

EXAMINATION OF THE BUILT FORM AND FUNCTION OF THE URBAN ALLEYWAYS IN COLOMBO- PETTAH

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
AS A PARTIAL FULLFIMENT OF THE
REQUIRMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE

074080



University of Moratuwa

ප්‍රථමාකාරය
මෙරටේ විශ්ව විද්‍යාලය. 074080
මොරටුව.

P.L.K.P.ALWIS

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

2000

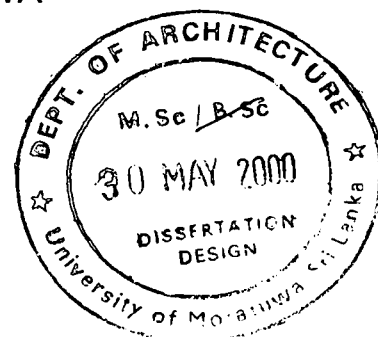
74080

74080

72 "00"

711.7

TH



ABSTRACT

Contemporary cities are largely used by people as a vicinity place rather than living. But in the city public spaces are very important, because these are the places which generate life in the cities, and give characters to them. Urban places should be active and have places for public life and public activities. Squares, spaces of pockets, roads, alleys ...etc provide opportunities for to unfold. Alleyways are spontaneously formed to satisfy the need of particular zone of the city, possess unique characteristics and are distinctive from side works, corridors or arcades, which are familiar urban areas. Unlike streets or pavements, these alleyways are very much human and domestic in their scales. Their characters and activities sustain a greater social interaction. Common situation of alleyways are spontaneous growth of left over open spaces in between buildings, being narrowest corridors of the city street structure, and play a vital role in maintaining the city in its humanistic proportion.

Due to various development process and activities, one of these urban elements 'alleyways' are becoming more and more absolute and unavoidable to public. And contribution to the life of the city have diminished. Therefore urban fabric is endangered. If not possible action is not taken to investigate those problems; the urban fabric of the city of Colombo also consists of large number of alleyways, and those alleyways are not exemption from gradual degradation trends.

And this study examines the changing trends of alleyways, and to propose a set of guidelines to design the alleyways, which can incorporate while doing the urban development and propose suitable action to preserve them.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to appreciate the help and guidance given by all the individuals in many ways in doing this study.

- Arct Prof. Nimal De Silva
- Arct Dr. R Dyarathne
- Arct Dr. S. Manawadu
- Arct Dr.R. Emanuel
- Arct Dr. R Perera

For their guidance, inspiration and encouragement given to me. I am also grateful to U.D.A. staff, inhabitants of research area who give great help to me.

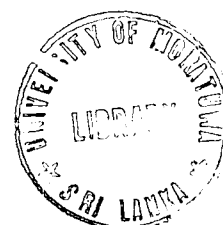
Last but not least, my gratitude affection goes to my dear husband Sarath, my father, mother and sister for their untiring efforts to make my study a success.



EXAMINATION OF THE BUILT FORM AND THE FUNCTION OF URBAN ALLEYWAYS IN COLOMBO

CONTENTS

	Page number
Abstract	i
Acknowledgement	ii
List of illustration	iii
 CHAPTER 1 - Introduction	 1
1.1 Problem/Issue	2
1.2 Justification	3
1.3 Objectives	3
1.4 Method of study	4
 CHAPTER 2 - Characters of alleyways and their formation	 6
2.1 Alleyway - Introduction	7
2.1.1 alleyway - definition	7
2.2 Formation of alleyways	8
2.3 Difference between roads and alleyways	9
2.4 Alleyway as a urban element	12
2.5 Characters of alleyways	13
2.6 Alleyways and pedestrians	15
2.7 Spatial experience and perception	25
2.7.1. As a place of communication	27
2.7.2. As a place of living	28
2.7.3. As a children play area	28
2.7.4. Alleyways and place of worship	29
2.8 Changing faces	29
2.9 Privacy, Identity and territoriality of alleyways	32
2.10 Social order and crime	34
 CHAPTER 3 - The world alleyways	 34
 CHAPTER 4 -case study	 45
4.1 Historical background of Colombo	45
4.2 Present situation	46
4.3 Social life	48
4.4 Case study - alleyways in Pettah	49
4.4.1 Preamble	50
4.4.2 Basis for selection	50
Case study	50
Wolfendal street	56
Hulfs dorp	63
Messenger street	66
Ginthupitiya	66



	Page number
CHAPTER 5 - The changing character of alleyways in Colombo	72
CONCLUSION	76
REFERENCES	32-a, 42-a, 70-a
BIBLIOGRAPHY	79



iii

	Page number
Fig 1-Width to height ratio is important factor of alleyway	6
Fig 2-'Devata' in our village (foot path)	7
Fig 3-Simple and typical road classification	8
Fig 4-Sky as a perceptual ceiling	9
Fig 5-Over hanging bridges balconies and some areas, occupied as drying areas and act as a ceiling/ roof where the people feel 3-D living room	10
Fig 7-Night time activities on alleyways	11
Fig 8-Day time activities on alleyways	11
Fig 9-Thoroughfare –plan of alleyway	12
Fig 10-Thoroughfare-Perspective view of alleyway	12
Fig 11-Cul-de-sac –plan of alleyway	13
Fig 12- Cul-de-sac -Perspective view of alleyway	13
Fig 13- Vehicals are permitted only when they are absolutely necessary	14
Fig 14-Various obstructions does not welcome the motorist	14
Fig 15-Special experience and perception-likely to have high level and enclosure	15
Fig 16-Special experience and perception-likely to be narrow	16
Fig 17-Special experience and perception-likely to have complex spaces	16
Fig 18-Special experience and perception-likely to short or blocked view	18
Fig 19 - Special experience and perception-likely to have highly articulated surfaces of enclosing elements.	20
Fig 20 - Under foot plane	22

Fig 21- Over head plane	23
Fig 22 -Highly complex at the area level	24
Fig 23- Water tap and toilet as a community space	25
Fig 24- Batting center act as community space	26
Fig 25- Shady time period is more than the unshady time period	27
Fig 26- Children play on the small space of the alleyway	28
Fig 27 - One of the coner of alleyway act ass a place of worship	28
Fig 28 - Privacy is limited to the lesser number of elements	30
Fig 29 - Identity and territoriality is achieve by the different way	30-31
Fig 30-Darkness and emptiness of the alleyway encourage the crime	32
Fig 31- The circulation net work comprising through fares and cul-de-sacs -Luca in Tuscany	32
Fig 32- Shushtar in Iran-display the traditional Islam pattern of residential Cul-de-sacs and rare sinuous through streets, bordered by the walls of courtyards centered houses.	33
Fig 33- Over looking visual corridors generated by openings and hights	34
Fig 34-The sequential progression strengthened by light and shadow in a through way alley. Also note the different supporting systems of Sabat.	35
Fig 35-The zone of lowest level becomes a nonentity Pakistan	36
Fig 36- Shaded alleyways (result of external projections)	37



Fig 37- 'Earth quakes being more violent in Greece and Italy than in the rest of Europe, flying buttresses are a familiar sight in the streets.	37
Fig 38- The narrow winding alleys instead catch the gentral breeze, even bracing against the stormy blast.	38
Fig 39- The white terraces slope down to the sea leaving pathways and alleys inbetween on Santorini, also known as Tera, Greece	38
Fig 40- Colombo location map	48
Fig 41-Between main arteries, alleys run deep in to the inner city	51
Fig 42-Plan of the main alleyway which consist of activity pockets	52
Fig 43-Cul-de -sac form alley	52
Fig 44-Brached thpe alley	53
Fig 45- Alley act as informal busness place at the evening	54
Fig 46-People and there actuivity – informal sector employees at Wolfendal street	54
Fig 47-There individuality and privacy demarcate by the 'bata palala'	55
Fig 48-Individuality and identity within the context of an underlying territoriality Wolfendal street	55
Fig 49-Space which encorage the crime	56
Fig 50-Way of connection of alley to the main road	57
Fig 51-Transformation of alley row house	57
Fig 52-Spacelessness of the alley-house, thjs formqation is discourge the extention	58
Fig 53-Small cooking space in a house	58

Fig 54-Communal wash space	59
Fig 55-Shrine in alley	59
Fig 56-Entrance to main alley in Hulfsdorp	60
Fig 57-Topographical variation experianced in Hulfs-dorp	60
Fig 58-Informal sector employee and thoroughway alley which connected the main artory	60
Fig 59-Communal wash space Hulfs dorp	61
Fig 60-Different cement concreate tile paving showing their identity	62
Fig 61-Spaces which encorage the crime	62
Fig 62- Series of steps which discourage vehicles	63
Fig 63-One of the edge demarcate by blank wall and other is row houses	64
Fig 64- Steped alley discourage the vehicular traffic through that and encourage the pedestrians	65
Fig 65- Houses located in bothsides are faced to each other. Its encorage the social ointeractions.	65
Fig 66-Branched alleys which shoows the differential pattern of neighbourhood	66
Fig 67-Topogrhical variations experienced in Ginthupitiya area	67
Fig 68- Row housews are facing to the cement rendered alley path	67
Fig 69-Alley- full of day today activity	68
Fig 70- Informal gathring after the funeral	68
Fig 71-Over head elements and dead end alley	68
Fig 72- Communal wash place and its encorage the social interactions	69
Fig 73- Informal sector employment	69
Fig 74-Colonial building encircling the residential enclaves	69



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

CHAPTER –1

INTRODUCTION



CHAPTER –1

INTRODUCTION

Contemporary cities are largely used by people as a vicinity place rather than living. From early in the morning people come to the cities for their day today activities, there business, and their works and, end of the day the most cities become empty and lack of activities.

