

**ORGANIC TRADITIONS : A STUDY OF THE CONCEPT AND IT'S APPLICABILITY
IN CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE.**

**A dissertation presented to the University of Moratuwa
As a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Degree of Master of Science in Architecture**



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

පුස්තකාලය
මොරටුවේ විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයේ ඩි ජි.සේනේ
සමාජය.

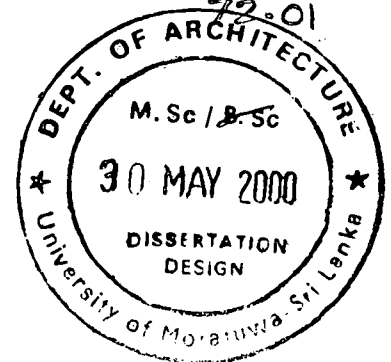
B.R.S.K.BOGAHAWATTE
Department of Architecture
University of Moratuwa
May 2000

074098



University of Moratuwa

74098
72 "00"



TH

74098

ABSTRACT

The earth is a time bomb; the only certainty is that it will explode. But there is a time to change things, time to re-dress the balance and to respond positively. 'Organic' architecture, which is linked to green and sustainable development, demonstrates, quietly and confidently a way forwards. Here a more harmonious art is being created. Whilst monumental architecture from its beginnings is associated with a profligate attitudes towards resources, organic architecture utilizes available materials, communing with both the economics of the situation and sustainability.

Architecture expresses. Through expressions, it communicates. Depending on beholder readiness and temperament, he grasp the inherent meanings enshrines in these expressions, and steps on to a higher realm of contemplation.

Organic architecture, the representative of the 'subtlety and power' achieves its higher position in architecture because of this meaningfulness, which stimulates the beholder spirit. These deeper meanings in organic concepts can be directly compared with the eastern philosophies that are mainly based on Buddhism.

This relationship compels us – the Easters- to revise and re establish the organic architectural traditions that are originated from the essence of our social and cultural heritage.

Therefore one of the responsibilities of present day architects in Sri Lanka is the exposition of descending value of this wonderful tradition, which are saturated with deeper spiritual meanings.

That will be a great step to make a world of reality in present society through the art of architecture, to live-in. In that world, organic spirituality will create the raindrop for deserted minds and restless hearts, of people.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Let me record here my gratitude to each and every one mentioned below for their help to make this dissertation success.

Above all, my greatest thanks are especially extended to Mr. Vijitha Basnayake, senior lecturer, faculty of architecture, in terms of having faith in the particular dissertation topic proposal, advice extended on structure of the study, criticism on text and offering editorial suggestions, which immensely to built up confidence and above all constant remarks on the time limit.

I am very grateful to Dr.L.S.R. Perera for his guidance on research studies related to this dissertation and valid advice on using standard methodologies in particular text.

My sincere thanks to house owners of 'Diyabubula', and 'lunuganga' (Mr. Laki Senanayake and Architect Geoffrey Bawa) and the staff of the National Livestock Development Board, "Polonthalawa".

It is wonderful to feel the concern of all the friends in encouragement.

Therefore in association with the feel of humanity I dedicated this dissertation, to you.

CONTENTS.

LIST OF FIGURES

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER ONE

ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE IN SRI LANKA: PEOPLE SOCIETY AND THE ROOTS OF THE ORGANIC TRADITIONS IN SRI LANKA.

- 1.1 "ORGANIC" The concept.
- 1.2 Use of organic concepts in Srilankan historic architecture.
 - 1.2.1 People and their lifestyle.
 - 1.2.1.1 Environment and lifestyle.
 - 1.2.1.2 Buddhist influence to built environment.
 - 1.2.2 Application of the concept: Selected early examples.
 - 1.2.2.1 "Sigiriya"-The kingdom of the King Kashyapa.
 - 1.2.2.2 "Maligatenna" rock and cave monastery.

CHAPTER TWO

MODERN MOVEMENT AND ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE.

