HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE

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

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

SUDESH NANAYAKKARA

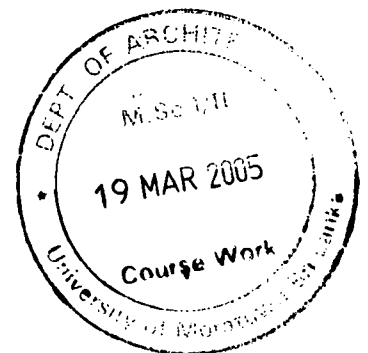Department of Architecture

University of Moratuwa

March 2005

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

Chapter Two – Creating Healing Spaces From Street Architecture

Chapter Three – Case Study of Selected Example of Healing Architecture

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.

Introduction

Architecture mainly considered as creating meaningful spaces. Architectural space should be meaningful because it is a creation of man for his habitation. The meaning of the space may alter with the function that the man performs there. And it should guide people while the people are engaging in their life matters.

Today more people are concentrated to the cities. Therefore cities are having the responsibility of serving people for their well being. Being complex and jammed by busy activities the city will build the stress in human mind. That is why the spaces created in the cities must be done with care. Especially the streets, the vessels of the city, where lot of public habitation take place should look after the human in his activities and make him comfortable with its best.

(a)Observation and Topic Explanation.

Present day cities are oriented towards the function of it and looking to gain the maximum profit. There the concern seems financially, functionally sounds but it is more like a machine than a community who live in it. It is evident that the people are not being the priority today but the skills and others which are having a commercial value. This perception of the city is now being embedding to the people and it is clearly evident observing their actions.

In a city people creates spaces for their need and if that is only looking at the productivity as today the created spaces will not take care of the people around. So the cities becoming socially dead then the arising will not be issues addressed. Therefore the special quality of the cities is really important to consider. The streets which give access physically and visually should create spaces around them responding to the functions happening around. There the healing of the psyche of the people should be given the priority.

(b)Criticality and Intention.

Cities are predominantly man made and the spaces created with effect to that can be some times with the association of the natural environment. The streets must be contained in a city, by its nature, while it is providing access mobility and different functions. Therefore the streets play a remarkable role in the play of the city and the message should be conversed to people, as its user. It is critical to handle the spaces in a city but at the same time the streets are critical in terms of the people because the streets create and catch the eye of each and every one. So the way people experience the street and how the streets will speak to people is important in terms of providing proper habitual spaces. Then only the physical stress of the city can be counter balance by improving psychological comfort in minds.

(c) Scope and Limitation.

The study is primarily concentrated on the streets and how the healing can be achieved in such spaces. This issue is addressed here with special qualities, compositions and their meanings. The study is running though the city and how much the streets are important to a city in its image on people. Therefore history of the streets is looked at with the evolution to analyse the concepts of it by time to time. These concepts will look at the street as an urban space which is life and how the created space affects on human. Here the make of the space with the built environment around is discussed with the association the features of the streetscape.

(d)Method of Study.

The study has undergone through,

- History and the evolution of the street being subjected to the human needs with the local and foreign examples. And the concepts of architectural interpretations looked through the "Nature" with visuals.
- With the derivation of the idea of an urban street and its spaces, the healing of mind of the user has concerned in relation to the architecture and the built environment appears around.
- For the synthesis and discussion, three case studies have identified and described with the theory of spatial healing. But the whole three case studies will not have all the qualities that are expected. By taking all three in to consideration the nature of healing in architecture is discussed.

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure   Page No

CHAPTER THREE

the temporary huts by the street .

Chapter One – Street and its Importance in Urban Context

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Urban Context

"A City!
It is the grip of man upon nature.
It is human aspiration directed against nature.
A human organism both for protection and work.
It is a creation." (Lecorbusier, 1929:21)

Figure 1.1 Mans grip upon nature.

Urban environment or the urban context is more physical, and it is a very complex phenomenon. Not only the built environment the other links of social and political, which is manmade; grows rapidly in a complex manner. Because the urban space is not only a feature of the physical environment, but it is way of life, the city is not in resent evolution. Since the beginning of the civilisation, the existence of a city has been and is being given a wide range of definitions.
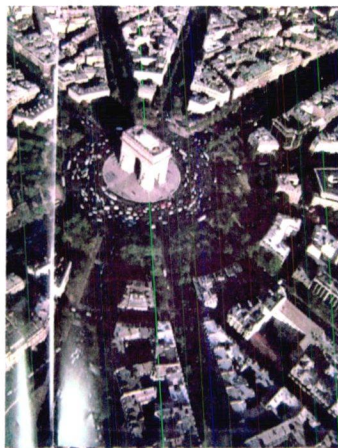
Figure 1.2 Cities are among the most enduring and remarkable of all human artefacts.

"...Cities are among the most enduring and remarkable of all human artefacts. Amalgam of the living and the built, cities are repositories of cultural meaning. Behind the arbitrary twist of a lane or the splendid eccentricity of a new skyscraper on the skyline lies a history of previous urban tenure, a heritage of long established social convention, a string of often bitter compromises between individual rights and the public will... "(Kostof, 1996: 1)

Whichever the city is defined and described, the essence is that, the city is one which is created by human organisms as an expression of themselves and their aspirations. The city essentially expresses, contains and tries to conserve the essence of the people who built it and lived in it. Each city is unique in its own right. This uniqueness, which is referred to as the "character" in this study, gives each city its identity, without which the quality of life of its people would diminish. Man is used to identify urban environments by their characters, mainly using its composition in individuals as well as a whole.

The Urban Space

An urban space can be defined as a component of an extensive arrangement of buildings, road network and open spaces with in a limited physical demarcation of a city. It could also be defined as an element of highly organized expression of developing society. Here the road network and open spaces is in a limited physical demarcation.

Figure 1.3 Urban space...building envelop

"Urban space", defined by Ralph (1976:38), is an object of direct expression of people who participate in numerous activities within a physical organization of a city. Thus urban space can be described as an external space seen as open, unobstructed space for movement in the open air with public, semi-public and privet zones.

Urban spaces are dense with memories and become integral pretences, the organs of that body which is the city. Corbusier (1929) paraphrased city as a grip of man upon nature. It is a

human operation directed against nature, both for protection and for work. It is a creation. The city is the ultimate gathering place for people. Nevertheless the city is the collective memory of the people who have inhabited it.

These numerous activities that take place in an urban context, determine how the spaces should be arranged to sustain a particular function. Man's ever-changing desires to change his environment has considerably affected the urban space. As a result urban space may become a complex arrangement of spaces. The essence of an urban space is its people, their expressions, activities and related development.

Thus, urban space become a source for creativity and experience for people, for establishing their life style and inner emotions. As a fusion of the physical setting, people and conceptions create places. Therefore many different urban spaces create variety of places within an urban context.

Figure 1.4 character or uniqueness within

a city is made better place to live for its dweller.

Growing complexities in a socio-cultural and political profile of the city is expressed in terms of architecture. The expressions that contained within the urban space give a meaning and a character which is unique to that particular place. However, the city is a combination of its society specially the links of the human relationships. The meaning and its character may vary according to a different degree of combinations. This character or uniqueness within a city is made better place to live for its dweller. The Character and the identity created by various other things is very special, when urban spaces are concerned.

The Character of the Place.

Figure: character of the place is derived from the spatial ambiences.

Character is in very simple sense can be defined as the special quality of an entity which gives it identity; its uniqueness (60to 39). Character, in here is taken in the sense that a particular entity, place or a person is essentially different from another of the same. Each of these entities contains its own collective peculiarities, sort and style which contribute to its uniqueness.
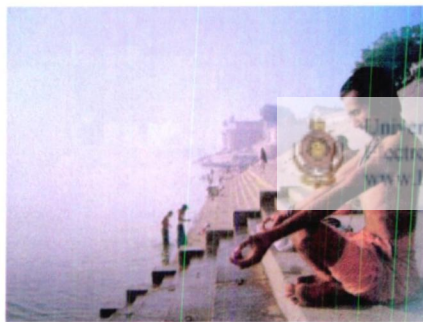
Figure: Character derived place and the place derived character.

For an instance, if a person is taken as an example, his physical appearance, behaviour, reactions to various situations, are unitarily contributions to his uniqueness. It could further described that only these aspects should unitarily contribute, but also should be intensified towards a single idea for that person to acquire strong character and thereby identity. Character of a thing, place or a person, in this sense, can be said to be manifested in terms of posture, attitudes and reactions achieved through unity, intensity and singleness of purpose.

Since time immemorial, man had recognized that each place hears an identity or character of its own. As Schultz (1971:72) states, this character is often so strong that, it in fact, determines the basic properties of the environmental images of most people present, making them feel that they experience and belong to the same place.

4

Therefore maintaining the character of a place is of vital importance when the Character is altering, destroying or removing from a place. The essential bonds between the place and its people are subjected to be broken then resulting a subsequent diminution of the quality of life of its people.

Since the city itself is accepted as the major place of visual manifestation of man as an Individual and as a communal being; to maintain its character has become vital. Character of a thing is identified with a special quality of it which gives it an identity; its individuality. But simple definition of the character of a city is found to be due to the city being a complex environment. When the character is lost whole identity or the essence of that particular city will be lost with its links with the people to which the society is bound.

Figure 1.7 character destroyed, altered or other wise remove from peoples daily lives (Chandani Chowk, Delhi)

The importance of a place, especially a town or a city, is having an individual character which evokes feelings of well being among the locals, which promotes recognition and a degree of familiarity among visitors. This has acquired world wide acclaim as towns and cities are under gone a speedy process of loosing their uniqueness or their indigenous character due to pollution in the visual environment with the global concepts.

Due to Architectural pollution when the image of character are destroyed, altered or other wise remove from peoples daily lives, the essential bond between person and place can be weaken with a subsequent tangible loss in the basic quality of people's lives. There are various ways that a city could loose its character. Here the identity and the spaces are described in a new perspective looking at the preserving the character and the healing potentials of the spaces.