In the city public spaces are very important, because these are the places which generate life in the cities, and give characters to them. Urban places should be active and have places for public life and public activities. Squares, spaces of pockets, roads, alleys ...etc provide opportunities for life to unfold.

Alleyways which are spontaneously formed to satisfy the need of particular zone of the city, possess unique characteristics and are distinctive from side walks, corridors or arcades, which are familiar urban areas.

Generally alleyways are formed by high walls and building, facades, physically confining movement of people. Unlike streets or pavements, these alleyways are very much human and domestic in their scales. Their characters and activities sustain a greater social interaction. Eye to eye contact, special experience unconstrained disturbances, and compromise, all proven to be a unique set of identities and complied excitement within the range of activities, there exist public, semi public and private zones quite coherently. Common situation of alleyways are spontaneous growth of left over open spaces in between buildings, being narrowest corridors of the city street structure, alleyways play a vital role in maintaining the city in its humanistic proportion.

Due to various development process and activities, one of these urban element 'alleyways' are becoming more and more absolute and unavoidable to public. Urban alleyways, which contribute to the life of the city, have diminished.

Problem

Alleyways which have been an integral part of an urban fabric is endangered by new development programs.

Role and function of the alleyways in an urban fabric have been disregard by many a professionals, and they don't have understand the space in terms of special experience and value of that, thus causing their extinction in the near future.



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

That alleyways be employed a tool, when design the cities and urban spaces. Then the contribution made by alleyways as an element of urbanity and as a useful catchment for the pedestrian who are over grown, squeezed, out of pavements and side walks as well as a transitional urban space will disappear soon.

If not the sustainable action are taken to investigate the problem; the urban fabric of the city of the Colombo also consist of large number of alleyways, and those alleyways are not exemption from gradual degradation trends.

The cities various quarters accommodate alleyways, which are distinctive in characteristics yet are facing similar threats of extinction.

And this study examine the changing trends of alleyways, and to propose set of guidelines to design the alleyways, which can incorporate while doing the urban development and propose suitable action to preserve them.

Justification

In Sri Lanka unfortunately most of those alleyways are occupied by urban poor. Those alleyways are used only by people who live their and who tend to acquired some spaces from the alleyways it self to built their domestic places, diminishing their public use. But most of those alleyways are linked two major roads or direct to the important places. So if those can be make to use of other pedestrians, who come to the city, it will also contribute to reduce the motor traffic congestion along the street. By the introducing certain amenities and facilities can minimise the social unhealthy activities and by providing planed places, they may comfortable in psychologically and physically.

Despite those alleyways are facing many threats and endangered their existence, it has not been brought to the concerns of relevant authorities. Either no or little research has been carried out to use alleyways as a planing tool, or to enliven them in modern cities. This high time to examine those alleyways and see the possibilities of incorporating them in planing cities with socially and physically concern manner.

Objectives

The intention of this research is;

- To investigate and emphasize the importance of documentation on the urban alleyway.

- Examine architectural characteristics, form of space and their contribution, to the urban fabric of Colombo.
- Further it is intended to evaluate their role and to identify positive means of their preservation in order to retain the city fabric with both socially and physically. And
- Proposed the guidelines to urban development programmes, to preserve or develop those alleyways in proper manner.

Method of study

This method of study is concentrated on four distinctive zones of alleyways in Colombo - Pettah namely;

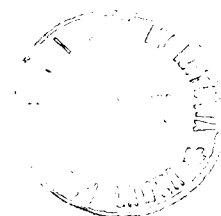
- Alleyways of Wolfendal street
- Alleyways of Messenger street
- Alleyways of Jinthupitiya street
- Alleyways of Hulfsdorp street
- Alleyways of Chekku street

Building mapping, activity mapping, interviewing the people, observation, photographic study and sketches are the techniques, which used to this study.

This method of study was developed to achieve the objectives and consisting of following;

The built form of the alleyways including out door spaces and their activities in relation to neighboring alleyways and roads.(space interms of spatial experience)

Investigate the relationship between indoor spaces of living units and their activities in relation to abutting alleyways and commonly used other open spaces.



Analysis of the relationship between space of indoor living units and outdoor common activity spaces.

Other social functions and crime rate which are related to the spaces.

Proposed and appropriate methodology to preserve them both physical and social context, after examining similar case studies both Sri Lankan and abroad.



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk





University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

CHAPTER – 2

CHARACTERISTICS OF ALLEYWAYS AND THEIR FORMATION



CHAPTER – 2

CHARACTERISTICS OF ALLEYWAYS AND THEIR FORMATION

2.1 Alleyway –Introduction

According to the description of Christopher Alexander (1977 p.490) ; an alleyway reckons the meaning of a highly enclosed public or private street usually organized in organic manner, facilitating a higher degree of flexibility and humanistic relationship to surrounding. The width is always much narrower than the height enclosure of the alley thus making it unique, among other channels in the pedestrian zone, through the narrowness permit only limited movement inside on alley, such special quality is of vital importance. As he describes that the pedestrian streets which seem most comfortable, are the once whose width does not exceed the height of the surrounding buildings.

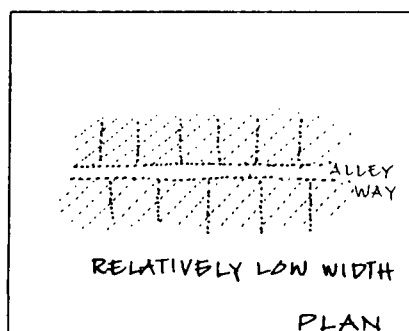
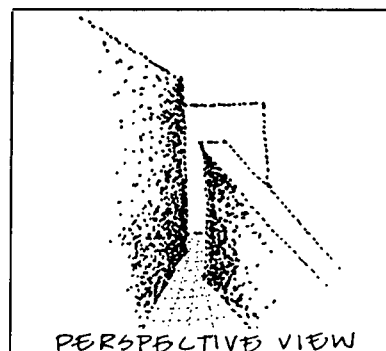
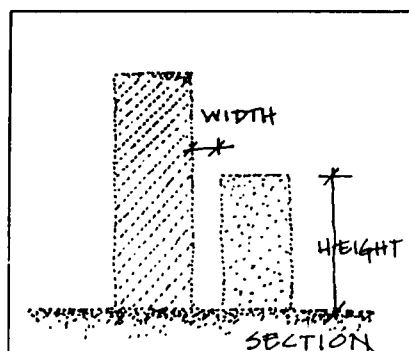


Fig 1 width to height ratio is important factor of alleyway

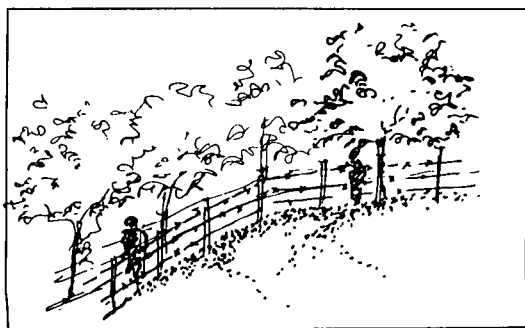
"Alleyway" in the sociological point of view, is an appreciative social dimension as far as the inner-city dwellers are concerned. The strong social cohesion developed by inhabitants based on the alley to meet common pursuits it obviously covered by the street facades of many towns. Highly versatile norms governing the behavioral pattern, social security, territoriality and privacy; are lined up along the alleyway in a silently known only to those who are thoroughly acquainted with or accustomed to it.

2.1.1 Alleyway – Definition

In simply alley way is narrow parth. But it is kind of street, unlike streets it is very much human and domestic in there scale , formed by high walls and buildings on both side confining movement of people. It should have considerably long stretch and possibly short cut for one social space to a another.

Considering our foot path ('Devata') in village, difference from the alleyway because of it has not built space beside the path. But other characters such as narrowness, human and domestic scale, confining movement of people. Long stretch and possibly short cut are can identified their also. Instead of high walls or building that foot path ('Devata') is confining by fence consist with trees. There fore it is not a alleyway.

Fig 2 - 'Devata in our village (foot path)



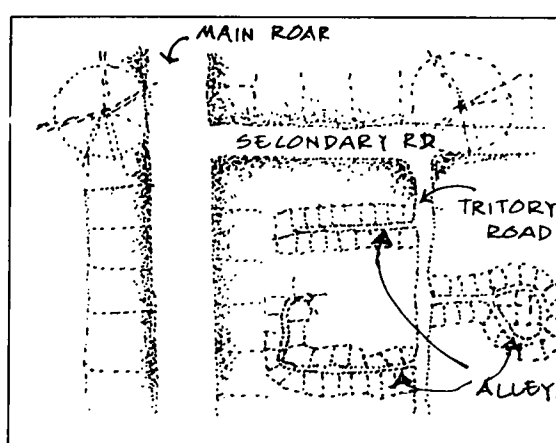
Alley have often been an accidental out come of over urbanization. In relation of the 3rd world urban scene in particular, when the inner city dencified with population of unabsorbable population due to rural migration, the urge for alleyways felt beyond the bare necessity of providing an access route.

Left over open spaces which were unobstructed, between building or boundaries in urban areas that make no positive contribution to the surrounding or for the users become the catchment for pedestrian alleyways. The ownership of such spaces happen to be quite oblique due to ill defined and unmesurable boundaries of less importance and are usually considered to be lost spaces in the city.