- 2.1 Origin of modern movement architecture.
- 2.2 Modern movement architecture: A movement towards organic architecture.
- 2.3 Architects and their perception.
 - 2.3.1 Frank Lloyd Wright.
 - 2.3.2 Bruce Goff
 - 2.3.3 Hugo Haring
 - 2.3.4 Hans Scharoun



CHAPTER THREE

ORGANIC TRADITIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE (AN OVERALL VIEW OF WORLD ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE)

- 3.1 Ideas; Perceptions and philosophies of different architects in contemporary period.
- 3.2 Applications of organic traditions in contemporary architecture.
 - 3.2.1 The Canadian Architect Douglas Cardinal's Museum of Civilization.
 - 3.2.2 The head quarters of the bank of the international Netherlands group (I N G) in Amsterdam (Dutch architect Ton Albert's)
 - 3.2.3 "Diyabubula"-Lucky Senanayake
 - 3.2.4 "Lunuganga"-Geoffrey Bawa
 - 3.2.5 Polonthalawa house-Ulric Plesner

CNCLUSION

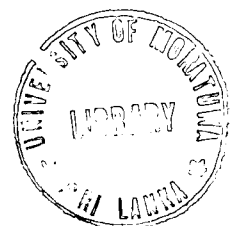


University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

REFERENCE

LIST OF FIGURES

FIG NO:		PAGE
01	Magulmaha Vihara – Yala	02
02	Simple living for psychological healing	04
03	A vernacular house at Ehetuwewa	04
04	'Bissa', The granaries- Making forms by Environmental forces	05
05	Entrance to a vernacular house- Functional forms in organic architecture	05
06	Buddhist influence to the life	06
07	Sigiriya kingdom	09
08	Layout of Sigiriya	10
09	Exposition of hidden beauty of the natural environment.	11
10	The entrance to the palace.	11
11	The "naipena guhawa" at the boulder garden of Sigiriya.	12
12	Maligatenna cave monastery.	13
13	'Dhamma Sala' The main gathering hall Under a huge rock.	13
14	Slightly changed natural cave for meditation	14
15	An entrance to the spirituality.	14
16	Connecting with the spirituality to perceive the universal reality.	15
17	Lay out of the monastery.	16
18	Falling Water, Frank Lloyd Wright	19
19	Talissin West, Frank Lloyd Wright	20
20	Falling waters.	21
21	External paving of the house	21
22	Internal finishes of Falling Waters	21
23	Talissin West.	23



24	Detailing of Talissin West.	23
25	Plan of the Bevinger House: Architecture in relation to Biology	25
26	Bevinger House: Showing external view	25
27	Interior of the Bevinger House	26
28	Ruth Ford House ; 1947	27
29	Ruth Fold House ; A close view.	27
30	Plan of the Moller House.	31
31	Layout plan of the Baensch House	32
32	Plan of the Baensch House	32
33	Interior view of the Baensch House	32
34	Exterior view of the Baensch House (from the garden)	32
35	Canadian Museum of Civilization	39
36	Plan of the building	40
37	Organic facade of the I N G Bank.	40
38	An interior view of the ING Bank.	41
39	'DIYA BUBULA' The organic image	42
40	Relax in Surrounding site - Children of the earth -	42
41	Children of the earth too.	43
42	Water-Earth-space; The journey of evolution	43
43	Minimum built part.	44
44	Extended man made pond around the boulder.	44
45	Connection with the environment	45
46	seeing the pattern of the universe	45
47	Breaking loneliness	46
48	Towards the reality; The contemporary trend.	46
49	Twisted trees at entrance steps to the house.	47
50	The temple tree	48
51	The walkway in proximity to lagoon	48
52	Statue of a leopard and the trees at lagoon's edge.	49
53	Second flight of the entrance steps-	50

54	Entrance loggia and veranda	50
55	Simple / pure detailing of the building at Cinnamon hill.	51
56	The columns and trees together in simple way.	52
57	“plain of jars” Looking towards the Blue Pavilion.	52
58	Drinking tank for animals(With water tower)	52
59	Details and colors of the garden room - An extension to the house.	53
60	Private court yard for main bedroom	53
61	view in to the pavilion from the entrance portico.	53
62	Interior of the pavilion : The elegance of detailing.	54
63	Summer house in the garden: Buildings are too, the children of the earth.	54
64	The entrance gate of the house.	55
65	Approach to the house.	55
66	Entrance court showing the huge R.C.C. ridge	56
67	Massiveness of the detailing – “King Post”	56
68	Appearance of the building.	57
69	Living area of the house. Openness and combined in- out	57
70	Internal pond in the Living area.	58
71	View of the master bedroom.	58
72	Integration of boulders	59
73	and integration of trees.	59
74	Appropriateness of detailing – (at the master bedroom)	59