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**PRIVACY IN ARCHITECTURE**  
**"AN EXAMINATION OF THE STRATEGIES ADOPTED, WITH**  
**SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CONTEMPORARY DOMESTIC**  
**ARCHITECTURE."**

A Dissertation Presented To The Faculty Of Architecture University Of  
Moratuwa For The Final Examination In M. Sc. (Architecture)

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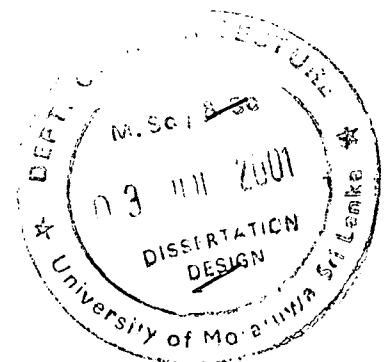
Indika I. Jayasinghe  
Faculty of Architecture  
University of Moratuwa  
30<sup>th</sup> June 2001

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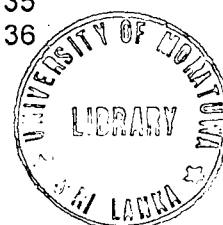
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## INTRODUCTION

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# INTRODUCTION

## (I) Topic explanation

Man's needs has different component such as physiological, psychological and sociological needs. Privacy can be considered as a psychological need as well as a sociological need common to human beings.

Need for privacy does not always refer to the aural and visual separation of a person. However, one must not ignore the fact that the defining the concept of privacy is certainly not a simple matter. One group of definitions emphasizes seclusion , withdrawal and avoidance of interaction while the others emphasis concepts of control of opening and the closing of the self of others freedom of choice and options regarding self-accessibility to others.

Sometimes people seek privacy as groups while some prefer individual privacy. The degree of privacy need is different from country to person, culture to culture or even from country to country. Socio-economic condition and social status also can be major contributory factors.

In order to achieve different levels of privacy as required, people try to adopt various strategies. The basic phenomenon of Architecture is to satisfy human needs. This can be achieved by providing properly designed spaces for comfortable behaviours. In this study, an attempt will be made in identification and illustrating the strategies that have been used by the designers in achieving different levels of privacy in different types of selected man made spaces.

## (II) Intention of the study

In most instances, some needs such as privacy are constantly neglected to cater in the built environment. Although the way people cater to this need may be different, the basic need will remain the same everywhere.

Therefore intention of this study is to identify concept and types of privacy, identify needs for privacy in man-made spaces and to identify how people perceive space in terms of privacy. Finally an attempt will be made to identify strategies that have been used by designers in order to achieve privacy.

### **(III) Importance of the study**

Human needs can be categorized into two main areas. They are primary or physical needs and secondary or psychological needs. Physical needs include food, air, water, shelter, sleep and temperature and these needs should be satisfied first for the protection of individual and for the preservation of the species.

A person's secondary needs are much more difficult to satisfy. Secondary needs include intangibles such as privacy needs, sense of belonging, personal affection, self-esteem and status among one's peers. Privacy could be identified as one such need people try to express through built environment. Therefore it is inevitable and necessary that the different degrees to which privacy is required is achieved and also expressed through the built environment.

It is observed that failure in this regard is a major contributor to community strains based on the inability of one person to read the privacy requirements of another. This failure seems to be due to lack of familiarity with how it is done. One of the strategies which is used to overcome this problem in other countries is that the experiences of the past designs are taken into account in designing new projects. Here it is examined whether the environment provided is satisfactory for its occupants. So that the information on past experiences would be helpful to achieve a better product. Therefore careful examination on the past and existing designs would help to create a better product.

Therefore this study will be an attempt to highlight several factors the contemporary architect should be aware of in terms of privacy because when selecting the architectural elements to compose the built form, the architect must use his skills to select appropriate elements to suit such requirements.

### **(IV) Scope and Limitation**

Privacy can be identified as a personal need and as a group need, which change from person to person, culture to culture and from society to society. Within the same society demand for privacy again vary with age, social status, occupation and socio-economical conditions of the people.

Since man is considered as a social being it has to accept the fact that man for his social living need the formation of groups and it is appropriate to think in terms of houses rather than housing.

This essay try to explain privacy as a basic human need at the beginning and the impact of it with the behavior patterns of the people. That literal study leads to generate several strategies at the end. So it will be discussed with the selected few contemporary examples. And how could those strategies be adopted to achieve privacy. Basically the photo graphical study on above contemporary houses in their relation with privacy.

But the study is limited to several contemporary dwellings because it would sufficient to generate strategies as above its own which could applicable anywhere.

#### **(V) Method of Study**

Privacy of architecture can be considered as an important need to make comfortable dwelling. Therefore it is essential to have a knowledge of concept and types of privacy and to identify its influence on individuals and groups.

Another important fact is that the manifestation of privacy deal predominantly with architectural qualities. As qualities are not quantifiable, it leads to perception than cognition. Therefore it is essential to have a knowledge of perception of space in terms of privacy.

Then it is necessary to know how privacy values are transformed in the built environment in different levels.

Some methods of evaluating building elements of photographic study and plan in relation on their forms. Therefore within the available limited period of time, this study draws its facts from a variety of literature and author's own observation and interpretation. It draws examples from literature, illustrations and author's own observation.



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## CHAPTER ONE

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## 1.1 Concept Of Privacy

Certain basic need must be fulfilled to man for his survival & proper functioning. Those can be categorized into psychological, physiological and sociological such needs privacy is a psychological need and as well as the sociological need common to man kind with a grater privacy.

Hence the desired level of privacy depends on personal, regional and cultural basis, hence the concept of privacy has become a subjective matter.

Privacy is defined as an international retreat from contact with other people by an individual or group. It involves limitation of access to our self-restriction of incoming stimulation or with holding of information about the self.

This is further expressed by Kira Alexander as,

"Privacy is needed for thinking reflection, reading and study & for aesthetic enjoyment & contemplation. Intrusions on the fulfillment of personal desires need to be shut off in order to avoid the intrusions, that are built up form the frustrations, resentments & irritation of continual multiple contacts with others."

( Kira Alexander; 1976 p 273 )

The level of desired level is of privacy varied with the activity performed. Most cultures insist of privacy on sexual based activities. For instance in the case of newly married couple, a higher degree of privacy is demanded in their rooms while limited privacy for the room of person of same sex. The rapid developing, complexity of the society is occurred, and people tend to limits contacts with outsiders. A way of filtering is needed, to reduced the information about himself, flow into outside.

"The right of the individual to decide what information about himself should be communicated to others, and under what conditions."

(Attman. J. 1974: p 5)

Even with in a family units for the proper functioning of certain activities, privacy is needed. Understanding of this by members of family interferes of wrong activities are avoided.

Lawrence is clearly conceived this is in his writings,

"But it must be stressed that privacy here is not divorce, one self from others, but merely to give freedom to carry out activities without interfacing with or being interfered with by other members of family.

( Lawrence ; R ; 1983 ; p 163 )

Human beings use different strategies & methods to maintain their desired level of interaction.

Traditionally society was based on the concept of community living and they sought privacy as a social, cultural context has undergone significant change over the time. Society gets more & more individualistic & image protection and self-acceptation become more important. People tend to seek image projection & social status through in the privacy by hiding certain things from rest of the world. They prefer to reflect the image that he wishes to express to out ward to the society. Even in a family unit, protect the family reputation & secrets for the position of the society.

This is clearly expressed in Altman's work in 1974.

... An out come of a person's wish to with hold from other certain knowledge as to his past & present experience & desire to be an enigma to others, more generally, a desire to control other, perceptions & believes via a via the self concerting person.

( Altman . I ; 1974 : p 5 )

Psychological privacy is must be into a desire level, but not more than that, because exceeding the desired line, unwanted social isolation can be taken the place.



As same as above if person or group attempt to seclude from others, crowding can be take place in order impossibility to achieve privacy into desired level.

Fig:1.1





Man as a being with a developed mentality, physical, psychological & sociological comfort derived from the satisfaction of several needs. Privacy is such a psychological need for the comfortable living conditions.

Fig:1.2

Above definition & analysis of privacy described, how it important to mankind.

## 1.2 Types of privacy

The state or the condition of the privacy varies, drastically how individuals & groups are involved in privacy phenomena. The desired level of privacy distinguish vary with the associated activities.



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Westine (1970) has started 4 state of privacy

### (1) Solitude

With reference to the personal reflection self-evaluation & emotional reals, solitude being the most extreme condition of privacy. Through privacy exclude involuntary isolation it involves the physical isolation of an individual his or her own choicer.

### (2) Intimacy

This refers to the physical isolation of a couple, family or group which allow for the protected communication. Basic human contacts & free expression of connections meet with intimacy.

### (3) Anonymity

This is the type of privacy a subject may try to maintain in a crowded public place. For a example, when a person in a public space if he feels that there is a direct & deliberate observatory towards him, her may feel uncomfortable and tend to base his arise & relaxation Anonymity refers to privacy in such situation which is sought by people.



#### **(4) Reserve**

This refers to individual restrain in discussing personal information, & in such situations, social interaction is maintain by people through the holding back some parts of themselves as personal. Reserve also can be further conceived as a creation of a psychological barrier against unwanted intrusion to permit obtain thing to be unsaid or unnoticed.

Above analysis of types of privacy according to the Wes Tine. Kira Alexander classified privacy as bellow,

1. Privacy of being but not seen.
2. Privacy of not being seen but heard.
3. Privacy is not being seen heard or sensed.

( Kira Alexander ; 1974 : p271 )

Westine classification implies that individual as well as groups demand a type of privacy which is balance in between openness & closeness or not to socialized at different places & time.

But in works of Kira's he states more emphasis on seclusion, withdrawal & avoidance of interaction where people lead to them selves from contact with others. Any how this isolation, could take limited time of period, otherwise it may lead to frustration & stress.

As it is privacy can be categorized as below too.

#### **(a) Visual privacy**

This refers to the type of privacy in which a subject could be heard but could not be seen.

#### **(b) Auditory privacy**

This refers to complete isolation or in other words, the subject is not seen or heard.

Privacy can be classified according to the experience of privacy.

#### **(a) Actual privacy**

This refers to the degree of privacy which an individual or a group really has.



### **(b) Symbolic privacy**

To defect the lack of actual privacy & psychological privacy object may utilized symbols & will generate the required level of privacy.

### **( c ) Psychological Privacy**

This is the intensity of privacy a subject feels in his mentality or senses.

In different situations, relates with different types of privacy. Hence dear knowledge of types of privacy is more useful to identifying the type privacy relate with the individuals & groups.

## **1.3 Functions Of Privacy**

By achieving required level of privacy, it provides the opportunity for and individual or a group to have interactions with other people to share confidences and intimacies with other people or to be alone from others to think out problems

,to create, to plan out, the next steps or enjoy the loneliness of just being alone.

Westine has related the importance of privacy to four functions that privacy provide for individuals and groups.

### **a. Personal Autonomy**

This refers to the sense of individuality and conscious choice in which the individual controls his environment. People do not want them to or handle by others, therefore they do not want to penetrate everything about themselves to the out side. Personal autonomy allows a kind of independency to the individual.

### **b. Emotional release.**

Emotional release is the privacy needed by a person to release the tension in the everyday life. This provides physical and mental health people needed.

### **c. Self - evaluation**

Privacy is needed for self evaluation , by which opportunity to assess one's day to day experiences is provided. Self evaluation is self observation or the opportunity for a person to see , describe and evaluate themselves when they are alone and it provides an opportunity to assess one's day to day experiences .Here, privacy

not only performs at the evaluation of the self, but build on experiences with other people's behaviours, provides ability in defining and build a set of norms and standards for interpreting the self, and provide time to create , originate and plan out certain things.

#### **d. Limited and protected communications**

This can be consider as a fundamental safeguard to civilized social life. This serves two important needs for the individuals. First it meets his needs to share confidences and intimacies with individuals he trusts, and the other thing is it establishes a psychological distance in all types of interpersonal situations when the individual desires it.

Altman has also proposed three functions of privacy which is similar to Westine has proposed.

- a. Interpersonal function of privacy.
- b. Interface of the self and the social world.
- c. Self-definition and self identity.

#### **(a) . Interpersonal function of privacy**

This is the regulation of interaction with the social environment, which is a major function of privacy. The regulation of the self and other boundaries are important contributors to the self concept Altman has proposed that this provides a person with basic information regarding the social definition of the self. That is it tells the person what the social world thinks of him as manifest in its behavior towards him.

#### **(b). Interface of the self and the social world.**

This provides time and setting for a person to absorb experiences and information, integrate experiences in to self, and to examine possible future relationships with others.

Several writers have suggested that privacy serves to set people apart from one another, specially in regard to status, noted that privacy helps in the maintenance of status relationships between superiors and subordinates. High status people often have the right to intrude on others, but the opposite is usually not the same.

### **(c). Self definition and self identity**

Considering self identity, it is an important function of privacy.

Altman (1974) states that:

"self-identity is a person's cognitive, psychological and emotional definition and understanding of themselves as a being".

(Altman, I; 1974;23)

For a person to function effectively in interaction with others, requires some understanding of what the self is, where it begins and ends etc. By self definition it provides some knowledge of one's capabilities and limitations, strengths and weaknesses, abilities and disabilities so that one can understand the limits and boundaries of self and through that sense of individuality can be developed.

If a person is perceived as worthless, if nothing belongs to him, if he has no self boundaries, then the person is lost in the world, without self identity, self-esteem and self-worth.

Therefore it is essential to be familiar with different functions of privacy and to have a better understanding of its importance.

## **1.4 Expressions of privacy**

### **1.4.1 Sense of Privacy**

People should achieve the desired level privacy and it should be sensed and expressed through various methods. Different people use different methods in order to sense and express privacy. Some use verbal and non-verbal methods. In verbal communication, privacy is expressed through speech. "I'd like to be alone", "keep out " and "come in " express a person's different levels of privacy requirements.

Non-verbal behaviour involves communication based on one's use and orientation of various parts of the body, such as nodding the head, placement of a hand or elbow between the self and the invader.

Most people use environment to sense and express privacy. Altman argues that:

".....defending personal space and showing territorial behaviour are two mechanisms people use to achieve desired level of privacy".  
(Wingtsman and Deaux; 1983:434)

Not only by physical environment even clothing and dress can be used as an expression of sense of privacy. This is furthermore strengthened by Altman (1974) and he states;

".....different age, occupational, status and other groups often adopt styles and clothing or "uniforms" to tell the world who they are, to help define situations, to identify status or roles, and to signal their approachability and access by dress and clothing".  
(Altman, I; 1974:17)

Use of the veil around the face is also express the sense of privacy. Like wise different people use different methods in order to sense and express privacy.

#### **1.4.2 Sense of Loss of Privacy**

Sense of loss of privacy mainly depend on person's experience related to privacy in the past and his cultural and sub cultural and sub cultural differences. Altman (1974) has propose that both crowding and isolation can lead to community strains and stress, where crowding occurs when the desired privacy is not achieved and isolation takes place when the achieved privacy is more than desired level.

However, sense of lack of privacy becomes a potential source of considerable stress by loosing one's identity in the society.



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## CHAPTER TWO

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## 2. Privacy In Man Made Space

### 2.1. Perception of Space

Enclosure or the envelop is the fact which define the architectural space. A dot in space generate line, which generate the plane, and finally planes define the volume. This one dimensional line, two dimensional plane and volume creates an architectural space.

Geoffery Scott says,

"Architecture alone of the art can give space its full value, it can surround us with a void of three dimension and whatever delete may be derived from that ,is the gift of architecture alone'

Architecture is basically the creating of spaces, which means the dividing of small spaces from larger environment space. Further more those small spaces can be divided into hierarchy of territories, which indicates not only by solid walls, but also level changes, curtains etc.



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These separation of individual territories of a space helps the man to perform his activities with required level of physical & psychological comfort.

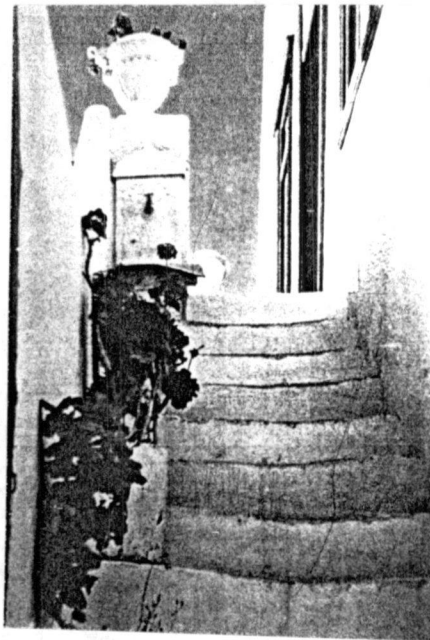
As Gray T. Moor says,

"Space speaks, it is the hidden dimensions, in behavior and through it we communicate each other."

Through the space affect the manner of behavior of the user. Hence architecturally designed space must fulfill not only the user's biological need such as free movements, sex but also affiliation, achievement, success and other social motives.

To become physiological and psychological comfortably space, it must be maintained territories related to activity, which must be visible , distinct and space should have a clear perceptual identity.

After all above the space, unique and differentiate from other places and memorable and recognizable.



Fig;2.1

## 2.2 Human behavior and Personal Space

Human being is a social animal who like to associate and interact with the society. There fore the proper functioning in the society his or her personal, social and cultural need there must be available. All those need can be categorized under physical and psychological needs. Physiological need as primary needs such as body functions, sexual activities etc. Psychological need as secondary need such as sense of belonging, personal affection, self esteem which personal fulfillment, which are more difficult to satisfied.

Deprivation of this psychological needs may cause stress and strain to the individual resulting in anxiety, boredom and even convert behavior.

