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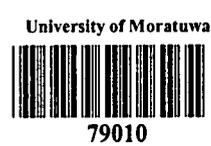


**"CONTEXTUALISM";  
AND  
ITS RELEVANCE TO PRESENT URBAN  
SRI LANKEN SOCIETY  
A SURVEY ON THE  
APPRAISAL FEATURES OF COLOMBO**

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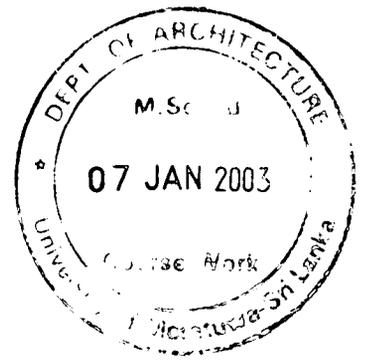
A DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT  
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A.U. Sudantha De Silva

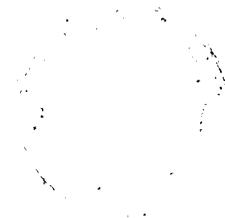


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## **INTRODUCTION**

- TOPIC EXPLANATION

“The physical environment of man, especially in the built environment, has not been, is still not, and controlled by the designer. This environment is the result of vernacular (or folk or popular) architecture; and it has been largely not been clearly discussed in history of architecture”. (Rapport 1969 p i).

With the emergence of a ‘society’, which one can define as a gathering of human beings, to fulfill their needs in terms of survival, the space became a part of the human life. The interaction between man-man, man-space, and space-space, evolved a formal society. The utilization of space, with various built forms of man, such as residential-commercial-industrial, the surrounding of the human environment created the context.

Context and the human behaviour had a clear relationship between them. This relationship determined the behaviour of human in a very dramatic as well as unique way. The principles and guidelines which relate to the context or what is generated by the context, is the broader expression of the Contextualism.

Society in general has been confronted with numerous challenges from the environment through out the history of mankind. Village or an agricultural society is the significant earliest settlement.

Human evolution states that from the earlier small community set-up of village to modern day’s complex and outsized society, various unstable and unsteady situations had taken place through out the world, which swept through the entire human raise.

As a result, the economic and the administrative centers, where power and authority concentrated, formed cities and capitals. With the industrialization of the world, these centers became more and more important in terms of the society, and this situation led to separate the society, in to Urban and rural.

Whether it is urban or rural, society has a direct inter-relationship with the built form as well as the natural environment.

Although the level of interaction vary according to country, culture, location and many more factors, the behaviour of man reflected by the physical built forms of man. With the intense built set-up, urban built form has much closer interaction /relevance to the behaviour of the society.

Since Sri Lanka could not escape the global scenario of the social and physical changes occurred, we experience the same reactions and trends in our society, which were evident in the global set up.

Present Sri Lankan urban society is a progression of the entire global phenomenon. Therefore the contemporary urban Sri Lankan society is relevant and responsive to its urban context directly.

- **IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY**

“...By giving shape and form to our material world, architecture structures the space in which we live and move. In that it does so, it has a direct relation- rather than a symbolic one- to social life, hence it provides the material preconditions for the pattern of movement, encounter, avoidance, which are the material reasons- as well as some times the generator-of social relations...”

(Hillier Bill and Hanson Julianne, (1984 p. xi)

Socially, each and every living being has its own interpretation of the surrounding. The life on earth has a direct relevance to the environment, which they live in. The responses and the reaction to their environment, has led some species to extinction and some species to become much more “fitting” for the conditions. This is the fundamental law of life revealed by Charles Darwin long ago. In the process, humans have been tested to maximum and as a result the human evolution has been a success by ensuring its existence.



Through out the evolution, man has been more and more dominative. Therefore it has transformed physically and psychologically to become a more advance being. Gradually man began to change the natural environment, extreme to natural and vice-versa, to suit his own favorable conditions. This long-term process has created and revealed some very important findings. Earlier Man encountered the environment, nature (and the surrounding) as a group/society, with in which the individual was not significantly highlighted.

It is mainly due to the fact that culturally, socially and economically, man was attached and inter-dependent on each other, through very strong values and norms.

With the changes occurred over the period; these norms and values were confronted with numerous new distinct issues. These changes can be categorized in terms of entire human raise, as:

- Scientific revolution- School of thoughts, which developed starting from Greece.
- New inventions of the material world.
- Making and breaking of Empires (Roman, British etc.)
- Colonization
- Industrial revolution
- World War I & ii.

With in this wider picture, impact on each and every society has enormous variation, due to social, cultural and economical diversity. (Sri Lankan society is also a part and parcel of the above-mentioned global realm.)

Other than the major landmarks as such, comparatively minor happenings have taken place out of which the Sri Lankan context has been effected by,

- Shifting of kingdom from place to place (until the colonization)
- Colonization starting from 1505.
- National independence in 1948.
- Introduction of open economy in 1977.

Although the major changes were the above, there are many more aspects of the actual revolutionizing pattern. Ultimately the Sri Lankan society was socially and architecturally different from the earlier set-up. It turned out to be clearly of urban and rural. In the urban society the life style was a much more “live” and complex because of reasons such as globalisation, transportation links, information technology and the availability of new technology and materials.

Ultimately the urbanity became a very predominantly and different part of the Sri Lankan life. This new “urbanity” expressed the individuality of man more than ever. With the continuous and repetitive pressure imposed on the society in terms of behaviour, (culture, economy, society) people tend to react to them in their own manner. Therefore harmony, respect and understanding of the other, had been considerably affected.

This has raised doubt and questions in the authors mind on the decisive character (unclear /vague) of the Sri Lankan urban society. Furthermore, by analyzing and clarifying the modern trend of the present society, it may be decisive to predict the future of our society.

- **HYPOTHESIS**

With the present complexities and the variety in the social relationships in the urban culture, its inhabitants have lost its roots which were based on harmony and inter dependant relationships with each other. This has resulted in dissolving the strong social bonds with each other. Intense competition and the disregard towards each other have forced its inhabitation to be self expressive in order to confirm the presents and existence. It has individualized the society to an extent where urban social ties are been dissolved.

- **AIMS OF THE STUDY**

Past, present and the future of any society have true connection and continuity. The history of a person or a thing will have the present situation as a result of consequences of each and every happening in the past. Furthermore, it is the base or the foundation for the future. In most occasions, studying, identifying and analysing the past and present can predict future. This is because the human nature is to understand and realize the (surrounding) through the intuitive process and experience.

“...Today changes take place either too slowly or too rapidly. As technological development overtake human values, or too slowly with disintegration of the quality of the built environment progressing just beyond the capacity to intuit loss and react accordingly. The modern concept of the man made world must be reinvented. ... Free of the inhabiting constrains of the past, as it is often put, pressures that by scientific we can account for the long evaluatory dscendence of the man made world-through trail and error, patient refinement and subtle adjustments in response to unaccountable characteristics that are so important to the satisfactory lives of communities and individuals. This is not to say that we should now abandon science and submit to what might be regarded as technological forces outside our control. If human intelligence, judgment, and conscious choice are factored in to the nebulous thing we call cultural evolution, blind determinism not an issue...” (Crowe 1995)

At all times built environment is a significant realization of the desires of human behaviour. Therefore man made built environment is the reflection of what human intentions are. Based on it and with the cultural and technological assistance, architecture can be used as a guide to discuss the social behaviour.

By considering these issues and ideas, the study is focused on the following aims and objectives.

- Study the society and its formation and its evolution by analysing the structure and hierarchy.
- Determine the human behaviour and how it has been affected by the (natural/built) environment.
- Identify key significant issues of urbanization. Its affect on the society in terms of behaviour and architecture.

With in this agenda, Sri Lankan society too had been forced to undergo the same sequence and so the social-architectural interrelationship has been inseparable.

Therefore study intends to pay special attention to analyze and evaluate the Sri Lankan context in detail.



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They can be identified as:

- Sri Lankan society and its evaluative process.
- Clarify and establish the social behaviour and its reactions towards various landmarks in the history.
- Identify and analyze the relationship between Sri Lankan society, level of expression of individuality and its character by using architecture.
- Identify and conclude on the development of the architectural capabilities from the earlier days up to now.
- Find out and understand how and why the context has been influencing the urban society in determining the built environment.

Most important issue discussed in the study is to find out the reasons behind these alterations and the futuristic scenario of our society.

## • SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF STUDY

When discussing the interrelationship of the sociology and architecture, the initial issue, one has to address, goes back to the origin of civilization. But the enormous number of happenings that took place up to date is too lengthy to mention and analyze. Therefore the study only considers the most significant issues in brief, in order to build up the background.

The significant turning points of the Sri Lankan society from the earlier days parallel to the global situations can be categorized under the followings.

- The numerous foreign innovations from the Anuradhapura period to Kandyan period (Mainly Indian).
- Colonial presence in the country from 1796-1948.
- Independence from British in 1948.
- Introduction of open economy in 1977.



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Situations that occurred from colonial presence onwards are focused in the study since the number of changes there onwards are much different from each other and they occurred within a very short period of time when considering the entire history.

With the background facts gathered through the above intentions, the present day situation is focused as most evident built form communications.

- **METHODOLOGY**

The study will be an overview of the social behaviour of society and the architectural representation of it. The study will be formulated on a sociological bias. The behaviour of man and the desires of the society/community will be analyzed through a theoretical base. How the people react to different situations at different times will be considered with examples from the history.

The major turning points in the history and their impact towards creating a situation of present nature will be studied in brief with special reference to colonial period and there onwards.

- First will establish the connection between social behaviour and the built forms. Then this theoretically established relationship would be illustrated with actual examples elaborating the manner in which the characters and determinants are related.
- International examples will be also used when it is required to strengthen the arguments
- The parameters of the study will be based on several guidelines of the built context.

They are,

1. Scale and proportion-

- The height of buildings creates enclosure. Very high buildings create landmarks
- Built scale of a street, town or building is determined by building height, size of the plot, floor-to-floor height and

2. Building line-

- Skyline of an urban city is expressing the rapid change in which it encounters.
- Relationship of the road and the building hierarchy of the built form



### 3. Façade treatment-

Doors and windows-type, proportion, texture

Ornamentation

Entrance

Window to wall ratio

### 4. Vertical rhythm and horizontal rhythm

5. Ground floor detailing-arcades, canopies, walk ways etc.

6. Roofs capes

7. Materials, finishes, texture.

The towns and cities like Colombo, Galle and Kandy can be considered as the most important in terms of the socio- economic situation is concerned. The changes that had occurred in these places are very relevant to the matter discussed in the study. Therefore a few examples have been selected to elaborate, out of these towns.

They are,

- **Colombo Fort as a presence of a strong colonial influence.**

Fort was the main commercial hub of the entire country with harbour close by. The townscape is crowded with strong colonial influenced buildings. The architectural character of the town is very much similar to any strong British influenced town in the region. After the independence up to now, there are many new buildings constructed. With the influence of the context and the socio-cultural forces, the built imagery has developed up to now.

- **Changers of the residential buildings of the Duplication road, Colombo.**

Duplication road was constructed as a main road after 1977, to ease off the traffic congestion of the city. The existing road at the time was widened to accommodate more vehicles. This area was the prime residential area from the colonial period onwards. Today many commercial functions have moved in to the duplication road. As a result, most of the residential buildings have turned in to commercial buildings while many new buildings also have come up.

The contrast between the old and new buildings and the way they have adopted architecture is selected to study according to the above mentioned guide lines.

- **Galle Road as a reflection of modern urban character**

Galle road has been the most dynamic road of the entire country. It has faced numerous pressures along its history. The city area of the Galle road (from Dehiwala to Fort) consists of rich essence for the study. It has the most recent buildings as well as the oldest. Therefore the above-mentioned aspects will be clearly evident.

Taking these examples as the source of information, the study will try to come to a conclusion on the validity of the statement as the conclusion.



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## **CHAPTER ONE**

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# **EVOLUTION OF MAN AS A SOCIAL BEING**

## 1.1 Origin of society and its development

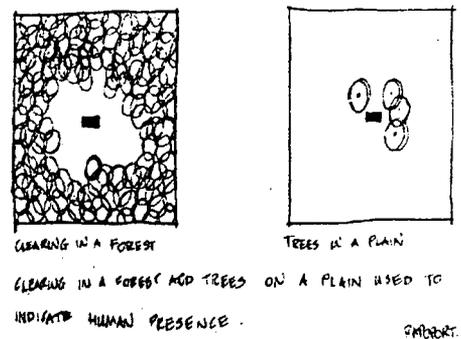
### 1.1.1 Civilization and formation of community

“People with spread way of life gather together to rub shoulders and confirm their community” (Alexandra Christopher, 1977 p 169).

Civilization of man has a very long and a complex history. “Homo sapiens” the intelligent form of man, was found approx. 35,000 years ago. Even before, Homo sapiens appeared on earth, apes had been living in groups. Almost all animals flock together for its fundamental and basic need, survival. The levels of interaction in these groups were limited towards hunting and self-defence. Therefore the mortality rate, breeding rate, and successful births were very low, which resulted life as continuous struggle.

According to the historians Homo sapiens were social animals. They had rather an improved level of interaction among its members. According to the historian-scientists Febuvre Vidal de la Blache and Bruns, these Homo sapiens were not merely motionless animals. With the knowledge and the experience, it always strived to modify the conditions of the environment and nature to its favour. (It is scientifically discussed under Possibilism).

Figure1. Graphic representation of the human impact on the environment- clearing in a forest or a tree in a plain



In doing so, individual actions and its contributions were very important on the entire society. Level of interactions of this assembly, was far more complex and strong compared to the earlier situations. Group members were dependent on each other for reasons more than food and security such as the formation of the family and the responsibilities concerned.

Family is the basic social group. Its members are bound together in very strong links, which provided the initial steps towards the formation of the society. With the increase in the ability to alter the environment and surrounding, man dominated the conditions. It gave a rapid acceleration to the growth of population. This provided the base for larger societies where number of people belonged to many micro level units.

Based on these facts, man became a more “cultured”, which can be described as the beginning of civilization at the outset. Therefore being a civilized community, man began to extend the authority as well as adopt its self to suit the setting, in a progressive manner. Human civilization, therefore, is analyzed in three main stages. At each of these ages, the community had critical characteristics, which determined the well being of the community with the available conditions.

- Paleolithic age



Figure 2. Symbolic shelters of earlier primitive man and the usage of natural materials

During the Palaeolithic age, which is the most primitive of all, man hunted animals for food and the availability of the animals, man had to move from place to place. Therefore necessity for permanent residences never occurred. Natural caves were occupied as temporary shelters.

With the difficulties and the experiences of the Palaeolithic age, man realised that it is much more convenient to rear animal for food than hunting.

- Neolithic age

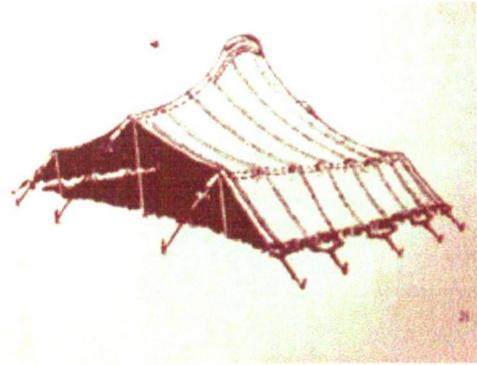


Figure 3- Primitive shelters with minimum impact on environment

During the Neolithic period, man lives as nomads with temporary mobile shelters, which can be disassembled when moving from place to place to feed animals.

- Agrarian age



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Thereafter, as the next stage of human evolution, man moved in to an agrarian age. During this period, man settled down to a specific place, (mostly in river banks) and cultivated lands as the means of supplying food. Due to the assurance of the food supply, man had to pay less effort on food. Agricultural society provided the opportunity to pay more attention towards the social affairs than before. This resulted in creating strong and complex social relationships among the members of the society.

Based on the above set-up, human evolution was through several categories, which are called “ancient civilisations”.

### 1.1.2 Culture and tradition as determining factors of character

“So called primitive cultures...encourages us to reject the divorce between the intangible and the sensible declared by an outmoded empiricism and mechanism, and to discover a secret harmony between humanity’s everlasting quest for meaning and the world in which we appeared and where we continued to live- a world made of shapes, colours, textures, flavors, and odors.”

(kelbaugh 1997)

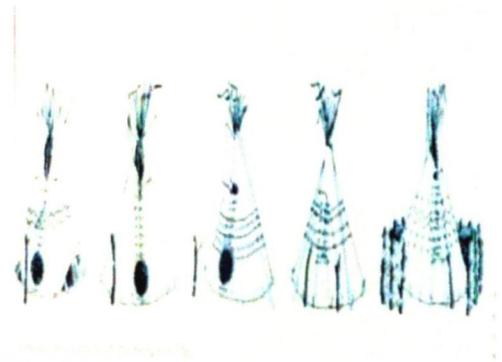


Figure 4. Tent or the hut –as the simplest man made structure



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All ancient civilizations were based on riverbanks.

They are,

- Mesopotamian civilisation in Euphrates –Tigris valleys. (5000 B.C)
- Nile valley civilization in Egypt. (6000 B.C)
- “Aryan” civilization in Indu valley in India.(4000 B.C)
- Chinese civilization in Hwang-Ho valley (1500 B.C)
- 

These communities were established over a long period of time and had a properly setout rules, rituals and guidelines which were affecting very aspect of life. Unique cultures developed in each of these communities.

Classical definition of culture as distinguished from ‘nature’ according to Levi-Strauss is the sum total of the customs, beliefs and institutions such as art, law, religion and techniques for dealing with the material world, in short, all the habits or skills learnt by man as a member of a community.

'The skills and habits learned by man', is the key in its process of development towards a better being. Day today practices, how the community accepts the nature, surrounding and each other are addressed with it. The cultural dignity of a community is also based on these phenomena.

Variety in culture was also dependent on the geography, natural obstacles, and livelihood etc. within the culture and due to the activity pattern, a set of common practices accrued. It can be described as tradition. These traditions earned uniqueness to the community, which separated one from another. It is the most significant quality, which can be referred to as "character".

Character of each and every community is possible to observe through its culture and traditions.



## 1.2 Social hierarchy and social structure

### 1.2.1 Formation of social structure through social hierarchy

From the time of the above-mentioned ancient civilisations, each member of the group (in a community) had specified duty to perform. This specialisation in duties was distinguished in all aspects of the society. Since the core livelihood was agriculture, majority of the community were involved in agriculture-based activities. Water was the key asset in this aspect. Therefore the authoring person who distributed water for crops was considered as the leader of that particular social group.

It is the foremost social hierarchy established in agrarian society. Person who served the "gods and divinity" acts as a messenger between the living world and world beyond. Therefore they became well respected and worshipped as priests and clergy. The society had to be secured from foreign treats-invader/thieves etc and to encounter such effects, a strong person was chosen from the society as their ruler. An army, whose duty was purely to protect the entire community from such threats as well as to establish law and order, followed him. In return the others who were engaged in agriculture had to provide them with food. Likewise, the society became more specialised throughout the development. It is the initial layering of the society, which brought a hierarchical order at the outset.

As the "duty" became more and more important to the society, more important the service provider became. Respect and recognition were placed on this duty-performing structure. More complex the society became, this structure also became conformed because, and it added stability and consistency to the society. It also ensured the well being of the society as well as each and every individual under the circumstances.

