Famous Architectural Heritage in the Philippines

**El Hogar**
D. Antonio Melian established in 1910 a building society that issued mortgages called "El Hogar Filipino." Four years later, in 1904, the four story building of the company, designed and constructed by Irureta-Goyena, was inaugurated on the corner of Juan Luna in Binondo facing the Pasig River. Designed with touches of the French Beaux Arts style, it has an enriched entablature topped with an attic story and a flat roof. It looks deceptively sedate until one enters its discreet entranceway. The double door leads to a center courtyard with balustraded corridors connected by an exuberant Art Nouveau staircase situated along the end of a passageway. With bronze griffins for newel posts and gilt swirling around initialed medallions, the interior speaks of a bygone elegance.

**Regina Building**
One of the earliest structures made of reinforced concrete, a material introduced during the American colonial period. According to sources, the original three-story building was designed by Andres Luna San Pedro. In the early 1930's it was bought by the De Leon family from the Roxas family and a fourth floor commissioned from architect Fernando Ocampo. The building is one of Manila's architectural landmarks, and is an example of the Art Deco style. Together with the Perez-Samanillo which is right across the street, it establishes a strong presence on the Escolta.

**Luneta Hotel**
The Luneta Hotel, the only building in Manila with French Renaissance style windows and balconies with cast-iron grills, has been attributed to Andres Luna San Pedro at various times. But what is known is that it was planned and owned by a Spanish architect-engineer, Salvador Farre, who also designed and built Montalban Dam. The Hotel may have been built in 1918 or 1920 when the Americans brought in reinforced concrete that allowed the construction of high rises. An early title to the property from Manila City Hall, dated 1915, makes no mention of the building. In 1922 a mortgage was taken out that was eventually paid off in 1930.

**The Hong Kong Shanghai Bank Building**
On September 22,1922, the acting Governor-General of the Philippines, Charles Emmett Yeater, spoke at the dedication of the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank's new building on Calle Juan Luna and Callejon San Gabriel in Binondo. Standing on a 10,706 sq. meter lot with five stories of structural steel encased in concrete; its treasury vaults had enclosing walls of 40 inches, including armored walls 20 inches thick and reinforced with two networks of twisted steel bars. The ground floor ceiling was 23 ft high, and the upper floor's ceiling sixteen feet high. The architect was an American, G.H. Hayward, as was the contractor, Oscar F. Campbell.

**Pangasinan Provincial Capitol**
The neo-classical provincial capitol of Pangasinan designed by architect Ralph Harrington Duane, is probably the most famous building dating back from the American colonial period. Easily the most impressive public
building in the province, its erection involved meticulous city planning. It formed the centerpiece of a
grandiose plan that included the provincial high school and the governor's mansion. It was inaugurated in
1918. The Capitol was severely damaged during the pre-landing bombardment of Lingayen Beach by the
American 7th Fleet in January 1945 and later restored.

Metropolitan Theater
The Metropolitan Theater is the most outstanding example of Art Deco architecture in the country. Designed
by Juan Arellano in 1931, it stands in contrast to the neo-classical architecture that typifies its adjacent
buildings. The facade of the Metropolitan Theater is festive and colorful. It features stylized motifs typical of
Art Deco design, but with a uniquely Filipino touch. These Filipino motifs of tropical flowers and fruits
ornament the structure's grilles, stairways and wall detailing. The other remarkable features of the
Metropolitan Theater are its proscenium-like entrance, window-mural of colored glass. The 4-bay, six story
building is crowed by a pair of mansard roofs. On the front French windows open to balconies with cast-iron
grills. The balconies are supported by consoles. Amorsolo murals and plaques depicting the muses of Music,
Tragedy, Comedy and Poetry adorn the walls of the building. The Metropolitan is in danger of being
demolished.

(Uy-Chaco Building) Philtrust Bank Building
Built in 1914 by Samuel C. Rowell, the 6-story Uy-Chaco Building on Plaza Cervantes is considered Manila's
first skyscraper. The design is rather electric. However, its
undulating balconies and iron grilles mark it as belonging to the Art Nouveau style, making it Manila's first
and last building style. The most striking feature of the building is the projecting turret on its northeastern
corner. The rounded corner, emphasized by curving railings, gives the building the appearance of a French
chateau. Rising from the eaves is a gabled roof with round clocks instead of windows. The building also
features eight distinctly-designed bats, and projecting balconies on the third, fourth and fifth, floors.