

Assessment and Policies for the Rizal Monument Skyline: Torre de Manila Case Study

Clarence Jasper C. Aguila

Althea Lisbet O. Labrador

Lou Vincent C. Licerio

Theresa C. Rivera

College of Architecture, University of the Philippines

Mary Ann A. Espina

College of Architecture, University of the Philippines

arch_epea@yahoo.com

Abstract

The Rizal Monument marks the exact burial location of the national hero of the Philippines, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, within the national park, Luneta Park. Being the most significant historical landmark in the country, the Rizal Monument and its view corridor must be protected. However, its view corridor is being threatened by inevitable development within a bustling, chockfull population in Manila City, particularly, through the construction of DMCI's Torre de Manila, a 165-storey residential condominium along Taft Avenue. This paper identifies the Rizal Monument's primary view corridors and proposes an assessment procedure for skyline design to aid lawmakers and decision makers in protecting the visual integrity of the historical landmark. The outcome proposes either a protection of status quo through the demolition of Torre de Manila, or a detailed guideline, with supporting simulations, on future development plans for tall buildings within the institutional and commercial portion of Manila City included within the Rizal Monument view corridor.

Keywords: Heritage conservation, Rizal monument, urban planning, view corridor, skyline design