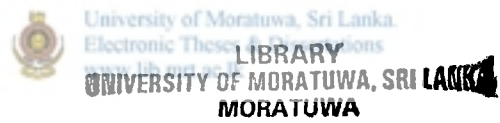


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**EXTENTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS IN LOW  
INCOME HOUSING :  
A STUDY OF SOCIO – SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS  
AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPLICATIONS**



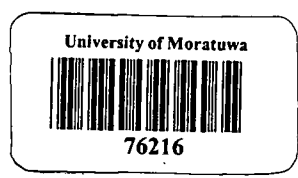
**A Dissertation Presented to the Faculty of Architecture  
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka  
As a Part of the Final Examination in  
M.Sc. (Architecture) and to the  
Royal Institute of British Architects for the  
RIBA Part – II Examination**

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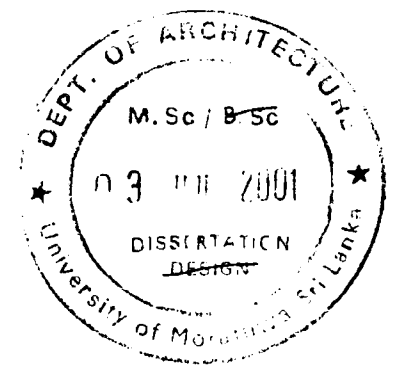
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**Anusha De Silva  
Faculty of Architecture  
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***“The form of a house or a settlement is not simply a result of physical forces or any single casual factor, but it is the consequences of a whole range of social – cultural factors seen in their broadest terms.”***

***Amos Rapoport***

# CONTENTS

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|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| ABSTRACT                       | i   |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENT                 | ii  |
| LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS          | iii |
| INTRODUCTION                   | 1   |
| *. Topic Explanation           | 1   |
| *. Issue and need of the study | 2   |
| *. Objectives of the study     | 3   |
| *. Method of study             | 4   |
| *. Scope and limitation        | 4   |



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## CHAPTER ONE

### GENERAL BACKGROUND OF MASS HOUSING - A NEED AND A PROBLEM

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 1.1 Urbanization and migration                             | 6  |
| 1.2 Housing the most needed and difficult to fulfil        | 6  |
| 1.3 Mass housing as a solution for the housing problem     | 9  |
| 1.4 Mass housing and social structure of the urban context | 11 |
| 1.5 Mass housing and housing for the Low in come people    | 13 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 1.5.1 Socio - cultural and economic aspects of the urban poor   | 6  |
| a) Economic aspects   |    |
| b) Occupational aspects   |    |
| c) Educational aspects  |    |
| d) Political aspects  |    |
| 1.5.2 Background of providing housing for the urban poor  | 15 |
| 1.5.3 Present trends of housing for urban poor  | 18 |
| 1.6 Extensions and modifications in housing for the urban poor as manifestation of triumphs and failiures | 22 |

## CHAPTER TWO :

### USER EXTENTIONS, MODIFICATIONS AND IT'S RELATED VARIABLES IN MASS HOUSING

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 2.1 Psychological variables - Quantitative human needs in housing | 24 |
| 2.1.1 Privacy   |    |
| 2.1.2 Territoriality  |    |
| 2.1.3 Identity  |    |
| 2.2 Physical variables  | 28 |
| 2.3 Socio - Cultural variables                                    | 29 |
| 2.3.1 Cultural variables  | 29 |
| 2.3.2 Social variables  | 30 |

- a). Sociability
- b). Occupational aspects
- c). Social class, status and power
- d). Extended family system

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| 2.3.3 Economic variables | 36 |
|--------------------------|----|

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 2.4 Primary variables for mass housing and other particular applicability in providing housing | 36 |
|--|----|

## CHAPTER THREE

### CO RRELATION BETWEEN THE USER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATION AND THE RELATED VARIABLES IN HOUSING FOR THE LOW INCOME PEOPLE



