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# ARCHITECTURE: A THEATRICALS EXPERIENCE

**A comparative study of "Theatre Architecture" and "Drama" as a  
means of expression.**

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA  
FOR THE FINAL EXAMINATION  
IN  
M.Sc. (ARCHITECTURE) 2004

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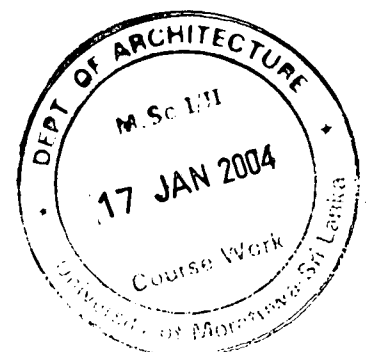
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## DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation represents my own work, except where due acknowledgement is made, and that it has not been previously include in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this university or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification.

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FORWARD TO,

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*MY LOVING 'AMMA' & 'APPACHCHI'.*

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**Ruwan Bandara Narasinghe.**

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**Declaration**

**Forward**

**Acknowledgements**

**Content**

**List of Illustration**

**Abstract**

**Introduction**

i-iii

The Observation  
Need for the study  
Intention of the study  
Limitations  
Method of the study

## **CHAPTER ONE "THE TOTAL ARCHITECTURE" EXPERIENCE**

1.0.	What Architecture does to the place	01
1.1.	Architecture the Art of Space	02
1.1.1	Space and its Attributes – Qualitative / Quantitative	04
1.1.2	Quality and Meaning of Space	04
1.2.	Generators of architecture	06
1.2.1	User as a Generator	06
1.2.2	Context as a Generator	08
1.2.3	Activity Pattern as a Generator	12
1.2.4	Higher purpose as a Generator	13

## **CHAPTER TWO "THE TOTAL THEATRICAL" EXPERIENCE**

2.0	Theatre - <i>Theatre Space</i>	15
2.1.	Constituents of physical space- <i>The 3-D form</i>	15
2.1.1	Composition of space on stage	15
2.1.2	Use of the architecture in theatre space	18
2.2.	The spatiality of theatre - <i>Social space</i>	19
2.2.1	Transformation of Traditional Theatre Space in to Buildings	20
2.2.2	The History of Theatre	23
2.2.3	The Greek Open Air Theatre	24
2.2.4	Rome Theatres	24
2.2.5	Medieval Theatres	25
2.2.6	Revolution period theatre	25
2.2.7	Elizabethan Theatres	26
2.2.8	Restoration Theatre	27
2.2.9.	Modern Theatres	27

2.3.	The spatiality of theatre – <i>Functionality</i>	29
	2.3.1. In Economical Aspect	29
	2.3.2. In social aspect	29

**CHAPTER THREE      SPATIAL DRAMAS:  
SPATIAL MANIFESTATION OF THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE**

3.0.	Theatre – <i>Drama</i>	32
3.1.	Art and visual perception	33
3.2.	Architecture and drama as spatial arts	35
3.3.	Language in drama and Architecture	37
	3.3.1. Line	38
	3.3.2. Form	40
	3.3.3. Shape	42
	3.3.4. Mass	43
	3.3.5. Balance	44
	3.3.6. Rhythm and Movement	46
	3.3.7. Light	48
	3.3.8. Colour and tonal value	49
	3.3.9. Unity	49
	3.3.10. The Spatial Orchestration	50
3.4.	Articulation of Framed Views	51
3.5.	Experience of Drama and Architecture	53

**CHAPTER FOUR      A MUTUAL RELATION IN THEATRE ARCHITECTURE AND DRAMA  
AS THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE**

4.0	Preamble To Case Studies	54
4.1.	Case Study One:	
	4.1.1. 'Sarathchandra' Open Air Theater- " <i>The Theater</i> "	55
	4.1.2. "Maname" – " <i>The Drama</i> "	55
	4.1.3. Comparative Analysis	57
4.2.	Case Study Two:	
	4.2.1. John De Silva Theatre – " <i>The Theatre</i> "	62
	4.2.2. "Sinhabahu"- " <i>The Drama</i> "	62
	4.2.3. Comparative Analysis	63
	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	71
	<b>Bibliography</b>	74

