FROM
ROYAL LANNA RESIDENCE
TO
CONSUL GENERAL RESIDENCE
The U.S. Consul General Residence in Chiang Mai was built in the early 1930s by Prince Kaew Naowarat, the ninth and last Prince of the Lanna Kingdom. The Lanna Kingdom was founded in 1296 by King Mengrai, with Chiang Mai as its capital, and became a vassal state of Siam from 1774 until the late 1800s when it was fully incorporated into the Siamese government. Designed by an Italian architect in an Anglo-Burmese style, the residence is the centerpiece of the U.S. Consulate General in Chiang Mai, which was established in 1950 and remains the sole U.S. consular presence in Thailand outside of Bangkok.

The Consulate grounds were previously known as the Chedi Ngam Palace, or Beautiful Pagoda Palace, although local residents also called it Khum Phra Rachaya or Khum Chedi Kiew. The first Lanna Royal to take up permanent residence in the Palace was Her Royal Highness Princess Dara Rasmi, who had been a Royal consort of His Majesty King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) and moved to Chiang Mai four years after the King’s death in 1910. Princess Dara Rasmi was the daughter of Lanna King Indhawichayanon and Queen Thiphakaesorn Rajadevi. She lived in the Chedi Ngam Palace for several years before moving to a new residence of her own design in nearby Mae Rim village. After Princess Dara Rasmi left the Chedi Ngam Palace, her brother, Prince Kaew Naowarat, built the current residence, where he lived until he passed away in 1939. From 1950 until the present day, the residence has been occupied by the U.S. Consul General.

U.S. Consuls General, past and present, cherish the opportunity to reside in a property that holds such an important place in the history of the Lanna Royal Family. It remains one of Chiang Mai’s most beautiful cultural treasures, and is a testament to the longstanding relationship between the peoples of Thailand and the United States.
Khum Chedi Kiew (present CG residence) under construction in the early 1930s

View of the residence when completed

Consul General Residence in 2016