

**STUDENTS' INFORMAL SPACES IN UNIVERSITIES OF  
SRI LANKA. A STUDY ON THEIR USAGE AND FUNCTION.**



**Dissertation presented to the**

**Faculty of Architecture**



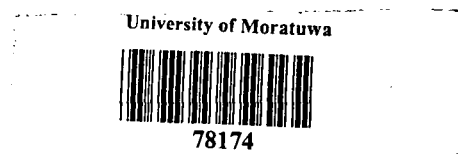
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## ABSTRACT

The Sri Lankan community likes to live in-groups together (informal gathering) in a free and open environment quality which helped to have free movements activities.

The informal space is a pattern of behaviour, which can be varied; a space which encourages such behaviour and is flexible in usage.

Learning is an activity where informal space requirement is greater. Also, depending on the type of learning, the informal education, affective learning has to take place at peak level in university education. For such kind of learning to take place effectively, students must be able to maintain their informal spaces.

A pattern of events that takes place in an affective learning space has a strong similarity to the pattern that takes place in an informal space in a university. In fact effective learning primarily takes place in informal spaces such as, lobbies, courtyards, corridors, canteens, common rooms and student centers in a university. Therefore we may conclude that informal spaces are the effective leaning specs in an university.

Basically there are two types of Sri Lankan University establishments. These are institutions totally designed for purposes of a university and other institutions which have later developed to university status. In these situations, created informal spaces, which are popularly used are neglected.

Informal spaces create more and more opportunities for students' behaviour and living patterns.

Therefore, informal space is an essential part of a design, which contributes to both aesthetical and functional aspects.

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# CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	
<b>CONTENTS</b>	i - ii
<b>LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS</b>	iii - v
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	vi - x
(i) Topic explanation	
(ii) Purpose of the study	
(iii) Intention of the study	
(iv) Scope & limitations	
(v) Methodology	
<b>CHAPTER 01</b>	
<b>THE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION SYSTEM, STUDENT BEHAVIOUR AND ROLE OF THE INFORMAL SPACES</b>	1 -16
1.1 University education system	1
1.1.1 Development of education process	2
1.1.2 Aims of education	2
1.1.3 Learning and types of learning	3
1.1.4 The idea of University education	5
1.1.5 Affective learning in university education	6
1.2 Behaviour of University student	7
1.2.1 University student	7
1.2.2 Student behaviour	7
1.3 Informal spaces in a University	9
1.3.1 Man – space integration	9
1.3.2 Form and shape	10
1.3.3 Space and place	11
1.3.4 The elements of space	12
1.3.5 Usage of informal spaces in University	14

## **CHAPTER 02**

### **EXAMINATION OF STUDENTS' INFORMAL SPACES IN UNIVERSITY (CASE STUDIES) 17 - 50**

2.1	University of Sri Jayawardanapura	18
2.1.1	Back ground study	18
2.1.2	Identifying the zonings at layout	20
2.1.3	Identifying the informal spaces with landscaping	20
2.2	University of Moratuwa	27
2.2.1	Back ground study	27
2.2.2	Identifying the zonings at layout	27
2.2.3	Identifying the informal spaces with landscaping	29
2.3	University of Ruhuna	39
2.3.1	Back ground study	39
2.3.2	Identifying the zonings at layout	41
2.3.3	Identifying the informal spaces with landscaping	43

