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VISUAL COHERENCE:

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ITS IMPLICATIONS ON URBAN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS.

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ABSTRACT

Visually coherent environment? Does the environment display the visual harmony that makes it comprehending to the human eye? In contemporary urban situations take place lack of visual quality due to meaningless developments. Therefore people in urban areas lost meaningful, clear, understanding surrounding. But surroundings of people must fulfill above qualities, because physically as well as psychologically people are very sensitive to their environment particular to their dwellings. Visual completeness in built environment influences the psychology of individuals because they experienced visual environment. If built environment is properly designed, composed & full of visual sensations, it will create a pleasant harmonized habitable environment to people.

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LIST OF CONTENTS

		Page
Abstract		ii
Acknowledgements		iii
List of contents		iv
List of Illustrations		vi
Introduction		ix
Chapter one -	Visual coherence & Architecture	
	1.1.Visual coherence	2
	1.2.Coherence as the important factor in environment	3
	1.3. Factors of coherence	5
	1.3.1 Repetition	6
	1.3.2 Similarity	8
	1.3.3 Proximity	10
	1.3.4. Common enclosure	11
	1.3.5. Symmetry	13
	1.3.6. Orientation of elements	14
	1.4. Demonstrative media in practical situations	14
Chapter two -	Urban Neighbourhood as an appropriate human habitation	
	2.1. Urban Architecture	17
	2.1.1.Urbanity	17
	2.1.2. Urban environment	19
	2.1.3. Physical & non physical aspect	21
	2.1.3.1. Form	21
	2.1.3.2. Character	21
	2.1.3.3. Image	22
	2.1.4. Fabric & object	23
	2.2. Urban residential Neighbourhood	24
	2.2.1. Concept of Neighbourhood	24

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2.2.2. Attributes of good Neighbourhood. 26
2.2.2.1. Sense 27
a. Identity 27
b Easily communicate 28
c. Clear 28
d Access 29
2.2.2.2. Fit 29
2.2.2.3. Security 30
Chapter three - Case studies
3.1. Critical analysis of involvement of visual coherence on attributes of urban residential Neighbourhood. 32
3.2. Case studies 43
Conclusion 79
References 82

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATION

Figure

1 Approximate repetition
2 Repetition of elements –Vicars close,wells
3 Rhythm of opening in facades
4 Similarity of details
5 Similarity in openings – Farnham road, Guildford
6 Collection of similar built masses & collection of similar elements
7 Two or three openings grouped separately from each other, by definite boundary.
8 Common enclosure
9 Identify two clear limits of two individual blocks.
10 Design of cities.-Berlin detail map
11 Balance between two parts –Chester
12 Symmetry of building
13 Orientation of buildings
14 Parallelism & orientation.
15 Visually coherent urban Neighbourhood.-Lynmouth
16 Individually identity of buildings.- Chester,pedestrinization & improvement
17 Well designed pedestrianized area.-Lynmouth , pedestrianized re paved area
18 No most good relation between private & public realms.-Trinity
19 Not very good visual harmony.-pedestrian path between residence
20 Identical urban Neighbourhood. -Chicago (Illnois), The boulevard / parkway was a new type of residential Neighbourhood for a genteel class.
21 The uniformity & the continuous frontage create visual harmony.- Ferrara(Italy) Via Modara, uniform facades in the so called Herculem Adddition
22 The repetition of elements contributes to the visual coherence.-Moscow,Gorky street, approaching the Kremlin
23 Urban residential Neighbourhood in Florida.
24 Part of residential area, the houses open to the lane.
25 People involve the get together in the lane.
26 People in the street.
27 Residential area.
28 Sense of orientation.
29 Coherently bounded voids & solids in masses.
30 Roof styles, colours, openings are get sameness.
31 Common enclosure -Fish market at Buller Quocy
32 Lynmouth
33 Plan of the surroundings of 5th lane
34 Detail plan of the lane.
35 Raw houses of the lane.
36 Short boundary wall

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37 Detail of boundary wall
38 The corner houses in the lane
39 Side wall
40 Plan forms
41 Elevation
42 Plan forms
43 Different boundary walls
44 Elements of boundary wall
45 Doors & windows
46 Different elements of elevation
47 Sky line
48 Roof style
49 Vertical & horizontal quality
50 Plan of surroundings of the Palm grove avenue
51 Detail plan of the avenue
52 Front space
53 Boundary wall
54 Stone made boundary wall
55 Used different gates
56 Used various elements
57 Different elements
58 Repeating elements
59 Grouped elements
60 Shady area
61 Sky line
62 Roof slopes
63 Plan of surroundings of the Charles place
64 Detail plan of the lane
65 General view on the Charles place
66 Enclosure formed by the avenue of the trees.
67 The boundary wall.
68 Qualities of visual fulfilling.
69 Elements use in this lane.
70 Roof style
71 Gable end
72 Sky line
73 Plan of the surroundings of Horton place
74 Detail plan of the lane
75 Street elevation
76 Different openings
77 Sky line
78 Vertical quality
79 Plan of surrounding of the Clifford avenue
80 Detail plan of the lane
81 Façades of the lane
82 Openings