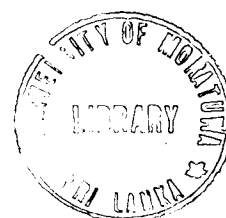
In eastern urban context, these spaces are rich in complexity, regulations namely road reservation, building reservation, fire gaps and rear spaces, usual in house alleys in many cities.

2.3 Deference between roads and alleyway

Fig 3 - simple and typical road classification



Roads have hyrachial order. Considering the scale of those, alleys are in lower level, because it is in small scale. But roads are



in above. Road may demarcate by the buildings, walls, water bodies, trees or forests...etc, and roads have more traffic, movement of people and other street elements. But in alley ways it should obviously define by the high walls or buildings and it has lack of vehicular movement and full of pedestrian which are dweller or others.

2.4 Alleyways as an urban element

Alleyways are kind of streets. The streets are main element in the urban context and it play important role there.

Wiltod Rybezynti (in Design America creating urban entity) said " If is reminded that cities are made up first of all streets, and that prime functions of urban building is to define these streets."

Gestalt psychological point of view is " the street is a part of an urban texture and a space lined with buildings on either side. Due to the high density and height of the built environment and interrelation ship of the flanking buildings, the streets can be perceived as closed where the sky acts as a perceptual ceiling to the street."

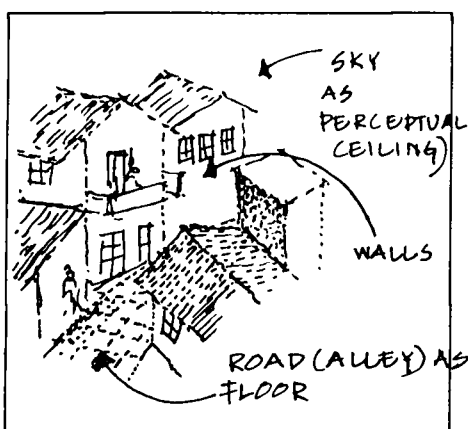


Fig 4 - Sky as a perceptual ceiling

*Fig 5 - over hanging cables
give enclosure sense of
alleyway*

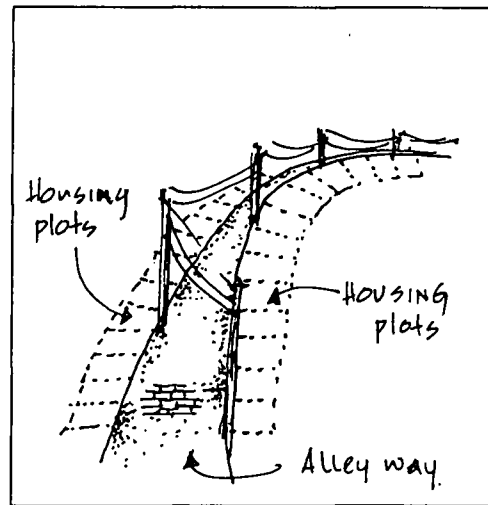


*Fig 6 – over hanging bridges
balconies and some areas
occupied as a drying areas,
act as a ceiling/ roof where
the people feel 3-D living room*



Alley as an urban element; it give life to the city day and night. Most of the cities are full of activities in day time but end of the day it become empty, but due to those urban alleyways in this context fulfill the life of the city in end of the day also. Alley as an urban element it should have livability component also.

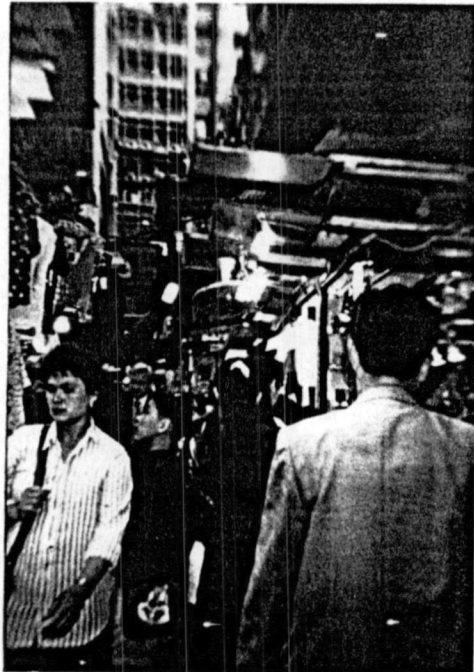


*Fig 7 Night time activity of
alleyway*



*Fig 8 Day time
Activity of
alleyway*

Rudolf A. describe that livability in architectural point of view
 "Architecture need breathing space. If the street is too narrow
 buildings facing each other will step on the toes of their opposite
 number and squeeze inter space unpleasantly. (Rudolf A. (1977)
 the Dynamics of Architectural Form)

But *ibid.* (p484) say like this; "Finally, it should be noted that the pedestrian streets which seen most comfortable are the once where the width of the street does not exceed the height of surrounding buildings."

2.5 Classification of alleyways

According to their physical layout it can be categories in to two. There are;

Thoroughfare

Cul-de-sac

Thoroughfare



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

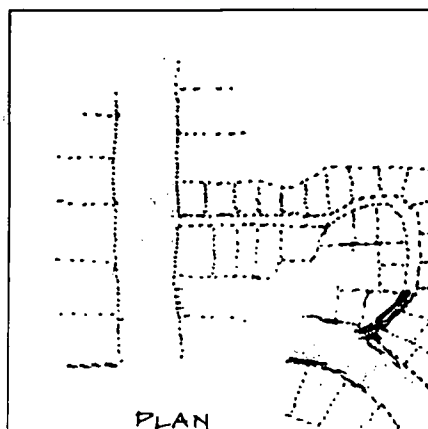


Fig 9 Thoroughfare - plan

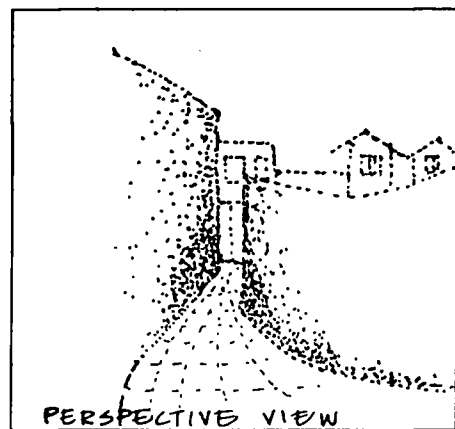


*Fig 10 Thoroughfare -
Perspective view*

This elongates units, it connects public gathering places and thoroughfare is more or less public places, because it has through movement frequently of dwellers or other pedestrians.

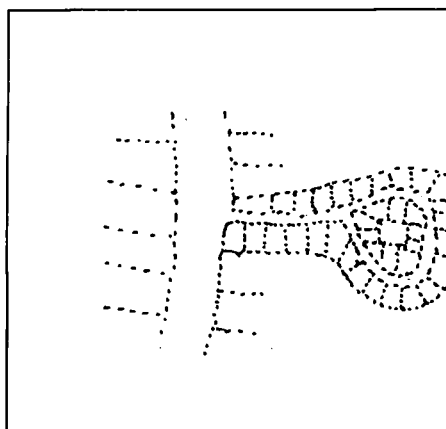


*Fig 11 Cul-de sac- plan of
alleyway*

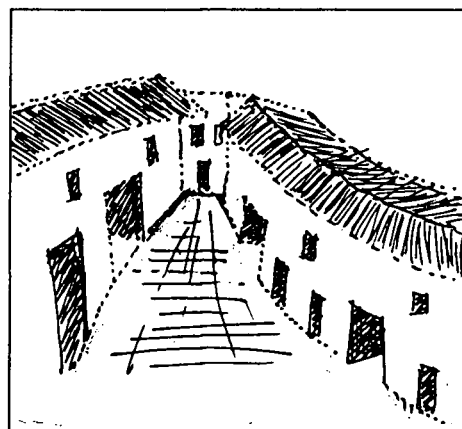


*Fig 12 Cul-de sac perspective
view of alleyway*

This terminates at a privately owned niche to seal of the permeability and remain semi public serving a limited society belonging to an identifiably similar sub culture.

2.6 Alleyways and pedestrians

Alleyway is kind of a street. But it is narrowest than normal street. Limited categories of vehicles use the alley wherever and wherever it is possible and permit. Especially vehicles such as three-wheelers motor scooters, bicycles..., which are popular among the lower social strata, are occasionally seen in an alleyway. Accessibility of such vehicles seems important as far as the alley

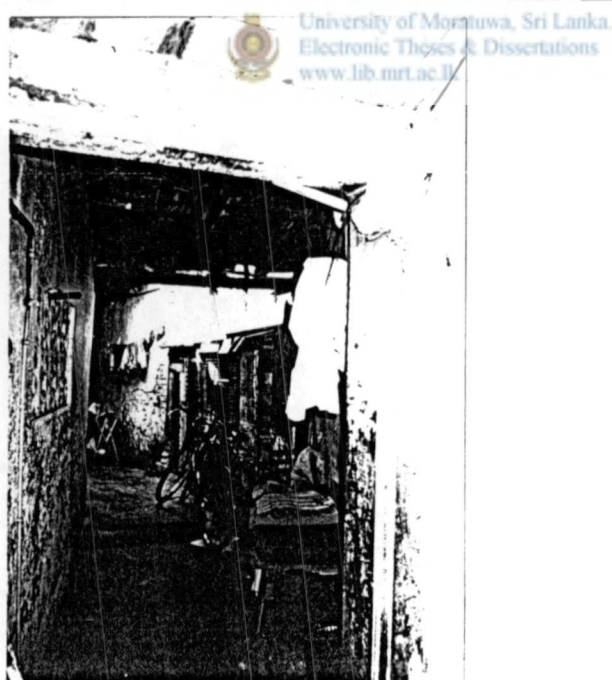


dweller is concerned, as it becomes quite useful in event of a function or an emergency.

