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ENDURING ARCHITECTURE : AN EXAMINATION OF THE CONCEPT

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
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**Between belief and doubt it is better to believe.
Between action and dissolution it is better to act.
- Le Corbusier**



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ABSTRACT

Events take 'place' in time. We live in time. Buildings are built in time. Time flows..... Events become nodes in history, and we grow old. Yet there are some buildings which do not 'grow old'. They defy time. They 'endure' time, and 'man in time'.

The thrust of this dissertation lies in the establishment of such an enduring order in architecture. The genesis of such rests on its inherent ability to relate to fundamental physical, and more importantly the psychic needs of man across the world. As such man forms the point of departure for the study.

Psychically, man since time immemorial has always strained towards immortality: endurance. He attempts to physically manifest this psychic longing through his built-structures: thus perpetuating his being in the world for posterity.



Man creates his buildings to facilitate his psychic need for orientation, which presupposes his need for meaningful existence. He needs stable, rooted, enduring points of references. He associates himself with these forming a rapport; a rapport which echoes a supremely primordial one, that of 'matter and spirit'.

In time man 'moulds' matter: thus creating Art. Art makes his life worth living.....

PREAMBLE

In his brief sojourn in life man strives to create a better, more healthy environment for his 'living'. He creates certain 'things' to achieve this purpose. In time man along with his creations suffer the same inevitable fate: they perish.

Yet some men and some of their creations live on
Time ceases to have significance any longer.


The numbers may be few and far-between. However such do exist. History records the attainments of such people who become role models for mankind. They form attainable 'ideals' man strives for. Man then attempts to create such 'ideals' too. In doing so, he manipulates his environment, to achieve his ultimate goals: to live and leave his imprint upon this earth.

To live, man has to 'exist'. To exist he needs space. Thus man's existence becomes spatial. To exist in space he needs a 'place': a place to 'dwell'. 'Dwelling' happens when man is capable of making his mark on this world in terms of spatial entities. Man organises his environment to facilitate his existence in the world.

From time immemorial, man has had a constant dialogue with the world; his surroundings. The built-environment was formed and shaped to suit his simple existence. For this purpose he created places which were functional and above all, meaningful to him. These 'places' communicated deeply with his inner self and had the profound ability to cater to the basic human instincts in him: instincts-universally common and deeply personal.....

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