

**THE UNIVERSAL RHYTHM**

An exploratory study on beauty in art with special reference to  
Architecture



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Faculty of Architecture  
University of Moratuwa  
Sri Lanka

for the M.Sc. (Architecture) examination  
and exemptions for RIBA part ii

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**MARCH 2005**

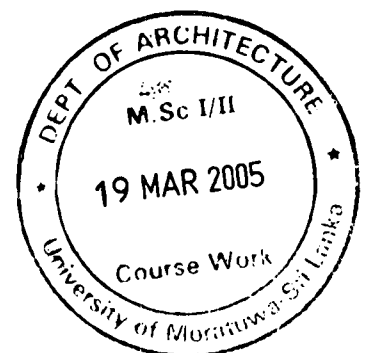
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## Declaration

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 or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification.

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## **Preamble**

Throughout the history it has been recognized that the human mind is capable grasping of knowledge of two kinds or two modes of consciousness which have often been termed the rational and intuitive.

Rational knowledge is derived from the experience we have with objects and events in our everyday environment. It belongs to the realm of the intellect whose function it is to discriminate, divide, compare, measure and categorize. In this way a world of intellectual distinctions is created of opposites which can only exist in relation to each other, which is why the Buddhist calls this type of knowledge "relative".

Abstraction is the crucial feature of this knowledge because in order to compare and to classify the immense variety of shapes, structures and phenomena around us, we cannot take all their features into account but have to select a few significant ones thus we construct an intellectual map of reality in which things are reduced to their general outlines. Rational knowledge is thus a system of abstract concepts and symbols characterized by the linear, sequential structure which is typical of our thinking and speaking. In most languages this linear structure is made explicit by the use of Alphabets which serve to communicate experience and thought in long lines of letters words or symbols.

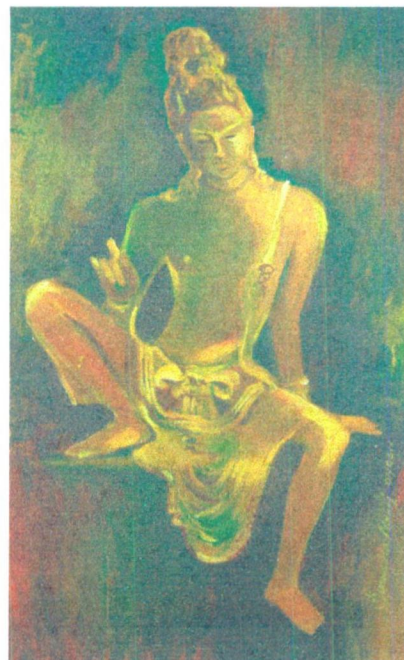
Beauty is almost experienced in rationally, hence, it is being identified as relative and the experience of beauty is differing to each other.

Anyway, it is a perception that beauty is experienced by each human being simultaneously, though its taste differs slightly from one to another.

Therefore it is not relative or conditional, but is transcendental or “absolute”. Basically beauty is experienced through an external matter. So what is the reason behind sensations which causes a common experience of beauty? The answer is the ultimate achievement, the universal rhythm.



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