Vehicles are permitted only when they are absolutely necessary. Otherwise alleys are more in favor of pedestrians.



Fig 13 Vehicles are permitted only when they are absolutely necessary



Therefore various measures are being taken to discourage vehicular movement inside. In some sections of towns or city,

vehicles are admitted only during a limited period of time, which is usually in the mornings or evenings often under the supervision by inhabitants them selves.

As well as the narrows and high enclosure of those alleys, would not allow many vehicles enter on to that. The sharp angular turns characterized in organic patterns, change of levels, series of steps varying widths and various obstructions does not welcome the motorist at all.

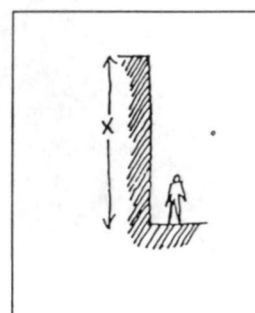


Fig 14 Various Obstructions does not welcome the motorist.

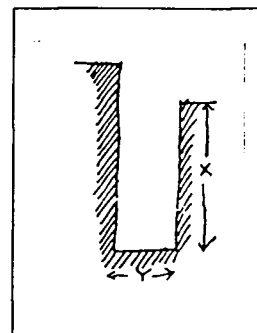
2.7 Special experience and perception

Fig 15 - A Likely to have high levels and enclosure.

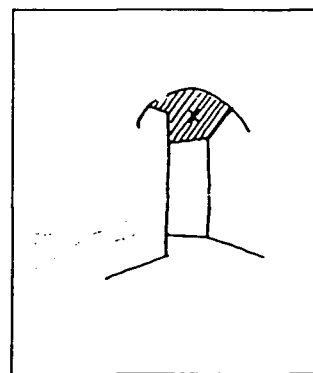
- (i) Enclosing elements likely to be tall



- (ii) Vertical width/ height
Ratio



- (iii) Low percentage
of sky visible



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Fig 16

(B) Likely to be narrow

Relatively low width

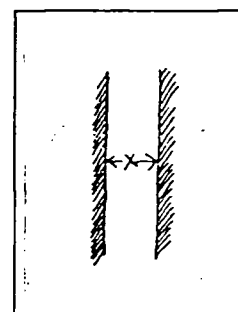
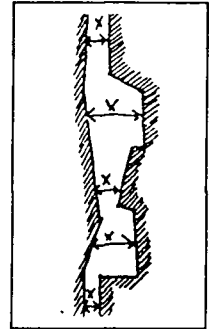


Fig 17

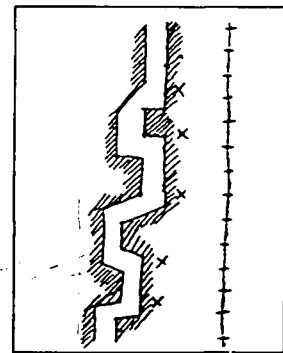
(A) Likely to have complex spaces, i.e, many potential noticeable
difference (sudden changes transitions of various sorts)



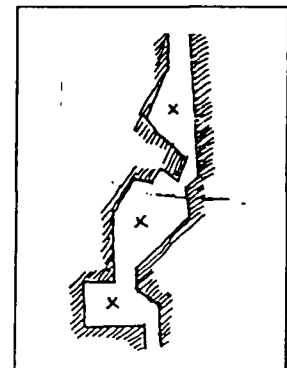
- (i) Variation in width,
hence variation among
minimum, maximum and
average width.



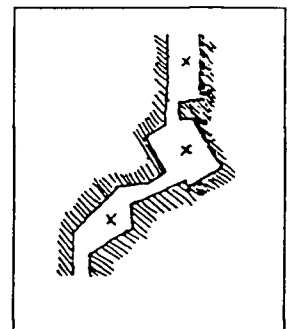
- (i) Many turns and twists
per unit length within
a given space



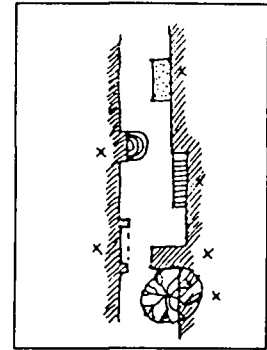
- (ii) Articulation of space – hence
space made up of a
sequence of subspace



- (iii) High contrast among
these spaces and in
those sequences.



- (iv) Presence of major projecting elements
(buildings trees, doorways etc)



- (v) Large number of projecting elements
per unit length

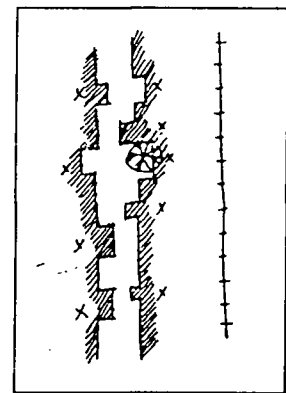


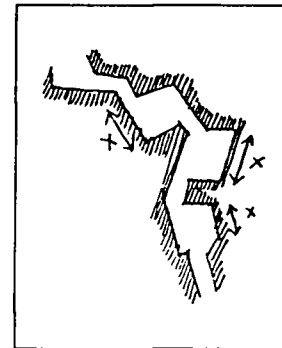
Fig 18



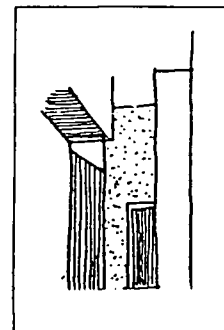
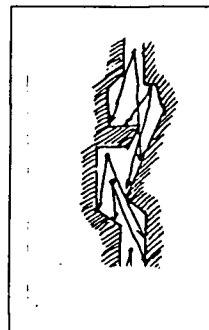
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

(B) *Likely to have short or blocked views.*

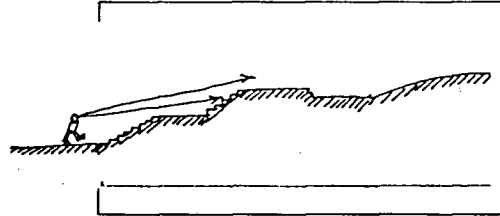
- (i) Short sub spaces



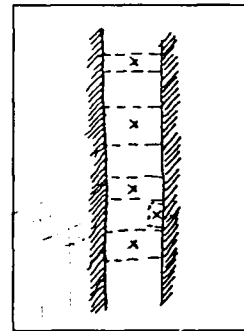
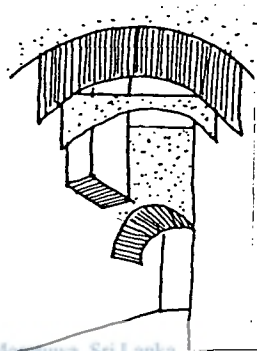
- (ii) Limited length of views,
hence division in to
segments, defined by
horizontal blocking or
by use of angles or
overlapping planes



- (iii) Use of level changes
to block views vertically

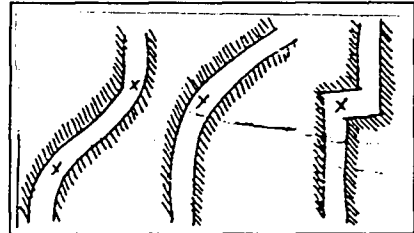


- (iv) Use of over head
elements



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

- (v) Use of bends, curves ,
and angles



- (vi) Use of cross streets

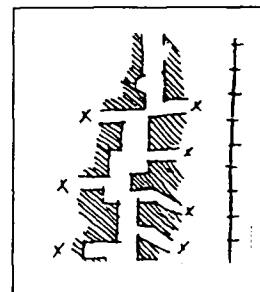
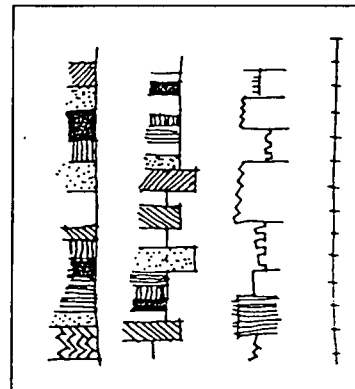


Fig19

(C) Likely to have highly articulated surfaces of enclosing elements

(1) Side planes

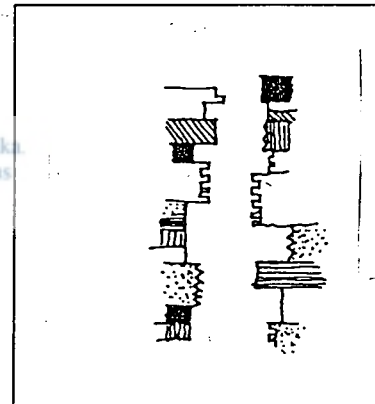
- (i) Large number of elements or units per unit length, hence fine grain of enclosing surfaces (small module, variegated treatment, irregular set back, etc)



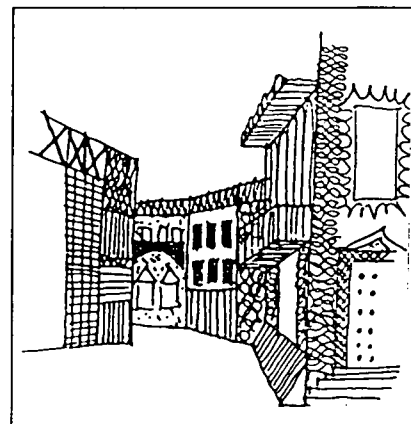
- (ii) High overall visual texture of enclosing surfaces.



