

**REIMAGINING PUBLIC FAIRS AS INCLUSIVE URBAN
PUBLIC SPACES ON NON-FAIRDAYS: SPECIAL
REFERENC TO MALABE AND NEGOMBO, SRI LANKA**

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PG Diploma/Master of Urban Design

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University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

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Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for The
Degree of Master of Urban Design

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DECLARATION

I confirm that this dissertation is my own work. No part of it has been submitted before for a degree, diploma, or any other qualification at another university or institute, unless properly mentioned. To the best of my knowledge, it does not include work published or written by someone else, except where it has been acknowledged.

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This research was completed by the candidate as part of program in Master of Urban Design, under my guidance.

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Date

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines how temporary public fairs, usually short-term and event-focused, can be redesigned and adapted into permanent, inclusive urban public spaces. Public fairs often act as lively, short-lived activities that energize urban areas and bring people together. **Yet these temporary setups contain unused potential to become long-term public spaces on inactive days while maintaining core function.**

This study looks at ways to convert public fairs into permanent spaces that improve accessibility, support inclusivity, and strengthen social life with clear understanding on spatial & functional context, fairground typologies, built forms of the existing fairs , current alternative uses and potential to use on non fair days. Using urban design theory, case studies, and community based planning methods, the research argues that combining the spatial, cultural, and social qualities of fairs with permanent public infrastructure can support civic participation, cultural activities, and local economic growth.

It identifies the main features that make fairs popular and inclusive, such as accessibility, flexibility, and community interaction. By studying these factors, the research proposes a framework for **applying urban design principles to make sense public fair as public space**. Public fairs have long been energetic but temporary reflections of community culture, social life, and trade. Even though they last for a short time, these events often show strong potential to activate unused urban areas and support inclusive public experiences.

This dissertation investigates how public fairs in modern cities can help shape the long-term design of inclusive urban public spaces on inactive days while conserving it main function. Using spatial analysis, stakeholder discussions, and on site observation, the research shows how planners and designers can rethink fairgrounds and informal gathering areas as multifunctional, community oriented places. The study ultimately encourages a shift in planning approaches; from rigid, top down development to flexible, community-driven placemaking. It provides a set of design and policy guidelines to help

transform the temporary energy of public fairs into lasting, inclusive public spaces that meet the diverse needs of urban communities.

Key Words: Inclusive Urban Public Space, transformative potential of public fairs, urban design principles, accessibility, adaptability, community engagement