

LB / 1002 / 104 / 06

408

URBAN SOCIAL SPACE DESIGN IN SRI LANKA
**AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF SENSE OF BELONGINGNESS IN COMMERCIAL ORIENTED
URBAN PUBLIC SPACES IN SRI LANKA**

A Dissertation
Submitted To The Department Of Architecture Of The
University Of Moratuwa In Partial Fulfillment Of The
Requirements For The Degree Of
Master Of Science
Architecture



University of Moratuwa
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA, SRI LANKA
MORATUWA

72⁰⁵
72(043)

By
PALIHAWADANA U.I.
19.03.2005

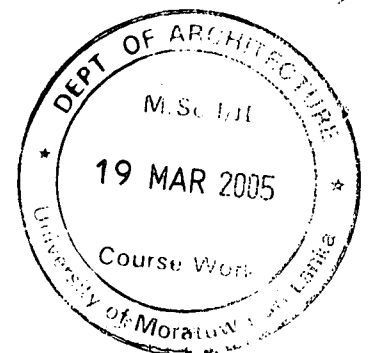
University of Moratuwa



85481

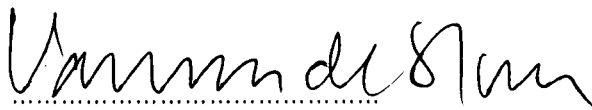
85481

85481

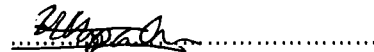


Declaration

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



(Signature of the supervisor)



(Signature of the student)



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This gratitude of mine is given to Prof. Nimal De Silva the Dean Faculty of Architecture, Senior Lecturer Archt. Vidura Sri Nammuni the Head of the Architecture Department. Further it is extended to the year masters of M.Sc. ii Archt. Jayanath De Silva and Archt. Gamini Weerasinghe.

Also my gratitude is offered to my supervisor Archt. Varuna De Silva for his words of caution, his incisive comments and inspirations given to me.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to Senior Lecturer Archt. Dr. Harsha Munasingha and Archt. Prasanna Kulathilaka their incisive comments and inspiration given me.

I also offer thanks to working staff of the Gallery Café building, Odel building and Majestic City building for their help given me for completion the study.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to my friends Dilini, Kalyani, Dinusha, Nirmala, Lakkana, Chamila and Chandika malli for their valuable support to render in completing this task.

To Rasika I praise evenly for being with me in all despair encourage me to the utmost and for continuous help given me in every situation.

My greatest gratitude is given for my father, mother, sister and the brother who supports me always in every struggle.



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

AN ANALITICAL STUDY OF SENSE OF BELONGINGNESS IN COMMERCIAL ORIENTED URBAN PUBLIC SPACES IN SRI LANKA

CONTENTS

	Page no:
Declaration	i
Acknowledgement	ii
List of Illustrations	iii
Abstract	xi
Introduction	xii
▪ Observation	xiii
▪ Criticality	xiii
▪ Reasons for the choice	xiv
▪ Topic explanation	xiv
▪ Need of the study	xv
▪ Intention of the study	xv
▪ Scope and limitations of the study	xvi
▪ Method of study	xvi



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

CHAPTER ONE: THE IMAGE OF THE MAIN SPACE IN COMMERCIAL ORIENTED URBAN PUBLIC SPACES

1.1 Concept of Space	1
1.2 Types of Architectural Spaces	2
1.2.1 Private Space	2
1.2.2 Public Space	3

1.2.2.1 Urban Public Space	4
1.3 Definition Of Commercial Oriented Urban Public Space	6
1.3 Attributes of Commercial Oriented Public Space	7
1.4.1 Physical Visual Spatial Attributes	7
1.4.2 Psychological Attributes	7
1.4 Spatial Progression in Commercial Oriented Urban Public buildings	9
1.6 Main Space in the Commercial Oriented Urban Public Buildings	10
1.7 Concluding Remarks	11

CHAPTER TWO: DERIVING SENSE OF BELONGING IN COMMERCIAL ORIENTED URBAN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