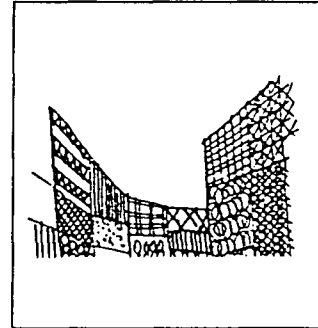
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk



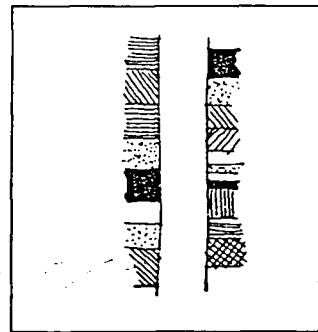
- (iii) Rich treatment of each individual unit, hence rich detail, cornices, steps, porches, doorways, balconies, windows, and other projecting or three dimensional elements.



- (iv) Use of highly textured Materials

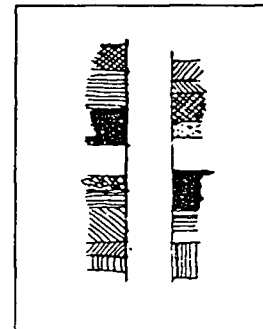


- (vii) Use of variety of materials

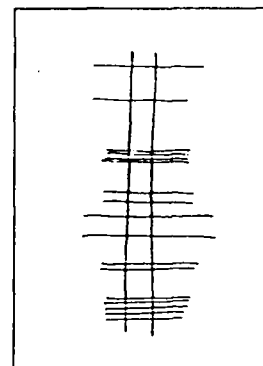


University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

- (vi) Use of different colours



- (viii) Use of irregular rhythms



Use of sudden or /abrupt changes

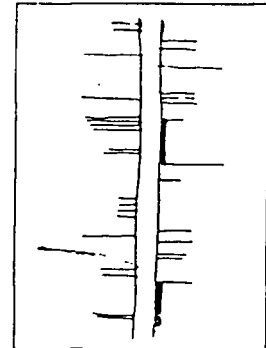
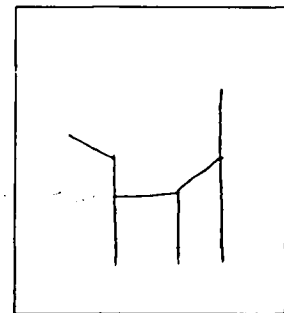


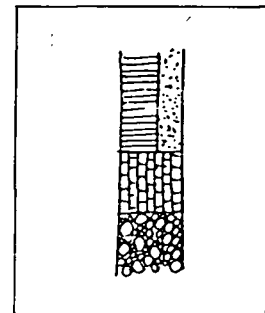
Fig 20

(2) *Under foot plane*

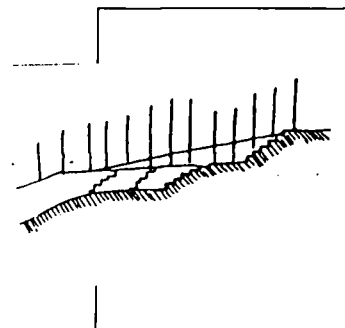
- (i) Use of highly textured materials compatible with walking (or to indicate non walking areas)



- (ii) Use of a variety of textures and materials



- (iii) Changes in level ramps steps , slopes, vertical curves



- (iv) Changes in light and shade

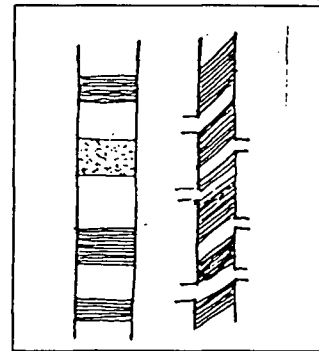
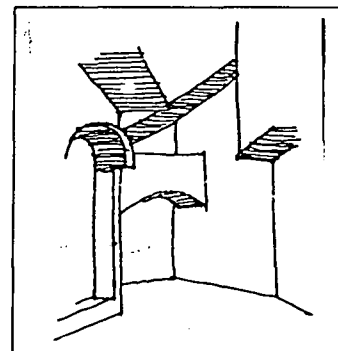


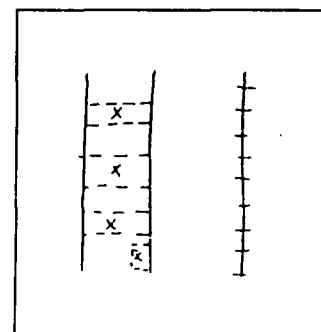
Fig 21

(3) Over head planes

- (i) presence of projecting elements overhead roof, over hangs, awnings, arches and bridging passages over streets; balconies etc.



- (i) Large number of overhead elements per unit length



- (ii) complex and intricate roof lines, chimneys etc.

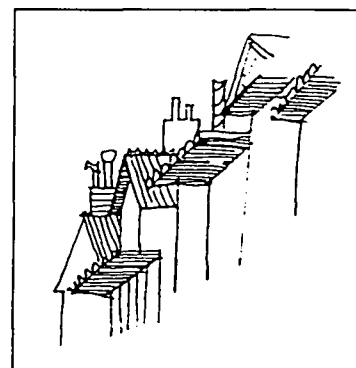
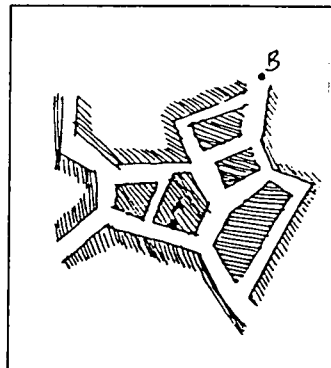


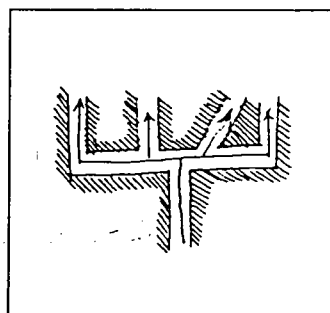
Fig 22

(D) *Highly complex at the area level*

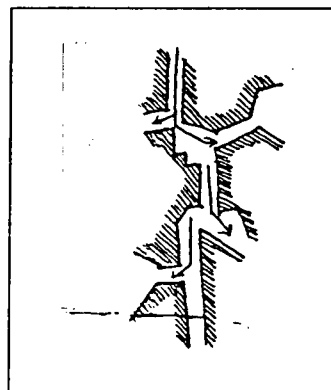
- (i) Large number of possible path



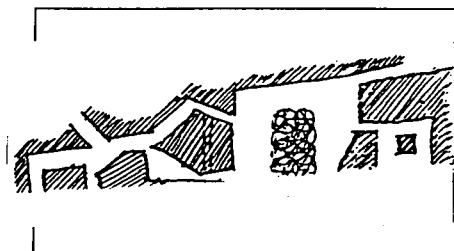
- (ii) Large number of possible points



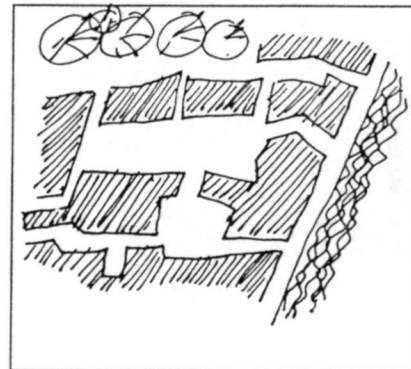
- (iii) Indirect views hinting at further spaces (streets, courts, plazas etc)



- (iii) Sequences of different spaces at the area levels



- (iv) High contrast among spaces at area level.



2.7.1 As a place of communication and as a community space

Alleyway is a kind of street. Because of that Anderson, V.M. had said:

"Streets are component of urban communication system, the means of moving objects, people and information from one sector to another." Anderson, V.M. (1986) p 86

Dwelling units which are often not serviced by pipe born water, completely depend on the water tap or well provided for the entire community, at a corner of the alley.



Fig 23 Water tap and toilet as a community space

*Fig 24 Batting center
act as a community
space*



Then common wash place found in disperse is a feature of an alley. It becomes a neighborhood meeting places and exchange the ideas and chatting with others, apart from its role as a service center. Toilet facilities are also incorporated in the communal wash places. They squat, they bath, and they wash all along the alley. Under the big tree or any adequate open space are act as communication center. All formal and informal meetings are held on there.

People meet and another at their door steps which directly open to the alley. They can hardly miss a single face living in the neighborhood as it passes only a couple of feet away, the most , a few times a day.

Alleyways often shed the community functions such as parties, weddings and funerals. Temporary canopies made to run along a few meters in such occasions, form covered alleyways,



even at the compromise or rather a co-operation fully extended by its neighbors.

2.7.2 As a place of living

The alleys become their only open space in the absence of rear space or courtyard, they automatically draw towards the alley to enjoy the natural light and ventilation, as the interior is glooming and stuffy. Therefore an alleyway draws up much of living room activity to the out side, when the weather is fine and privacy is reasonably assured. Especially in cul -de sacs types, where the street is free from trespasses, dwellers are likely to bring out their activities, along with the furniture. This is quite common in third world urbanities those under the threat of sub- human conditions, where buildings sit back to back letting no open spaces in between.