1:3 Physical element of the urban context
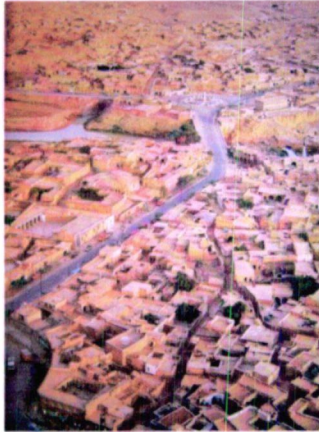
Figure 1.6: Street and the building fabric represent the urban context in physical means.

Urban context is important to consider as a space where the most stressed human activities perform and it is to be observed as a total space than deconstructed two and three dimensional forms or characters that it comprises with. The urban form or the spaces are having a distinguish character and it differs from place to place, means with the location. But it is evident that any urban forms have a rhythm, patterns and features in which the similarities can be identified in each other. There are many definitions and theories came up with the urban form there are classifications on different features of the urban character. The spaces, legibility of the city or urban context and the composition of the features matters considering the human behaviour and the function.

When consider about the visual spaces and the structure of the urban context there are several ways of analysing the visual structure of urban context and some sorts of physical feature play a major role in the content of its shared image. Kevin Lynch – the American planner who pioneered studies in 1960 base on the cognitive images people and the built environments that they inhabit or use. He identified five elements that from people's mental image of urban context or their components and it is mentioned in Image o The City as follows.

- Path
- Edges
- Districts
- Nodes
- Landmarks

However according to the expertise, Lynch's categorisation of the elements came up with problem when they are applying in designing for imageability and legibility in urban context.The elements when clearly organized are important in giving a visual organization to urban context, so in this sense they can be regarded as element of urban form.

1:3:1 Paths

Figure 1.7: concept of the path in nature and the manmade path.

Paths primarily provide access from one place to another. And they are the channels which are used by the observer or the user customarily, occasionally or potentially. They can be in different categories according to the function the scale and other several factors. Different categories are as follows Streets, walkways or even the roads. And each of these has a different meaning in the city and they also have different functions regarding making the city interesting and the smooth flow of the function.

Figure: Path is not laid but it is space.

Another point is that with the paths only the people could experience the city and the image of it is primarily builds by the paths. But this doesn't mean that the character of the street matters all the time but they give glimpses of the city rather than the access.

According to Lynch,

"They are element along with the observer customary, and occasionally or potentially move. They may be street, walkways, transit lines, cannels, railroad for many people these are the predominant elements in their image. People observe the city while moving through it. And along these paths the other environmental elements are arranged and related"

1:3:2 Edges

Figure 1.8: Edge created naturally and the natural demarcation of the edge upon the built environment.

These are the boundaries or the demarcations of a boundary in which the different sorts of elements grouped around in the arrangement of the city. These will demarcate a boundary and will also dissolve the continuity across the edges. But the demarcation of these will have a sort of direction parallel to the edge. For example pedestrian pavements, street lines, walls, etc. They could identify as lateral references rather than co-ordinate axis. And they are the demarcations of two phases to particularly in the role of holding together general areas.

Figure:
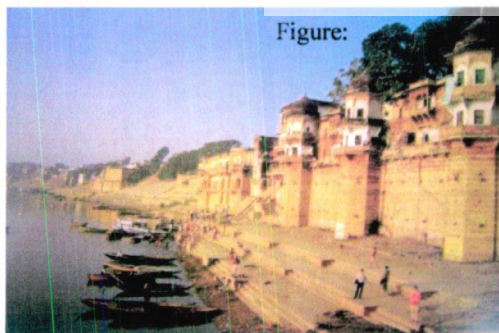
Edges are linear elements which are either not used as paths, or which are usually seen from positions where their path nature is obscured. These edge elements, although probably not as dominant as paths, are for many people important organizing feature, particularly in the role of holding together generalized areas in the out line of a city by water or wall."

1:3:3 Districts

Figure 1.10: In plan and in the 3D composition also the districts differs and they trap
the space

The identification of a district is done concerning the 3d quality that the elements in a particular area depict. The height scale and the proportion matters when selecting the district and distinguishing it from the other districts of the cityscape. And it is logical to say that districts refer to regions in city which has the some similar quality in morphology and it concern on the same character that it displays to the out. These areas are giving the feeling of "inside of" such place. However people can read the city using this structure and it is depending not only on the individual observer but also the given city.

1:3:4 Nodes
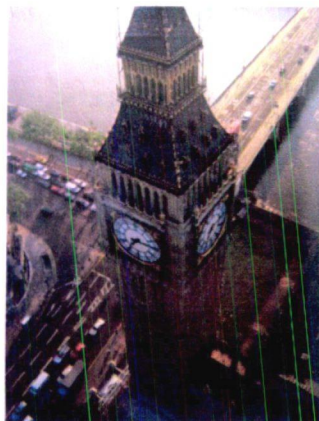
Figure 1.10:Different nodal points engaged
in different activities

Nodes can be identified with the intensity of the activity forming around and the environment to it is provided by the intersecting streets and pockets in such spaces and creates a core for activities to perform. They may be primarily junctions, places of break in transportation, a

crossing or convergence of paths, street corners, hangouts, or the enclosed square. Many nodes of course, partake of the nature of both junctions and concentration. Nodes are the places in a city which people can enter and they shift the movement from one structure to another. Nodes are the places of intensive activity, especially at the intersections of paths. Nodes that are the foci of districts have been called cores.

*"The strategic spots in a city in to which an observer can enter and which are the intensive foci to and from which he is travelling."*Lynch K. (1960, P-47)

1:3:5 Landmarks

Figure 1. 10: the land marks were identified in the natural context by the nomads and today people are using it in their built environments.

Simply a landmark is a contrasting element in the composition of objects and here it is the same and it has a deep meaning than it locates in somewhere else. Consenting the cities the built environment is dominating than the human and in the puzzle of the city composition landmarks gives the reference point of the place and the area of direction to the people move in the city. And it can be defined as physical objects when people experience it while being externally. For example, building, sign or a mountain.

They may be within the city or out side and it provides a constant direction towards it. And people who referred them can follow the way. Such are isolated towers, golden domes, great hills, etc. they can play the role individually or gathering together or according to the instance and give an idea about the city not just to the observers eyes even to his or her minds

10

Landmarks are points of reference based on their visual distinctiveness from the surroundings where it locates as mentioned earlier they could identified easily. Though they are point reference elements but the observer does not enter within them, they are external.

Definitions of the street

Figure: The first streets were with reference to the nature paths.

From the beginning of the mankind there were no such identified moment of the man so there were no such paths for there mobility. And because they were totally depended on the natural environment they did not need any specific physical demarcation from the other for their activity. But conceptually there were paths which had the progression from one place to another with the link of from where to move. Those links or references were given by the river banks, valleys, mountains trees and such natural landscapes. So the earlier paths were not man made but appeared with the association of the natural environment. Among the ancient tribesmen the creation of a track for various is a very prominent activity.

"It may be marked out by small heaps of pebbles, by broken branches, or carved signs on trees, all tokens that signal the passage. At the most primitive technological level, the signals show passage from one waterhole to another."

But later on the with the development of the man kind and their civilization the need of the street came in to being with the attitudes of the people of being prominent than the others. So they acquired and named the trips of land for their mobility. However, earlier the streets were

11

Figure 1.17 The path of the water runs was due to the movement of the water. So do the street with the human movement.

The word street and the road denote "a limited area or a path which is institutionalised by the human movement." A path which is marked out by an individual may become a road or a street only if it is followed by the others "because the road and the street are social institutions and it is their acceptance by the community that gives them the name and the function."

According to the history the word street has derived from the Latin, "Sternere" to pave and so it relates to old Latin derived words with the Street root that are connected with building and such should be distinguished from the surrounding physically.

By looking back, the evolution of the mankind and his civilization depicts that the need of the street becomes vital around the world in a particular era so it says that the development of the thinking of the man with what he does evolves certain needs in them in that period. So in different languages especially in Europe relation to the different interpretations the streets as they experienced there are different definitions as follows.

"The Italian strada, for instance, or the German Strasse suggests an area set apart for public use and can include spaces with simple, limited demarcations without necessary connections to other streets. It does not necessarily lead anywhere in particular therefore, but may finish in a plaza or in a blind alley."

Road, on the other hand, "suggests movement to a destination and – incidentally-the transporting of people and commodities on foot, by pack animal, or vehicles."

e.g.:-

Alley; always implies a narrow passage: Avenue, a wide street with one or more lines of trees; boulevard again suggests a tree lined street and is derived from the adaptation of 16th, 17th century defensive earthworks within the expanding street pattern of 18th and 19th century towns...

12

Apart from these, there are three grounds of words which suggest three different ways of considering the street.

1. Terrace, row, arcade, embankment or gallery display the way in which the street is physically constituted by its context.
2. Path, track, parade, promenade and malls, all of which are connected with ways of proceeding on foot.
3. Highway, artery, thoroughfare, relates entirely to vehicular traffic and to legal and engineering matters it involves.

Apart from these, the terms High street or Main Street commonly a name of the principal street of many English and American towns still carries the suggestion that a long distance route passes through a settlement but with the influence of these in small town ships also this main street can be seen and it says that this is in the top of the hierarchy.

Several tribes in the river of Western Australia shows the use of a track/path as a ceremonial path to their ceremonial grounds, which used for a number of purposes such as peacemaking, but their main use is for initiation rites. Therefore one cannot argue on that streets are predominantly functional but it has aesthetic and the cultures and recreation bound with it.

In Australia, it is visually connected with the construction of special grounds involving signalled ways or roads of an elaborate nature in otherwise uninhabited territory.

Some tribes in south Africa also shows a similar practice in the formation of a track, where they build initiation enclosures linked to the village by a straight dance path usually about a quarter of a mile long and oriented as accurately as possible.

"In certain societies, in large straits of Polynesia, and perhaps in the archaic Greece, "the subject matter of initiation is itself a path, a way to escape the perils to the soul or its way to the underworld."

13

"Megalithic fields and avenues represent still another kind of marked passageway. Their builders worked at a much higher technological level than either the Australians or the other tribesmen described earlier."

