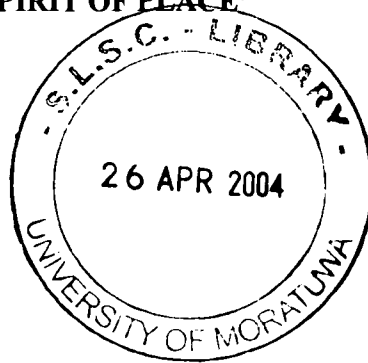


THE CONCEPT OF 'NON CREATOR' OR 'NIRMATHRU'

**THE USE OF ARCHITECTURAL LANGUAGE THROUGH ITS STYLISTIC
VARIATIONS IN THE ENHANCEMENT (ARTICULATION) OF THE
'SPIRIT OF PLACE'**



UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA, SRI LANKA

THE DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA, SRI LANKA,
FOR THE FINAL YEAR EXAMINATION IN M. Sc (ARCHITECTURE)



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UM Thesis

2002, MARCH

University of Moratuwa



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2002

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To bring this study in a successful termination, many extended their support and corporation in numerous ways. Hence I would like to express my gratitude to those who helped in presenting this dissertation.

Prof. Nimal De Silva, Head of the Department, Faculty of Architecture for the kindness and guidance extended in presenting the study.

Dr. S Manawadu, Archt. G. Weerasingha, and Archt. D. Fernando, year masters, M.Sc. year two, Dept. of Architecture, for the assistance given throughout the study.

Archt. Ravin Guneratne, lecturer, Department of Architecture, my tutor for his invaluable and unlimited patience, kindness, guidance and also criticism offered throughout the study.

Dr. R. Emmanuel, Senior lecturer, Department of Architecture, our dissertation coordinator, for making us aware in writing of dissertation



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Archt. Varuna De Silva, Archt. Wasana Wijesinghe and Archt. Thamal Udamulla for the kind advices extended at the early stages of the study.

Mr. R. Samarajewa, senior lecturer, English Unit, University of Moratuwa, for the assistance given for completing the work accurately.

Indika, for being strength behind me encouraging throughout the study by discussing and criticising, and for help extended in the preparation of photographs.

To my friends, Taraka, Anishka, Kithmini, Kanchana, Hasamali, Rathnamalala, Anuradha for being helpful in numerous ways.

Finally special thanks to my brother; Sandun, sister; Sawanie and my parents for all the support and understanding extended during this particular study and in my whole journey of life.

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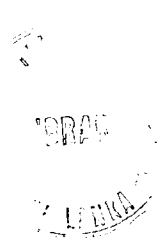
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PREFACE

“In reality, the individual I never creates anything; if man creates, it is as universal man, anonymous, and as manifestation of the principle. In ages of truer wisdom artist, scholars and thinkers did not dream of attaching their names to the works which took form through them”



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Hurbert Benoit in “Supreme wisdom “ as quoted in “The world Zen” by Nancy Wilson Ross, p.284, Collins Clear - Type Press: London & Glasgow. 1962.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

As man is a communal being the need to converse, transmit the expressions and emotions is one of his innermost psychological needs. It can be fulfilled through talking in body expressions, behaviour or the built environment. However to be successful in the communication the idea / expression should be able to be grasped by the other person. Hence universal norms of communication should be developed, and thus creates the language – As a result the body language vocal language, language of architecture etc.have been developed throughout the history.

In this context language of architecture is significant and should be rich in content as it concretises or deal with mans emotional attachment of the built environment. It has been researched by many scholars, that this emotional bond to the environment he lives in is a result of a collection of experiences of the physical environment, behaviour within that environment and his attitudes and conceptions related to them. They termed this as happening or creating of places.



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In this sense, the commission of architectural language ought to be construed as the articulation of the human habitat or in other words articulating the 'place' rather than as another moment in which to display the ego or the competitive skills of the designer. Hence it is apparent, that the correct manipulation of architectural language undoubtedly ceases the personality of the creator - the architect - and indeed resonance of the concept of 'Non-Creator' or the anonymous creator - '*Nirmathru*'.