The smallest space which has the above-mentioned psychological need to a satisfactory level, considered as personal space. The most proximate boundary of one's territory and enclosure is there. It has own invisible boundaries, surroundings, and person's body.

Fig;2.2

This is clearly defined by Robert summer as the below,



"Personal space refers to an area with invisible boundaries, a person's body into which may not come."  
(Summer R. 1969: p26)

The personal space is to accommodate more personalized psychological requirements, such as achieving privacy, expressing the self and achieving equilibrium and so on. As it is violating of personal space leads to mental discomfort.

Hall (1966) has established a relationship between personal space and its distances maintained by individuals in different acts. He proposed four distances zone related to personal space in his writings. (Atman. I. 1974: p17)

**(a) Intimate distance**

Ranging from actual body contact to about 18 inches distance is usually appreciate to close relationship in private situations.

**(b) Personal distance**

Distance from 1.5- 4 feet and permits considerable exchange of cues.

**( c ) Social distance**

4-12 Feet distance and occurs in causal relationships



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**(d) Public zone**

Beyond 12 feet, is appropriate to final meetings and interactions with high status persons.

The personal space relates with the individual, distances, which depends on varies factors. It directly relates with the personal distances, which means the distance that two of same space that can behave comfortably.

As it is personal space and individual distance are interrelated. Maintaining personal space or the individual distance is dearly refer to one cultural expectation in a particular culture, a particular activity may need appropriate distance to let the criterion be isolated.

According to Robert summer there are major different between, cultures in the distances that people maintain.

People with less social interaction require larger personal spaces than people who interact more with society. As it is the individual distance relates to cultural systems of a certain group and also on the subculture of individual.

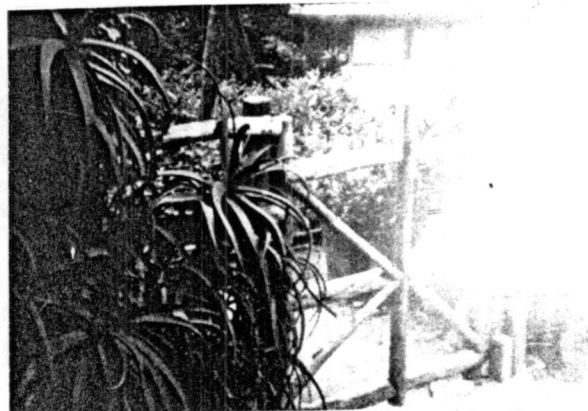
Personal space involves with once biological, cultural needs and also more personalized requirements, such as status, dominance, self assertion etc.

Personal space is an extension of the self, which fulfill the psychological environmental needs of human beings. Architecture of the personal spaces, belongingness, privacy for intimacy, personal identity, personalization, self assertion, self identity, control over visions, social interaction and status, expression through architecture.

### **2.3.Territoriality as a means of privacy**

For the psychological comfortable man need, privacy. But in a large physical setting, may not generate required level of privacy. of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.  
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Hence human beings physically, psychologically or symbolically separate large physical setting into small fragments. Territoriality can be explained which enhance, once desired level of privacy. This can be easily understand through the animal behavior too. For then it is the area that they have commanding capacity on any other animal person or person who doesn't belong that area. It is the area that they have through understanding about the hiding place and escape etc, than any invader. It gives the sense of awareness and protectiveness.

Fig;2.3



This states by F. Wilson (1976) in his writing as,

"The personal space bubble can be conceived as an extension of 'self' that contracts and expands, both according to circumstances and according to the person's own perception conscious and unconscious of how much protection the self requires."

For animal territoriality fascinate the fulfillment of certain biological needs while for civilized man it is a mean of establishing and maintaining a sense of personal identity.

This further illustrated by Julien Edney,

"Territory for animals serves primarily physiological needs, such as providing food and shelter, for human territory serves a far grater range of needs such as privacy, status and ideology  
( F. Wilson .1976 : p 260 )

When examine the human territory it can be larger areas such as countries, villages, etc. as well as small scale territories such as houses. In addition to such visible boundaries ,there are invisible boundaries of territoriality such as beggars, prostitutes, salesmen and distributors have that their own territories, where they rule over others or more safe and confident than invaders.

Sower has stated four types of territory.

- a. Public territories such as courtyards and parks provide the citizen with freedom of access but not necessarily for action.
- b. Home territories that are public areas taken over by group of individuals such as children's make shift, club houses, homosexual bars, coffer houses that cater to habitués. Regular patrons have a sense of intimacy and control over the area.
- c. International territories that are areas where social gatherings may occur. They have clearly marked boundaries and rules of access and egress.

d. Body territories are territories encompassing the body that are most private and inviolate space beginning to the individuals.

#### **2.4.Social status & image protection as means of privacy.**

As stated Maslaw, first people try to find secure and protected shelter, in order to gain physiological and psychological comfort. After the fulfillment of such primary needs, he seek territoriality through maintaining his personal space. In another word, he try to express his senses of belonging through the personal space.

Self esteem and image protection and respect has grown up to an essential need along with the development of human society where human biological need are met in a acceptable level. There is a universal need of human being for expressing self to the world. Consciously or unconsciously man embody the self he likes to be identified with, in his way of design things or take decisions. Status is a reflection of an individual economy, power and prestige and is affected by the exclusiveness of the position a subject holds in the social structure.

House as a states symbol, communicate the social status of a particular social group or a unit. The pattern of communicating the relationship between the social status image protection. Society and house differ from one society to society. Hence particular social environment is very important.

" In groups which individualism is a dominant built environment locusts eminent is considered Ideology, the house is Intimately bound to the individual self concept reflecting his personality social status of accomplishment."

(Duncan J.S. 1987:p68)



Because of the rapid development of scientific and technical achievements, society became more and more individualities a complicated in the contemporary period. Parallel to this with the changing attitude and values of the socio-cultural context, society and social status and image protection become significant social reality. Hence the major physical object, which express-one's social status to outsider, is the house, image projection and self identity and social status also reflect privacy expression

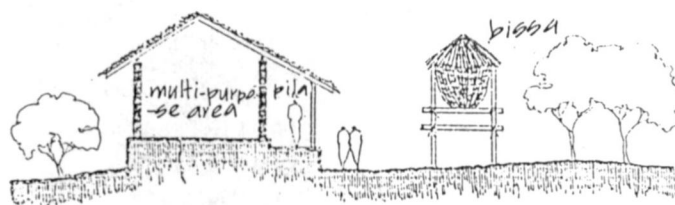
through the built environment. Development of the society and emerging of such need is clearly expressed along the exclusionary process of traditional Sri Lankan house up to present day.

The early Sri Lankan society was in favour of the collectivism, where community living was preferred. Puranagama of dry zone gives a clear reflection of those concepts.



Fig;2.4

Gangoda was used for common living and privacy was not considered as very important. The room is only used for changing clothes and sexual based activities.

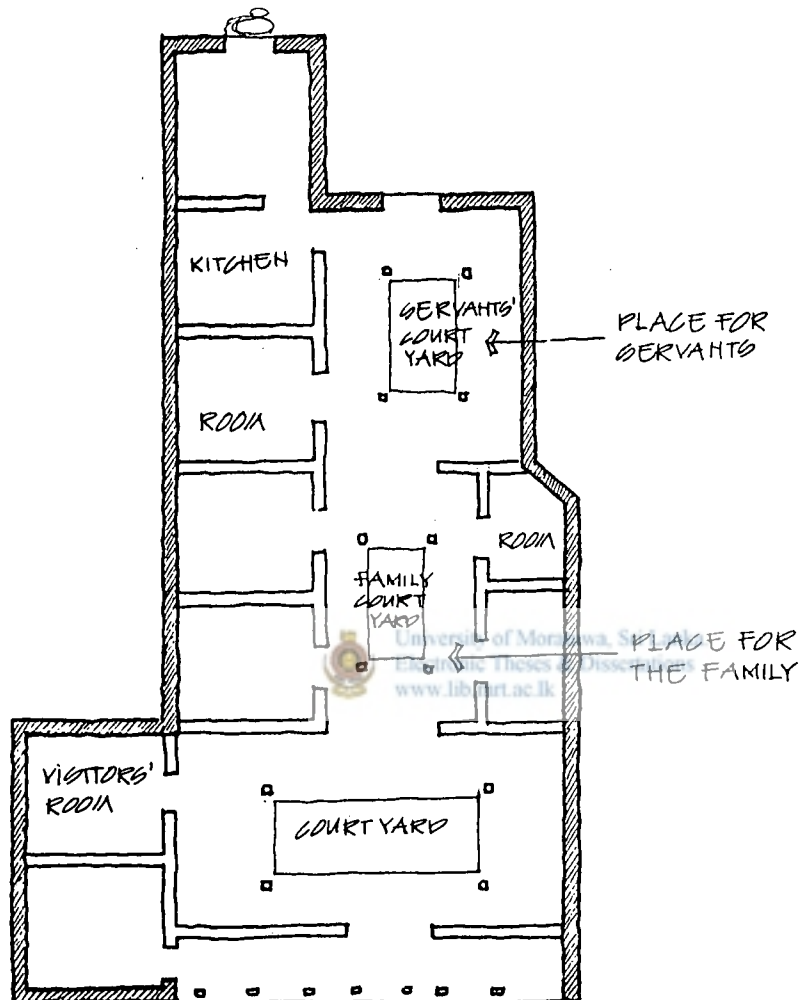


TRADITIONAL VILLAGE HOUSE

But in the pre colonial Kandyan society highly elaborate inequality, thus depending on the kinship and caste. The caste system consisted of a hierarchical order from high caste to the lower caste. The gap between these castes creates a social gap or the social order.

Fig;2.5

Not only the life style, of the people but also residence influenced by this social order. Here the social status is used by those high cast elite to cut off the access to there live in order to gain privacy.

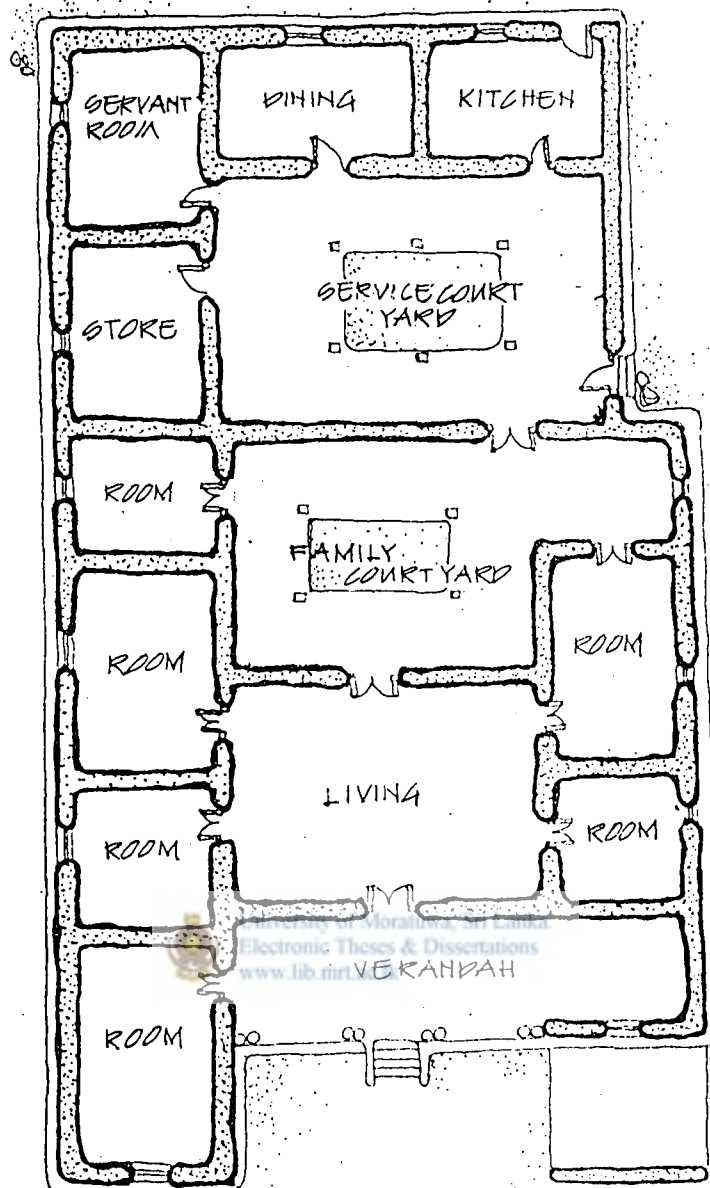


TYPICAL PLAN OF A KANPYAN CHIEFS HOUSE

Fig ;2.6

There was a clear separation of front, middle & more as pub lie & private areas.



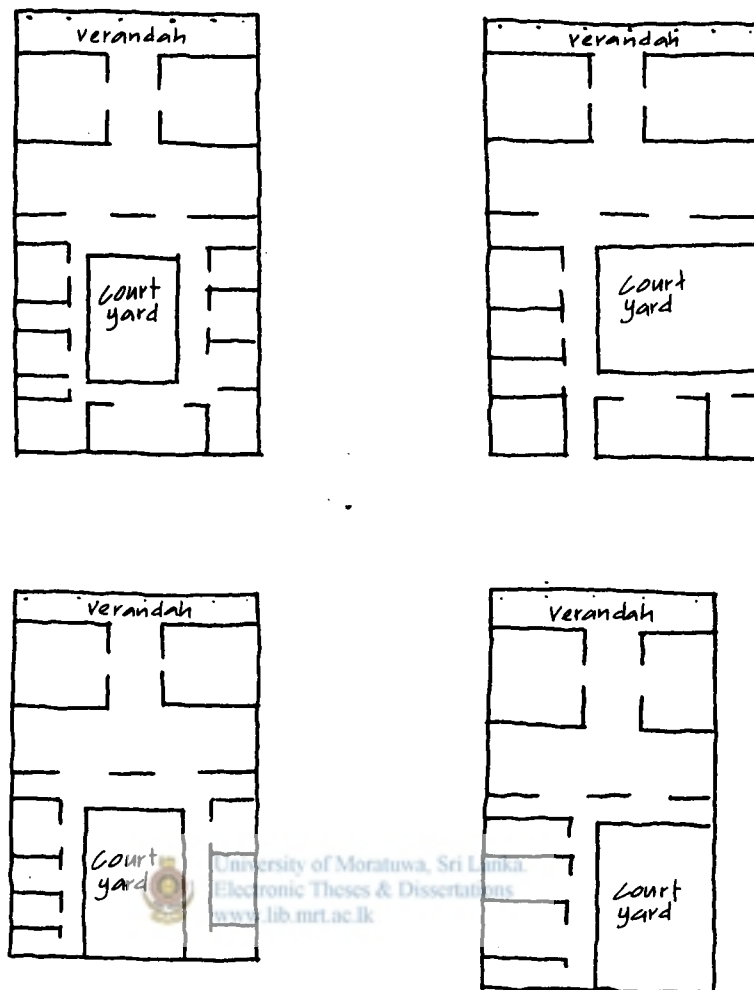


PLAN OF THE "GIRAGAMA WALAWWA"  
A TYPICAL KANDYAN WALAWWA.

Fig.2.7

Here the front part for public activities, as they were administrators. The centre was living & sleeping of family a rear for the servants. This clear separation of areas shows the how privacy as use for expression of social status & image projection.

The form of the house did not change much during the Portuguese period. But Dutch who ruled Sri Lanka after Portuguese had considerable effort on the coastal belt



ALTERNATIVE DUTCH HOUSE

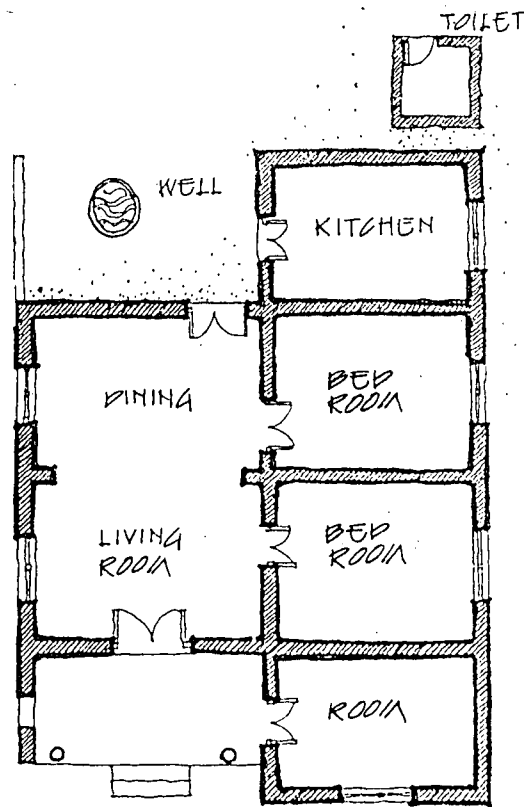
Fig ;2.8

The first expression of European life was clearly reflected by the Dutch house. The introduction of separate spaces for separate activities such as living, cooking etc, is most revolutionary change. Until this time there was no separate enclosed spaces by general public. Living or dining activities didn't taken important part of their house hold. The Dutch houses in contrast considered these to be important and had separate individual places.

Elite from high caste as well as the lower caste under Dutch privileges also euro planed up to a certain extent. Hence these, manor houses or Dutch villas were built according to previous plan form, but comparatively larger and more elaborately as a reflection of their high social status.

Attapattu Walawwa in the southern province was a good example for such adaptation.





PLAN OF A LOWER LEVEL BRITISH HOUSE

Fig:2.9



Fig:2.10

British ruled the country after Dutch. Unlike the Dutch, British had a long term effect on Sri Lankan society. The British period is the first period in the which different types of house forms were produced within the same settlement. These different forms express their westernization and power based on their newly found wealth.

At the time of British occupation society considered mainly two categories general public and the ruling class. The British brought into existing new social class in between these two the present middle class which is a direct result of English education.