Conceptually, the road or path may well pre- exist the permanence of human settlements. This may even be true of trade routes as a major channel of exchanging early periods of the settlement far away from each settlement. The transmission of certain goods suggests routes extending over thousands of miles in the old and new world and a good example for such a conceptual trade street is the Silk Root. The development from the national street to the street as a surface and therefore as an object, particularly within the more permanent, explicit settlement, was a millenary process.

1.5 Evolution of the street

From the appearance on earth, down to the beginning of the Neolithic age, man existed on much the same basic needs as any of the other animals, by gathering naturally occurring food stuffs by depending on other animals and by fishing. The social unit was the family, but the society was of necessity a mobile one, always having to move to fresh sources of food, carrying its few possessions from one crudely –fashioned temporary shelter to another. There was no permanent physical unit about 14,000 B.C. when "...as the last great ice age was approaching men were sufficiently well equipped to evict other denizens and themselves to find shelter in caves."

Permanence of residences resulted in the formation of villages as another step in the development of civilization. Most of these Neolithic settlements first occurred on the flood planes of the major rivers like Nile, Ganga. Prof. Fairman records about the settlement in Egypt at Merimde in the North Western delta area.

Perhaps as 4000 B.C. the settlement occupied an area of at least 600 by 400 yards, and in one part some of the huts are arranged in two definite rows with a lane in between as the access to the houses in that cluster. This became as the first formation of the community streets where social gathering took place.The transmission of Neolithic folk society villages in to the first cities occurred between 3500-3000 B.C.

The streets became a product of the spread of a settlement once house have been built on all available spaces. It provides a framework for the distribution of land and gives to individual plots. These houses are grouped together in layouts which have

"...grown of the condition of the primitive village and are not laid out on any system of town planning. This natural unplanned evolution of directly opposed continuing streams of activity where by mankind, throughout history has created and explained his urban settlements. The second stream, which by comparison has produce only a very small number of towns and relatively, is of much more recent origin, is the planned, predetermined approach. Organic growth, at least until recent times, denotes uncontrolled expansion."

This produces townscape of picturesque variety with its meandering route structure, which almost followed the natural pattern of the terrain. Planned Durban form with predetermined street patterns generally based on a simple rectilinear gridiron, appeared after the settlements acquired urban status through organic growth process. City buildings of the Pharaoh's in Egypt are a clear example of the evolution process where the street network compiled to a gridiron plan form.

Throughout the forth millennium B.C. sufficient technological requirements for the urban revolution were met, either by invention or discovery. With the industrial revolution the attitudes of the man changed and the mechanics were given the top of the hierarchy, so mean while the streets were acquired from the people considering the vehicular transportation.

1.5.1 Street in Sri Lanka

Figure 1.18 Traditionally the streets in Sri Lanka were with the association of the nature as in any activity.

Ancient city planning of Sri Lanka shows parallel development, with other ancient cities, like Greece and Mesopotamia in the west and Mohen - jo – Daro and Aryan towns in India in the East. Concerning the development of the streets major change happened only after being a colony of many western countries specially the Dutch and the British.

The Sri Lankan medieval village or town was itself designed and laid out with the highest objectives of social and economic organisation and keeping it with the ideas of aesthetic balance. But in many cases such as processional paths of the Devale and the Temples they were defined well as public streets. In the case of the royal architecture and in the landscaping this definition of the streets is evident and they have used different methods to create the spaces along such paths this is really evident in the city planning and the royal gardens in its landscape.

Cosmos Indicopleustes, a Greek in 5th centaury described and records the cities of Anuradhapura in one of his description as,

"...temples and palaces, whose golden pinnacles glitter in the sky, the street spanned by arches bearing flags, the sideways strewn with black sand and the middle sprinkled with white and on either side, vessels containing flowers, and bows and arrows. Elephants, horses, carts and myriads of people pass and re-pass."

Dr. Roland Silva quotes Tenner J.E., Ceylon volume 01, London 1960, pp.494 – 495 to explain the principal streets existed in the city of Anuradhapura named as Moor Street, Great King street, Hinguruwak and Mahawali Street, containing thousands of houses many of them two stories in height.

"....the religious remains of the village of the 19th century reflect a society of parallel practice. Ambekka has a Devale facing east and at the eastern end of the street is the depository for the professional weapons. The main street is lined with dwellings owned by the ancestral office bearers of the Devale...."

The urban street fabric of the older Sri Lanka stretching back to the 16th century is definitely influenced by the invaders, the Portuguese, Dutch and the British who repeatedly left their landmarks on most of our coastal town. The character of the still familiar street used alternatively for domestics and commercial needs. The best examples could be found in fortified cities around the country such as Galle and Matara.

And in Colombo also as the administrative capital of the British, architecture and the concepts of the special provisions have totally challenged by their ideas. So the street architecture and the means of such streets got significant characters.

"The Portuguese, the Dutch and the British all three alike, adopted the architectural styles of their own motherland and most of the street in which they exercised their power and specially street where they housed their own functions soon became street of their own landmarks though much tropicalised and scaled down."

Much of what we see today is a late 17th or 18th century of what was devastated in the Dutch bombardment of 1696.....it is incredible that in a commercial area like this, the street have remained almost entirely residential, keeping its remarkable character and requiring only a bit of face lift. For anyone who has lived in Europe walking along Chekku street is like coming up a medieval lane in the middle of a 20th century town.

After the colonial era with the independent, the concepts of creating architecture changed, with the ideologies of the architects who were practicing and with the people who criticized them. With the independence the architecture looked back to the tradition but the practitioners all had

their education in west though they were Sri Lankans. However with the development of the cities and the influence of the modern ideas made a big impact on the city and its architecture. Even today those concepts and the attitudes of the people leads to the decisions and the cities have become uncomfortable for the human habitat.

As modern concepts the contextual and social responses are lacking and the built environment of the cities are chaotic. The characters and the functions maintained by the colonial architecture and there relation with the people are not evident in this new trend. So it seems like the cities are not compatible with the people, but it dominates the physics. And in another way the built spaces are dealing with the human emotions. The evoking of the emotions could be done in good and in bad ways, and each can be interpreted visa versa.

1.6 The urban street

Figure 1.19 A busy Bombay street, India.

An urban street has a different character rather than any other streets that exists. It is not another kind of a street but the meaning of the urban street comes coursing the social physical political links and such others. Here the influence of the above mentioned facts are critical and it could create and dilute the meaning and the relationship with the man.

Considering the physical features urban street normally consists of vehicular pedestrian traffic as well as pedestrian traffic. Therefore, urban street can be seen as carriers of traffic and as areas of human movement. Some urban streets are meant for pedestrians only and some are for the vehicles only. On the other hand they also have economic and social and political functions. Due to its function the street could be called commercial, pedestrian and residential or shopping, while some have mixed functions. In some urban streets there is greater diversity of users while in others associated with particular ones.

"The very word street, as its etymology suggests, denotes a delimited surface part of an urban texture, characterised by an extended area lined with buildings on either side....."

The dense arrangement which enclosed character, created by the buildings themselves that are flanking the street, becomes the prominent feature of any of the urban street. Haphazard development and the growth in urban streets result in a mixture of architectural patterns which is a common characteristic of the urban street. This type reflects inequality and a lack of uniformity in the street architecture.

1.6.1 Different interpretation of an urban street.

Figure1.20 Street as a processional path.

Figure 1.21street as a ceremonial path.

Until the 19th century, the purpose of the street, "……is to provide a link between buildings, over which the goods and people necessary to sustain the agricultural, marketing, administrative and military activities of the settlement can pass."

Sometimes the emphasis has been on the circulation of pedestrians, but from the beginnings of urban civilisation the street has also been designed to accommodate animals and vehicles. On the other hand it acts as a link between people, which facilitates communication and interaction among them. Its function also includes its use as a site for casual social interaction, including recreation, conversation and other entertainment as well as its use as a site for ritual observances, such as processions.

Figure 1.22 Street is not just a path bur it is the space which make the people move.

1.7 Character of the street in relation to physical and social issues.

Figure 1.23 Street's meaning as a space where people will engage in different activities.

Because the street is physical it should have a skeleton to stand and to survive. This structure can be interpreted in many ways. The beauty in it will help to make people experience the street differently, and it is communicating with the people who are using it. In one way the structure can be described with the layout of it. The size of the road and how it functions are some parameters of classification. At the same time the streets are providing access and improving mobility, so the relationship of it with the people will differ from time to time and place to place. The character of a street is really the image of it in public and it is derived through the experience of the people.

The way man experience the street is important and the streets are not merely the paths but they are also places in the context. Here this is animating the function and making it more live with distinguish activities and it brings the character of the street.

Figure 1.24 Street as a community space.

From the point of view of the society it has a different interpretation. The street is the theatre where the public play their role of real life while rushing for their needs. So it is further away from physics and it is reaching the links of the human and the built environment. So the streets are having different interpretations with the values of the human nature. Though the function can be considered as a physical aspect with reference to the path, socially it has a better value by being a place. Then this place can be used as the space for community activities, recreational activities, etc.

Chapter Two – Creating Healing Spaces From Street Architecture

HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE.

Examination of Urban Context with Special Reference to the City of Colombo.
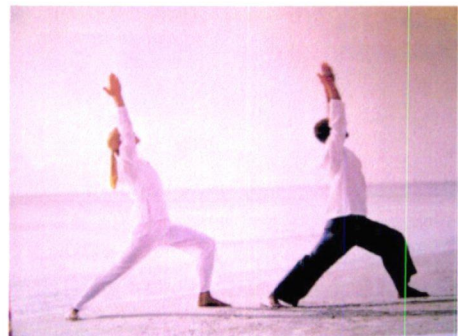
Chapter two- Creating Healing Spaces from Street Architecture.

2.1 Definition of Healing Architecture.

Figure 2.1 Architectural space: the space created by man for his living in.

Architectural space is the space created by man for his living in. man creates his own world by interaction with the environment. Jurgen Jecdick defines architectural space as an experiential space and tied to man and his perception.

Man evolves around with his desires & aspirations constantly. Therefore his spatial images also changed. Further architectural spaces also are subjected to changes & modification. Now a day it become as individual approaches.

Therefore these forms & shapes can be harm to the others psychological situation.

