AN EXAMINATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
HOUSING POLICY AND OBJECTIVES IN SRI LANKA WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE
ARCHITECTURAL IMPLICATIONS.

A Dissertation
Submitted to the Department of Architecture of the
University of Moratuwa in partial fulfilment of the
Requirement for the degree of

Master of Science in
Architecture

RANATUNGA R.M.P.
JANUARY 2003
"My house cannot be someone else's work of Art,  
Because it is mine."

Irvin Attman in Homes and Homelessness
To my parents,
For the emotional support
Throughout
My university
Life.....
I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains neither previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of a university or other institute of higher studies, except where an acknowledge is made in the text.

Ranatunga R.M.P.
Date: 02.01.2003
This dissertation is successfully completed with invaluable assistance, encouragements and guidance given by many individuals and organizations. Gratitude must be personally extended to every one of them.

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An Examination of the Relationship between Housing Policy and Objectives in Sri Lanka with special reference to the Architectural Implications.

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<td>Colombo Municipal Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDFC</td>
<td>Housing Development Financing Corporation</td>
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<td>HHP</td>
<td>Hundred Thousand Houses Program</td>
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<td>IYSH</td>
<td>International year of shelter for homeless</td>
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<td>MHP</td>
<td>Million Houses Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHDA</td>
<td>National Housing Development Authority</td>
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<td>OMHP</td>
<td>One &amp; Half million Houses Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>STP</td>
<td>Sustainable Township Program</td>
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<td>UDA</td>
<td>Urban Development Authority</td>
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Preface

Architecture is a broad and complex field of study. The problem solving process in Architecture is a vast field and related to aspects such as human needs appreciation and experiences and client requirement, user needs etc.

Especially Studying Housing Architecture and its related aspects is also vast and complex field to study. Housing and its related activities such as housing policy is very complex to examine. Because housing policy can be addressed by an Economist, Planners, Project Managers or Architects. In this study the main emphasis has been made towards the Architectural aspects of the Housing Policy since only Architects are capable to understand the implication of such a complex subject.

The dissertation at the Master of Science in Architecture Degree would provide the student with an opportunity to exercise his or her skills throughout the academic career in solving the problem of a selected research topic. This would exhibit the skills he or she may gain by achieving excellence in Architectural research and could be considered as the threshold to the profession of Architecture. The academic period during which time the dissertation has to be prepared is very limited since time will have to be spared for lectures and comprehensive design studies. Dissertation implies dedicated research based studies and therefore due to restricted time period it is not possible to submit a comprehensive study, especially in the field of Housing Policy. At the level of M Sc, the research undertaken by me, although limited in certain areas, is yet to the best of knowledge I have presented this paper to cover all aspects of the said policy.

Research is merely a systematic inquiry, while most Architectural practitioners do engage in some form of inquiry in the course of their professional work. What is perhaps lacking is the systematic search that yields generaliseable results. Such an inquiry is essential if we are to create knowledge. In our knowledge economy those who are able to create knowledge holds the key to success.
Architectural research "mere" inquiries into reality. Architectural research must be capable of informing the practice of Architecture. Such a knowledge base will help the profession wean itself away from a near total reliance upon intuitive understanding, historical precedent and personal experience. The Architectural profession will then be able to rely more upon research and scholarship as the basis for its practice. (C. F. Joroff and Morse, 1984: 15-16)

This research is valid timely and practical orientated and also applied to the Sri Lankan context. This the main reason for selecting this topic mentioned as “An Examination of the Relationship between Housing Policy and Objectives with special reference to the Architectural Implications.”

The main task of this research was to translate the theoretical aspects of the Housing Policy to a more practical application, so that Architects could understand its implications.

The importance of the Policy on Housing, identified through this dissertation outlines its practical and Architectural implications. However it is rather difficult at the M Sc level to present an in depth study covering all aspects of the Housing Policy.

As an emerging developing country such as Sri Lanka, it is not possible to ascertain whether the system what could be termed a normal practice for the formation of a Housing Policy, which evolves first with the Political Ideology, then its theory, thereafter the strategies, and thereafter the formation of a Housing Policy is adopted. It is mainly based on this concept and without any bias that this study is presented to co-relate the relationship between the Housing Policy, its Objectives and with special reference to the Architectural Implications. It is possible to go further than this and identify more implications but due to time limitations it is refrained. The concluding comments and discussions suggest the studying to improve the knowledge in a more measurable manner.
Abstract

Housing is for peoples living. It has many interrelated aspects in the context of built environment. The people process of living in a present crucial and critical in the provision of housing. "If provision of shelter is the passive function of the house, then its positive purpose is the creation of an environment best suited to the way of a people, in other words, a social unit of space." In this study express the political philosophy and its interrelated process of practicing.