Office room was introduced to the house. It became a status symbol, which symbolized their link with the administrative setup. The verandah which ran across the full breadth of building was reduced. The small verandah led to the living room. Hence house became more private realm, which expressed the social status and image protection. In the case of Elite in this period, led western influenced life style and by their dwellings

they tried to bring out their high social through the incorporation of modern feature copied from fashionable English bung laws.

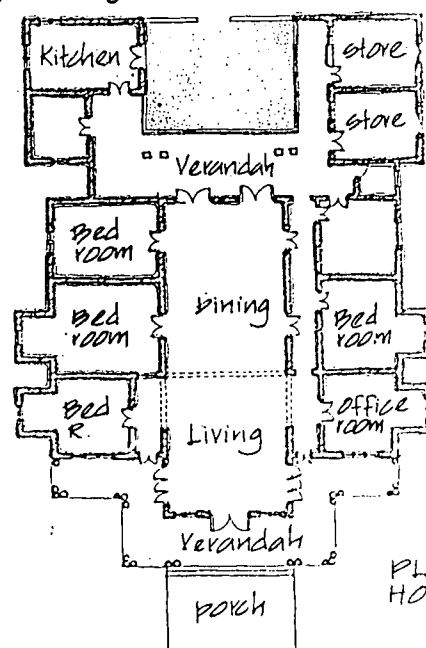


Fig:2.11

PLAN OF A MIDDLE CLASS HOUSE IN BRITISH PERIOD

Porch as an important element provide the immediate entrance. As described above house became more introverted hence the colonial influence. Specially British influence all over the country. There fore it is noted that they widely used individualism, as a social status. And also come privacy norms prevailing in the higher states groups are never even experienced within lower status level.

"Upper class girls most of whom had their own individual bath rooms reacted with interest when told of middle class, procedure in this respect. The lower class girls were changed that such thing was necessary probably privacy which they never had, even fastidiousness, were not family values, which made such arrangement important"

(Kara Alexander, 1973;p273)

Therefore at present when society become complex with divers groups of people, with divers need a way of filtering to reduce the information floor is needed, and people deliberately try to justify their fixity with in the society. As a result, privacy become a day of expression of social status and image projection to some extent.

In another word to the maintain social status exhilaration of internal information should be controlled it either by physical, psychological or sociological barriers, which deviates from generation of privacy not only to social status but also to generate of various other human emotional needs.

## **2.5. Influence of privacy on individuals and groups.**

It is clearly evident that privacy has an influence on individuals and groups in different manners. For individuals, privacy serves for opportunities of planning out his future targets, thinking out his problems. Not only above type of requirement some people enjoy the loneliness of just being alone.

For the groups privacy influence in different manner than the individuals. Human beings are social animals, which means many activities are carried out in groups. Hence for the groups it fulfills the need to share confidence and intimacies with other people. Different kinds of groups come together in different ways, such as friendship groups, group of families, leisure groups, mutual attraction etc. Privacy effects on this groups the attitudes, values of the people in the group to words to life.

This further convinced by Argyle;

"All small groups develop norms is shared patterns of perceiving and thinking shared kind of communication, interaction appearance, common attitudes, and beliefs and shared ways of doing what over the groups does. Members will have something in common from the beginning and there is also convergence to words shared norms particularly on the part of individual deviates."

(Argyle, M 1983: p108)

Groups that have similar attitudes, values, common interest, they do not accept privacy as much as the individual search for. Most probably, the groups get to gather, according to their socio cultural positions, attitudes, values, income levels, and social status. This can be illustrated through a neighbourhood. Neighbourhood is a collection of members from a large socio-cultural context.

Alexander Christopher illustrates this;

" A neighbourhood are one particular type at homogeneous groups of people, who are living with intimate association and a unity of interest."

(Alexander C: 1985p.120)

In habitants of the neighborhood group, must be able to take agreement a basic designs, which make it easier to maintain their life style. Therefore to achieve privacy as a neighborhood in order to maintain this particular life style, which is used the different strategies by people.

Like wises, privacy influence on individuals and groups at different degree depending on their different values and attitudes.



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## CHAPTER THREE

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### **3 Strategies Adopted To Achieve Privacy**

#### **3.1. Architectural Language used in personal spaces and their meanings**

The built environment, of which the fundamental purpose is considered to be shelter, purposely, goes beyond the same; House is the closest physical environment of a man.

"Domesticity, privacy comfort the concept of the house and of the family."  
(John Lukas; 1988;p51)

House not only a structure but also an institute is a separate unit within the society, which regulate the physical and social contact with the out side and generate privacy, which interim isolates the family from outsiders and maintaining physical and psychological distance safeguarding the inhabitants and their belongings from the unprotected situation of being exposed to the outer world.

This is clearly expressed by Berardo as,

" Family performs like a closed corporation in presenting a common part of solidarity to the world, handling interned differences, in private, protecting the reputation of members by keeping family secrets and standing together under attack."

(Berardo. F.M; 1983:p57)

Family members are sharing same social economic background and position of the society. They are tied together by the love, parent's affedition on them and culturally prescribed relationship between each family members. Theirs family life centers around day-to-day activities such as eating sleeping, leasure activities ect.

But sometimes, it can be seen, some privacy oriented situations of family members, even among the family. This is depend on sex, age, past experiences, relate to the privacy.

"But it must be stressed that privacy here is not to divorce one self from others but nearly to give freedom to carry out activities without interfere with by other members of the family. "

(R. Lawrance; 1983:p63)

With in a family the members demand different types and intensities of privacy. Hence house of the family is the product of built environment, it is necessary to understand the constituents of the built environment that could effectively be utilized for this purpose.

It is clear each constituent, which use to achieve privacy, is individually considered by means of qualitative and quantities attributes contribution to the privacy. The resultant is of its composition with in the total setup.

### **3.2. Strategies used to achieve privacy**

Man, capable of controlling information, flow to the out side maintain level of privacy and interaction. In order to maintain privacy for a comfortable setting people use various types of strategies. Under this topic it is intended to discuss how most of those strategies have been used to express desired level of privacy.

Those architectural strategies a discussed under below headings.

#### **3.2.1. Location**

Location is an important component in the case of gaining the desired level of privacy. Location can be used in two ways in the formation comfort privacy level not only to archive the territoriality, but also to express the personalized attitudes; known as extrovert and introvert ect.

This can be discussed under below conditions.

##### **a. Selection of the site**

(Location of the whole setup)

##### **b. Location of the building**

(within the other activities in the set up.)

Location gives a clear meaning to observers to identify the total setup. Location provide a secure protective places or who seek the psychological security of the privacy.

More number of people prefers to locate themselves at the periphery bags or near pillars or a near a wall in a large public setting. This type of setting, provide for them the psychological privacy.

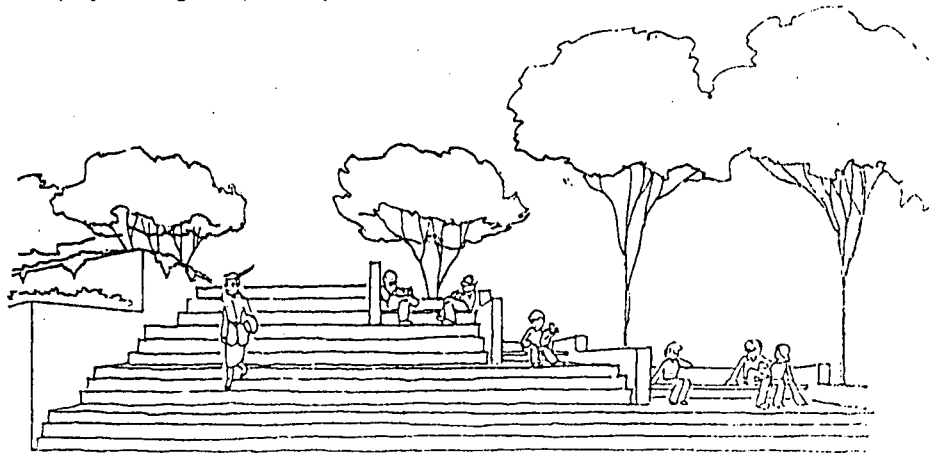


Fig.3.1

People prefer to have their own house in less congested areas away from public amenities, by means of sense of privacy.



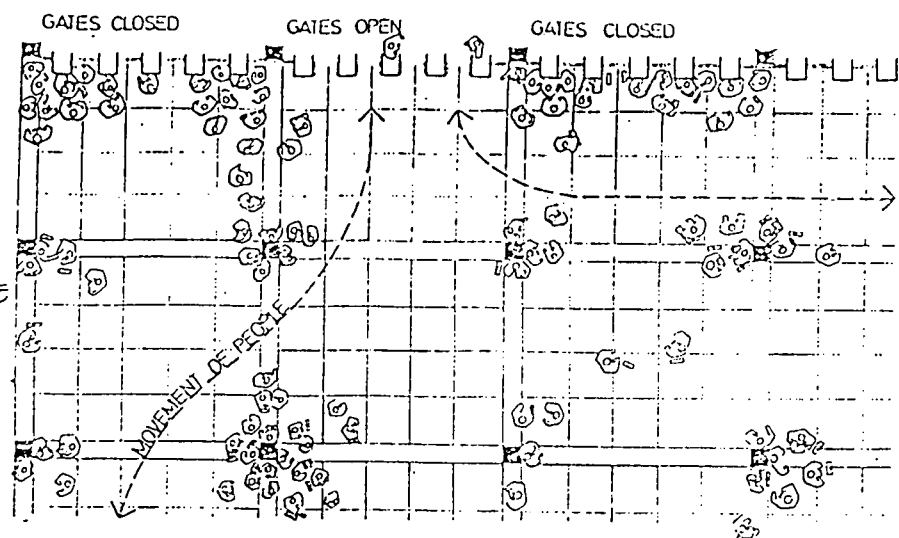
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"Domesticity, privacy comfort the concept of the house and of the family"

(John. Lukas;1988:p51)

The location of the building in the whole setup or the location of individual space with in the whole building setup influence the once psychological privacy. Several studies explain that the relationship between the eye contact and distance. It indicates that the greater the distance between people the greater amount of information they try to obtain by looking.

LOCATION OF  
PEOPLE WAITING  
AREA IN JAPANESE  
RAILWAY STATION



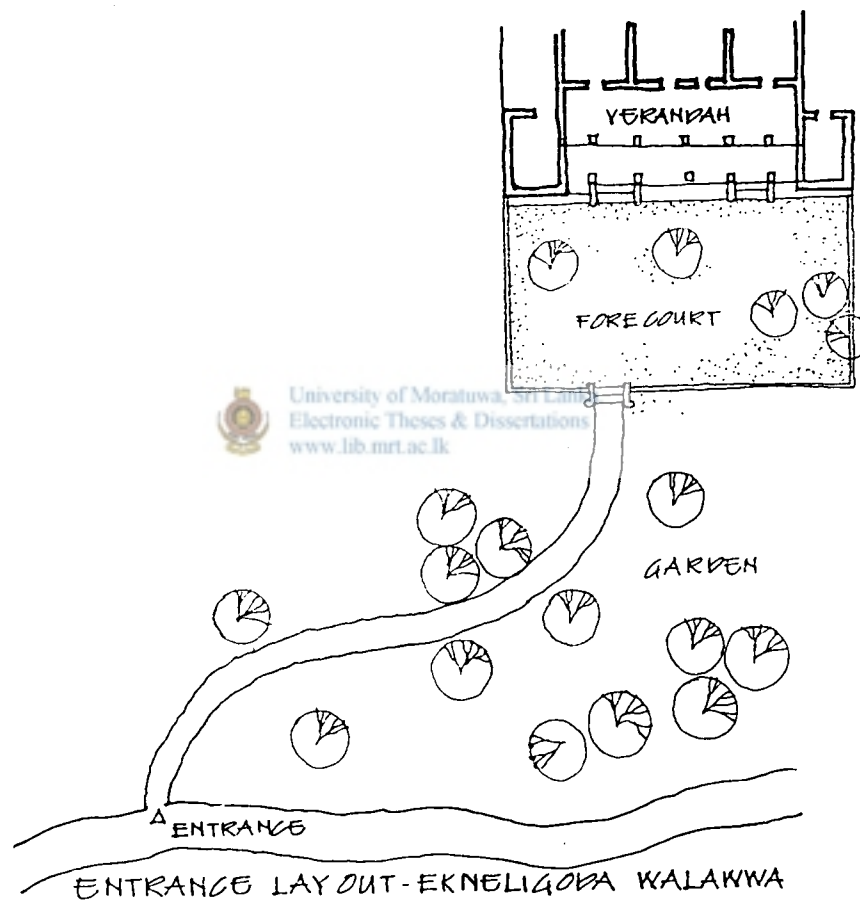
Fig;3.2



So it is very clear that people location themselves in spaces to maximize the cause of psychological privacy.

### 3.2.2. Building Approach

The way approaching the building, is directly related with the sense of privacy. In some cases there are long distance, and barriers to the building, some are not. This can be clearly explained through hierarchy of house designs at the past.



Fig;3.3

In the residence of Kandyan feudal Elites the approach way to the house is deliberately used as a way of achieving privacy and at the same time as a way of expression social status.



1. Low boundary or a level change, demarcating the extent of the midula or the fore court.
2. Large forecourt laid with sand commonly, landscape with trees and thick bushes etc.
3. Verandah centered to the width of the forecourt
4. Living room, which is having two main doors most probably from the verandah.

Building approach consciously used to achieve psychological privacy as well as a way of expression of social status. People who seek more social acceptance, building approach are successively used to achieve privacy, also as a way of expressing their social status.

Psychologically the visitor feels little uncomfortable in walking towards a person who maintains a long distance to achieves privacy. Those people who maintain a shorter distance or who locate, themselves near to the entrance, they use some other types of barricades to achieves privacy.

The scaling down of road, when coming from main road to the clusters, gives the sense of hierarchy, which clearly manifests the privacy.

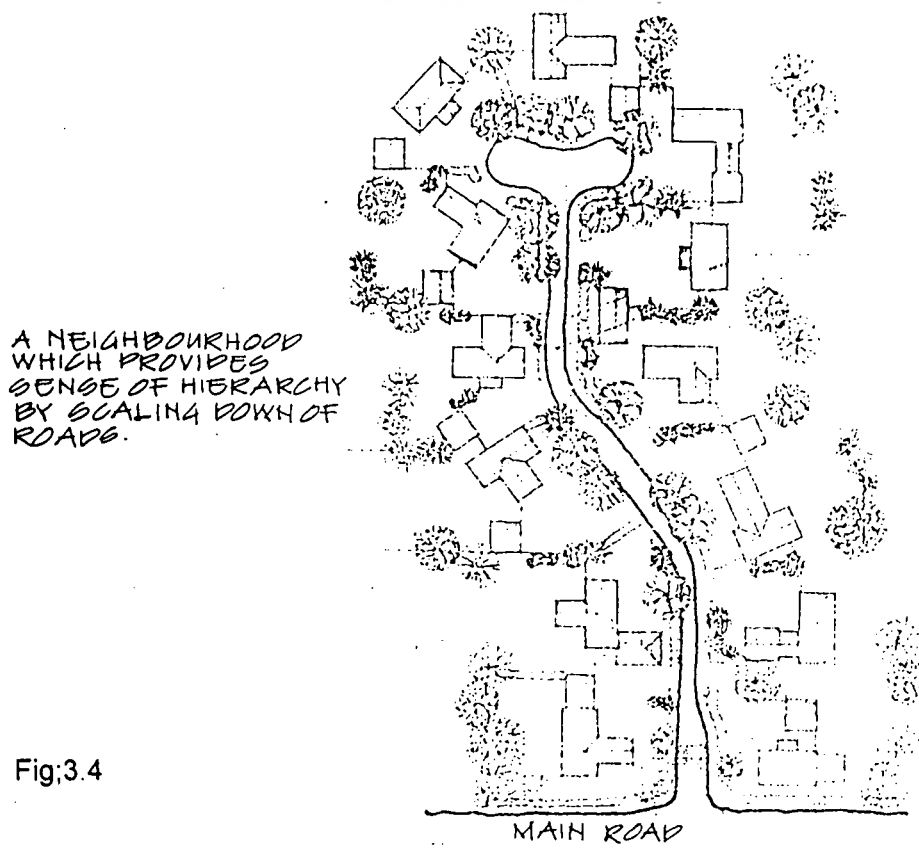


Fig:3.4

### 3.2.3 Orientation of the building.

People try to orientate their houses according to their personalities. Some are facing the road while others are away from the road.

Orientation of the buildings is depend on the activities, need of privacy and its intensity and the personality of the user too.