2.1. Communal Life Establishing Communal Quality	12
2.2. Sense Of Belongingness As A Main Quality For Generate Communal Life	13
2.2.1. Definition Of Sense Of Belonging	14
2.3. Importance Of Sense Of Belonging In Commercial Oriented Urban Public Buildings	15
2.3.1 Protecting The Public Realm In The Building	16
2.3.2 Enhancing The Commercial Activity In The Building	16
2.4 Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Responsive Space	17
2.4.1 Comfort	17
2.4.2 Relaxation	18
2.4.3 Discovery	19
2.4.4 Passive Engagement With The Space	20
2.4.5 Active Engagement With The Space	20

2.5. Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Democratic Space	21
2.5.1 Access	21
2.5.2. Freedom of action	22
2.5.3 Change	22
2.6. Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Meaningful Space	23
2.6.1 Legibility	23
2.6.2 Levels Of Connections To The Space	24
2.7. Physical Dimensions Deriving Sense Of Belonging	25
2.7.1 Scale And Proportion	25
2.7.2 Light And Shade	26
2.7.3 Texture And Color	27
2.7.4 Architectural Elements	27
2.8 Concluding Remarks	28



CHAPTER THREE: ANALISING THE DEGREE OF SENSE OF BELONGING IN SELECTED COMMERCIAL ORIENTED URBAN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

3.1 Introduction To The Case Study	30
3.2 Study 1 – Odel Building	31
3.2.1 Background Information	31
3.2.2 Building And Main Space	33
3.2.3 Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Responsive Space	34
3.2.4 Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Democratic Space	36
3.2.5 Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Meaningful Space	38

3.2.6. Physical Dimensions Deriving Sense Of Belonging	39
3.3 study 2 – Majestic City building	41
3.3.1 Background Information	41
3.3.2 Building And Main Space	43
3.3.3 Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Responsive Space	44
3.3.4 Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Democratic Space	46
3.3.5 Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Meaningful Space	47
3.3.6 Physical Dimensions Deriving Sense Of Belonging	48
3.4 Study 3 –Gallery Café Building	49
3.4.1 Background Information	49
3.4.2 Building And Main Space	50
3.4.3 Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Responsive Space	52
3.4.4 Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Democratic Space	54
3.4.5 Deriving Sense Of Belonging Through Meaningful Space	55
3.4.6 Physical Dimensions Deriving Sense Of Belonging	57
3.5 Conclusion Derive From Case Study	58
Conclusion	61
Bibliography	65
Annexure	68

LIST OF ILLUSTRATION

List Of Plates	Page No:
1.1 Living space in a house	1
1.2 Space reflecting variations	2
1.3 House representing the private realm	2
1.4 Public dining space	3
1.5 Public gathering	4
1.6 Public space in temple	5
1.7 River as the transport mode	5
1.8 Recreational public spaces	5
1.9 Inside of commercial building	6
1.10 Market place	6
1.11 "Sanhida" as a religious space	8
1.12 Strong territory represent in family	8
1.13 "Kamatha" represent in community sense	8
1.14 Entrance and entry sensation	9
1.15 Ultimate experience of the building	10
1.16 main space in Odel	11
2.1 Community sense within the community	12

2.2 Social contacts deriving community sense	12
2.3 sense of belonging within the community	13
2.4 Hominess derive in the individual	14
2.5 Enhancing the welcome quality to the space in Majestic city	15
2.6 Public ness in the lobby space	16
2.7 Space enhancing the comfort among public	17
2.8 individual relaxing in the space	18
2.9 Grandness of the space	19
2.10 Provision for slow rhythmic actions in the space	20
2.11 Active engagement of the space	21
2.12 Space communicating with the individual	23
2.13 connection of the individual and space	24
2.14 Group connection representing religious space	24
2.15 Lobby area in Gallery café	25
2.16 Variation in light, ventilation	26
2.17 Building façade represent in variation of colour	27
3.1 Front Elevation of the building	31
3.2 Main space from Arial view	34
3.3 Seating arrangements in main space	35
3.4 Visual links in main space	36
3.5 Path deriving curiosity in the main space	36
3.6 Spatial enclosures in the main space	37
3.7Commarcial activity in main space	38



