

**STUDY ON THE ROLE OF STREETScape CHARACTERISTICS  
IN THE URBAN SPACES  
OF THE CITY OF COLOMBO**

A DISSERTATION PRESENTED AS SUBJECT  
TO THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA  
SRILANKA,  
FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE EXAMINATION  
IN ARCHITECTURE

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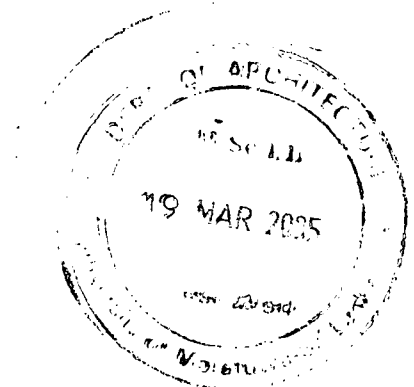
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2005

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**DECLARATION**

I declare that this dissertation represents my own work, except where due acknowledgment is 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.

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## ABSTRACT

The daily life routine in a city creates an essential bond between man and his environment, as the user becomes a part of that context.

Identifying the environment is indispensable for human existence. The unique identity and understanding of a place makes the user more comfortable. If the identity and character itself is strong and rigid, the place becomes more valuable to the user and the city experience will become meaningful and delightful.

Urban spaces consist of streetscapes. They are urban access corridors that bear different characteristics. These characteristics form the unique identity of the urban space. Thus identifying the street characteristics improve human existence as it helps to create habitable human environments.

Thus, preservation and maintenance of the unique character of streetscapes becomes a vital need in order to protect the spirit of the place since these strong characters determine a rigid environmental image. Thus, this research study was an attempt of identifying these extreme ambiances of streetscape characteristics and their generating factors that finally result in a strong and meaningful built setting.

The study is basically concentrates on the major character generating factors of streetscapes such as usage, activity patterns, architectural features, built fabrics and symbolic features, etc which occur according to the cultural, functional, contextual, religious, and historical effects. In addition, understanding the responsiveness of the setting such as its permeability, legibility and variety, etc is analyzed to comprehend the final overriding character of the setting.

The initial part of this study deals with the historical development and formation of streetscape characters in Colombo. Secondly, the present situation of the streetscapes of urban contexts, which link major townscapes of Colombo are observed and studied. Finally, these connections and establishments are analyzed through a theoretical basis with a concluding discussion and suggestions for the creation of better urban streetscapes.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This study owes much possibly its existence, to the assistance and guidance given by all of the following to whom I wish to extent my heartfelt gratitude.

Prof. Nimal De Silva, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa who has been the live wire in sculpting this work, by his constant guidance.

Arch. Vidura Sri Nammuni, Head of the Department, Faculty of Architecture, for guidance, inspiration, encouragement, and affording this enriching experience.

Prof. Samitha Manawadu, group supervisor, Senior lecturer, Dept. of Architecture, for inspiring discussions, advice, comments and the constant encouragement from the start till the end and above all, for believing in its worth.

Dr. Upendra Rajapaksha, Dr. Harsha Munasinha, and Archt. Prasanna Kulathilaka, Dept. of Architecture, for valuable advice given at the preliminary stage.

Year Masters, Archt. Jayanath Silva, and Archt. Gamini Weerasingha, faculty of Architecture for their interest and valuable comments in the formation of this study.

Mr. K.D Fernandu, Senior lecture, Dept of Town and Country Planning, Faculty of Architecture, for valuable advice given during the study.

Mr. Susira Udalamaththa, Dept of Town, and Country Planning for his invaluable assistance and continuous support throughout the study.

H.M.S Herath, DIG, Colombo division, and Inspector Sarath Alwis for their valuable support during case studies.

Mr. Chandima Pieris for his helpful hands when printing photographs.

My Colleagues Kelum for reading the script, correcting and for listening to my woes, and Prasad, Miyuru, Maduwanthi, Pooh & Aseni for being with me during hard times and being a source of strength and inspiration.

My dearest Danushka, for being the greatest inspiration in my life.

My dearest Akka and Nethmika for sharing my tears and joy and supporting me in every way.

My loving Ammi and Appachchi for their immense support in every event in my life.





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