TRANSITION IN THE CITY

USE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY TO CREATE A RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT



EUVERSITY E. A CAYSINA, SANSONIA MUMALUWA

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Electronic Theses & Dissertations

A DISSERTATION PRESENTED AS SUBJECT
TO THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA SRI LANKA
FOR THE
MASTER OF SCIENCE EXAMINATION IN ARCHITECTURE

72" 02" 725 (548·7)

University of Moratuwa

78101

T.A.S WEERAKOON 2002

: 44. *

um Thesis coll.

78191

CONTENTS Abstract Acknowledgement List of illustrations	PAGE iii iv v
Introduction	1
CHAPTER ONE CITY - RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT	
1.1 City is	3
1.1.1 City structure	4
1.1.1.1Physicalappearence	4
a) Object	4
b) fabric	5
c) Spatiality and spatial organization	5
1.2 Buildings in the city	6
1.2.1 Variety of buildings	7
1.2.2 Group values	7
1.3 Urban context as a unifying space	8
1.3.1 Centre	8
1.3.2 Enclosure	8
1.3.3 Continuity	9
1.4 Character of the city	9
1.4.1 Organization of masses	10
1 4.2 Activity patterns University of Moraliwa, Sri Lanka.	11
1.4.3 Spatial progression www.lib.mrt.ac.lk	12
4.2 4 Spirit of place	13
1.4.5 Architectural continuity	13
1.5 A responsive environment-a unified whole	14
CHAPTER TWO UNITY IN ARCITECTURE	
2.1 Unity is	16
2.2 Perceptual principles that governs the unity	18
2.2.1 The principle of pragnanz	18
2.2.2 The principle of figure and ground	18
2.2.3 The principle of similarity and proximity	19 ·
2.2.4 Symmetry, regularity and continuity	19
2.3 The experience of unity in architecture	20
2.4 Perceptual principles and strategies to achieve unity	21
2.4.1 The strategies to achieve unity	21
2.4.1.1 Primary strategies	21
a) Composition of masses	. 21

	b) Repetition of similarities	21
	c) Repetition of proportions	22
	d) Rhythm and Continuity	· 23
	e) Punctuation and inflection	23
	f) Dominant binder	24
	g) Building line and skyline	24
	2.4.1.2 Secondary strategies	25
	a) Façade treatments	25
	Doors and windows	25
	Ornamentation	25
	b) Materials, details, textures and colors	25
	c) Roofscapes	25
2.5 Unity for r	responsive environment	26
2.5.1	Unity of varieties	26
2.5.2	Unity of its beauty	27
2.5.3	Constraints to achieve unity	28
CHAPTER THE	REE DN - AN EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN TWO SEGMENTS	
3.1 Transition	ı is	29
3,1.1	Transformation trough a transition	30
3.1.2	Role of transition	32
3.2 Types of 1 3.2.1	transition Function as a major generator of transition	32 33
3.3 Architect	ural characteristics and its relevance	34
3.3.1	Transition- the prelude	34
	Transition-as a unification	35
3.4 Importan	ce of transition for responsive environment	35
CHAPTER FO	UR E TRANSITION IN THE CITY OF COLOMBO	
4.1 Introduction	on -Basis for selection	37
4.2 Analysis f	or correlation	38
4.2.1	Colombo Fort to Sea Beach Street	39
4.2.2	Kollupitiya to Borella	43
	Town Hall to Vauxhall street	47
4.2.4	Slave Island to Java Street	50
Conclusion		53
Bibliography		56

ABSTRACT

Transition is a place where the world reverses it self. It is the beginning of an experience and the end of another experience. If we were sufficiently rapid and remarkable transition would be the most evocative point of all evanescent ambiguous and moving. Between two extremes transition takes place which is distinguished to be the zone of transition in the transition zone the character of a district will gradually and smoothly be diversified into the character of an another district.

A city is aimed to become a unified whole in the final picture of it. Transition therefore is needed to equalize the different characters and arrive at a unique character with a unitary expression. It of course will make the city a responsive environment that also is visually comfortable. Transition therefore plays a vital

role in unifying a city. The city experience then will become a meaning and delightful owing to transition.

ACKNOWLEDEMENT

I am indebted to my parents and my sisters for their firm encouragement in my studies especially in the dissertation.

Secondly I must be grateful to the entire academic staff of the faculty of architecture not only for their helping hands for the dissertation but also for the valuable knowledge which they offered me during the six year course of study.

The valuable guidance of Archt. Ravin Gunarathne and archt. Vinod Jayasinghe and their encouragement should be appreciated.

I sincerely wish to thank Hiranya for being with me whenever help is needed. Finally I thankfully memorize my colleagues especially Deepthi, Roshini, Charuni, Hasamali and Nuwan.



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS		PAGE
1.	City and people	3
2.	'Restless' movement	4
3.	Object	4
4.	Spatiality of an object	6
5.	spatiality of objects	6
6.	Variety of buildings	7
7.	Group values	7
8.	Centre	8
9.	Enclosure	8
10.	Continuity	9
11.	Siena- a rhythmic continuity	9
12.	Centralized organization	10
13.	Linear organization	10
14.	Clustered organization	11
15.	Grid organization	11
	Activities in the city	11
17.	Spatial sequence	12
18.	San Marco –Venice	13
19.	Architectural style	14
	Responsive environment	14
	City a unified whole	15
	Unity –a complete expression	16
	Unity the quality of 'oneness'	16
24	Unity of building facades	17
25 .	Principle of pragnanz	18
26.	Principle of Figure and Ground	18
27.	Nolli map	19
28.	Similarity and proximity	19
29.	3D perspective of buildings	20
	Enclosure by buildings	22
31.	Repetition of similarities	22
32.	Repetition of proportions	22
33 .	Unifying arcades	22
34.	Siena- rhythmic movement	23
35.	Punctuation	23
36.	Church spire- a dominant element	24
3 7.	Various characters in the city	24
38.	Conformity of the roofs	25
	Unity of varieties	26
	Unity of exclusion	26
	Unity and beauty	27
	Unity- a psychological soothing	27
	High rise and low rise	30
	Absence of transition	30
	Sudden transformation	31
-	Smooth transformation	31
	Physical transition	32

48.	Map of Gotoberg	33
49.	Functions and characters	34
50.	Map of Colombo	38
	Map of Fort	39
52.	Chathem street clock tower	39
53.	York street-group values	40
54.	Continuos building mass	40
55.	Grindlays bank	40
56.	Termination of grand character	40
57.	Visual connection-Fort to Pettah	41
58.	Regular building line	41
59 .	Group value	41
60.	Colombo central supper market	42
61.	Residential setting	42
62.	Galle road	42
63.	Map of Kollupitiya	43
64.	Liberty plaza	43
65.	Changing character of Kollupitiya	44
66.	Building with nature	44
67.	Town hall	44
68.	Map of Town Hall	45
69.	Heylese building	45
70.	Building with nature	45
71.	Commercial building	46
72.	Map of Town Hall to Vauxhall street	47
73.	Institutional buildings	47
74.	Heylese buildings University of Moraduwa, Sri Lanka. Electronic Theses & Dissertations	47
75.	Dialog building	48
76.	The broken skyline	48
77 .	Continuos skyline	48
78.	Monotonous appearance	48
79.	The building group	49
80.	Presence of middle rise buildings	49
81.	Residential buildings	49
82.	Map of slave island	50
83.	Nippon hotel	50
84.	Slave Island junction	50
85.	Rhythm of skyline	50
86.	Unity over chaos	51
87.	Horizontal rhythm	51
88.	Less enclosure- less unity	51
89.	Residential community	52