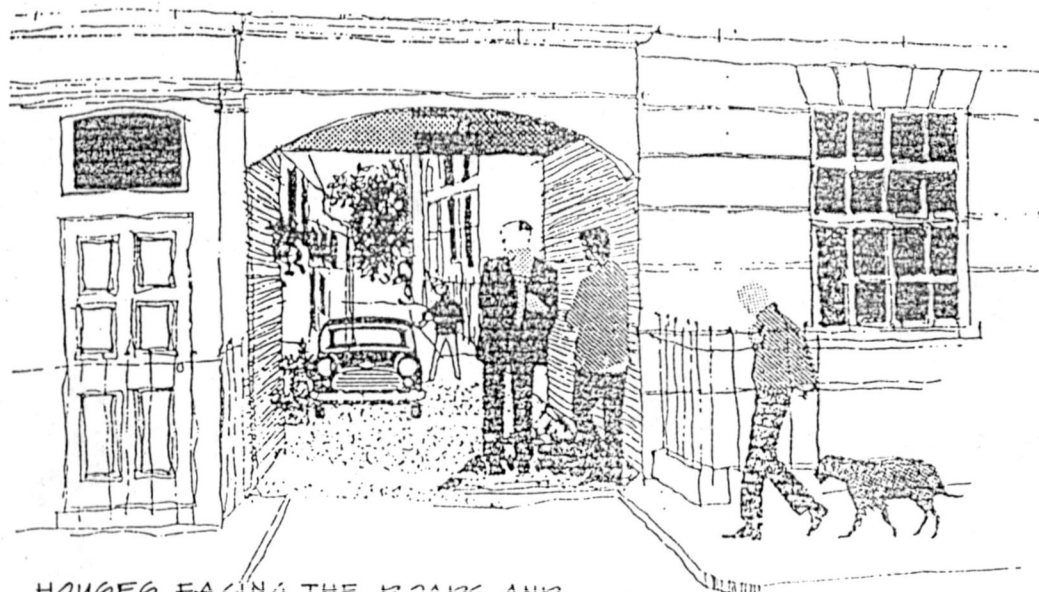


Fig:3.5

HOUSES FACING THE ROADS AND  
AWAY FROM THE ROAD of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.  
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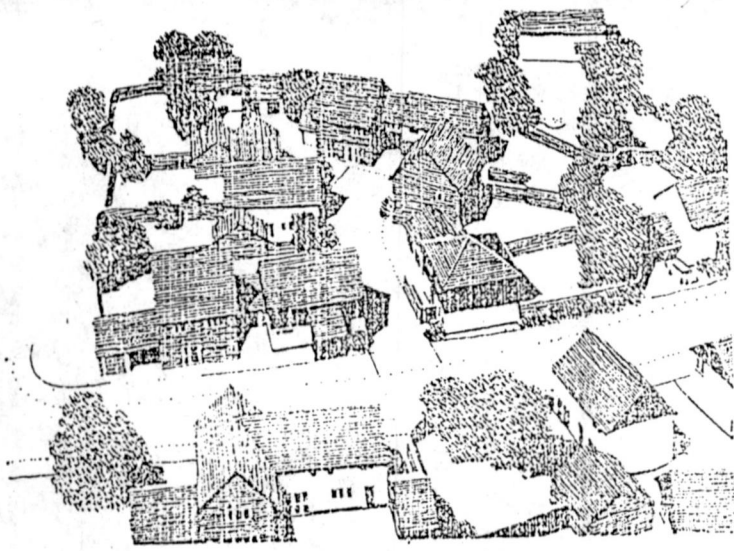
### 3.2.3. Strong well-defined boundaries

To mark out the territories as their own people use strong well defined boundaries. In contemporary situation, which the society get more individualistic .This can be clearly seen. Such boundaries generate privacy, by restricting and controlling intrusion of a building.

According to the Key Deaux,

"Even an environment only partly set off by physical boundaries can provide some privacy."

(Key Deaux; 1984: p435)



WELL DEFINED BOUNDARIES HELP TO CONTROL  
UNWANTED INTERACTION BETWEEN CLUSTERS

Fig;3.6

Further more by demarcating territories family members get a sense of personal pride and grater self esteem and enable to exercise individuality an the way they personalize their area.

### 3.2.5. Entrances

By limited no of entrances and gates located away from the roads, provide the sense of privacy.

Off lined gates, with hidden entrances, shows owners attitude towards to the privacy.

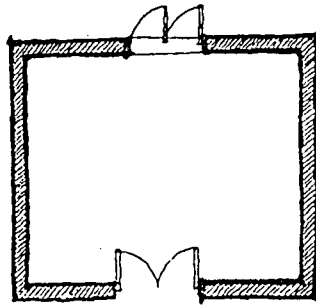


HIDDEN ENTRANCES THROUGH  
COVERED PASSEY WAY  
MORE PRIVACY

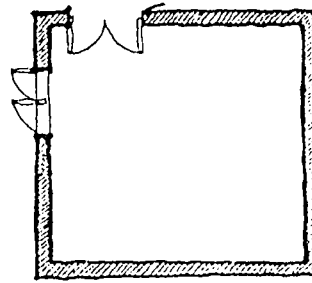
Fig;3.7

### 3.2.6. Enclosure Plane

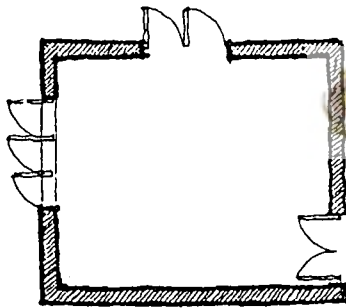
Enclosure plane defines a space it terms of walls, floor and ceiling. Enclosure plane plays the major role of achieving the privacy in a space. This refers to the solid, void ratio of the building.



MORE OPENINGS ON PLANE  
LESS PRIVACY

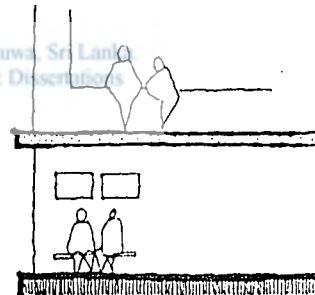


LESS OPENINGS ON PLANE  
MORE PRIVACY



MORE OPENINGS  
LESS PRIVACY

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LARGE OPENINGS - LESS PRIVACY  
SMALL OPENINGS - MORE PRIVACY

CONTRIBUTION MADE BY ENCLOSURE PLANE

**Fig;3.8**

Enclosure plane, determines the gradient of relationship of exterior in addition to the physical requirements, such as lighting, heating, and ventilation. Therefore simultaneously enclosure plane must be arranged to achieve, such physical requirements as well as, the psychological privacy.



Lynch is developed a thumb rule for relationship between enclosure plane to base plane dimensions.

"An exterior enclosure is most comfortable when its walls are one half or one third as high as the width of the space enclosed, while if the ratio fall, below one fourth, the space cases to seen enclosed"

The visual properties relationship to one another and distribution of openings determined the need of privacy for internal functions.

"Natives on the others hand have had to brick up openings in European houses not only to avoid light and sun but also privacy."  
( Gottmann. J. 1957:p20 )

The enclosure plane determine to a extent how the space is related to exterior, & its directly relates with the internal functions. Therefore it is necessary to arrange enclosure plane to achieve the required level if privacy.

### 3.2.7. Volume of space



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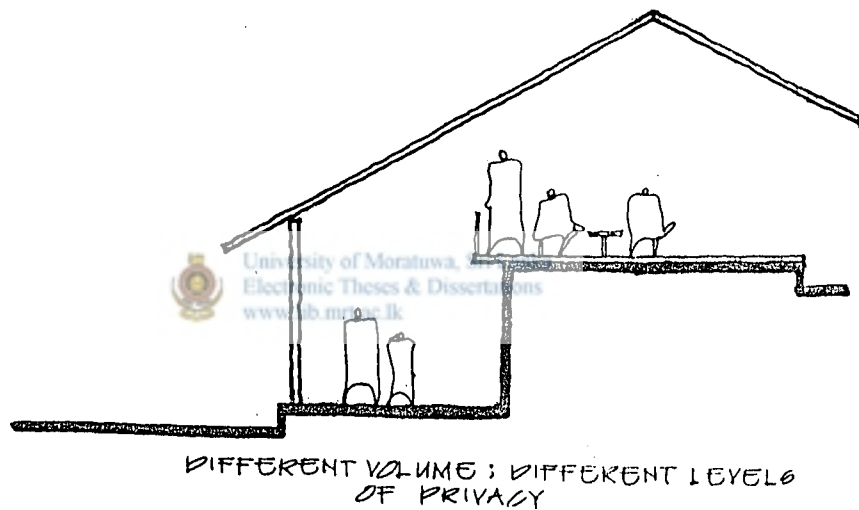
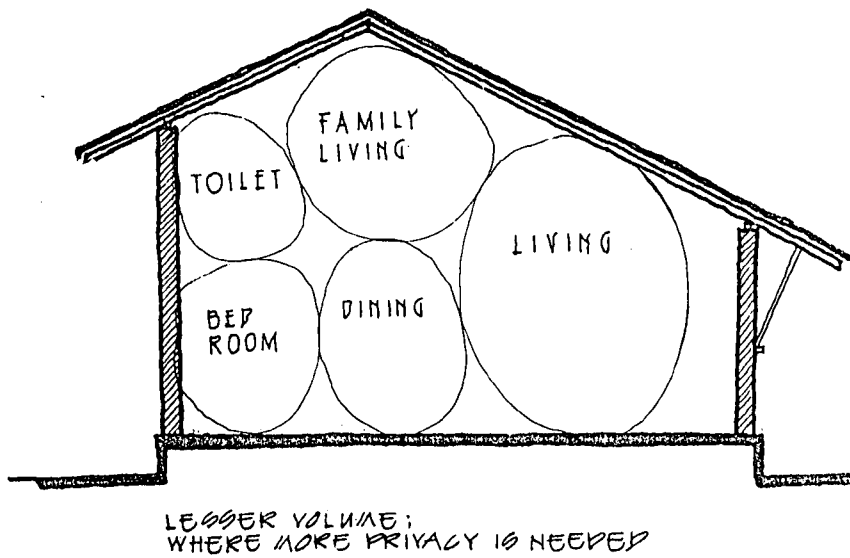
Volume being defined as the physical static manifestation of space. The size and shape of the volume and its contribution to others will determine the quality of the architectural space. Therefore volume define the activity within the space.

Snyder and Cateness further conceived this as,

"The shape of space can affect the type of activity that can occur separately or simultaneously with in the space. Different spaces provide qualities that reinforce the formation of behavioral territories"

Large volume facilitate the public gathering, community activities etc. while the small volume enhance psychological privacy in activities such as, family gathering, bodily functions etc.

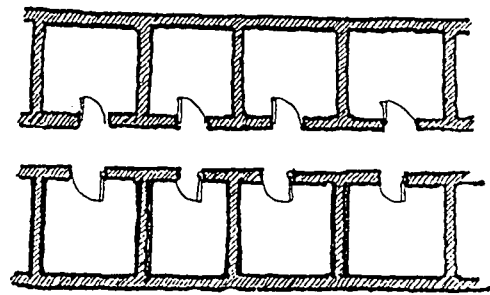
Therefore dining rooms, in most cases which are double height, provide the large volumes, in the case of entertaining visitors, meanwhile family living areas which are comparatively small enhance the high degree of cohesiveness.



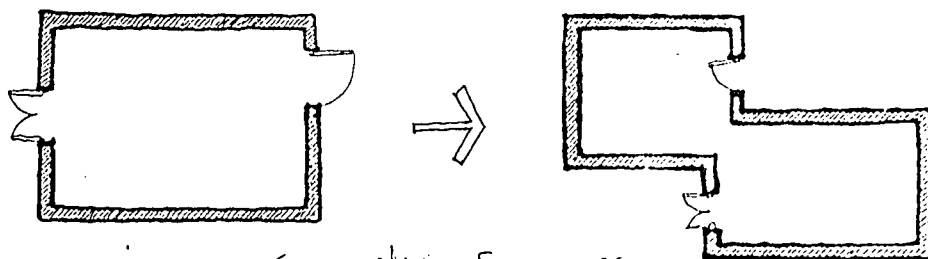
Fig;3.9

### 3.2.8. Plan configuration

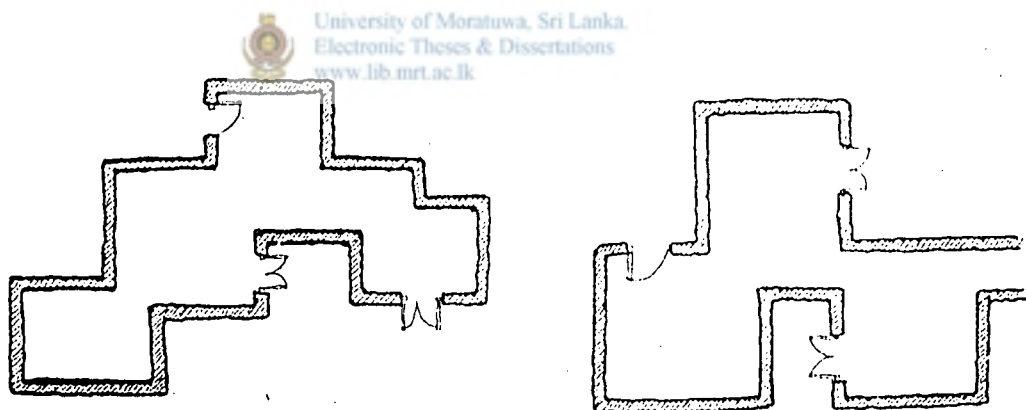
This refers to articulation of horizontal plane of the space. Plan configuration it self can be used to mark the personal space, group space and other territories, without using the vertical plane. Clear demarcation of domains and personal space prevent interference of activities.



Lack of privacy



Separation of spaces;  
privacy



Plan configuration; Privacy

CONTRIBUTION MADE BY PLAN CONFIGURATION

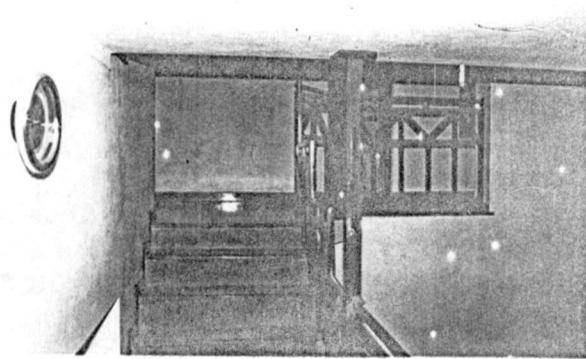
Fig:3.10

Plan configuration refers to relationship of the space to the surrounding environment. In high density areas, plan configuration is the major problem when achieving the privacy. Plane configuration itself can be used to mark the personal space and other territories. Hence it is broadly help to achieve psychological privacy and percept the space.

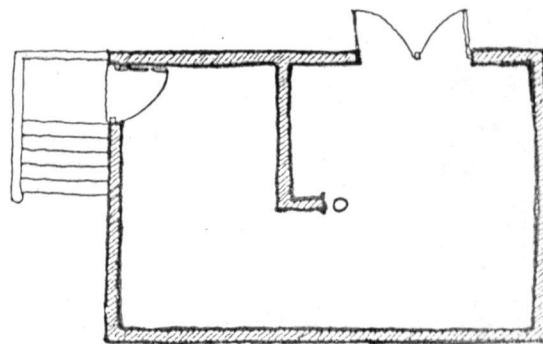


### 3.2.9. Level changes and changes of directions

Level changes and changes of direction, are successively used to achieve psychological privacy.



LEVEL CHANGES



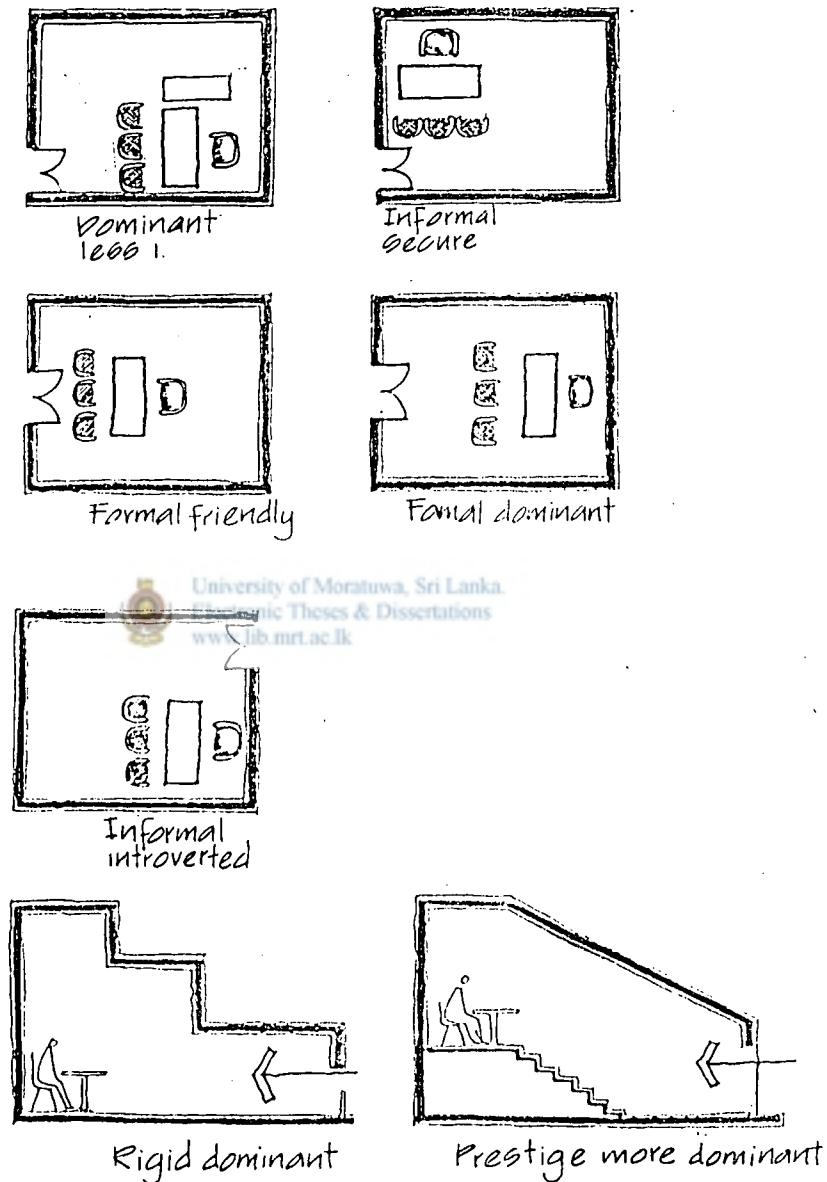
CHANGE OF DIRECTION

Fig;3.11

By having changes in direction, obstruct the direct visual contact, and it cases to hide main areas and entry points.

