

'HOUSE AS A PLACE OF DWELLING VERSUS BASE FOR LIVELIHOOD'

THE IMPACT OF HOME BASED WORK ON THE SOCIO-SPATIAL VALUE OF
URBAN DWELLINGS,
AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS ON HOUSE DESIGNING IN FUTURE.

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A Dissertation submitted to the
Department of Architecture,
University of Moratuwa,
In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Degree of Master of Science
In
Architecture.

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University of Moratuwa

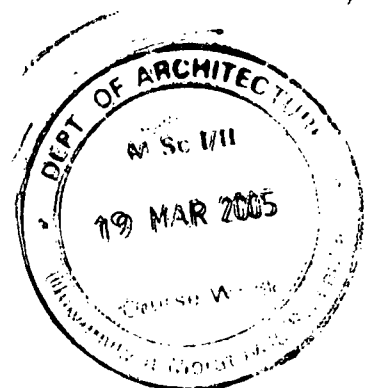
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Declaration

I declare that this dissertation represents my own work, except where due acknowledgements are made, and that it has not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this University or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification.

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Acknowledgements.

I kneel with gratitude before many, who criticized argued, advised and encouraged me throughout in making this a success.

- At first, Prof. Nimal De Silva, Dean of the Faculty, Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa.
- Archt. Vidura Sri Nammuni – Head of the Department, Department of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, for been a source of inspiration when I'm a student in 5th year, helped me to develop my thinking to look at Architecture in a meaning full way....
- Dr. Upendra Rajapakshe - Lecturer, 5th year Master, Department of Architecture and dissertation co-coordinator, for the initial guidance, advice and comments throughout the study.
- Prof. Samitha Manawadu –Senior Lecturer, Department of Architecture for giving me valuable advice and hints during the draft stage to make this a success.
- Archt. Prassanna Kulathilake –Senior Lecture, Department of Architecture, who has been a constant source of inspiration to me in the task of writing this dissertation.
- Miss. Hiranthi Pathirane - Personnel Tutor, for the constant encouragement, prior valuable knowledge and for guidance given on the research.
- Archt. N.S.P.Perera – for giving me necessary nourishment, advise, guidance and valuable comments.
- Mr. K.D.Fernando – Lecturer, Town & Country Planning Department, University of Moratuwa, for giving his valuable advises regarding the case studies.
- My dearest friend, Kelum Palipane- for her comments, arguments and hot discussions about the content of the dissertation, and mainly for helping me to correct grammar in the dissertation
- Sonu, Sal, Sew and Chani – for helping me in many ways during my hard periods in life.
- Bathalaya and dear ZZZandy - for helping me when I needed an aid.
- Kumudu akka, Uncle and Chanu- for being with me through out hard periods.
- Hima and Ayya- for helping me as my own brother and sister.
- Dunusu + Danushka- for helping me in numerous ways as my own shadow.
- And All my friends ☺ who helped me to make the study a success, specially Thanuja, Madu, Kal, Eyo, Subowa, Meenu, Sulo, Tattaya, Batta and Minru for tolerating my moods and for continues encouragements.
- My Loving Amma, for being the Moon for once darken life with out the Sun, my one and only Nangi and loving Ayya, for unceasing care, silent blessings and most of all believing in my self, right through out.
- For the strength of the 'Universe', as well as the truth of the 'Darmathawaya' around us –which I always feel, and I all ways believe, and when I want an aid penetrates in to me, when I need to see appears as an another human being!!

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Abstract.

'Home' has a special bond with its dwellers and also it is a fundamental necessity of every human being. Where it acts as 'own' place and provides 'shelter'. The bond between the home and the dweller is strong as it protects privacy, enhances mental satisfaction, and provides relaxation from the man's busy life pattern. Dwellers become highly attached to it and it becomes a part of their life.

Before rampant urbanization because of the availability of adequate space and clear demarcation from other activities, did not hinder the concept of 'home' as a place of dwelling. The purpose of a 'house' (the physical place) as a 'home' (beyond the physicality - including all the relationships) was clearly defined as the place where the 'family' - the smallest social group of the society dwelled.

But today, in urban situations a certain category of urban dwellers are unsatisfied with the economic conditions of their lives. The high land values and strategic locations in urban tight places provide a good potential to be exploited economically. With the acceleration of the development, economic situations need to be strengthened more so in the future than today, to survive in an urban context. Hence most people conduct many economic activities in their living environment HBW (home based work) in order to improve their economy. This gives a commercial façade to living and home environment. And also it is a threat for their 'homes' as traditionally defined and their home environment. It could be identified that because of this phenomenon occupants have done various changes, modifications, adaptation to their houses. Simultaneously the living pattern, the life style changed and as a result social and spatial conflicts arose. Therefore this issue will become more critical in the future.

In future within the development of the world, will home become more than living? Because of the multiple use of the home environment, what will happen to their living environment? Could people dwell with privacy as before, while being involved in the commercial activities within the home? As the interaction with outsiders increase, could they maintain their home environment as before?

Should the loss of 'home' be allowed for such urban dwellers or would it be possible to design original home with flexibility and a possibility of modifying without affecting peoples privacy and security. To do so what are the aspects needed to be considered? This should be considered as a positive developing phenomenon in the world. Thus it is a responsibility of the designer to think deeply on the present economic trend and to adapt new design criteria for designing such houses in the future which would help both dwelling versus commercial activities to function without a conflict.



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