A STUDY OF THE CITY FORM OF NEGOMBO
AND ITS EVOLUTION PATTERN

A Dissertation presented to the University of Moratuwa Sri Lanka, as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Science in Architecture.

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TOPIC EXPLANATION

City as a complex human settlement has different origins and evolution patterns. Each city has its own origin due to many reasons. They have come to their present city form after many changes to the original city form. But the reasons change from one place to another.

Shri Lankan cities also change from one to another due to their origin and their evolution pattern. Therefore to understand the problems of urban designing there must be a proper idea about the evolution of a particular city. Therefore for this study Negombo was selected due to few reasons. They are the importance of the Negombo City which has a long history. The other reasons are that it's importance as a major city center in today's context, and the problems faced by the city due to various developments in and around the city.

Issue

A settlement to become a city has to fulfil some physical and social aspects. But today these aspects are not been fulfilled. The actual reasons behind these haphazard situations need to be studied. Then the urban designers and planners can avoid these mistakes in their future proposals for Negombo.

Justification

Development of cities had become a prime need of today. Therefore it's important to study how society had respond to the cities designed at early stages and during the growth of cities. In this context these lessons from the past would be beneficial for future development proposals.
Methodology

In order to comprehend the nature of cities it was necessary to selectively read and gather information in a literature survey. Therefore, the first chapter looks at the characteristics and components of cities. After studying the basic problems of the city form and its evolution, based on that literature survey was used to find similar cases around the world.

The second chapter looks at the origin of Negombo as a settlement and its evolution up to the present situation. In order to do this both a literature survey were carried out.

The data and information gathered in the previous chapters were analyzed in the third chapter to identify the causes of the problems that are faced by the city of Negombo and hence try to find solutions for them.

Scope and limitations

The study needed to study city forms and their evolution pattern. Therefore for a proper analysis the historical development has been studied. But this had to be limited to the old city limits.

Aims and objectives.

Aim of this study is to find causes for haphazard places of cities and the way they affect the city. By analyzing them it is intended to form guidelines for future development of the city.
Introduction

City making became an issue in the present context of urban designing. Cities in the different parts of the world belonging to different periods have their own stories to tell. There are good cities as well as bad cities. Once good cities may become bad places with evolution. Some cities die in their infant stage while some last long. Origin of cities was different from one to another. Some were planned and some had grown organically.

The concepts were varied with the cultural aspects. Cultural aspects consist of social, political and economical aspects.

Illus. 1: origin of the cities near a river, palace
Urban form generated by variety of settlements independent villages into a single village.
ii-center service precinct near palace, temple, fortress
iii-Formal orthogonality for the pattern of villages that originally occupied the site.

The orderliness, patterns and various physical and visual, and psychological attributes are always associated with the form of the city.

Regardless whether the city is planned organic they are places consisting of soul and spirit.
Cities belong to people no matter who it was designed for. City can be considered as an art effect produced by a single person or by many different generations. Cities are always shaped and changed from time to time. People exchange different messages through various art forms, a City can be considered as a collection of those art forms.

Components of the city can generate visual images, which can generate meaning and the memory of a place. According to the research done by Kevin Lynch certain components are capable of making more sense to people. But within different parameters each city becomes a different place.

The origin, the evolution and its capability to serve other generations will depend on the decision makers of today. Policymaking and regulations are the responsible hands, which can shape the future city.
As a research object Negombo has different issues to be discussed. As a city having a long history it has grown under different types of generations. This city has planned component as well as unplanned components.

Negombo is a city center, which provides services to a large extent of regions it has a wide role to play. People are struggling to find their own ways and means of development. These developments make different impacts to the components of the city. This study will evaluate the issues related to the city of Negombo as a historical city center.

Illus. 4; City and the people

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