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Earlier discussed civilisations became sound and perfect due to the successful and collective performance of the well-established structure and order. Therefore it is evident that the social hierarchy derived social structure from the initial society.

### 1.2.2 Development of social structure

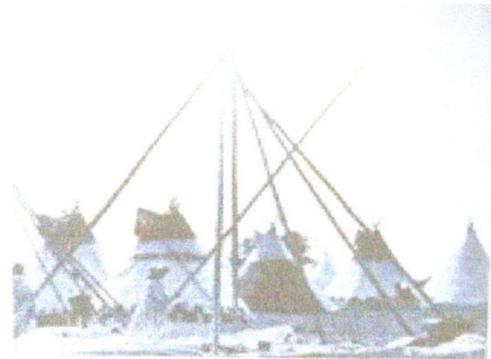


Figure 5. Built forms in the primitive communities clearly express the hierarchy

Establishment of a strong and layered set-up, organised man in their social behaviour as well. Ancient civilisations too had this formality of the social behaviour in a significant manner. The later eras expressed it much more intensely.

From 2500 B.C onwards, history reveals the formation of the next era of mankind. This era gave rise to the great Greek, Rome and Indian civilisations that at a later stage even became empires with wealth and power. The customary social hierarchy of the earlier periods continued and during this phase, it was more elaborated and specified. With the expansion and the complication of the economy and politics, society too became complex and structured.

Feudalism was the renowned foundation of the social structure. This structure categorised society according to the occupation or the livelihood, which an individual was in to. The outcome was recognising a person by its "Cast". With cultural changes it was the system adopted through out the major communities.

Society, clearly layered its inhabitants according to the cast that they belong. The hierarchical order descending from ruler to server was, based on the duty or the occupation one was in to. King was the undeniably the head of state who had the right over all land and its inhabitants. Priests, who performed rituals and practiced and religion, had the upper hand in influencing and determining the authority. Trade was boosted along with the transportation. Trades were wealthy and considered higher in cast. Since agriculture was the main source of food, people who were in to agriculture, were also recognized. Most of the other supportive activities were categorised accordingly. Slavery was evident in this system. Every aspect of the live, varying from birth to death was based on the established practices and norms of the particular cast, which one belong.

This formation continued with out significant changes further, until up to the medieval age. Mainly the changes occurred in the Europe, such as renaissance, accelerated the human evolution to a vast extent. Social structure as well as science, technology, literature, art and craft excelled acquiring new dimension/heights.



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- **Industrial revolution**



Figure 6. Industrialised Boston-an early image of an industrial own 1890 B.C

18<sup>th</sup> century saw a new trend emerging in the world. Industrial revolution (1750), which created a complete change in economical, social and cultural arenas, established a rapid growth in all aspects of life. Mostly, the value system and the culture were challenged and criticised. Growth of population was one of the key issues that went on to make enormous changes there after.

Industrial revolutions, created a growth in human ability to alter the environment and nature as desired. Industrialisation liberalised the economy, education, politics and society. Large-scale developments/manufacturing required a work force, in order to supplement the production process.

The changes to the value system brought an end to the foundation of the society, which was based on the cast system. The "class", based on economy and education, effectively replaced the prevailed "cast". Since the value system changed, roots of a person were not considered as "the" most important fact for the present state. The identity and the character of a person were based on the occupation-economy and the education.

This resulted in revolutions for liberalisations of common man, English revelation (1688), American Freedom Movement (1776), Russian Revolution (1779) and French Revolution (1789). With all these incidents, society changed and ultimate result was the emergence of a working class. Professionals became more important. Population growth created new cities and towns. Migration and transportation saw a rapid development. Therefore it was a landmark for human civilisation.

Therefore the social structure, which derived through the social hierarchy and its changes directly and aggressively, evolved in the evolution of mankind.

### 1.3 Urbanization and impact on society

#### 1.3.1 Origin of urbanization

- Formation of (traditional) city

'Town/City' is derived as an enclosure. 'Town', in some languages is defined as the defensive wall. For instance, the Chinese word, 'Cheng' means both city and wall, and English word 'Town' means 'hedge' or 'enclosure'. During the Paleolithic period, 'the temporary hamlet' was the formation of the settlement. Just over thousand years, it transformed into a permanent settlement during the Neolithic period. By the next 6,000 to 18,000 years, it was transformed to become a traditional city.

During the 5th century, medieval Europe's city consists of a defensive enclosure wall. In Greeks and Roman civilizations, city was merely a centre for trade and administration. Fundamental aspect of these cities was the limited economy and small size.

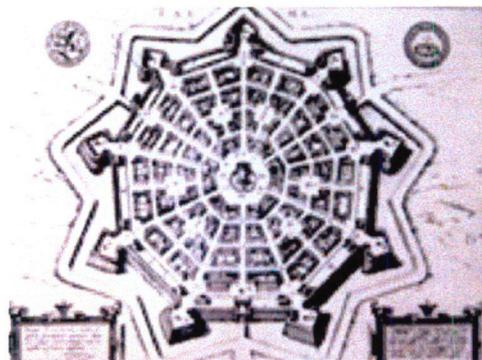


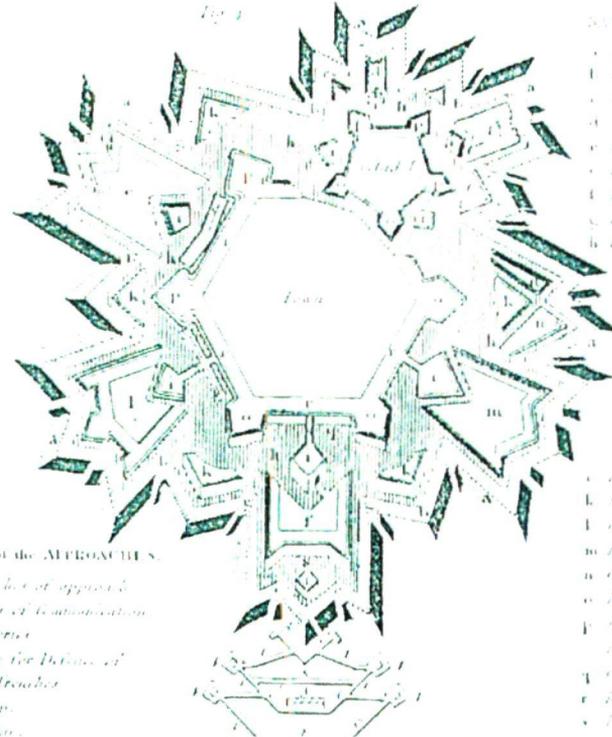
Figure 7- typical fortification in the medieval period

Traditional European city consists of enclosure walls; houses blended one in to the other in to enclosed courtyards, continuous corridors, and streets broken only at intervention of another street.



FORTIFIED PLACE

Fig. 1



NAMES OF THE APPROACHES.

1. Trenches of approach.
2. Lines of communication.
3. Batteries.
4. Works for defence of the Trenches.
5. a Step.
6. a Slope.

- NAMES OF THE PARTS.
- a. Rampart.
  - b. Parapet.
  - c. Bastion.
  - d. Ravelin.
  - e. Horn-work.
  - f. Cannon.
  - g. Grenade.
  - h. Grenade.
  - i. Grenade.
  - j. Grenade.
  - k. Grenade.
  - l. Grenade.
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Fig. 2

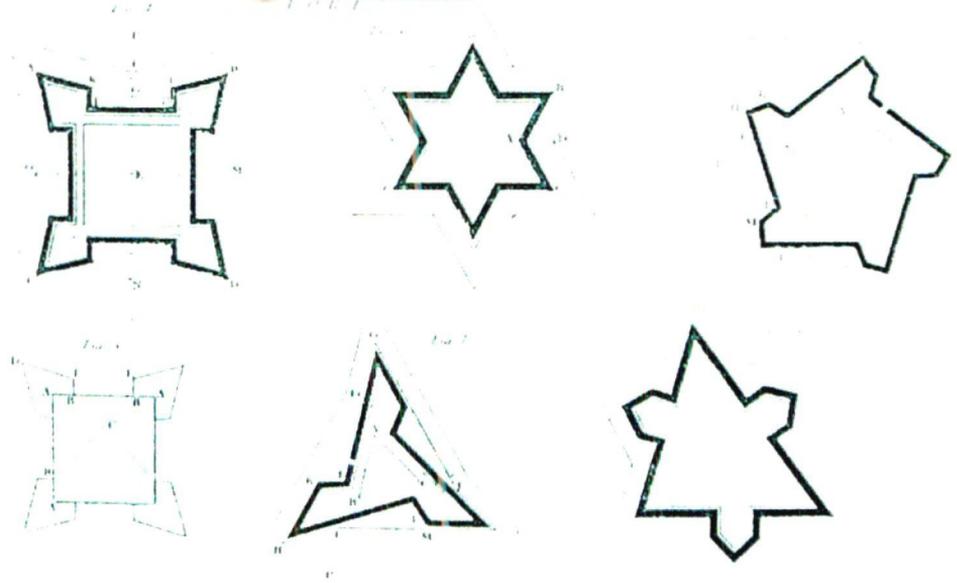


Figure 8 -typical fortification in Europe in the age of formalism

“Symbolically the city is said to be as a great solid stone and the streets of corridors connecting public squares were carved out of stone after it had been set in space” (Crowe 1995).

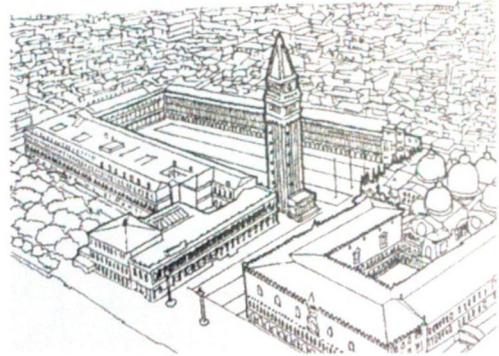


Figure 9- standing out built forms of the traditional city crates focus and order

These streets connected few strategic monumental civic buildings- the town hall, churches monastic institutions, monuments etc. It did not have a hierarchical order with in assemble of houses, monuments, civic edifices, public passages and gathering places but the churches or the strategic monumental civic buildings were built in as the focal.



Figure 10- Strong character of the medieval city  
With a uniform built fabric

Traditional city consists of not just a practical requirement for nature but a reflection of the cosmic realm as well. This traditional city was the penultimate expression of man made world set in nature and created as a “second nature’ in the service of human kind.

With the industrial revolution, (1750-1850) growth and the phenomenon of the concept of the city totally changed. It transformed from fortified city in to an economical-trade center.

- Modern city



Figure 11- Highly built urban city -Chicago

According to Duane and Plater-Zyberk, in return to the traditional city states that, by most quantifiable standards, the modern city is superior. Life expectations, infant mortality rates, educational levels, material wealth (of an average citizen) in the era exceeded pre-industrialized establishments of the society.

With the industrial revolution, large scale manufacturing factories and establishments were set up. The mega scale function of each and every aspect of society was evident in this era.



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Transportation, telecommunication, manufacturing energy supply were all boosted with new inventions by using all new advantages, man began to accelerate the evolution. With the introduction of large scale productions taking place, skilled and unskilled labour was an essential feature.

It was vital to have the service of a working community. As a result, a work force based on economy (salary) emerged. This confrontation is the initiation to the rural urban migration. With several large-scale factories operating in the same area created a high demand for space.

Since people who moved from villages towards these centres, had to occupy themselves at unutilized as well as under utilized backspaces in towns, which were close to the factory. The new opportunity for people to go and work freely on their own, disturbed the Feudal social structure established in the traditional setup, which was progressed up to the medieval period.

Therefore this can be considered as a landmark of the “cast” system. New working class emerged through this industrial revolution. With the mega scale industrial setups, home based (domestic) and micro level economic establishments could not compete with them. It made the small industries collapse. This aspect also added acceleration to the process. Cities, which had industrial establishments, attracted people. Although living conditions were poor and undetermined, the economic aspect was tempting.

Therefore cities pulled population as a work force towards the city. It gave an eruption to the city population. No matter where you were based, what you were in to, what cast (social hierarchy) you belong to, at the city (with in this working community) everybody were treated as one.

This is the base of the class system. The industries also brought new social elites, which owned and operated the industries, who were not from elite backgrounds.

This trend made an end to the feudal society at the outset. The new city formed and function stand in contrast to the traditional city.



### **1.3.2 Urbanization and social transformation**

In the past, the city was understood by its citizens in very humane terms. Its history was often associated with the descendance of one’s family that likely would have served a succession of changes in the city’s political and military fortunes over time. The city was a place of continuity, beyond that associated with a particular political ideology or regime.

The traditional feudal society and its traditions and norms were revolutionized with the urbanity’s intervention. Situation, which is referred as urbanization, is a composition of economical, social, educational and architectural rudiments. Therefore the overall scenario, which is discussed as urbanity, has interrelated links, which counter all the aspects of human life.

Traditional society structure (as discussed in chapter 1.2.1, 1.2.2) was a well developed system adopted and finely adjusted with the aspiration, physical setup in the society. When the new trend, urbanity appeared in the limelight, the whole system changed.

Gradually urban society and rural society were two contrasting entities, which had many differences. In urban cities the new social hierarchy, of 'class' determined the features of the society as a whole as well as individuals. In determining the establishment of the economically derived class system;

The basic categories are,

Upper class

Upper middle class

Lower middle class

Working class; Each and every 'class' had a unique character, which is restricted and secured its position.

- Upper class

Upper class was the most respected and the most powerful in determining the economy of the modern society. Mostly its members are outside the occupational scale may did not serve any regular jobs.

Since it was a minority, most families most families knew each other. They had intermarriages. Inherited wealth was very common. Let them experience a gracious life style. Leisure activities were part and parcel of the social appearance and they had a provision for good education for their children. Government, economy and commerce of the country were very often influenced by them.

- Upper middle class

This category of the society was considered as the predominant feature of the occupational scale, which included all the independent professionals and the businessmen who earned big Establishments all most all the members were successful in professional or academic carriers.

They didn't have as much as the upper class influence on the state but they remain as a well-respected category among the entire society.

- Lower middle class

Skilled as well as the non-manual work force, which is considered in this category, they are at the lower level of occupational scale. Occupationally their income level was lower than upper middle class. The life style value was different from the other groups and they were the mostly affected social category.

- Working class

This category is the majority of the urban society, with in which remarkable differences and micro social levels occur. Most people of this group were unemployed in manual jobs and in a very low level of income. The job security and the permanency are very low. Mostly occupied in urban backwaters and they utilized development, which offer owned by the state or council.

This group particularly gathers forming a “watta community” where as strong and unique sub culture prevail. The acceptance of their level and status of the society was a major feature of these groups. They were not much interested in education.

Occasionally, this type of formation is a composition of an ethnic minority. Drugs, unemployment, homelessness, crime, malnutrition and illegitimacy were very common to these groups.

### 1.3.3 New urban culture

Culture regulates how human interacts with the living world through practices ethnics and the philosophy. A sustainable culture is a mirror of the living world.

Traditionally, culture has functioned as a common way of being for people who lived in close proximity to one another in culture, purposeful, for it ensured that people of the same region would live together peacefully because they shared a common identity. Culture is the container of this identity. It can be shared world- view, habits of consumptions, religion daily practices- any medium that expresses human relationships with its surroundings. More over, culture is a tradition that is passed down. Member of a society learn its culture in order to ensure their survival in it.

Therefore gradual expansion of urban society throughout the world, from the industrialization onwards, has established in terms of its culture. It (urbanized community) was a composition of a settled yet dynamic population, not directly involved in the primary production of food and raw material. City is the biggest and populated.

Urbanity has been a clear and most effective enforcement on the society. It changed the entire complexion. The emergence of new social 'classes' (as mentioned earlier), interrelate in a contrasting manner when relationships are concerned. An urban community in most often resides/ shares a very limited space. The ownership and authority of each individual, has an enormous impact on the others. With the too many events and action taking place; the entire community has to cope up with time and energy for survival.

To adhere to this task, the social relationships such as harmony, tolerance and understanding among the individuals become much different to the traditional way of life.

Finally it emerged as the urban culture. Importantly the social behaviour is reflected in aspects of its reactions, varying from the simple and fundamental things such as customs built to forms.

In background, automobile, media, technology displayed an active attribution in order to create a new urban culture. Social values, which link the individual in this modern society reflected/ reflects many orders of life.

At present this urban society is a settled establishment in all major communities through out the world, yet they have a character of its own according to the pattern of evolution, location, livelihood and location.

Due to the modern day modes of communication, free and open linkages, flow of expression, the world is very closely knitted more than ever before. Therefore it is logical and reasonable to consider urbanization and its impact of it in a common global phenomenon.

Individualization of the community is a major phenomenon which urbanization created, reflected the collectiveness or harmony as a group. Competition in all aspects of life made the situation intense and accelerates. To stamp the individuality and cry out for the recognition for the individual presence is the key issue of the present urban society. Since this has affected the lifestyle, it can be concluded as new urban culture

Vis-à-vis urbanization is affected by a range of political, economical, social, cultural and environmental conditions.



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## **CHAPTER TWO**

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# **SOCIETY AND ARCHITECTURE**

## **2.1 Manifestation of social structure and behavior through Architecture**

### **2.1.1 Architecture - A mode of expressing and communicating social aspirations**

“The physical environment of man, especially the built environment, has not been and still not, controlled by the designer. This environment is the result of vernacular (or folk or popular) architecture; and it has been largely not been clearly discussed in History of Architecture” (Rapoport 1982)

Architecture is one of the earliest professions. Even before man become civilized, designing of the 'space', which it occupied, was an essential task. (Even the caved man - prehistoric period - were engaged in construction of protected entrances against unwelcome incursions.) With the shift from a hunting and food gathering economy to an agricultural one, man started to design permanent spaces for it self. From the smallest settlements of a village to a mega city, man went on to decide and design the space for its community during its process of evolution.

The built environment is partly the organization of meaning and communication. This concerns the structuring of communication among people. Facilitating, blocking, separating and linking varied individuals and groups. It also concerns the organization of the communication from the environment it self. I.e. the meaning it has for people. Clearly, since people behave differently in different behavior settings, these settings are able to elicit appropriate behavior; this implies that the settings contain cues for behavior which the users are able to read and understand - and are willing to obey. But it also means that the environment can be conceptualized as a form of communication and if that is so; that this communication must be organized and structured.

Whatever the location, time and availability of alternatives, architecture is a mode which expresses the desire of the inhabitants. Therefore what architecture does is to politically correct the needs of the society.

Basic and primitive settlements such as villages and hamlets indicated where the most important and crucial place and elements located through its orientation, separation and demarcation. Tribal (African) community's huts, even today, uses special colors, volumes location in arranging the settlements. With in the socio-cultural framework of each and every community, this hierarchy is evident through its built environment.