## List of illustration

### Chapter one

Fig 01 Illusion of space – Stonehenge'	03
Source: Space and Architecture	
Fig 02 Enhancing moods and feelings of people – 'sunset'	03
Source: Serendib Magazine.	
Fig 03 "Works of architecture, that facilitate physical and spiritual well being of the user,"	
Source: Japanese film leaf- let	
Fig 04 Bird eye view-Arc de 'Triomphe'	06
Source: Over Europe.08	
Fig 05 Bird eye view- Entrance path and lake, 'Kandalama hotel'.	
Source: Serendib magazine	
Fig 06 Rhythm of Nature	
Source: Serendib Magazine	
Fig 07 A blend with natural setting	
Source: ROKKO HOUSING	
Contemporary Japanese Architecture	
Fig 08 Egyptians pyramids	
Souise: history of architecture	
Fig 09 Christian church	
Souise: Over Europe.	
Fig 10 Buddhist 'stupa'	
Souise: Serendib Magazine	
Fig 11 Town hall building –Colombo	
Pix : by Author	



### Chapter two

#### **Fig 12 A scene from 'Arundathii'**

By Tumidu Dodanthena.	
Couples are looking praying new stars in the sky.	16
Pix: by Author	

#### **Fig 13 A scene from 'Nala-Damayanthi'**

By Chnna Wejewardana.	
Swan and her friends	16
Pix: by Author	

#### **Trojan tagedy : womens are praying for protection**

#### **Fig 14 A scene from ' Trojan women's'**

By Darmasiri Bandaranayake.	
Pix: by Author	
Fig 15 -A The area of the stage	17
Fig 15-B The area of the stage	17
Fig 15-C The area of the stage	17

Fig 16 Structure of the Proscenium Arch Stage	17
<b>Fig 17 A scene from 'WARENNTHU'</b>	
By Parakrama Niriella & H.A.Perea	
-Used of huge stage set	
Pix: by Author	18
<b>Fig 18 A scene from 'UVE HEYA'</b>	
By Sagarika Sripali	
-Used of traditional costumes	18
Pix: by Author	
<b>Fig 19 A scene from 'LES MISERABLE'</b>	
By Jerom de Silva	
-Used of computerized modern theatre lights	18
Pix: by Author	
<b>Dream of the freedom Expressed in the blue light</b>	
<b>Fig 20 A scene from 'Trojan women's'</b>	
By Darmasiri Bandaranayake.	19
Pix: by Author	
Fig 21 Prepayrig the 'Kamatha'	21
Source: Serendib Magazine	
Fig 22 'Gara yakum' dance in the isle	21
Source: Serendib Magazine	
Fig 23 Use of 'pandama' in 'Shanti karama'	21
Source: Serendib Magazine	
Fig 24 Greek open air theater	
Source; An Approach to Theater: A Critical Study	24
Fig 25 Rome Theatres	
Source; An Approach to Theatre: A Critical Study	24
Fig 26 Medieval Theatres	
Source; An Approach to Theatre: A Critical Study	25
Fig 27 Theatre Olympico	
Source; An Approach to Theatre: A Critical Study	25
Fig 28 Medieval Theatre	
Source; An Approach to Theatre: A Critical Study	26
Fig 29 Tower Hall Theatre-Maradana	
Source; An Approach to Theatre: A Critical Study	26
Fig 30 Elizabethan Theatre – GLOBE THEATRE- LONDON	
Source; An Approach to Theatre: A Critical Study	26
Fig 31 Restoration Theatre –	27
Source; An Approach to Theatre: A Critical Study	
Fig 32 Kabuki Theatre –	27
Source; An Approach to Theatre: A Critical Study	
Fig 33 Trust stage	27
Source; An Approach to Theatre: A Critical Study	
Fig 34 Arena stage	28



