

"Home is a haven in the turbulent sea of life. It embodies the familiar, it is the place we feel most comfortable in, where we know better than anywhere else what will happen. Home is bound up with our identity. We instinctively rise to its defense when it is attacked."

Appleyard.



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**AN EXAMINATION OF THE CONCEPT OF HOME IN MULTI-STOREY
HOUSING WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
LUXURY APARTMENT COMPLEXES**

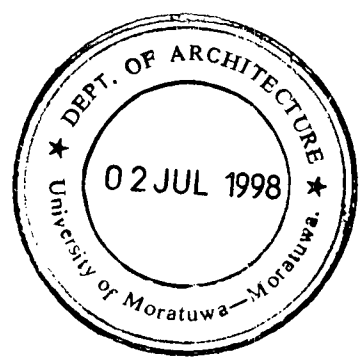
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Surangi Gunawardena
June 1998

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ABSTRACT

Home is one of the fundamental needs of man. The concept of home is the deep-rooted attachment between man and place, where the institution of family is nurtured. It is a place that reflects his values, aspirations and future expectations and their social and cultural identity.

Sri Lankan people value the idea of individual houses. However, rapid urbanization and the subsequent lack of land for building have led to vertical development in the urban areas. This phenomenon has also affected the housing developments. In the past high-rise housing were for the low and middle-income categories. Nevertheless, in contemporary Sri Lankan society it is apparent in the Luxury category as well.

House developers sell the idea of home with a materialistic illusion, where the term 'luxury' is in terms of finishes, services and facilities provided and not considering a qualitative environment needed for the psychological well being of man. Thus the significance of the concept of home is not sufficiently highlighted to be able to interpret the concept of home and to establish the fact that luxury homes should have a spatial significance instead of a materialistic one.

Therefore the study would first examine the concept of home and establish the fundamental attributes of a home. It would then identify the ways in which they may be manifested in the built forms and layouts of homes. Identifying the differences and disadvantages between individual houses and multi-storey housing and observing the significance of the luxury housing category, would help to interpret these attributes in terms of luxury multi-storey apartments. The ways in which the attributes of a home are expressed in the built environment as a whole in reality, will be further studied by discussing three contemporary luxury apartment complexes.



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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

0.1. BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

'Home' is one of the fundamental needs of man, which plays an important role in providing man a certain place in society. Man develops a certain sense of belonging with the living environment and feels comfortable in familiar surroundings. Therefore maintaining a harmonious environment with identifiable spaces is important to the psychological and physical well being of the people.

The concept of 'home' is the deep-rooted attachment between man and place. It also defines the sense of 'place' and creates an orderly environment to the human being that reflects his values, aspirations and future expectations while reflecting each person's social and cultural identity and individuality within a unit.

Rapid urbanization has led us to devote more attention to urban growth and housing. When it comes to that disparities between spatial arrangement and social or instance the environment provided may not be the most appropriate one in order to achieve the qualitative characteristics such as sociability, privacy, identity and territoriality.

House developers sell the idea of home with materialistic illusion. The very term 'luxury' seems to be in terms of facilities and materialism rather than a quality environment. Unlike in low-income housing, the financial factor is not a problem here, but the user or the resident hardly gets good value for money in terms of a quality environment.

In mass housing as people have to shape and adapt to suit the given environment they might have to live under certain constraints. This problem is more acute in multi storey apartment complexes, and its vertical growth seems to affect their lifestyles. This affects the development of a healthy mind and body thus affecting their overall personality. Sri Lankans value the idea of individual houses, and unless this problem is dealt with great care and sensitivity it may lead to the downfall of Sri Lankan society.

The reason for the problem may be the lack of understanding it as a new dimension to living, born out of a set of values to suit the lifestyles of Sri Lankans, and which goes beyond architectural aesthetics, technological brilliance and high quality finishes. Further housing projects are sponsored by Housing Authorities and financed by various financial bodies. The designer all along meets officials who are only committed to achieving objectives and achieving impressive statistics, but not to the individual needs of the ultimate occupants. The most important cause of the problem may be the lack of understanding what constitutes a 'home' and the non-realization of it in each unit.

0.2. NEED FOR THE STUDY.

People require that houses are made into homes, but the importance of the concept of 'home' in connection to high-rise living is not understood by developers, designers and architects, and is not sufficiently highlighted by the housing administrators. Therefore, there is a need to demonstrate how the concept of 'home' is reflected in modern architecture can meet this challenge.



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onstrate how the concept of
w architecture can meet this

0.3. THE INTENTION OF THE STUDY.

The intention of this study therefore is to identify, study and discuss the different ways the idea of 'home' is reflected, given expression to and achieved in multistory housing. It would also find reasons for its drawbacks and its implications, which would help future designers to ensure the required quality in 'luxury' apartment complexes, thus giving the user good value in qualitative terms for the large amount of money he invests in a house.

0.4. THE METHOD AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study would first examine and establish the concept of 'home' and discuss the ways in which the attributes of a home may be manifested in the built form. Secondly it would discuss the differences between individual houses and multi-storey apartment houses and identify the differences and disadvantages of high-rise living, its implications and causes. Thirdly it would identify and describe the different ways the idea of 'home' may be reflected in or achieved in multi-storey apartments with the aid of several examples both local and foreign.

The main idea of this study is to establish the importance of the concept of 'home' in luxury multistory apartment complexes. Hence, the study will not deal with studying low income and middle income multi-storey housing. Further it will not go into studying the economic and political impact of multistory housing in the city, but will be limited to the qualitative attributes of design related to multistory housing.



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