Figure 2.2 Individual approaches: harm to others steady psychology

Healing space is the place which creates "sense of care". Illness is not occurred only to physical body, it common to psychology too. Modern man is ever affecting from his socio economic, political, & physical & climatic environment. Thereby the stress is high.

Some how this stress wants to be heal. Can architecture do this? Man lives within the physical environment made by him. Then the architecture is the best way to reduce stress & create nurturing, alive & healing environment.

22

The stress people best medicine is desire – the desire to live, to be with other people, to do things, to get back to life. Healing spaces is always consisting with care. It hasn't feeling of rear, helpless, in security and dependence on others. To achieve this, physical environment want to consist with uniqueness & with legibility to feel mood of support, and rhythm, polarity within unique whole. All these qualities are achieved healing through sense of stability, mood of support & atmosphere of ease.

Figure 2.3 Healing Space:
stress release space

Figure 1.4 Modern man: ever efecting from his socio economic, political, & physical & climatic environment

Then the healing architectural space is space which have stability, mood of support & atmosphere of ease finally sense of care. To achieve this in design there are some principles.

Figure 2.5 Want to reduce the stress and create nurturing, alive & healing environment

Figure 2.6 Healing through sense of stability, mood of support & atmosphere of ease

2.2 Need of Healing Street Architecture.

Figure 2.7 Human body consist of body, soul & spirit

Human being consists of body, soul & spirit. Just as the physical body have certain characteristic functions, so do the immaterial soul and spirit bodies. Healing is not need only for failing of body parts, but as an imbalance between a person's inner and outer world. This outer world or environment created by man influence him in variety of ways; it may be influence him psychologically & physically. This man made environment want to be consist with conscious process of self-healing and spiritual growth.

Architecture is the art and science of creating build environment. Build environment can be defined as physical surrounding and condition affecting people physiologically & physically. Therefore architecture not only shape build environment but also

Figure 2.8 Man made environment wants to be consist with conscious process of self-healing & spiritual growth

HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE.

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

build environment but also simulates the mind of people to create healing environment or psychological comfort.

Then how can architecture be an integral part of the healing process be? "creating a sense of care" in hear man wants to feel their outer environment is welcoming him or he, as a part of his outer environment care is in the feeling of belongingness or the feeling of "home." it has physical environment is consists with feeling of fear, helplessness insecurity and dependence on others.

Figure 2.9 Feeling of home

That environment is not comfortable to any one as all. The sense of stability, mood of support, and an atmosphere of ease always create comfortable & healing environment. Then how these aspects can achieve from architecture? Erik Asmussen's is found seven principles to achieve these aspects in physical environment.

Figure 2.10 Sense of stability, mood of support, and an atmosphere of ease

2.3 Way of Achieving the Healing Quality in Street Architecture

2.3.1 Unity of form and function
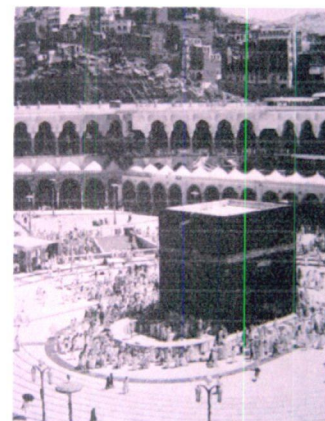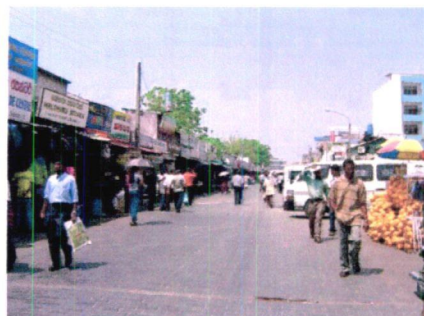
Figure 2.11 Physical environment want to make as function visible

HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE.

Examination of Urban Context with Special Reference to the City of Colombo.
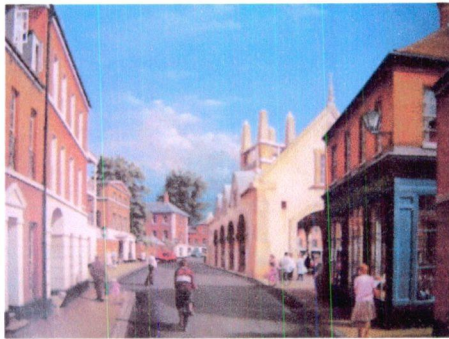
Figure 2.12 Unity of form & function is creating legible environment

This principle explains the relation between building forms & its function. Physical environment wants to make as function visible. And, of course, function is defined very broadly not the narrow technological functionalism of the modern movement. This vision of function encompasses technological, psychological, social, ecological, human and cultural / spiritual dimensions of function in an architecture that speaks to the whole human being. This unity of form & function is creating legible environment. Create sense of care inside user mind.

For example natural forms are always bond with its function. Form of a fish indicates or support to his function. This bond between form & function is visible its create healing in side mind.
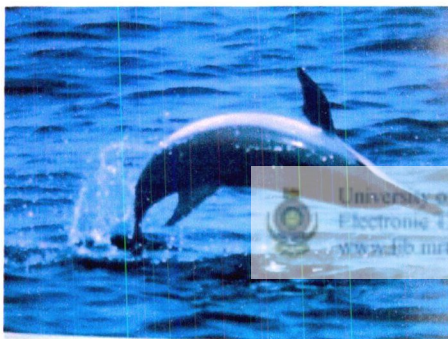
Figure 2.13 Natural forms always bound with its function

For example if movement towards unknown street is always uncomfortable. But if you can read its activities through its forms it gives healing to user mind.
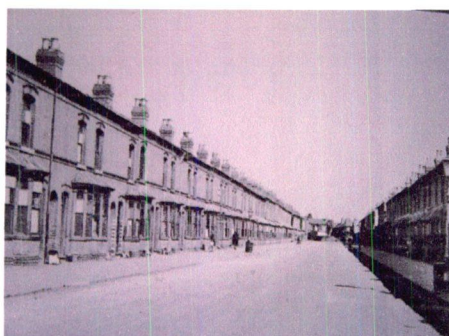
Figure 2.14 Movements through unknown façade always uncomfortable

2.3.2 Polarity

Figure 2.15 Differences are not merely opposition, but differences are distinctions that are a nodular part of a large whole

This implies that differences are not merely oppositions, but that differences are distinctions that are a nondual part of a large whole. Polarities are always balanced within the embrace of a large and often Trinitarian whole. Unity is one, duality is two. Duality wants to be avoided. Balancing the differences achieve unity. This connection between different elements or building grouped together to gain the idea of wholeness can be classified as unity. To get meaning polarity wants to be play inside this unity.

"In some locations and particularly in some streets, a unity between buildings exists which bind together the whole street. Variation have been played on the some theme, so that although no two buildings are individual" (Tuqnull & Robertson 1987:45)

Figure 2.16 Balancing the differences achieve unity

For example considering the commercial city streetscape its building elements themes are same but they are difference. This wants to be a polarity is give meaning to whole street. This meaning is very essential to heal the people giving towards that street. Because of that street is not chaotic and also not monotonous because differences are destination that area nodular part of a larger whole.

HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE.

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

2.3.3 Metamorphosis

This concept is, perhaps, the most important and the most difficult to grasp.
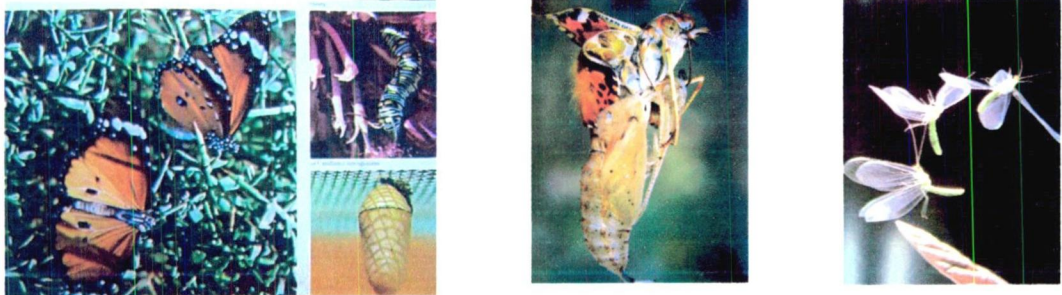
Figure 2.17 we being to understand the nature of the qualities process in time through which that transformation has occurred

Let's try to understand this principle by looking metamorphosis in the plant kingdom. Images of leaves taken from a single field poppy show tremendous variety. They even look like they might be leaves from different plants. If they are arranged in a certain sequence according to similarity of form or morphology, however we being to see a line of relationship in whole one form are progressively, through a development process of changers and transformations, becoming the next form. If it arrange them on the sequence in which they appear on the plant it self, we being to understand the nature of the qualities process in time through which that transformation has occurred.

Through a rhythmical series of expansion & contraction, nature continually transforms itself.

Figure 2.18 Change through a rhythmical serious of expansions and contractions

This principle of metamorphosis through out his buildings to allow us to experience through art what surrounds or in nature. Metamorphosis is what gives a kind of unity to what, at one level, appear to be very dissimilar buildings & building & elements; you feel a kind of connection among them. The unity one sense in architecture is largely the result of an invisible metamorphosis process that kinks all the parts in to a whole.

HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE.

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

If physical fabric changed according to this principle it change through a rhythmical serious of expansions and contractions it. Continuously transformations it self. Therefore changers are not headache for its users. Those changers are results for rhythmical transformations of previous forms.

Figure 2.19 Sudden alien changers destroyed the metamorphosis

Then the changers are not harm to ease atmosphere of the user. Those are ports of day to day living not the sudden alien unfriendly changers. Therefore the dweller feels sense of care within his practise physical surrounding.