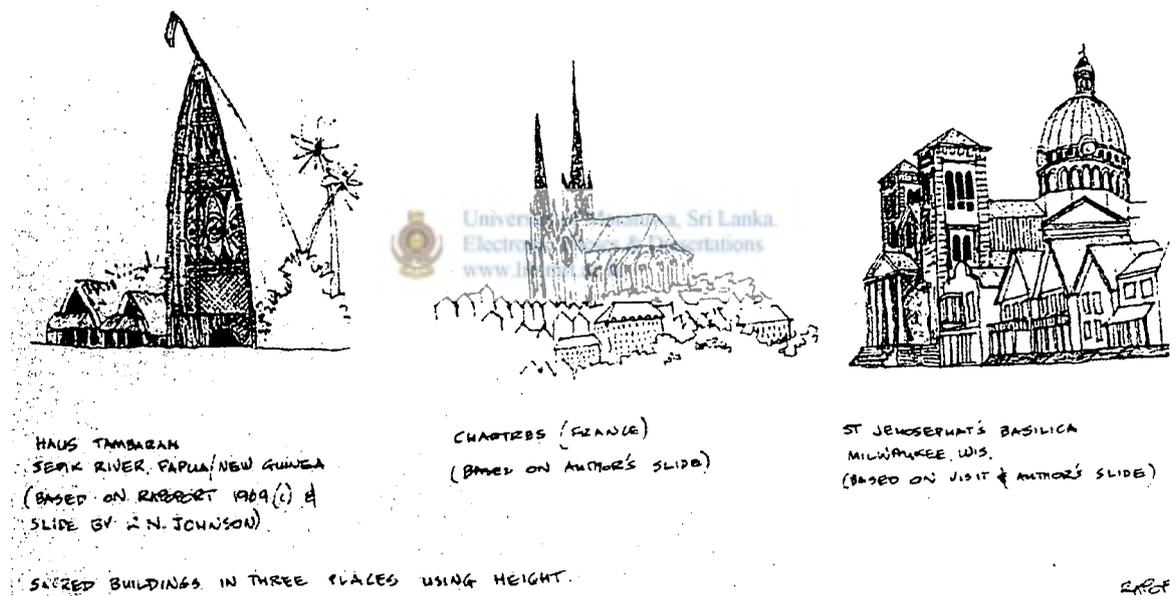


Figure 12- globally, social structure was significantly expressed through the built forms

In the traditional African house, in polygamous situations, the man has no house in particular but each and every wives house id separated through the 'granary'. In medieval towns/villages, the village headman's house located at the deepest place. These settlements always had a fortification around the settlement. In feudal communities, where the 'cast' system was the determining factor, Architecture was extensively used in establishing the settlements structure.

Higher the social cast, usage of non-perishable and valuable materials were evident while the lower categories have to manage with the non- durable and cheaper materials.

More often than not, there were restrictions placed upon the lower cast's people, in order to minimize the usage of certain Architecture. Social elites always had the privilege in using the best locations, materials etc in terms of space and architecture.

### **2.1.2 Social behaviour(structure and hierarchy) and architectural language**

“Values and ideas and norms, understand and respond to the same symbols agree about, interaction, density and lifestyle and hence leisure, food, clothing, style manners and rules” (Rapoport, 1977)



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The expected task of architecture is to create good humane and orderly environment. (Humane architectural environment is healthy, wholesome, self-maintaining and self-creative).

Although there were restrictions, in terms of use of architecture, man always practiced architecture within the limitations. The expression and the meaningfulness of the built environment was not determined hard and fast, the social culture decided on, what to built and who to built.

“At a certain level, architecture is analogous to language. Language is often naively conceptualised as a set of words and set of meanings, set out in a dictionary, and syntactic rules by which they may be combined in to meaningful sentences, set out in grammars. This is not what language is, and the laws that govern language are not of this kind. If we take the words of the dictionary and combine them in grammatically correct sentences, virtually all are utterly meaningless and do not count as legitimate sentences.

The structure of language is the laws, which restrict the combinatorial

possibilities of words, and through these restrictions, construct the sayable and the meaningful. The laws of language therefore do not tell us what to say, but prescribe the structure and limits of the sayable. It is within these limits that we use language as prime means to our individuality and creativity.

In this sense architecture resembles language. The laws of the field of architecture do not tell designers what to. By restricting and structuring the field of combinatorial possibility, they prescribe the limits within which architecture is possible. "(Hillier Bill 1996)

Since man formed it self as a society, the built environment was a part and parcel of the life as well as the environment. Being "human", they always desired to express it self, to its own fellow members and to outsiders. The intensity of this expression varied on the culture, traditions and the life style.

Initial hierarchical division of leader and members was architecturally expressed with the orientation and the location of the resident of the leader and the members. In most primitive tribal communities, the leader was placed in the deeper space surrounded by its members. The hut itself was decorated, the materials used were durable and valuable, and size of the hut was larger from the rest.

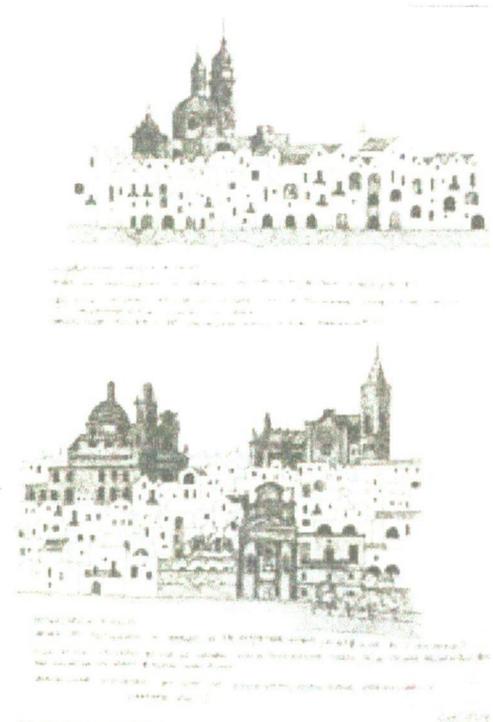


Figure 13- when ordinary buildings are plain, important buildings were articulated to highlight the importance

Ancient civilisations such as Mesopotamian civilisation in Euphrates-Tigris valleys (5000 B.C), had the kings, priests and wealthier social elites used strong and durable burnt brick as the construction material whereas the poor and the ordinary used non-durable and cheaper materials. Most secured locations were occupied by the social elites.

Greek and roman civilisations had durable and strong materials such as marbles and granite for social elites while the ordinary had to stick to mud and clay built forms.

Medieval period up to the industrial revolution, this same phenomenon continued where social groups which were considered higher in cast, always experienced the prime living conditions which included built forms.

Although the social changes took place due to industrial revolution, the newly emerged upper class used architecture to great extent to express their hierarchy.



## 2.2 Usage of materials and technology in architectural expression.

### 2.2.1 from ancient civilizations to feudal society.

Architecture is a collective representation of an art and function, which means simultaneously, it has to fulfill both. In terms of both materials and technology adopted, needs a closer input. In this respect, ancient civilizations up to date, expression of architecture is based on the materials and technology. Primitive communities used only the 'natural' to built/ form shelter or space, which is the early interpretation of architecture. Intuitively man learned through experience and experiments, the manner in which the materials can be used relevant technologies.



Figure 14- usage of animal bones and tasks for hut construction-Moldwa.Rassia

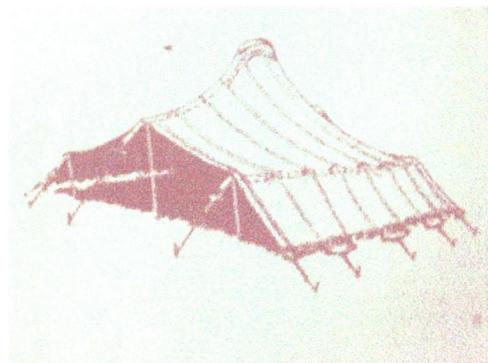


Figure 15- usage of simple technology and natural materials-nomadic hut

This evolved in man having faith in moving to completely man made structures. Nomadic temporary huts/ shades to the solid permanent houses/ built forms of a late stage one example for it. As the known tendency of man in exploiting the conditions, the evolution brought more and more variety and alternatives in to architecture.

Figure 16- usage of simple technology and natural materials-early Red Indian hut



The enormous impact of this aspect of material and technology usage is very clear when considering that, the early societies and civilizations are recalled by architectural character. For example, Igloo houses of Eskimos, pyramids of Pharos, temples of Greeks, Collosium of Rome directly expresses the use of materials in more recent times, medieval castles and temple structures like many other, expressed the vibrant usage of materials and technology.

Although the expressive quality of man was conveyed through architecture, there were limitations far too many, perhaps non-availability of a large variety or limited availability of materials and technology, created a strong order in the built environment in the past. Most important built forms, such as temples and public buildings, used more durable valuable materials.

### 2.2.2 Contemporary society

During the process, up to the contemporary era, many revolutionising happening took place. Among them, renaissance, industrial revolution, first and second world war affected globally. (These periods and its effects are not discussed in detail yet the overall out come in considered.)

As mentioned in the earlier chapter I, the social changes through out the history has resulted in contrasting behaviours in the society. With the emergence of new social values based on 'class', many other characteristic changed.

Architecturally and socially these changes brought new cultural values. During renaissance the explosion in the human evolution made acceleration in society. Renaissance which led the way towards the industrial revolution initiated the Architectural process.

Therefore the modern world experiences many new situations. Emergence of new trends such as modern movement, post modern movement, and organic architecture has been evolved in various scales.

Each and every trend, movement has a social component as well. Naturally when there are alternatives and options, humans try to experiment.

Since the earlier society (before industrial revolution), did not have too many alternations and choices, it created order and formality in the built environment. But afterwards, the situations occurred made the inhabitants to express themselves in a relaxed manner. Architecture allowed the society to express this freedom in terms of space and environment.

In order to do so, Architecture needed to break the shackles. Industrial revolution was the point which made the break through. Availability of new materials and technology, change of the ideologies in the society enabled this transformation. Architecturally, the contemporary ere can be categorise under post modernism, deconstructive, minimalism, modernism and super modernism.

Hans Ibengs, in his book super Modernism discusses the fact of using of new materials and technology is the key in which one can identify the behaviour of a group of people both psychologically and physically. Due to globalisation, this trend is spreading all over the world, dissolving the unique character of the countries.

With the gradual surfacing of globalisation has a direct influence on the intense usage of automobile and the new technology. How ever, all the contradictory effects of globalisation can be found in built environment.

Charles Janks describes the Los - Angels has been a much sited example for the future of the city in the western world, an interminable urbanised area with no co-herant from, no hierarchical structure, no centre and no unity.

Duoglas Kelbaugh states that since 1990, more and more buildings have been built world wide whose sole involvement with their context consist of toeing the building line. For this Architecture the surroundings constitute neither legitimate nor inspirations for these are derived from what goes on inside the building, from the programme. This autonomy reinforced by fact that the building has as inscrutable exterior that betrays nothing of what happens inside.

By all these trends during the modern world (contemporary world) is described under the urbanisation. Because, all the predicted changes over the period of urbanisation, (comparatively a very short period), made general understanding of Architecture and its usage. Contemporary Architecture shows a clear differentiation in usage of its language. The expressive quality is a major part and a unique feature in determining the modern character.

Figure 17- louver pyramid, modern contrasting landmarks completely alien to the setting



Due to the reason of loosing its formality, which exists in the traditional society, co - existence dissolved gradually. Emergence of individually in terms of society became a common and accepted fact. This social transformation undid the behaviour of Architectural language too. Modern materials became popular. These were neither understanding nor - respect to the hierarchy which existed earlier.



Figure 18- modern city with enormous variation and chaos

In a way it can be stated that the usage of materials and technology was used with out a proper research or experiments. In terms of materials reinforced concrete, load baring materials such as steel, fibre, steel alloys, Plastics etc and among the non - load baring materials glass, fabrics, PVC etc can be stated. Other than these numerous variety, in flooring, roofing, partitioning and in term of technology- electricity, A/C, ventilation, circulation - escalators, lifts etc were invented. All these made a situation which a total dominant or an authority is given to man. It made the situation worse by allowing a free and unstipulated usage over the built environment.

Therefore the breakdowns in the social structure and hierarchy, is reflected in built environment too.

## 2.3 Urbanisation and usage of architectural language

In general terms, modern architecture (super modern architecture), runs parallel to urbanisation. Along with the urbanisation, a new standards, applications and norms were brought in to architecture. These new terms and 'models' were very often used to discuss society and architecture.



Figure 19- Clock Tower, Torre del Mangia,,palazzo, Rubilico



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Figure 20- The Selimiye Mosqsque, 1568-74

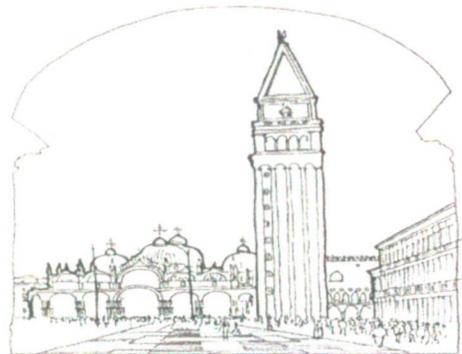


Figure 21- piazza, St..Marks clock tower, Siena formation (an object) for the city

### 2.3.1 Fabric and object

In pre - industrial societies, ordinary dwelling and urban places of work are accommodated in buildings, which together formed a relatively homogenous fabric. Once this regularity has been established, any break in it assumes special importance; as objects. In principle they are reserved for monuments or landmarks, and this regularity was not broken merely for unnecessary reasons.

“Fundamental problem of 20<sup>th</sup> century urbanization is that it has lead to multiplication of objects and neglect of fabric. Today the distinction between fabric and object, which gave the historic context-its form and the image”. (Von Meiss, 1990)

**Objects:** The object is a closed element finite comprehensible as an entity, has accommodation from that is they are of a definite shape has two surface qualities textures and colour. When the object is a three dimensional one, it has the appearance of a mass. This appearance is the totality of the object; it can also be obtained with symmetrical building with a square or rectangular place and even with more complex configuration. In an object building, the importance is a certain degree of continuity and regularity in the object it self as well as a discontinuity in relation to the context.

In general, it is identified, a composition of the object is obtained by the use of a monolithic form, by the use of axis, proper articulation between elements, hierarchical order and through the dominate binder.

**Fabric** - The eye selects and combines elements, that it seeks the simplest and most symbolic form and that it tries to integrate the various parts. The part of a surface are sufficiently close, similar and numerous, that they are no larger seen individually as fingers, but seen as a homogeneous structures of fabric.

Whilst it is generally impracticable for all the buildings to be framed from a common mould, infact it is usually undesirable. But there should be some similarity between the forms of majority; and when they do differ it is generally necessary to relate them by some optical device; like colonnade or to have some inflection between them.

Building in facades, giving continuity to cityscape, are primary factors to the urban context. The street buildings require great care in composition for its shaping, as given continuous similarity to phrases in complete sentence.

### **2.3.2 Urban layers**

Since most of the modern day cities have a long history, the expression of the development of the society is evident in the built environment. Therefore, the progression up to date is felt through the presence of the different types of building which represents the various eras of the history. Such occurrence can be defined as a urban layering.

With several layers making its presence, a city will have a very unique character. When a certain layer stands out, the city will be categorized as a city belonging to that particular period. For example, most of the medieval cities such as floresce, and most of British medieval cities, even today has the medieval character. But in most modern cities, the layering is disappearing rapidly.

### 2.3.2 Context and content

In the traditional city, the design of an individual building was always governed by the demands of the context: for example, the Medieval European city maintained a distinct hierarchy where the buildings of the church, palace, market place occupied prominent positions while the ordinary dwellers and the work places formed the back drop.

In Islamic cities, the Masjid (Mosque) occupied pride of place, while dwelling were clustered to accommodate the extended family system. Hindu cities in India as well as our own historic cities were organized by rules set down in the vastu-sastra, which defined physical characteristics of streets and buildings as well as the distribution of functions according to the various castes. Every major philosophy of western architecture includes those of the Renaissance and the 19<sup>th</sup> century city acknowledged the primary importance of context and the duty of individual buildings to respond to it. Therefore, the built context with the open spaces that tie built elements (streets, squares, Parks, water bodies, etc.), and the activity of its inhabitants was the content formed the urban context.

However, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century these conventions were abandoned. The modern movement emphasized instead the individuality of each separate building, thereby creating the incoherent and disordered urban environment which is the present experience.

### 2.3.3 Contextual response

Although the 'urbanity', comprises of several layers, objects-fabrics and the context, to develop an over roll idea, each and every individual building has to contribute. Therefore, buildings can be categorized in to several departments. Historical buildings existing for a long period of time-monuments, religious building etc can be categorized in to this group.

New buildings which were constructed recently and the previously/ or the buildings which has served and deteriorated over time. Interestingly, the historic and the ancient buildings, at present, to suit the environment and the social discipline in behaviour pattern, re-use methods are vital to derive an idea. Mainly in the global realm, this has occurred differently. (The standard terminology is discussed under reservation, restoration, preservation and conservation.

As the human instinct is to adopt it self to the conditions (socially), Architectural outcome provides a general understanding of the happening.

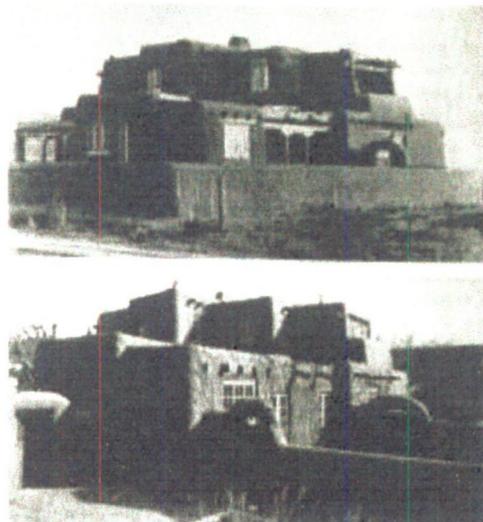


Figure 22- Chalos Vierra- own house-New Mexico, 1921(up) & 1991(below)

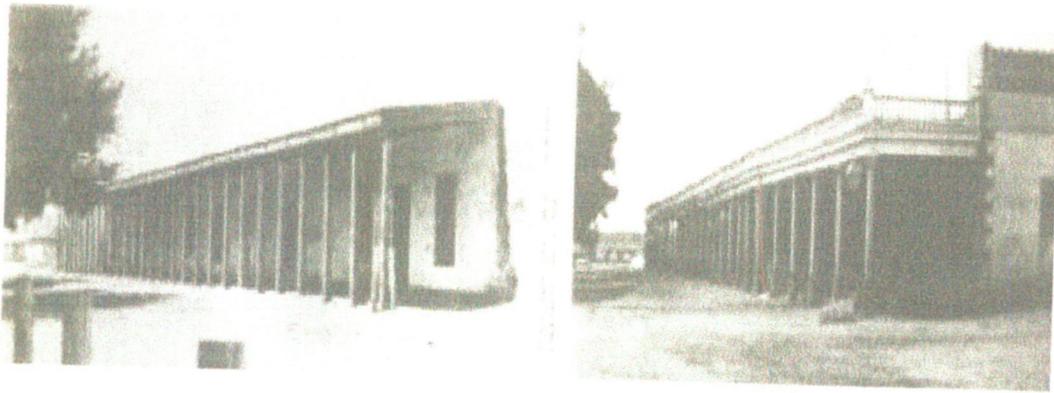


Figure 23- Spanish Colonial Governor's building 1868 (up) and the same (1882)

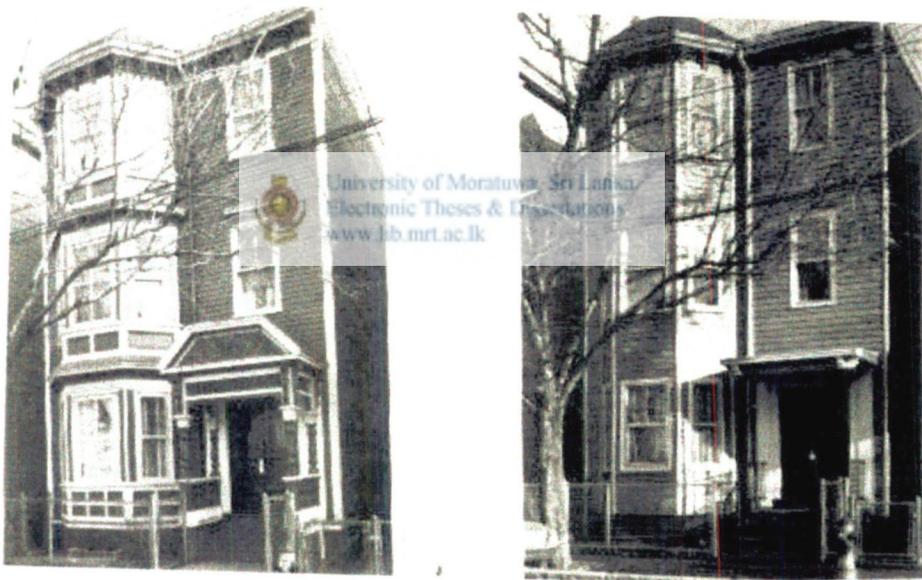


Figure 24- office in Masserchuste (1969) and the same in (1969)





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### **CHAPTER THREE**

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## **EVOLUTION OF SRI LANKAN SOCIETY**

### **3.1 Origin of Sri Lankan society**

#### **3.1.1 Anuradhapura period to Kandyan period**

Sri Lanka's earliest proven records on proper settlements have a history which goes back to the period of Alexander the Great. Nearchus and Onesicritus, Admirals of the fleet of Alexander, at the time identified Sri Lanka as 'Taprobane' in their records. During 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C when prince Vijaya arrived in Mahawansa identifies Sri Lanka as 'Thambapanni', which has originated settlement from his time onwards. Vijaya and his men settled along the river banks of Mahawali in 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. From then onwards, history reveals that Sri Lanka originated its settlements.