3.8 Exclusiveness of the interior	39
3.9 Details in the main space	39
3.10 Exterior view of the Majestic city	41
3.11 Main space of the building	43
3.12 Entrance to the main space	44
3.13 Public enjoy sitting in the benches	44
3.14 Shop enhancing public quality in the main space	45
3.15 Entrance to the main space	46
3.16 Group connection to the space	46
3.17 Space communicating its public ness	47
3.18 Physical appearance of the space	48
3.19 Escalator leads to the upper floors	48
3.20 Solid entrance of the building	49
3.21 Interior of the main space	51
3.22 Main space extending towards the courtyard	51
3.23 Verandahs representing homely environment	52
3.24 Space extend to the courtyard also	53
3.25 Restaurant enhancing the passive engagement with space	53
3.26 Pond enhancing the visual axis	54
3.27 Interior depicting the rich antique quality in the space	55
3.28 Landscape enhancing the spatial quality	55
3.29 Openness of the space	56
3.30 Architectural elements in main space	57
3.31 Colour and texture enhancing homely feeling	57



List Of Figures	page No
3.0 Case studies location in macro context- Colombo Metropolitan area map	29
 Odel Building	
3.1 Section of the building	31
3.2 Floor plans of the building	32
3.3 First floor plan of the building	33
 Majestic City Building	
3.4 Basement plan of the building	41
3.5 Level one plan of the building	42
3.6 Level two plan of the building	42
 Gallery Café Building	
3.7 Section of the building	49
3.8 Floor plans of the building	50

INTRODUCTION

Man's needs to fulfill his spatial needs are also important as fulfilling his physical needs. Hence each individual tries to fulfill this need through environment he lives. (Habrakam 1983) describes this phenomenon, as "architecture is a process and product of human habitation." Though it identifies how the individual fulfill the need of privacy, territoriality, sense of community and most preciously the belongingness. These psychological needs have identified as psycho- spatial needs of the space and may consider as the psycho-spatial relationships. In order to derive psycho spatial relationships four main factors caused and due to that architecture and the society also change. Those factors are

- Socio-economic factors
- Cultural factors
- Political factors
- Environmental factors

Individual's specific life style derives through the socio-economic environment that he lives. Therefore his needs and physical behavior differ from the others. Hence the need of the dwelling will be differ from each individual. These needs as it caused to the individuals will apply to the each group, community and society. Because of that dwelling in one country in urban environment differ to the rural environment or to other country. Culture transfers the changes to the living pattern of the individuals. Therefore in urban environment it will be more individualistic while in rural setting it will be more independent. Because of these factors and their changes caused will derive the feeling of belongingness for the individual. On the other hand individual feels that he also within in the deep social and cultural perspectives which are unique to the each concerned environments.

Political factor teaches the individuals on how they should live in such environments. In a way architecture can be considered a social art where individual welcomes and retain in the space by socio-spatial relationships. Hence it reveals that these factors help the individual to orientate himself in the society. According to Shultz (1971) " most of mans actions comprises as spatial aspects in the sense that the object of orientation are distributed according to such relations as inside and outside far away close by separate and united. Space therefore is not a particular category of orientation. But an aspect of orientation." When the space encompasses the human behavior objects, time and meaning or a certain movement with time it becomes a place. Rather than a space place has a past memory, which will generate a specific idea in the individual's mind. But to be an active live social space there are various things to be fulfilled. One thing is cleared that these social spaces may or may not be within the building.

According to Ralph (1976) "place means totally mad up of concrete things place is the commonest form of human experience environment. This changes with emotions, geographical entity and people etc. in general speaking we can not define it by words and saying place has such qualities and this is its boundaries etc." Hence the behavior of the individual derives through the individual's experience. But one has to experience the space before getting it. To experience the space above macro social factors affect. The way of individual experience the space can be identified by sense of privacy, sense of territoriality etc. out of that the sense of belonging is the utmost important as because it generates basic communication of individual and space. Out of the macro social factors economic factors will cause for both individual behavior as well as creation of space.

