EXAMINATION OF LANDSCAPE
CONCEPTS EMBODIED IN FORMATION
OF PUBLIC OPEN PLACES IN SRI LANKAN
CITIES AND ITS USER PERCEPTIONS.

The dissertation present to the faculty of architecture
University of Moratuwa,
Sri Lanka
FOR THE M.Sc (Architecture) examination and,
exception from RIBA part11

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MARCH 2002
Acknowledgement

To all those who were teachers and
still are, who revealed to me the
wonders of the spirit...

Deep love and gratitude to,
my dear parents, Bandara, Kasun
and Dinali
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ABSTRACT

When man creates the building not only does he create an internal space for himself, but changes and reshapes his landscape. Which he shares with his fellow lack of sensitivity and planning in design gives way to lost and alien spaces.

The meaningful relationship between these buildings and its surrounds holds the context as a coherent whole. When these spaces are imbued with values and meanings of that society, it invokes emotions in the individual.

This type of space touches our heart. These spaces live on in our minds even after they cease to exist concretely. A feeling of nostalgic remembrance may linger on making us happy and contented, and an unconscious smile may play upon our lips. We go back to them even in our dreams...

This has become an enduring space. The study sets out to discover the principles that create enduring spaces.
INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

a) Background of the study

The purpose of the study is to review some of the evidence and finding of the man environment interaction in open public spaces and how it applies to an urban situation. Thus public open spaces would become more important in the future and the role of the urban space would be especially important in that context. Also urban public open spaces should give priority to this and region the community spirit.

Considering the sense of 'inside' and 'outside' of intimacy and exposure of private life and public space, people everywhere recognize these distinctions. But the awareness may be quite vague. Constructed forms have the power to heighten the awareness and accentuate, as it were, the difference in emotional temperature between 'inside' and 'outside'. In Neolithic times the basic shelter was a round semi-subterranean hut, a womblike enclosure that contrasted vividly with the space beyond. Later the hut emerged above ground, moving away from the earth matrix but retaining and even accentuating the contrast between interior and outside by the aggressive rectilinear of its walls. At a still lager stage, corresponding to the beginning of urban life, the rectangular courtyard domical appeared. It is noteworthy that these steps in his evolution of the house were followed in all the areas where Neolithic culture made the transition to urban life.

Therefore during the modern period according to the urbanization, urban city dwellers feel urban stresses. Therefore they need better place to relax their mind. Therefore open spaces gives grate help for that.

But the study shows that the actual and potential characteristics of urban open spaces are too little considered. Individual buildings are given importance, while ignoring any responsibility to the public space of the city. These are often seen as lost spaces or to emphasize social and economical factors that cut through urban
phenomena, in such a way as to allow open space to remain unrecognized and lost in their negative connotations.

Therefore, it is appropriate to start this dissertation by saying that “Today’s architecture” has less sensitivity towards its environment often they are unsympathetic to its surrounding or at its worst “alien”. They do not enhance nor heighten the existing characteristic of the environment in which they are placed. If this situation continues, not only will we have to experience horrible set of buildings. But we will not have enough open public places to be seen in urban situation.

The reason for the above unsatisfactory or alien open spaces and lost spaces may be the less sensitivity or rather superficial understanding of the environment by the designer or some time due to less experience of handing the new methods which are pouring to the world today. This was happened after the industrial revolution. The major issue could be lack of understanding to see what aspects and components of the environment or context should be taken in to consideration.

The study highlights the fact that the relationship of public space to public life is dynamic and reciprocal. New forms of public life require new open spaces and these new spaces create opportunities for increased public life. Public can come together in a supportive context of mutual enjoyment and accordingly the urban public open space will carry positive communal meanings for create an enduring space to the nature.

Fig 1 Enduring space (source-Ganga)
Thus the third chapter was devoted to understanding some of the architecture principles, which help in creating enduring spaces.