The first chapter that introduced the connection between the housing policy and its political philosophy on housing. That principal theory, strategy and being a policy.

The second chapter discussed the needs and practices in Sri Lankan housing. Need of the user are not only facer that creating appropriate shelter. That it discusses the how architects caught these essential housing needs on practicing housing.

In third chapter it will discussion on the relationship between policy, practices and architectural implications by using related examples. Further discuss the merits and demerits of the projects.

Finally it concluded how architects imply to these policy variations and the practicing architecture.
Introduction:

1. Preamble:

   A House expresses a man’s esteem and given dignity to his life; further he reaches high degree of self. That’s why the house becomes a most fundamental element in built environment, which requires for his existence. That spatial environment provides shelter for his family also provides contemplation for his mind.

   The man also is a social being; his natural tendency is to live in together with his own self-expressions. This togetherness creates collective places for their existence. These are the causes for the development of human settlement patterns.

   By the changes of time, its has an impact on many factors such as increasing population attributing to over populated cities, that transforms to the several compact units within a restricted area which again results in conflict. The ultimate results are being a dense housing situation.

   This is a more crisis in most part of the world. Really it becomes a more complex social problem. This is a crucial issue in developing countries. The dwelling areas that have in consequence arisen in our countries tend to be lifeless settlements. In this complex situation housing design is a crucial issue dealing with many aspects. Professionals as an architect who have the design sensitivity and is consciousness of their identity, and social behaviour are best suited to provide an answer for these dwellings that have been built in such a manner.

   The global context of housing phenomena has many dimensions, and it is multiracial. When looking at this situation, the designer should be concerned with many perspectives. The creation of a built environment is interplay of many angles such as climatic, technology, economic, politics and social system. Therefore designing of any
physical settlement requires these backgrounds. In this sense it is necessary to consider the social and political aspect of housing.

Housing and food are two basic necessities in life. Major efforts have been made in recent years by the developing countries to overcome the hunger for human settlements. In Sri Lanka, comparing to other countries, these problems are acute and aggravated by the economic situation. Housing is a political issue in Sri Lanka and has this has attributed to a great extent the formation of the National Housing Policy. Hence the study of the human settlement policy and its relationship of the housing are very important.

2. Observation:

There is a lack of connection in Sri Lankan in terms of a National housing policy and socio-political ideologies. Taking into consideration the last two decades, particularly in the field of housing it is possible to form an opinion that an ideal solution for housing has not been formed. We did many experiments since up to date on various aspects of housing but to evolve an ideal solution has not emerged with these experiments. Some how or other they have tried to develop human settlements in Sri Lanka. There was a genuine effort to solve these problems but the real solution for that did not emerge successfully.

The lack of continuous experience caused to become an unaccepted housing situation. The solutions due to changing political conditions from time to time in the country attributed to such a negative condition.

Considering other Asian countries such as India, Singapore, and Hong Kong we have taken a long time to solve these problems,. In my point of view this is the most important time period to get a practical answer.
3. Criticality:

This is more critical in the Sri Lankan housing context. It is caused due to lack of evolution and learning from experience. The lot of money is wasted in continuous experiments. However they did not consider the basic need such as the ‘relief to the mind’ ideology, and the roof overhead never materialised.

4. Causes:

Since the principle policy makers had no idea about the evolution of housing they were not able to identify the connection as mentioned below.

1. They did not consider the importance of the connection of a policy and political ideology.
2. Inability to translate such a connection into reality.
3. Ignorance of the fact that a process such as Political ideology, theory, strategy and policy forms housing policy.

5. Remedies:

5.1 Intention of the study

It is intended by this study to examine to show the lack of connection between housing policy and objectives and its practices. And also demonstrate the lack of connection in the relationship between Political ideology and housing policy.

5.1 Methodology:

- Establish that housing is essential for today.
- Highlight repetition of experiments and evidence of the housing programme.
- Argue theoretically in terms of need, and express it poor connection of philosophy, theory, strategy and its practice.
6. Scope and limitation

This study considers showing the lack of connection, which is not seen, in housing policy and objectives and practices. Thos does not consider how this connection way the mechanism that is not understood.
"If only the government will change its attitudes to housing
Will remember that a house is the visible symbol of a family's identity, the
most important material possession a man can ever have, the enduring
witness to his existence.
Its lack one of the most potent causes of civil discontent
And conversely its possession one of the most effective guarantees of
social stability, then it will recognize that
Nothing less will do than the utmost a man can give in thought,
Care, time and labour to the making of the house he will
Live in. it will recognize that one of the greatest services a government
can render to its people is to give each family
The chance to build its own individual house, to decide at every stage how
it is to be, and to feel that the finished buildings is a true expression of the
family's personality."

Hassan Farathy