

10/001/24/00

**CONTEXT GENERATED ARCHITECTURE:  
AN EXAMINATION OF THE CULTURAL  
IMPERATIVES AND THEIR APPLICATION  
IN URBAN ARCHITECTURE.**

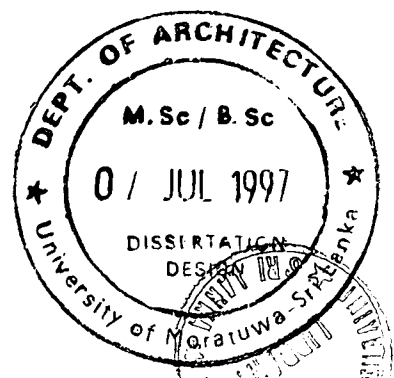
මොරටුව විශ්ව විද්‍යාලය  
උස්කමලය  
මොරටුව. ශ්‍රී ලංකාව  
මොරටුව.



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka  
Electronic Theses & Dissertations  
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

**A Dissertation presented to the  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE  
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA  
SRI LANKA  
FOR M.Sc(Architecture) Examination**

71594  
72 "97"  
-----  
711.4



**D.A.N.D. Dasanayake  
Faculty of Architecture  
University of Moratuwa  
June 1997. 71594**



TH

## CONTENTS

- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
- ABSTRACT
- LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS
- INTRODUCTION TO STUDY
- INTENSION OF STUDY
- LIMITATIONS OF STUDY
- METHOD OF STUDY

### - CHAPTER 1

#### ARCHITECTURE OF A CONTEXT

- 1.1 CONTEXT : The Definition
  - 1.1.1 Wider context
  - 1.1.2 Local context
- 1.2 Components of context
- 1.3 What i  University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
- 1.4 What a  Electronic Theses & Dissertations  
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk an context
- 1.5 Architecture of a context
- 1.6 Architecture of an urban context
- 1.7 Concluding Remarks

### - CHAPTER 2

#### CULTURE OF A CONTEXT

- 2.1 Culture of a context : The Definition
- 2.2 Culture as an essential constituents of a context
- 2.3 The uniqueness of a culture in a given context
- 2.4 Concluding Remarks



**- CHAPTER 3**

**CULTURE OF A CONTEXT AS A COMPONENT OF ITS ARCHITECTURE**

- 3.1 Components of architecture
- 3.2 Cultural imperative as a generator of architecture
- 3.3 Cultural imperative as a generator of architecture in an urban situation
- 3.4 Concluding Remarks

**- CHAPTER 4**

**CASE STUDIES**

- 4.1.1 Introduction to the 'Fort' & 'Pettah'
- 4.1.2 Identifying the culture of the 'Fort' (York Street)
- 4.1.3 Architecture of 'Fort' (York Street)
  - 4.1.3 (i) Building form
  - 4.  University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. layout
  - 4.  Electronic Theses & Dissertations ind secondary)
  - [www.lib.mrt.ac.lk](http://www.lib.mrt.ac.lk)
- 4.1.4 Culture reflected in Architecture
- 4.2.1 Identifying the culture of the 'Pettah'
- 4.2.2 Architecture of Pettah
  - 4.2.2 (i) Building form
  - 4.2.2 (ii) Orientation and layout
  - 4.2.2 (iii) Elements (major and secondary)
- 4.2.3 Culture reflected in Architecture
- 4.3.1 Identifying the culture of the Maradana Junction
- 4.3.2 Architecture of Maradana Junction
  - 4.3.2 (i) Building form
  - 4.3.2 (ii) Orientation and layout
  - 4.3.2 (iii) Elements (major and secondary)

4.3.3 Culture reflected in Architecture

5. Conclusion

- Bibliography



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.  
Electronic Theses & Dissertations  
[www.lib.mrt.ac.lk](http://www.lib.mrt.ac.lk)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the subject coordinator, Dr. L.S.R.Perera, Faculty of Architecture, for his constant encouragement and valuable guidance throughout the research work. Special thanks are due to the Dissertation Adviser, Prof. Nimal de Silva, Head of the Department, Faculty of Architecture for his invaluable suggestions and guidance throughout the study period. My thanks are also expressed to Mr Vidura Sri Nammuni, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Architecture, for his invaluable co-operation in this study. Moreover their comments have been kept in view while completing this.

Acknowledgement is also due to the University of Moratuwa, whose library provided me with all the necessary facilities.

