

LB/DON/48/01

# TRANSFORMATION OF THE PHYSICAL CONTEXT OF GALLE

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS  
OF THE PHYSICAL CONTEXT & THEIR MANIFESTATION IN  
ARCHITECTURAL EXPRESSION.

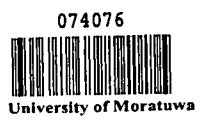
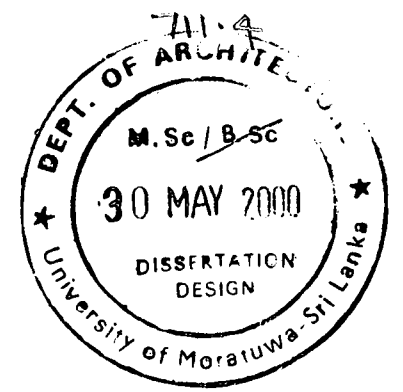
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.  
Electronic Theses & Dissertations

A dissertation Submitted to the University of Moratuwa  
As a partial fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree  
of Master of Science in Architecture.

ප්‍රකාශන  
සේවාව විසින් විද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව,  
මොරටුව.

74076  
72 "00"

M. D. A. WASANTHA  
Department of Architecture  
University of Moratuwa  
April 2000



TH

74076

## **ABSTRACT**

As a result of the modern architectural invasions the colonial city, Galle has become on the verge of an architecturally ill – treated conditions. Therefore the Existence of Dutch characters have begun to diminish and it should be controlled altogether with the coexistence of, newly added infillings and additions.

The physical context is a very complex as far as Galle city. is concerned and the building context is the main architectural generator. Building designing within such restrictions should not for a mere fulfillment of client and the user, needs with Easthetic, which stimulates the minds of people . But it should be more, meaningful and tally with the context which should be preserved.

The relevant context should thoroughly be governed under the supervision of relevant statutory bodies to restricting haphazard, unplanned & uncontrolled development to keep Galle as a conserved colonial city. Therefore the discarded city character should be evaluated based on the aspects of the physical context.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Dr. samitha manawadu , senior lecturer, Department of Architecture, university of Moratuwa for the continuous guidance ,Comments in the formulation of this study.

Archt. Madura premathilaka , Dr.Dayarathna , Dr.Dayananda waduge ,& Archt.Jagath munasinghe for their comments & criticisms at the initial stage of this study.

My colleagues sarath , Adikari & Dilini for all their help through out this study.  
My parents & family for all their support.



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.  
Electronic Theses & Dissertations  
[www.lib.mrt.ac.lk](http://www.lib.mrt.ac.lk)

# CONTENTS

---

<b>Abstract</b>	II
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	III
<b>List of figures</b>	IV
<b>List of plates</b>	V
<b>Introduction</b>	1

## **CHAPTER ONE - HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF GALLE**

1.1 Ancient City Character of Galle	6
1.1.1 Ancient city character of Galle	7
1.1.2 Ancient city form of Galle	7
1.1.3 Ancient city planning of Galle	10
1.1.4 City form in consonance with the Determinant factors	11
1.1.5 Character in Consonance with the city form.	15
1.2 The nature of Transformation of physical character of Galle from the Colonial period	15
1.2.1 Early settlements	15
1.2.2 Description of selected streets elevations	18

## **CHAPTER TWO - EXISTING PHYSICAL CHARACTER OF GALLE & THE UNDERLYING FORCES THAT INITIATED FOR THE PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION**

2.1 Concept of character - A difinition	41
2.1.1 Interpretation of physical charater.	41
2.2 Existing physical character of Galle	42
2.2.1 built Space (solids)	42
2.2.1.1 Galle Road	42
2.2.1.2 Streels/Avenues	43
2.2.1.3 Nodes	45
2.2.1.4 front space	48
2.2.1.5 Building form	50
2.2.2 Unbuilt space (Voids)	55
2.2.2.1 Open areas	56
2.2.2.2 Parks	57

