Water in outdoor as transitional space in architecture
I declare that this dissertation represents 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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ABSTRACT

Marcel Brener says "space is never complete and finite. It is in motion, connected to the next space, and to the next space... and to the finite space." (Quoted in Siminds, O.J – 1983) Along this flow of spaces, the ‘transitional space’ becomes more important, because it is an intermediate space which has capabilities of condition the human mind for subsequent environment. The transitional need in human mind will be governed by the expressive qualities of the spaces and their relationships.

Normally designers try to upgrade the building quality by using different forms, colors, materials, textures, etc. and make architectural work more attentive. But this would create an artificial and uncomfortable impact on user, for adjusting the new experience immediately. Such sudden change of experience would lead for generate inappropriate behavioral pattern in human. Therefore the transitional (in-between) spaces can be introduced between spaces to harmonize the contrast in the context and; to enhance the quality of architectural experience. “The transition must, in effect, destroy the momentum of the closed-ness, tension and distance...” (Alexandra C, 1977)

As a natural phenomenon, human ingenuity firstly depends on the natural pressure and later by the artificial means. Therefore eventual instincts of human being tend to be with the nature due to its flexibility and appropriateness on conditioning human mind for the changing contexts. Especially, properly designed out-door would promote physical and psychological comfort on user, in order to become a conditioning space of behaviors as the ultimate purpose of the building. Therefore the out-door space cannot be considered as a just left out space by the building; it should be utilized as a conditioning space of human spatial experience. Water as one of mans’ inherent motivational factor of giving inspirations and emotions, can be utilized as a design element of out-door formation. Water in out-door would become a successive conditioning factor for generate proper human motivation and it enhances the spatial relations in more meaningful manner.

This dissertation would discuss transitional need among the spaces, and how the water in out-door could be used as a conditioning factor for humanized the spatial experiences in satisfactory manner.
Introduction

Water in Out-Door as Transitional Space in Architecture
INTRODUCTION:

Observation

"Did man not always search for god in nature?" (Schultz N, 1971) There is an inherent need exists in man to form an emotional relationship with his environment and thereby become part of it. He formed an intuitive relationship, which brought him into the eternal order of nature and try to arrange the elements around him to fulfill his needs.

Trees and their shades, water waves and their wetter breezes, ponds and their reflections would provide peacefulness, seclusion, quietness as well as other motivational attributes, which would enhances the character of space with the architectural quality. And this remains a constant contentment in man.

Topic Explanation

Mans' experience of space in relation to a building would be different from one to another. If there is a change in spatial experiences, man’s actions and reactions would be vary, prior to adopting that new condition. And it will depend upon the level of appreciation in perceiver and his ability to receive what it is expressed. Mostly, the designers giving attention to create and upgrade the spatial quality by using different forms, interior spaces, usage of materials, colors etc. and make architectural experience more efficient. But this could generate sudden behavioral changers stressfully, by creating difficult condition on perceiver, for adjusting the new experiences.

To avoid such condition; the spatial environment could be humanized and it should have ability to convey the massage that was intended, by evoking emotions in perceiver. Therefore an in-between space or a transitional space would be required as a 'conditioning zone' of behavior. In the case of human behaviour, the transition space would play a significant role. Sudden change of experience from one condition to another will cause physical and psychological separation, resulting in stressful and inappropriate behavioral pattern in man. Therefore the transitional space can introduced as a in between space; to avoid such behavioral arguments and thereby leads for stimulate the spatial experiences.
However, due to the lack attention given on transitional spaces, the coherence of the built fabric is fading away and it generates socially unacceptable architecture. As human nature we like to experience natural environment and it gives great strength to conditioning the mind-set for changing context. So while the spatial experience change accordance to the building; the out-door spaces in and around the building could be utilized, in such a way to act as a 'conditioning space'. So the well designed outdoor spaces with usage of water would become a successive transitional method, which guides and helps to achieve the ultimate goal of the building in order to become an 'in-between breathing' space. Water is the only element besides birds and human beings, which brings life and movement in to the spaces; to condition the feelings and behaviour of people.