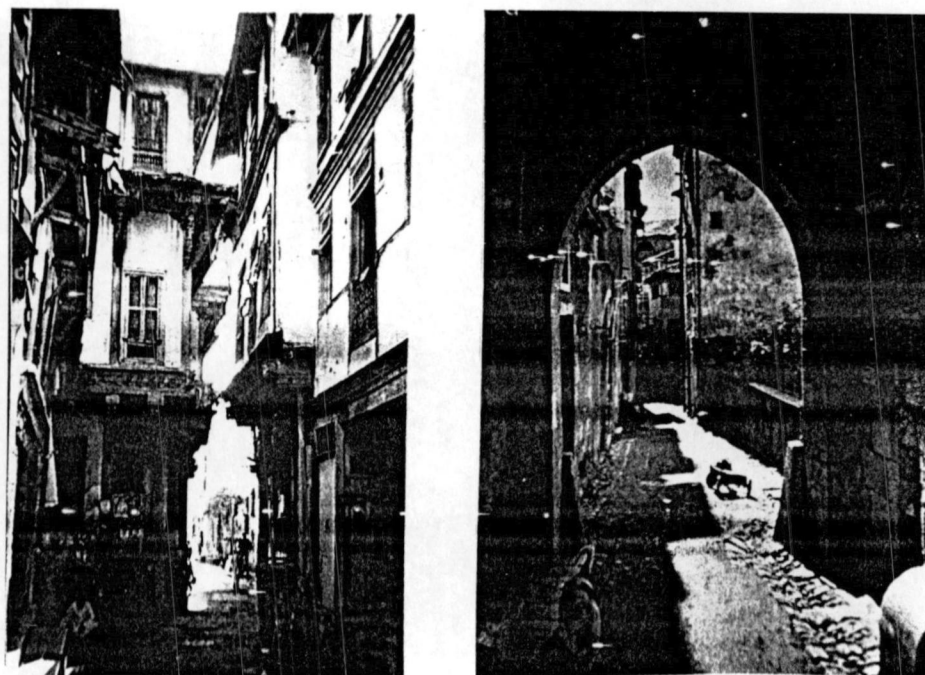
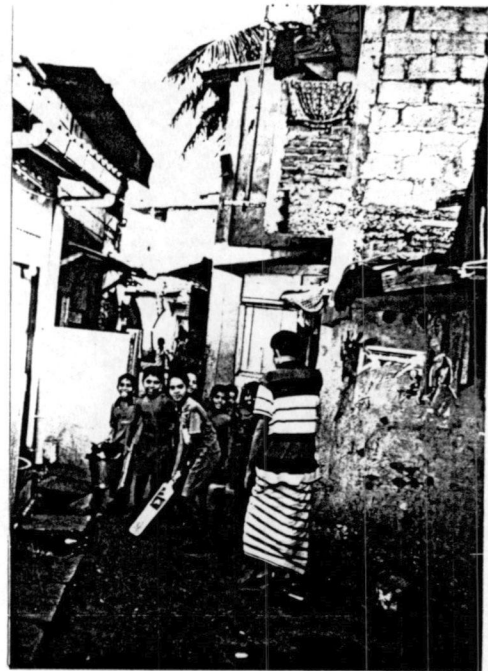


Fig 25 Shady time period is more than the unshady time period

2.7.3 As a children 's play space

Fig 26 Children play on the
Small Space of the alleyway



Due to lack of vehicular movement inside, the children of the inhabitants find an ideal playspace in the meandering alleyways. It is usually a multi sport playground where it can accommodate almost any play with modifying conditions and rulers confined to alleyway dimensions. Elders oversee the children's play comfortably sitting along the narrow house fronts.

2.7.4 Alleyways and place of worship

Fig 27 One of the coner of alleyway
Act as a place of worship



Those alley inhabitants are belong to various sub cultures and faith in religious, beliefs and rituals. To make an enabling space for such rituals or for the daily worship[p, they manage to accommodate a shrine quite generously still on the alley. Some shrines are very very small for adequate to the number of devotees.

2.8 Changing faces of alleys

Alleyways transform in to various moods, in changing needs of the alley dwellers. Because community living is susceptible to varying trade-off and compromise from time to time. More over, the common spaces are very much unlikely to fix to one specific function often making different spaces for different function.

2.9 Privacy ,Identity and Territoriality of alleyways

Privacy remains the greatest challenge in any kind of neighborhood - living. However, for the people of alleys, privacy does not exits so strong as it is for any other social grouping. The attitudes towards shares spaces have modified their lifestyles and weekend the degree of privacy to a great extent. The size of openings and positioning of doors and windrows, raised platforms and covered corridors have ensured the privacy wherever they need it as a necessity.

The alley becomes symbolic of a territory, even if not in a legal sense, to which one feels a belonging, sense of pride and responsibility, while protecting each resident's right to be left alone, and respecting his private domain. Dwellers are identified according to their location, the ward in urban quarters, and therefore by there territory. The intermittent clashes concerning these territories for

reasons such as marriages within the territory, disputes...etc frothier strengthens the concepts of territoriality.

*Fig 28 Privacy is limited to the
Lesser number of elements*



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

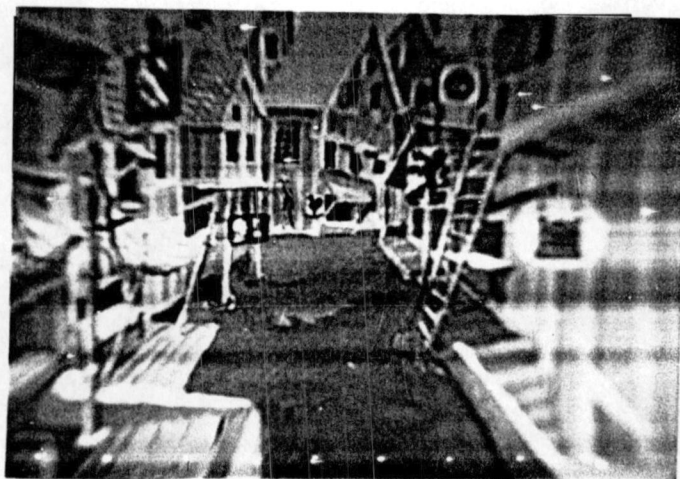


*Fig 29 Identity and
Territoriality
achieve by
different way*



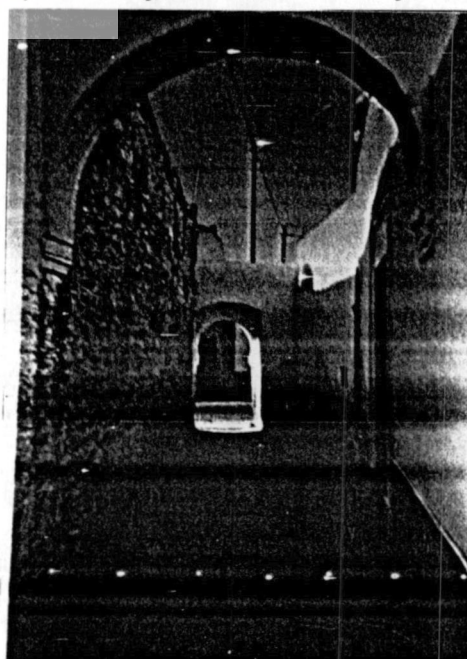
The starting point of every alley is an entrance or gateway to an distinctive territory, within each territory. The dwelling units therefore are in the continuos process of making the identity with their financial capacity and aesthetic taste in the person of locational relationship ensured by the organic layout.

For instance" come straight through the main gate, down the main path and turn into second little gate the small one with blue grill work. You cant miss my door" Alexander , C (1977) p 481

2.10 Crime and social order

People who live this highly density and poverty of them, are always proven to be crime prone. There fore this negative aspect of alleyways and their high tendency for crime and violence, illustrate unavoidable out come of dilapidated urban living conditions often found in many cities. Not only that, there are various social evils also take place in there. Despite alley dwellers being reasonable for many of the criminal offences and violences of the city, they also posses an clear set of norms within an internal formal structure of their own which is approved and respected by the wider society.

Fig 30 Darkness and emptiness of the alleyways encourage the crime



Lacking anything like a daily agenda, these social groups operate on amoral assumptions and precedents embedded in a

larger matrix of lower class values and roles that serve as a positive incentive for their behavior.



REFERANCES

- 1 Alexander, Christopher. A Pattern Language, New York, Oxford University Press, (1977), P.481 ,P490
- 2 Appleyard, Donald. Livable street, California, University of California Press ,1981)
- 3 Correa, Charles. The New Landscape, Bombay, The Book society of India,(1985)
- 4 Jacobs, J. 'Death and Life Of Greart American Cities, New York, Random House,(1961).
- 5 Jacobs A.B. Great street, United State , America MIT Press, (1993).
- 6 Rapoport, Amos. History and Precedent in Environmental design, New York, Plenum Press, (1990).
- 7 Rudofsky, Bernard. Architecture without Architects, New York. Doubleday & Company, Inc, (1969).



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.moratuwa.lk





University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

CHAPTER 3

THE WORLD OF ALLEYWAYS

CHAPTER -3

The world of alleyways

In some point in the history of human settlement, and in part of the world, natural paths of passage become highway. But in earlier, due to lack of vehicular people have to walk by their own foot oftenly. There fore they made that in easier way to walk in short time and short cut. There were those alleyways and that is the way formed world alleyways.

