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URBAN SOCIAL SPACE DESIGN IN SRI LANKA

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF SENSE OF BELONGINGNESS IN COMMERCIAL ORIENTED URBAN PUBLIC SPACES IN SRI LANKA

A Dissertation
Submitted To The Department Of Architecture Of The
University Of Moratuwa In Partial Fulfillment Of The
Requirements For The Degree Of
Master Of Science
In
Architecture

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I declare that this dissertation represent my own work, except where due acknowledgement is made, and that it has not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this university to any other institution for degree, diploma or other qualification.

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INTRODUCTION

Man's needs to fulfill his spatial needs are also important as fulfilling his physical needs. Hence each individual tries to fulfill this need through environment he lives. (Habrakan 1983) describes this phenomenon, as "architecture is a process and product of human habitation." Though it identifies how the individual fulfill the need of privacy, territoriality, sense of community and most preciously the belongingness. There psychological needs have identified as psycho- spatial needs of the space and may consider as the psycho-spatial relationships. In order to derive psycho spatial relationships four main factors caused and due to that architecture and the society also change. Those factors are

- Socio-economic factors
- Cultural factors
- Political factors
- Environmental factors

Individual's specific life style derives through the socio-economic environment that he lives. Therefore his needs and physical behavior differ from the others. Hence the need of the dwelling will be differ from each individual. These needs as it caused to the individuals will apply to the each group, community and society. Because of that dwelling in one country in urban environment differ to the rural environment or to other country. Culture transfers the changes to the living pattern of the individuals. Therefore in urban environment it will be more individualistic while in rural setting it will be more independent. Because of these factors and their changes caused will derive the feeling of belongingness for the individual. On the other hand individual feels that he also within in the deep social and cultural perspectives which are unique to the each concerned environments.

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Political factor teaches the individuals on how they should live in such environments. In a way architecture can be considered a social art where individual welcomes and retain in the space by socio-spatial relationships. Hence it reveals that these factors help the individual to orientate himself in the society. According to Shultz (1971) " most of mans actions comprises as spatial aspects in the sense that the object of orientation are distributed according to such relations as inside and outside far away close by separate and united. Space therefore is not a particular category of orientation. But an aspect of orientation." When the space encompasses the human behavior objects, time and meaning or a certain movement with time it becomes a place. Rather than a space place has a past memory, which will generate a specific idea in the individual's mind. But to be an active live social space there are various things to be fulfilled. One thing is cleared that these social spaces may or may not be within the building.

According to Ralph (1976) "place means totally mad up of concrete things place is the commonest form of human experience environment. This changes with emotions, geographical entity and people etc. in general speaking we can not define it by words and saying place has such qualities and this is its boundaries etc." Hence the behavior of the individual derives through the individual's experience. But one has to experience the space before getting it. To experience the space above macro social factors affect. The way of individual experience the space can be identified by sense of privacy, sense of territoriality etc. out of that the sense of belonging is the utmost important as because it generates basic communication of individual and space. Out of the macro social factors economic factors will cause for both individual behavior as well as creation of space.

ABSTRACT

Sense of belongingness, which is deep-rooted biological need of the individual, helps to build a strong bond with the environment and individual. Each and every motion of the human behavior and the physical attributes of the environment enhance this. On the other hand this help to reduce the space being abandoned or destroy intentionally by the incident like graffiti, vandalism and dumping litter every where which destroy the physical and visual calmness of the society and space want be happen. Instead of that it derives a visual and healthy space for the man to perform his action.

When creating or achieving the sense of belonging, environment helps the individual in great extent. The environment consists both natural and physical, orientate the man and create meaningful interaction with them as well as with it, derive the sense of belongingness. The urban situation more than the natural environment, built environment helps to achieve the sense of belonging. Buildings arranged in a street or a park landscaped with the required facilities achieves this with the help of community interactions. Due to the tightness and haphazard development in the built environment in urban situations makes threat to develop the sense of belongingness among its residence. Because of that building situated in the cities sometimes abandoned by the public or they may use it for another purposes. The uses of the building do not attach or psychologically link to it and they either intentionally or unintentionally destroy its beauty and create visually polluted environment. Therefore built environment in the cities lacks sense of belonging significantly.

In this buildings, main space has more value because its main task is to derive the ultimate meaning of the building and the ultimate enjoyment provide through the building. This has to be carefully done and this helps to pause the movement of the public. Hence in a building this is the prime space to derive the sense of belonging. Each of the building has its own way of achieving it in the main space. But the way of deriving sense of belonging in the space has to be studied because it will help the others to do social experiment with the built environment and on the other hand it will make easy for individual to be in the space more and more. Ultimately the study helps to create the urban social space more meaningful and aesthetically pleasing with enhancing the social interactions.