIM

First swim of 2024 – as usual before sunrise.

1 Jan 2024, at Eastin Grand Sathorn Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### NEW YEAR GREETINGS

After our swim, the reflection of sunrise in the building opposite and one of the symbols left over from last night's celebrations.

1 Jan 2024, at Eastin Grand Sathorn Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### NEW HOTEL PAUSED

The new Steigenberger (German hotel chain) property on the riverside still remains in limbo – largely complete, but nothing happening. The Covid restrictions and the drying-up of international visitors in 2019-21 forced a delay in the intended opening. There is still no news of the opening.

1 Jan 2024, on the river, looking at east bank, near Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### EAST ASIATIC COMPANY

The iconic building of the old Danish East Asiatic Company stands forlorn and shipwrecked by the landing stages of Oriental Pier. By contrast, its neighbour to the right, the building of the old Banque de l'Indochine, has been restored and repurposed. Both these buildings date from 1900-1910 and were designed in Italianate style, popular in Bangkok at that time.

1 Jan 2024, on the river, looking at east bank by Oriental Pier, Bangkok.





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### ORIENTAL HOTEL 1 of 2

The equally iconic old building of the venerable Oriental Hotel, standing to the left of the two 1900-1910 buildings shown above, is older and dates from 1887. It continues to serve as a hotel. (See 1880s photo on following page.)

1 Jan 2024, on the river, looking at east bank, at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok.

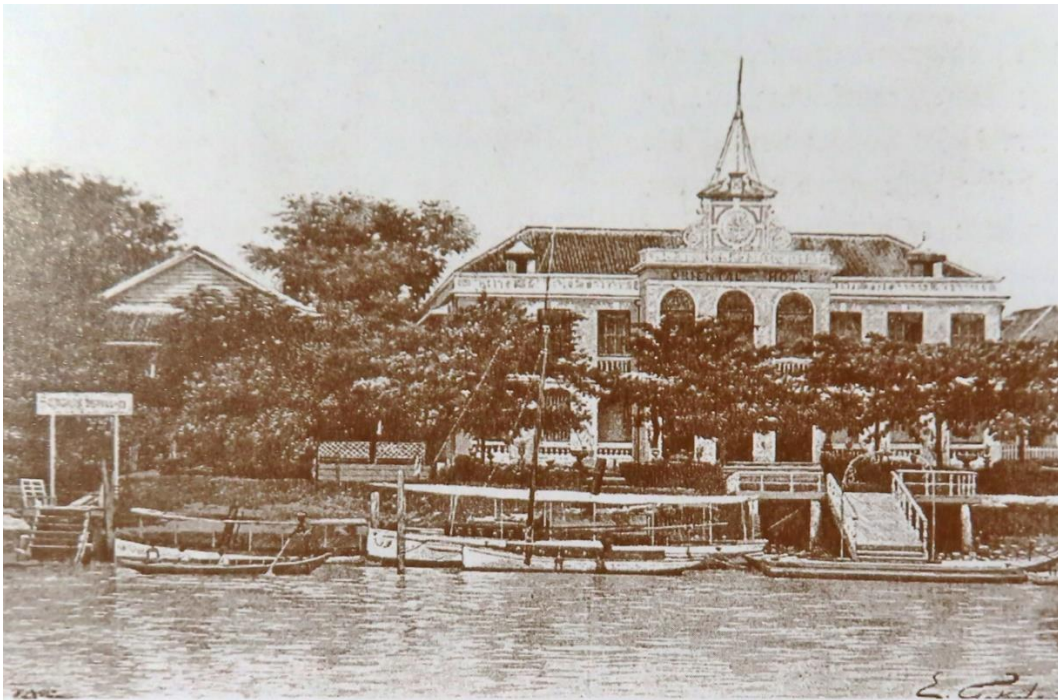


## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### ORIENTAL HOTEL 2 of 2

An early photo from around 1877 when the hotel opened, showing the iconic facade. The right-hand side of the original facade is now unfortunately masked by an ill-advised extension that pushes the two stories 15 metres or so out into the garden (see current view below).

1877 image courtesy of Jock Montgomery & William Warren's 1994 illustrated book *Menam Chao Phraya*. Current hotel image is from hotel's web site.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### OLD CUSTOMS HOUSE

Near-neighbour to the Oriental Hotel, dating also from the 1880s and built also in the Italianate style, the old Bangkok Customs House on the riverside is undergoing restoration and conversion into a 441-room luxury hotel. The building served most recently from 1959-2019 as the Bangkok City Fire Brigade station for this district. The hotel will be managed by Langham Hospitality and will probably be named the Langham Custom House.

