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A STUDY ON USER ADAPTATIONS AND  
SPATIAL INCOMPATIBILITIES IN  
MIDDLE INCOME HOUSING DUE TO  
HOME-BASED ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES;  
THE CASE STUDY OF RADDOLUGAMA HOUSING SCHEME

A DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE  
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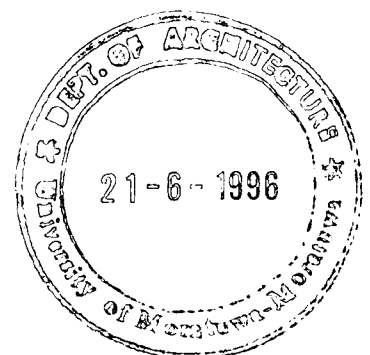
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## PREFACE

Architecture is an art of expressing human needs through built environments in a meaningful way, where the end product is the built form. A built form could be identified as a solution to environmental problems and also as a response to a set of requirements of the user at a particular time. Their requirements are diverse in nature and vary from time to time. Therefore, new dimensions are frequently being added to the built forms as a result of the changing needs of people. The built forms should be shaped accordingly to suit the new requirements of the day.

Home based economic activities are one such dimension which gives a commercial facet to housing environment, which was considered and moulded for the sole purpose of dwelling. Housing as the place of dwelling as well as the base of livelihood has been recognised for some time.

With the compelling drive to generate some extra income to fulfil the aspirations such as urge for social and upward mobility and in some cases just to make a living the middle income people tend to conduct Home Based Economic Activities (HBEA) in larger form for the first time in their houses. The house which has been designed for the sole purpose of "dwelling" may fail to give an opportunity for the user to make the required environments for two different activities.

Due to the unplanned changes and modifications done to the houses and as a result of just accommodating HBEAS in the "living" spaces, on most occasions, the real sense of the "home" has been lost.

In mass housing situations this becomes more crucial due to the rigid type plans and the lack of space. But it cannot be denied that the need for such additional income is more pressing than preserving the homely environment. Going for a "tailor made house" is beyond the affordability of many people which satisfies both housing need and other related needs.



Therefore, in mass housing situations the "house" should be a place which allows both the primary and secondary activities to be carried out smoothly. This newly added dimension should be considered as a positive phenomenon and not as a hinderance to maintain the homely atmosphere. The architects should understand this pluralistic nature of contemporary society and the evolving values of the people and come up with a design criteria which allow both the activities to function without conflicts.



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