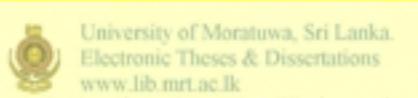


LB/2002/29/00

VISUAL COHERENCE:

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ITS IMPLICATIONS ON URBAN
RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS.



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

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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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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.

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.

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 Variety & 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 & identify 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, & identifying its constituents & the importance of the presence in making the environment visually complete as firstly established based on a literature 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.