2.3.4 Harmony with Nature and Site

Every healing building does two things. First, it engages in a very specific dialogs with its site. It is visibly shaped by and in conversation with naturally occurring features such as trees and rock as well as other buildings nearby.
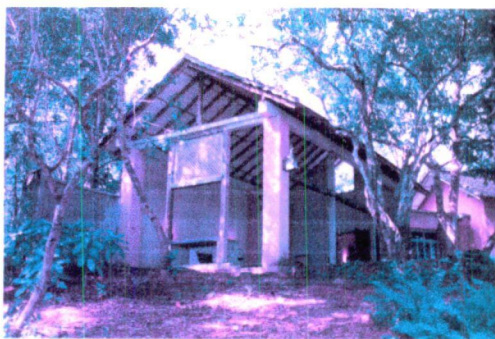
Figure 2.20 Healing building: engages in a very specific dialog with its site
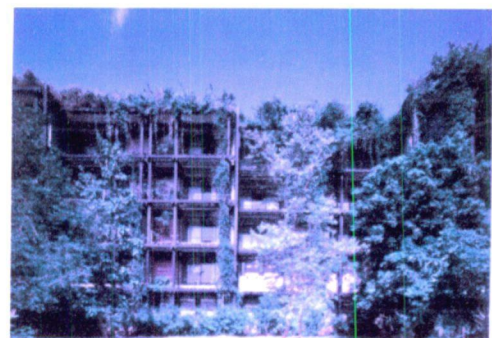
Figure 2.21.in harmony with nature and site...take characteristics that reflect of the surrounding environment

Another way is in harmony with nature and site

is that buildings actually take characteristics that reflect qualities of the surrounding environment. Every architectural product should relate to its physical context, to achieve the harmony and cohesiveness in the physical context. This is very important to create

relax psychological situations in users mind. The buildings in a particular context should complement to surrounding buildings, space like street, squares etc, & landscape.

In this street there are sufficient linkages of height, plot width and floor to floor height to help the group "hang together" these hang together spacer or unity of the space create healing physical surrounding.

Figure 2.22 "Hang together" space or unity of the space create healing physical surrounding
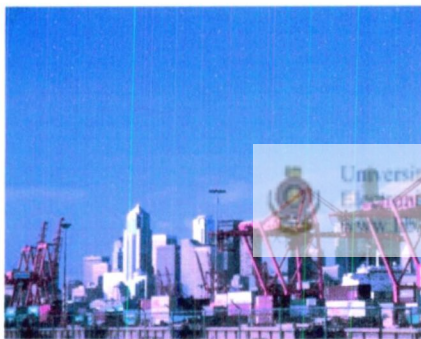
When there is in congruity between the building and the context, the harmony in that particular context will be lost. The context without harmony being the disorder. That leads to architectural threat to people.

2.3.5 The Living Wall

Most walls are substantial fillers between structurally repeating elements of a grid; they have neither identity nor character, not anything that attracts us to them. Building walls want to be active; they want to be expressing the generative forces by which they are shaped. They are living membranes that reveal the play between the polarities of up and down, inside and outside.

Figure 2.24 they have neither identity not anything that to attract us to them.

Figure 2.25 Building walls are living membranes & they want to be active & expressing the generative forces

For example the elevation which has the sculptural surfaces. Reveal the weight of down word, falling loads and the muscular resistance of upward, rising supports.

These walls tell us something about the nature of gravity and what it takes to stand between earth and sky.

Walls want to have self expressions. They want to talk with life around it. Buildings want to be feeling like living creatures that nurture and protect the life they contain.
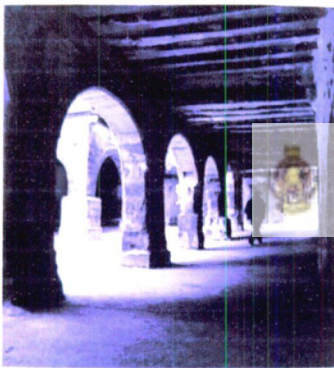
Figure -2.26 Buildings want to be feeling like living creature

2.3.6 The Dynamic Equilibrium of Spatial Experience

Architectural product is a formation of spaces using tangible elements, and they are meaningfully created for difference purposes, to housed different activities.

There are elements which want to be in equilibrium through out its whole experience.

Figure 2.27 Architectural product is a formation of spaces ... & they are meaningfully created for difference purposes

HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE.

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

Building approach, entrance, path space relationship and form of the circulation spaces etc. in congruity between architectural product and the spatial experience destroy the equilibrium of spatial progression of the building.

This rhythmic kind of process is always creating ease & legible environment.

For example when street hasn't proper enter, centre & exit its legibility & uniqueness is also altered. As results it's become a place which not happen any thing in to order. This disorder is creating unease, unstable & unsupportive environment.

Figure 2.28This rhythmic kind of process is always create ease & legible environment

2.3.7 Colour Luminosity & Colour Perspective.

The striking impressions can create by strong & pervasive use of colour.

Figure 2.29The striking impressions can created by strong & perspective use of colour

The colour on and in building enlivens & reveals the nature of the materials, which always remain visible beneath its glow. Colours mainly can be categorize to the groups of those are cool colours & hot colours. The sensible use of these colours is needed to originate or create an interesting product in architecture.

HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE.

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

Figure 2.30 Colours enhance the Varity of and the character of the streetscape

This principle presents an idea as how to create a product with an interesting look without, originating monotony. When considering by in the streetscape and city less is a must this provides an interesting out look to the buildings and streetscape as well as cities. But excessively luminosity colours used in streetscape will result in isolation of building, which weakens the street character.
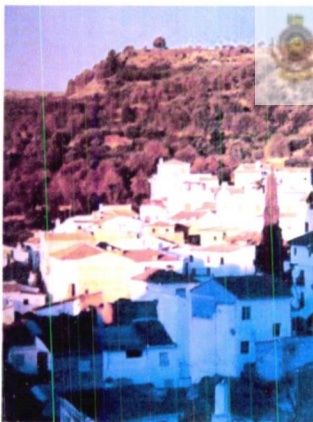
Proper use of luminosity & colour perspective enhance the variety of and the character of the streetscape. Monotony of the product is diminished by contrast and supplies relief to the brain & senses.

Figure 2.31 Sensible use of colour is created healing around it

HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE.

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

2.4 Importance of the Other Element for Healing in Street Architecture.

2.4.1 Topography

Topography is a common word which associates with the living environment of the human being. People admire nature's gifts in the form of mountains, forests, plants, grasslands & plateaus as natural environment. Thereby the care near natural features is more high plants, water & declines or rises of ground can heal any type psychological stress.

Figure 2.32.Care near natural feature is more high...

In the street, as a built environment, want to be arranging with natural features & merge with its spaces. Harmonies end of natural & physical element gives always pleasure to mind.

Figure 2.33 Tree ceiling above the street is always treat very calm & quit environment

Figure 2.34 Street which are fewer blends with nature are always having fast movement

HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE.

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

For example tree ceiling above the street is always treat very calm & quit environment. It's stopped or reduces speed of the movement. But the streets which are fewer blends with its topography are always having fast movement.

These are not welcome or stopped people, like that the topographical elements & its diversity can highly change people psycho situation.

Figure 2.35 Surrounding topography is the best healing method

2.4.2 Activities

The only legitimacy of the street is as public space. Without it, there is no city. Practical needs like access to adjacent properly, passage of through traffic are obvious.
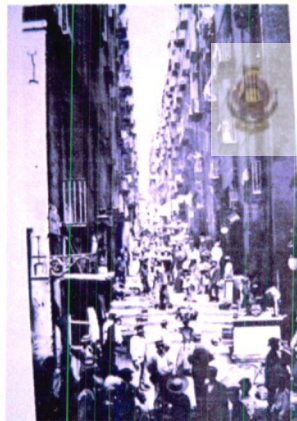
Figure 2.36 The only legitimacy of the street is as public space

Figure 2.37 Without public

But the fundamental reality of the streets, as with all public space, and its activities. The street could be perceived as a social link among people. It facilitates the opportunity for interaction and communication which is an essential feature for the formation of healthy & a well & integrated society.

HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE.

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

In most instances street become a part of the activity area that exists on either side of it. For example the street at time, forms a part of the house in residential areas where there are dwelling on either side.

These activities create public room it gives graters sense of enclosure to encourage the people to stay in. the liveability of the street basically depend on its activities of people.

2.4.3 Progression

An urban street can be perceived as a single composition which is composed of a series of spaces and has a spatial experience within this composition.
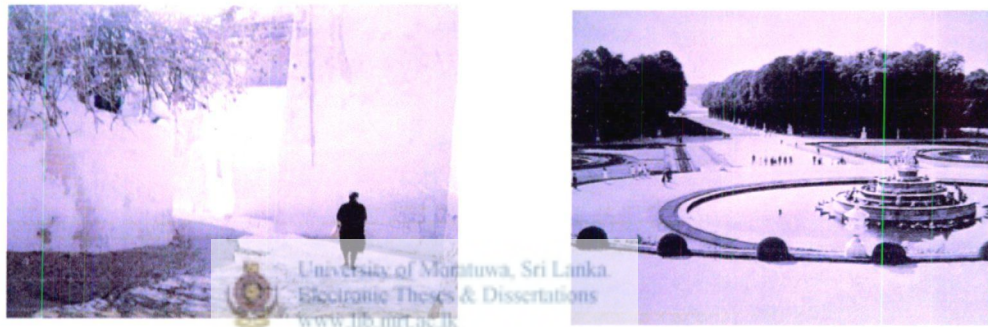
Figure 2.38 Urban Street: series of spaces and has a spatial experience within this composition

Spatial experiences of a space basically depends upon time that is it a spectre changes his position within an enclosed spaces, he acts different perspectives. Thought a street may be short, in the progression along an urban street the views keep on changing within a defined space. That is series of compositions can be seen in changing perspectives as the spectator moves along the space. Therefore spatial progression in the urban street space is dominant feature of the pedestrians, spatial experience. This spatial progression of a street is melodic organization; it is the conveyor attribute of the street. Thus orchestration of street progression (rhythm) or the conveyerbility and articulation of street space of the liveability of the street are the main attributes of a street which give an liveability to the street. This unique rhythmic liveability creates legibility, stability & belongings in user mind.

HEALING SPACE IN STREET ARCHITECTURE.

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

2.4.4 Focal point and visual cues

Meaning "towards something" and "termini" are the visual cues and focal point in the street. The movement of a user through the street needs a variety of impressions of rapid change. This can be archived through the frequent use of focal point & definite visual termination.