Source; An Approach to Theatre: A Critical Study

### Chapter three

Fig 35 Impression of airiness of space Interior view of cathedral Source : Over Europe,	35
Fig 36 a & b Dramatically movement sequence interrelated events. Scene from 'Trojan women's ' By Daramasiri Bandaranayaka Pix : by Author	35
Fig 37 a Transitional lines in space	38
Fig 37 b Transitional lines in space Scene from 'GURU THARUWA' By Jayalth Manorathna Pix; by Author	38
Fig 38a Parallel Diagonal Lines convey confidence and firmness. Scene from 'GURU THARUWA' By Jayalth Manorathna Pix by Author	39
Fig 38b Straight lines suggests Confidence and Masculinity and rigidity Confidence and firmness Pathinoen, Source : Over Euyope	39
Fig 39a SERPENTE Source : Contemporary Japanese Architecture	39
Fig 39b line as moment and speed  Scene from 'SHAKUNTHLLYA' By Reeta Gunguli Pix: by Auother	39
Fig 40a transitional lines in space suggesting a pyramid Scene from 'Trojan women's ' By Daramasiri Bandaranayaka Pix: by Author.	40
Fig 40 transitional lines in space suggesting mass strength and enclosure Egyptian pyramid Source: History of architecture	41
Fig 41 conversing `secured atmospheres for the and enclosure Relationship. Triangle as stability Scene from 'SHAKUNTHLLYA' By Reeta Gangly Pix:by Author	41
Fig 42a Strength and hopping the face of ruin Scene from 'Trojan women's ' By Daramasiri Bandaranayaka	41



Pix: by Author	
Fig 42b circular form in expression of honorific place	41
Source: Serendib Magazine	
IMOTIONAL LOVE: Overall shape in expression	
Fig 43 a Scene from 'Arundathi '	42
By Tumedu Dodanthena	
Pix : by Author	
Fig 43 b Overall shape in expression.	42
Source : ERTHTECTURE SUB1	
Contemporary Japanese architecture	
Fig 44a form of mass in architecture – unescapable solid exprssion in mass.	43
M2 COMPLEX	
Source : Contemporary Japanese architecture	
Fig 44b mass expressed in groups of figures	43
Scene from 'Oedipus '	
By Priyankara Rathnayake	
Pix: by Author	
Fig 45a Symmetricity in drama	44
Scene from 'SHAKUNTHLLYA'	
By Reeta Gunguli	
Pix by : Author	
Fig 45b TAJ MAHAL- India symmetricity in architecture	44
Source; tour gide leaf- let, india	
Fig 46a asymmetric rise of elements in a rethmic faced & morality expressed school activity	45
IWADEYAMA JUNIOR SCHOOL	
Source : Contemporary Japanese architecture	
Two levels of morality expressed in low line of women and asymmetric rise of queen	
Fig 46b Scene from 'Trojan women's '	45
By Daramasiri Bandaranayaka	
Pix : by Author	
Fig 47a. Rhythm in drama	46
Scene from 'GURU THARUWA'	
By Jayalth Manorathna	
Pix : by Author	
Fig 47 bRhythm expressed from line and movement-a glamorous rethmic Movement	46
Source : Elements of architecture	
Fig 48a Movement created as a reaction the site.	47
Source: ROKKO HOUSING	
Contemporary Japanese Architecture	
Fig 48b the last move as a reaction against slavery.	47
Scene from 'Trojan women's '	

By Daramasiri Bandaranayaka Pix : by Author <b>Fig 49a A scene from 'Singhabahu'</b>	48
By Dr. Sarathchandra. Light as the make of darkness Pix by Author Fig 49b Light as the make of darkness in a campus corridor.- University of Ruhuna	48
Source: Explore Sri Lanka, Magazine Fig 50a & b impact of colour and tonal value in drama and architecture	49
Fig51a Toning of colour through light Scene from 'Trojan women's ' By Daramasiri Bandaranayaka Pix : by Author	50
Fig51b Fixation on distance colour and toning, fixing a point in a distance. Source: Explore Sri Lanka, Magazine	50
Fig 52a frame view in architectural element Architectural element framing a view. Source: Explore Sri Lanka, Magazine	51
F ig 52b focus is framed heig point drama: Prince and princes getting married Scene from 'SHAKUNTHLLYA' By Reeta Gunguli Pix by : Author	
Fig 53a Architecture of space through frame view	52
Fig 53b Frame viewed generates movement	52
 <b>Chapter four</b>	
Fig 54 'Sarathchandra' Open Air Theatre with natural setting.	55
Fig 55 'Srathchandra' Open Air Theatre located in- University of Peradeniya- map	55
Fig 56 Prince Maname shows his royalty	55
Fig57 princes Maname, Helpless in the thick jungle	56
Fig 58 Group of Vaddha 's dancing movements similar than Horizontally & vertically lines	57
Fig 59 section - Sarathchandra Open Air Theatre	57
Fig 60 transitional line in open air theatrical space	57
 (View from open stage- bottom level of the theatre.)	
Fig 61 Prince's Maname wedding seramany. <i>Shows how the are tries to maintain his social level and hierarchy</i> Source :An approach to theatre: A critical study.	58
Fig 62 horizontally rhythmic lines and Long steps with only one of the vertical element-huge tree	58
Fig 63 Srathchandra' Open Air Theatre-Open stage & -simpl back stage area	59
Fig 64 plan -Srathchandra' Open Air Theatre	
Fig 65 simple main entrance to theatre	59

