

**“SPACE AS A SOCIAL PRODUCT”
IN SRI LANKAN URBAN SUB-CULTURES.**

: Examination of the impacts on socio-spatial relationships in living spaces.

A Dissertation submitted to the Department of Architecture,
University of Moratuwa as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of science in Architecture



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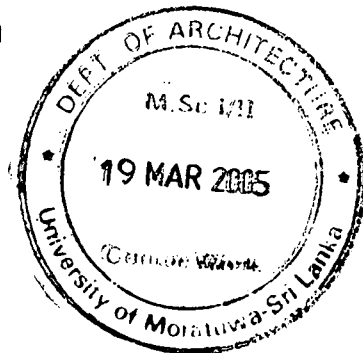
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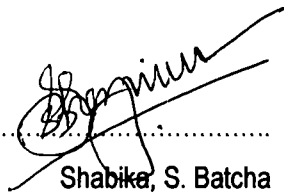
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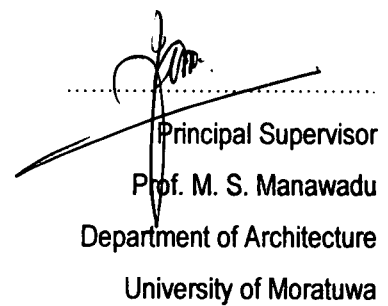
DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation represents my own work, except where due acknowledgement is made, and that it has not been previously 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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Shabika, S. Batcha


.....
Principal Supervisor
Prof. M. S. Manawadu
Department of Architecture
University of Moratuwa

"SPACE AS A SOCIAL PRUDUCT" in Sri Lankan urban sub-cultures.
: Examination of the impacts on socio-spatial relationships in living spaces.

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ABSTRACT :

Feelings, thoughts and attitudes make a person express him or her self as an individual. A human is an identified individual living creature in the existing world.

The most fundamental objective of any living organism is survival. All forms of survival may entail the maintenance of balance between the individual and the environment of which he is a part. For human survival people have to satisfy their physical needs as well as their psychological needs.

Space is a factor that defines an individual on earth. This intimate relationship between human and space generates activities informally as well as formally.

Human behavior plays an important role in group interaction. These interaction of man varies with different environments they live .

Man has always been a creator, and he has responded to the beauty and grandeur of his environment from the very early time.

Architecture, which has been developed out of man's need for protection against the elements and to meet economic and social conditions.

Thus,

Architecture is a reflection of socio-cultural attitudes, customs, desires, needs and technology. In our society it is an expectation that runs counter to ecologic coherence and sustainability.

"SPACE AS A SOCIAL PRODUCT" in Sri Lankan Urban Sub cultures

: Examination of impacts on socio-spatial relationships in living spaces

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Action and speech create a space between the participants which can find its proper location almost any time and any where. It is the space of appearance in the widest sense of word, namely the space where I appear to others as others appear to me, where men exists not merely like other living or intimate things but make their appearance explicitly.

Hannah Arendt, (1958)



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INTRODUCTION

"SPACE AS A SOCIAL PRUDUCT" in Sri Lankan urban sub-cultures.

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INTRODUCTION :**Topic Explanation**

Man has always expressed himself in terms of survival. When groups of people share the same institutions and ways of life, they possess the same "culture"- a pattern of behavior, which conditions every member of that society and provides him with his basic assumptions and attitudes. Culture means a combination of beliefs, norms, rules and regulations, philosophies etc, which enhance a society to lead its normal life style. Therefore a society does not survive without a culture. Society is the carrier of culture. Culture is not a biological instinct. It is obtained by external factors. When people have a highly complex culture pattern, resting upon an intricate social organization and exerting wide control over nature, they gradually achieve what is called "civilization," which represents a relatively advanced state of physical and social well being. This social set-up had been developed throughout history.

When considering such facts it can be understand that a formal society is derived from various relationships such as man-man, man-space and space-space . The sense of the relationship between man-space is prominently discussed as the socio-spatial relationship to generate living spaces.

The level of relationships vary according to country , culture , location , climate and many more facts. The behaviour of man is reflected by his living space. This enhances to create a particular built environment with closer relationships and giving relevance to surrounding context, which is urban or rural.

But the attention is given upon the urban context in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan urban societies or so called sub cultures have a vast progression in creating relationships of a congested environment. The above phenomena is proposed to discuss in detail under the title of "**SPACE AS A SOCIAL PRODUCT" in Sri Lankan Urban Sub-cultures.**

"SPACE AS A SOCIAL PRUDUCT" in Sri Lankan urban sub-culturs:
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Observation

The Sri Lankan society in urban context is much more different than the traditional society due to several influences and transformations. The urban society has a different and complex life style due to several reasons such as globalization, transportation, information technology etc. Ultimately this becomes predominantly a different part of the Sri Lankan life style.

Sri Lanka is a developing country and housing has become a major problem in the urban context due to the rapid urbanization process. Most of the people are carried away by several trends. But whatever it is humans need a living space for survival. Protection has become an issue in searching living spaces for survival.

Culture is a key factor of generating architecture. Therefore over the periods of time there have been several changes in the so-called culture. It determines formation and transformation of different living environments due to the influences of several external factors such as foreign influences, religion, climate, topography, technology etc. Fundamental differences between groups are essentially different in their cultures.

"House is the most intimate domain for each and every person in the current society"

A house can reveal a persons attitudes and perceptions. Thereby it becomes personalized to a particular subculture. Also the creation of space plays a role in order to achieve socio-spatial relationship.

Therefore the issue arises with the formation of socio-spatial relationship and sub-cultural aspects.

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Scope and Limitations

" No building ever feels right to the people in it unless the physical spaces are congruent with the social spaces (defined by activities and human groups)"

Alexander (1977: 941)

Cultures are never wholly static or isolated, and the history of man is largely the story of the contact of cultures and the spread of culture traits. These contacts, which may be peaceful or warlike, affect and are in turn affected by the various other traits within the culture pattern.

Social forces as well as the physical forces influence the living environment of a person. Therefore it is important to study the cultural aspects when designing living environments. And thereby it produces comfortable socio-spatial relationships.

The main intention of this study is to identify the social groups in the urban context and analyze their own interpretations of their surrounding environments. Therefore as the master builders it is wise to understand the sub cultural aspects and their impacts on spatial organization. And thereby provide rationale solutions in a better way to build up comfortable environments.

The study is limited only to Sri lankan urban sub-cultures. And only a bulk of houses is selected as the case studies, because it has a vast variety to compare with.

A typical house, which is not designed by an architect, has been selected to make the comparison more effective. Most of the urban houses have an ad-hoc development and not designed by an architect.



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Method of Study

The study will be an overview of the socio-spatial relationships of living spaces and the architectural relationship of it. The study will be formulated on a sociological bias. How people had responded to react with different social situations with their spatial entities will be considered with a historical overview. The spatial experience among social behaviour will be discussed in a theoretical base. The entire study includes three chapters. The chapters are explained briefly as follows.

An introductory chapter based on literature review- an historical overview. This chapter intends to provide a historical background of the implications on socio-spatial relationships – in a descriptive and in a theoretical base.

The second chapter intends to provide a case study of four selected sub-cultures in different four social groups. They are the urban low income house, Urban Street House, Urban mass housing and Urban Private House and to create a mental picture of the social forces and their respond to socio-spatial relationships. Four different types have been selected to make the case study more comprehensive by giving a comparison of the four. A social survey

The third chapter intends to provide an analysis and a comparison of the chapter two . It identifies the distinctive characteristics in socio-spatial relationship and discusses the architectural relevance under the several sub topics.

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.