

CONCLUSION

- Every street Edge has an existing quality and character to be maintained. Every building that comes up should maintain such character and lead the context both physical and social towards the future. Design should relate to the present but create a potential towards the development in the future. This response to the future must be a subtle one but maintaining the existing context must be very prominent. Since people adopt and respond to changes gradually they cannot adjust to drastic changes. If by any chance too much of change is done it will result in anti spaces.

 - Design of a street edge could be implemented to make better streets in the future. But in this process the changes must not disrupt the lives of today's man. Most designers and planners build and design for the future. They do not realize that the future man is born through the man of today. If today's generation is left unhappy and frustrated the future generation will be a resultant of such frustrations. Therefore in order to create a beautiful environment for tomorrow one must not forget that human lives play an important role in making the environment beautiful.
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- Therefore in order to design for a healthy generation we must look after the present. This is an issue that is always forgotten. In the rush of the fast world and technology designers and planner have lost the sensitivity towards the little things that makes people happy. For instance shady trees along the street could make man a happier person than the grand sidewalks, and technology along the street. People can be made happy by manipulating the streets in many simple ways. Bringing people together, creating places to sit, stand and lean, or simply a shade to stand and chat can make a world of a difference to society. Such simple gestures can spring out into a fascinating social context rich in life, culture, values and meanings. It is a simple and most basic element that a designer need to add to the physical set up which there after man will take over and create, personalize to suite the societies need and trends. What designers need to do is add the essence and leave the rest for man to create. Every human being has a designer in him. His basic instincts can create what is good and pleasing to him. Therefore designers must have faith in the users of public space. This becomes an important issue to make note of in the design of public space. It is a little that a designer must do and a lot that the public must do. A designer must allow

for man to create his own setting. It is only then that it will fit the social context in perfect harmony.

- Looking at today's situation with this line of thinking one could come up with many conclusions as to how the street edge must be responded to. As studied the contents of the street edge is the physical and social fabric and the invisible link that is the response of man to the built fabric. As understood in the case studies, firstly one needs to study the existing fabric of streets in Sri Lanka. Every street has a story to tell and in this story lies the lives of a thousand people. Reading this story is to read the expressions of human habitation. Therefore as designers a thorough understanding of the built fabric and place making will evolve with an enlightenment of the link between man and the built edge. These links may be negative or positive as a designer both aspects are important. Negative aspects will need change while positive aspects will need improvement and there is also another aspect, which is the **potential**. Every fabric has its potential if as a designer one does not see such potentials it's a great pit fall in design. Because one must build on the potentials that are existing and not impose potentials. Ideas of improvement spring from the context, the people of the site and not the mind of the designer. Every designer has his or her dreams. Such dreams should not be fulfilled at the cost of the site or the users of a space. A designer must be unselfish to his desires. He must understand what the context desires and what the people desire. Only then must he blend his own desires with the desires of the site. (Site meaning man and the built fabric)

- The streets of Sri Lanka and the people of Sri Lanka have great potentials for development and bearing much fruit. At present the only form of development taking place is the upliftment of street comforts by road widening and widening of sidewalks and supply of better lighting. Such upliftments are extremely necessary to keep up to the increase in traffic flow and growth rate of the country. But what one must not forget, as discussed earlier is the fact that such streets cannot develop and change over night. Maybe physically it can but not socially. Man needs to adjust gradually. If the user is not given the privilege to change at his own personal instincts he will be left a frustrated man. He no more will fit into the environment that he was once comfortable in. it is similar to breaking down a mans home and building him another. This action seems very simple and can be done in two steps that is 1. Breaking Down and 2.

Building another. Though the actions seems simple the hidden depth of such actions are severe and intense. To a designer both these actions must be comprehensive, full of depth and meaning which needs much thought and sensitivity. After the home is the mans life. Breaking down a home is like killing a man. There is a part of that man dies when his home is broken and there is part of him that fears, when he has to adjust to another. When he cannot adjust his fears will turn to anger, to depression and stress leaving behind an unhappy man. This is not what architecture is all about. The end result of a designer is to make people happy. Make happy places that will create happy atmospheres. Therefore this example can be taken in the context of the street. The street s like a second home. Each and every human being has bonded with some part of a street in some way. May it be the street one lives in, or a favourite shopping street and so on. Therefore when these streets change people undergoes and bears the results of such change. This makes it extremely necessary that designers and planners when taking something away from a street must also learn to give something back. Something that can satisfy the human beings. A Street that could respond to mans needs.

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- The fact that the street could include a variety of social activity must not be forgotten. A street is not merely for transportation but a much more richer experience, the street resembles the quality of a city and the quality of a country and its people. Sri Lanka being a country with much rich culture and social norms, values etc. must have streets that will encourage such aspects of the people. After the entire street to many people is a second home. Especially in a developing country as Sri Lanka man finds his social space on the street. The space that he comes into contact with others. A space that gives him the opportunity to interact exchange ideas and socialize. Therefore the streets must allow for such activity and more. The street space should be a stage set for the people. It should be a space for informal gathering and public performances.
 - The street edge plays a major role in creating place along the street. Man responds to various attributes of a street. As discussed earlier such attributes is a key to designing street edges and streets that is responding and communicating with man. The edge in the form that is built, its shape, sizes, coloures, textures create the ambiance of the street. Therefore when buildings come up along the edge the designer is greatly responsible to the public, the thousands of people that will pass by his design. While

man walks he experiences the edge. Therefore every edge must respond to man. Or else a collection of irresponsive edges will only create vacuums of space for man to transit. This should not be the case. Each building edge has a role to play. A role to play in making that part of the street a place to be in. this can be achieved in many way as discussed in the concluding remarks of the case studies. Therefore the designer's role would be to activate space into place, to know what element in what form should be added into a space to create a place is the task of the designer and to do this well as concluded by this study he must be sensitive to the physical as well as the social fabric of the site. To end the efforts of this study I will quote its very essence:

**“To design for today, at this very moment, at this very site for this very person
Is far greater than the design for tomorrow,
For that strange moment, for that strange site, for that strange person
For if not for yesterday, there is no today and if not for today there will be no
tomorrow.”**



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