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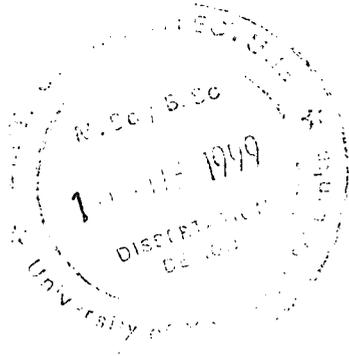
**ELEMENTS IN DEFINING DOMESTIC SPACE:
ROLES, FUNCTIONS AND POSSIBILITIES.**

**A Dissertation Submitted to the University of Moratuwa
As a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of
Master of Science in Architecture.**



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ABSTRACT:

People are involved in the modification of their environment in such a way to accommodate their activities. This constitutes defining of interior space as the sphere of human activities where proper exploitation of that space; by means of colour, texture, lighting, furniture, plants and appliances are employed to enable those activities. This is indeed to make the function of the space efficient, comfortable, appealing and sensually and mentally stimulating for the inhabitant.

However most people fail to understand the roles, functions and possibilities of the “elements” in defining the interior space meaningfully. An interior that does not work might be the decorative furniture, or colourfull paintings or an interesting piece of sculpture, but if the interior does not work for its stated function, it fails at the most important level of design.

The study examines the notion and essence of inner space as a livable domestic environment. The interior elements such as fixed and non-fixed elements play serious role as ornamentation, quality and appearance promoting ways rather than the functional requirements in the inner space as a whole. It attempts to say the defining of inner space with appropriate component in meaningful need, serious examination.

In the illustrated chapter, study discussed the usage of “ elements” in the formation of domestic space in selected situations in traditional rural settlements, contemporary villages and the urban (single and apartment) housing situations.

Finally, it concluded that, the contemporary living spaces, specially in urban situation, are much more complexed, therefore, brutal and struggle for the inhabitants. It is therefore clearly that there is a need to be conscious of the defining of domestic space as a livable inner environment. This is indeed a major task for the architect.

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INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION:

1. Topic Explanation

Houses are generally designed and built by the people according to their own imaginations. The simple and less complex arrangement of the inner space in the ancient house has changed due to the modification of the living environments and also changing living patterns of the people. In the houses 'pila' and the single room differentiated in to multi- spaces. The spatial arrangement is now being created more and more by the architects. The "Design – Construction Process" is more diversified and tied with the involvement of the interrelated three parties; architect, builder and the occupant. The formation of an "idea / imagery" has been developed by several factors such as the context, culture, needs and aspirations, regulations, locations and etc. Furthermore, life style of the inhabitants, activity patterns, likes and dislike, rooms and spaces and symbol are employed to strengthen this idea and help the formation of a built form.

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However it is seen that, architects pay more attention and time to the exterior of the buildings they design and particularly what it shows to the outside world. Creating a conducive environment in the interior is mostly over looked and left to be designed once when buildings are completed as hollow structures, such as most commercial and office buildings and etc. In the domestic situations however, this is not so, and in fact, the interior spaces must take shape along with the exterior it self to a greater detail.

Every interior has some function or an activity to perform and, it is the designed obligation to deal with the required activity. Therefore the major responsibility of interior design or interior arrangement, is to provide the right kind of atmosphere for the occupants for their particular activity to propagate. This involves the manipulation of physical setting in space and as well as the non-fixed elements. The volume, scale, proportion and inclusive plane which are as important entities of physical space have definite physical, psychological and emotional effects on the user when he is with that space.

The colour, texture, lighting level, furniture, plants etc. are being used for defining in detail and enhancing the quality of the inner space according to the user requirements

and the spatial requirements. Defining of inner space enhancing its quality, with appropriate elements, gives higher satisfaction for the user.

According to the changing of household size, needs and aspirations and the changing equipments, the inner arrangements can be changed in time to time. As people grow older, socio economic status, aspirations values and self-definition can also change. The physical setting of the dwelling can not adapt to these changes in all situations. The non-fixed elements play major role in those situations and help to create the required environment.

However the defining of the inner space and the environmental quality is not a simple task. It is inhibited by other physical and functional affordances of the space and values and ideas of the occupants.

In this dissertation it is attempted to demonstrate that the major responsibility of inner space articulation and environmental quality lies with the non-fixed elements. Here the critical examination is meant to identify and illustrate the elements used, and their roles and functions in the definition of the domestic space of the selected case studies.



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ii Intention of the study

The primary aim of this study is to examine the motion of inner space of the dwelling and kind of the elements used their roles and functions in the definition of the interior space.

Furthermore it can be described as follows.

- 1 to establish the need for definition of interior space meaningfully, together with exterior arrangement.
- 2 to understand how the process of these definitions take place in the Design-construction activity within the domestic environment.
- 3 to identify the elements used for these purposes and recognize their roles and functions, and to understand the grouping of the elements in the inner spaces to express the quality of the space.

iii Methodology:

The study will be based on a theoretical framework and number of analytical case studies. Under the theoretical base it will first examine the idea of space and the formation of the shelter as defined space. It will theoretically establish that the concept of space goes beyond the physical setting. Following this it will suggest that the notion of space will enable the creation of more orderly meaningful character of a inner space to the inhabitant.

The components (elements) which are used to define the inner space and their roles and functions will be highlighted in the second chapter.

In the third chapter, defined and non-defined spaces within the domestic environment, their meaning and usage of the components will be illustrated.

Finally it will examine selected houses and house interiors to understand how inner spaces have been articulated and strengthened. The study will prepare mapping of,

1. Furniture arrangement,
2. Other fixed and non-fixed elements,

to understand the roles and functions of elements used in interiors.

A content analysis will be carried out in order to recognize the kind of elements used, their roles and functions in the definitions of the interior space of the selected case studies.

Iv Scope and Limitation:

The scope of this dissertation is to discuss as employ of inner space, to interpret and understand how inner space is defined in the domestic environments. The methodology covering huge areas in identifying the elements in defining interior space and finding their roles and functions. However this study limits itself to illustrating the usage of “elements” in the formation of inner space in selected house interiors. The simple interior arrangements in traditional vernacular houses, the Urban houses, the apartment houses, the government housing units and the architect design houses, which are most related situations on most people in the society and having different relationships with the exterior space, will be considered as this living examples. All these situations will be limited to the Sri Lankan context.