

**AN EXAMINATION OF UNITY AS A GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN  
ARCHITECTURAL COMPOSITION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
CONTEMPORARY SRI LANKAN ARCHITECTURE.**

A Dissertation

presented to the Department of Architecture of the  
University of Moratuwa in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the degree of Master of Science  
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## Declaration

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

*UOM Verified Signature*

Signed.....

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**AN EXAMINATION OF UNITY AS A GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN ARCHITECTURAL  
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ARCHITECTURE.**

**Table of contents**

	<b>Page No,</b>
Declaration	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Table of contents	iii
List of illustrations	vii
Abstract	xii
 <b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
0.1 Topic Explanation	01
0.2 Need for the study	03
0.3 Intention of the study	04
0.4 Scope and limitations	04
0.5 Study Methodology	06
 <b>CHAPTER ONE: ARCHITECTURE; ITS GENERATORS AND CONSTITUENTS.</b>	
1.1 Definition of Architecture	08
1.2 Generating factors of architecture	08
1.2.1 Primary generators	09
1.2.1.1. User	09
1.2.1.2 Context	11
1.2.1.3 Activity Pattern	13
1.2.2. Secondary forces or modifying factors	14
1.2.2.1 Climate	14
1.2.2.2 Technology and materials	16

<b>1.3 Constituents of work of architecture</b>	
1.3.1 Space	19
1.3.1.1. Attributes of space	20
1.3.1.1.1 Centre	20
1.3.1.1.2 Enclosure	21
1.3.1.1.3 Continuity	22
1.3.2 Form	23
1.3.2.1 Attributes of form	24
1.3.2.1.1 Unity	24
1.3.2.1.2 Simplicity	24
1.3.2.1.3 Clarity	25
1.3.3 Details	25
<b>1.4 Concluding remarks</b>	<b>26</b>

## **CHAPTER TWO: COMPOSITION IN ARCHITECTURAL FORM.**

		
<b>2.1 Definition and role of composition in architecture.</b>		<b>28</b>
<b>2.2 Important principles identified in architectural compositing</b>		<b>29</b>
2.2.1 The principle of unity		29
2.2.2 The principle of punctuation		30
2.2.3 The principle of inflection		34
2.2.4 The principle of contrast		36
2.2.5 The principle of scale and proportion		
2.2.5.1 Scale in architecture		38
2.2.5.2 Proportion		40
2.2.6 The principle of mass		42
<b>2.3 Concluding remarks</b>		<b>43</b>

## **CHAPTER THREE: PRINCIPLE OF UNITY I IN THE COMPOSITION OF ARCHITECTURAL FORM.**

3.1 Definition and the role of unity	45
3.2 Perception and unity	
3.2.1 Perception visual objects as unified 'entities'	47
3.2.2 Perceptual principles that govern unity	48
3.2.2.1 The principle of similarity, proximity and continuity	48
3.2.2.2 The principle of figure and ground	49
3.2.2.3 The principle of closure, area and symmetry	51
3.3 Unity and its relation to beauty	53
3.4 The problems of achieving unity in architectural composition	55
3.4.1 The experience of unity in architecture	55
3.4.2 Constraints in achieving unity	56
3.5 Strategies to achieve unity in architectural composition	
3.5.1 The use of axis	57
3.5.1.1 Symmetry	60
3.5.2.2 Balanced composition	63
3.5.1.3 Punctuation of the axis	64
3.5.2 Repetition of similarities	65
3.5.2.1 Modularity	66
3.5.2.2 Repetition of shape and character	67
3.5.2.3 Repetition of proportions	68
3.5.3 Hierarchy	69
3.5.4 The dominant binder	71
3.5.4.1 The dominant element	73
3.5.4.2 The dominant binder as a consistent pattern	74
3.5.5 Enhancers of the principle of unity	74
3.6 Concluding remarks	75

## **CHAPTER FOUR: AN EXAMINATION OF UNITY IN CONTEMPORARY SRI LANKAN ARCHITECTURE.**

4.1 Case studies	
4.1.1 University of Ruhuna at Matara	77
4.1.2 New parliamentary complex at Sri Jayawardanapura Kotte	86
4.1.3 Hotel blue water at Wadduwa	92
4.1.4 A house at Palawatte	98
4.1.5 Seema Malaka at Colombo	104
4.2 Concluding remarks	109
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	110
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	113




