

Water in out - door as transitional space in architecture

The Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Architecture

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

For the Final Examination in M.Sc (Architecture) and

RIBA Part II Examination

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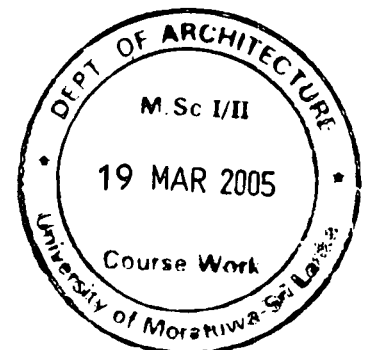
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DECLARATION

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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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gunawardana I.K.', written over a horizontal line.

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ABSTRACT

Marcel Brener says *"space is never complete and finite. It is in motion, connected to the next space, and to the next space...and to the finite space."* (Quoted in Siminds, O.J – 1983) Along this flow of spaces, the 'transitional space' becomes more important, because it is an intermediate space which has capabilities of condition the human mind for subsequent environment. The transitional need in human mind will be governed by the expressive qualities of the spaces and their relationships.

Normally designers try to upgrade the building quality by using different forms, colors, materials, textures, etc. and make architectural work more attentive. But this would create an artificial and uncomfortable impact on user, for adjusting the new experience immediately. Such sudden change of experience would lead for generate inappropriate behavioral pattern in human. Therefore the transitional (in-between) spaces can be introduced between spaces to harmonize the contrast in the context and; to enhance the quality of architectural experience. *"The transition must, in effect, destroy the momentum of the closed-ness, tension and distance..."* (Alexandra C, 1977)

As a natural phenomenon, human ingenuity firstly depends on the natural pressure and later by the artificial means. Therefore eventual instincts of human being tend to be with the nature due to its flexibility and appropriateness on conditioning human mind for the changing contexts. Especially, properly designed out-door would promote physical and psychological comfort on user, in order to become a conditioning space of behaviors as the ultimate purpose of the building. Therefore the out-door space cannot be considered as a just left out space by the building; it should be utilized as a conditioning space of human spatial experience. Water as one of mans' inherent motivational factor of giving inspirations and emotions, can be utilized as a design element of out-door formation. Water in out-door would become a successive conditioning factor for generate proper human motivation and it enhances the spatial relations in more meaningful manner.

This dissertation would discuss transitional need among the spaces, and how the water in out-door could be used as a conditioning factor for humanized the spatial experiences in satisfactory manner.