### 3.2.10. Interior arrangements and selection of object

If all other factors are failed interior arrangement can be successively used to achieve psychological privacy. Interior arrangement may be furniture small partitions, curtains or small plants. In most cases change the interior arrangements, even though designer, shows the basic interior arrangement, in order to achieve desired level of privacy.



Fig;3.12

When individuals can't afford to have separate rooms, they use large space, by arranging various objects in such a manner to achieve maximum level of privacy. This clear can be seen, where large no of occupants are such as, hostel Dom -- atries etc.

Interior arrangement is one of the flexible solutions, to achieve privacy. In the case of furniture arrangement, most people prefer to have end chairs facing the back wall or partitions, where the psychological privacy is higher.

### 3.2.11. Lighting

The lighting of the space is a constituent which has the communicating capacity. The source, may be natural, artificial or combination of both, it, directly related with, person's territory.

Light could, contribute much to expressive architecture. Therefore reference to personal space the rate of light is very clear.



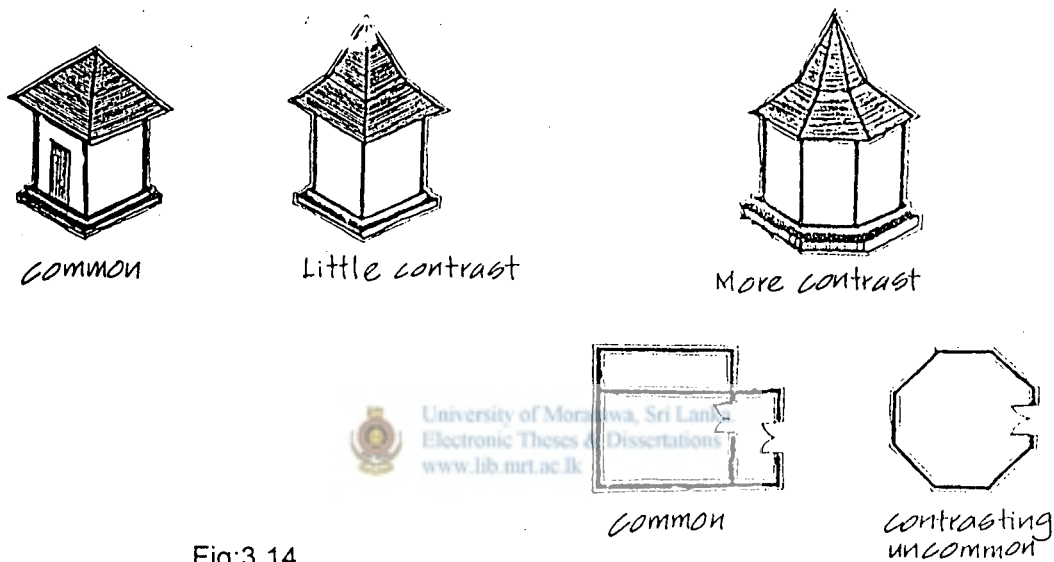
Fig:3.13 HOW LIGHT CONTRIBUTES ON PERSONAL SPACE

If someone, is in a well light up area, with dark surrounding, any can easily perceive the boundary of him, and the whole area, as the person's territory. The size of the territory and light intensity level helps to express the personality and convey the meanings of it.

### 3.2.12. Other factors

#### a. Shape of the space

Determination of the shape of the building or the space gives the sense of privacy.



Fig;3.14

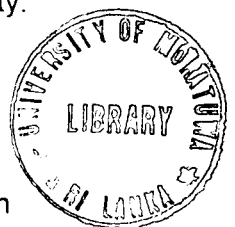
People with contrasting to general, may chose difference shapes of spaces which is not merge with others. Contrasting to the common shapes of spaces, particular shapes of spaces directly convey the massage of occupants, desired level of privacy.

#### b. Colour application and texture

Colour application and texture are also indirectly related with the psychological privacy. This is again a result of personal taste and once aspiration of the personality.

#### c. Selections of objects and size of objects

Object in a space can be divided in to two categories as utilitarian objects and non utilitarian objects. Under first category, objects essential for the functional



requirements. In this case, the selection of these objects and their display, related with once psychological need of a person.

Size of the objects also relate with once psychological privacy. Large objects sometimes help to maintain larger distance from vaders, which after a more sense of personal privacy. People sacrifice spaces by keeping large size of objects even if it is not financially suitable etc.



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## CHAPTER FOUR

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## Case study one

### Background analysis of the family status

The house owner is a hotelier; and the house is occupied by him, his wife, his two daughters, son and two servants.

### Location

This house is located by the main street of the hegonybocity right in front of the St. Maries Boys' college. This small plot of land is purchases in extent and is 33; in width.



Fig;4.1 site plan

There are two portions in this building. The first portion is a renovation of an old building. This old building creates a waiting area surrounded by a boundary wall is given the entrance by a gate. This waiting area sets back the house form the road, and that location it self hides the house from the road. These design strategies gain visual privacy as well as auditory privacy to the house.

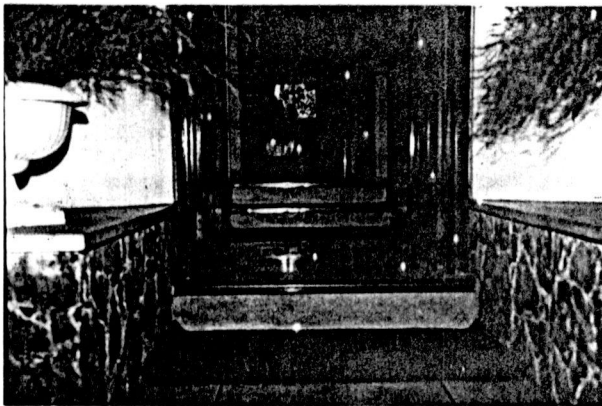


Fig;4.2 The renovated old building



### **Building approach**

When compared with the entrance lobby; the living area of the house is of a higher level. This achieves privacy by performing as a transitions space.



Fig;4.3 Level changes provide psychological & symbolic privacy.



Fig;4.4 Colonnaded entrance lobby symbolizes family status and symbolic privacy .

### **Orientation of the building**

Even though the house faces the front street, the existing barrier is the renovated old building gains visual privacy to the house. It is located in the plot in such a manner so that there will be more open space in the rear side. This creates a rear garden, which is separated from the house by a rear verandah. This rear verandah again gains privacy to the house.



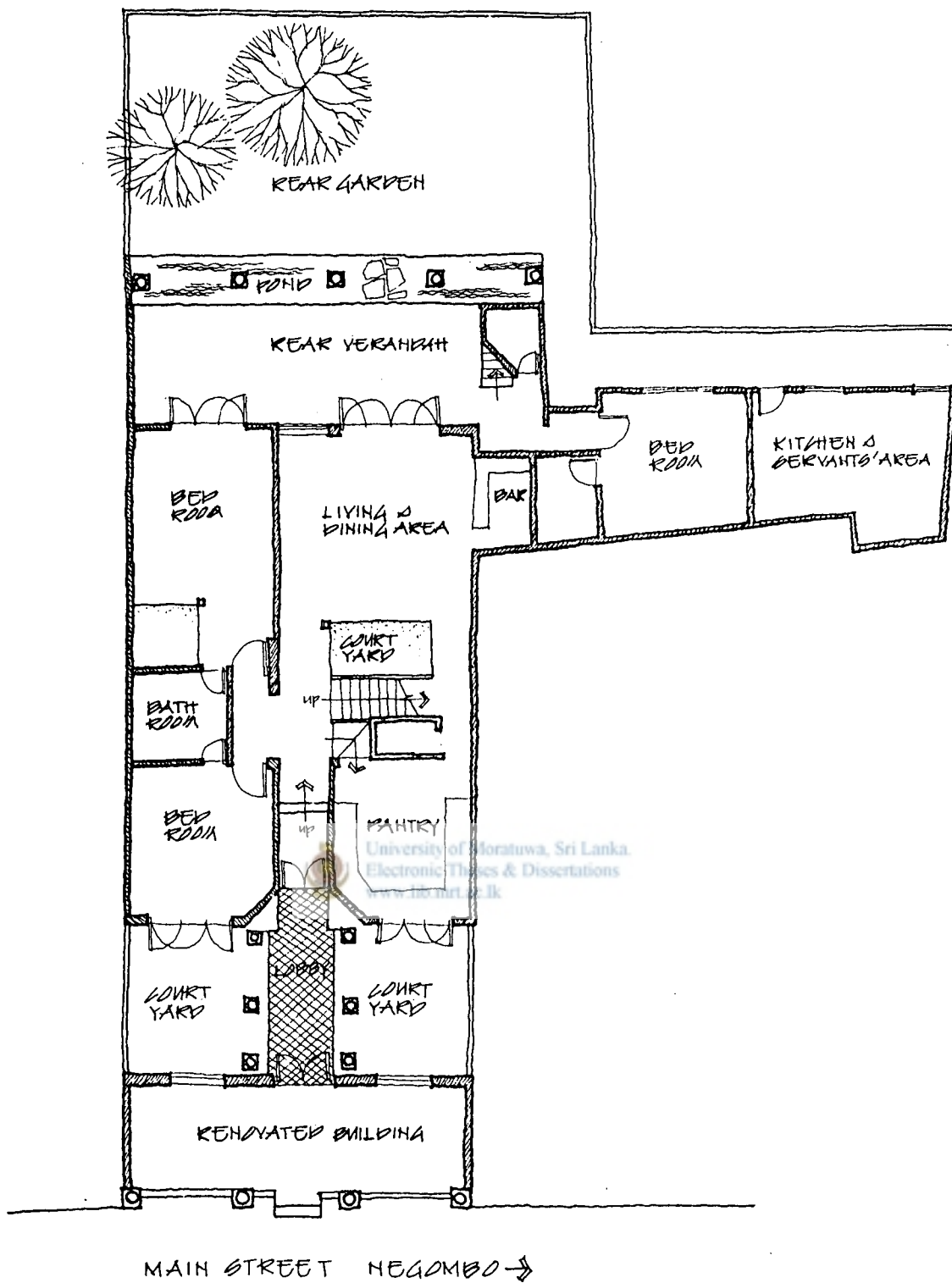
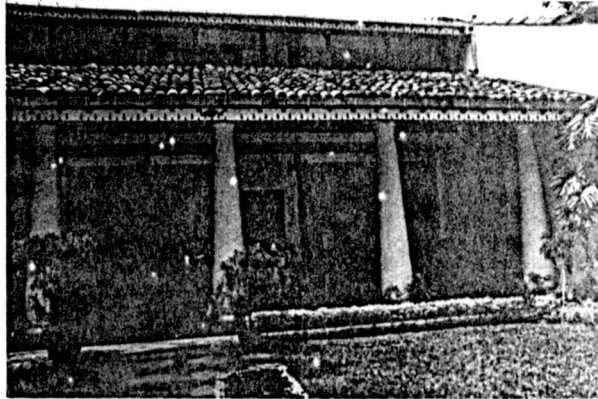


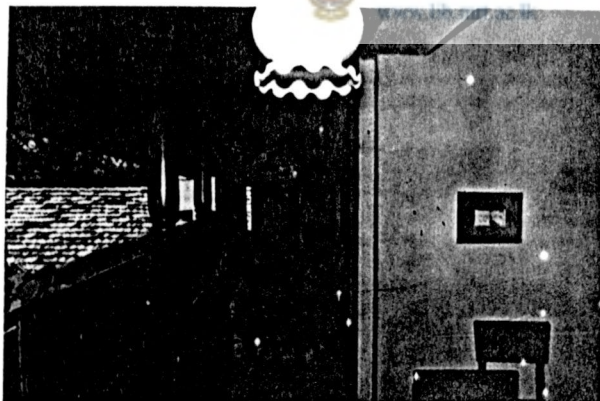
Fig:4.5 Ground floor plan



Fig;4.6 Rear verandah enhances the degree of privacy and also symbolic privacy



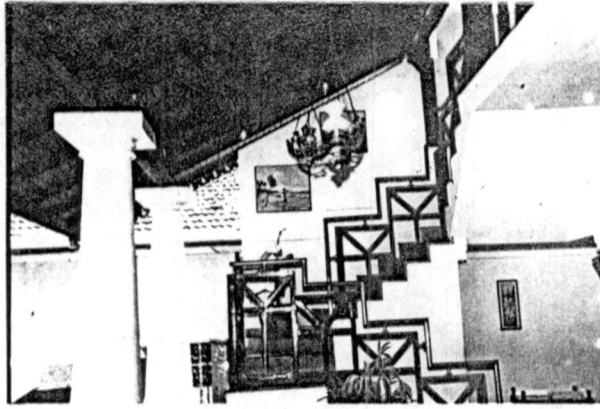
Fig;4.7 The rear verandah



Fig;4.8 Upper floor's rear balcony generates a sense of privacy



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Fig;4.9 Staircase to upper floor's rear balcony

### **Strong well-defined boundaries**

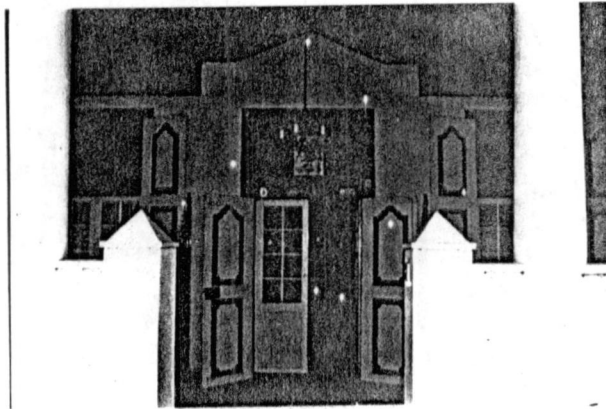
The design has demarcated the territory of the house owners by a strong boundary wall. In addition to that, the landscape also symbolic privacy.



Fig;4.10 Demarcation of family territory by a wall and landscape the creating symbolic privacy.

## Entrances

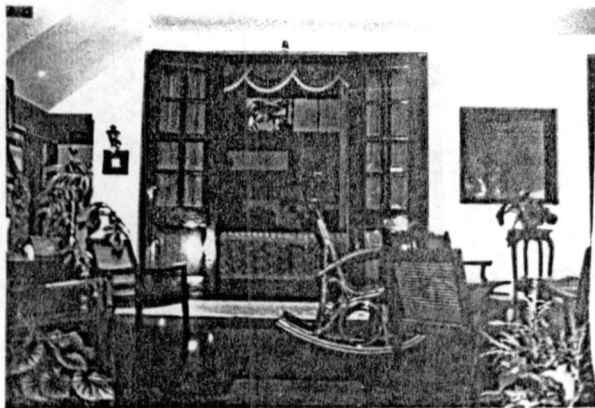
Before reaching the main entrance of this house; one has to pass three gateways. This strategy enhances the sense of privacy.



Fig;4.22 Renovated old building as a gate, create psychological and symbolic privacy.

## Enclosure plane

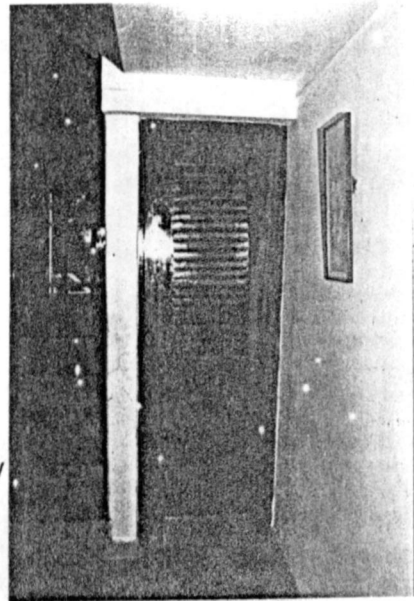
The large wall openings of the living area opens into the rear verandah. Therefore the building has a good relationship with the verandah. The huge pillars of the verandah create a semi-enclosed nature. This to a certain extent creates and symbolic privacy.



Fig;4.11 Large opening open into the rear verandah

The servant's room poses a small door, which generates visual and auditory privacy. The slab height of the said areas is comparatively low generating an intimate space.





Fig;4.12 Less opening create more sense of privacy

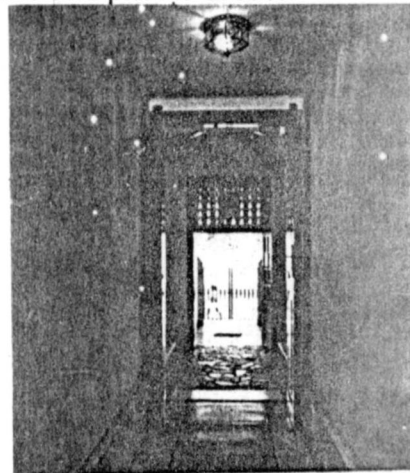


Fig;4.13 small volume crates an intimate feeling



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The volume of the pathway which connects the entrances lobby with the living area has been reduced. The floors of this path and the entrance lobby shows two different textured materials as a demarcation of public and private areas.



Fig;4.14 Reduction of volume of paths and usage of different colours, textures and materials as a demarcation of private and public area to achieve symbolic privacy

### Level changes and change of direction

The living room is connected to the bedroom with a lobby; and the bedroom doors are closed covering the interior. Further, as a transitional space, the lobby brings privacy in.

