



Located in the heart of Da Nang city, the Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture is an indispensable stop for visitors on the journey to discover the heritage and cultural treasures in the Central and Central Highlands of Vietnam.

The museum currently houses and displays the richest and most representative collection of religious sculptures of the ancient kingdom of Champa which has existed and flourished for decades with many heritages still remaining preserved, including the system of magnificent temples and other tangible and intangible cultural heritages.

The procedure of collecting Champa sculptures has begun in the late 19th century. Numerous exhibits were found in the region of Da Nang, Quang Nam and neighboring provinces then gathered at the museum with the name at that time “The Garden of Tourane”.

The collection marks the merits of passionate French archaeologists, especially those who worked for the French School of the Far East (L’École Française d’Extrême – Orient, abbreviated as EFEO). Some sculptures have been moved to France, others have been preserved at museums in Hanoi and Saigon (now known as Ho Chi Minh City) but most of the characteristic artefacts are still stored at The Garden of Tourane (Tourane is the name of Da Nang at that time).

The idea of building the Museum to preserve Champa sculptures had been sparked since 1902. In particular, it must highlight the EFEO project with the great contribution of Henri Parmentier, Dean of the Department of Archeology. After significant effort and determinations, the first building was started constructing in 1915, completed in 1916 and opened to the public in 1919.

The original design of the building was initiated by two French architects, Delaval and Auclair, based on Henri Parmentier's proposal of using the features of the Champa temples. Despite later expansions, the original architectural features have remained intact to this day after over 100 years.

In the 1930s, the Museum was first expanded. The nearly-1000-meter-square building was arranged into the basic galleries shaping the itinerary within the museum till today, namely: Tra Kieu, My Son, Dong Duong, Thap Mam Hall and the corridors of Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh and Kon Tum.

In 2016, the city restored all buildings, adjusted and upgraded the galleries. The refurbishment project aims to connect all buildings of the museum into a sightseeing tour. Especially, the main exhibition showcases Champa sculpture collections, the rest are specialized rooms on Inscription, Pottery, Music, Festivals and Traditional vocations of Cham people in Ninh Thuan nowadays. Performance space and educational activities are positioned on the second floor and the renovated service area is in the garden.

In 2011, Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture was listed as the first-class museum in Vietnam. Thereby, that approves the role and contributions of the Museum in the conservation and promotion of the values of Champa cultural heritage in particular and Vietnam in general.