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|  |    |
|--|----|
| 3.1 Back ground  | 37 |
| 3.2 User extentions and modifications in mass housing for the low in come people, the study study with selected examples | 37 |
| 3.2.1 Physical variables   | 37 |
| 3.2.2 Psychological varisbles  | 46 |
| a) Territoriality  | 46 |
| b) Identity  | 50 |
| c) Privacy   | 53 |
| 3.2.3 Socio - cultural variables   | 58 |
| 3.2.3.1 Cultural variables   | 58 |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 3.2.3.2 Social variables  | 60        |
| - Sociability   | 60        |
| -Extended families  |           |
| - Occupational activities   |           |
| - Social classes / Status and Powers  |           |
| <br>  |           |
| 3.3 The socio - spatial relationships and architectural implications with options | 73        |
| <br>  |           |
| 3.3.1 Belapur housing New Bombay  |           |
| 3.3.2 Aranya low cost housing, In dore  |           |
| 3.3.3 Low in come housing scheme at Jagamara                                      |           |
| 3.3.4 Shushtar housing at New town, Iran  |           |
| 3.3.5 Gunasinghepura housing scheme   |           |
| 3.3.6 Low in come settlement of Maulana Azad colony at Delhi                      | 88        |
| <br>  |           |
| <b>CONCLUSION</b>   | <b>89</b> |
| <br>  |           |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>   | <b>93</b> |



## ABSTRACT

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Shelter is a basic need of mankind and most architects are getting involved in giving solutions for that particular problem. In the present situation with the increase of population, mass housing schemes have been accepted as the most appropriate solution. When designing houses on a large scale, the architects are restricted by standardized components, materials technology and mainly the economy. But shelter is not only an end product of these components but also integrates the household and socio spatial characters of a particular group.

A.K. Jain explains this as

*“the shelter is not an end product or a standardized commodity. It’s a complex process including mental and physical, individual and community aspects and social and historical activities.”*

Yet giving priority to the political and economic aspects ignoring the specific socio – cultural qualities of the communities have created certain problems on their living patterns. As a result people do their own alterations and modifications to the built form violating the existing rules and regulation, to achieve their lost qualities.

This situation can be mostly seen in housing providing for the urban poor and it implies the spatial requirements and the characteristic qualities needed by the particular user category. To provide better living conditions within an affordable economic conditions is not that easy, specially the low-income communities.

Large-scale housing schemes are essential to overcome this housing shortage of the poor and also for the town renewal programmes. Therefore it has become a necessity to study this complex situation to be more effective in delivering housing for the urban poor of a country.

---

A.K.Jain - **Building System for Low-income housing**; Management Publishing Company, Dehra Dun, India, (1992 –p 3)

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## LIST OF PLATES

| PLATE NO: | DESCRIPTION  | PAGE NO: |
|-----------|--|----------|
| 01        | Most of people living and dying<br>on the pavement Culcuta                     | 08       |
| 02        | Traditional mosque in Cario ,now<br>inhabited due to the city housing shortage | 08       |
| 03        | people using temporary places as their home                                    | 09       |
| 04        | The Belapur housing at new Bombay  | 14       |
| 05        | People using their front yard small<br>scale business activities.              | 14       |
| 06        | Million housing programme  | 16       |
| 07        | Single room improved flat Singapore  | 19       |
| 08        | Tara group housing complex .New Delli  | 19       |
| 09        | Zakir Hussain Co -operative housing  | 20       |
| 10        | Proposed Sahaspura project at Wanathamulla.                                    | 21       |
| 11        | Physical features can facilitate isdentity to built form                       | 26       |
| 12        | Housing units own identity   | 27       |
| 13        | Muslims using colorful and decorative elements to<br>get privacy.              | 30       |
| 14        | Play area is the main gathering space of the residents.                        | 32       |
| 14        | raised flat form provides most interactive places for<br>community.            | 32       |
| 15        | People extended their individual house for<br>occupational activities.         | 33       |
| 17        | Some people showing status by using rich external.                             | 34       |
| 18        | Extended Jamily system of urban poor in Culcuta                                | 35       |
| 19        | Poorly maintained open spaces -Paliyagoda                                      | 39       |
| 20        | Subway become intimate<br>community gathering space Bandaranayake pura         | 39       |