1 Jan 2024, on the river, at Old Customs House.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### REFLECTIONS

Reflections in the curved glass front of the CAT (Communications Authority of Thailand, the state-owned telecoms company) building, directly on the riverside.

1 Jan 2024, on the river, looking at east bank, by CAT tower, Bangkok.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### UNUSUAL SCULPTURE

An intriguing piece of metal sculpture seen today in one of the exhibitions in the River City Art Centre.

1 Jan 2024, in River City Art Centre, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### CERAMIC CATS

More sculpture, this time ceramic cats.

1 Jan 2024, in River City Art Centre, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### BANGKOK CONTAINER PORT

Early morning long shot from our room across to the container port on the Chao Phraya river as it winds its way towards the open sea. The port here is some 7 km from the camera and about 25km on the winding river from the open sea. The largest container ships serving the Bangkok area dock at the highly industrialised Laem Chabang port some 60km down the coast from the mouth of the Cho Phraya river and do not enter the river to reach the small port shown in this photo.

2 Jan 2024, in from our room in Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### A MONASTERY

The exotic-looking rooftops of a nearby monastery seen on a misty morning from our hotel.

2 Jan 2024, Seen from Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand.





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE BLUE ELEPHANT RESTAURANT

Another shot of the Blue Elephant Restaurant in its old colonial-style building next to our hotel.

2 Jan 2024, seen from Surasak Skytrain station next to Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### SHANGRI-LA HOTEL INTERIOR

Some of the beautifully-preserved traditional style Thai interior styling seen inside the Shangri-La Hotel. This is one of Bangkok's earliest big hotels (800 rooms). The photo shows part of the hotel constructed in 1991 but decorated in an old style).

2 Jan 2024, in Krungthep wing, Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### SHANGRI-LA HOTEL LOBBY

The Christmas décor in this hotel too includes this year's obligatory German soldier figures.

2 Jan 2024, in Shangri-La Hotel lobby, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### RESTORATION OF OLD BUILDINGS

A nice example of an old commercial premises repurposed as a smart tea room in one of the heritage areas just off Charoen Krung (New Road) near Oriental Hotel. The balcony-like structures outside the upper windows are in fact screens to conceal the air-conditioner compressors.

2 Jan 2024, in Charoen Krung Soi 38 (the street on the right), Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### O. P. PLACE

This neo-classical Italianate style building of 1908 in a back street near the Oriental Hotel seems finally to have given up its attempts of several decades to operate as an up-market shopping centre for very high priced merchandise (jewellery, antiques, art, fashions and tailoring etc). It is well preserved but now shuttered. It was built originally as a major department store to serve the European and international population of the city in the early 1900s – and seems to have been successful in that at that time.

2 Jan 2024, in Charoen Krung Soi 38, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### EAST ASIATIC COMPANY BUILDING 1 of 2

The neglect and consequent deterioration in the structure can be seen in these photos of parts of the building behind the river-facing façade (which was shown about 14 pages earlier).

2 Jan 2024, in Charoen Krung Soi 40, alongside the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### EAST ASIATIC COMPANY BUILDING 2 of 2

The neglect and consequent deterioration in the structure can be seen in these photos of parts of the building behind the river-facing facade.

2 Jan 2024, in Charoen Krung Soi 40, alongside the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THE CHINA HOUSE

This old early 1900s house, in the street leading to the Oriental Hotel, had been repurposed as an antiques store when we were first in Bangkok in the late 1970s. It was subsequently acquired by the Oriental Hotel Company, being immediately adjacent to the hotel site, and converted to a luxury Chinese restaurant. Up to that point the hotel lacked a separate Chinese restaurant with its own separate kitchen. This old house provided a good solution. However, in subsequent renovations the hotel company added a steel and glass entrance lobby and porch that is totally out of character with the rest of the building, destroying the beauty of the main facade.

2 Jan 2024, in Charoen Krung Soi 40, next to the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### THAI HOME INDUSTRIES BUILDING

This is an emporium selling all manner of traditional Thai craft products – metalwares, textiles, ceramics, basketware. It's been there for some 50 years and going inside is like stepping back into the past! The building is believed to have previously been a series of accommodation halls for monks – possibly associated with a monastery (or Wat) that is no longer there.

2 Jan 2024, in Charoen Krung Soi 40 near Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### ANOTHER REPURPOSED BUILDING

Another renovated and repurposed building near the Charoen Krung end of Soi 40. It is not clear what the new function of the building is.