A little later at Hacilar, also in Asian Minor, narrow lanes appear for the pedestrians. Perhaps the fact that the town was now fortified made it possible to have open areas among housing groups over public spaces persisted in the pre-industrial world. It applied to Eskimo Igloos and other American villages and traditional villages in the middle east and Asia. In earlier Mohenjo Daro, the Harrappan city of Indus valley, the distinguished from the alleys. Parallel or at right angles to them, or which the houses fronted.

Mostly or in some cases alleyways configure entirely governed by the constant requirements relating to the life style of its inhabitants, with their respective architectural elements created within the context of a culture. To support such practice, communities endure a social cohesiveness and homogeneity incomparable with any other form of communal arrangement, which has enabled to share common interests and values among them. In this respect the model of traditional Islamic city, is proven to be an excellent candidates. The uniform legislative guidelines

moulded owing to an almost identical socio cultural frame work created by Islam, helped produce remarkable similarities in approach to the city building process throughout the vast geographic region of the Islamic world.

The city comprising of bulk of housing, supporting neighborhood facilities and related access routes (dominated in the form of alleyways) needs to be properly understood, in order to appreciate the three dimensional nature and quality of the Islamic city. The existence of a vital, yet sub conscious, language of physical elements cutting across all scales of the city and making up an agile set of components is highly versatile in its combination. It assumes a direct interpretation of usage and function.



University of Birmingham
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.bham.ac.uk

Fig 31-The circulation network comprising through fares and Cul -de sacs - Luca in Tuscany.



Regarding the access routes Selim Hakim (1986) in his book 'Arabic Islamic cities', has identified the twofold alleys found throughout the structure of these cities. It is quite interesting to trace the originality that determined the width height and other related streets elements., to understand that they 've all been made due to pure necessity and well being of each and every user and what was

approved in sayings of Prophet. The dimensions were moulded according to the instance of its existence.

In relation to the city of Baghdad it can be observed that traditional courtyard houses and traditional courtyard houses and meandering alleyways, produced by their layouts, prevail over the entirely.

The Islamic city worked it self subject to the respect for custom, ownership and the Muslim right to visual privacy. Among various measures entended to satisfy domains of high privacy, visual corridors within alleys were deliberately avoided, often making the appearance of introverted courtyard houses towards the access, unimportant. The positioning of doors and windows eliminated the harm created by visual over looking, to protect the female strangers.

Fig 32 Shushtaan in Iran - display the traditional Cul-de-sacs and rare sinous through streets, bordered by the walls of courtyards centered houses. Juxtaposed to this delicate net are wide straight streets and traffic roundabout typical of the Hussmasnnizing houses standing where there were once tieres of seats and the arena serving as a market place. Kostof, S. p (1992)



When looking at the world, alleys are found serving an unmatched purpose in function and formation of cities, holding many reasons pertaining to the situation for their existence, that

makes precedent essential to evaluate their validity, usefulness and importance.

Under varying circumstances, numerous influences have occurred in shaping the cross-sectional and longitudinal variations of alleys. These governing principles although distinct from one another have been applied on the alleyways interestingly, striking a perfect balance between unity and diversity for each sitting. The resulting impositions would help to understand its manifestations in terms of overall urban morphology, the knowledge of which is crucial for a successful exercise done today for tomorrow's change. Above the alleyways, the wooden balconies, also referred to as courtyards in the air, however, ensured a reasonable degree of privacy behind the decorative trelliswork in the old city of Jeddah. It is said that they were used by women to sit in, unseen behind the screens during the day, gossiping with neighbors across the narrow alleys. The need for extra space from within buildings, created the *sabat* (a room bridging over) spanning the cul-de-sac, in the instance where both sides of the alley were owned by the same person. A succession of such structures formed a funnel effect and

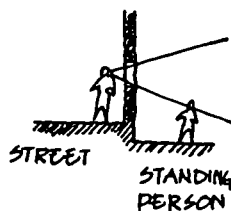
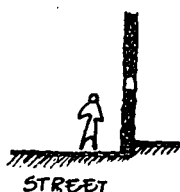
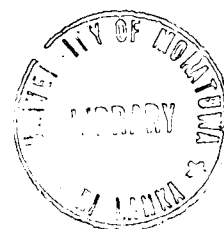


Fig 33- Over- play of sun and shadow along the lengthy alleyways.

looking visual Grouping of attached courtyard houses expressed a degree of interdependence among the neighboring structures, with legally *corridors* attributed matters like party walls and maintenance of cul-de-sacs *generated by* (referred by them as the exterior courtyard jointly owned by the *openings* occupants whose houses opened on to it. Every resident was *and heights* entitled to use the cul-de sac from its mouth (entrance) to his doorway, so that the person whose doorway stood very at the end, was allowed to move his door forward if it did not obstruct others.

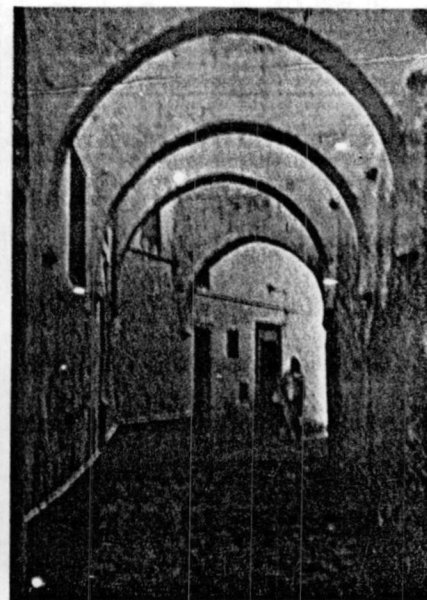




KASAR HALLAL (TUNISIA)



DIEST (BELGIUM)



KAIROVAN (TUNISIA)



VENICE (FRANCE)

Fig 34 The sequential progression strengthened by light and shadow in a throughway alley. Also note the different supporting system of Sabat

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

In India, with nearly 8th century of Islamic political supremacy, from the 10 th century to the pre colonial era, notions of Islamic city had been super-imposed on the Hindu model. As a result, a whole series of cities such as Shahjanabad, Lahore (prior to India being split into two independent states), Bhopal, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad emerged in the Indian sub continent with similar socio cultural attributes unparalleled to those of the Islamic world. In Ahmedabad, comprising the overall urban fabric of generic morphology, however is said to be a network of pols (meaning cluster community lanes; punctuated by gateways in a labyrinthine hierarchy free of wheeled traffic. As Vile Nanda discusses in his research paper titled 'Urbanism, tradition, and continuity in Ahmedabad', people of the same caste profession lived together in pols.

" The pol offered socio-homogeneity, economic stability, security and even opportunity to its inhabitants. This generic morphology is undoubtedly and introverted one with respect to the city at large, yet it is highly extroverted within. While an immediate hostility to strangers, members of other socio-groups or unrelated pols can be experienced, inhabitants of the same pol share a very close existence even on a very mundane level.

Nanda, Vivek (1991) p.28

A resident if this 'walled city' possesses a remarkably different impression of serial vision by two spatial envelops before he enters the public world through alleyways and, his behavior is adjusted to the spatial continuous he occupies. The gain or loss of privacy is related in the expansion contraction, and light dark sequences he is exposed to.



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Fig 35 The zone of lowest level privacy where inhabitant become a nonentity Pakistan



Considering the environment facts there are wide range of geographic regions. They have occurred on alleys in each instance, as modifying influences in shaping the basic form of them.

In the vernacular architecture of Iraq court yard houses were grouped in mass form, to expose an absolute area to sun. this grouping produced alleyways were shadowed by various external projections which helped the out doors cool in summer and protected against rain in winter.

Fig. 36 Shaded alleyways
(resulted external projections)

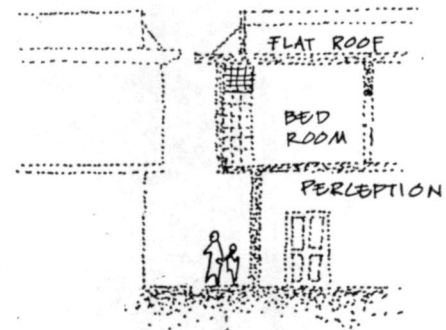
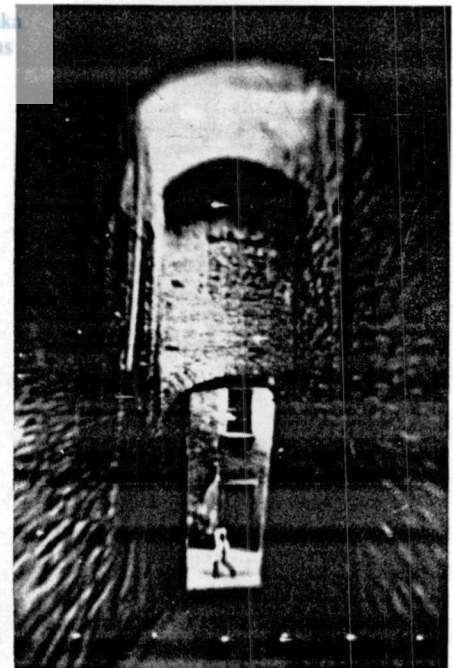


Fig 37-“earth quakes being more violent in Greece and Italy than in the rest of Europe, Flying buttresses are familiar sight in the streets. These arches are often used as substructures for additional floors of a building. The result is the floating flat, by which I mean the part of a house that straddles street: an apartment suspended in mid- air: anchored in houses on both sides of street”