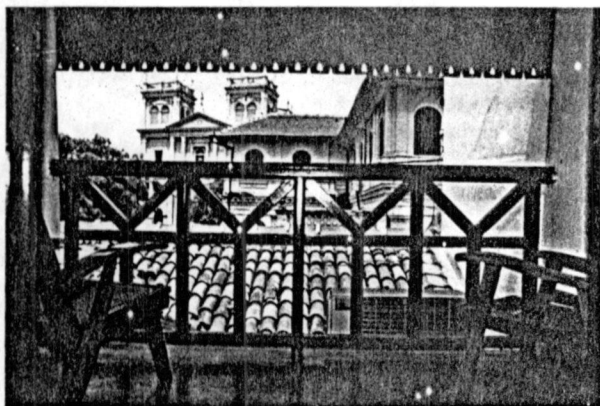


Fig;4.24 Doors of bedroom open out the lobby

The bedrooms of the house owners son and daughter area located in the upper level thereby minimizing obstruct and achieving a higher degree of privacy.

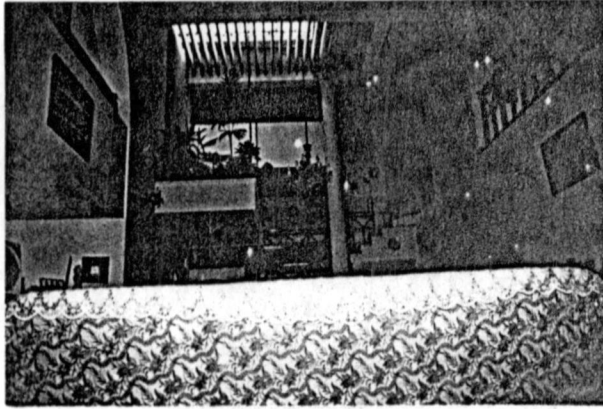


Fig;4.15 Individual bed room with a bed sitter creates individual privacy

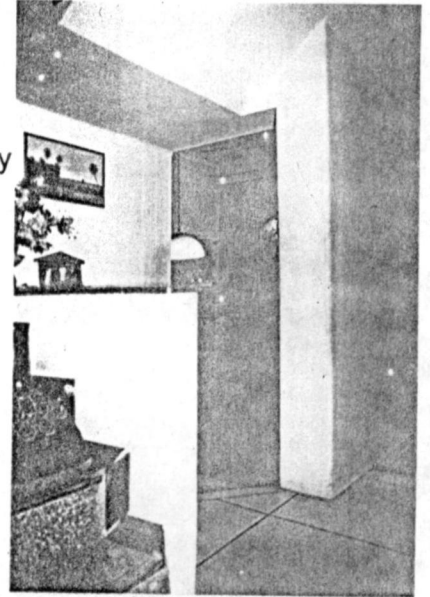


Fig;4.16 Individual bed room with a balcony - individual privacy





Fig;4.17 Level changes of living room provides symbolic privacy



Fig;4.18 Changes in direction of pantry area achieving visual privacy.



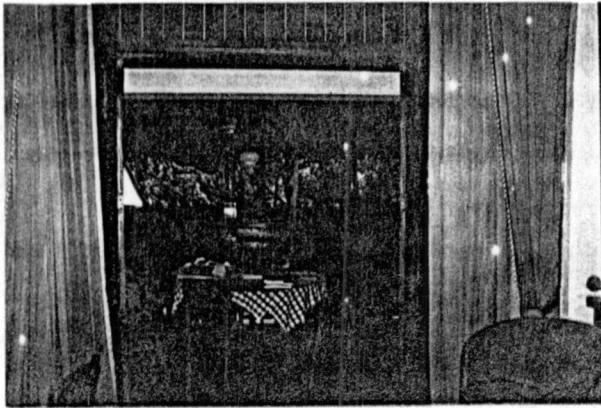
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## Volume

The volume of the living areas is comparatively higher than other areas. This provides symbolic privacy to the private areas of the house.



Fig;4.19 Different volumes create different gradients of privacy



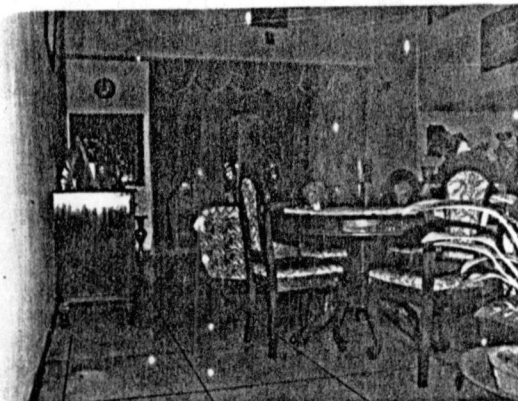
Fig;4.20 The study area - less volume and more privacy

### Interior arrangement

The interior furniture and objects are arranged in such a manner so that it would achieve symbolic privacy and psychological privacy. In addition to the privacy, their need of showing out social status and identity is also reflected by the interior arrangement.



Fig;4.21 Curtains are used to achieve privacy



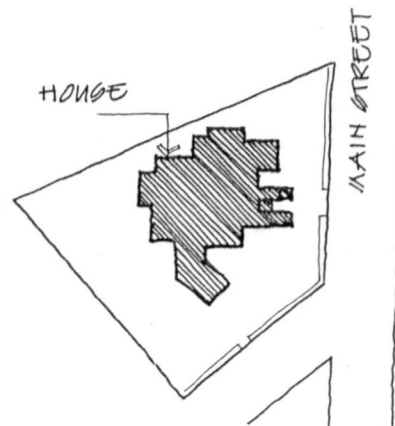
Fig;4.22 Furniture arrangement which generates symbolic privacy



## Case study Two

The owner of this house is an executive in the Katunayaka free trade zone. His, his wife, two children and the servant occupy the house.

The Negombo main street demarcates the boundary of this house to one side, while another is by a sub avenue. Even though the house is location in a commercial background, the immediate setting has become a sort of a residential area.



Fig;4.25 Location of house

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fig;4.26 Site plan

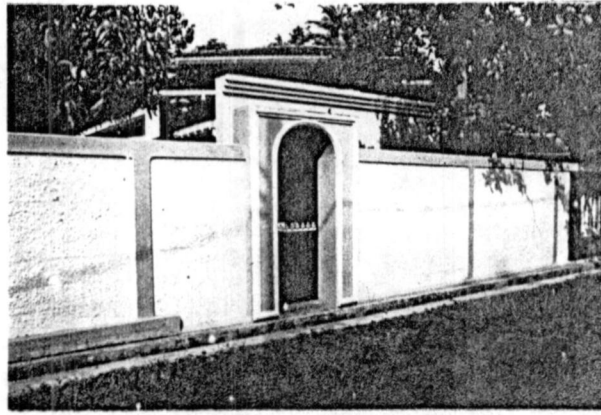
This house is located in a 27 perch land. The house is set back from both roads; by which privacy is enhanced. The occupants have used many strategies to gain privacy. A strong and well-defined wall demarcates the boundary. In addition to the hard definition; the wall is decorated; showing social status as means of privacy. Not only that; the strong and tall boundary wall achieves visual privacy.

The main gate is used only when they need to take their vehicle to the road. Unless otherwise the secondary gate opening in to the sub avenue is used.



Fig;4.27 Strong : well - defined boundary walls to achieve visual privacy.





Fig;4.28 Secondary gate; used frequently for their day - to - day activities providing auditory privacy.

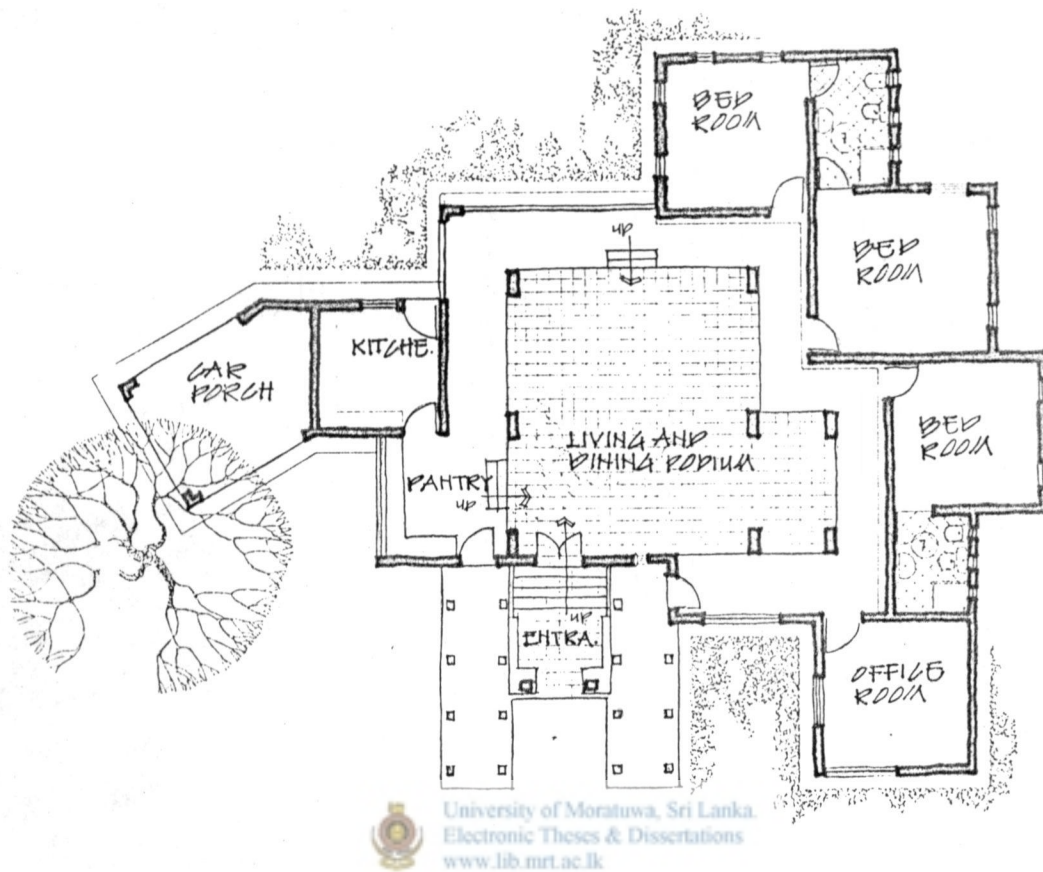
In this house; there seems to be three entrances. Namely they are the door opening into the living room; the door opening into the pantry and the door opening into the office room. Among these, the door opening into the pantry is frequently used. These doors strongly communicate public and private areas to achieve symbolic privacy.

Their living and dining area is at an others. This could be considered as a podium. This separates the living and dining area from others. This defines the private areas of the house strongly; thereby achieving symbolic privacy, psychological privacy and visual privacy.



Fig;4.29 Three entrance doors strongly communicate private and public areas To achieve symbolic privacy.

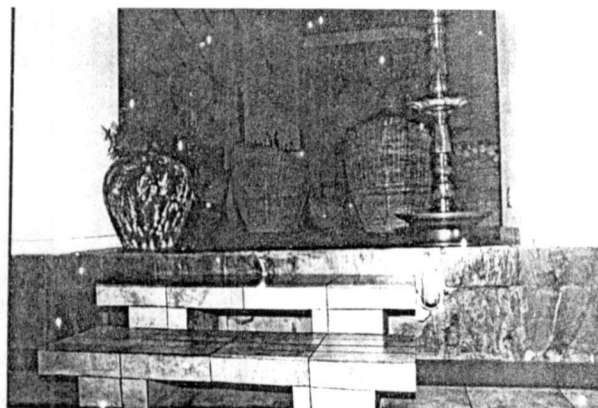




Fig;4.30 Floor plan

When the plan is studied; it could be divided into three parts. Namely they are

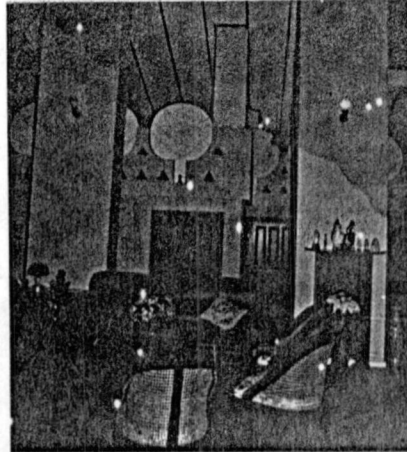
- (i) Living and dining podium
- (ii) The corridor which runs around the podium
- (iii) Bed room, pantry, office room etc



Fig;4.31 Change of level creates symbolic privacy

The massive columns and the corridor that runs around the living room demarcates living and dining areas. At the same time; it separates the living and dining area from other areas by four massive columns. To the living room, the doors of the bedrooms could be seen slightly, yet symbolic privacy is achieved by level changes.

Fig;4.32 The dining area demarcated by four massive columns generating a sense of privacy.



Fig;4.33 Level changes achieves symbolic and psychological privacy to the bedroom



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The volume of the living podium is very large. It is very well lighted by the rear glass wall. When compared to this other spaces are not that lighted and not that large; thus achieving symbolic, visual and psychological privacy.

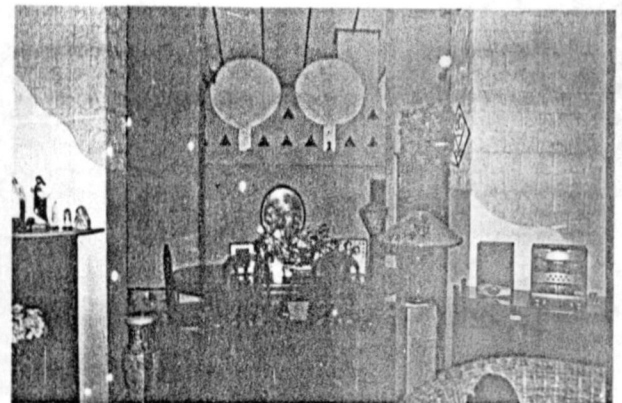
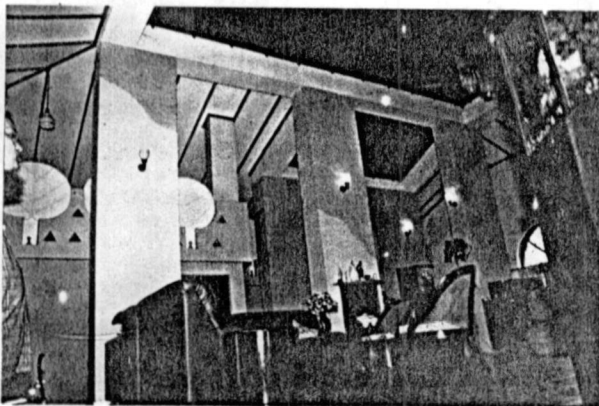


Fig: 4.32

Fig;4.34 More volume of the living podium less privacy when compared with other spaces



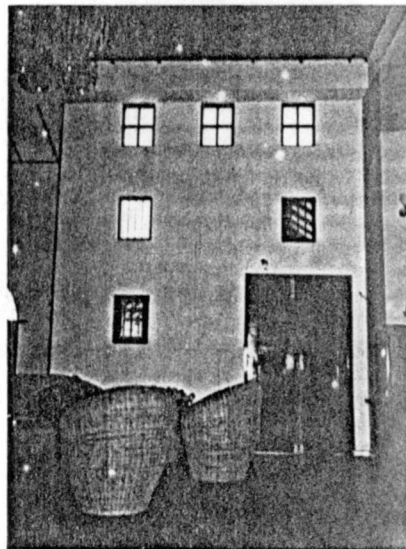


fig;4.35 Rear garden and glass wall. Lights up the living area and demarcates territory of living podium.



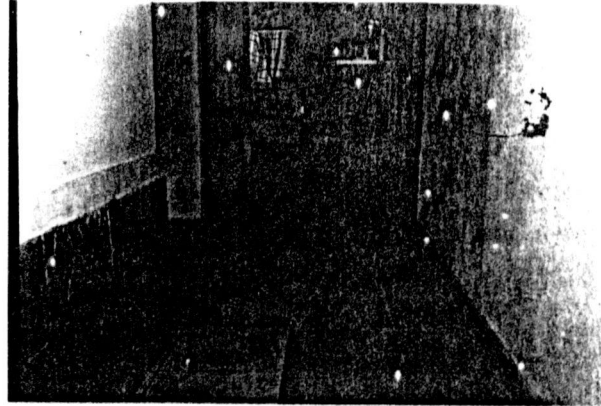
Fig;4.36 Lighting enhances the territory of bathroom.

A sense of privacy is generated by the minimum number of small windows in the front façade of the house. Most of them are at level higher than the eye level thus enhancing the sense of privacy.

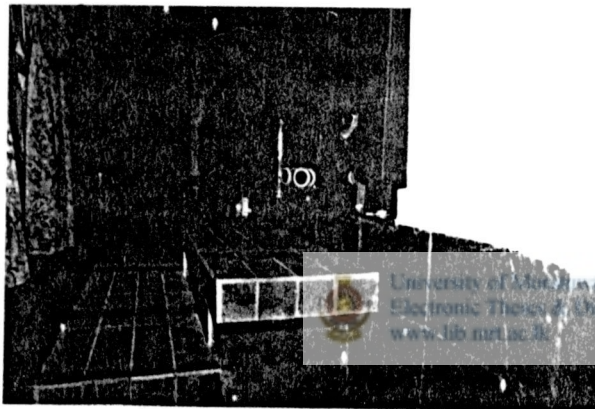


Fig;4.37 lesser number of small openings creates sense of privacy

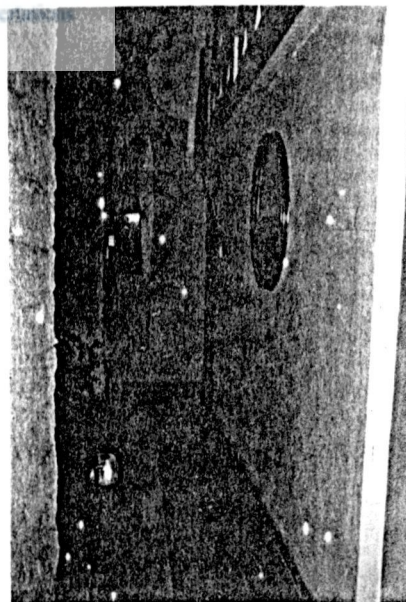
The paving of bedrooms and that of the corridor around the podium containing many colours and textures. Therefore it provides symbolic privacy. The rooms are always opening into the corridor that runs around the podium making the corridor a transitional space.



