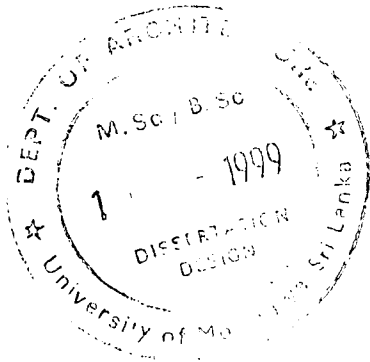


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THE CONCEPT OF 'MAIN SPACE' IN ARCHITECTURE: AN EXAMINATION OF THE THEORETICAL STANDPOINTS AND DESIGN PARAMETERS



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



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ABSTRACT

More often than not, it is the square, which is considered the centre of space: the 'core space' and 'climax' of the urban structure. Similarly in architecture, it is the 'Main Space' which is considered the centre of space, the 'core space' and 'climax' in an architectural building. Yet, the Concept of Main Space in architecture is one which has resulted in many contradictions. The concept is accepted by some yet rejected by others; the arguments regarding the concept, varies from one school of thought to another. Should there be a Main Space in Architecture? Are not all spaces equally important? Is the Main Space always a destination? Is the Main Space the largest in a composition? Is the Main Space necessarily an interior space in architecture? etc. are questions that evoke a variety of responses. Against such a diversity of standpoints, the young designer is rendered confused and fails to recognize the exact role of a 'Main Space' in architecture. Examining these standpoints of the Main Space, the Theoretical Standpoints regarding the main issues of the concept, the study reveals the importance of the 'Main Space', as the main component in establishing spatial coherence in an architectural whole. Thus, the Main Space is considered as the ideal organizer of an architectural whole, capable of organizing a building spatially, functionally, socially as well as symbolically. An examination of the design factors of a Main Space, the Parameters; as the spatial organization, spatial hierarchy and spatial quality, the study demonstrates the difference a properly articulated 'Main Space' makes to architecture and it's experience. This study thus affords the reader, a better understanding of the Concept of 'Main Space' in Architecture: of what it is, when, where and how it has been achieved and therefore, how it may be achieved.

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CONTENTS

List of Figures	vi
List of Plates	viii
INTRODUCTION	1
<u>CHAPTER ONE: ARCHITECTURE AS ORDERING SPACE</u>	5
INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 THE CONCEPT OF ORDER	5
1.2 ORDER IN ARCHITECTURE	7
1.2.1 Unity	7
1.2.2 Hierarchy	8
1.3 ARCHITECTURE AS ORDERING SPACE	10
1.3.1 Components of Unity in Spatial Order	10
1.3.1.1 Centre	11
1.3.1.2 Path	12
1.3.1.3 Enclosure	13
1.3.2 Principles of Spatial Order	14
1.3.2.1 Cosmic order	14
1.3.2.2 Geometric order	17
1.3.2.3 Orchestration of spatial progression	20
1.4 ARCHITECTURE AS ORDERING SPACE; A SUMMARY	22
<u>CHAPTER TWO: 'MAIN SPACE' - AN EXPOSITION</u>	23
INTRODUCTION	23
2.1 CONCEPT OF CENTRE- DEFINITION AND PURPOSE	23
2.2 CLASSIFICATION OF CENTRES	25
2.2.1 Organizing Role of Centres	25
2.2.2 Form of Centres	26
2.2.2.1 Centres of mass	26
2.2.2.2 Centres of path	27
2.2.2.3 Centres of space	29
2.3 CONCEPT OF 'MAIN SPACE'	31
2.3.1 'Core Space'	31
2.3.2 Climax	32
2.4 CONCEPT OF 'MAIN SPACE'; A SUMMARY	36

LIST OF FIGURES


	Page	
1.1	Legislative Assembly Building	9
1.2	Temple at Thebes	9
1.3	Hagia Sophia	11
1.4	Herbert F. Johnson House	12
1.5	Tangalle Bay Beach Hotel	12
1.6	Plans- Villa Savoye	13
	The Pantheon	14
1.7	The Chinese 'Hall of Distinction'	15
1.8	Ancient temple of Sri Rangam	15
1.9	Vidhan Bavan	16
1.10	Plan and Section – British Council, India	16
1.11	Plan- Falling Waters	18
1.12	Plans- Ratnavibushana house, Moratuwa	18
1.13	Plan & Section- Lloyds Building	19
1.14	Ground Floor Plan & Section – Architect Geoffrey Bawa's Office	21
2.1	Plan & Section- Bentota Beach Hotel	28
2.2	Section- Scharoun's Philharmonic Hall, Berlin	31
2.3	Conceptual Plan & Section- Scharoun's Philharmonic Hall, Berlin	31
2.4	Main Floor Plan & Section - Light House Hotel	33
2.5	Main Floor Plan & Section - Hotel Triton, Ahungalle	34
2.6	Main Floor Plan - Kandalama Hotel	35
2.7	Plan & Section - New Parliamentary Complex	36
3.1	Plan and Section - New Parliamentary Complex	39
3.3	Floor, Plans, Wickramasuriya House	40
3.4	Plans, Lilani de Silva House	41
3.5	Tara Group Housing	42
3.6	Rokko Housing	42
3.7	Layout Plan- Tropical Villas	43
3.8	Section through main axis - Tropical Villas	43
3.9	Main Floor Plan – Le Kandyan	44
3.10	World Commercial Centre	45
3.11	Plan - Falling Waters	47
3.12	Kandalama Hotel	48
3.13	Architect Geoffrey Bawa's Office	49
3.14	Cinnamon Hill House, Lunuganga	49
3.15	MRF Headquarters	50
3.16	Hotel Triton, Ahungalle	51
3.17	LIC Centre – Office Complex	52
3.18	Staatsgalerie	56
3.19	Project by Jayantha Adikari- Axonometric view	61
3.20	Project by Jayantha Adikari- Ground, Upper Floor Plans	62
3.21	Project by Jayantha Adikari- Elevation, Section & Interior Design of 'Main Space'	63

