

LB/200N/29/00

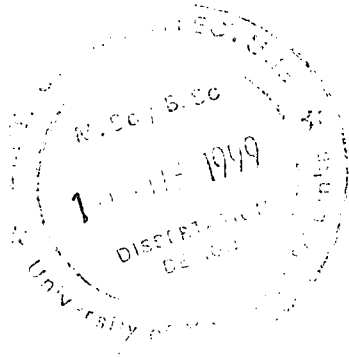
**ELEMENTS IN DEFINING DOMESTIC SPACE:  
ROLES, FUNCTIONS AND POSSIBILITIES.**

**A Dissertation Submitted to the University of Moratuwa  
As a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of  
Master of Science in Architecture.**



Electronic Theses & Dissertations  
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

ප්‍රධාන කාලය  
මොරටුව විශ්ව විද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව  
මොරටුව.



71713

72 "99"

728

**N.L.D.C.K. KARUNARATHNE  
Department of Architecture  
University of Moratuwa  
July 1999.**

TH

71713

## ABSTRACT:

People are involved in the modification of their environment in such a way to accommodate their activities. This constitutes defining of interior space as the sphere of human activities where proper exploitation of that space; by means of colour, texture, lighting, furniture, plants and appliances are employed to enable those activities. This is indeed to make the function of the space efficient, comfortable, appealing and sensually and mentally stimulating for the inhabitant.

However most people fail to understand the roles, functions and possibilities of the “elements” in defining the interior space meaningfully. An interior that does not work might be the decorative furniture, or colourfull paintings or an interesting piece of sculpture, but if the interior does not work for its stated function, it fails at the most important level of design.

The study examines the notion and essence of inner space as a livable domestic environment. The interior elements such as fixed and non-fixed elements play serious role as ornamentation, quality and appearance promoting ways rather than the functional requirements in the inner space as a whole. It attempts to say the defining of inner space with appropriate component in meaningful need, serious examination.

In the illustrated chapter, study discussed the usage of “ elements” in the formation of domestic space in selected situations in traditional rural settlements, contemporary villages and the urban ( single and apartment) housing situations.

Finally, it concluded that, the contemporary living spaces, specially in urban situation, are much more complexed, therefore, brutal and struggle for the inhabitants. It is therefore clearly that there is a need to be conscious of the defining of domestic space as a livable inner environment. This is indeed a major task for the architect.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I owe my affectionate thanks and gratitude to,

Dr: Ranjith Dayarathne - Senior lecturer of the Faculty of Architecture for the valuable discussions from the point of selecting the topic to the development of the dissertation and showing the correct path.

Dr: L.S.R.Perera - Senior lecturer of the Faculty of Architecture for the valuable suggestions in selecting the topic.

Persons who allowed me to study the inner spaces of their houses and the co-operation given me.

My colleagues, Pradeep, Piyanthi, Hiroshinie Naomi and Nihantha, who help me in numerous ways.



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

Especially Loku for her participation to find the urban interiors and my parents and most of all Upali for their help and encouragement throughout this dissertation.

# CONTENTS.

Page no

## ABSTRACT

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## INTRODUCTION

- i. Topic Explanation.
- ii. Intention of the study.
- iii. Methodology.
- iv. Scope and Limitations.

## CHAPTER ONE: CREATING A SPACE FOR LIVING IN.

1.1 SPACE AS A HUMAN NEED.	1
1.1.1 SPACE; the physical need.	1
1.1.2 SPACE; the psychological need.	2
1.2 SPACE AS ESSENCE OF ARCHITECTURE.	4
1.3 SPACE AS THE PRIMARY ELEMENT IN INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT.	5
1.4 FORMATION OF SPACES.	6
1.4.1 Symbolically / Intangibly defined spaces.	6
1.4.2 Tangibly defined spaces.	8

1.5 THE RUDIMENTARY WAYS OF DEFINING SPACE.	11
1.5.1 Geographically defining.	12
(a)Boundary	12
(b)Location	13
1.5.2 Physical	14
1.5.3 Non-physical	19

## CHAPTER TWO: DEFINING THE SPACE.

2.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DEFINED SPACE.	20
2.1.1 Volume	20
2.1.2 Scale	21
2.1.3 Proportion	22
2.1.4 Light	22
2.1.5 Indoor climate	23
2.2 THE TYPOLOGY (CLASSIFICATION) OF ELEMENTS OF, USED IN DEFINING SPACE.	24
2.2.1 Fixed elements	24
2.2.2 Semi-fixed elements	26
2.2.3 Non- fixed elements	27
2.3 THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ELEMENTS, USED IN DEFINING SPACE.	31
2.3.1 Colour	31
2.3.2 Texture and Appearance	32
2.3.3 Finish	33
2.4 ACTIVITY DEFINED SPACE.	35

## **CHAPTER THREE: DOMESTI ENVIRONMENT AS A LIVABLE INTERIOR SPACE.**

3.1 THE STUDY FOCUS: THE DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENTS.	38
3.2 INTRODUCTION TO DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT.	39
3.3 DOMESTIC COMFORT.	40
3.3.1 Sense of belonging	40
3.3.2 Sense of security	41
3.4.3 Informality	41
3.4 THE FORM OF DOMESTIC INNER SPACE.	42
3.4.1 Common/ SHARED spaces	42
3.4.2 Private /PERSONAL spaces	43
3.4.3 HIDDEN /Utilitarian spaces	44

 University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.  
Electronic Theses & Dissertations

## **CHAPTER FOUR : DEFINING SPACE IN SRI LANKAN DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENTS.**

4.1 RURAL HOUSES	
4.1.1 Traditional Rural Houses	45
4.1.2 Contemporary Rural Houses.	60
4.2 URBAN HOUSES	62
4.2.1 Urban Single Houses.	73
4.2.2 Urban Apartment Houses	89

**CONCLUSION.** 99

**REFERENCES.** 102