ABSTRACT

Sense of belongingness, which is deep-rooted biological need of the individual, helps to build a strong bond with the environment and individual. Each and every motion of the human behavior and the physical attributes of the environment enhance this. On the other hand this help to reduce the space being abandoned or destroy intentionally by the incident like graffiti, vandalism and dumping litter every where which destroy the physical and visual calmness of the society and space want be happen. Instead of that it derives a visual and healthy space for the man to perform his action.

When creating or achieving the sense of belonging, environment helps the individual in great extent. The environment consists both natural and physical, orientate the man and create meaningful interaction with them as well as with it, derive the sense of belongingness. The urban situation more than the natural environment, built environment helps to achieve the sense of belonging. Buildings arranged in a street or a park landscaped with the required facilities achieves this with the help of community interactions. Due to the tightness and haphazard development in the built environment in urban situations makes threat to develop the sense of belongingness among its residence. Because of that building situated in the cities sometimes abandoned by the public or they may use it for another purposes. The uses of the building do not attach or psychologically link to it and they either intentionally or unintentionally destroy its beauty and create visually polluted environment. Therefore built environment in the cities lacks sense of belonging significantly.

In this buildings, main space has more value because its main task is to derive the ultimate meaning of the building and the ultimate enjoyment provide through the building. This has to be carefully done and this helps to pause the movement of the public. Hence in a building this is the prime space to derive the sense of belonging. Each of the building has its own way of achieving it in the main space. But the way of deriving sense of belonging in the space has to be studied because it will help the others to do social experiment with the built environment and on the other hand it will make easy for individual to be in the space more and more. Ultimately the study helps to create the urban social space more meaningful and aesthetically pleasing with enhancing the social interactions.

OBSERVATION

Man is a social animal. He always like to be within the group rather than being in isolation. Humans tend to identify the persons who are in isolation as some sort of mental disorder. All these things reveal mans continuous desire to interact with each other. Early days these needs were fulfilled by places like " kamatha" "pila" "wew pitiya" later on "village kopi kade" and "kada mandiya". Those were the places where people developed social interactions, norms, attitudes and share the interpersonal values. Hence the society emerges as strong social bond and yet revealing the identity for each one to be unique in the way of living. Those places have become the news generating and broadcasting for the village.

Hence they were also depicted as places, which carry the image of a doorstep to the outer world and village. They were the cultural as well as social space for the people to interact. Though it describes a past scenario presently these spaces are already with ample of facilities to humans to move on with providing interaction modes to happen cross cultural, multi religion society. But these places are not used as they are. As a result the domestic violation, genocides homicides rates are coming up and man rather than being a culturally and socially calm person act in hectic harm full way to others. Therefore rather than developing true human values the space has been just commercialized. In some places there are no developments of social activities but generations of commercial transactions only. Sometimes the space may use for other functions and if it is not private owned man tends to destroy the image of it by graffiti on plaster walls, damages to details, deface of finishes

CRITICALITY

The constructing of private owned commercial spaces has become a trend now in everywhere of the country. There may be positive and negative impact from it. But one has to study the way of doing it and its outcome. The intention of private owned public spaces and the government owned public spaces are two different. Some times when private owned spaces do not have good intention they act as anti social spaces and may harmful for historical and cultural background of the country.

On the other hand, there are lot of potentials and ways that lead the man into an isolated environment. The technological development and the attitude changes make the man to think of himself only. Satisfaction of his desire becomes more prominent rather than sharing or preserving for others. Rather than accepting or appreciating the man's capabilities, discrimination, rejecting or destroying are more common in the society. All the negative impressions lead the man's psychological development to a halt. This will result physical and psychological discomfort to the man. Mental stress, phobia, anxiety are common problems to people. Weaker mind create weaker man, thus development of both individual and the society are in plight situation, which has to be considered.