Fig;2.34 Different types of paving provide symbolic privacy to each space.



Fig;4.39 The corridor - a transitional space.

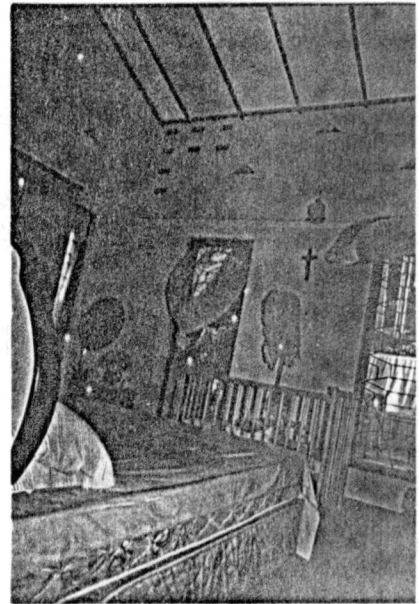


Fig;4.40 The gloomy corridor generates psychological and symbolic privacy



The wall between bedrooms and the living podium is a half well. Small masonry openings could be seen in this half wall. This wall generates visual privacy and auditory privacy.

Fig;4.41 Visual privacy and auditory privacy



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Fig;4.42 Half wall between living podium and bedroom.



### Case Study Three

A Tamil businessman owns this house, another Tamil clerk and his wife occupy the house, and their only daughter is working abroad.

This house is located in the congested sea street. The specialty of this, this is built in a ten perch land where two other houses and a commercial setting is built from the main street. There is a paved pathway to this house. The paving is about four feet wide. In the beginning of the pathway a grill gate is fixed. A very small territory can be identified which belongs to this house, which is defined by two similar small houses and a boundary wall. There is a very small paved entrance for this house.

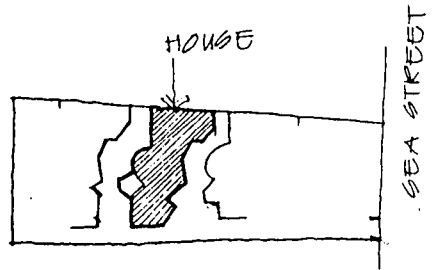


Fig:4.43 Site plan



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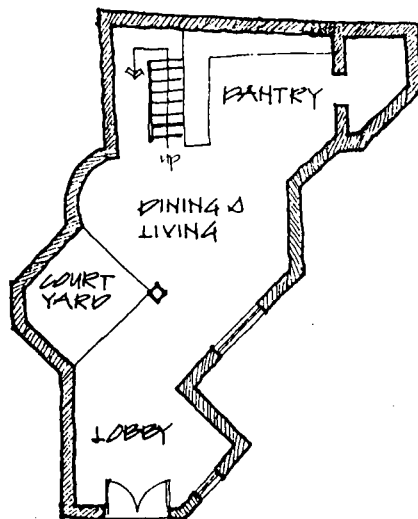
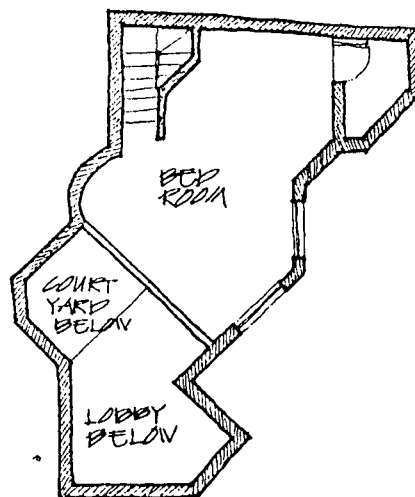


Fig:4.44 Ground floor plan



upper floor plan





Fig;4.45 The common grill gate at the entrance path, a sense of privacy.



Fig;4.46 The well defined boundary wall provides symbolic privacy.

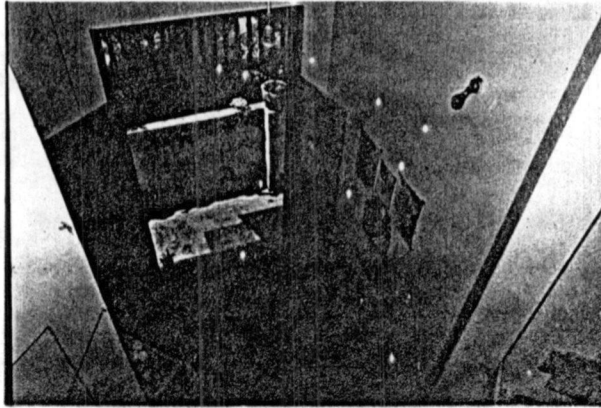
The main entrance to the house is located angular to the paved path. The change of direction generates a gradient of privacy.



Fig;4.47 Changes in direction as means of achieving visual privacy.

Studying the plan it can be stated that the designer has been able to maintain a good relations among spaces while maintaining privacy.

The height of the lobby of this house is as most non-private area of this house.



Fig;4.48 Different level; different levels of privacy.

The living area and the dining area are comparatively small and the living area and the pantry is separated from each other by curtains.

The area which originally are dining cum living area and pantry can be interpreted as a family area which has a stuffiest of visual privacy.

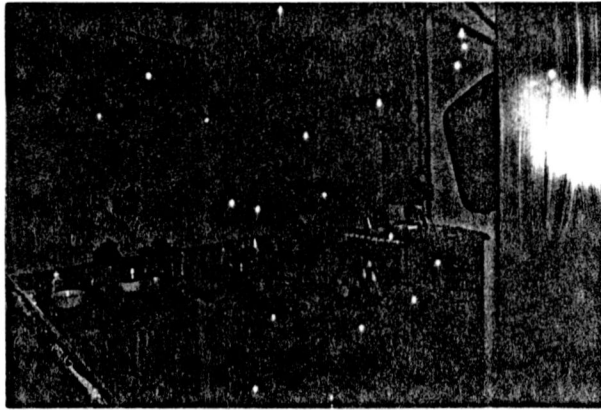


Fig;4.49 Living cum dining area.



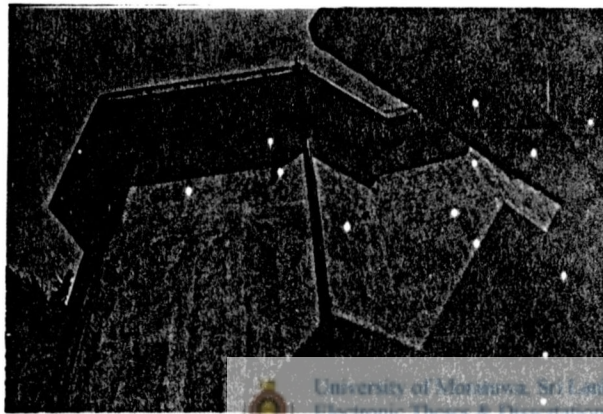
Fig;4.50 living area and pantry Curtains are used to achieve visual privacy.





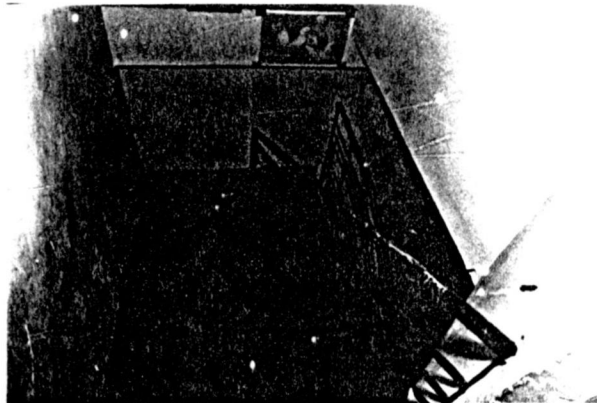
Fig;4.51 Gloomy pantry area creates a sense of privacy.

When the outer appearances of this house is considered it can be stated that in this house social sates is used as means of visual and auditory privacy.



Fig;4.52 Exterior of the house provides visual, psychological and auditory privacy.

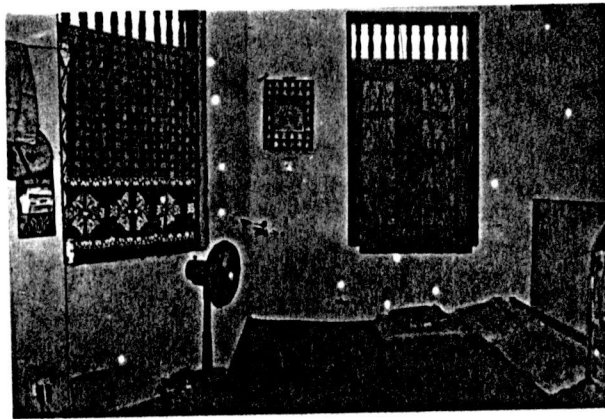
The staircase to the bedroom and the bathroom of the upper floor is comparatively narrow. By this symbolic privacy is gained to a certain extent



Fig;4.53 Narrow staircase gains privacy to the upper floor.

The bedroom of the upper floor shows a zig zag pattern. By this a dressing area and a study area is created with in the room.





Fig;4.54 Bedroom.

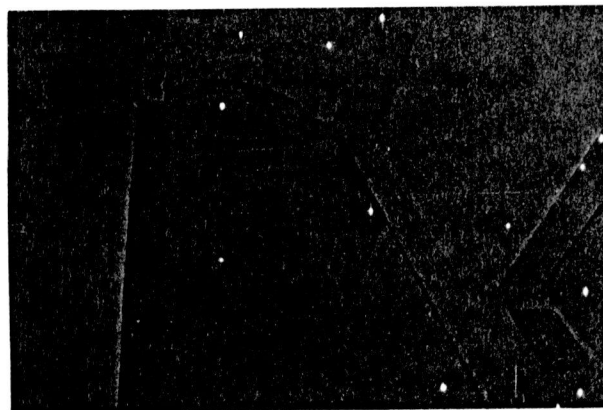


Fig;4.55 Dressing area.



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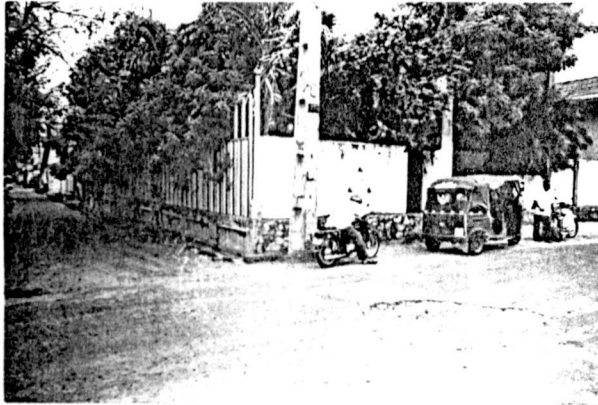
This house seems rather gloomy as the small court yard is covered. This to an extent gains visual privacy.



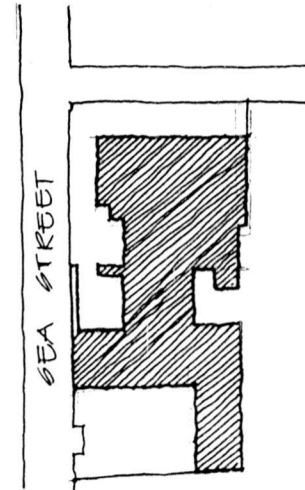
Fig;4.56 Natural lighting directly related to a person's territory.

## Case Study four

This house is occupied by the owner who is a lawyer by profession, his wife and his two married daughters. A boundary of this house is marked by the congested sea street the other is marked by a sub street which discharges traffic to Sea Street from the main street.



Fig;4.58 Location of house



fig;4.57 site plan

The house in concern is a Dutch influenced very old house. It seems that this house is renovated few time depending on various reasons. However, widening of the market street has deprived of many parts of this house from its owner,

To enter into this house three doors have to be opened at the same time. These doors strongly communicate public and private areas to achieve symbolic privacy. Similarly; the entrance gate of this house expresses social status as means of privacy.



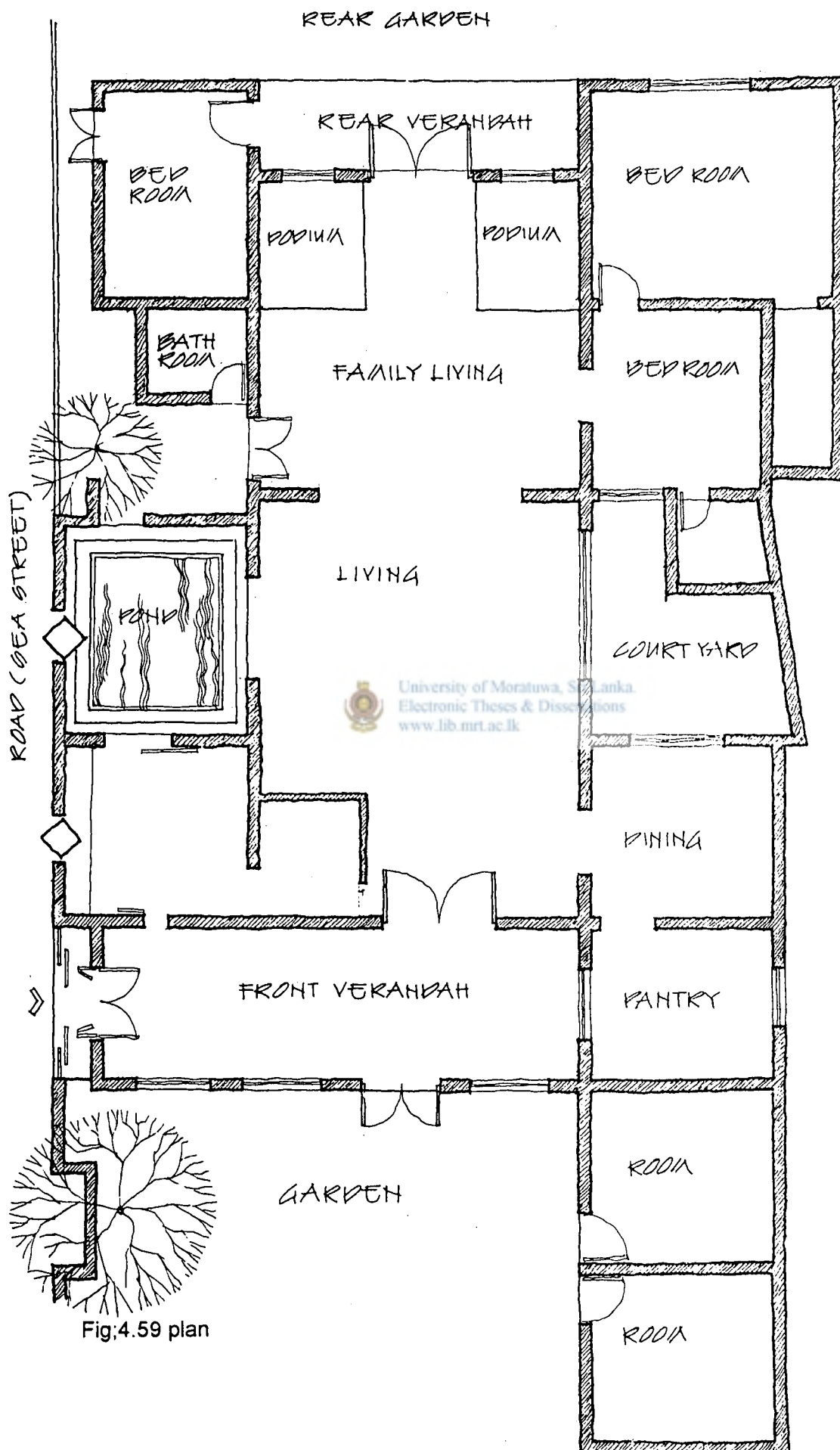


Fig:4.59 plan



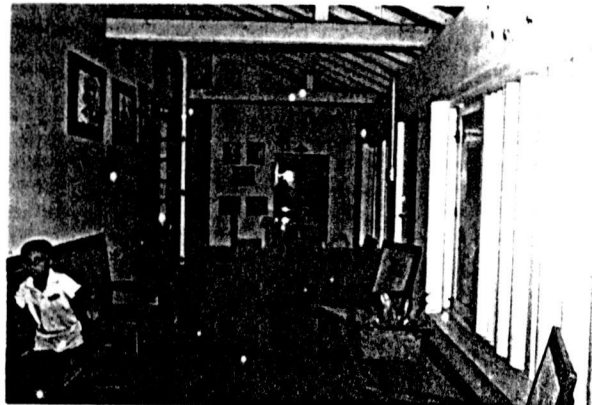
Fig;4.60 Define public and private areas to achieve symbolic privacy.

The walls of this house as well as the boundary walls strongly demarcates their family territory; thereby generating visual privacy and symbolic privacy .



Fig;4.61 well defined boundary well creates symbolic privacy

When one enters into the house what he sees first is the semi enclosed "pila". It is enclosed with the help of timber lattice. This semi - enclosed pila express symbolic and visual privacy.



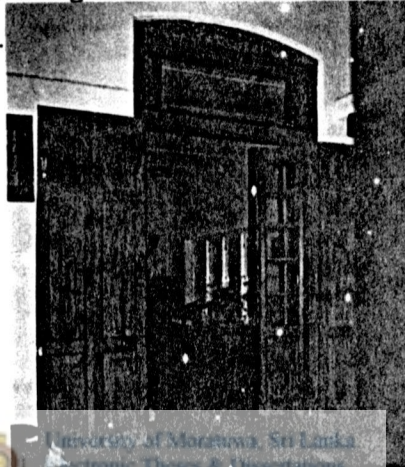
Fig;4.62 Semi enclosed verandah





Fig;4.63 semi enclosed verandah connected with the side garden .

