

**Analysis of the Relationship between Urban Morphology
and Urban Vitality in Small Cities Sri Lanka –
Special Reference to Kalutara Town**

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Degree of Master of Urban Design

Department of Architecture

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

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Thesis/Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
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Declaration of the candidate & the supervisor

The candidate

I declare that this is my own work and this dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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The supervisor

The above candidate has carried out research for the Master Dissertation under my supervision.

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Abstract

Urban vitality refers to the quality of an urban area that can attract a diverse range of people due to the presence of numerous activities and opportunities. Jane Jacobs, in her seminal work from 1961, emphasized the importance of diverse and interconnected human activities and public spaces in creating a vibrant city life. In summary, urban morphology is a complex and interdisciplinary field that investigates the physical shape of cities and how they evolve over time. Different scholars emphasize various key elements, such as streets, blocks, plots, building types, and plan units, as essential components for analyzing urban form. The interdisciplinary nature of urban morphology allows researchers to approach the study of cities from multiple perspectives and contribute to a deeper understanding of their development and characteristics. There are many research on how urban morphology impact the urban vitality of urban areas. It's evident that a well-designed built environment, with attention to factors like land use, accessibility, density, and public spaces, can enhance the vitality and quality of urban life. The research is aims to investigate the relationship between urban morphology and urban vitality in small cities in the Sri Lankan context. This is an important endeavor, as small and medium-size cities often make up a significant portion of the urban population worldwide and play a crucial role in urbanization and service production in specific countries, such as Sri Lanka.

The research shows that how density, land use diversity, pedestrian movements, and the availability of open / cultural spaces and transit stops collectively shape the vitality of small cities in Sri Lanka. To enhance urban vitality, it might be important to explore ways to encourage a broader range of activities, both during the daytime and at night, and to create environments that facilitate urban vitality.

Key words: Urban Morphology, Urban Vitality, Density, Diversity

Dedication

To my loving Amma, Thattha and Cham; who gives me the strength to do so.

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