Due to this situation the chain of passing the tradition from one generation to other has been threatened. The customs, rituals, norms that make the cultural identity of a society will be loosing day by day. Therefore the vision of the society and the attitudes, values they posses will be diluting and creating a culturally lost nation. Because of that discipline and social ethics among the society change drastically. Hence the phenomenon identified by the observation is vital to study.

REASONS FOR THE CHOICE

This phenomenon has occurred due to the lack of interactions. Therefore choice of study makes through that the environment which man lives makes him change. Hence built environment is an essential mode to make changes man's behavior. Built environment comprises the qualitative attributes, which help to change the man's behavior. They are sense of identity, sense of community, sense of territoriality and sense of belonging. Identifying the relationship of man to the nature is very important. In order to develop the interactions the space should be rich in inviting quality and while doing so, it should comprise them. In order to create a good interaction between public it is required to find out a way to keep them in the space. This depends mainly on qualitative attributes of the space, and "SENSE OF BELONGING" is very important attribute to achieve that.

Commercial oriented urban spaces make strong influence on urban habitat, as they are dominant spaces in urban environment. But they are not closely related to urban habitat and no strong functional links that help to tie individual to the specific space. Though commercial oriented public space are very common in urban environment, their contribution to enrichment of urban life is in a low degree.

TOPIC EXPLANATION

Design of a space defines the kind of behavior and social contact most appropriate for the place. The subject stream, which has to be studied here, focused on the commercial oriented urban public spaces. Through its volume of space we move, orientate our selves to object in space. We feel the air, hear sound and see objects in space. Yet space is inherently formless. However as space begin to be captured, enclosed, modeled, organized and experienced architects come in to play. Architecture is the art of the place making. Making of space to contain the activity of man and his experiences in the spaces. Experience evokes emotions such as joy, pride anger and many more. Meaningful connections gain through experiences helps man to live in comfortable with space.

Architecture therefore provides meaningful expressions through which it establishes existential foothold to man, through meaningful connections, which arouse sense of belonging in people in such spaces. This dissertation is found on the basis that such spatial quality that evokes the sense of belonging is an important criterion in providing architecture especially in commercial oriented urban public spaces. The urban environment is the home for numerous numbers of people. The urban dweller spent plenty of time of his day outdoors working, traveling, eating and relaxing. He spent plenty of time in urban spaces. This helps in to identify him with the urban environment. Hence man identify himself within the periphery when he belongs to that space and it helps to derive all other sensual understandings like community sense, sense of identity etc. therefore creation of urban public spaces which evoke the sense of belonging of man with the built environment is a must.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Constructing of privately owned private spaces in everywhere of the country is a trend today. The commercial oriented urban public spaces are dominant among them. Public life occurs within the public spaces. Therefore commercial oriented public spaces are very important in an urban environment. Although the main motivation of creating public spaces is public welfare toady's rapidly developing commercial spaces has some other intentions also. In most of the cases they reflect user needs lacking such as of friendly inviting quality, connection and meanings to the user etc. These public spaces hence become inhuman regardless of better satisfaction of user needs.

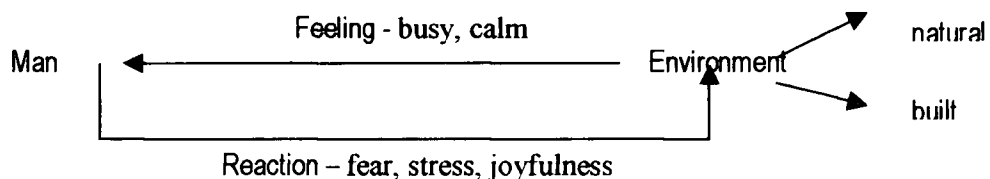
There is a tendency to not to think about user needs in purely functional and commercialized public spaces. In such case user may unable to develop link with the space and adapt himself to it, his needs & images. Ultimately those public spaces become dead and abandoned. On the other hand public spaces regardless of good intention become antisocial spaces. In the owners point of view these are greater loses for them. Activities like vandalism are the results of loosen links and relationships. According to George (1963) psychological satisfaction within a given environment is directly related to physiologic well being. Considering all these facts studying of urban public spaces is very essential. In order to design in good urban spaces that support well being of public life understanding of human needs on urban public spaces in depth is very important. Sense of belonging is very important need in order to good design of public spaces. In accordance to facilitate good urban public spaces, identifications and understanding of connections and meanings to the user is essential. This study focuses on these issues. Therefore this kind of study is very essential in economic, social, cultural development of the country.