Figure 2.39 "towards something" & "termini" are the visual cues & focal point

Whatever the focal point it will encourage the movement of the street & reduce the discomfort and feel ease. That is, the user will be made to feel movement forward psychologically, towards the focal point. Because he emotionally attracted by this specific point. There fore this is not a physical movement, but a psychological healing to move towards the focal point. An intermediate target or visual cue is also important in the case of the absence of a single focal point. In a curved or a long street it is impossible to have a focal point. In such cases target provides a short terms goal for the user to reach giving him the feeling that part of the journey is completed and heal the user.

37
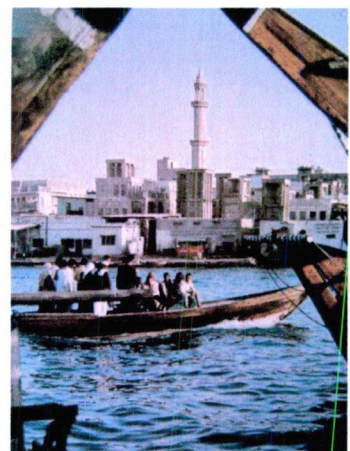
Chapter Three – Case Study of Selected Example of Healing

Architecture

Chapter three:

Case Study of Selected Examples of Healing Architecture.

3.1 Case study: York Street

Definition.

Concerning the layout of the York Street in begins with the intersection in front of the Hilton hotel and it continuous up to harbour passing the Cargill's and the Millers buildings. Actually the celebrity of the street and the character of it is given by the Colonial buildings, it is visually pleasing and having a progression through out.

Being the major access road to the city's administrative and the commercial capital from the British colonial period the building around the street is with the majestic architecture. The relationship of the building and the urban street is derived from the outer skin of the building with the arcades as a proper urban response. Any how York Street resolves many issues though they are complex to handle specially in urban situations.

York Street, Colombo is a colonial street which evolved during the rein of the British. The British architectural idiom of royalty, power and domination depicts from the architecture present in the York Street even today. Though this is a good urban response of British architecture concerning the build environment they are not with the human scale to gain the above mentioned objectives more effectively.

With the urban development during the British period, not like in the previous colonial eras the street architecture changed rapidly and there seems to have a good concern on the things happening around. The building got contained in with its function and even the pedestrian movements, while giving provision through the street façade and the vehicular traffic to dominate in the streets. Then the street facades and the arcades got influenced coursing the essence off urbanity.

39

3.1.1 Location

Figure 3.1 Layout of the fort and the York Street in it
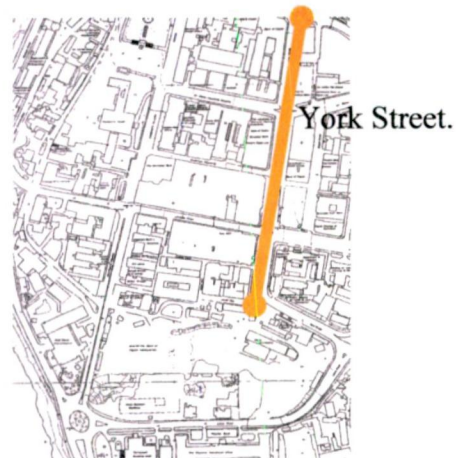
Figure 3.2 Layout of the fort and the York Street in it. (old).

The location and the orientation of the York Street are important because it is the major areas to the city of Colombo and to the heart of the commercial capital. Concerning the pedestrian movement and the other activities, York Street is one of the most important streets. York Street gives provision to the Echelon Square, harbour, and to other linked roads, with a commercial value, which are having lot of movement. So the York Street can be considered as the spinal access road to the city of Colombo or the present CBD.

Considering the other major street in the colonial Colombo the York Street and the Queen Street were the major two roads entering the city subsequently the hospital street, Chatham Street, Mudalige mawatha and Sir Baron Jayathilake mawatha are linking those two streets, formed smooth flowing access roads to different clusters of the city. And the areas surrounds by these streets became the city centre but when the city concentrated on transportation and business the activities moved towards Pettah later.

Considering the function of the York street as discussed above is in the major entrance to the city of Colombo and the major street concerning the access of the administration and the commercial districts of the city. The use of the street is much higher in the morning and in the evening but here

40

street buildings allows pedestrians moments without any congestion even this function is shifted from street in to the buildings. It creates the flow of the public, semi public and public spaces from outside to the inside of the building while observing the cross section.

Figure 3.5 Arcades along the road as an urban response.

This creates the legibility and the infiltration of the moments from public spaces in to the buildings. This arcade pattern and the relation ship of the rest of the building, especially in the Cargill's Millers express the unity of form and function. By observing the envelop of buildings shows that it is extraverted so the visual infiltration is allowed in the ground floors and above its limited and says that this is private premises and access is limited. So that the buildings are conversing with the people there, so they care people and make their mind less of investigations about the building.

Figure 3.6 Polarity applied in the building facades.

Then considering the building facades of the streets, in each building the theory of polarity can be experienced. Here with the details the duality avoided and polarity has enhanced within the unity of form. The voids of the façades specially the top and bottom express the difference while being part of the whole elevation. And by flowing continuously along the street, the polarity of element is visible with the solids & the voids also. This speaks about the discipline in the build environments which helps to heal the psyche of the user with out letting him confronted with many other ways by attracting him with more and more of other different details.

Concerning the Cargill's Millers buildings the Laksala building and the present Seylan Bank building, by taking each two at each time it is evident that the polarity in promoted even in different buildings. The polarity is not applied only to the same single building in the elevation but it can be considered with the adjacent buildings in the same street. Though Cargill's Millers & the present Seylan bank buildings are two, but they are one, concerning the whole street elevation and because of the polarity it dilutes the monotonous nature of the urban spaces. Therefore the discipline in the urban spaces is expressed through the built environment.

Figure 3.7 The features of the façade which express the evolution of the   buildings
while keeping the crust unchanged.

Though the above mentioned buildings are three different buildings, they seem to have one typical or a generic character within them. Different in their elevations and in the function also, but all are having the character of a single whole so it expresses the metamorphosis as well as the healing the psyche through this. As discussed earlier the building is too dominating in nature but concerning on the urban context and the urban links of man and the built environment. Because the York street is one of the major urban street, the built environment created in such, tolerating

with the environment around, as a part of the whole in the Colombo context and York street as the site or the location.

Figure 3.8 Living wall, which punctuate well and speaking to the people who using the street.

The wall of the York street façade is having sculptural qualities with the carvings and by the moulding of it and repeating columns are conversing with the people allowing their movement through the building. And because the columns are punctuating and penetrating, the ground the façades are not dead and they depicts the behaviour of the building, façade and the people around. The detailing of the building façade wont makes it blank and dead so people can deal with it and will reduce the stress, because people can easily read the langrage.

Figure 3.9 Poor urban response and the miss use of the colours.

But concerning the colour of the Cargill's Millers building the potential of healing has been destroyed. The colour applied there a like red will attract people and it has a commercial value but it is lack of healing because it increases the stress in the human mind. But concerning Laksala building and the present Seylan bank building they express the discipline and the healing of mind as required in a busy urban street. Though the York streetscape express the healing qualities as a whole, new buildings implemented such as the Nations Trust Bank is destroying the character of the street as well as spoiling the attitude of healing. It is because they are not responding to the character there and not following any design guidelines that can be observed in the street facades, though they are not written.

Topography

Figure 3.10 Different types of built environment created.

The topography of the York street and the buildings in the streetscape are not enhancing the character of the healing environment because the street has no feeling of making people stop & experience the environment. Because it is a high traffic road the street speaks only about the rapid movement but not the basic & relaxing. So the spaces around the street will not get the valve of healing and at the sometime the topography is poor.

Activities

Figure 3.11 Few activities take place and only the facilities are for the.

The activity of the York street is not really helping to heal the psyche of the user, because it is with much traffic & the street promotes traffic more and more with the straight layout of it. Coursing the security reasons also the street is not used as in the way it should use. The pedestrian movement and the public usage of the street is not welcomed, with the behaviour and several exclusive roads. Therefore the activity of the area is undertaken by different external forces and the barriers are made to limit, the streets activities and movement.

Figure 3.12 Path of movement and the
cross roads with visual clues.

With the entrance of the York street there is a progression towards the harbour and the progression is not achieved by several spaces created around but with the several links given to the cross streets and with these focal points the progression is maintained. The different glimpses and the continuity through the spaces are enhancing the legibility and the spaces of this progression really improve the healing of the environment.

These visual clues will proceeds the progression towards the intersection in front of the harbour authority. And concerning on the right opposite side of the York Street the facades are lack of healing power because a good response to the area or the activity or the context has not done properly. It remains as the undeveloped urban street still.

46

3.2 Case study: Panchikawatta Street.

Definition

Panchikawatta Street is mostly known for the vehicular spare parts. As far as they are concerned, any used or new brand of spare parts and for any models could be found around here. Therefore this is a special commercial zone. Here the activity is happening in streets especially as promotions and as the conventional way side market. The environment around has the potential of promoting this type of activity by having shaded pedestrian paths, which is created by a line of vegetation & pavements.

The street is with two main lanes and it encourages vehicle movement in both directions towards Maradana & to Kandy road. Because of its layout of the street in between Kandy road and Maradana railway station, recent use of the vehicles is evident at any time of the day and the pedestrian movement is also the same.
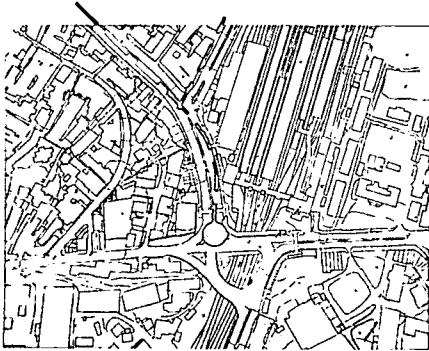
Location

Figure 3.13 Layout of the Panchilkawatte Street.