3.22	Project by Tamara Fernando- Ground Floor Plan & Section	65
3.23	Project by Tamara Fernando- Upper Floor Plan & Elevation	66
3.24	Project by Peshali Perera- Ground Floor Plan & Section	68
3.25	Project by Peshali Perera- Upper FloorPlan & Elevations	69
3.26	Project by Kanchana Senasinghe- Lower Level Floor plan	71
3.27	Project by Kanchana Senasinghe- Section, Upper level Floor Plan & Interior design	72
3.28	Project by Kanchana Senasinghe- Elevation	73
3.29	Project by Priyantha Wijesinghe	74
3.30	Hotel Blue Waters - Plan & Section	76
3.31	Saman Villa - Layout Plan	81
3.32	Indra Traders Building, Colombo – Plans & Sections	85
3.33	House in Battaramulla – Plans & Sections	88



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LIST OF PLATES

	Page
1.1 Glass House	8
1.2 National Theatre	8
1.3 Robie House	12
1.4 Villa Savoye	13
1.5 The Pantheon	14
1.6 The axis of Mundi of Hinduism	16
1.7 The traditional Islamic Char bagh	16
1.8 European icon, the Age of Reason	16
1.9 Pyramids at Giza	17
1.10 Acropolis	17
1.11 Falling Waters	18
1.12 Ratnavibushana House	18
1.13 Lloyds Building - Exterior View	19
1.14 Lloyds Building – Interior View	19
1.15 Architect Geoffrey Bawa's Office	21
2.1 Sienna, Italy	26
2.2 Falling Waters	27
2.3 Arc de Triomphe	28
2.4 Venice, Italy	29
	
3.1 New Parliamentary Complex, Sri Jayawardenepura -Exterior	39
3.2 New Parliamentary Complex, Sri Jayawardenepura – Interior	39
3.3 Wickramasuriya House	40
3.4 Lilani de Silva House- the formal living space	41
3.5 Lilani de Silva House- the informal living space	41
3.6 Tara Group Housing	42
3.7 Tropical Villas- the entrance	43
3.8 Tropical Villas- the path	43
3.9 Tropical Villas- the `core space`	44
3.10 Le Kandyan- exterior vies of `Main Space`	44
3.11 Le Kandyan- about to enter `Main Space`	44
3.12 World Commercial Centre- Exterior View	45
3.13 World Commercial Centre- Interior of `Main Space`	45
3.14 New Parliamentary Complex, Sri Jayawardenepura- aerial view	53
3.15 Lighthouse Hotel	54
3.16 LIC Centre	55
3.17 Staatsgalerie	56
3.18 Model- Project by Tamara Fernando	66
3.19 Hotel Blue Waters- aerial view	76
3.20 Hotel Blue Waters- the approach	77
3.21 Hotel Blue Waters- the approach to the building	77
3.22 Hotel Blue Waters- about to enter	78
3.23 Hotel Blue Waters- sense of arrival	78

3.24	Hotel Blue Waters- the coconut palm garden	78
3.25	Hotel Blue Waters- interim Climax	78
3.26	Hotel Blue Waters- Progression towards 'Main Space'	79
3.27	Hotel Blue Waters- The 'Main Space'- the Climax	79
3.28	Hotel Blue Waters- Connection of water	79
3.29	Hotel Blue Waters- The Lounge	79
3.30	Hotel Blue Waters- The Coffee Shop	79
3.31	Hotel Blue Waters- progression away from the 'Main Space'	80
3.32	Hotel Blue Waters- in the midst of the Sound of the roaring sea	80
3.33	Hotel Blue Waters- Lounge and the Coffee shop	80
3.34	Saman Villas Ltd.- aerial view	81
	- the approach	82
	- about to enter	82
	- the sense of arrival	82
3.35	Saman Villas Ltd.- progression	83
3.36	Saman Villas Ltd.- interim climax	83
3.37	Saman Villas- progression	83
3.38	Saman Villas- interim climax at reception lobby	83
	- progression	83
3.39	Saman Villas- Interim Climax	83
3.40	Saman Villas- progression	84
3.41	Saman Villas- the 'Main Space'	84
3.42	Saman Villas- informal path leading to the villas	84
3.43	Saman Villas- the Restaurant	85
3.44	Indra Traders- exterior view	86
3.45	Indra Traders- interior, the 'Main Space'	87
3.46	Indra Traders- interior	87
3.47	Indra Traders- waffle detail	87
3.48	House in Battaramulla- exterior view	89
3.49	House in Battaramulla- progression towards courtyard	89
3.50	House in Battaramulla- the courtyard	89
3.51	House in Battaramulla- the formal living space	90
3.52	House in Battaramulla- progression towards verandah	90
3.53	House in Battaramulla- the 'Main Space', the verandah	90
3.55	House in Battaramulla- the 'Main Space' from lawn	90