The door which connects the living room with the verandah is determined by the degree of privacy demanded.



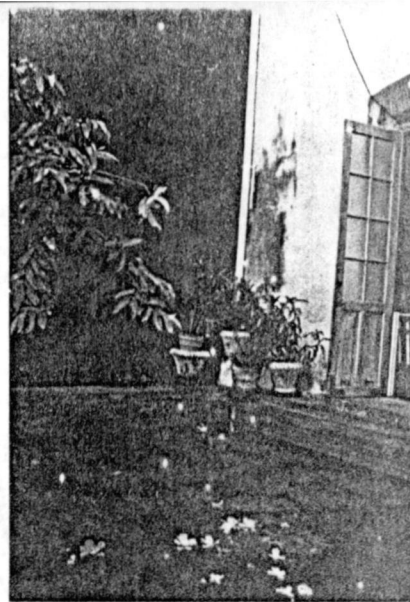
Fig;4.64 Openings determined by the degree of privacy needed.

As well as the volume of the living room is increased, to one side it is opened to the pond , while to the other side it is opened to the courtyard . Large doors are used as openings.

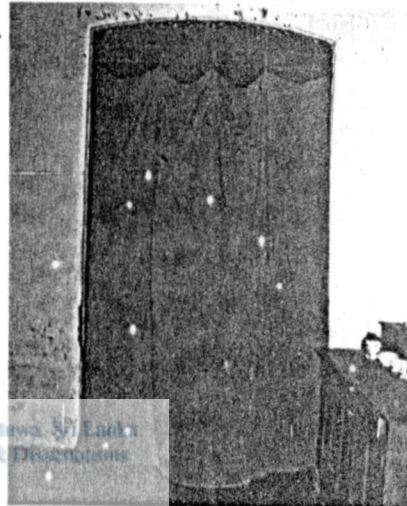


Fig;4.65 More volume less privacy

Fig;4.66 More openings less privacy



The curtains which are used to seclude pantry from the verandah and the dining from the living area generates visual privacy.



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Fig;4.67 Curtains are used to achieve visual privacy the dining and living



Fig;4.68 curtains are used to achieve visual privacy the verandah and pantry

The small door opening from the front verandah into the office room achieves visual privacy; and within the office room, the partition wall that separates the living room from the officer room generates privacy in the office room.



Fig;4.69 Office room

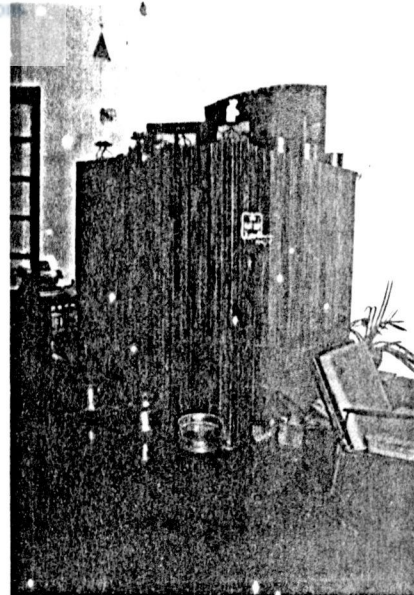


Fig;4.70 The small sliding door between office room and verandah creates a sense of privacy



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fig;4.71 Use of various objects to achieve privacy



To the sides of the T.V. room there seems two podiums. One of them is used to keep the computer thereby creating individual privacy.



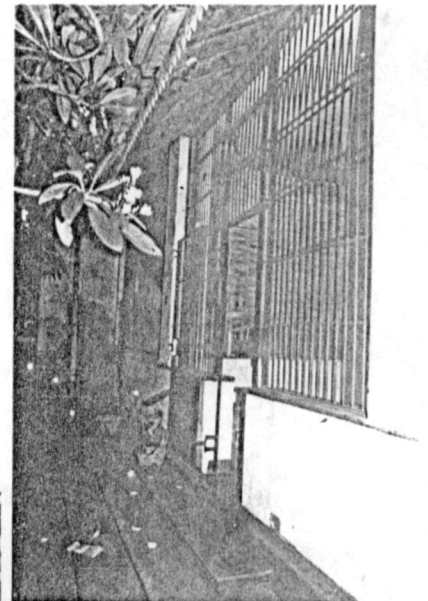
Fig;4.72 Use of different corners.

The two extreme ends of the are modified to becomes bedrooms. The rest of the verandah is equipped with a handrail . The rear boundary wall is defined by a grilled fence and a line of trees thus generating visual privacy.

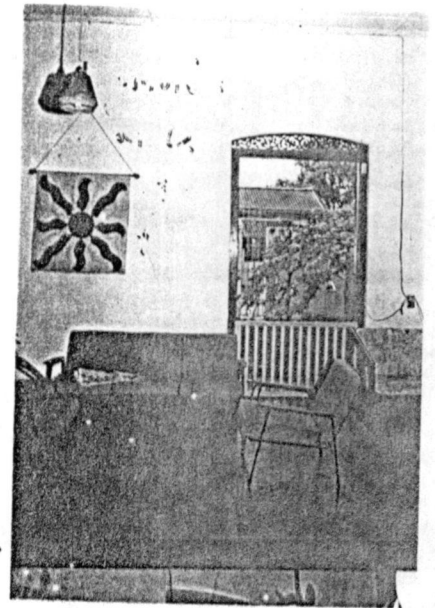


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Fig;4.73 Use of landscape and grill work to achieve visual privacy



Fig;4.74 Use of various objects to achieve auditory and visual privacy.



Fig;4.75 Interior arrangement going desired level of privacy .



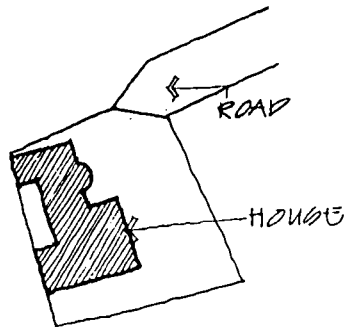
Fig;4.76 Different colours and textures demarcate private and public areas to achieve symbolic privacy .



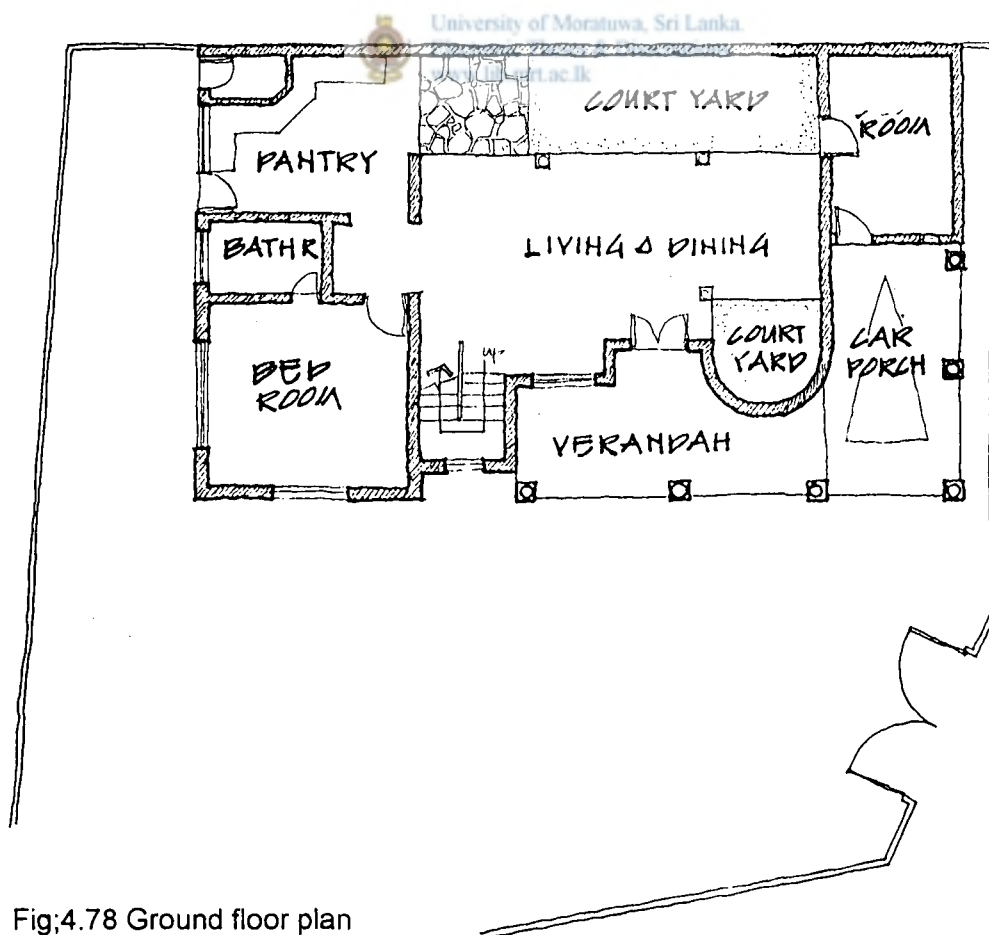
## Case Study Five

The owner of the house is a manager of a Private bank. His wife is not working. He has two children who are still attending to school.

The dwelling is located facing the Chillaw Colombo main road; the last house of the road that is in front of Maristella College.



Fig;4.77 Site plan



Fig;4.78 Ground floor plan



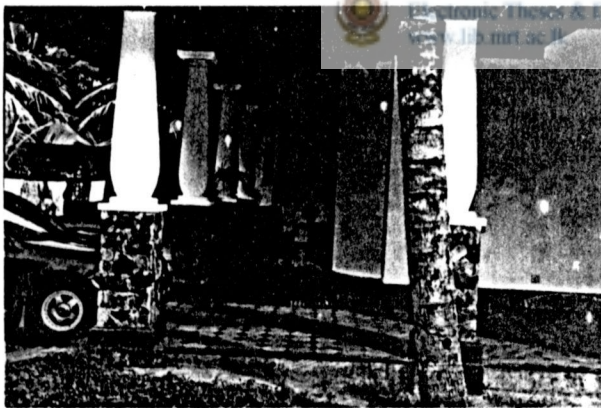
This house is hidden from the main road. It is located eccentrically within the plot of land. The gateway does not direct the user directly to the main road. This, together with the main road demarcates their boundary.



Fig;4.79 Strong well defined boundaries; social status as means of privacy.

The front verandah connects the two extreme ends of their front elevation. It is elegantly furnished and unimportant guests are meant to stop there.

Additionally the verandah expresses a semi enclosed nature by a set of massive columns. The colour of the paving drastically changes when one walks from the verandah into the living room. By all these a symbolic privacy is generated.



Fig;4.80 Decorative paving that demarcate the public area.



Fig;4.81 verandah is turned into a semi enclosed area by a set of massive columns.



Fig;4.81 Demarcation of private and public areas to achieve symbolic privacy. Visitors are mend to stop here.



Fig;4.82 Entrance door defines private and public areas to achieve symbolic privacy.

There are no opening in the living or dining area. There seems small courtyards from their sides instead. The living area is demarcated by two columns. By all these visual and ordinary privacy is created to the living area.



Fig;4.84 No openings at living area ; More privacy.

The volume of living area and the dining area is increased creating a double height space. This creates a very good relation ship between the upper floor and the ground floor.





Fig;4.85 Volume of living space.

The living room is connected to the office room by a lobby and the door is closed covering the interior. Further as a transitional space the hidden lobby creates a sense of privacy.

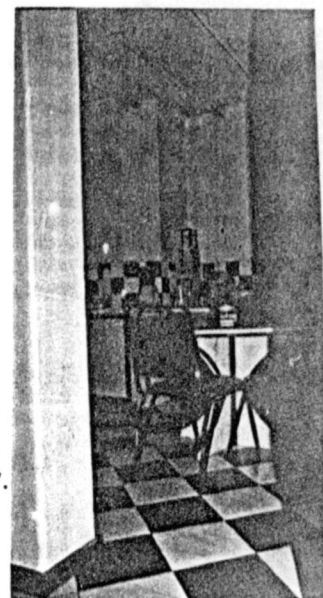


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Fig;4.86 The use of a lobby to hide the office room.

The pantry and family dining area is separated from the living area by a small portion of a wall. Also, the paving at that place is different from others.; Thereby generating symbolic privacy.

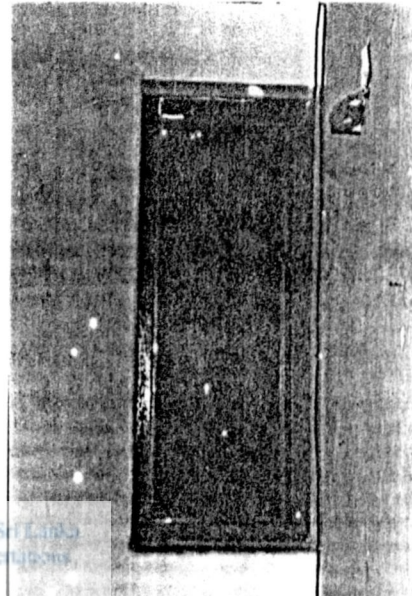


Fig;4.87 Different type of paving provide symbolic privacy.

The office room faces the front garden. The small window of the office room provides a view of the front verandah and the entrance gate.

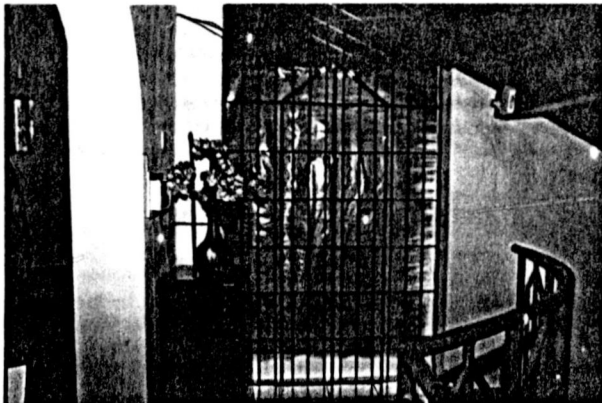


Fig;4.88 Office room



Fig;4.89 small window to observe the territory which enhance territoriality as means of privacy.

The most bedroom and the children's bedroom is in the upper floor. The small family living room, performing as a transitional space generates individual privacy.



Fig;4.90 Family living room-A transitional space.

In the upper floor , large window openings are created. But, to recover the lack of privacy certain area used. By these certain a gradient of visual privacy is generated.



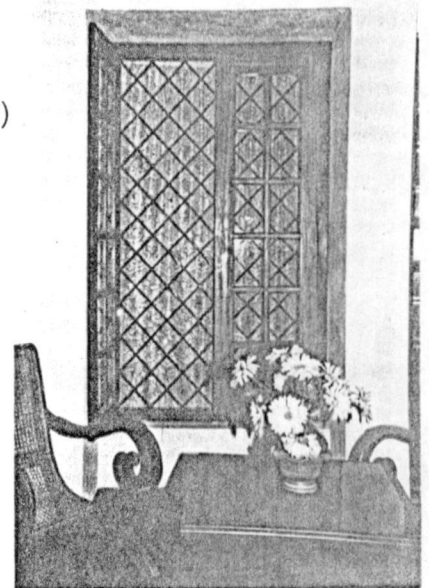


Fig;4.91 Master bed room.

By the furniture arrangement of the living area and the front verandah gains symbolic and psychological privacy. Also it is an effort to express the social status of the house owner.

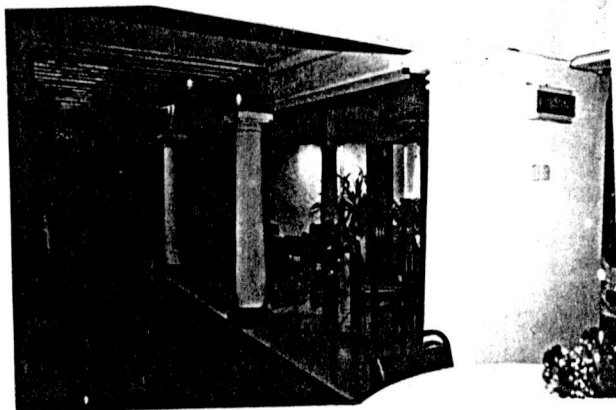


Fig ;4.92 Furniture arrangement that achieves privacy(dining area)



Fig;4.93 Furniture arrangement of the front verandah that achieves privacy.





Fig;4.94 Changes in direction to obstruct view and to maintain privacy.



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## CONCLUSION

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## Conclusion


Certain basic needs must be satisfied to man for his survival. These needs can be categorized in to psychological, physiological, and sociological needs. Privacy can be identified as a psychological and sociological need common to human beings. Privacy need is much more difficult to satisfy because it is a need of the psyche or the inner person. Violation of this need can lead the community strains and stresses. It is observed specially about selected individual people and their privacy expectations through a photographical study at their homes. Also it discusses about the opportunities , people gain from privacy like , ' thinking of problems, planning out the future, creating and originating things. This dissertation attempts to identified what privacy is in literary means and its adoptions to the contemporary domestic architecture.



It is yet crucial to study about many houses still the selected few examples explained very well how privacy plays a vital role in contemporary domestic architecture.

In this study more attention is paid to initiate what privacy is and its manifestation on man made structures. It finally leads to formulate several strategies . these strategies analyzed with a selected some of the contemporary houses and different means of privacy from each house to house. It would provide feed back information for the designers involved in similar projects in the future. Because in at present in Sri Lanka solving of urban housing in different manner according to the user requirements. In this regard it is very important to improving of qualitative aspects such as privacy needs are also much more important because violation of such needs can leads to community strains.

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