2.3	The underlying forces that initiated for the physical transformation.	58
<b>CHAPTER THREE - ASPECTS OF THE PHYSICAL CONTEXT &amp; IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY OF ASPECTS OF THE PHYSICALCONTEXT</b>		
3.1	The Concept of Context	62
3.1.1	Interpretation of Physical context	62
3.2	Aspects of the physical Context	64
3.2.1	The Qualities that Contribute to the physical character of a city.	64
3.2.1.1	Composition- (form)	
3.2.1.1.1	Centralised organization..	65
3.2.1.1.2	Linear organization	66
3.2.1.1.3	Radial organization	67
3.2.1.1.4	Clustered organization	68
3.2.1.1.5	Grid organization	68
3.2.1.2	Texture – (detail)	69
3.2.1.3	Stance – (Pose)	69
3.2.2	Physical elements of a city.	70
3.2.2.1	Paths	70
3.2.1.4	Edge	70
3.2.1.5	Nodes	71
3.2.1.6	Land mark	71
3.2.3	Rhythm of street	71
3.2.3.1	Scale 2 proportion	72
3.2.3.2	Building line & sky line	72
3.2.4	Special Progression	76
3.2.5	Fabric & object	78
3.2.6	Geometry of site	79
3.2.3.3	Corner site	80
3.2.3.4	Prominent site	80
3.3	Importance of the study of Aspects of the physical context	80
	<b>Conclusion</b>	82
	<b>References</b>	85



## LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. No	Page
1.1-	Early City of Galle
1.2-	Settlements of Aratian Traders.
1.3-	Portuguese Settlements.
1.4-	Dutch Settlements.
1.5-	British Settlements.
1.6-	Hill ridge village settlements.
3.1-	Centralised Organization (Worskett, 1969)
3.2a-	Linear Organization (worskett, 1969)
3.2b-	Linear Organization (worskett, 1969)
3.3a-	Radial Organization (worskett, 1969)
3.3b-	Radial Special Organization employed in a city (Palma Nouva Italy) (Zucker, 1970 p 123)
3.4-	Grid Organization (worskett, 1969)
3.5-	Components of a view.
3.6-	Views and focal points enhance and strengthen the movement in sequences.
3.7-	Difference between fabric & object.
3.8-	A stupa as a object.
3.9-	Collection of object Doesn't make a fabric.

## LIST OF PLATES

Plate No.	Page
1.1-	Outer city which suddenly opens up to a large open space (Panoramic view)
1.2-	Fortress is the major element of definition of space
1.3-	Similar Proportions Same building line. Similar plot width.
1.4-	The crescent shape of the bay intimate scale of building and natural response of the built fabric to the surrounding environment product uniqueness inherent to Galle – city form – Galle.
1.5	(Early settlements in the Galle) Aerial photograph
1.6a-	Church street.
1.6.a.2.	Church street.
1.6b-	Queen street.
1.6c-	Light house street; Roofspace maintain the rhythm & skyline.
1.6d-	Middle street.
2.1-	Galle Road (entrance to town from Colombo) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Violation of façade treatment, skyline,</li><li>• Wrong connection between elements.</li><li>• Commercial activities along the road.</li></ul>
2.2-	Galle Road (entrance to town from Matara) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Balconies &amp; other projections break the monotony rhythm.</li></ul>
2.3-	Roof scape violate the continuity & rhythm.
2.4a1-	Havlock Road.
2.4a2-	Absence of a definite identity or character.
2.4a3-	Wrong connection between elements.
2.4a4-	Roofscape violate the continuity.
2.4b-	Peddler Street
2.4c-	Lainban street.

- 2.5a- Town center of Galle. (Main Node at the bus stand)
- 2.5b- A status as a land mark in the main Node.
- 2.5c- Status as a land mark closed to the other status.
- 2.5d- A Node in the inside fortress.
- 2.6a- Front space of Residential suburb inside of the fortress.
- 2.6b- Front space of seafront.
- 2.6c- Image of the load Buddha as a land mark.
- 2.7- New materials & new building forms.
- 2.8- Effect of the competition to the building appearance.
- 2.9- Inappropriateness of context expression.
- 2.10- Context expression.
- 2.11- Functional & context expression – Galle Municipal Council
- 2.12- Sophisticated architecture begins to appear.
- 2.13- Main bus stand & the building fabric of the city center.
- 2.14- Rail way station in the city.
- 2.15- Preserved building at inside of the fortress.
- 2.16- The physical form of a city, often ignored in the task of city building.  
 - absence of a definite identity or character of the city.
- 2.17- International cricket play ground in the city center.
- 2.18- "Samanala Udyanaya" –as a open area.