INTENSION OF THE STUDY

Given the above nature of architectural language it could articulate or destroy the 'place' and thereby man's deep-rooted need of sense of belonging to a particular environment.

The infinite number of places should deliberately be treated differently to reinforce the sense of place. Therefore the major objective of the study is to identify the manipulation of architectural language as respecting to the concept of 'non-creator' or

recognising the due phenomenon that is style being subservient to the articulation of place.

Thus, this study seeks to,

- a) Investigate making of places: what a place is, and what contributes to the making of places and the varieties of such places.
- b) Identify the language of architecture as a communicator and how it can be made to communicate messages.
- c) Provide the knowledge of the concept of non-creator thereby accentuate it as the intention of architect in the practice.
- d) Show as how the architectural language could articulate diverse types of places.

IMPORTANCE OF STUDY

The phenomenon of making place or articulating the place has become an accepted theory in the field of architecture, human geography and psychology. Despite of numerous writings on 'place', it has little influence in the analysis and interpretation of the architectural design practice as the establishment of style has been more prominent.



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In such situations, people will find it rather difficult in relating themselves to environment they associate with. Thus in turn, prevent them from getting familiarized with such environments, and thereby from making emotional bonds with them, which is an essential psychological need of people for their survival.

Therefore the contemporary trend of practicing individual architectural styles has to be offset by the renewal of the concept of place. In precise the prime objective of architectural language should be to make significant places.

Further the correct visualization in architecture or in other words as understanding the universal reality in Architecture is to articulate the spirit of place that leads inevitably to success without a creator and time span either.

In this context it becomes of utmost importance for designers – especially architects - to realize this universal truth by himself only, that architect could do a justice to the



artefact without being seduced by an individual style. So that will establish the sense of belonging to the inhabitants as well. Realization of this should be apparent in both aspects of the verbalization and the practice of architecture.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

“Place” in this study has a significant meaning from that of its ordinary connotations such as positions, suitability of locations, status etc.

“Making Places”, is a widely discussed subject area in the field of architecture (Norberg Schulz; 1980, Aldo Van Eyck; 1985) human geography (Relph; 1976, Tuan; 1977) and psychology (Canter; 1977, Seaman; 1982). Therefore the place can be interpreted as basically a result of the components of location, activity and meaning (Physical, social and psychological). But in this study making of places has been considered and looked at mainly through the physical setting, as it is more related to deal with language of architecture.

The case study has been organized around the individual architect, not around his works. Further several works are selected to study in order to look for a presence of own style simultaneously with the making of places.

For the case studies, several local architects are selected, as their works can be experienced first hand by most Sri Lankans.

Although the each and every aspect of the building should enhance the response to the place, the form and spatial progression will enable to demonstrate a greater picture of the use of architectural language in the above sense.

Further several works are selected which are responses to different types of places. Hence this nature of the case studies allows looking for a presence of an individual style and simultaneously as how the significant places are being articulated by varying the language of architecture.

METHODOLOGY

The validity of the hypothesis that is the architectural language should predominantly articulate the 'spirit of place', which is derived from the concept of '*Nirmathru*' is examined in the dissertation.

In this context, to proceed with firstly the 'place' is defined and discussed the determinants of it based on the established literature. The necessity of 'Place' to be 'significant' in order to be meaningful to its users is then demonstrated by identifying the forces and understanding its contribution. Several types of places, which have been given rise by the respective types of spaces, also are identified analysing the theories presented by the well-known scholars on the subject.

Secondly, to enable significant places, the architectural language is seen as a communication medium in this particular study. Therefore it is communicating through the spaces and forms that are composed by the vocabulary of design together with grammar of design for a specific given circumstances.

Thirdly, the potential of varying the architectural language in the light of the aforesaid hypothesis is discussed. Further notable international architectural practices have been looked at to see as how their philosophical orientation in the practice regarding the level of achievement in the hypothesis.

Ultimately its application is seen in the local context. The observations and available literature regarding the selected works of architecture were meant to use to analyse the case studies. Hence the manner of varying architectural language is in-depth analysed through form and spatial progression of them.

Consequently this analysis will enable to evaluate the hypothesis.