Symbolise two elements.	
Fig 66a & b	60
Bright & Darkens in noon at Open-air theatre express Romanism	
Fig 67 very simple form with out any huge stage decoration, Similar than theatre structure	60
<i>Source: An approach to theatre: A critical study</i>	
Fig68 princes Maname, expressed sad mood.	60
<b>FIG 69 MANAME WITH STAGE LIGHTING</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>THEATRE WITH NATURAL LIGHTING</b>	
Fig70 open air theatre name board	61
Fig 72 long entrance path...	63
Fig 73	
<b>entrance- Inviting to the theatre,</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Nerrate- Inviting to the</b>	
<b>In side of Sinhabahu.</b>	
Fig 74 entrance to the huge lobby	63
Fig 75 the huge lobby & show main entrance door similar with Cave entrance in sinhabahu	64
<b>Fig 76 scene from 'Sinhabahu'</b>	<b>64</b>
By Dr. Sarathchandra.	
- Lion show his power	
Fig 77 geomantic rigid structure shows vertical and horizontal lines of the theatre & dramatic performance	65
Fig 78 this atmosphere depicts the world, which 'Sinhabahu' is looking for.....	65
Fig 79 Suppa Devi enjoying the cave, which is mentioned in her song similar to the Surrounding area in theatre66	
Fig80 Traditional roof form &Traditional Drama	66
Fig 81 Section - free and common feeling with out any divisions.	66
Fig 82 plan - Courtyard around the theatre. Create the <i>Symmetrical arrangement.</i>	67
Fig 83	
Rhythms in Sinhabahu & J DE S Theatre	67
Fig 84 natural light inside the hall	68
Fig 85 colours- enhancing the both of experience	69
The theatre and drama	
Fig 86	
<b>Through a framed view in theatre.....,</b>	
<b>"Spotted" light up area in the drama.</b>	<b>70</b>

## **AN ABSTRACT**

Architecture is an art of ordering space, in which space is manipulated to convey meaning. Architectural space is a combination of space and form to fulfil and accommodate varying activities of man. Space thus created is a container of expression and meaning and is to be seen; experienced and lived in

The actual experience of architectural space by an observer within that space has many similarities to the viewer's perceptions of a chosen sequence within a drama. In the drama the space is conceived by the sequence, which has the chain of events. Any dramatic sequence is obtained by spatial drama. Dramatic movements are the assemblage of numerous composition and these are glued together from different parts to make the scene. This sequence maker's viewer to gasp the spatial progression, the climax and the smooth progression. The actual spatial dimensions of space and volume are expressed in a sequence of drama.

Architecture encloses spaces not for spaces themselves as a container, but for the life that goes within it. Drama in this equal sense is centered upon the living experience and is created by sequences in grouping architectural spaces

The mutual relations of stage drama as an art form and theatre architecture is explored in various aspect such as line, form, shape, rhythm, movement, orchestration etc.

*"Maname"* and, *"Sinhabahu"* and architectural products of 'Srathchandra Open Air theatre' -University of Peradeniya and 'John De Silva theatre' Colombo 07 are taken as example or to identify the experience they generate as well as meaning embodied.