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## List of Illustrations

Fig. No	Page No
1.1 User as a generator	11
1.1A	11
1.1B	11
1.2 Context as a generator	12
1.2A	12
1.2B	12
1.3 Activity pattern as a generator	13
1.3A	13
1.3B	13
1.4 Sinhalese traditional village	14
1.4A	14
1.4B Village layout	14
1.5 Thermally efficient, typical mud hut at village in guinea	15
1.6 Buildings designed for different climatic conditions have different appearance.	15
1.7 Climate as a modifier in building form.	15
1.7A Wind and the forms of igloo and yurt	16
1.7B Diagrammatic section through Igloo	16
1.7C Tepee, Showing wind controlled laps	16
1.8 Technology as a modifier	17
1.9 Materials as a modifier	17
1.10 Materials and house form	18
1.10A Dwelling made of one material (reeds)	18
1.10B Dwelling made of one material (mud)	18
1.10C Portable tents of sticks and felt	18
1.10D Two examples from the great range of house forms using thatch and wood as materials	18
1.11 The effect of enclosure is enhanced by the geometrized form.	22
1.11A First floor plan, Villa Savoye	22
1.11B Exterior view, Villa Savoye	22
1.12 Taj mahal – Unity	24
1.13 Simplicity	25
2.1 The canon of number in animated nature	30



2.2	The canon of punctuation		
	2.2A.	The canon of punctuation reference to animate nature	31
	2.2B.	The canon of punctuation reference to Architecture	31
2.3	West door of St. Mary Iffley, England, Door with a certain consciousness of its extremities.		32
2.4	Hotel tree of life, Kandy. Column bases depict punctuation.		32
2.5	Thangalle bay hotel, Principle of inflection		35
2.6	Violation of principle of Inflection		35
2.7	Sri Lanka institute of information technology, Malabe		36
	Contrast gives more startling and vigorous effect on the eye		
2.8	Apply more colours enhance the contrast of the built form		37
2.9	Scale		39
2.10	Proportions		
	2.10A	The presence of triangle in Greek Proportions	41
	2.10B.	Geometrical proportions in Persian buildings	41
	2.10C	The presence also in Byzantine proportions of the equilateral triangle.	41
2.11	The modular, Le Corbusier		42
2.12	A composition of geometrical shapes and simple forms		42
3.1	Unity in mass		46
3.2	Unity in a street		46
3.3	Exterior view of east façade, Peter White house, Mauritius		46
	Unresolved duality.		
3.4	The pavilions which Flanked the <i>Chateau</i> at Marly		47
3.5	Similarity		48
3.6	Similarity size		48
3.7	Proximity		49
3.8	Continuity		49
3.9	Black horses and riders, Figure and ground and ground		50
3.10	The large owl		50
3.11	Visual connection		
	3.11A	Small objects on a large field	50
	3.11B	Large objects on a small field become either figure or ground	50

3.12	In a closer view in which neither the outer nor the inner circle is seen completely, our perception continues to be that of completed circles	51
3.13	Closure	51
3.14	Area	
	3.14A	52
	3.14B On a White background this looks like a box with a hole in it	52
3.14	Two overlapping diamonds, or three objects, a small diamond and the irregular objects above and below it?	52
3.16	Axial characteristics	58
3.17	Use of Axis	59
3.18	The piazza del Campidoglio, Rome - The axis occupied by a statue	59
3.19		
3.20	Use of symmetry	61
3.21		
3.22	The Spanish steps -The formal and ceremonial effect created by use of symmetry	61
3.23	Residence in Chestnut Hil, Windows of different sizes on either side of the axis act as circumstantial distortions	62
3.22	Asymmetrical balance	62
3.23	Shoi-ken, tea house, in the garden of Katsura, Kyoto	63
3.24	Padmanabhapuram palace, India -Balanced distribution of elements about an axis	63
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3.25	The terminating elements	64
3.26	Repetition of similarities	65
3.27	Modularity	66
3.28	Habitat, the modular 158 unit apartment building complex designed by Moshe Safdie	66
3.29	Yahapath Endera farm school, Hanwella, Repetition of roof shape	67
3.30	Beauty through repeatable forms that make the unity	67
3.31	Falling Water	68
3.32	National theatre, London, reflects Hierarchy in form	69
3.33	Stupa of Borobudur, Java. The creation of a clear hierarchy between elements builds up the whole	70
3.34	Legislative assembly building, Chandigarh, India – Hierarchy	70
3.35	View of Florence illustrating the dominance of the cathedral over the urban landscape.	71

