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TIMELESS WAY OF BUILDING:

AN EXAMINATION OF THE UNIVERSAL STEPS IN THE DESIGN PROCESS IN ARCHITECTURE

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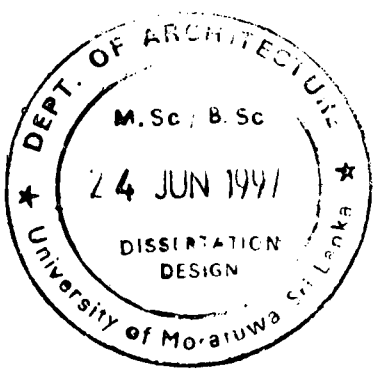

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Acknowledgement

The Educational concept of Moratuwa,

".....CREATIVITY ARISES FROM WITHIN, FROM THE INTERNALIZATION OF THE THINKING PROCESS AND NOT THROUGH RECOURSE TO EXTERNAL AGENCIES...",
(The Sri Lanka Architect. September-November '91, Page 18)

and one assignment given by the writer of the above quotation himself, in the first year of my MSc, is related to design processes as an assignment on Architectural Theory, developed to a research study of the dissertation. I am extremely grateful to Architect Vidura Sri Nammuni, one of the year masters of the MSc first year, and the lecturer in Theory for directing and re-directing the thinking process of mine. The courage and guidance given to me throughout the research, disciplining the thinking pattern and comments helped me to carry on the project with ease. I am also grateful to Professor Nimal De Silva, the other Year Master of the First year, for the encouragement extended to me in the completion of the dissertation. Further his philosophy of architecture as the Leading and Comprehensive approach towards a society helped me in the approach of architectural design processes.

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Content

Abstract 1

Introduction 3

Chapter One Architecture, Architects and Architectural Design Approach 7

1.1 Introduction 8

1.2 Definitions of Architecture 8
1.2.1 Architecture as `Spirit' added `Matter' 9
1.2.2 The Expected Role 10

1.3 Architect 11
1.3.1 Architect's Educational Base 11
1.3.2 Thinking Patterns of an Architect 12
1.3.3 Architect's Behavioural Characteristics 13

1.4 The different Schools of Thought in Practice 13
1.4.1 `Problem Solving' Model 14
1.4.1.1 The University of Nottingham 14
1.4.1.2 The Chinese University of Hong Kong 15
1.4.1.3 The University of Newcastle 17
1.4.1.4 An Examination of `Problem Solving' Model 20
1.4.2 `Human-Environmental' Model 21
1.4.2.1 Glasgow School of Art - The Mackintosh School of Architecture 21
1.4.2.2 University of Virginia 22

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

1.4.2.3 An Examination of `Human Environment' Model 24
1.4.3 `Professional' Model 24
1.4.3.1 University of Washington 24
1.4.3.2 De Montfort University 25
1.4.3.3 University of Hawai`i at Manoa 27
1.4.3.4 An Examination of `Professional' Model 28
1.4.4 `Excellence in Design' Model 29
1.4.4.1 Harvard University 29
1.4.4.2 The University of Auckland 30
1.4.4.3 An Examination of `Excellence in Design' Model 31
1.4.5 `Community Model' 31
1.4.5.1 University of Hong Kong 31
1.4.5.2 Yale University 32
1.4.5.3 Oxford Brookes University 33
1.4.5.4 An Examination of `Community Model' 34