Agriculture, being the main livelihood, the settlements called 'gama' developed by increasing population and scale. Dry zone which was accommodated by these early settlers helped them to carry out both chena and paddy cultivation. 'Anuradagama', one of the prominent early settlements in this period, was situated on the river banks of Malwathu Oya. Mahawansa mentions that this Anuradagama had five tanks which supplied water for cultivation, which means the earliest settlement type in Sri Lanka (Society) is based on tanks. Therefore it is called tank fed villages with the expansion of each and every individual village; they become towns/centers.

Since Anuradagama was physically located in the centre of all villages; it became the place for exchange of goods surplus production, which formed a centre for trade. Later this centre for trade, became a city and there after a citadel. As a result, 'gama' which means village developed into a 'pura', meaning city. Later on, when the city became complex and important, it was divided into levels. The inner part of the city was converted into a citadel and it was separated, protected from the rest.

ROUGH PLAN  
OF  
SIGIRIYA.

Scale of 1000 feet to an inch.

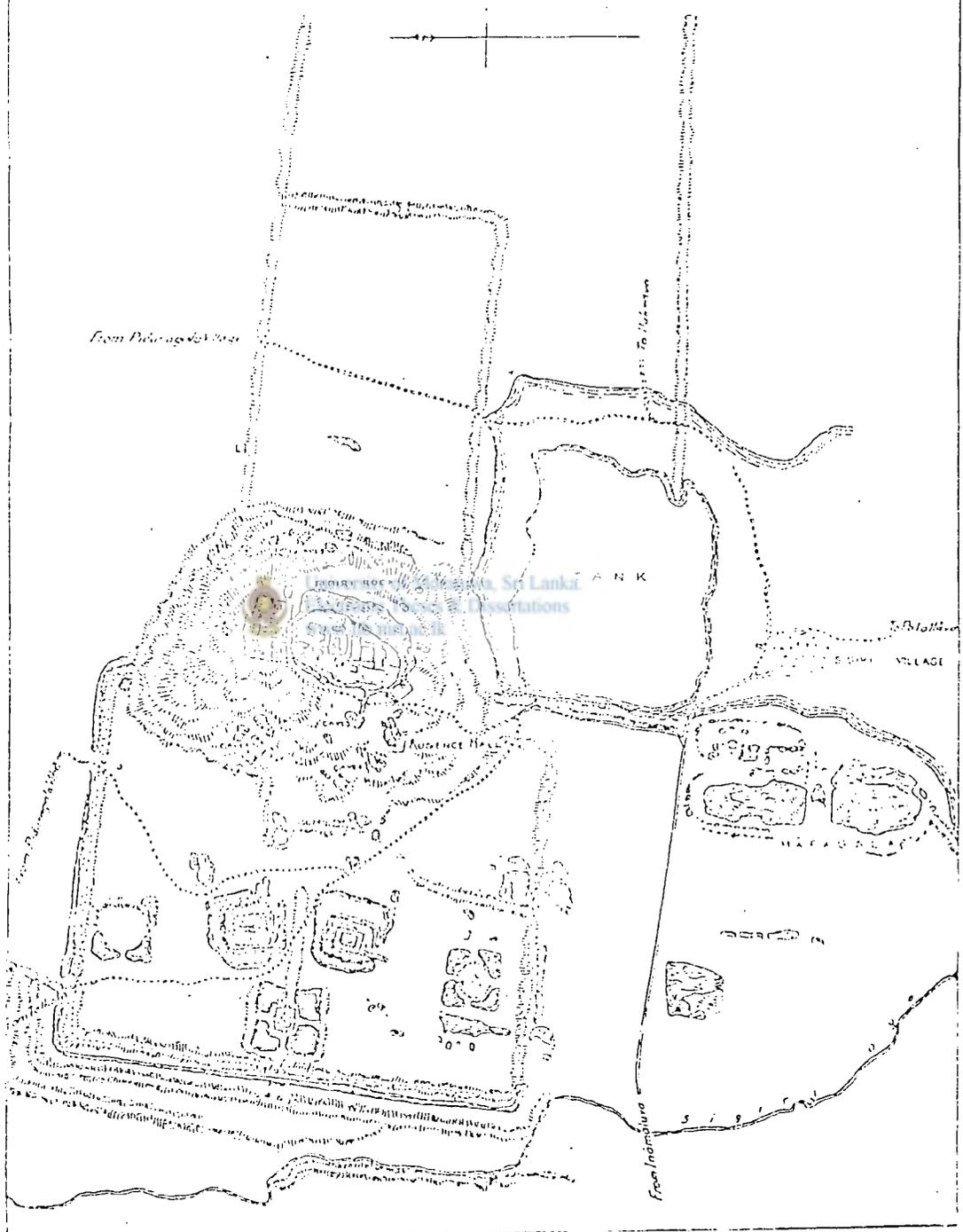


Figure 25- plan of Sigiriya

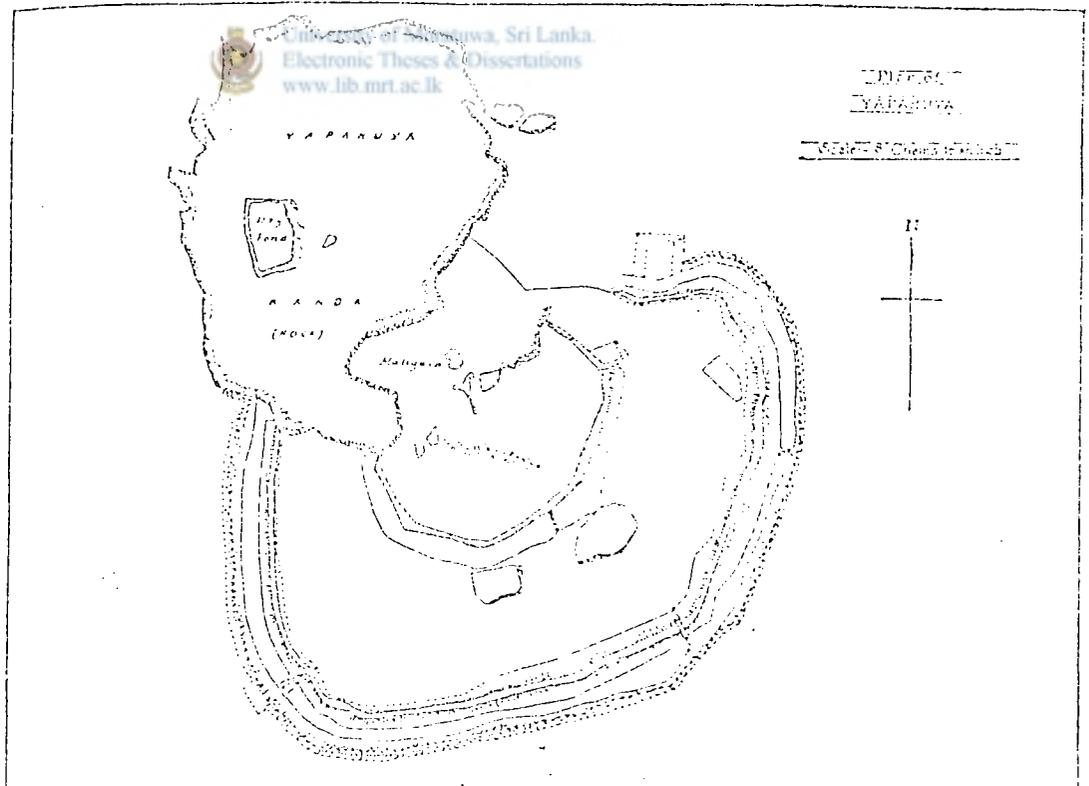
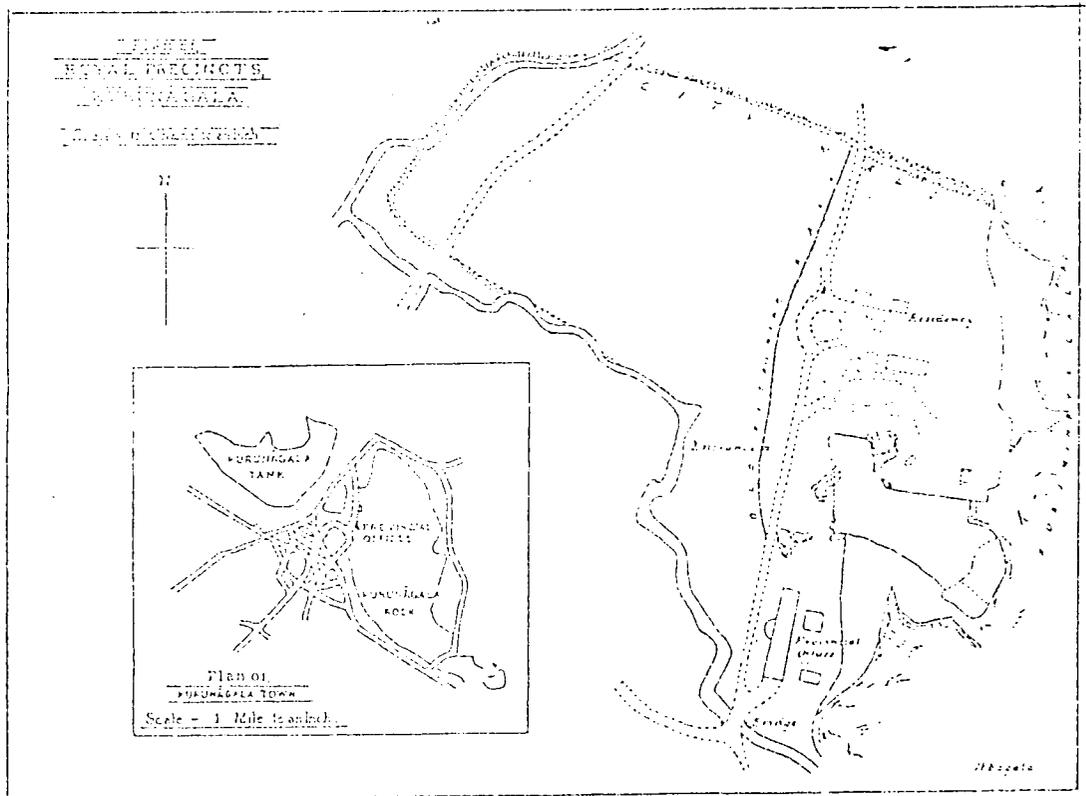


Figure 26- plan of Yapahuwa

In this city formation the inner most area, citadel was occupied by the administration, the king and the market place where economic activities took place. Out side this inner city; it was occupied by the dwellers and agricultural lands were situated with proper water supply for crops.

This was the primary city formation in the country. Infact this is the foremost society in a large and complex scale. The macro level of community always was based on family. Although the city and its aspects functioned as mentioned above, agricultural based village formation is the back bone of Sri Lankan society.

Since the village formation was based on the livelihood, which is agriculture; it made most of the customs and traditions focused on its day today life. Therefore character of ancient civilizations in Sri Lanka is inseparable from agriculture. This social formation is experienced in its physical formation as well although there were many changes in terms of the hierarchy.

1. Tank fed villages
2. Rain fed villages
3. Hill country valley villages
4. Devalagam and vihara villages



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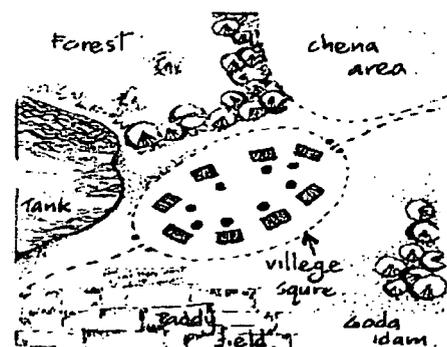
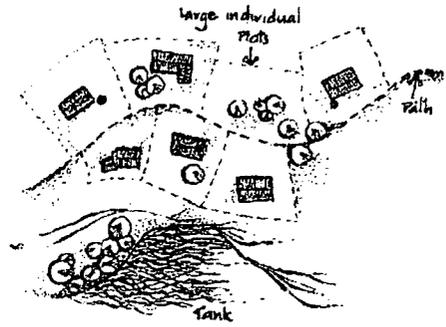


Figure 27- tank fed village layout showing the tank, settlement and the paddy fields

Figure 28-Rain fed village layout showing the tank, settlement and the paddy fields



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Figure 29- Devala gam layout showing, Devalaya, settlement and the paddy fields

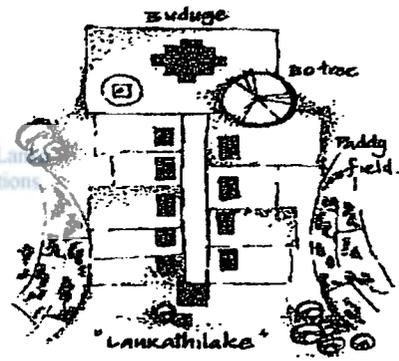
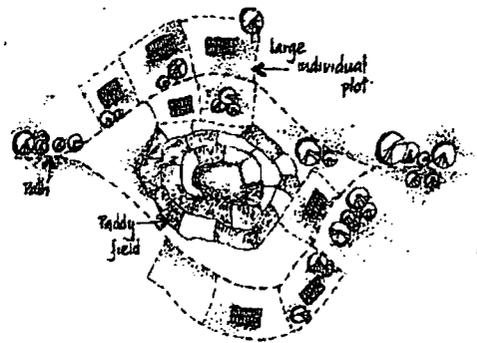


Figure 30- Hill country valley layout showing, path ways, settlement and the paddy fields



This formation prevailed though many a settlements existed and developed, even when the grand scale major changes took place with the kingdoms emerged and vanished. This is because the social structure of the Sri Lankan agriculture based had an extremely sound development and an establishment. Mainly, it is due to the traditions and the values being solid and well proven. Introduction of Buddhism to Sri Lanka was the major social event which took place other than the foreign invasion from to time.

### 3.1.2 Colonization

“If the period of Renaissance marks a qualitative break in the history of humanity, it is precisely because, from that time on, Europeans became conscious of the idea that the conquest of the world by their civilization is henceforth a possible objective. They therefore developed a sense of absolute superiority, Even if the actual submission of other people in Europe has not taken place”. (Samir Amin, 1989)

Since Sri Lankan kingdom shifted from Anuradapura to several safer locations during the period, the socio-economic life style did not change much. But later on, when trade became an important part of the society, (of course this phenomenon took place only in the costal areas at the beginning) the social life style began to change. Parallel to the world scenario, Sri Lankan society too, was based on the feudal system where society had an established structure with several hierarchical layers. These layers formed an efficient co - existence with each other mainly due to the agriculture being the main function of the economy and society. During these, well establishment social structure, trade only took place on surplus of agricultural crops.

Due to the expansion of spice industry, Arabic merchants established themselves in the costal towns, namely the port related towns. The success of the spice industry and the excessive profits which the Arabic merchants received attracted

European nations towards Ceylon. With the renaissance in the Europe; many nations took the challenge to explore the Asian region in search of new sea route.

Portuguese were the first nation to come to Sri Lanka, which they called Ceylon. Initially they occupied the port cities namely Galle, Colombo, Tricomalee etc with the strategic importance in both, economy and power. They (Portuguese) dominated the port cities by force and by treaties with the local authorities.



Figure 31- harbour in eerily 20<sup>th</sup> century



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But continuously they were threatened by local 'kings' and by fellow European counterparts. As a result, they fortified their establishment which already had taken place in other colonialist countries. This is the first instance where Sri Lanka experienced a contrasting in social life structure. Feudalism, which prevailed, was based on king as the ruler and agriculture as the livelihood, was challenged by trade. Portuguese gave an enormous importance toward spices, cinnamon, precious stones and pearls. Internally this forced the local population to supply them which was a profitable deal.