Intention of the Study

Spatial experiences and spatial behaviors are always conditioned by the way of space has been formed and the way it is conceived. Thus in relation to the architectural experiences, properly designed transitional spaces would simulate satisfactory behavioral response in human, in order to achieve the ultimate goal of the building. So the transitional spaces would play great role to make architectural experiences more efficient and successful. Therefore the presence of transitional space would minimize the physical and psychological separation which could occur due to the stressful formation of spaces. So it is a necessity to understand the importance of arranging surrounded un-built fabric in meaningful manner to act as a 'conditioning space'. Because of the emotions of a person is always conditioned by the way in formation of spaces. It leads for proper spatial experience by satisfying certain objectives of the building. Properly designed outdoor always become a strengthen factor of architectural experiences therefore it can not be considered as just a left out space, should be utilized as a part of architectural experience. Unfortunately, transitional spaces are diminishing rapidly while creating socially unacceptable placeless-spaces. The study will basically discussed on water in out-door as a transitional factor in architectural experience.
Methodology

Basically the discussion builds on four areas. Firstly space and spatial relations, secondly transitional space and its impact on user, thirdly water as transitional medium and finally creating transition through water in out-door. Perception or the existentiality of an architectural space always based on humans' psychological process. Place provides identity, comfort and sense of belonging to the user and becomes personalized place which can physically occupied (in-space) and psychologically perceived (out-space). With regards to the particular build mass, the experience of outer spaces would be a great assist to sequence the spatial experiences by enhancing its transitional value. Especially usage of water in out door would enhance the physical and spiritual comfort on user and thereby become a conditioning space for human behaviour. If the arrangements of outdoor-to-indoor relations become a sequence of spatial experiences; it will assist to achieve the ultimate goal or the purpose of particular building. After identifying the achievable objective of the building, water and out-door can be arranged as a method of providing transition; as the required purpose of the building.

The first half of this dissertation will stipulate deeper understanding on transitional spaces and achieving such need successfully by water in outdoor. For that, the dissertation would firstly follow the quality of the space as a factor of generating spatial behavior and experience on human. Then this will discuss the role of transitional spaces between two extremes. After that this argument would emphasize transitional attributes in water and how it could enhances the architectural quality by leading to generate gradual spatial experiences.

The second half of the dissertation will comprise the careful examination on properly designed build masses which have particular goals to fulfill. Further more; it describes how those spaces transit human emotions and behaviors according to the particular condition by creating comfortable transition, which is capable of enhancing the architectural value and social acceptability. Basically the argument will base on transitional behaviour, while carrying out photographic survey and selected case studies.
Scope and Limitations

Transitional spaces lead to generate proper environmental ambience which could able to satisfy the human mind, without creating stressful condition on them. So 'the transitional spaces' would generate successive transitional behaviors, and takes him for gradual journey through the spaces. Three selected examples have taken from public category to give the idea of the importance in properly designed water in out-door as transitional factor. As public buildings, they have definite goal to fulfill; so the respective incorporation of transitional spaces would be a great assist to achieve the ultimate objective of the building. Therefore the basic scope of this study is to build-up an overall understanding on transitional need between spaces; and the way of that transitions help to fulfill the ultimate objectives of the particular building. The selected case studies are,

- Sigirya pleasure garden as a leisure oriented public space
- Blue waters as a recreational oriented public space
- Parliament Complex as a public space for selected group

Those three public spaces have used to give the idea of satisfying the ultimate objective, by using water in out-door as a transitional factor. The knowledge gained from the chapter two and three have taken as the frame to discuss above case studies. Discussion have focused to study, how the water in out-door could lead to generate successful transitional behaviors on perceiver; by providing sudden or gradual transitions between spaces. Further more it builds up an overall understanding how the perceiver could able to change his emotions and behaviors; according to the changing context of water (static, dynamic, etc.) in out-door.