INTENTION OF THE STUDY



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Man always tries to create relationships with the environment. Through that he communicates. Man's reactions will vary with the quality and the nature of the environment.



This means that the environment he lives can change man's moods or the way he behave. Therefore create good relationship with the environment; spatial attributes of the public spaces are highly contributing. Sense of belonging is one of the most important such factor. Therefore analytical study of sense of belonging in commercial oriented urban public areas spaces is the major intention of the study.



SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Social interactions are basically a result of variety of aspects. Socio cultural environment and behavioral attitudes of man social interactions are considered on the basis in the generation of the sense of belonging.

When selecting the public spaces there are various types of them. One of the main sections considered in that, all the public spaces taken as case studies are architect design spaces and all of them are in busy urban context, which provide the gathering facility. They were applied as because study is limited to urban public spaces and special reference was given to commercial oriented public spaces. Case studies were limited to contemporary Sri Lankan examples and various other factors like climate, technology, economy and regulations are not considered here. The only considering factor to the study as a design issue is the sense of belongingness. Hierarchies of public spaces have not been considered here. The study area of main space in public space has taken by explaining the spatial progression. The study is not intended to discuss the mechanisms or the forces affect to the public spaces such as context, climate etc. When selecting the public spaces they are divided to four groups as commercial oriented, religious oriented, recreational oriented and transport oriented. Out of these commercial oriented public spaces are studied here.

METHOD OF THE STUDY

This study is about the sense of belonging in main space in commercial oriented urban public space .the study will be a case study based questionnaire approached dissertation. As this is an architectural biased dissertation the study began with the architectural space. The theoretical frame work about the space and its categories also revealed in first chapter. In the study social space has considered as the space, which carry various behavior patterns of the community, and it is similar to the public space. Definition has given to the public space and identified its categories also. Among them readers mind is focused onto the commercial oriented public space. The attributes of that space have also considered narrowing down the dissertation readers mind focused onto the main area of such space with the help of special progression. The argument behind this is that in order to space becomes meaningful it should have the progression.

Chapter two is focused on to the sense of belonging. Theoretical framework of deriving the sense of belongingness is backed by the need of having it. Study based on the argument of in order to space, represent as a public space it should encompasses functions and public with in the space but individuals behave or active if they grasp the essence of the space. And if the space becomes more familiar to them, then their response to the space increases. Becoming more familiar means deriving the sense of belongingness in their minds there for degree of public ness derive the degree of sense of belongingness. First two areas in the chapter discuss the need and quality of sense of belongingness

Importance of sense of belonging to the man will be mainly felt on two areas. One is the importance, as the social need, sense of belongingness helps the individual to understand the space and its capabilities. It is also important as a way of deriving the spatial rights. It is also help to identify the meaning of space and to respond to it. These aspects are considered in the chapter two under the importance of sense of belongingness. Under these importance mechanisms are developed to understanding the way of deriving the sense of belongingness. To derive the mechanism comfort, relaxation, passive and active engagement with space and discovery which explain by the Carr (1992) in his book Public Space. Physical dimensions of the space has also considered in the study.

In order to reveal the degree of sense of belongingness questionnaire develop and people who goes through are selected by random sampling method the dissertation explain the sense of belongingness in each space and how they achieved it. The necessary detail collected from the available literature, non- participant observation and photographs other than the questionnaire given to the selected sample.

