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GUIDELINES FOR PLANNING AND DESIGNING
FOR PEDESTRIANS IN THE STREETS.

(A case study of the Central Business District of Colombo)

A dissertation presented to
the Department of Town & Country Planning
University of Moratuwa

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SYNOPSIS

Planning and designing for pedestrians in the streets has been the main concern of this study. The Central Business District of Colombo is been considered as the case study area for the exercise. This discussion has been persued in five Chapters.

The first chapter reviews the historical background of the great ancient cities being built to human scale where walking was the primary mode of transport. It also discusses how despite of its advantages of personal mobility the automobile made negative changes to the pedestrian society. Finally the opportunities arising to step back to the pedestrian scale in the future by the organized pedestrian programs carriedout in the western world has also been looked into.

An attempt has been made in the second Chapter to examine the role of the city of Colombo in the national context. Its concentration of different functions and activities as the capital city is studied in brief with special reference to traffic and transport problems created within the city as a consequence.

The third chapter is devoted to a discussion of some of the human physiological and psychological requirements and preferences that are to be taken in to consideration in planning and designing of pedestrian spaces. The studies carriedout in this regard in different developed countries have been examined as the basis for the entire chapter.

Introduction to the Central Business District of Colombo is given in the first part of the fourth chapter. It describes the general characteristics of the area and the use and misuse of the sidewalks in the existing pedestrian facilities within the study area highlighting the problems studied in the process of the research.

Chapter five presents the conclusions of the study along with recommendations for creating a better environment for pedestrians in the Central Business District. Lastly the general guidelines are suggested for pedestrian planning and design, which could be applied to any town in the country.

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