Enduring architecture is not a “kind” of architecture, it was established that the relevance of these principles rested upon their significance and mainly to man-meaningful in relation to his physical and psychological needs and aspirations. When the environmental facilities his basic need for orientation in terms of his ability to exist meaningfully, man psychologically forms a bond: a bond between himself and the built environment.

This bond created by man is not precise, defined, or fixed rather it is intangible and flexible. It changes from person to person, place to place and time to time. Also the bond is discussed in relation to the “whole” or “total” man. Thus the concept of man is expanded to encapsulate the “universal man” along with the cultural man. Therefore man forms an enduring bond with “his buildings”. It fulfills a rudimentary need in man; his need to give meaning to his existence though his buildings. While making his life meaningful; this primordial relationship intrigues him too.

Therefore if we look around our environment in micro level, in our cities and the country and in macro level in the region and in the entire world, there are many beautiful built environments, which can be cited as example for “the built environment harmonizing with open public spaces”

The task is made doubly difficult by the lack of any specific literature on “enduring architecture”. Hence the material for the study is drawn from the available literature on parallel concepts, which deal with this subject in a rather indirect manner and academic discussion as well as personal observations and interpretations.

Study concentrates mainly on the qualitative aspects, which lead to, enduring architecture rather than the physical elements of endurance which may be dependent on structural strength, economic reasons, cultural or historic significance etc.

An urban space can be defined as a component of an extensive physical arrangement of buildings, road net works and open spaces within the limited physical demarcation of the city.
A city is the ultimate gathering place for people. It's countless and varied urban spaces are the celebration of human expressions in relation to enlarged community activities. A city is an interesting combination of its society, their ever-increasing desires to progress and extending physical developments upon a natural setting.

One city may vary from another according to different degrees of combinations. As a result, the entire urban context may become a complex arrangement of different types of spaces. The essence of such variations of spaces is the people of that city, their expressions through activities and related physical development.

Therefore urban space becomes a source for activity and experience for people, for establishing their lifestyles and expressing their inner emotions. Since urban contexts provide dense environments of built-up manmade elements, people of that context, belonging to it or otherwise, perceive spaces strictly within this built-up setting.

But "Environment" was the fashionable 'buzz-word' of 1980s and 90s. During this period the scopes and domain of many academic and professional disciplines have been re-defined by changing over to 'environment' as the framework of reference. More specifically, the driving philosophies of those disciplines have changed from a social or economic perspective to an environmental perspective. The concerns on environment have influenced a major shift of paradigms all over the world.

In the cause of this paradigm shift, the environmentalists who focus their attention on the 'natural environment' and its four basic constituents viz., biosphere, hydrosphere, have been successful in influencing the society, economy, industry and most importantly international politics and business.

They have been highly successful in stressing the importance of safeguarding the natural environment for long-term sustainability of the mankind. However, even after a several decades of existence, the general public. Conventional viewpoints on environment are yet to distinguish built-environment as a distinct component the environment, particularly as one that equally influences the quality of living of mankind.
If the built environment is the domain of architects and urban designers, is this delay in recognition due to the failure of them in performing their duties, or due to their different priorities?

Therefore should be generates some conceptual insights into the school of thought on built-environment. It is based on the premise that the failure in drawing sufficient recognition and distinction to the built-environment is due to the over emphasis on its physical, spatial and visual dimensions, and lack of attention on the social dimensions, by architects and urban designers over the last few decades. It more over argues that Environmental Design as practiced by architects and urban designers is more focused on the creative process of built forms and physical elements rather than the transformation of social space.

The term ‘environment design’ is usually used to denote the process of designing buildings to suit certain environmental parameters or microclimatic conditions (e.g., tropical buildings). Some times this term is used as a synonym to landscape architecture since the realm of latter involves designing of artificial environments.

However, if architecture in a broader sense refers to the wider built-environment, not just the building or the landscape around them, then the term ‘environmental design’ can be used in a much broader sense to denote the process of designing the built-environment. School of thought on ‘built environment’ has failed to create a similar impact or even draw sufficient attention of the environment conscious states.

