

CONCLUSION

The city is the place, where the humans have settled for their protection, work and leisure over the years giving expressions and their aspirations. Therefore, the city is not a recent – evolution; the emergence and growth of cities have always been associated with civilization from generation to generation.

As the most developed and adventurous animal on earth, it is the need of people to organize their physical environment in functional and meaningful way, representing their development standards. Therefore city characters are of utmost importance as the manifestation of human development.

Nature and buildings, their organizing physical elements, and city structure as a whole; are influenced by the Geographical, Functional, and socio cultural values etc.... As a result, different cities constitute city forms, which have their own differences in character.

While looking at most of the cities in today's world within the context of architectural transformation, day by day individual characters of these cities are often being deteriorated. This is because of the uncontrolled and unlimited urbanization and it is obvious that the physical structure of cities is subjected to a change.

Since the city is the largest visual manifestation of man as a communal being, the character of a city essentially represents the quality of life of it's people. Thus, destruction or major alteration of character would inevitably result in a loss of sense of belonging creating disharmony in the lives of it's people. In that case, when there is a strong existing character in a particular city, it is not practical or advisable to attribute another entirely new character, forgetting or neglecting the existing position.

In this context, it doesn't imply that the city is not kept in a dilly – dally situation without a allowing in to grow or change. Not a single can stand contently without any change. It has to be changed; grown and developed. The most important out of all, is to see whether this development properly taking place. Otherwise this development can definitely be harmful to the city.

In fact, one of the reasons by which the cities have fallen in to this situation is the tendency of the designers to show their abilities inefficiently or else unnecessarily. In this circumstance, they are interested on insisting their creations and capabilities other than considering or being thoughtful of their surrounding environment, the type of people live there, the way of behavior, the sort of culture, aspirations and their interest, the type of activities takes place and the type of meaning or message it expressed to the outer world.

There are no examples from the local and foreign context for this type of insensitive way of designing. E.g. the Colombo City has already dropped in its dignity and fallen in to situation where its identity is diminution. This is almost same with other cities as well as Colombo. Is the heritage or identity of Sri Lanka still there? Can this country be still found of that great heritage? That is why every intention and the necessity should be focussed on proposed Ruhunupura City development.

Cities can be categorized under three primary characters. There are sacred, dynamic and organic factors of them are cultural, functional and geographical aspects. A set of concept of spatial organization is prominent in each and every category.

At same time, when each primary character category taken, there exists a wider variety and range of it's own. E.g. cities like Athens, Madurai and pecking belong to the category of sacred. But still for all, their physical appearance or physical forms difference from one to another. E.g. in Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura and Kandy cities belong to "sacred" character category. But the physical appearances of these two towns were differing. It has been identified that this variation has been the result of the difference between the historical and cultural aspiration could be taken place in one particular society of a particular country. In the same manner, this can happen in other two character

categories also. Hence it could be attempted further, to classify the main character and thereby to derive what the most suitable concept is?

Three factors can be recognized as main determinant factors in a city character. That are; history and cultural aspiration of people – Geographical setting of it and function of the city These are very much important and relevant in designing any type of City / Town. Following can be identified as the direct derivatives of determinants; Surrounding Environment and the usage of populace.

In this context, it is much important to find out and identified the correlation between the city character and relevant determinant factors. There by it can be understood how the city gained it's own right and identity.

These factors which are identified, can be applied on designing or developments of City / Towns in many ways.

- By dealing with city / town as one unit. (The priority should be considered, through there are minor variations.) Electronic Theses & Dissertations
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- By the help of streets, public squares – smaller entities so on. (Which city taken here, the quality and the nature, which is felt, has to be maintained.)
- When considered as separate buildings. (Even here the whole city has to be considered as well as particular segment.)

If the design is approach in this manner, there can't be any destruction or loss of city identity in any manner.

Mostly the character of a city is derived by city form. In the character of a city it is clearly and specifically shown, how forms and spaces of a city are composed. Therefore it is clear that the designers should try to respond to this composition, whenever introduce or develop a certain form.

It is important that composition, texture, and stance should be in harmony with each other, in producing a character of a city. Here the city forms derived by composition. Likewise the quality is developed by texture and stance. The strong character is built up when these 3 components blend proportionately.

Accordingly the blend of these components get their origin from an element or an individual building. After wards that element or building has to maintain the relationship with segment or with the others. Again this segment and finally with the whole city. Then it would result in the city gaining some capabilities of acclaiming it's own individuality / personality as well as elements or buildings acclaim their individuality.

In this context, the bond and the, relationship and the contribution among them even from the smallest element and up to the whole city could be marvelously identified. The meaning and its essence of a strong characterized city can't be distinguished, as well as qualities and the nature of the children and of the parents.

In this manner, the designers are give some base or set of guide lines as to how a city to be maintain, when city contains several aspects of characters. Then it has to carefully studied as to which character should be given prominancy and what determinant factors is strongly effective.

When these two factors are taken one by one separately, the design can be approached as mentioned above. Both the physical and cultural roots are a must for a harmonious, successful existence of a society. (Both qualitative and quantitative aspects). Because city is the essence of the quality of life of people. It is important to maintain the character of a city, because city consists of all these things.

The deterioration or the change of a character of a city / town is not confined only to that particular city / town. This influences the whole society and finally the whole country at large. So each and every individual of a society has to be aware of this and has to be alert.

Under the above circumstances, the final conclusion should be that a city should not be trapped or freezed or kept as it is. Compulsorily the city has to move forward, with development. No city can develop it self-being as it was in the past.

Therefore, the only remedy is to understand the link between the history, definite character and relative determinant factors of a city and also to do it in agreement with the present and the future without harming the essence of it. Then it will definitely facilitate the creation of meaningful and livable Built Environment for the human habitation on earth.

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