Chapter Two The History and the Development of Design Methodologies 35

2.1 Introduction 36

2.2 Origin of `A Methodology' 37
2.2.1 Empiricism 37
2.2.2 Rationalism 38

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

2.3 1960's 39

2.3.1 Dennis Thornley

A Systematic Basis for Teaching 39

2.3.2 J Christopher Jones

A Method of Systematic Design 41

2.3.3 Bruce Archer - 1963

Systematic Method for Designers 45

2.3.4 Christopher Alexander - 1964

Notes on the Synthesis of Form 47

2.3.5 P H Levin - 1966/1967

Decision-Making in Urban Design 51

2.3.6 John Luckman - 1967

Analysis of Inter-connected

Decision Areas (AIDA) 52

2.4 1970'S 55

2.4.1 A.R.G Isaac - 1971

Approach to Architectural Design 55

2.4.2 Christopher Alexander - 1977

A Pattern Language 58

2.4.3 Juan Pablo Bonta - 1979

Architecture and its Interpretation 60

2.4.4 Jane Darke -1979

Generator-Conjecture-Analysis 62

2.5 1980's 63

2.5.1 Bryan Lawson - 1980

How Designers Think 63

2.5.2 Geoffrey Broadbent - 1983

An Environmental Design Process 66

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Chapter Three The Timeless Way 69

3.1 Introduction 70

3.2 An Examination of Available Models 70
3.2.1 Schools of Thoughts 70
3.2.2 Theoretical Models 71

3.3 The Proposed Model 72
3.3.1 Concept of the Model 72
3.3.2 Framework of the Model 73
3.3.3 Elements of the Model 77
3.3.4 Design Process of the Model 83
3.3.5 Validity of the Model 85

3.4 The Universal Steps 86

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Chapter Four Conclusion 88

4.1 Introduction 89

4.2 The University of Moratuwa Model 89

4.3 Summary 91

Annexes 94

Annexe 1 - The University Nottingham 95
1.1 Introduction 95
1.2 Graduate Studies Modules 98

Annexe 2 - The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Curriculum 103

Annexe 3 - The University of Newcastle 105
3.1 Content 105
3.2 Designs 109
3.3 Submission and
Assessment Network 141
3.4 Assessment Criteria 144

Annexe 4 - University of Virginia
Curriculum 153

Annexe 5 - University Of Washington
Course Listing 158

Annexe 6 - University of Hawai`i at Manoa
Course Descriptions 163

Annexe 7 - Harvard University 170
7.1 Course Content 170
7.2 Courses of Instruction 172

Annexe 8 - The University of Auckland 185
8.1 Degree Course Structure 185
8.2 Paper Aims and Prescriptions 187

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Institutional Repository
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Annexe 9 - Yale University
Curriculum 199

Annexe 10 - Oxford Brookes University 205
10.1 Course Components 205
10.2 Course Comment Sheet 208

Annexe 11 - J Christopher Jones
A Method of Systematic Design 211

Annexe 12 - John Luckman
Analysis of Inter-connected
Decision Areas (AIDA) 217

Annexe 13 - Christopher Alexander
A Pattern Language 222

Annexe 14 - Geoffrey Broadbent
An Environmental Design Process 234

Bibliography 240

List of Books 241

List of Journals 243

List of University Brochures 245

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
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Abstract

Architecture is defined in many forms. Its a science, as well as a form of art. But it is not a pure science; as Julien Guadet says -

"Well no, architecture is not a science of numbers, and if it was necessary to prove it, I would prove it in one word, the word art...".
(Elements of Architecture, page 64)

Though it is defined in many forms, at the end, architecture always ends up with physical objects; as Franz Oswald sees it,

"..... architecture is always oriented toward two poles: towards objects for the purpose of creation; towards creating objects for the purpose of seeing.",
(Elements of Architecture, page xiii)

where it can be sensed and felt. Therefore it is always `Spirit' added `Matter'. This addition of `Spirit' must have a beginning and an end. Architecture and its learning process has two aspects. The first is design teaching methods adopted by academics in schools of architecture and the second, the theoretical design models developed by philosophers.

The development of the dissertation starts with the definitions of architecture and the architect. Then it comes to different schools of thought, where the basic training in this field is given. The second stage looks at the development of theoretical design models and its approaches to designs. The third and final looks into the universality in the design processes through the universality of design steps.

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Architecture is not an `Element' but an `Object' that comprises millions of small elements; as Kenneth Frampton proposes,

"stage sets are a land of Architecture, but architecture is not a stage set.",
(Elements of Architecture, Page x)

in the same manner, the dissertation on `Timeless Way of Building: An Examination of the Universal Steps in the Design Process in Architecture', researches into the universality of design steps and processes.