



**THE ROLE OF 'LIGHT' IN EXPRESSIONS;
UNDERSTANDING ARCHITECTURE, THROUGH THE
MEDIUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

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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2007

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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 another institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification.

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Forward

"There are some qualities, incorporate things that have a double life which thus is made a type of that twin entity which springs from matter and light"

-Edgar Allan Poe



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Introduction

The role of “light” in expressions

Understanding architecture through the medium of photography

As an art, architecture is abstract and nonrepresentational and involves the manipulation of the relationships of spaces, volume, light, shape, colors, and depth etc...etc... in most architectural constructions there is no, one vantage point from which the whole structure can be understood. The use of light and shadow, as well as surface decoration spaces, volumes and shapes can greatly enhance the value of the structure. As such “light” is an expressive element in creative architecture. In my dissertation I wish to discuss light as an expressive element in architectural space and how photography as a communication media react to capture those creations without any losses.

The effects of light are vitally important to our understanding and appreciation of the three dimensional art forms on sculpture and architecture. Light and shadow delineate the forms of both sculpture and architecture. Far ancient man light performed as a measure at time. Power full rays of light projected on to the land by the vastly distance sun light that carried direction, angle and intensity depending on the place the season and the time of day – gave fundamentals form to mans sense of space.

Ancient Egypt and Greek architectural creations were built with more space to eliminate the interior with daylight. Night times were lightened with special oil lamps. Later it was converted to candles. In medieval period massive chandelier were use to light up their massive gathering spaces which fixed about hundred of candles in each chandelier. 19th century when electricity was arrived the whole lighting systems were change to electricity and interior and night were eliminated by artificial light. Those ancient architectural creations were popularized by merchants or travelers who visited country to country by ships and brought the messages to their mother land about those wonderful creations. These types of informations were also limited. But when photography was invented in mid 18th century entire things were changed.

Just after photography were established in 18th century European photographers traveled very far distances with their huge camera, equipments to places such as Yellowstone, great canyon, china, Egypt, and Far East with great difficulties. They brought from their vogue some valuable photographs on architecture, people and their behavior and landscape. After seen these photographs European community were surprised and had to believe these things witch 'Marco polo' also brought these information's hundreds of years ago. Form the beginning photography had done a massive role in architecture and communication media. After nearly two hundred years photography is the most popular media to carry architectural information through out the world.

"Light alone dose not make light. There must be darkness for light to become light". The light is one of the most important element which carries by a creative architect. The photograph's medium also light. Creative photographer should know the behavior of light and shade and techniques which were able to photographs as it is. In this connection colors, light and shade and surface texture are more important.

In my dissertation finally I wish to bring three architects with their great creations as a case study. I also thought of discussing with their photographers about the way they photographs those interiors and out doors to bring maximum creativity.

Photography had done a major roll to enhance architecture from their beginning. As such there is a hard bound in between each other. So it is our duty is keep close relationship with architectural photography section giving all facilities my dissertation also will help those entering crowds who well could to follow these architectural degree.