ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The foundations of this book were built on the advice, support, and friend-ship of Anne Blackburn, Ngampit Jagacinski, Samson Lim, and Tamara Loos. Along with those of the two anonymous reviewers of the manuscript, their generous and critical comments on early drafts helped transform it into a book. Early in my training as a historian, Medina Lasansky helped shape the ways that I look at the material and rhetorical aspects of architecture.

Ms. Koraphin Taweta, Ms. Nanthaka Pollachai, and the dedicated staff of the National Archives of Thailand, the National Library, the Ho Vajiravudh, the archives of the Association of Siamese Architects, and the General Phraya Phahonphonphayuhasena archives at the National Artillery Center in Lopburi generously helped locate, share, and reproduce important documents from the history of the country. Eric Richter, the archivist at the Carrier Corporation Archives in Syracuse, patiently helped me track down a small but important document that I had been trying to locate since I was a doctoral student.

The publication of this book was supported by generous grants from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts and Syracuse University's Collaboration for Unprecedented Success and Excellence (CUSE). Fellowships at the Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität and the International Institute of Asian Studies at Universiteit Leiden allowed me to pursue an idyllic year of uninterrupted writing and research. In Freiburg, Nikolaus Binder went out of his way not only to help me navigate German bureaucracy but also to introduce me to the pleasures of living in his hometown. Petra Fischer, Bernd Kortmann, Britta Küsst, Johanna Bichlmaier, Roland Muntschick, and the entire administration of FRIAS made me feel immediately welcome and at home. At the IIAS, Philippe Peycam and Paul Rabé facilitated access to

many wonderful researchers and resources, including Michel Antelme, who graciously helped me with *khom* inscriptions. Early on, the Asian Cultural Council as well as Dean Michael Speaks and Associate Dean Julia Czerniak at the Syracuse University School of Architecture supported research travel at important moments in the book's development.

I am grateful for the thoughtful and critical guidance of many colleagues and fellow researchers. These include Ida Aroonwong, Chatri Prakitnontakan, Noa Roei, Jenny Reardon, Catherine McBride, Lorena Bachmaier Winter, Majid Daneshgar, Azar Mir, Oliver Braeunling, Paolo Silvestri, Anne Holzmüller, Onur Yildirim, Henrike Laehnemann, Nancy Campbell, Eva Ambos, Carola Erika Lorea, Bindu Menon, Haydon Cherry, Thomas Patton, Arjun Subrahmanyan, Lee Kah Wee, Jiat-Hwee Chang, Imran bin Tajudeen, Pamela Corey, Nana Adusei-Poku, Nathaniel Walker, and Elizabeth Lacouture; Li Hung-chiung, Huang Li-ling, and the other comrades of the Asia Theory Network; the members of the Critical Asia working group: Arnika Fuhrmann, Sudarat Musikawong, and Wang Zhuoyi; the members of the Urban Humanities working group: Peter Christensen, Samia Henni, Julia Walker, Lisa Trivedi, and Mimi Cheng; and at Syracuse University: Jean-François Bédard, Romita Ray, Mitesh Dixit, Amber Bartosh, and Sou Fang. Barbara Opar, the librarian at the School of Architecture, has been a remarkable research and teaching collaborator since my arrival at Syracuse. My research assistants Tao Shuxiao, Jun Cao, Maureen Yue, Yu Zhixiao, and Alexander Kuhn helped me redraw images and organize the manuscript.

Lisa Miller has been my constant companion, no less during the research and writing of this book; she was the voice at the end of the line who always knew when and where to find me. Paul Pfeiffer, Julie Mehretu, Jessica Rankin, Shu Lea Cheang, John Letourneau, Rachel Carrigan, Brigitte Landou, Tanalap Anantasin and Mana Promnikorn, Jacob Chuah, Francis Chuah, Jimmy Chuah, and their families, and Gwynn Jenkins created spaces for me to think, write, decompress, and escape in Bangkok, New York, Paris, and Penang. I am especially grateful to Lakshmi for the long and clarifying dérives through George Town.

Finally, my partner, Timothy Gerken, has been my shelter and my witness throughout the period of researching and writing this book. With Khush, a felicitous recent addition to both our lives, he continues to provide unexpected perspectives on the worlds we have been blessed to travel through together.

xiv ACKNOWLEDGMENTS