3.36	Use of the dominant to provide unity in compositions of plural elements	72
3.37	Unity suggested by linked element.	73
3.38	Dominant element	74
4.1	View from the south across the lake, University of Ruhuna	77
4.2	At the entrance	78
4.3	Approach route	78
4.4	The built form makes a free movement with the rhythm of the natural terrain	79
4.5	The elevated odium where the axis terminates.	79
4.6	Plurality in movement	80
4.7	A small entrance podium, unresolved duality	80
4.8	Elevation – university of Ruhuna	80
4.9	Layout plan ( not to scale) - university of Ruhuna	81
4.10	The modesty elegant buildings of different heights are carefully placed in the landscape to create a pleasing atmosphere	82
4.11	Consistent pattern of windows enhance the unity in building complex.	83
4.12	Though the rubble walls are harsh; but, being true to itself, to its creation	84
4.13	Roofs.....hiding many spaces within it	84
4.14	Details of the hand rails, corners of the roofs add beauty.	85
4.15	Roofs punctuates at the simple column heads, Upper link from pavilion to tutorial rooms.	85
4.16	Aerial view, New parliamentary complex at Kotte	86
4.17	The interior of the main chamber	87
4.18	Floor plan and section - New parliament complex	
	4.18A cross section through the debating chamber	88
	4.18B Floor plan of chamber level	88
4.19	The building complex integrates many things into one	89
4.20	New Parliamentary complex: as a beautifully balanced unified entity	90
4.21	Blue water hotel -Entrance to the resort	92
4.22	Mid way along the axis; pushes to the destination	92
4.23	This garden of water silently explained to us is, that it united with the sea at the forefront; the sea into the rest of the world; the world into the infinite!	93
4.24	Pergolas....creating patterns of light and shade.	93

4.25	Section through the main lounge - Hotel blue water	94
4.26	Plan form – Hotel Blue water	94
4.27	Resolving duality by introducing a trinity; third element as a dominant binder	95
4.28	Windows have been placed in a repetitive pattern	96
4.29	The quite afternoon sun plays patterns on pillars ..... united with the nature	97
4.30	Blue water.....Where the sky speaks of the sea..... as a unified whole.	97
4.31	House at Palawatte	98
4.32	Column at the edge of the verandah	99
4.33	living space merged with the garden	99
4.34	Floor plans	100
4.35	Balancing the heaviness and lightness, Front elevation	101
4.36	Floating roof being true to itself, to its creation	102
4.37	The stair case ascending without handrails	103
4.38	Simple details, upper floor	103
4.39	A view of the built form as seen from the road –It is unity, a simplicity, and clarity at every sphere.	104
4.40	Seeme malaka - View of the Bo tree and the reflections on the silky water body	105
4.41	Front elevation of the Seema Malakaya	105
4.42	Symmetrical plan form which demands balance	106
4.43	A view of the built form as seen from the highway	106
4.44	Seema malaka with its surrounding context remains as a place of astonishing peace and harmony	108

## ABSTRACT

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Architecture is primary an art. In the simplest sense it is the art of articulation of space in a meaningful way. According to Antoniades (1980),

***“ Architecture is a discipline aimed at synthesizing, organizing, and creating order out of nothingness or unrelated parts.”*** Hence, while being as a spatial entity it is a discipline. Thus architecture deals with composing order out of unrelated elements to create an intended expression, just as a written document cannot convey a certain idea with understanding unless it is ordered in a certain manner, a work of art or architecture too, cannot fulfill its function and transmit its message unless it is expressed in an ordered manner. To achieve a well composed order, architecture governed by a set of identified principles. From all those principles unity is most fundamental and indispensable principle in work of art. As Le Corbusier (1931) points out , 'architecture is a matter of harmonies'. A good work of architecture is thus, one which harmonizes or integrates many things into one, in forming a single entity; the creation. Thus *“the relations of parts to parts, of parts to wholes, of buildings to places, the perception of complete units, .....*”

(Abercombie, 1984).

Hence, unity is the most Para mounting and vital single design discipline in work of art.