

**THE SRI-LANKAN HOUSING ENDEAVOUR;
A STUDY OF THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD CONCEPT
AS
A STRATEGY**

A DISSERTATION
PRESENTED TO THE
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA - SRI LANKA
FOR THE FINAL EXAMINATION IN
MSc. IN ARCHITECTURE
AND TO THE
ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS
FOR
R. I. B. A. (Part II) EXAMINATION

074112



University of Moratuwa

පුස්තකාලය
මහජන විද්‍යාලය, මොරටුව
මොරටුව

**T. S. P. KUMARA
YEAR SIX
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA - SRI LANKA
2000 - MAY**

72 "00"
711.58



74112

TH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am deeply indebted to Prof. Nimal De Silva, Head of the Dept. of Architecture, Archt. Vidura Sri Nammuni, Senior Lecturer, Group Tutor and Dr. Ranjith Dayarathne & Dr. L. S. R. Perera, sixth year masters, for the inspiring guidance given to me in making this dissertation possible. I have benefited a great deal from their valuable advice and encouragement, to achieve this goal.

Similarly, my sincere thanks go to Archt. H. M. Sirisena and Archt. Kalana Dissanayake for their valuable advice and encouragement, given throughout my study.

I am very grateful to the librarian – National Housing Development Authority for the unsolicited support given to me in the preparation of this dissertation.



I wish to take this opportunity to thank Mr L.L.D Viraj, Mr. Tilak Liyanawaduge, & Mr Anura Liyanawaduge for their valuable support given to me for the Survey on Mirihana Experiment.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention my friends Anura, Bimalka, Mihiri, Kasundarie, and all of my batchmates for the voluntary help given to me on this study.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to loving parents and my wife Nayana who have encouraged me and kept my mind free to concentrate on my studies.

"Housing development can be regarded as the implementation of social policy, not merely a structural design. It is now recognised that architect must examine not only the way individual houses are designed but how those houses can become and integral part of the local community."



George Tremiett

(An introduction to housing layout)



CONTENTS

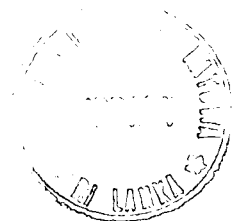
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	02
CONTENTS	04
INTRODUCTION	10
a. Topic explanation	10
b. Intention of the study	11
c. Methodology	13
d. Scope and limitation	14
 CHAPTER 01	
 Housing a Historical Overview	 16
 1.0 Introduction	 16
1.1 House to housing	16
1.2 Folk Tradition	18
1.2.1 Global	18
1.2.2 Sri Lankan Tradition	25
1.2.2.a Tank Fed Village	25



1.2.2.b Rain Fed villages and Hill Country valley villages	29
1.2.2.c Temple or Devala Village	31
1.3 High Density / High rise Tradition	34
1.4 The Present Dilemma	39
Conclusion	41

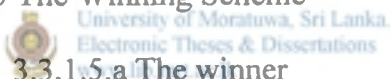
CHAPTER 02

The Sri Lankan Housing Endeavour; The Strategies and Responses	43
2.0 Introduction	43
2.1 Sri Lankan Problem	44
2.2 Strategies and Responses	45
2.2.1 Keunamen era	46
2.2.1.a Strategies	46
2.2.1.b Responses	47
2.2.2 Premadasa era	49
2.2.2.a Strategies	49
2.2.2.a – 1. Strategy - 1	49
2.2.2.a – 2. Strategy - 2	51
2.2.2.a – 3. Strategy - 3	53
2.2.2.b Response to the Housing Programmes	54
2.2.3 Review Of the Premadasa Philosophy	56
2.2.3.a Focus on the number – Roof Over Head Concept	56



2.2.3.b Focus on the Person – Relief to the Mind Concept	57
2.3 Beyond the Individual Family	58
Conclusion	59
CHAPTER 03	
Neighbourhood Design as a Strategy	62
3.0 Introduction	62
3.1 The Neighbourhood Concept – The History	62
3.1.1 Identifying the changing pattern of the Neighbourhood of the people with the time	64
3.1.1.a Tank Fed village	64
3.1.1.b Rain Fed villages and Hill Country valley village settlements	65
3.1.1.c Temple or Devala Village	66
3.1.1.d Significant Change of Settlements at Colonial Period	67
3.1.2 Findings	74
3.2 Catering to the Community and the Use of the Neighbourhood Concept	75
3.2.1 Catering to the community	75
3.2.2 Use of the Neighbourhood Concept	77
3.2.2.1 Assumptions	77
3.2.2.2 Creating a Proper Social Mix	78
3.2.2.2.a Sri Lankan Traditional Village as a Proper Social Mix	78

3.2.2.3 Creating a Proper Social Mix to suit the Urban Poor Community	79
3.2.2.3.a Cluster Formation	79
3.2.2.3.b Selection of Residents	82
3.2.2.4 Basic Considerations Relevant to Neighbourhood Design	84
3.2.2.5 Designing of House Units	86
3.3 Review of the Mirihana Experiment	88
3.3.1 Mirihana Experiment – The Genesis	88
3.3.1.1 The Idea	88
3.3.1.2 The Competition	88
3.3.1.3 Objectives of the Competition	89
3.3.1.4 The Site	90
3.3.1.5 The Winning Scheme	90
3.3.1.5.a The winner	90
3.3.1.5.b The Proposal	91
3.3.2 Survey	101
3.3.2.1 Objectives of the Survey	101
3.3.2.2 Method of the Survey	102
3.3.2.3 User commentary	102
3.3.2.3.a House Unit	102
3.3.2.3.b Housing Layout	103
3.3.2.3.c Community Life	103
3.3.2.4 Observations and Responses	104
3.3.2.4.a The Scheme at a glance	104



3.3.2.4.b Additions and Alterations	105
3.4 Beyond the Mirihana Experiment	116
3.4.1 Preliminary team work	116
3.4.2 Construction Procedure	117
3.4.3 Maintenance	117
3.4.4 The strategy for feed back	118
Conclusion	122
5.0 CONCLUSION	124
APPENDIX – 1	126
APPENDIX – 2	132
APPENDIX – 3	136
BIBLIOGRAPHY	145

