



Erosion pushed hundreds of villagers away from their home six years ago, but since then French-Vietnamese architect Bùi Kiến Quốc has stopped the river's encroachment and turned the area into an eco-tourism destination. **Công Thành** reports.

Architect uses nature to nurture village

Hundreds of villagers in Điện Phương's Triêm Tây Village were evacuated six years ago due to serious erosion that had devastated the area over the course of several years. But now the area is thriving.

The river has encroached another 10m onto their soil during flood season every year, and dykes weren't built to protect the village, either.

The endangered sunken river bank section, stretching 150m along the river, has since become a tourism eco-destination – rural-style villa called Triêm Tây Garden.

The 13,000sq.m site is now protected by a 'green' dyke – a system with combined layers of concrete foundation, soil, grass and water.

It serves as a tranquil weekend destination for families, groups and honeymooners, bursting with greenery and supplying both wooden and bamboo accommodations.

The garden's owner, French-Vietnamese architect Bùi Kiến Quốc, designed the non-traditional dyke.

He compensated evacuat-

Eco-solution

"I had to build a bio-dyke – a soft, protective wall – to ease the power of the river during flooding season."

ed families to keep their houses and garden as they had existed for years.

"Triêm Tây is a very nice village," Quốc said. "It is a good example of rural architecture and lifestyles in Việt Nam. I would really regret it if it disappeared for any reason."

"I was born in Nông Sơn District in the central province of Quảng Nam, and left for France at the age of seven. But I eventually returned to Việt Nam in 1996 to join village conservation projects."

Quốc, 71, said that's why he worked to conserve the village and protect it from erosion.



Jungle journey: Tourists visit Triêm Tây Village in the shadow of green bamboo and trees. The village, established in the 17th century, preserves its traditional, rural culture. Photos thongtindulich.dienban.gov.vn

A five-year course of design, construction and domestic grass varieties created a bio-dyke to prevent aggressive floods from affect-

ing the shore.

"It's a reaction to the river, keeping everything in harmony," he said. "Do not make it angry because it would clear everything with its power. This means I had to build a bio-dyke – a soft, protective wall – to ease the power of the river during flooding season."

The complex's swimming pools even helped balance out the power of the river water, he said.

After a while, all of Quốc's efforts paid off.

Local authorities decided to stop the evacuation plan along the riverbank, as Quốc's 'green' dyke project had succeeded in protecting the banks from floods and storms – even the *Nari* storm in 2013. Residents who had evacuated were allowed to return to the village.

"The Triêm Tây Garden helps protect the structure and lifestyle of a Vietnamese original village," Quốc said.

"It's been gradually disappearing due to rapid urbanisation and inept natural disaster preparedness."

"I just want to emphasise