

# Impact of the commercial base activities on the transformation of city fabric in hill towns



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A dissertation submitted to

the University of Moratuwa

as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of  
M.Sc in Architecture

University of Moratuwa



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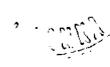
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## Abstract

Since human beings are a creation of nature, they naturally possess a sense of beauty for nature and art which has a close rapport with the environment. This created an identity to a particular community or a city. When man modified this natural environment to meet his needs, he necessitated capturing this beauty he perceived through nature. Since the early civilization, the cities have continuously changed due to human needs and it was shown that there was a rhythmic flow of changing pattern in natural and manmade environment. This rhythmic flow of manmade environment was important to protect the character of a city or town and also to protect the sense of belonging of its civilians in the ever-changing world.

Rhythm is one of the principles, which maintain the character of a city fabric. Hence Rhythm was taken to analyse the transformation pattern of two hill towns namely Nuwara Eliya and Ratnapura. Due to the various reasons hill towns in Sri Lanka rapidly changed destroying their character. When consider the factors affected the transformation of the hill towns, the foremost role played by its economic activity. Tea plantations and gem mining, in the hill town generated wealth due to the specific character of the location, helped in the transformation of hill towns. With the development of social and economical background, cities were subjected in to drastic changes and this caused haphazard development destroying existing rhythm of the city fabric in their hill towns.

This study implied the need of a separate guideline to each of their hill towns for their future development and to strengthen the rhythm of its urban fabric. It also revealed the need of a strictly controlled the regulations on the built fabric to avoid haphazard constructions which disrupt the rhythm of the city fabric while protecting their unique character.

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## **Acknowledgement.**

In my dissertation I was glad full to my lecturers, friends and well wishes. I wish to thank them for their guidance, encouragements, advices and helps.

I was thankful to our year masters Dr. S. Manawadu, Archt. G. Weerasinhe for their guidance and encouragement.

My sincere gratitude to Archt. Vasana Wijesinhe who helps me in numerous ways and set me on correct path in achieving my object.

I also thankful to my friends for their encouragement and helps, especially for Madhavi, when collecting data.

Finally I am ever so grateful to my parents, sisters, brothers, uncles and specially aunt Malathi for their helps guidance and encouragements.