This street is connecting a high traffic road which is the Kandy road and a high traffic junction in Colombo. By its location it provides access to many important regions of the city specially Maligawatte, where government offices and a residential areas located. Therefore the vehicular movement and the pedestrian movement is expected at a high frequency, specially in the week days. With the cross lanes and different paths around this street has become the spinal road in between the two junctions. Though there are lot of vehicular and pedestrian movement the street has life than any other street as such, preferably with the activities around.

Figure 3.14 Arial view of the street and the junction to which it connects.

The context of Maradana, being mainly oriented for transportation, vehicular and trains lot of vehicular and human movement is expected in and around the streets. In different time of the day it is with different frequencies. Though the system of transportation has no big impact on the activities happening on this street, it cannot be ignored because transportation mobile people.

Concerning this street and the activities performing, it can be easily distinguished from other commercial activities happening around. This is a special zone with a different pattern of activity, language, work and society. Also there are different cultures and traditions when the commercial activities are concern.

Impotency

Figure 3.15 Though it is commercial the activities are indigenous.

The street has a different interpretation than any other commercial street around Colombo. The activities performing are different and the process of the business is bound with its own ethics. And this could be concerned as a way side market which is familiar. But here the things sell are very exclusive, and from different part of the country people get there to collect the spare parts, specially used and hard to find models. If its not there that couldn't be found any where with in the country, that's what people believe in the business of vehicle spare parts.

Figure 3.16 Serene environment created with the vegetation.

The natural setting of the street and the architecture of it is also significant. There has a character of a boulevard, except there the high traffic is not visible. Both sides of the street are with much vegetation, along the pedestrian payments, and provide shade for the habitation specially to slow down the movement. So the shaded environment is visually pleasing and user friendly though it is an urban commercial street.

Healing Architecture in Panchikawatta.

Figure 3.17 High frequency of the activities performing along the street.

Along the streets of Panchikawatta there evident a commercial development concerning the space and the activities, as discussed earlier. By the street or the road buildings and the vegetation is between creating the spaces for people to habit and engage in activities happening rather than moving just passing them by. The road for traffic and the pavements with trees for pedestrian movement and the way side shops to promote their goods has created an attractive urban space where people will stay easily and supports the activities.

Figure 3.18 Pedestrian movement is encouraged with the compositional arrangement of the pedestrian path.

Concerning the activities pedestrian movement has to be encouraged in these streets so there should be healing qualities in the architecture or in the spaces created intuitively. While walking along the street the arrangement of the shops act as a demarcation of the street extension, towards pavement but with the small temporary boutiques positioned along the pavement breaks the linear directional movement of the people along the streets.

Figure 3.19 An alleyway promotes the visual clues while the people are moving to improve legibility.

The main street is continuing forwards and giving different visual directions from place to place and at the same time crossroads and the connecting roads improves legibility. Therefore entering in to the street and walking down of the streets will reduce the stress of the mind. The connecting streets, alleyways and staircases will improve the legibility and in such spaces new sort of activities are happening with the shade of them.

Figure 3.20 anyone is welcomed and allows the free movement under the green arcade.

Concerning the form of the built environment they are not solid and exclusive demarcations between the street; the public space and the private space. Because of the porousness in nature any body could see what's happening there and getting involved there also. Then the feeling of unknown or hidden will be vanished and the user is more comfortable. There for the

50

spaces of street's composition is in harmony with the element around and really supporting the function so the unity of form and function is evident.

As far as the vegetation is there, by nature the polarity is achieved in spaces and in the street's elements. And also the spaces created by temporary structures also make the spaces with the same essence even they differ from one another. There the polarity is promoting different spaces and visual cues and the starch of the trees blends the public and private zone effectively. Each and every space is different but they speak of the connections from one to another so the user will direct forward along the streets with ease in the mind.

Figure 3.21 People are clarifying on the things while moving on without any effort.

Considering the street elevation which has contributed to the spaces created, the buildings are not rise up with predefined regulations to preserve the character of the street. But though the development is haphazard, considering the whole stretch it is interesting to see the pattern it achieved. Richness and the weathered quality of the buildings have merged together and they speak the same with different interpretations. But there are few structures which came out without any sense of the place or the activities; therefore the healing nature has been damaged. The new and the old spare parts dealers of the streets depicts a clear difference from their shops and so the polarity of the visual limits is been treated well.

Figure 3.22 Activities are extended to the street even to the vehicle path, discourage the human movement.

There cannot be seen that much relationship with the metamorphosis in the spatial features in the streetscape here. But the temporary structures and the new buildings seems to have some relation in its way but it is not strong enough to identify. The activity itself seems to have a connection, which is housed later was on the streets earlier. There the buildings have evolved along the street and they always created concerning on the spare parts as what it sells. So even today buildings are full of black coloured vehicle parts and in there interior and even in the exterior as the extension of the shop. This extension can be denitrified each and every where this feature remains unchanged. The facades look much similar in ground floors but they differ when the whole building is conserved separately. So the metamorphosis of the buildings cannot be clearly identified there.

Figure 3.23 created edge of the permanent buildings and the flexible demarcation of the temporary huts by the street .

While walking along these streets two types of structures can be identified as permanent buildings and the temporary huts. The permanents buildings are just came up and stopped and created an edge affected by the regulation, but the temporary structure they appear as they want to respond to the activity. Here it is not meant that the permanent buildings of lacking the response to the activity but they do their promotion only by welcoming the customer in and by extending their shops toward

the street keeping the stuff on the road. This is good in terms of the activity and the shaded pavement supports it because it is apart from the vehicular traffic. Parking the vehicles by side of the road enclose this stretch and enhanced the environmental quality suite for the human scale activities by being a visual and interpenetrating barrier to the rapid movement of the adjacent road.

Figure 3.24 The pedestrian's space in-between the created edge of the permanent buildings and the way side parking and it is shaded by the vegetation.

Concerning the placement of these temporary huts and the way they promote their stuff, it seems like it is a part of the context and the site. People could look at the stuff and ask for any specifications about them while moving along the street without changing their directions or moods. But in the permanent way side shops this feature is lacking. The lay out the street is also supporting this activity of walking watching and buying. The vegetation line along the street promotes people to walk slowly under the shades and this barrier or the created arcade between the street and the shops works well when the site is concerned.

The progression of the street is celebrated only between the middle, but two junctions are two strange in character so a good exit or and entrance is not formed. Then the vehicles concern it as visually pleasing corridor with glimpses to the cross roads and it activities but an identified good progression cannot be seen. From the view of the pedestrian users here is some interesting flow of spaces with the visual glimpses through the buildings, staircases and cross roads.

Figure 3.25 the colours have no discipline but it increase the stress in the human mind by stimulation of curiosity.

53

The colours are handling to get the attraction in to the buildings but they seem to have much discipline in some places. Most of the time colours used to get the attraction of the user by enhancing the curiosity. In the sign boards and in the facades also the miss use of the colours can be identified. And it will disturb the mind of the user making him hot. The colour of the junks and the green of the vegetation merged all in to a visually pleasing environment through out the street. So as a whole the colour of the facades will not matter that much because of the green curtain in front of it.

3.3 Case study: Gunasinghapura

Definition

The selected street in Gunasinghapura is leading toward a residential area which is called the Gunasinghapura flat. Though this area is adjacent to a high traffic region and lot of activities here in this street the speciality is due to the less traffic and high pedestrian movement in this residential area. Considerably the location, the activity has a relationship and the live ness of the street came up because of the architecture along the street. Though the whole layouts were not designed but there the healing happens well.

Gunasinghapura is concern as a residential area in the heart of commercial capital and several housing schemes has done and proposed within that area. Though it is surrounded with a high commercial area become of the human moment and the related activity is the priority, so it is a really interesting area to study.
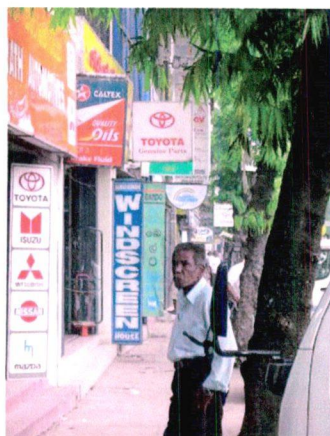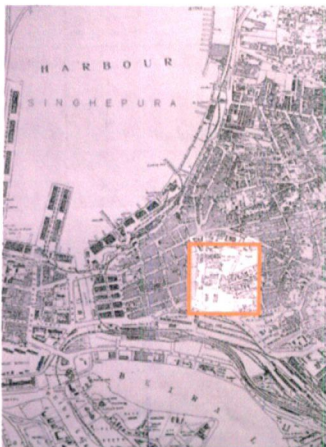
Location

Figure 3.26 the colours have no discipline but it increase the stress in the human mind by stimulation of curiosity.

As mentioned it locates with the affection of the high commercial zone of Colombo, Pettah which concern as the most active area of the city in the sense of traffic and the human movement. And it is the major transportation hub of the CBD. Therefore the context is with much vehicular and pedestrian traffic and it has a higher commercial value.

Therefore concerning Gunasinghapura housing, it is interesting to analyse how Gunasinghapura managed to survive with the residential qualities around. Actually the street which is subjected to

Concerning about the psycho socio profile of the inhabitants in this area most of them are belong to the lower or the lower middle income class. So the needs of them are different to the other categories and there with the activities it is evident that people do have sense of community.

Healing architecture in Gunasinghapura, Dias Place Street.

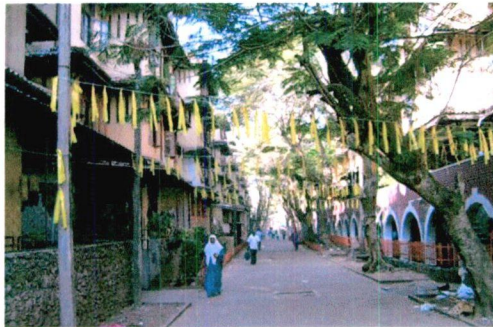Figure 3.29 Vehicles are disturbing the street but less frequently.

When the architecture of the street is concerned it promotes movement as well as it is enriched with the built environment which improves healing of the psyche of the user. The environments created here will slow down the movement so it will reduce the stress of the mind of the user so he will take time to be himself. The street is wider but these is no present of a vehicular traffic except few occasional wheel drive, motorbike or a foot cycle, otherwise its totally pedestrian.