|    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 22 | Less light and ventilation in the room Kjuppiyawatta                              | 44 |
| 24 | Staircase landing by the decorative wall  | 45 |
| 25 | The extension done to carry out informal baseness activities.                     | 45 |
| 26 | People demarcated their territories by fences , trees.                            | 46 |
| 26 | Giving identity by different contrasting colours-<br>Kuppiyawatta                 | 52 |
| 28 | Monotones row houses at Peliyagoda.   | 52 |
| 29 | Muslim house put up high walls interior to have privacy.                          | 54 |
| 30 | Steel fences and boundary walls make visual connections and                       | 54 |
| 31 | Flower troughs give a pleasing atmosphere   | 55 |
| 32 | Central courtyard with housing units – Kuppiyawattha                              | 56 |
| 33 | Extended varendah   | 57 |
| 34 | Tamil people using contrasting colors   | 60 |
| 35 | Typical individual cluster  | 61 |
| 36 | Centrally located in the community center   | 62 |
| 37 | Special location being held at community center                                   | 62 |
| 38 | Image house at Peliagoda  | 64 |
| 39 | Gathering area with the Christian religious place Peliagoda.                      | 64 |
| 40 | extendedvarandah for visitors   | 67 |
| 41 | commomn corridor is one of the main gathering place for the upper floor occupants | 67 |
| 42 | open space for community activity   | 69 |
| 42 | A common food preperation area  | 69 |
| 43 | encroached the front yard   | 70 |



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|    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 44 | upper floor will be given fo mew family                                   | 70 |
| 45 | front4 yard converted to the garage                                       | 71 |
| 46 | open spaces encroach for some illegal occupation activities               | 72 |
| 47 | pavement using for small boutiqes   | 72 |
| 48 | giving identity by external appearance                                    | 73 |
| 49 | one and two story houise types with adjacent open<br>to sky space         | 76 |
| 50 | Aranya a low cost housing –Indore   | 78 |
| 51 | housing clusters encourages social interactions                           | 79 |
| 52 | Sense of community enhancing with an outdoor platform                     | 80 |
| 53 | The narrow streets as penetrate the<br>residential heart to the township. | 81 |
| 56 | Terrace and balconies open or sheltered and at<br>different heights       | 82 |
| 57 | Providing terraces for the public for future expansions.                  | 82 |
| 58 | Market occupies the central plaza of the                                  | 86 |
| 59 | View of commercial street with residential above.                         | 86 |

## LIST OF FIGURE

| <u>FIGURE</u><br><u>NO.</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u>   | <u>PAGE NO.</u> |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 01.                         | Housing as a system of a planner's point of view.  | 10              |
| 02                          | Diagram of the interrelationship between seven<br>Sets of resident satisfaction.         | 11              |
| 03.                         | Arrangement of streets and gathering places<br>in upper floors-Sahaspura.                | 21              |
| 04.                         | Layout plan- Peliyagoda housing scheme.  | 38              |
| 05.                         | Layout plan-Kuppiyawatte housing scheme  | 42              |
| 06.                         | Existing type plan of Kuppiyawatte housing scheme  | 43              |
| 07.                         | After modification of individual unit.   | 43              |
| 08.                         | Road network-Kuppiyawatte  | 47              |
| 09.                         | Layout plan- Bandaranayakepura   | 48              |
| 10.                         | Layout plan showing limited community spaces.  | 49              |
| 11.                         | Layout plan showing monotonous row houses in<br>Peliyagoda.                              | 50              |
| 12.                         | Typical plan-an arrangement in one cluster.  | 51              |
| 13.                         | Visual contacts with neighbours.   | 54              |
| 14.                         | Central court yard with housing blocks-Keppettipola.                                     | 56              |
| 15.                         | Protect privacy of the occupants of one block from the<br>adjoining block.-Kuppiyawatte. | 58              |
| 16.                         | Layout plan- Nawagampura.  | 59              |
| 17.                         | Typical arrangement of a cluster-Nawagampura   | 59              |
| 18.                         | Individual cluster get the maximum interactions with<br>the immediate neighbours.        | 61              |
| 19.                         | Typical plan of a individual unit Nawagampura  | 65              |
| 20.                         | After modification of Nawagampura  | 65              |
| 21.                         | Typical plan of Peliyagoda.  | 66              |
| 22.                         | After modification of Peliyagoda.  | 66              |

|     |   |               |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 23. | Layout plan-Belapur housing schem, Bombay.  | 75            |
| 24. | Housing cluster with an open to sky space.  | 76            |
| 25. | Plans and axonometric drawings of the 3 House types<br>proposed to future resident. | 77            |
| 26. | Section through housing units.  | 83            |
| 27  | Housing form at Jagamara.   | 84            |
| 28. | Overall site plan in New Shuster.   | 85            |
| 29. | Layout plan-Gunasinghepura housing scheme.  | 86            |
| 30. | Physical and visual contact of the user.  | 88            |
| 31. | Layout-Morlana Azad settlement layout.  | 88Peliyagoda. |



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