Furthermore, I am grateful to my colleagues, Shenuka, Deepika and Lavanya for their kind contribution in various ways. The assistance given by Architect Mr Jagath Munasinghe and Mr S. Samaradiwakara at the various stages of the developments of this dissertation is acknowledged with



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.  
Electronic Theses & Dissertations  
[www.lib.mrt.ac.lk](http://www.lib.mrt.ac.lk)

Finally, I am grateful to Nalin for his fullest co-operation at all times and parents and Mrs Hiranthi Fernando for typing the dissertation within a short period of time.

## ABSTRACT

The densely packed nature of structures on a major part of an urban context provides the peculiarity of urban quality mixed with anxiety, intensity and dynamism. Densely compact set of built forms, give rise to an urban context, in which the inter-relationship between the built elements play a major role to achieve a harmonious environment to the human beings. It inter-relationship is not merely a result of physical setting. It essentially is bound with the cultural norms of the users of that particular urban context. Therefore to have a vivid picture of the context in designing architecture, culture is an important as the other aspects for architects and the urban designers in order to create a harmonious built environment.


The individualistic nature of buildings emerging in many urban settings nowadays, seem to neglect all positive relationships, they could make with the other elements of this context, violating the harmonious setup that had been there before and totally neglected the cultural imperative in the context.




University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka  
Electronic Theses & Dissertations  
[www.lib.mrt.ac.lk](http://www.lib.mrt.ac.lk)

While the connection between cultural imperatives and architecture has been understood now vital, it is especially in the new technological world, in urban architecture has unfortunately not been appreciated fully. The culture is perhaps the design input that may save modern urban architecture from the impersonal sterility has therefore not struck them with sufficient impact. This study therefore seem to step in add attempt to accomplish the imperative of the cultural context in an urban architecture. It will show what the cultural imperatives are in architecture. How it has been employed, exploited responded to, successfully resulting in gloriously alive in an urban context.

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<u>FIG. NO</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
01.	Context a white box standing	09
02.	Context Generated Architecture	11
03.	Activity in street bring in a Character	12
04.	Image is the collection of dicrenable components in an urban Complex	13
05.	Streets and tall buildings giving a particular character	14
06.	The components of an Urban Context	14
07.	The buildings in an Urban Context play a vital role in its form	15
08.	Different activities demand different spaces	15
09.	Forming wall along the Street	15
10.	Differe  University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Electronic Theses & Dissertations www.lib.mrt.ac.lk	16
11.	New Y	17
12.	Manhattan	18
13.	Echelon Square - Colombo	19
14.	Different forms	22
15.	Socio - Cultural values affect the city form	23
16.	Identity Unique them to each	24
18.	Street giving a particular Character	25
19.	Orchard Road in the City Singapore	26
20.	City of Paris	28
21.	Square	28
22.	Different architectural expresions in varied ethnic Social contexts	30

<u>FIG. NO</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
23.	The Character of Place' express the ethnic and social theme	32
24.	segments Two/in Fort one bears ' Old City Character' and the other 'new architectural Styles'	33
25.	The uniqueness of a culture in a given context	34
26.	Components of architecture	37
27.	Building fabric in disorder	40
28.	Different activities demand different spaces	42
29.	Natural Surrounding dominated by man-made elements	44
30.	Building dipict their culture	45
31.	Map of the Fort	46
32.	Map of the Fort	51
33.	A cit  University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. bldgs Electronic Theses & Dissertations www.lib.mrt.ac.lk	55
34.	Portu..... (56)	56
35.	Dutch period (1658 - 1796) Dutch Street in Fort	57
	Gable roots and deep varand ahs pominent characterisitils in dutch buildings	58
36.	British period	58
37.	Layout pattern of York Street	59
38.	Architecture in York Street	60
39.	Varied Architectural forms in York Street	60
40.	Discorderly arranged bldg fabric	61
41.	Street Layout	61
42.	Map of Fort	62
43.	British period	63
44.	Continues Arcades	64



<u>FIG. NO</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
45.	A new building violating the window to wall proportion of neighbouring bldg	64
46.	Details of the Windows	65
47.	Details of the grand arcades	65
48.	Culture reflected in Architecture	66
49.	Culture reflected in architecture	67
50.	Map of Colombo	68
51.	Map of Colombo	69
52.	A view of "Olcott Mawatha"	70
53.	Different forms	71
54.	Layout pattern in Olcott Mawatha	72
55.	Street Character	73
56.	Social form of the City	74
57.	Map of Maradana	75
58.	Street activity brings out typical character	76
59.	Image of Maradana Junction	77
60.	Image of Maradana Junction	77
61.	Lay out of Maradana Junction	78
62.	Change of the City Sky Line	79
63.	Different forms of architecture	79
64.	Culture mirrored in architecture	80