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83 Openings
84 Different view of this lane
85 Different view of this lane
86 Plots
87 Dimensions
88 Openings
89 Features of Openings
90 Openings
91 Vertical quality

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INTRODUCTION

Topic explanation

One or a group of people built settlements in the past for a particular purpose. They were generally planned settlements with each functional space, coherently bound to each other.

People can establish a system that puts the fragments of his existence into a rigid order. He can tightly segment the movements of his life, making for himself an orderly plan, but he not only needs to establish orderly arrangements of parts of his life, but he must also coherently integrate the parts in to a meaningful whole.

Man's physical environment is a major part of his life. This part that is the environment, is entirely urban. These urban environments are going to be home for an enormous number of people in the future. Therefore it is, important that these environments are developed, so that man might identify himself with it & there by fulfill a basic need of belonging. Thus the character of the environment & the quality of the environment should be maintained in such places in order that person might identify himself with that place.

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Because of people need to cohere, the urban environment should be integrated coherently with the entire structure of human existence. For this, the urban environment which is made up of smaller parts needs to be put together in to a coherent whole.

Buildings not only define their own spaces with in them selves, but also define the spaces out side. Each building has to play a certain role in its physical environment in order to create 'coherent whole' to harmonize with the existing patterns. Therefore, people use to identify objects around them by their character or quality. This quality can be defined as visual coherence in that place. Also he identifies urban environment by what is peculiar to them. He identifies them by their physical & non-physical aspects according to what is present to him.

This study is to understand the urban residential environments should be coherent at all times in order to be a suitable habitation for man.

Need of the study

Successful urban residential areas are physically, socially & economically satisfied areas. People in socially satisfied areas their social needs & feelings are fulfilled as well as other needs. To fulfill their feelings they must have visually coherent environment.

For wellbeing of people, appropriate habitation is important one. If people had good dwelling places, they mostly satisfied. 'Satisfactory mind' of full of feelings is essential to wellbeing. People will have satisfied minds, other things they done may obviously be satisfied & successes.

Livable urban areas must be communicate easily, can identified, have security, free access & very clear space with full of visual sensations for inhabitants. The inhabitants should be look after their own interests by organizing them selves.

Our built environment specially in urban residential Neighbourhoods need more care & the buildings should be designed to communicate with each other, showing similarities, to obtain cohesiveness, because the physical environment is a major part of the inhabitants of the Neighbourhoods. The relationship of parts of an urban environment to each other & to whole have began to break down causing a lack of coherence in the entire urban environment. Visual completeness made by coherence in built environment is most important to people for their wellbeing, because it influences the psychology of inhabitants.

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Urban architecture in history had been a much-respected discipline, which tackled many issues, & responded to numerous aspects, creating meaningful built environments. Such areas contained streets with continuous building fabrics that maintained certain characters & fulfill visual completeness. However the urban situations globally as well as in Srilanka are facing a rapid increase of chaos & disorder.

Built fabric landscapes & other features of the area are much help to create a sense of place, it is there to be perceived by people with his all senses. Sense of place is important phenomenon in human life, which arouse, belongings towards places, heals mans soul & make him close to God. Good sense of place enlightens person's life in many ways. So, there is a need for already exist coherent integrated built

environment in the urban situations. Thus a study on visual coherence & its implications in built environment is an essential need.

Visual environment consists of a Varity & visual sensations. If the built environment is properly designed & composed, it will create a pleasant harmonized habitable environment & also create a visual completeness.

Intention of the study

The intention of this is , to study & understanding ,how the conditions of coherence contributes to making & maintaining visual completeness in an urban residential Neighbourhoods. Therefore understands the importance of visual coherence to appropriate habitation for people. The conditions of coherence are based on the factors like repetition similarity proximity, etc. It expects to study those factors in existing situations & identity the contribution of them to attributes of environment in making & maintaining visual complements.

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Method of work & limitations

Initially the study proposes to establish a theoretical basis for defining visual coherence, & identifing its constituents & the importance of the preesence in making the environment visually complete as firstly established based on a litrature survey. Secondly it will concentrate on identifying the existing conditions of selected urban residential Neighbourhoods & analyze them & discuss its relevance to visual completeness of built environment. The basis of the study is visually coherent situations & incoherent situations.

Finally the study hopes to make recommendations on bringing about visual coherence in urban built environments in Neighbourhoods.