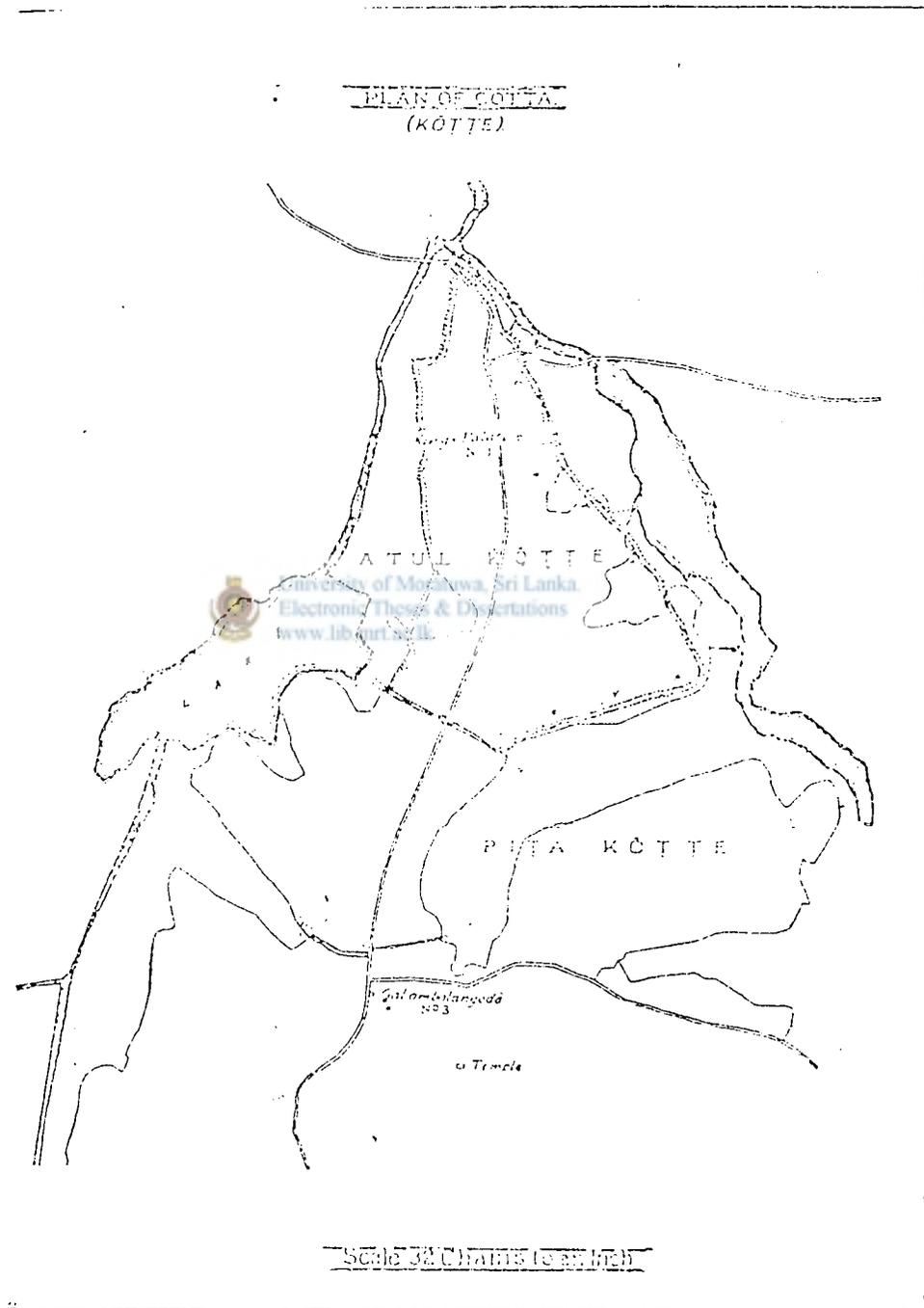
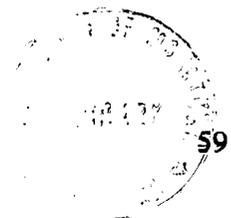


Figure 32- plan of Kotte



With the development of the trade, the local Sri Lanka population got European goods customs and religion. Since trade/economy was major source of society, it challenged the prevailing social structure and lifestyle, resulting in a breakdown in the culture and character. Initial fortified cities and it's near by societies experienced these changes, later on it expanded further inland.

After Portuguese, Dutch, another European nation established themselves in Sri Lanka in extending the authority further. Although Portuguese and Dutch efforts to bring the whole island under their authority, has been a futile, each of them acquiring patches of territory along coasts. Therefore the social structure and the society were not significantly transformed and they were concerning yet not alarming.

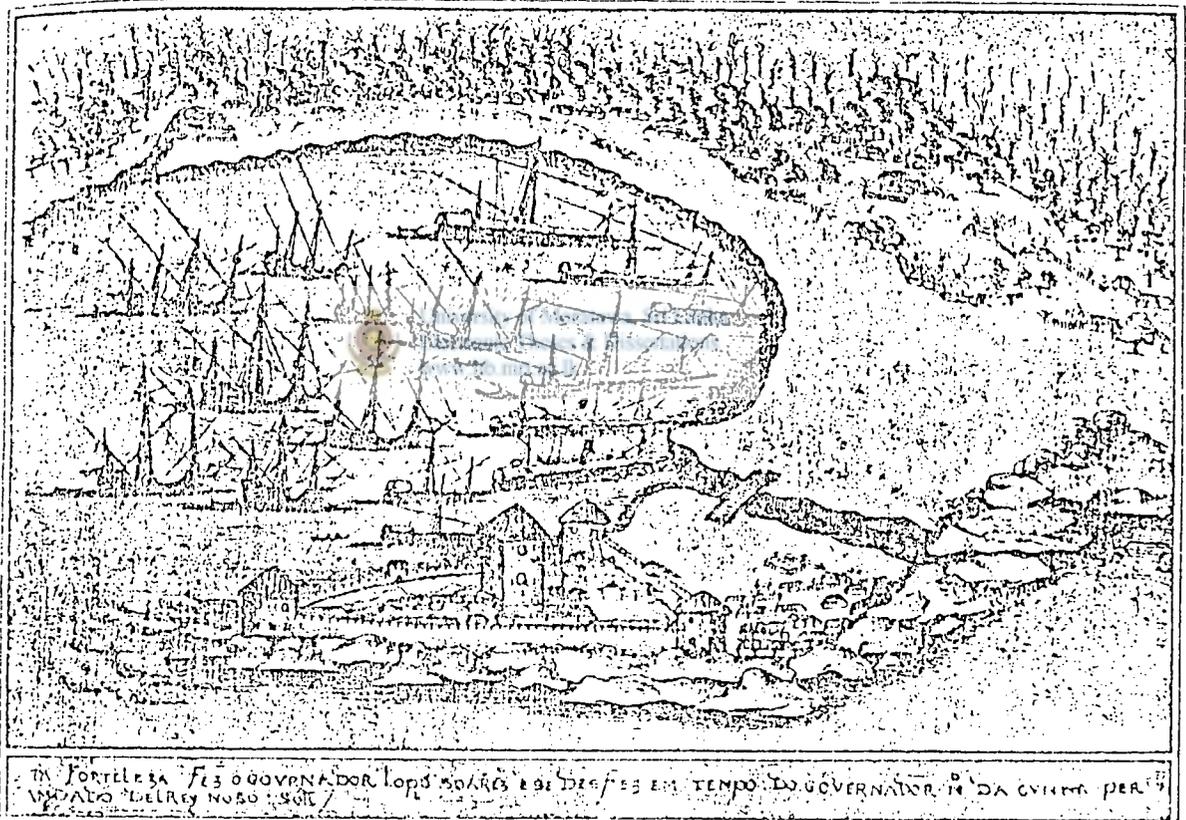
It was the British who arrived later, took over Dutch controlled territories in Ceylon (1796), and they were successful in colonizing the whole island. Multi strategic approach of British to establish them selves in the island, launched their campaign in trade, education and social life. Therefore the impact on the entire society was forced to obey, even with time to time resistance. Fall of kandyan kingdom in 1815 made the Ceylon completely a crown colony. Fundamentally British constructed a whole new infrastructure network allowing them to penetrate and secure their position all over the island. With the complete colonization, Sri Lankan society was confronted with the main objective of becoming a market place, and a place to supply new materials for the crown, replacing the agriculture based society.

Feudal structure was changed into an economic and educational structure which western value systems were highly regarded. Western educated new generation and new economic class based on economy (plantation industry) emerged as the new social elites replacing the social elites of the caste system in feudal society. European traditions and culture, especially English, were absorbed by the Sri Lankan society and it reflected in most form, of society in general and as individuals.

COLOMBO

PLATE XXVI

From Correa's "Lendas da India," 1518.



Translation: This fortress was erected by Governor Lopo Soares e de Seixas em tempo do Governador M da Cinhua per  
Vydalo del Rey nro soñ

