

**URBAN SPACE AND MEANING;
A CORRELATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO SRI LANKA.**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
AS A FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
ARCHITECTURE.**

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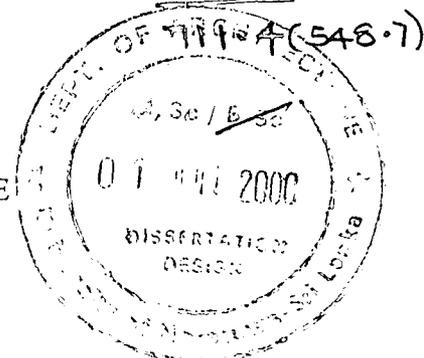


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Abstract

Without a doubt the city is the most comprehensive and complex entity created by human civilization. Today it is at its' most developed version, which should not to be a destination. City to be flow with the human civilization in future too. Even though concept of the city is at depth of visual and functional nature, respect to the built environment by its' inhabitation continuously getting down. Failures of the city it self indicate failures of the human civilization.

The city to be an urban place, as a place, which had taken the celebration of the civilized society, has to be acquiring the quality of urban or urbanity. Cities to be designed in reacting many factors of social, cultural, topographical and economical nature of the each place, technological achievements of the era, and achieving visual, functional, experiential, environmental and spiritual objectives of the people.

In according to the saying of philosopher Ananda Cumaraswamy, no one can sing without song in his or her heart.

Architecture as a form of art and creation, should contain a meaning in its' soul. Which is able to communicate feelings with its' users. Meaning of the built environment possible to achieve as visual experience with its' forms, shapes, and interrelationships of architectural spaces either composition of values of the society.

Urban space is more complicated and at a larger scale which is not easy to grasp at a glance or the usual ways of experiencing the spaces within buildings. City, as the house of human civilization, comprehensive architectural experience, as a piece of art it should contain message to communicate and the method of communication. Meaning of urban space, explains its' nature of living', and inherent identity, its' birth and the existence, making of its' functionality and efficiency with using maximum usage of human brains, which is the only unlimited resource available.

Meaning of the urban space will determine the Behaviour of the user, it consists the activities taken place and interwoven nature of activity patterns as well as natural environment and the cultural context it belongs.

In consideration of Sri Lankan city, Colombo and its' urbanization pattern and study about current nature also very similar to most of the cities of the world. It is missing its' identity as well as continuity, and its' glamorous past. Due to miss of order, hierarchy and nature of varying of activities loosing an existence of the city it self. Weaknesses in the nature of the explorative, curious and excitement miss the 'dreams' in future and the direction of civilization.



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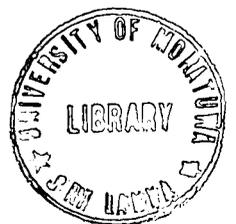
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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Topic Explanation

Terminology:

Urban space:

The word "urban" is having different definitions in different professions. But for architects it is the quality of space. Urbanity is the quality or character of the civilized built environment. It may be in the city or in the village center. All spaces having urban quality will be urban spaces and rest will be non urban or anti urban spaces.

To get clear idea about urban space is much easier in compare with the architectural space within a building. Both of them are having very similar characteristics.



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Meaning:

Art is a mode of communication. architecture being the mother of all arts, it should convey a message. In other words, it should have a meaning. Meanings of a poem consist its words and arrangement of the words. Meaning of a painting consists its composition of shapes, elements, combination of colors, etc. The meaning of architectural space consists in its spatial quality or the series of experiences given



by itself.

Either meaning or message conveying by built environment and the spatial quality of each environment are functions of each other.

Correlation:

Correlation of two different entities shows the relationship between them, in different viewpoints. Through a careful study in all aspects in an analytical basis shows the relationship in between urban space and its inherent meaning.

Intention of the study

The study will consider identification of urban design as an architectural creation and the factors affecting the creation of urban architecture. It will look in to the meaning of architectural spaces, which communicates through its spatial quality. Hence, the quality of urban spaces, urbanity that contains the meaning will be defined in the current situation.

It will also emphasize on the relationship between urban spaces and meaning, the need to study the meaning in urban design and mechanisms of obtaining meaning to urban environments.

Limitations of the study

"Meaning of the space " is not the only way of deriving the consistency of urban architecture of Sri Lanka. Other possible phenomenon will not be discussed in this study. This study does not intend to provide the vision for Sri Lankan cities but it will insist on the importance of the vision



Need of the study

Observation

Sri Lanka is stepping into the 21st century without a proper direction in urban architecture. This has resulted urban "chaos", which is creating spaces alien to citizens and their social cultural, economical, etc, needs, It was a result of an urban environment which is lost its " meaning".

Issues encountered

The lack of "meaning" in an urban environment ultimately results to its' citizens the feeling of lost of there kind of space and creating spaces difficult to live in as well as related by them selves. There are two main causes for above situation. They are inability of accepting the need of the meaning for the built environment and urban designers unfamiliar with the mechanism of encoding "meaning" into urban space.



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Importance of the study

City is the effort of the generations and generations of the citizens. It is performance of their dreams and the attitudes about life. It is having a grate social, economical, cultural and environmental importance with timeless value.

In urban architecture, the urban spaces become key element of urban scape. Therefore comprehensive study about urban spaces, its' generation, evaluation, modification, needs of fulfillment's and the message to the world are important.



Method of study

In the studying of urban spaces, there is a difficulty in an examining about the spacial quality due to it's complexily and the scale. In considering the urban space as usuall space within the building, through out the study. Therefore most of the principles had disscussed with a comprision of spaces with in buildings. Study of design objectives had used in investigating the loose points or weaknesses, which occured due to bad desinging. Throughout the study, the meaning of the space had taken as a principale requairment of aquaring quality of space.

Colombo had conciderd as an Asian city, with a strong eastern culture. Therefore earsten way of thinking had provided the key guideline in analysing the missed phaces of the city and in future changes.

