USER AS THE PLACE MAKER
AN EXAMINATION OF HOME AS AN INDIVIDUAL PLACE

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ABSTRACT

The ability that an architect has to make a place is considered as the most fundamental work of the architects. It is difficult to generalize about the constituents of a successful place; to define the concept of place making, for each place must by definition be particular. But it is not impossible to suggest the qualities that are being used in capturing a good place. It could be clearly said that a place should move us and enhance our lives both as individuals and en masses. In these places, the individual has a place which he or she can modulate according to their personal preferences whilst still remaining as a part of the immediate group, and by extension of the whole enterprise. On the other hand, mere aesthetics are not necessarily an attribute of a place since we tend to develop a likeness to the places, which do not really make us happy particularly by aesthetics. The place becomes live and it seems as if we, as humans are in a dialectic mood with another being who speaks in silence. As such, place making could be simply defined as creating place with a soul which communicates with us, and it shows that we are a part and parcel of the place and it is interrelated with each other with a strong bond.

Home is also considered to be a specific place, and it acts as a foundation of our identity as individuals. The architects find it extremely difficult to cater to the psychological and spiritual needs of the individual. Ultimately a sophisticated final product could be achieved if the design is being approached with out a thorough understanding on the process of the place making.

It is being expected through this study:

1. To identify the interrelation ship amongst the man, space and architecture.
2. The identification and the definition of the concept of place, constituents of place and attributes of place, while investigating how these dimensions are interrelated with each other.
3. To examine and illustrate how these principles have been manipulated by considering home as an individual place. With the help of selected house designs.
In this study the concept of place and place making and the constituents of a place are expected to be established theoretically. The fundamental principles, which are needed for the creation of a place, are identified and defined by means of some successful unsophisticated primitive instances, where the psychological needs are purely expressed. In conclusion, the selected examples are illustrated and examined on the basis of the identified principles created by using the design strategies.
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INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

TOPIC EXPLANATION

Architectural creation plays a vital role in its space making process and it naturally becomes an art which is purely space oriented. Yet spaces created by architecture go even beyond its physical attributes. Yet it could be seen as a deep rooted dimension that is ingrained in human behavior. The values, aspirations and attitude of the people who inhabited architecture are contained by it. Thus place is said to have cultural, historical and social continuity. A place of the people as their own which is meaningful to them and begins to be identified by them and they become attached to it. Thus place has a special dimension and also it has got a relationship between space and event, as a celebration of a special territory.

Place is rather a manifestation of man’s physical qualitative attributes than what is generally considered as a physical and visually experienced phenomenon.

However places are rarely being created in the present day context. This may be due to the misconception of the notion of the place. However places are spontaneous rather than a deliberate creation. No universally accepted rule exists where a space is being transformed into a place.

But the architects could design spaces, which will eventually become a place, which phenomenon does not understand what place means and how place can be enable and to what degree place can be created by the architect are essentially to be identified. Place evolves through time and function. It’s nature and the context and the human qualities of a man are changing characters. These determinents change from location, city to city and region to region, and the character of a place to vary accordingly. As such the identification of these complexities and relationship with places will give an understanding for the creation of meaningful and livable built environment which is the territory for human habitation.
THE NEED FOR THE STUDY

According to Schultz (1984.P.1) "The spirit of place is meant to be visualized by Architecture". The task of the architect is to create meaningful places and there by he helps man to dwell. In other words, Architecture present a meaning to give man an "existential foot hold". Place has got a particular meaning, value and character which are unique to that place which are derived from physical context, man's conceptions and expressions. Experience of a place is being formed by these components in an authentic manner. Which is applicable to places of all nature. When places are imbued with meanings and values of that society they tend to develop an emotional attachment to these places. Thus they develop belongingness to that particular place and gain existential foothold which is one of the deepest, inherent need of a man.

However in satisfying growing complexities of the present day society architecture in no exception is being misinterpreted and under estimated in its true value. Thus architecture has failed to fulfill the fundamental needs of the human existence.

Extensive research has also indicated that architecture of the 20th century does not help to satisfy the needs of the people. The modern approach to architecture reflects that the primary object was a building of the some other physical artifact (Newman 1973). The architects have overlooked the essence of architecture as a source to provide with a meaningful environment to be experienced by people. Their failure to understand the value and the aspirations of the people has resulted in lukewarm spatial experience (placelessness) of the people. In other words, Architects must be aware that his or her role is not over till in or out of the spaces he created becomes places. For this first of all one must aware what is the "place" and how space becomes a place or place making process. That's why there is a need of a study that is aimed at giving a clear idea of those two.
AIMS & OBJECTIVES.

This study is aimed at giving a clear idea about "place" and "place making process". since place making cannot do without the user. In this study involvement of user in the process of place making too is to be studied.

THE METHODOLOGY

The study will be based on theoretical hypothesis which will firstly examine the idea of space and place and theoretically establish that concept of place goes beyond all physical aspect of space. Following this procedure it is attempted to suggest that notion of place will enable to create more orderly meaningful character of a space to the inhabitant.

The constituents of the place and its attributes are being highlighted in the second chapter. In the third chapter home as the place is to be illustrated. Finally it is expected to emphasize the way how the home, which is the basic unit is created according to the wishes of the inhabitants.

Architecture by creating spaces creates places. At the very outset, it is being examined in this study the way, a place where the aspiration and the needs of a person go parallel, by using the fundamental principles and strategies. Sense of identify privacy and territoriality have being considered as those needs which give a certain impression in understanding the self of a person. Thus it is being discussed in detail in this study how a person arranges the place of his own either externally or internally giving priorities to his whims and fancies.

Characteristics and the reflection of self can be studied by analyzing one’s personality as well. Timid, sensitive, introverted, extroverted, outgoing, humble, dominant powerful etc. are some major type of characteristics which may be reflected in the respective homes. They are being taken into consideration. Since the character of a person could be nicely expressed in terms of Architecture.
SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The particular study has its own inherent scope and limitations. Firstly the marked field of the subject area would be examined in the point of view of the creation and not in the angle of appreciation, as the final goal of this study is oriented in enrichment of architectural creation.

Secondly user as the place maker is considered, as among many generators of architecture, it is only the user that is the most complex factor, than context etc as it is in terms of social and psychological dimensions which seem intangible.

Thirdly user as the place maker is discussed in relation to home, as the user's individual effect is best expressed in the building type of home. Therefore in this particular study all the other generating factor of the place of home are considered static for the benefit of analysis of user as the place maker.

Finally the symbol of self as it implies roots down to the individual itself and even within a family there can be significant relations of personal preference, which may reflect physically within the home. Yet in the study the family will be taken as a singular entity and, thus it will not go into analyzing the individual temperaments of its member as it does not bear fruits as an Architectural study.