

“ARCHITECTURE FOR CHILDREN”

Examination of the Role and
Importance of Architecture on Child Development in Pre Schools.

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A Dissertation submitted to the University of Moratuwa Sri Lanka
As a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Science in Architecture

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University of Moratuwa

B.D.S. De Silva

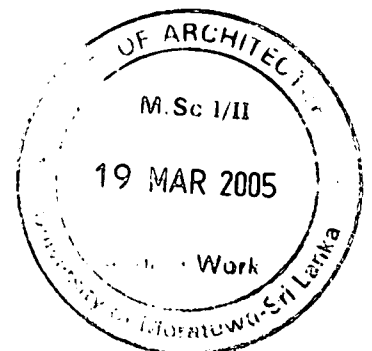
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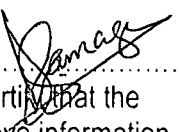
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I certify that the
above information is correct.
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INTRODUCTION



Introduction

“A Baby is too comfortable in his mother’s womb ever too want to leave it, but on the contrary struggles widely to return as soon as he’s born” Olivier Mark,1977:12

Architecture for children in contrast to that of an adult is subjected to major changes in terms of its structure; for understanding of external structure of space depends upon the mental capacity of the individual child.

These two entities the child and his mental capacity and his sense of place in the environment are engaged in an everlasting interaction which leads towards the whole process of childhood. Therefore the degree of fulfillment of the spatial needs of the child depends upon the nature of his conception of space.

In the interaction between the child and the environment the spatial needs of childhood is the foremost basic human need which should essentially be fulfilled. This complex correlation is identified as analyzed through a theoretical approach in this study.



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Background

“The child is the constructor and the builder of the adult, the father of the man. It you ask yourself who has given me these powers, this intelligence, this knowledge which I have, the answer is, the child has made me in to what I am.” Thalakiriyawa, 1994:45

Therefore the child as one of the main components of a society has an important role in the society. If his environment won't give any support to the proper development, above situation cannot be achieve due to the failures in the first stages of the life.

Problem Statement

As it is visible at the present, the system of learning is an effortless absorption or a method having a simultaneous imposing character. But there are other essential factors also to consider. Such as Psychology and Physical development of the child and the contexts they belong.

In the case of child's education, this has become more significant as people who are involved in this subject do not have a proper understanding in this regard. In certain situations, we can clearly figure out the wrong methods of applications that caused adverse impacts on child that leads to irreversible turning points of his development as an adult.

Intention of the study

By identifying the above problem within its background, intention of this study is to rectify by bring forward remedies to the current situation. Architectural solution for the current situation should have to be obtaining by a careful analysis of the sociological background of the issue.

Significance of the study

Perception and expression are very important in early childhood. When we are creating situations for them, we have those restrictions. So we have to pay more consideration when we are doing something for them. Here, the spatial considerations for children come in its play. With that important in mind, we must study Architecture for children.



Methodology

By reviewing the hypothetical points of view presented by environmental behavioural scientists it is identified that the physical environment has a positive impact on child's psychological development. First the theories put forwarded by developmental psychologists are reviewed to obtain a comprehensive idea about the developmental nature of child's conception of space.

Then it is established that the proper psychological development of a child is based on the fulfillment of his basic human needs. From those basic human needs some fundamental spatial needs of child are derived.

It is logical to state that the degree of satisfaction of the fundamental spatial needs is depended on the degree of the development of child's conception of space.

The developmental process of the fulfillment of child's spatial needs are then analyzed in the light

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Literature Review

Architectural enclosure will be covered by the conceptions presented by some of the ideas of Christopher Alexander and Oliver Mark. Psychological theories of children will be taken from the theories of Piaget, Friedrich Froebel, Dewey, Maria Montessori, and Margaret Mac- Millan's.

Scope and Limitations

Architecture for children is a vast study area. Hence this study will be centered only on Pre-Schools for the children in the category of 2 1/2-5 years of age.



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