Burma’s splendid old buildings may go the ugly way of Manila

In Yangon, Burma, we found a bonus, a surprising two extra days without any official activities.

Saleem had come from India and I from the Philippines to join other heritage practitioners from Europe in the Asia-Europe Foundation Experts’ Meeting and Public Forum on “Investing in Heritage Cities.” This meeting was convened with the participation of the Myanmar Ministry of Culture and the Yangon Heritage Trust.

A day before the conference, the high point of our hosts’ tour of the city required that we remove our shoes as custom dictated before carefully climbing the wet and slippery marble stairs to reach the top of Yangon’s central hill crowned by the massive gold-leafed stupas of Shwedagon Pagoda. This is Yangon’s most important pilgrimage destination, the city’s iconic temple and a national monument.

Read the full story at:
http://lifestyle.inquirer.net/120837/burmas-splendid-old-buildings-may-go-the-ugly-way-of-manila