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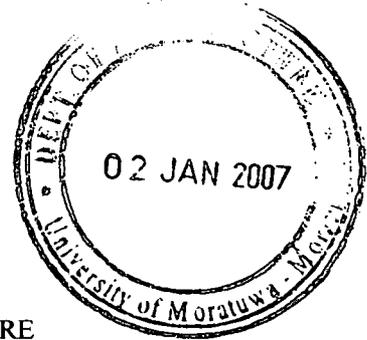
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**MATERIALS AS AN EXPRESSIVE ELEMENT IN SACRED ARCHITECTURE
A STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GREAT BUDDHIST BUILDINGS.**

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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
IN ARCHITECTURE



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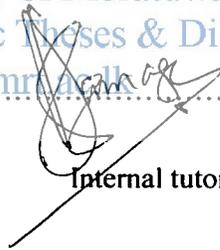
I declare that this dissertation represents my own work, except where due acknowledgement is made, and that it has not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this university or to another institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification.



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Abstract

“There is no effect of form which the effect of material could not enhance”

(George S.T.)

Architecture is the composition of material in creating built form. And generating meanings from them. The nature of the material in use of transforming idea in to matter is two fold.

The physical nature of a material used in a building is its time value, strength, texture, surface & colour. The selection of a material for its finish, texture & colour stimulate as emotional response. Sensory experience for we can touch, smell, see & feel the space created. It makes architecture solid & tangible.

As expressive elements, material has essence (aesthetic quality) which gives original to the material. This essence of material contributes to its physical nature. It also gives rise to understanding the built form at a deeper level triggering connotations & symbols. The physical qualities (colour, texture, condition, the way of handling it, time value) & essence of the material directly contribute as a element of expression in architecture and give meaning to the built form.

Considering the sacred architecture, the inter relationship between materials & architectural expressions can be identified clearly.

They expressed their religions concepts through the built environment by using materials as an expressive element. And they were successful in giving sacredness quality to built forms & still the people can impressed the quality by experiencing it.

They were used the colour, texture, time value & the essence of the material & they were processed them in some extend to get the sacred quality to the building.

Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to offer my sincere gratitude to all who helped me in the preparation of this dissertation. Among them I am deeply thankful to,

- Prof: Samitha manawadu, Head of the Department University of Moratuwa, Dr: Harsha Munasinghe, coordinator, M.Sc. dissertations, Archt. Arosh Gamage Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Architecture for valuable guidance on research and resources till the completion of the dissertation.
- Archt. Sithumina Ratnamalala, Senior Lecturer, faculty of architecture, Eng/Landscaper. Susira Udalmatte Senior Lecturer Faculty of Architecture, Landscape Division for the comments and guidance.
- My special thanks for Wasana and colleagues Nuwanci, Chaminda and all, who helped me in numerous ways
- Last, but by no means, not least my dear parents and sister who allowed me to start a career on architecture six years ago regardless of the trend and continuing that support and guidance throughout my university education...!



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