

## Ratchadamnoen Klang Boulevard

Ratchadamnoen Klang Boulevard was built during the Fifth reign (1868-1910). It was the largest and widest road at that time. Ratchadamnoen means the Royal passage because it links between the two Royal palaces which are the Grand Palace and Dusit Palace.

In the past, both sides of Ratchadamnoen Klang Boulevard were the lines of Mahogany trees. The trees were pulled out in 1941 when the huge post-war style buildings were constructed on both sides. The buildings along the Boulevard have the same texture, materials and style and most of them are used as government and private offices.



## Democracy Monument

This monument was erected in 1939 to remind the revolution of the country administration from absolute monarchy to democracy ( constitutional monarchy ). Many elements of the monument imply events involved in the nation's administration and political change. For instance, the height of the four posts is 24 metres which means the date of political change ( the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1932 ). The 75 canons at the base panel means the year 2547 B.E. or 1932. At the base of the four posts, plaster relief of people involved in the revolution were created.

The **Democracy Monument** (in Thai: **Anusawari Prachathipatai**) is a public monument in the centre of Bangkok, capital of Thailand. It occupies a traffic circle on the wide east-west boulevard Thanon Ratchadamnoen Klang, at the intersection of Thanon Dinso. The monument is roughly halfway between Sanam Luang, the former royal cremation ground in front of Wat Phra Kaew, and the temple of the Golden Mount (Phu Kao Thong).

The monument was commissioned in 1939 by the military ruler of Thailand, Field Marshal Plaek Pibulsonggram, to commemorate the June 1932 military coup which led to the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in what was then the Kingdom of Siam. Phibun saw the monument as the centre of what he envisaged as a new, westernised Bangkok, "making Thanon Ratchadamnoen the Champs-Élysées and the Democracy Monument the Arc de Triomphe."

The monument was designed by Mew Aphaiwong. The Italian sculptor Corrado Feroci, who was a Thai citizen and used the Thai name Silpa Bhirasi, executed the relief sculptures around the base of the monument.

## Details of the Democracy Monument



Figure 1: A representation of the Thai Constitution of 1932 sits on top of two golden offering bowls above a round turret.



Figure 2: One of the four wing-like structures which guard the Constitution, representing the four branches of the Thai armed forces.



Figure 3: One of the naga fountains at the base of two of the wing structures.



Figure 4: Sculptural panel titled "Soldiers Fighting for Democracy"



Figure 5: Sculptural panel titled "Personification of the People"



Figure 6: Sculptural panel titled "Personification of Balance and Good Life"