Figure 33- map of Colombo showing first Portuguese fort erected in 1518

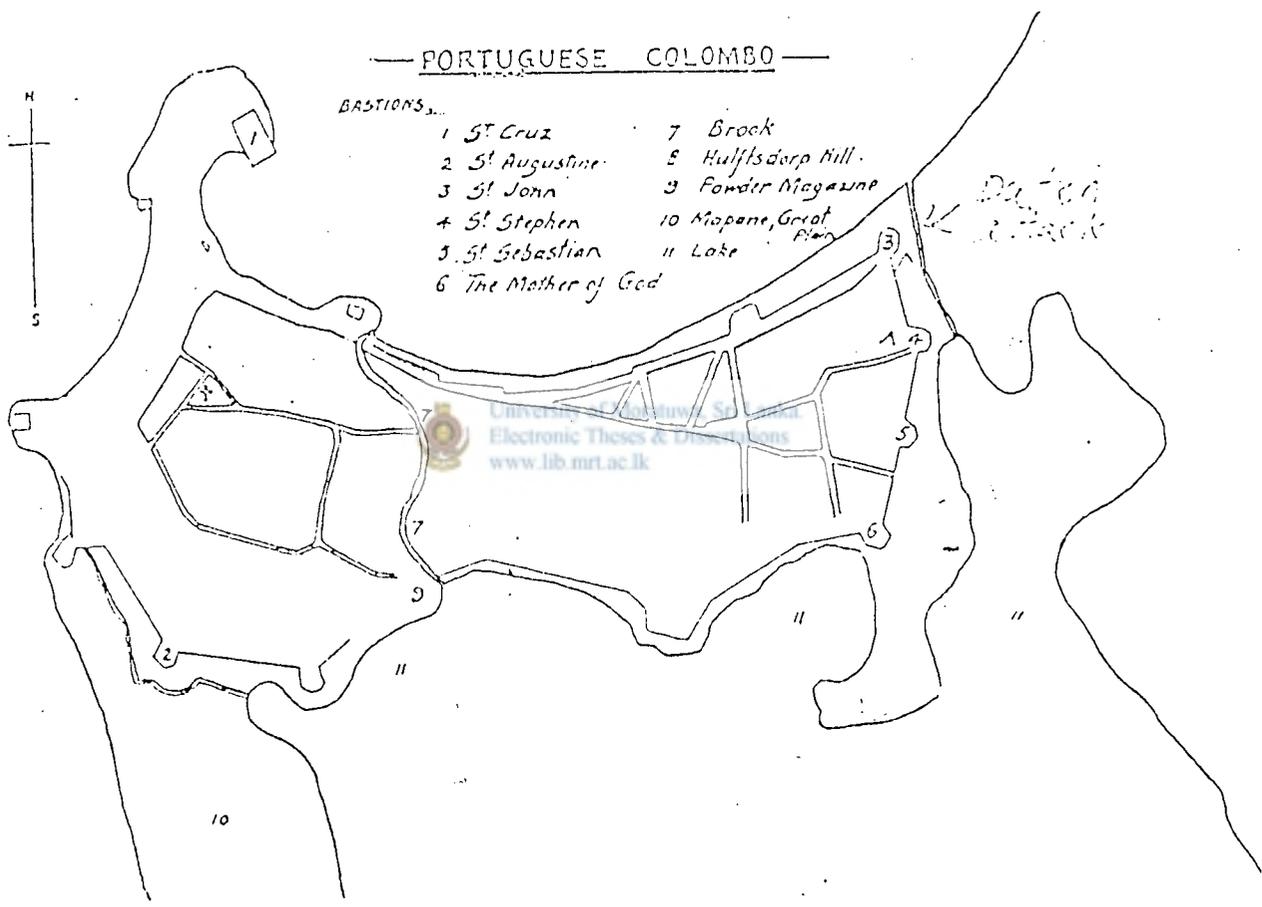


Figure 34- Portuguese Colombo

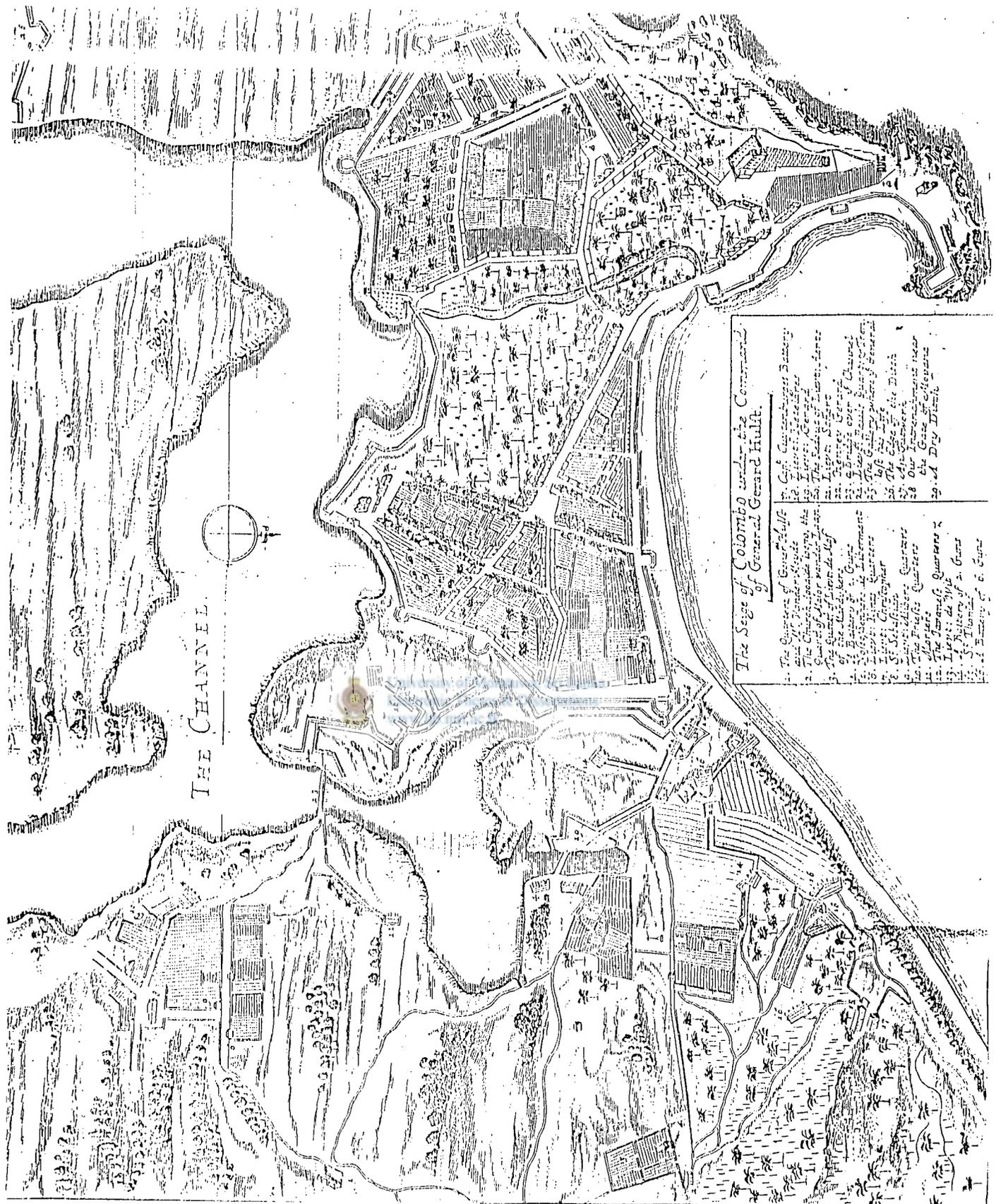


Figure 35- Portuguese Colombo-under the command of General Hulft

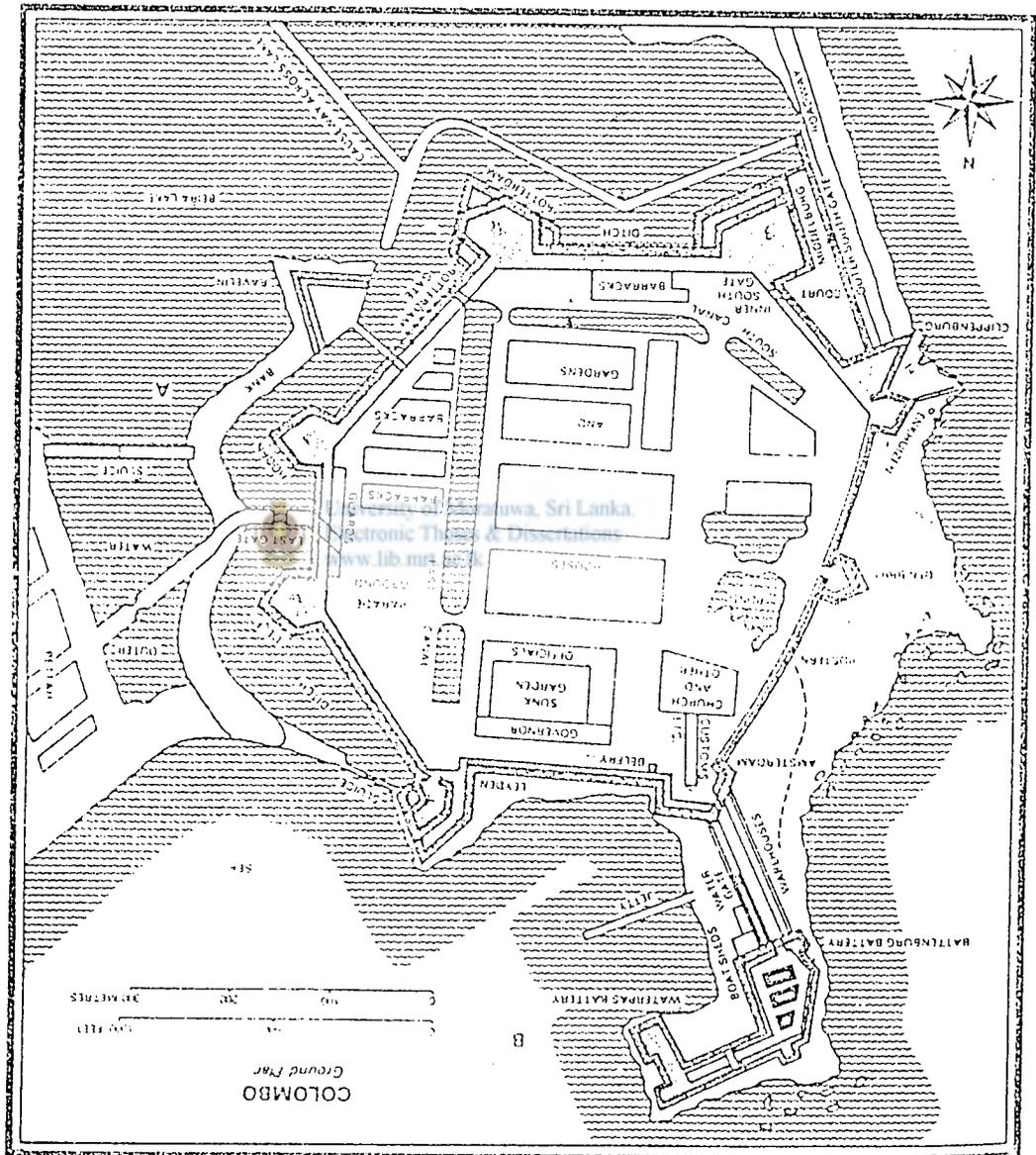


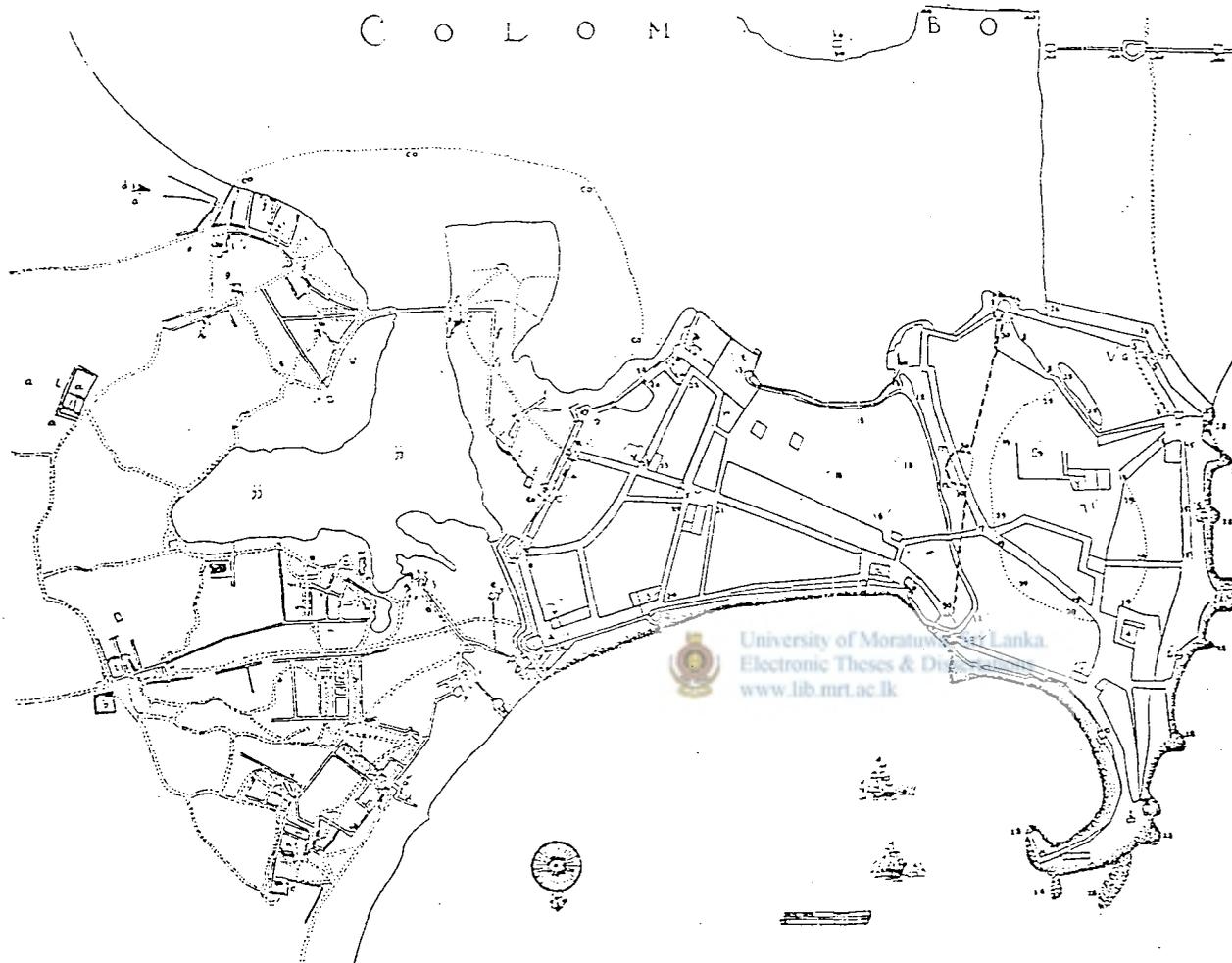
Figure 36- Dutch Colombo-Casteel of Colombo-typical fort in Holland

Portuguese-Dutch Map of Colombo

PLATE XXIX

Town of Colombo.

Key to Map on the opposite page.



Aenwijzing der Voornaemste Plaetsen, der Binnegarten Stadt Colombo—na de werck by den En. Heer Dir. Gerid. Hallit. Sij. voor de Stadt, met Approchen Van Bat. Aengebracht sijn en hoe de Stadt met Allhaen. Rintzen. Beveerken En Voornaemste Plaetsen genaemt sijn geweest—Annus Christi 1656, den 12 May Verover.

Description of the Principal Places of the Belonged City of Colombo, showing the manner in which the Escurado the Director General (then) placed the 77 posts betwixt the City and the Approches and Binnegarten, and the manner in which the City with all its Batteries, Escurado, and Principal Places was taken in the Year of Our Lord 1656 on the 12th May.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. St. Joan   | 24. Een Broeck Straet (Dir. V. A.)   |
| 2. St. Stephan (St. Stephen)                                  | 25. De Brucke Straet   |
| 3. St. Philippo   | 26. Kluppen 2 & 3 V. A. boude Water (Rocks for 3 feet above Water)                   |
| 4. Klooster (Convent) (St. Maere de Deos Concession)          | 27. Een Bredt in der Stadt (Street in the City)                                      |
| 5. St. Jeronimo   | 28. Alweer de Stadt sal sijn veroverd (The city will be divided and reduced in size) |
| 6. St. Antonio de Torresen                                    |  |
| 7. St. Augustino  |  |
| 8. St. Francisco  |  |
| 9. Calle Boen (Entrance to the Bay)                           |  |
| 10. St. Laurencio   |  |
| 11. St. Onys, o Water Castel                                  |  |
| 12. De Water Poort (Gate)                                     |  |
| 13. Tronco Velho (Part of the old Fortification)              |  |
| 14. Calle   |  |
| 15. Porta Reina (Queen's Gate)                                |  |
| 16. Porta Japonesa  |  |
| 17. St. Dominico  |  |
| 18. De Berek (Church) Maere de Deos                           |  |
| 19. De Berek van de Capucinen                                 |  |
| 20. St. Paulo   |  |
| 21. Het Clooster van St. Augustino                            |  |
| 22. De Berek van Handel, o Ceo (Church of Heaven, or "o Ceo") |  |
| 23. Het Clooster St. Francisco                                |  |
| 24. De Berek St. Laurencio                                    |  |
| 25. De Berek Gouverneurs Huis                                 |  |
| 26. Het Huis van Don Jeronimo                                 |  |
| 27. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 28. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 29. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 30. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 31. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 32. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 33. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 34. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 35. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 36. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 37. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
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| 41. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 42. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 43. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 44. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 45. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 46. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 47. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 48. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 49. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |
| 50. Het Huis van St. Onys                                     |  |

Figure 37- Dutch Colombo-1656 map of Colombo

-DUTCH COLOMBO-

BASTIONS

- |               |                     |                    |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Rotterdam   | 8 Delft             | 15 Buffalo's Plain |
| 2 Middleburg  | 9 Houn              | 16 Cemetery        |
| 3 Klippenburg | 10 Victoria         | 17 Kayman's Gate   |
| 4 Enkhuisen   | 11 Kandy            | 18 Ditch           |
| 5 Briel       | 12 Rajasinha        | 19 Huifbuorp       |
| 6 Amsterdam   | 13 Church           | 20 Lake            |
| 7 Leyden      | 14 Governor's House |                    |

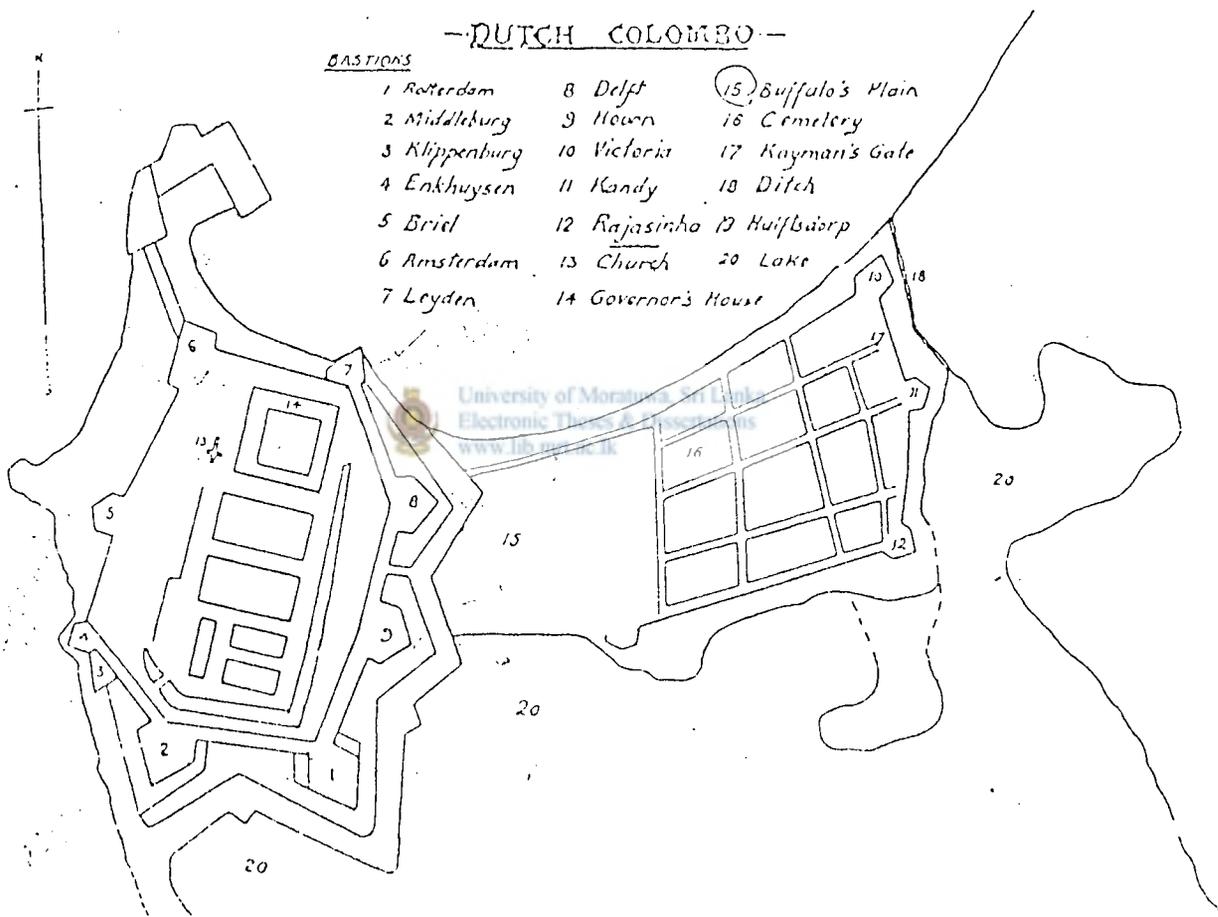
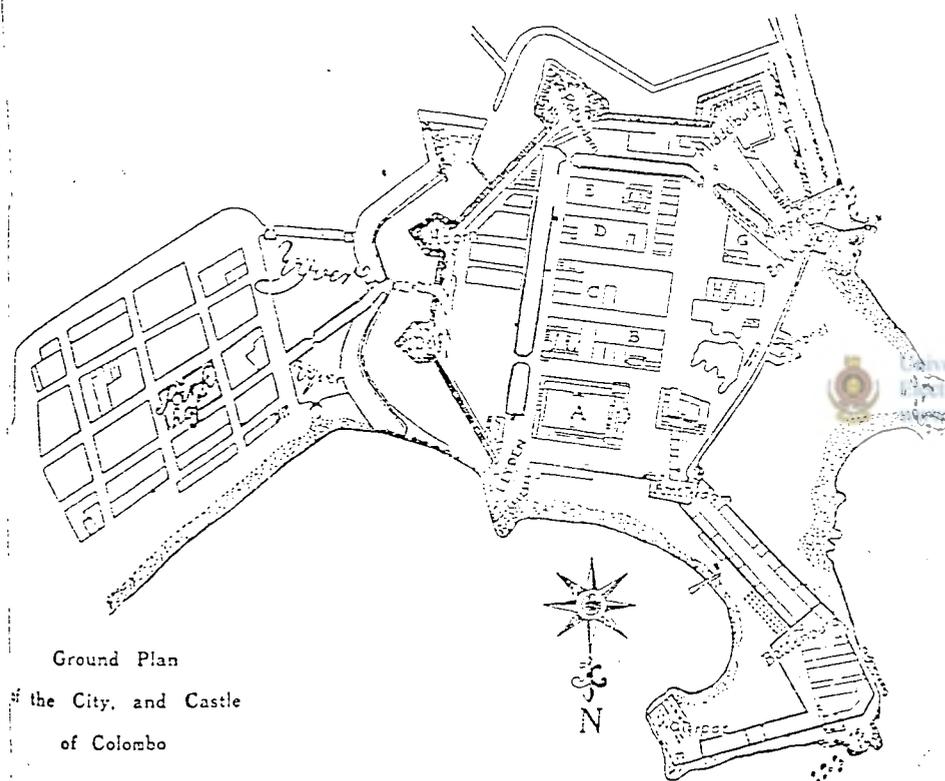


Figure 38- -Dutch Colombo

PLATE XXIII



Ground Plan  
of the City, and Castle  
of Colombo

Compiled about 1732

Tenement indicating details alphabetically referenced on the Map.

The Bastions.

Leyden  
Delft  
Hoorn  
Rotterdam  
Middelburg  
Klippenburg  
Eockhuysen  
Den Drieh  
Amsterdam  
Zesburg  
Waterpas

are indicated by their names in the  
respective bastions.

The Block A contains—  
Residence of H. E. the Governor.

Secretariat.  
Pay Office.  
Judicial office and Court of Justice.  
Gun-carriage shed.  
Trade office.  
Carriage shed.  
Bookbinder's room.  
Auditor's office.  
Stable.  
Coach-house.  
Lascrib's guard.  
Attendants' room.  
Carriage shed.  
Lascrib's and tom-tom bearers' guard.  
The Muzaliyar's room.

The Block B contains—  
Residence of the Hon. the Military Commander.\*  
do Hon. Mr. Albinus.  
do Rev. Mr. Matzeius.  
do Rev. Mr. Salens.  
do Hon. the Chief Administrator.  
do Rev. Mr. Kooijne.  
do Secretary.  
do Mrs. Domborg.

\*The Dutch had a separate office of Military Com-  
mander during the earlier part of their administra-  
tion in Ceylon.

The Block C contains—  
Residence of the Lieutenant of the Artillery.  
Ordnance depot (ammunition store)  
Dutch School.

The Block D contains—  
Residence of the Foreman of the Carpenters  
do First Clerk  
do Esign Surgeon

The Block E contains—  
The Dutch Hospital.  
Residence of the Chief Surgeon.  
do Quartermaster (Foreman of the Com-  
missariat).

The Block F contains—  
Residence of the Storekeeper (winkelier).  
do Lieut. Hackert.  
do The "Dispensier" (Commissariat  
officer).  
do Lieut. Ladenus.  
do Cassier (Treasurer).  
do Esign Klop.  
do The Trade accounts officer.  
do The Pay accounts officer.

The Block G contains—  
Residence of the Foreman of Ships' Carpenters (Dock-  
yard Foreman).

The Block H contains—  
Residence of the Apothecary.  
do The Hon. Captain Agreen.  
do Lieut. Nce.  
do Hon. the Fiscal (Public Prosecutor).  
Inn (gambling den).

The Block I contains—  
Residence of Keeper of The Prisons.

Figure 38- Dutch city and castle Colombo-1732 map of Colombo

Under the British rule, Sri Lanka experienced many social novelties. Christianity was mostly established (initially in the coastal region). The influence of Christianity in the political economical and educational areas was intensively evident. New culture immersed with many contrasting differences to the traditional setup. Mainly town/city based English educated and westernized society, Tamil plantation worker communities, Sinhala village communities (which still had some relation to the traditional village system of Sri Lanka) were the major components of society. Significant transformation took place in cities, where the socio-economic backbone turned western. New 'class' and the structure of the community, consisted of Sinhala and Tamil Sri Lankans who had a western education and newly formed economic cities.

Although there were movements against these colonization and its affects on the local community from time to time, English had very effectively penetrated through the social system and it was very hard to deny. With the independence movement in India and Pakistan and due to the happenings at the international scene, such as the industrial revolution and i & ii world wars and many other; British encountered a resistance from the Sri Lankan society in the regime. Freedom movement occurred in the subcontinent forced British to award state of dominion. By the time, the society has been successfully transformed in to a European community.

In this new set up, Elites were mostly from low - country. They were in to plantation, transportation, politics and administration.

According to singer, it was forgivable for the graduates of Royal and St. Thomas colleges not know who followed king Rajasinghe 1 to the lion throne, but down right unthinkable for him not to know who signed Magna - carta, shows the social transformation which the colonization and the colonial education system created in the Sri Lankan society during colonization.



Figure 40- Map of Colombo in 1901



### **3.1.3 Independence in 1948**

Under the circumstances; independence was not a significant social transformation but a transfer of governing power from one party to another who followed the same trail. For example, first decade after the independence, it was devoted to match interests, interactions and desires of the ruling national elites with the post colonial political economic and cultural system constructed by the British in consultation with them.

But with the anti - colonial influenced local community, with the nationalist's movement took place and Nationalist movement drew its attention towards the pre - colonial values and traditions and norms in the country and attempted to re - draw the olden day 'prosperity' during the process. This conceptualized in regeneration and re - unification in art, culture and society. In this aspect many traditional situations were recalled. It gave new value to traditional kandyan period art, drama sculpture, literature and Architecture as well as the society as a whole in order to re - evoke the traditionalism.

Focussing on the relevant subjective area of the study; the social system was changed enormously during the post - colonial era in different stages.