2 Jan 2024, in Charoen Krung Soi 40 near Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### POMERANIAN PROTEST

**(Through a shop window) A dog, dressed as a Christmas elf, sitting in its dog carriage inside a shop and trying to attract our passing attention. It looks like a Pomeranian or a related breed. Pomeranian dogs are very small (“toy dogs”) and owe their name to their supposed region of origin, Pomerania. This was a historic region on the south coast of the Baltic Sea spanning the borders of today’s Germany and Poland. Britain’s Queen Charlotte (1744-1818), the consort of King George III and whose descendants included both King George V and his wife Mary of Teck, was a native of this region. Pomeranian dogs are believed to be miniaturised descendants of the old north German Spitz breed of sled dog.**

2 Jan 2024, in Oriental Lane (in Silky garment shop that used to house old British Dispensary), Charoen Krung Soi 40 , Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### OLD BRITISH DISPENSARY

View of the Silky ladies tailors shop that now occupies the ground-floor premises at the junction of Soi 40 (on the right) and Charoeng Krung (on the left). The Pomeranian dog of the previous photo was seen through a window here. In our early days in Bangkok (late 1970s, early 1980s) these premises housed a pharmacy-drug store trading under the name of The British Dispensary. We were customers there once or twice when staying at the Oriental Hotel in Soi 40. The British Dispensary in fact was founded in Bangkok by a British and an American doctor in 1892, at a time when several other pharmacies were set up to serve the growing international population in this part of the city. The BD's original location was a large house (no longer there) 150m further up Charoen Krung, at its junction with Surawong Road and the company, which still exists today, was sold to a local Thai family in 1928. At an early point the BD expanded into manufacturing (medications, supplements and personal care products) and it is still in this business today, with its well-known "snake brand" products. It no longer has any retail stores and the BD store on this site that we know from our earlier days was possibly one of the company's very last retail branches.

2 Jan 2024, in Charoen Krung Soi 40 , Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### OLD BRITISH DISPENSARY SITE

This building that was covered on the previous page is in fact also interesting in its own right. Before hosting a store of the British Dispensary on the ground floor (now long gone) it was probably the headquarters of a significant commercial business. It extends for 5 window bays along both Charoen Krung and the adjoining Soi 40, plus the window bay at the angle. The 2 upper storeys have well-preserved Art Deco features and it is likely that it was built soon after the end of World War 2 (1939-45), if not just before then. The unusual metal-framed windows are interesting and slightly reminiscent of the Dutch artist Mondrian (1872-1944). There is a company logo (probably the building's original developer) at the top of the main façade, which appears to read FTC, TFC, CFI, CIF or similar but the company cannot be identified.

2 Jan 2024, in Charoen Krung Soi 40 , Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### ANOTHER OLD SURVIVING BUILDING

Another 3 storey old building on a junction site, but the styling this time is much more the conventional Thai pseudo-colonial of the post-war years. This building stands at the angle of Charoen Krung and Silom roads and looks shipwrecked, particularly since its 3 storeys are dwarfed by the 68 storeys (rising to 247m or 810 ft) of the mixed-use State Tower immediately behind it. The same styling also extends for some distance to the right further along Charoen Krung, but with 2 storeys only. (See 2 pages back where the State Tower can be seen in the background.)

2 Jan 2024, in Charoen Krung (on right) at junction with Silom (on left), Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### SHANGRI-LA HOTEL LOBBY

Another view of this hotel's lobby with its Art Deco-style mural decoration. The hotel opened in 1986 and this retro-looking mural was incorporated later during renovations. The work is "Golden Shangri-La" by well-known contemporary Thai artist and sculptor Thongchai Srisukprasert (born 1963) and is based on author James Hilton's concept of Shangri-La being "a harmonious place where all of the elements are aligned".

2 Jan 2024, in Shangri-La Hotel lobby, Bangkok, Thailand.



floored

2 Jan 2024, in Shangri-La Hotel lobby, Bangkok, Thailand.

## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### LAST SUNRISE

**Our last sunrise seen from our room after swimming at the hotel – we depart for home this evening.**

3 Jan 2024, from Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok, Thailand.





## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### BANGKOK LAST VIEWS

Views like these are always our last ones of Bangkok on each trip – the direct flight to Penang always leaves after dark in the evening.

3 Jan 2024, at Suvarnabhumi airport, Bangkok, Thailand.



## Photos of the year 2023-2024

### BACK HOME

Just arrived back home from the 2 weeks in Bangkok.

3 Jan 2024, in our apartment at Quayside Condominium, Penang, Malaysia

