

**ADAPTIVE ARCHITECTURE :**

**A study of the TIME dimension in Buildings  
and steps towards making Buildings adaptive**

A Dissertation presented to  
The Faculty of Architecture,  
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka,  
For the Final Examination  
in M.Sc (Architecture)

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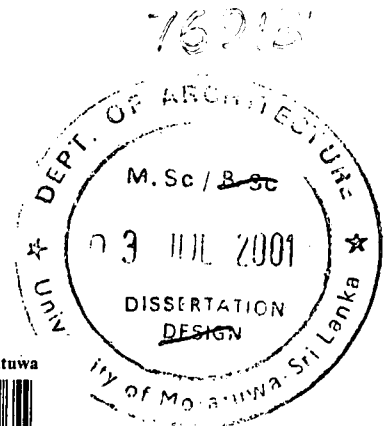
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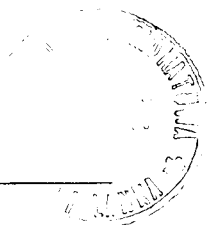
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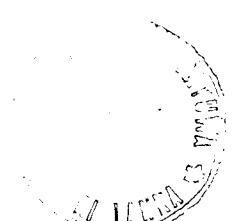
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A B S T R A C T

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## **ABSTRACT**

No Building is ever perfect.

Each building, when it is first built, is an attempt to make a self-maintaining whole configuration.

But our predictions are invariably wrong. People use buildings differently from the way they thought they would. And the larger the pieces become, the more serious this is.

The process of design, in the mind's eye, or on the site, is an attempt to simulate in advance, the feeling and events which will emerge in the real building, and to create a configuration which is in repose with respect to these events.



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But the prediction is all guesswork; the real events which happen there are always at least slightly different; and the larger the building is, the more likely the guess are to be inaccurate.

It is therefore necessary to keep changing the buildings, according to the real events which actually happen there. And the larger the complex of buildings, neighborhood, or town, the more essential it is for it to be built up gradually, from thousands of acts, self-correcting acts, each one improving and repairing the acts of the others.

***".... Each act of building, which differentiates a part of space, needs to be***

*followed soon by further acts of building,  
which further differentiate the space to  
make it still more whole...." (1)*

This is commonplace in nature: and indeed,  
it is just this which always manages to make  
the parts of nature whole.

In this framework, we gain an entirely new  
view of the process through which a  
sequence of acts of building generates a  
whole. Broadly, what is happening is that  
there is, at each stage in the life of any part  
of the environment, a wholeness which is  
specific to that moment in its life: and that  
each new act of building, provided that it is  
done with an eye to making the overall whole  
still more whole, more alive, will transform  
that whole, and gradually give birth to new  
wholes.



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