## **CHAPTER 03**

### **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE STUDENT INFORMAL SPACES AND STUDENTS' BEHAVIOUR. 51 - 69**

3.1	Impact of layout	51
3.2	Impact of informal spaces with landscaping	56

### **CONCLUSION 70 -72**

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY 73 -75**

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
01.	Informal activity with nature.	08
02.	Space created the Center, Enclosure Continuity.	12
03.	Location of university of Sri – Jayawardanapura.	18
04.	Lay out- university of Sri – Jayawardanapura.	19
05.	Tree shade became more comfortable space.	20
06.	View of the major pedestrian path through the forecourt.	21
07.	Benches are arranged in the open area.	21
08.	University forecourt is the main gathering space.	21
09.	Unutilized court yard in Sumangala building.	22
10.	The trees are shaded to the path.	22
11.	Narrow corridors made tight spaces.	23
12.	Informal spaces made by the students along narrow corridors.	23
13.	View of the main entrance lobby, Sumangala building.	24
14.	View of small lobby adapted students informal spaces.	24
15.	Plan of the canteen.	25
16.	Canteen created the open, dynamic quality.	25
17.	Plan of the student center.	26
18.	View of the enclosed court yard of the student center.	26
19.	Location of the Moratuwa University.	27
20.	Lay-out – University of Moratuwa.	28
21.	Civil Engineering laboratories on the lake side	29.
22.	The informal space made by the student at the edge of the path.	30
23.	Students often settle down on the steps.	30
24.	Dark corridors created gloomy environment in Civil Building.	31
25.	Corridors which seating places invite student to linger it.	31
26.	Main entrance lobby with shady atmosphere.	32
27.	View of the neglected stair case lobby.	32
28.	Vast, Mechanical lobby in Eng. Faculty building.	33

29	View of the central lobby in Architecture Dept.	33
30	View of the central courtyard Engineering Faculty	34
31	Open, and dynamic spaces, along the corridor.	35
32.	View of neglected Open Air Theatre.	35
33.	The Boat yard and buildings.	36
34.	View of the Terrace of the Canteen.	37
35.	Space formed in the snack bar.	37
36.	The semi- enclosed area in 'Lecture Block' canteen.	37
37.	Plan of the Student Center.	38
38.	Neglected courtyard used by students.	38
39.	Ruhuna University and its reflection	39
40.	Location of the University of Ruhuna	39
41.	University of Ruhuna – layout.	40
42.	The university community concept showing Sri Lankan identity.	41
43.	A view of the steps leading to the wide-open corridors.	42
44.	Buildings mixed with natural environment.	42
45.	Natural boulders used for informal activities.	43
46.	Built-in seats around the trees.	44
47.	Students use "Ambalama" for social and recreational purposes.	44
48.	The 'light' and 'dark' at the corridor.	45
49	The 'Pila' view of sea and Coconut garden.	45
50.	Built –in seats arranged in the Main entrance lobby.	46
51.	Informal spaces open to the terrace of Arts Faculty building.	46
52.	Wide corridors and narrow columns used for informal discussions.	47
53.	Open dynamic lobby creates informal spaces.	47
54.	Used of natural boulders in lobby.	47
55.	Open terraces used for informal activities. (Open Air Theatre).	48
56.	Courtyard creates a calm environment for students' relaxation.	48
57.	Plan of student center	49
58.	Court yard of Student Center provides different experiences.	49
59.	View of open canteen facing natural environment.	50
60.	Informal spaces made by the students at the sunny corridors.	50
61.	Out door pillars used as part of Students Center canteen.	52

62.	'Square type' university.	52
63.	View of the quadrangle at the university of Newcastle – upon – Tyne.	52
64.	Informal spaces and it's integration.	54
65.	Informal spaces along the pathway.	54
66.	The built facade dives 'enclosure' to informal spaces.	55
67.	The trees along the informal spaces strengthens the enclosure.	55
68.	Pavilion type buildings create communal spaces.	55
69.	Example of community living.	56
70.	Tsinghng University responds to lake.	57
71.	The boat yard at the university of Notting ham.	57
72.	Enclosure space creates for students' relaxation.	57
73.	Human behaviour pattern of informal activities.	58
74.	University of Ruhuna responds to natural environment.	59
75.	Master plan diagram (1991) KOC University Istankbul, Turkey.	59
76.	Stair seat.	60
77.	Garden seat and vista.	60
78.	Seating arrangements to promote contact communication, and informal, social life in pleasant surroundings.	61
79.	Open, dynamic resting places.	61
80.	Natural environment linked with informal activities.	61
81.	Informal spaces are arranged around the built-up areas.	62
82.	University of Washington, Tiered seating in an outdoor landscape.	62
83.	Monotonous corridor.	62
84.	Monotony broken corridor.	62
85.	Open corridor helps freedom.	63
86.	Pathways breaking monotony.	63
87.	Open lobbies function well for informal activities.	64
88.	Used of terraces, Duke University.	65
89.	A Positive space, this space can be felt. It is distinct a place.	66
90.	Negative space. This space is vague an amorphous 'nothing'.	66
91.	Open dynamic, Quality important for leisure.	67
92.	Space formed in the center - Restaurant University of Essex	67