Similarly the term ‘built-environment’ despite its frequent appearances in academic and professional literature, is still an embolus term used differently by deferent professional groups under different circumstances. Sometimes its is used as a synonym for architecture. When given urban focus designers who attempt to create built-environments for urban systems see it as ‘urban design’ or ‘urban architecture’.

Designers of built environment often consider the private realm of built-environment as the responsibility of architect, private interface as the responsibility of landscape of architect, public private interface as the responsibility of landscape architects, and public realm as the responsibility of urban designers. Urban planners also attempt to affiliate the responsibility of built-environment to their profession
while taking urban design to their fold and assigning only the task of building design to architects.

Contrary to this viewpoint Geri (1987) in his seminal work “Life between Buildings” advocates a humanistic approach to architecture in corporate everyday activities and their specific demands on the man-made environment. In Malmsey’s (1988) view architecture and urban fabric are seen as world embedded in the sentence, which means architecture as carefully designed object is meaningless, unless they are arranged in a logical syntax in the existing urban fabric.

Lastly this study intends to demonstrate how the primordial relationship with manmade landscape and open public spaces and how it forms the base for understanding the nature of an enduring relationship: the ‘bond’ between man and his build.

b) Aims and objectives.

In the context that the present day approach to design has neglected the qualities aspects of open public spaces, the study highlights the importance of open public space in modern urban life. The aim of this dissertation is to design principles concepts that contribute towards creating positive open public spaces.

In order to do this the study includes to,

1. Develops and explores the ideas of ‘enduring place’ as an ideal situation where mans psychic social and physical needs are fulfilled and define this, in terms of the man environment relationship.
2. Identity the constituenuets of an enduring space.
3. Discover and define the design strategies involved in creating such a place.
4. Illustrate how these principles have been manipulated in local urban examples and determine their success or failure based on user perception.
c) Scope and limitation

Man recognized the importance of dealing, with the outdoors from very early ages. Thus place and place ness. Physical works on the outdoors, the man made in combinations with the nature, are mainly called works of landscaping.

Therefore in the process of history attitude and techniques have been refined. Modern man learns all these examples. Therefore can be searching for the principles and concepts of exterior designing earlier and now and how it works and how it enhances with certain qualities of architecture.

A study of this nature can be intensive in its capacity being based on its qualitative attributes. It will attempt to identify the fundamental principles and strategies in designing good manmade landscape to create an enduring space as a public place. This study will help to understand the importance of open spaces as an architectural entity in the man made landscaping context and to identify the determinant factors of such spaces. That helps them to functions to their fullest capacity to fulfill the users’ needs. In this attempt the author will consider only the outdoor public spaces and even the case studies will be chosen within the limits of Kandy city.

d) Methodology

In the attempt to examine rather illusive concepts and how to create an enduring space through manmade landscape. Therefore bulk of material presented is derived through literature surveys touching smaller ideas. These ideas and concept have been stated and interpreted. In general as well as in personal points of view, this is done to establish and re-interpret the concept in logical manner. At the onset, a broader view of the concept of enduring is looked at.

Therefore this dissertation deals with urban design concepts dealing with enduring principles in relation to the landscape. The historical aspects can formulate the basis of manmade landscape what aspects to be studied or observed in which using for case studies, to be based on the urban design concepts that need to be evaluated. And have to find the Enhancing the importance of studding about the landscape architecture in relation to its role, function, significance, and character so on. And it’s
historical importance, its principles and elements applying ways though the past up to now.

This is intended to defined enduring space lost space and alien space of open public space though combination of literature surveys and observations. Therefore in order to defined public places will discuss the specific factors and in formations indicates under objectives though literature surveys, personal observations and case studies.

The conclusion will be derived from the aspects that studied above and it will formulate a definition to the nation of manmade landscape in open public spaces.