### **HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE**

Examination of Urban Context with Special Reference to the City of Colombo

#### LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA, SRI LANKA MORATUWA

A dissertation submitted to the department of Architecture,
University of Moratuwa as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Science in Architecture
and for the
Royal Institute of British Architects for the RIBA part II

72 05 72 (043)

#### SUDESH NANAYAKKARA

Department of Architecture
University of Moratuwa
March 2005

University of Moratuwa

85514



### **DECLARATION**

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.

# **UOM Verified Signature**

N.P.G.Sudash Nanayakkara

Archt. Wasana De Silva
Principle supervisor
Department of Architecture
Faculty of Architecture
University of Moratuwa

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The completion of this dissertation would have been an impossible task without the help of many who supported me both physically and morally in producing it.

I am offer my sincere thanks to Prof. Nimal De Silva, Dean Faculty of Architecture, Archt. Vidura Sri Nammuni, the head of the department, Dr. Upendra Rajapakksha, Archt. Prassanna Kulathilake lecturers of the faculty of Architecture for the inspiration, encouragement and guidance.

I also extend my sincere thanks to Archt. Wasana De Silva, individual supervisor for all the valuable comments and guidance with discussions encouraging the work.

My most heartfelt thanks go to my parents and my sister for their firm encouragement in my studies especially in the dissertation.

I sincerely wish to thank Mangala for being with me whenever help is needed.

I am deeply indebted to Suresh, Bathika, Rasika, Shabi, Samantha, Saman, Channa, Chandana, Gamunu, Kiri, Mohan and Sumith and Sumudu for their unreserved help given to me for the completion of this task.

Finally I thankfully memorize and all my colleagues for their fullest co-operation.

## **CONTENTS**

|   | Page no: |
|---|----------|
| DECLARATION   |          |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT   |          |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS   | 1        |
| ABSTRACT  | IV       |
| INTRODUCTION  | V        |
| LIST OF ILLUSTRATION  | VII      |
| Chapter One – Street and its Importance in Urban Context.             |          |
| 1:1 urban context   | 1        |
| 1.1.1The urban space  | 2        |
| 1.1.2The character of the place                                       | 4        |
| 1:2 Physical element of the urban contextus of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.   | 6        |
| 1.2.1 Paths Electronic Theses & Dissertations www.lib.mrt.ac.lk       | 7        |
| 1.2.2 Edges   | 8        |
| 1.2.3 Districts   | 9        |
| 1.2.4 Nodes   | 9        |
| 1.2.5 Landmarks   | 10       |
| 1.3 Definition of the street  | 11       |
| 1.4 Evolution of the street   | 14       |
| 1.4.1 Street in Sri Lanka   | 16       |
| 1.5 The urban street  | 18       |
| 1.5.1 Different interpretation of street                              | 19       |
| 1.6 Character of the street in relation to physical and social issues | 20       |

## <u>Chapter Two – Creating Healing Spaces From Street Architecture</u>

| 2.1 definition of healing architecture  | 22           |
|---|--------------|
| 2.2 Need of healing street architecture   | 24           |
| 2.3 Way of achieving the healing quality in street architecture                       | 25           |
| 2:3:1 Unity of form and function.   | 25           |
| 2:3:2 Polarities.   | 27           |
| 2:3:3 Metamorphoses.  | 28           |
| 2:3:4 Harmonies with nature and site.   | 29           |
| 2:3:5 The living wall.  | 30           |
| 2:3:6 The dynamic equilibrium of spatial experience.                                  | 31           |
| 2:3:7 Colour luminosity and colour perspective.                                       | 32           |
| 2.4 Importance of the other element for healing in street architecture                | 34           |
| 2.4.1Topography. University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Electronic Theses & Dissertations | 34           |
| 2.4.2 Activities  | 35           |
| 2.4.3 Progression   | 36           |
| 2.4.4 Focal point and visual cues   | 37           |
| Chapter Three – Case Study of Selected Example of Healing Architec                    | <u>:ture</u> |
| 3.1 Case Study – York street  | 39           |
| 3.1.1Definition   | 39           |
| 3.1.2 Location  | 40           |
| 3.1.3 Importance  | 41           |
| 3.1.4 User  | 41           |
| 3.1.5 Healing Architecture in York Street   | 41           |
| a. topography   | 45           |
| b. Activities   | 45           |

| 3.2 Case study – Panchikawatta Street                  | 47 |
|--|----|
| 3.2.1 Definition                                       | 47 |
| 3.2.2 Location   | 47 |
| 3.3.3 Importance                                       | 48 |
| 3.3.4 User   | 48 |
| 3.3.5 Healing Architecture in York Street              | 49 |
| 3.3 case Study – Gunasinghapura (Dias Place Street)    | 55 |
| 3.3.1 Definition                                       | 55 |
| 3.3.2 Location   | 55 |
| 3.3.3 Importance                                       | 56 |
| 3.3.4 User   | 56 |
| 3.3.5 Healing Architecture in York Street              | 57 |
| Conclusion   | 62 |
| List of references  University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. | 63 |
| Electronic Theses & Dissertations<br>www.lib.mrt.ac.lk |    |

۶

### Abstract.

Psyche of the each individual is concerned important and by healing their minds the perception of them will not destroy the existential space of the city. Because the major impact on the man is, the space he habits and on the space, it is the man who habits. Within this, the cities should develop their spatial medium related to man and his nature.

To make man ease with the things that he is performing, visual space, clues and the progression in which he experience matters because he will have an impact on the space where he habits. And to move him in the direction and to make him stay the streets has to have an effort with the built environment around.