Figure 3.30 different pattern of the street considering the built mass.

The built masses are played from one end to the other in different patterns and the building are arranged to express the feeling of welcome and it has mainly because of the building heights of the surrounded spaces.

The legibility of the spaces and the visual comfort of the facades are achieved through the colours and with the composition of the streets so the fear of the unknown will not come in the user mind. The infiltration of the human activities from street in to the buildings is present here and the legibility of the composition may give glimpses of the spaces and it will help to read the spaces with out any effort, and then the link with the spaces and the human will be strengthen, so people will be habit and celebrate there day today life. Concerning the activities along this road, it promotes the

low commercial activities and it makes the street live and proper for human habitation. But is not act as a commercial hub, this serves only a very limited area.

Figure 3.31 the niches and the special articulations to promote functions and as a gathering space.

Though the street is linear and speaks about movement, the built environment will give the chances for people to stay and habit. And the facades not plane and comprise with edges which is not communicating about the movement but the sense of stay and go. They are having the niches and alleys which give physical and visual links through those of the street to the interior spaces of the streets adjoining. The form of the buildings also enhances these spatial experiences not only the details in them.

Figure 3.32 niches and the visual corridors which allows penetration to improve legibility.

Specially the Gunasinghapura residential flat is not facing the full façade as to say that the privacy is given more priority. The front part of the building is having an arcade downstairs, next the street and it created a visual corridor through the building to interior garden of the building composition. This is a good example of unity in form and function. Therefore the streetscape or the space speaks to the user so that he will get to know what sort of a place is this, without making his mind to think.
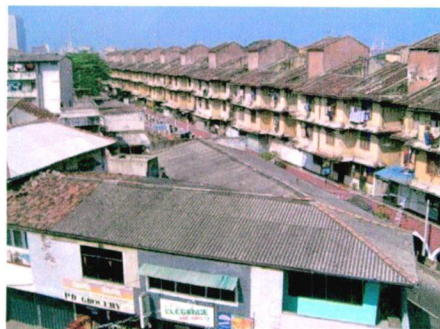

Figure 3.33 Even if the facades are similar the polarity is achieved by the personalising the use of the facade.

In some section of the street the polarity lacks but in some part it has manifested well. Concerning the recent buildings with solid plain facades, the polarity has not manifested well. It is too strong in character, to tolerate by

58

Figure 3.34 arcade is promoting the mobility along the street and created friendly spaces for human activities.

the people who are living around. Here the ground floor of the building is used for commercial activities while the upper floors are having residences or accommodations. The monotonous look of the cheap building construction methods dilutes the polarity as well as the visual pleasing appearance. But concerning the street elevation as a whole the polarity can be experienced in latest buildings also. The one which comprises the two different ones will make the mind refresh and calm down the stressed feeling with its discipline. Not only are the openings the polarity concentrated in the solid balancing of the street.

The buildings actually are functioning and they are performing their own duties and promote the activities derived by the user in relation to the built environment. Then here it can be considered as the buildings are in harmony with the site physically by involving the activities around and with the promotion of them. The nature of the area is man made & the site or the context is having served by the buildings so it is possible to assume these are going with the nature & the site. Therefore Than the physical aspects we have to concern on human and its link to the built environment as well as their effect on each other.
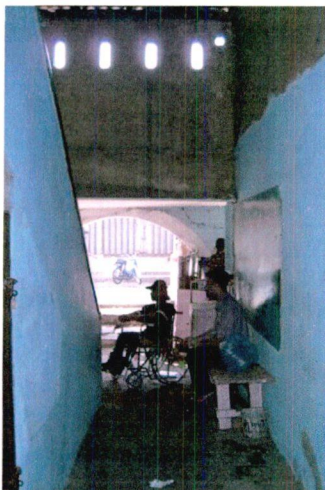
Figure 3.35 arcade is creating community spaces inside and connects the public and the private spaces.

Concerning the residential flats of Gunasinghapura the design itself is enriched with the qualities of promoting healing in the street architecture. The arcade is used as a multifunctional space. With in the space of the arcade people play, hang around and sometimes it use as an extension for their homes and to keep goods stored. This arcade and the podium looking elevation of it, separates the public, semi public and the private spaces vertically in the context. The

concept of the living wall can be really experienced here because it speaks about the weight of the building and the details of it concerning different issues. All the activities happen under this arcade which is well shaded and it is in relation with the semi public character flanked by the public road and the private residences.

Also the above facades of the residential building, and by the way they are played architecturally it is evident that it encourage and gives clues about the form and function as well as the polarity of the street elevation.
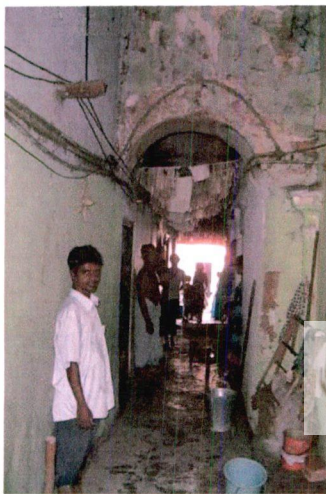

Figure 3.36 the visual clues of the activities will make the progression interesting and improve the awareness of the activities happening around .

Concerning about the spatial manifestation of the street it is really important to discuss it with the arcade and its features. Facing the street, it gives the visual clues or the glimpses in to the buildings and also to the central circulation paths and gardens. And a clear entrance and an exit can be identified. But concerning on the spatial manifestation it is an interesting experience with the activities happening along the arcade. And with the cross links of the street it creates visual corridors and one can see the things happening right next to the street. But through the arcade also different spatial means has been given to different activities so that the progression of the spaces defined with the visual clues.

Especially with different activities taking place along two junctions there locates a temple. The temple has a significant image among the rest of the buildings spread in the street elevation and it is with much open spaces. Also it has a big impact on the streets spatial progression. This variety of the spatial medium present in the street is creating the spatial progression with different buildings in different function, and they speak to the mind of the user and this conversation makes the users mind to diminish the stress.

Concerning the contribution of the colours to the urban spaces it is important interims of catching the eye of the people as well as calm down their moods. The colours and its meaning of the Gunasinghapura is not in terms attracting the user, but it enhance the quality of care of the built environment. The earth colours of the buildings and few other highlighting colours made the variety not being monotonous but it is still with a discipline. The weathered a look of the building skin is comfortable for people than yelling colours in the sign boards. The minimum interference has been done to the visual environment here streets creates great healing spaces while laying between the two junctions.

Conclusion

Studying and analyzing the streets in urban context it is evident that they are having unbreakable links with the activities of the man. And the function of the street can be derived as a progression of spaces which is conversing with the user and guiding him through his journey. The spatial aspect of the street is to be concerned more important than its physical aspects because for man the space to which he belongs is important. The street could build an image in the mind of the user about the city and the spaces that he is in engaged with.

Therefore with the development of the cities to make people bound to it, streets could have done an impact. So spatial quality of healing the psyche of each individual should be achieved, then the people will habit with ease, and less friction will be there in between the physical and social contexts. And it is important to consider man and space as one than it is two.

While developing, for people, the cities should be much more interesting and it could have been experienced while moving through in the easiest way. So the progression of the streets should be concerned more important than the physical development of it. And it should also promote the proper special qualities to encourage releasing the stress of the mind which is healing of psyche.

When creating architecture, which specialized in spaces, these key points should be taken in to consideration. Though architecture creates environments associate with the natural and manmade it has speak to the mind of the man and it is necessary to treat his mind depending on the situations that he has confronted. So identifying the nature of the mind and the thoughts, the street architecture is to be implemented, because it is critical in terms of the public perception and this can affect the existential space of the city both in good and bad ways in the future.

62

LIST OF REFERENCES

Alexander, C. (1987), *New Theory of Urban Design*, New York: Oxford University press.

Alexander, C. (1977), *Pattern language*, New York: Oxford University press.

Anthony, T. Mark, R. (1987), *Making Townscape*, London: Mitchell Publishing Company limited.

Benevolo, L. (1980), *The History of the city*, Great Britain: Scolar press.

Bentley, I, Alock, A. Murrain, P. Mcglynn, S. Smith, G. (1985), *Responsive environments, London*: The architectural press.

Ching, D.K.F. (1979), *Architecture: Form space and order*, USA: Van Nostand Reinhold Company Ltd.

Cliff, Monghtin.(1979), *Urban Design: Street and Square*, Butterwoith Hinemann Ltd, Linacre House, oxford

Edmund .N. B. (1967), *Design of cities*, Thames and Hudson Ltd, London.

Farmer, B. and Louw, H. (1993), *Companion to contemporary architectural thought*, London: 11 New Fetter Lane.

Francis,T.(1992), *Making people friendly towns*, Logmon Group UK Ltd.

Kostof,S. (1992), *The City Assembled*, The elements of Urban Form Though History, London: Tames and Hadson.

Krier, R. O.B. (1979), *Urban Space*, Architectural press, London.

Lynch, K. (1981), *Good city form*, London: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Lynch, K. (1960), *The Image of the city,* London: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Morris, A. E.J. (1979), *History of urban Form*, Longman Scientific and technical, john Willey and sons New York

Perera, L.A.S.R. (2001), *Social dimensions of the built environment; some conceptual insights*, The Sri Lanka Architect, vol. 101,No. 02, pp. 13-20.

Premathilaka, M. (1993), *Architectural chaos*, The Sri Lanka Architect, Vol.101, No 04, p53
Ralph, E. (1976), *Place and Placelessness*, London: 207, Brondesbnry Parkm.

Rapoport, A. (1969), *House Form and Culture*, Englewood Cliffs NJ ; Prentice hall.

Rapoport, A. (1977), *Human Aspects of Urban Form*, towards man environment approach to urban form and design. New York; pergamon.

Rapoport, A. (1990), *The meaning of the built environment* (a nonverbal communication approach), Tucson: University of Arizona press.

Shulz,C.N. (1971), *Existence space and Architecture*, London Studio Vista.

Trankik, R. (1986), *Finding Lost spaces*, England: Van Nostand Reinhold Company Ltd.

?