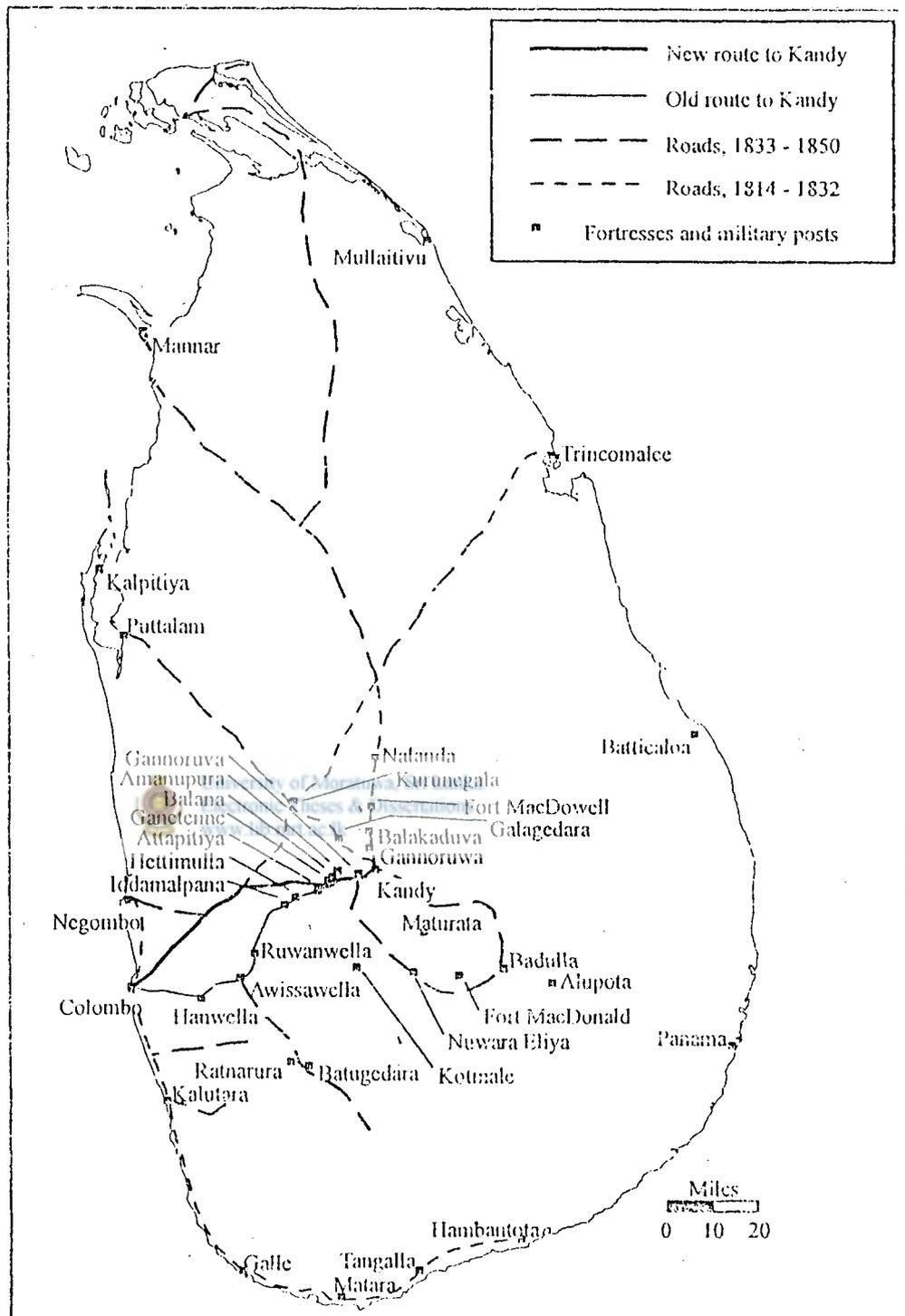
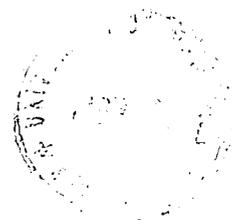


Figure 41- Instrument of Colonization



## 1. Internal - colonization.

Government focuses on the re - generations of the agriculture based, self sufficiency program. Many tanks were restored and even new tanks and reservoirs were built. Namely, Chandrika Wewa, Senanayake Samudraya and the Mahaweli scheme (1960) created many new social situations. The settlements of these irrigation schemes were called 'colonies', under which resettlement on virgin forests and vacant land took place. Since each family received a fairly big land (5 acres approx.), they were hamlets than villages. These new hamlets replaced the earlier village settlement such as tank fed (discussed earlier) where a unique character had been prevailing.

The vast land extent allocated for settlement plus agriculture separated the people from each other due to physical distance. The colonies were much more commercialized; population was heterogeneous and more individualized.

'Attam', - system used in earlier agricultural activities were transformed in to labour on payment. Hamlets being model settlements, expressed insignificant variation among each other. Mass production of hamlets had no names, but simply identification tags. Hamlets didn't have any hierarchy, focal points or character so the solid response towards these can be recalled as internal colonization, which revitalized the former Sri Lankan village. (And in some instances this is interpreted as the genesis of modern urbanization is Sri Lanka-Nihal Perera, 1986)

Whilst above phenomenon were happening in the rural or village setting, city - the commercially important place also had countless transformations. During the post - colonial era Colombo, Kandy and Galle being identified as main towns in the country, gradually become industrialized and urbanized.

As the chapter ii discusses, the globally industrialization attracted rural population to town areas. Rural urban migration separated the Sri Lankan society too, in to non - urban and urban setups.

## 3.2 Urbanization and its impact on Sri Lankan society

### 3.2.1 Development of urban culture

In the Sri Lankan context, urbanization has a slightly different interpretation to the global realm. According to historians, Sri Lankan urbanization can be categorized into three major stages.

“With the rural to city migration taking place, cities became much more populated. In 1800, Population in Colombo was 28,000. It grew up to 150,000 in 1900, Transforming Colombo into a ‘primate city’, a city with a largest population, many times larger than the next largest cities.

(Ferguson- Hulugalle, 1965)

Phase I - Historical urbanization where prince Vijaya and his men from India landed in ‘Thambapanni’ (in the dry zone) and constructed settlements which later developed to become Anuradapura kingdom. It is mentioned that Anuradapura was a prosperous urban city with power and wealth from 377 B.C. to 0795 A.D.

From the time of king Pandukabaya to Kkavanthissa, Anuradapura was the capital and major economical functions as well as power was focused at Anuradapura. But south Indian ‘cholons’ invaded Ceylon and established themselves in Polonnaruwa. Therefore Polonnaruwa was also developed as an urban city with proper planning and hierarchy. King Dutugemunu, who re-unified Ceylon, made Anuradapura the most prominent place of power and prosperity.

Even today the ruins at Anuradapura show the urbanized city with inner city having seven storey palaces, queens palace, Tooth Relic square etc. outer city (by the time Anuradapura had become a fortified city) was separated from a wall from inner city with opening at four sides north, south east and west. Even the outer city had urban character with large monasteries, namely Alahana Pirivena with five storeyed Lankathilaka Viharaya and a chapter house called

Buddasima Prasadaya, for monks indicate the layout pattern, type of urbanism which prevailed.

Polonnaruwa, the next capital proved to be a better planned city with grouping of agricultural land around the city and the administrative arrangement were established according to Mahavansa.

### **Phase ii - Historic urbanization - Western capital**

After Polonnaruwa, in 13<sup>th</sup> century, capital of Sri Lanka was shifted to wet zone due to various reasons and it gave dawn to several new cities in the wet zone. From Dambadeniya to Kurunagala, Kotte, and up to Sithawaka the capitals were shifted constructing many new cities. With the time and environment, (economical, social, natural) every city performed different levels of urbanity.

But, based on the facts, most of the cities did not last long enough so establish themselves as Anuradapura and Polonnaruwa. Due to the fact that these cities had fortifications, and security as a major concern, dense living, proper planning of city layout pattern should have created a well disciplined and a properly structured city.

### **Phase iii - Colonization**

Arrival of Europeans in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (1505 - Portuguese being the first) set the pace for the third wave of urbanization. From Rural to city migration was clearly evident during the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the Sri Lankan urbanization.

Initially economic centre was evident in western coastal line, with the perceiving population and trade; those centres became towns and formed the first urban settlements. This tendency abandoned the olden urbanized towns (phase ii) because the new economic activities were much more vital than the agriculture based urbanized settlements. Galle and Colombo were the first cities to immerge as new colonized towns as well as urbanized settlements. (Urban colonization)

Trincomalee and Galle with the natural harbours were the main considerations in the early stages of colonization. Economy was based on the naval transportation. Therefore the naval cities were first to develop. Being far off the 'new world', sea routes of Europeans, Trincomalee did not develop much as a trade based urban centre, but it had a military importance.

Colombo, being a south harbour but directly on the international sea route, became the foremost harbour based town. From, being an Arab, Persian and Chinese trade centre, it developed to become the prominent fortified urban centre. British imposed a strong and comprehensive network of infra-structure, namely, railway and road network.

Colombo being the heart of the country, it was inevitable to keep away from urbanization. When adhering to the global notion of urbanization, Sri Lanka (in this period of historic urbanization) did not experience any mega scale industrial establishments but a few medium scale tea and rubber related factories. (Mainly due to the British policy of making Sri Lanka a centre raw material collection and a market for finished British products)

Therefore urbanization in the colonial era can only be discussed within this framework of Sri Lankan urbanization.

The indigenous and fellow European threats, forced the British to fortify the centre. Colombo and Galle (mainly) became strong forts and the urban living was evident in this scenario with relatively small area surrounded by a wall and it had to occupy a population for trade, defense and administration.

With the independence in 1948, the fortification was not necessary any more. The fort based urban settlements (although the boundaries were demolished and security was eased off from time to time) expanded to outer peripheries too. As a result especially in Colombo (and Galle) fort and Pettah, merged and became one urban space with people migrating from outskirts of Colombo, the urbanity penetrated and became complex during the post colonial period.

From being a prototype colonial urban settlement, Sri Lankan urban society developed in its own unique manner after the independence.

The development of Sri Lankan urbanity can consider, introduction of open economy in 1975 as a land mark. Socio - economic growth which resulted with the open economy enhanced the gradual slow paced growth and development.

As discussed (in the beginning of chapter) social changes which occurred during the colonial era established its value and culture by the independence in 1948. Although the feudal social structure which prevailed prior to the colonization was replaced by the new economic class, in the colonial period (discussed in chapter one), the social structure was as layered as before with economic class.

Therefore Sri Lankan, yet westernized social elites were in control of the socio - economical structure of Sri Lanka. Missionary education, plantation industry, civil administration and political recognized were the society's elites. The socio - cultural background of the Sri Lankan society which was based on the western values, existed even during the post colonial era. Socially and culturally, the new society was based on economy too. As mentioned in chapter two, local urban population had several layers. All aspects of life reflected this phenomenon. Strict adherence to the western values, namely education, dress, Architecture etc. principally governed the society.

Architecturally it was represented more than in any other modes of expression. (Architecture is used by people to politically correct the social aspirations (Chapter 2). Socially and culturally, the urban society and social elites took off from the place where British left off without many alterations.

Parliament house became the state of council; former residence of the Queen's house was occupied by new Governor General, later on by the President on the ceremonial Head of State. Fort occupied most of the administration and trade.

Social elites followed the late colonial model of living in suburbs. Initially in the Dutch country type homes in to the north of fort, near Kalani River, (Multwal, Hultsdrop, Grandpass) later to the south of fort, to Colpity and Cinemon gardens and Bambalapitiya. Therefore socio-cultural situation remained the same until the open economy was introduced.

As Abu Lughod, argues in regards to morocco, "the elite had moved in to the vacuum left by the foreign castes and the privileges that accrued were dependant in part upon maintaining the system that had created them".

Housing location, eating habits dress, consumerism, and even naming practice were part of the British colonial culture.

As Singer states, in brief, colonial society and space in Ceylon was not subjected to any qualitative change immediately after independence. The colonial ideological foundation within which cities had been built, provided the necessary knowledge to understand, manage and maintain the extent built environment, persisted during the first decade after independence.

With the changes occurred in political, cultural and nationalist movement many transformations took place. According to Dr. Nihal Perera in his book Decolonizing Ceylon, states that this is the initial step towards decolonizing. Viharamahadevi Park, Queens Street became Janadipathi Mawatha. Golden Gardens attached to President has become Republic Square.

The era after 1977, expressed many changes in politics in its appearance and function. When ever such modification took place, its inhabitance ware socially and economically affected. The changes occurred along with the open economy very critical. By the time of 1977, the globalization process and the new technology in the global realm has been encroaching the country. With this new economic were policy, Sri Lankan introverted economy opened it self bringing the modern western culture.

Media, information technology and transportation linked nations, and American influences in the global economy was effecting enormously on social life of Sri Lanka through politics, economy and technology.

Multi national economic ventures expanded its production along with a new culture. Therefore Sri Lankan urban society gradually adopted it self to counter this situation.

The westernized culture (British culture and values were very much formal and rigid. Social elites of the British colonial cultural orientation, were disorientated by government policies, which made Sri Lanka a Republic.

Sri Lankan society (as discussed earlier) preferred and practiced co existence. The livelihood and the external forces forced them to be interdependent. This aspect of social behaviour was expressed in architecture during colonial period, and town centres were built up with particular types of buildings which belongs to grand scale, expressing the social hierarchy.

Even during the colonial period social layers were clearly evident (based on economic and educational background) in the established social layered system for a person to move into another social level needed long term dedication in economic or educational activities.

This social 'frozen', static character was evident in cross cultural marriages, where the inter marriage of different social classes were very minimal. Such social norms and customs strictly manifested in Architecture too. To secure the social status, the society had to understand and respect each other in terms of foundation as well as culture. After introducing open economy to the country, society was exposed to a whole new direction

Co - existence and inter dependency (especially in urban areas) were no more important in social life. Who ever had a good economic support or education, society was keen to let him change his position and express him self.

This can be mentioned as 'individualizing' the 'common' or the public. It is significant because when a building is built, it becomes a part of the 'context'. Therefore, any built entity has a public component and a roll to play. When buildings become totally individual the public component becomes insignificant. Devaluing and disrespecting on neighbour and the environment, is not a great crime to commit because socially, there is none -to discipline or control or impose rules on them.

This results in a decline in the co - operation and co - existence completely disregarding attitude and behaviour pattern. Commercially, residentially, economically administratively, one had to compete with each other if one wanted to be significant and a true character.

Individualization of social behaviour made the socio - economic culture topple. More than the ability earned by society to survive individually, it was the cultural or behaviour freedom granted or accomplished by Sri Lankan society created this situation. Instead of being part or a member of the community, individuals became self-expressive in order to acquire recognition and attention.

Figure 42- former Parliament is been made contextually insignificant by the later commercial establishments such as hotels and banks



### 1.3 Contextual relevance in contemporary Sri Lankan urban society.

#### 1.3.1 Context and content.

By the end of colonial period, Sri Lankan community was settled in terms of its hierarchy. This hierarchy was evident in built environment too. Mostly populated 'urban' centres in Sri Lankan standards such as Colombo and Galle had a complete formation of built environment with urban development. A city was well designed and laid out deriving zoned areas for particular activities and functions. Urban centre was mainly focussing on trade, economy and administration. Elite residences and bungalows occupied sub urban and peripheral areas.



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Figure 43- context is made visually understandable with the usage of grand gateways and monuments

British, in their regime, formed the Public Works Department, which was responsible for major state owned, and important buildings.

"Of the towns of Ceylon, the most important and progressive is the capital, Colombo. (It) possesses most of the refinement of a modern civilization, up to date hotels; electrical lights, fans, and tramways; an excellent water supply; an up to date system of waterborne drainage; and extensive emporia of all kinds of goods". (Turner, 1920)

The Public Works Department built prototype state buildings as well as private commercial buildings, departmental stores even bungalows for the government servants. These buildings paid very little attention to the Sri Lankan

traditional Architecture. The intention of forming the Public Works Department was to maintain and reinforce the colonial dominance and homogenous character in the entire British Empire. In order to achieve this task, prototype-building designs were used in all colonies including Sri Lanka.

Result was a very formal continuous urban context with completely responsive and conversing set of buildings in urban town centres.



Figure 44- prototype British buildings with minimal response to Sri Lanka

Colombo was the climax of this phenomenon. Fort area opened up to merged with Pettah creating a complete urbanized city. The prototype buildings, separating them only according to the function - residential, commercial, administration or institutional expressed a strict order in Colombo. Sub urban social elites bungalows and residences were typical European style. Elite residences with wide roadways, a large tree canopy providing shade, short boundary walls and large gardens with monumental houses in the centre was a common sight.

Profound order and formality during the British era remained unchanged until the local society began to re - value the 'nationalist' value. The urban cities such as Colombo and Galle did not change or separated from the existing context, due to this socio - cultural background.

By the end of the Colonial era, urban sky line was much of a continuation of 2 to 3 storied buildings which were added on to fulfill the functional and physical requirements of the city.

Figure 45- context, by the end of the colonial era, consists of several 2-3 storey buildings



The context started changing along with the social cultural and political changes. Changes were meant in several ways. With the open economy, the new market and the availability of numerous goods and knowledge inspired the building industry enormously. (The inability to overpower and dominate the 'unthinkable' becomes a reality in Sri Lankan context too). The balance between various elements of urban context fluctuated and it broke off the rhythm between them. Solid to void ratio, amount of unbuilt urban land, became hierarchy built up.



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"... Post independent nation builders were more concerned about their own identity, position and the feature of the state, particularly its development and modernization, but not with tradition or history in any significant way. Even in the state that consciously attempted to constant a nation, and therefore an identity, the architects did not make any conscious attempt to produce an architectural ideologies and form to represent nations" (Nihal Perera p. 179)

Figure 46.-During the early post colonial period Sri Lankan new buildings too, were accordingly built (YMBA building)



With the availability of the new Architecture, and the new Architectural tools, the context was used and interpreted in many ways. Context of the contemporary urban city is full of various material proportionate representations. More over the functions did not matter in terms of its appearance.

The prototype image of different selected types was disregarded and a blank façade or non-communicative facades of shopping complexes, office building or factories come up. Showroom, hospitals, banks with in the same locality formed the context but it seems to be less in diversity in new society because the materials used were the same.



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Figure 47.-Greenlays Bank new building at the strong Colonial context with blank facades-Fort

### 1.3.2 Fabric & object

The building fabric gives an image of continuity of experience stretching 'to infinity', the object is a closed element, finite, comprehensible as an entity. Objects concentrate visual attention; they stand out against a background. This concept can be transposed to the town where the certain structures appear as objects (object buildings) because they stand out from the urban fabric. This is organized according to the laws of proximity, similarity, reception and common orientation of elements.

A fundamental problem of 20<sup>th</sup> century urbanization is that it has led to the multiplication of objects and the neglect of fabrics there too many buildings, which present themselves as 'objects' indifferent to the public or hierarchical role they play in the values of our society.



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Figure 48.-clock tower and the light house-an object in the strong and monolithic fabric making the focal very clearly- Chatham Street

The temptation to opt for the object rather than the fabric is generally greater. The later choice requires a particularly deep understanding of the context. On the other hand, the Architect, when he eventually receives a commission and the client who is perhaps building the only project of his life, tends to make either building stand out.

From the ancient time, Sri Lankan society expressed and harmony between the inhabitants and the environment. The importance of a certain thing or a person was indicated/communicated through graphic or true symbolism.

These phenomena developed through the presence of Buddhism in the country, which highlights the value of co-existence and the respect towards surroundings. In a way, it controlled the social expression or it influenced in determining social behaviour. Village concept of 'wawai - dagabi, gamai - pansali' (tank, stupa village and temple) was the fundamental structure.

Formation was layered as the virgin jungle being on the mountaintop, temple immediately below, village settlement, tank and the paddy fields and agricultural land at the bottom, of the valley. Within the village settlements, 'kadamandiya' the gathering and the market place was at the most convenient place as well as easily reachable. Settlement, structured as the high caste, nobles, cities occupying large and luxury complex with better material usage and the other inhabitants occupying simple and simple house form.

Only the temple was articulated and it was elaborated in terms of design location and details. Functionally as well as completely the temple over the focus and attention was even from a greater distance. The average settlement maintained the fabric with important and sacred places created the objects. The contrast between the fabric and object expressed the importance and hierarchy.

In the ancient city/ town level too this order remained the same. The king's palace and tooth relic temple were the focus, while other social elite according to their social level settled themselves in specific places with imposed importance. This is evident in fortified cities as well as established administrative and economic centers in Anuradapura period to the Kandyan period it remains the same.

During the colonization too, the order and hierarchy was well maintained in order to express the wealth in the contemporary Sri Lankan urban society. Like in most cities in the world, the Sri Lankan context also had monuments.



Figure 49 Social necessity to respect each other and understand, Fort's buildings maintain the tradition

The cultural, social and political important built form or spaces were given the priority in the traditional city. (Even in the colonial Sri Lankan cities and towns; clock towers, monuments such as war memorial, Dawsan tower, and lighthouses were landmarks. Out of the functional buildings, churches, governmental offices such as governor's office, police stations, and town halls were established as objects in the built fabric in order to express hierarchy and order.)



