

**A study of the TIME dimension in Buildings
and steps towards designing adaptable buildings**



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CONCLUSION

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During the evolutionary process of nature and human development, structures artificially built and naturally built have been closely associated. These built elements gave shelter for the primitive man during the beginning of time and continued to develop into many complex functional parts. Many of these structures were temporary in the beginning and began to develop into permanent and long lasting elements which expressed many of the characteristics of society and the time it existed. The buildings and structures themselves has gone through this evolutionary process to become what they are today. The concept of evolution of buildings is interconnected with the concept of time and its relationship with human behavior.

Time invites change. Change is inevitable in the natural world. When the natural world changes everything around it needs to adjust accordingly to fit in and to survive. Buildings are no exception to this complex natural order. The advances in the modern technology of construction has immensely helped to construct long lasting buildings which normally have a life span of more than 100 years. During this period the time dimension takes its toll on the building by constantly changing various functional and aesthetical elements. All buildings grow, but some grow more outward and some more inward and all buildings is expected to reach out thirty to one hundred years into the future.

The major design problem arising from this issue is how to start designing a building which knows about centuries yet adeptly meets the needs and employs the tools in hand? The probable solution lies in the imagination of the designer to visualize the immediate future and the need to leave adaptable flexibility for the distant future. The idea of designing for future is in it self a challenge and needs much more in-depth analysis to fully comprehend. In many situations predictions of the future, no matter how well it is founded has proven wrong. Society has become evermore complex and inter-dependant on many forces like, political , financial & economical, global trends, environmental issues, and many more which makes it impossible to predict the future path of any society. Which inturn highlight the need to allow adaptivity in buildings so that you give a chance for the building to survive in the unpredictable future.

This study in its first chapter has made an attempt to look at buildings in a different and a more tangible point of view where this time related concept is taken in to consideration. The ' 6-S ' framework gives the designer a break down of the key elements of the building with its inter-relationships with other elements. Therefor, it become clearer as to how and what layers needs more flexibility to adapt in time.

The next chapter is concentrating on the forces which makes buildings need to adapt. The main and most important of all it the Time dimension which makes everything else to rotate around it. These forces needs to be understood in-depth to fully utilize them to design for future. The layers of a building is directly inter-related to all what is discussed within this chapter.

The tools and methods available for the architect to approach this design task has been discussed in the third chapter of this study. A practice adopted by western countries influenced by non-traditional thinking is given the lime light as an alternative and better system which is identified as Scenario Design Method and Evolutionary

Design. These methods may have been a part of our own traditional architectural design methods like the vernacular architecture where adaptation is a key function.

As a concluding remark for this study, an attempt is made to shed light on a architectural issue which is currently gaining widespread prominence, which needs an in depth study. The **Problem-Cause** and the probable **Solution** is made to understand by this study and what is necessary is to put these in practice and evaluate their effectiveness which only time will tell.

"....When we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight, nor for present use alone; let it be such works as our descendants will thank us for....."⁽¹⁾

Instead of discounting time, we can embrace and exploit time's depth.

After all Time becomes the greatest innovator.

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"The Seven Lamps of Architecture", 1989



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