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After the independence with the nationalizing movement, towns were imposed with Buddhist monuments, Bo - trees, Buddha statues, stupas, were built as land marks and Kaluthara temple, stupa at the harbour, Buddha statue at the Colombo towns and its junctions, Buddha statues at Dehiwala and Wellawattha bridges, Buddha statue at the Bullers Road junction etc. Functionally, the town hall, post office or the market occupied town centre. Three dimensionally, this formed objects in the build fabric. In contemporary urban cities, this fabric object relationship changed. Today, the town centres are very hard to define. The town centre and the periphery have built objects, which stand out individually. Functionally different buildings such as shopping complexes office banks, show room, etc are constructed in the same form and covered with material in which the difference is unidentifiable.

The fabric is not cleared enough to identity objects because individual standing out buildings differ in scale, proportion, usage of material.

Figure 50.-present day buildings stand along without any relevance to the fabric



### 1.3.3 Urban layers

Modern day, urban cities consist of build form as well as spaces, which have a relationship to a very long history. Some have changed over the period, either functionally or architecturally. But some haven't. Further more constructed. Out of which, the material nor the technology has brought variety.



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Figure 51 present day urban context consists of several layers-modern and traditional



All in all, present urban context is a representation of several layers or periods in the path up to date. Especially in a situation where merely expansion takes place than entirely new built environment come up, this aspect is very vividly represented. Especially in the Sri Lankan context where vernacular Architecture, colonial European Architecture and nationalists (critical vernacular) and modern contemporary Architecture is present and this layering is significant.

Modern Architecture, despite the various tropical incompatibilities towards nature and user, has dominated the built environment.

Therefore modern Architecture has brought a whole new contrast in to the urban fabric. When a context is representing several historic and urban layers, the context becomes a very chaos and haphazard. Although the presence of several layers occurs, the dominant layer will hold the authority or the character. But in the Sri Lankan context, the verity and the complexity in the layering have 'created' an ad - hoc environment in terms of the user and character.

This is created by the non-responsive representation and the lack of understanding in interpretation. It breach the sky line and the built environment loses its hierarchy. Footprint or the scale is undesirable. Proportion and volume differs from each other too.

Detailing or the specific ornamentation of each and every style of Architecture is used very carelessly expressed. Arcades, decorative window types and sizes, detailing, flooring colour and proportions are the very much non-responding to each other.



### 1.3.4 Contextual response

Modern society, with its enormous complexities in social - economical profiles, has resulted in a rather strange phenomenon. The social behaviour, (as discussed earlier in urbanization and its impact), conclude on the fact that today, Co-existence and harmony in social life is one of the least important considerations for the urban inhabitation.

In Every aspect of life, especially with the indispensable needs of human life - food, shelter, clothes, education and health- modern society has heading for individualization. What one eats, dresses, resides, learns and practices; basically the culture and its behaviour are gradually drawing towards a new 'urbanity' in the country. Although it is very much strange, Present situation is clearly accepted even appreciated, the aspect of contrast - highlighting. When an individual, with an absolute irrelevancy, or with an enormous variation, presents it self to the society, he (or it) is very much recognized. Therefore, to grab Attention, acceptance and recognition, is has become must to stand out.

But in the traditional culture, (even in the colonial culture too), generally it was the opposite. Social coherent and the discipline maintained by the culture made it a must to adhere to the existing 'rhythm'. It is, in a way interpreted by sociologists as the way of survival.

Individual characters in the society give cheer example in proving this arrangement. This can be analyzed economically, educationally, particularly socially and architecturally.

When this matter is projected towards the language of Architecture, the built form reveals it all.

Economically, present society is not reluctant to find the 'roots' of the individuals. Where the occupation, profession on what one is engaged in is less important. Legally or illegally one could earn its status with wealth and can boost on the height of it. Therefore neither a professional nor a businessmen who is in to a malpractice, are considered in the same manner and respect, as long as they produce the same level of capability in wealth.

On the other hand, if one's ability to maintain a certain level of economy he is unfaithfully put in to a economic level of 'poor'. From the inception of means of social life, the environment had an impact on its activity. Built environment was moulded through the aspirations of the society.

This internal truth, even with Present strange situation, is been prove clearly. Therefore the context, which one lives in, is a manifestation of its society. With the aspiration of man, leads the society in to deep chaos and complex social realm, buildings, built by man, express or communicate these aspirations of the society. Since the contemporary urban built forms do not present a hierarchy, it can be interpreted in a decisive manner.

Present context, with vast variation in between (in term of height, scale, proportion, used material, technology) convey a clear message.



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- The influence of the context is not a consideration in the urban Sri Lankan context in order to determine the character (or the appearance) of an individual building.
- The function which the building is built for, is also do not influence the character or the appearance. The individual needs (client, owner) determine the quality of the individual existence. Architecturally, this fact is emphasized to the highest degree with the availability of new materials and technology available. If not for the advancement of the architectural applications, this would not be a reality.
- Therefore the built environment today, consists of highly irrelevant built entities. Since the context and its content is none responding and non relevant to each other, it can be interpreted as a non-context. Therefore, architecturally, it forms a non contextual urban built form.

- Therefore, architecturally, in responding to a situation as such, future buildings (if trying to respond to the Contextualism, where architecture is generated by the context), will clearly be an ad-hoc and stressful scenario.
- As argued in the hypothesis, influences on the community, has created a stressful environment in the society. As a result, it (society) has become a merely a space for individual living”.

Therefore in the contemporary urban Sri Lanka society, built context is irrelevant to its users and inhabitance.



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## **CHAPTER FOUR**

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## **CASE STUDIES**

- Colombo

Until the independence in 1948, Colombo was mainly controlled and administrated by foreigners. For native kings, it was not more than a coastal town until the Europeans first visited. Even after the Portuguese, Colombo was mainly important due the port and its activities.

To begin with, Arabic, Persian and Chinese traders used Colombo port as a collecting and exchange centre for goods. Although originally it was used for trade purposes, later it became a strategically very critical point in term of administration and trade

Because of the strategic importance of Colombo, other nations were interested in Colombo than the locals. Therefore, from 1505 where Portuguese came to Ceylon, they were eyeing on the port and the periphery. To secure their position, they (Portuguese to English) fortified their territory. The extent of fortification, depended on the intense pressure & threats they received from local and foreign.



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- Siege of the Portuguese by Dutch.

In 1656 May Dutch won a 7 month long battle to be Victorian in Colombo and they got hold of the fort. While demolishing most of the buildings. It is said that reconstruction was carried out with the influence of Dutch military. Architect and designer, Baron Menno Van cohern. (1641 - 1704) designd and constructed new moats, gateways and draw bridges.

New fortification also consists of ware houses, work shops, shipping yards, barracks etc. Residential units of various grades for higher civil and military officers and the focal point, a church was very prominent.

- Zoning of Fort

New grid pattern was introduced in the fortified town, dividing, it in to two zones. 'kasteel' and 'oude stad' meaning castle and old town were the two major zones. Castle strictly meant for officers residences of the governors and high officers of civil and military. Old town which was meant for minor officers and their families including selected indigenous population.

Later the fortification was reduced but strengthened and the rest was kept open. Image of the city and the fort is clearly derived through the gates and the wall used. Governor's house was the main building of this fort with a two strong elaborated Architecture.

Most of the corners and the edges of the city were highly ornamented. A former commander's house (where Cargils building was erected) was focused as an important building Typical Dutch grid pattern of streets running very long, were intersected each other at right angles along each street there were a raw of single storey buildings with pitched roofs with low eaves on a continuous raised verandah.

Typically in the center or in the other city, street scene was thus a long sequence of pillars diminishing in the distance in endless colonnades. Only difference of these individual units was the raised gables on the boundary and the columns were coloured. One special feature is the order in which Dutch maintained during the time. In 1676, house holds were ordered to replace cadjan roofs with tiles. Prince Street, Keyzar Street and Main Street (king's street were broadened and strengthened in the outer city.)

The hierarchy of the outer city was maintained in this respect. Schweitzer gives a clear description of the Pettah market by saying The Dutch church yard is in the middle of the city enclosed with a wall, on which a Malabarian school stands. On the outside of the church yard, there is solid all week long, silk, stuffs and linen by the moors and the Persians a all sorts of fruit, dried fish, onions, sugar and rice by the Malabarians, Maldivians, Cingalayans and other inhabitants of Colombo....

This indicates how the city had been focused with its functional identity. Wolvendal church stood at center as social feature where high class elites practiced their religion.

- **Presents of British in Colombo**

In 1796 due to a long fort battle in Europe, Dutch had to pass the total property to English, ending century outre existence in Ceylon.

In the early few years of administration, British retained Dutch professionals such as surveys, and engineers to work for them. Therefore it was natural to observe the same Dutch Architecture, style, techniques and materials employed to continue. British period saw some influences of Dutch Architecture details such as thick walls, (brick or laterite) massive door ways and ornamental window' fanlights.

The social realm, its early period is mentioned as follows.

"In those days, there were not too many European residence outside the fort. Strangely few in the near portion of Colpity, one or two in slave island and at Kew point and at Captains Gardens, and about as many in Mutwal .The majority by far dwelt with in the walls. High military officials resided on those times with in these walls which form today a tailor's cutting room in Hospital lane..... A stroll through the Fort after dinner was pleasant mode of passing time, dropping in first on one neighbour, then another until the evening round was completed....is how Brohier explains the fort by the time.

- **Demolition of fort**

By 1850 British expanded its activities by encroaching were in to plantation and trade. The new transport network connected the harbor and Faraway destinations such as Kandy, Galle and up country were established since the agreement between the Kandyan authorities and the British, the necessity of a strict fortification was not a major concern. Filling up the moat is the initial step in the new regime.

Due to the influence of the industrialization and the technological achievements, British could ease out the threat from the locals. This resulted in many socio - economical changes, which were clearly in Architecture. Therefore, urbanization of the towns were accelerated by such policy decisions decision. (At the same time Bombay and Vienna also experienced a demolishing of fort walls)

- **Rapid growth of Colombo**



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By the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century private sector of Colombo, expanded its activities varying from banking, commercial and shopping and service sector, reduced to governors quarters and few military barracks.

Although urban renewal was on, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many designers and planners tried to retain and traffic colonial Architectural features character of British (Dutch) many remaining buildings were uniform and homogeneous (it is mainly use to the society needs the character and values of the British period although the new trend was on) The city as well as the harbour expanded and the cities uniformity was beginning to decay.

The transformation of the harbor, and the area eaten up from the city was a new trend.

- Contemporary Colombo

With these new trends economic/social changes; occurred and existing zoning was revitalized. As the Colombo fort was demolished in order to accommodate new functions commerce and administration, the totality of a fort broke down. The composition of the fort and the balance between activities changed. Social elites of the time who lived in suburbs of Colombo, especially in the Valley of Kalani River, moved towards the Colpity, Cinnamon garden and Bambalapitiya.

Expansion of the Fort and its activities towards Pettah brought in the extension of activities along main roads as well Galle Road, the southern roads from Fort, emerged with new activities and buildings. With the new road network and the railway, connected people far away with in no time. This resulted in rapid ribbon development along Galle Road. New commercial, educational social activities appeared spontaneously.



#### 4.1 COLOMBO FORT-URBAN CENTRE WITH A STRONG COLONIAL PRESENCE

The British urban centres were initiated from on the Queens house (and the 'kahn' clock/tight house is the mail land mark of the city as well as to the sea.) (No. 0. milestones situated at the Queens house. To form a complete, strong built environment entire Fort area were methodically planed and built.

But with the modern city, this hierarchy does not remain the same. The major land marks of the colonial era are totally ignored. Parliament (former) is used as the presidential secretariat. Army, Navy, and Air force Head quarters and many other government entities are functioning in the (British) town center. Therefore, the functional importance of the Fort area remains the same.

With the emergence of new commercial activities, the hierarchy has disappeared. Instead there are many new built forms, built in an ad - hog manner. The places in which they are built and the way they are built do not convey actual centre, nodes or the progression. With built entities varying in scale, proportion and language, the entire city has lost its formality and order.

Fig. 52 - The main focal point, of "Kahn clock tower" at the center of Fort.

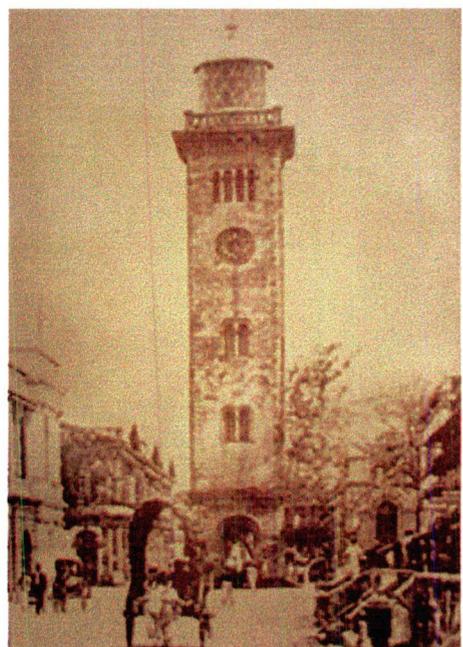


Figure 53 - Carrolls & millers building with the new urban objects, world trade centre.



Figure 54 - Carrolls & millers stores with an articulated facade.



Figure 55 - Grindlays bank post independant commercial establishment: scale & Propotions continue the rhythm.



Figure 56 - Grinlays bank - expressive quality & the usage of materials of modernity.



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Figure 57 - Galle Face green & the urban sky line dominated by major commercial establishment.



Figure 58 -



Figure 59 - Initial formation of 'urbanity' Grid pattern focusing on important buildings.



Figure 60 - Gaffur building responding to both roads.



Figure 61 - Post colonial buildings at the heart of the city - YMBA' Colombo in an attempt to make a nationalist presence.



Figure 62 - Highly articulated urban facades. Pre-planned urban pattern. Public works departments designs & Plans.



Figure 63 - Contemporary interpretations of the public buildings. Usage of contrasting colours in order to make the presence.



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Figure 64 - Early modern components is an strictly ordered fabric. following the same context was the means of survival.



Figure 65 - Building line forms unify & understand the context.



Figure 66 - Echelon Square, newly imaged public space.



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Figure 67 - Low density public area.



Figure 68 - Complete dominary over the environments, Former Parliament.

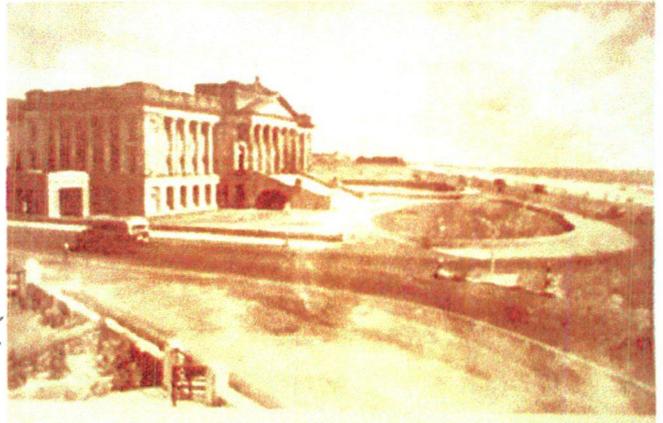


Figure 69 - Nodal point of the city in 1960.



Figure 70 - Nodal points focusing on the clock tower.



## 4.2 GALLE ROAD - REFLECTION OF A RAPID URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Colombo town limits starting from Dehiwala, had a very much a sub urban type development during the post colonial period. The residential built form (mainly single storey units and boutiques) along the Galle road was occasionally broken with two storied buildings at the nodal points.

It has developed rapidly during the past decade. It is mainly due to the Galle road, being the most important road leading to Colombo. Most of the new residential, commercial, industrial establishments came in to be, due to the efficient and the easy links to the urban activities.

There were no long term very significant built fabrics other than the educational institutes and religious buildings.

After the open economic introduction there were many new buildings built. Today Galle Road comprises of  several layers, varying from colonial period to present date. Among which many have changed or altered during the cause of their life time.

Figure 21 - Emergency, individuality completely ignoring the social aspect and the responsibility.



Figure 72 - Modern appearance of an old building 'Sumathi' courts. Initially modernised building.



Figure 73 - Land mark building as an object on the low rise fabric.



Figure 74 - Galle road and its 'individual' much desired intention of expressing the individuality.



Figure 75- Non relative individual building with strange articulation of the facades!



Figure 76- Glass used used to clad in tropical country. Building shape & volume aligns to environment.

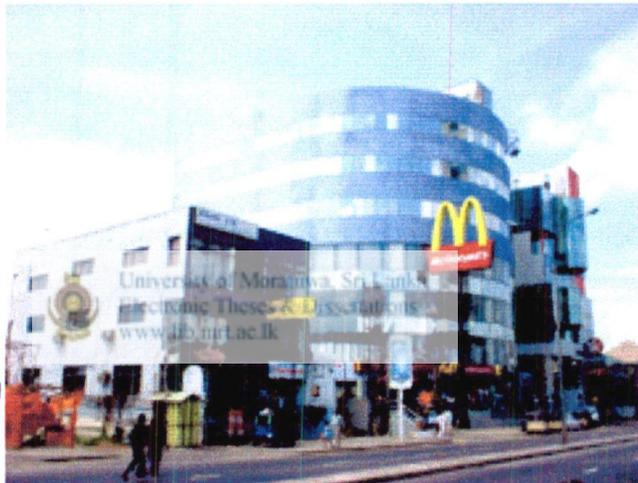


Figure 77- Ad- Lo a & Chaos Fabric.



Figure 78 - Excessive use of colour.



Figure 79 - Built volume & shape, contain several features / Mannapperuma building.



Figure 80 -

Figure 81 - Usage of colour & negative glass facade.



Figure 82 - New facade of 'Savoy' very much a colonial type building modernize in order to indicate function.



Figure 83 - Royal bakery wellawatte. Architects interpretation of the busy crowded town.



Figure 84 - Object in the low densified fabric giving an start for a continuation.

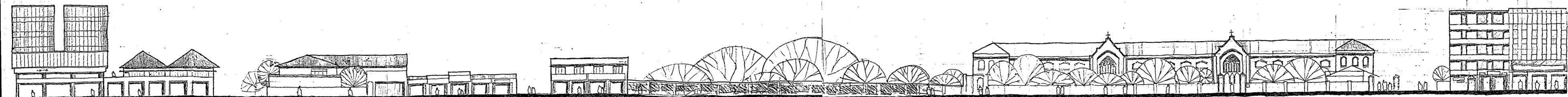


Figure 85 - Monumental statue at Detinala bridge being over powered by the modern building.



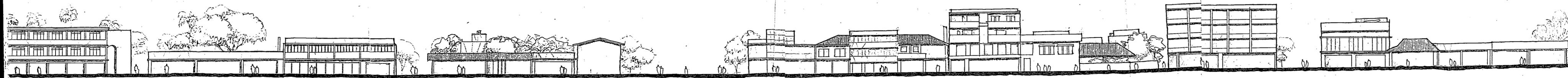
Figure 86 - Arpro shopping mall despite of its context the indentity of seperation from society.





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