Reidofsky, Bernard (1969) p 250



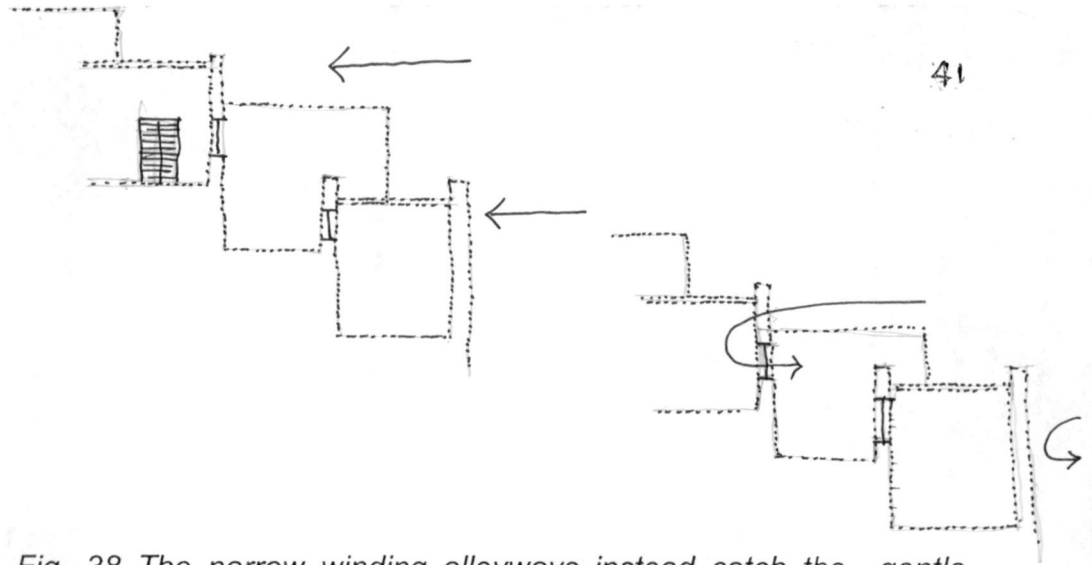
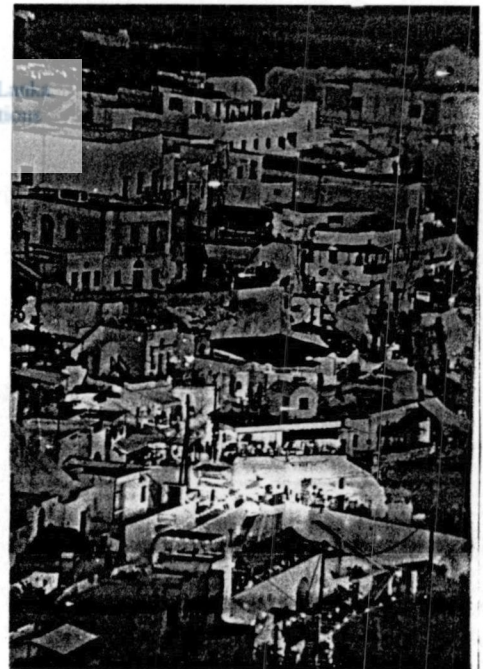


Fig. 38 The narrow winding alleyways instead catch the gentle breeze, even bracing against the strong blasts.

Greek islands celebrate a similar eventual topography.

Fig. 39 The white terraces slope down the sea leaving pathways and alleys in between on santorini, also known as Tera, Greece



The small cul de shaped houses fit on the brink of the crater above one another, upon a steep slope of the left-overs of the eruption forming a terraced composition. They stand retaining the land converting the topographical peculiarity in to a visually

interesting fabric. The cubic units merged together in to solidly built compounds leave unobstructed intervening snakelike paths winding along the periphery, providing along the distance where the compounds are closely knit the path take the configuration of an alleyway. In contrast to dim tunnel like alleyways in Arabic cities these happen to be bright and open. The close juxtaposition and frequent bridging over also provide shading against the surrounding hot therefore less healthy. The narrow winding alleys instead catch the gentle breeze, even, bracing against the 'stormy blast' .



REFFARENCES

- 1 Fonseca, Rory. The walled city of Old Delhi, Shelter and society
Oliver Paul(Ed) London,Barrie and Jenkin, (1969)
- 2 Hakim, B. Selim. Arabic-Islamic Cities, Building And Planing
Principles, London,KPL Limited (1986).
- 3 Kostof, Spiro. The City Assembled, Elements of Urban Form
Through History London, Thames and Hudson Ltd, (1992).
- 4 Kostof, Spiro. The City Shaped, Urban pattern And Meanings,
Through History London, Thames and Hudson Ltd, (1992).
- 5 Rudofsky, Bernard. Architecture without Architects, New York.
Doubleday & Company, Inc, (1969).
 Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk
- 6 Rudofsky, Bernard. Streets For People, New York. Doubleday &
Company, Inc, (1969).

PERIODICALS

- 1 Khan, Hassan-Uddin(Ed.). "Contempory Morrocccon Architecture".
Mimar , vol. xxx , London , Concept media Pte Ltd ,
Oct/Dec , 1986. P
- 2 Khan , Hassan-Uddin(Ed.). "Public Sector Mass Housing".
Mimar, vol. xxx , London , Concept media Pte Ltd , 28 th
June, 1988. P



3 Khan , Hassan-Uddin(Ed.). "The Historic Urban Centre". Mimar,
vol. xxx , London , Concept media Pte Ltd, 24 th June,
1988. P



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

CHAPTER- 4

CASE STUDY

CHAPTER – 4

4.1 - Historical Background of Colombo

Colombo was long used by Arab Traders as a trading center. And its grew in the past five centuries by filling marsh land and cutting back jungle around a bleak coastal headland which was its nucleus. In sense Colombo is a city forced on the peoples of Ceylon in spite of them selves. It was never a creation of their own choice or making. Consequently as cosmopolis, Colombo probably brooks no rival. Even its more recent skyward surge in buildings and its prolific spread of suburbs – which is indeed staggering, bear the hall mark of utilitarian government architecture and no planning or aesthetic considerations. Yet city countries to achieve beauty in its own way in spite of everything. However Colombo is not the design city, but its amalgamation of accidents and historical movements.

4.2 Present situation

Early days, large amounts of unoccupied urban lands are freely available in this Colombo area. But most of those are belongs to government. Therefore people who migrated to the city to find the jobs and who worked at the Colombo and its surrounding area staid those government lands in unauthorized way with temporary shelters.(Those days rich and elite families who lived in this area were shifted their residences to fashionable areas such as Cinnamon garden , Flower Road....etc). In several times, government demolished hose illegal settlements. But day after that, they built those temporary shelters again. After time being, those

lands and temporary shelters belonged to those people according to the right of it's a result of that, most of the temporary buildings become permanent buildings in haphazard way, which built by permanent materials. But it is not totally belongs to people themselves. In previous government some of the houses were built, and give some kind of ownership, which limited to the small piece of card. But those urban poor settlers and settlement give kind of character and kind of life to the urban fabric and to the urban life, and the same time those cohesiveness of the building give some kind of life to the alley and their social interactions.

4.3 Social life

In Sri Lankan situation unfortunately most of those alleyways are occupied by urban poor, and those alleys are used only by people who live there. Some of them are poor enough to be even slum dwellers or quarters, which others possess a reasonable historical as well as locational background, and are comparatively established.

The social segregation and physical separation have inherited neighborhoods identical for such urban situations to meet the common pursuits in general. Despite minor socio cultural differences among inhabitants, they all face common problems and challenges which unite them cohesively in to one strong social entity in the city social structure. Discrimination against neglect have often modified their life style thus generating a distinctive sub culture.

"The protection and creation of livable streets is not simply a matter of increasing the comfort or safety of urban living. The street

have a other functions. As place where most children grow up, it is a crucial mediator between the home and the outside world, where the children learns to confront strangers and environments on his own. It should be respective and reasonably safe environment that the child can explore, manipulate, and use as a setting for all kind of activities. The street has personal and social meaning for adults and old people , too. It symbolize one's position in the world almost as much as the house one lives in and the social relations take place on the street, its potential for neighborliness and street life, are values of urban life to be treasured- when they are wanted we need not romanticize street life to be willing to protect it. Some things that go on in the streets are threatening and antisocial, and some urban dwellers prefer anonymity and privacy , but there are inherent values in encouraging people and facilities who live, in propinquity to work out their relationships without having them suppressed by the presence of passing strangers in motorized vehicles..." Donald Appleyard () p 9

There income is primarily supported by the informal sector employment of the city. The casual livelihood permits them to idle around most of the time and engage in other activities too.

In organization frame work of the each neighborhood has definite hierachial order As the live involvenes more than use of a small room or rather a cell, alleyway works for compensation in this interrelated system of spaces. According to Charles Correa (1985), who points out in this book; the new land scape – in relation to the Indian context, the system is by and large based on four major elements.

- (i) The spaces needed by the family for exclusive private use, such as cooking, sleeping, storage and so forth.

4.4.1. Preamble

The urban population, which is seen growing up in the urban forms, is evident in Sri Lankan context mostly in Colombo, because that is the commercial capital of the country. And urban residential patches are concentrating all over the area between main arteries of circulation. Its close proximity, there are collection of cheap labour at the mercy of commercial establishment and few such locations can be recognized in areas such as Pettah, Maradana, Slave Island, Kotahena, and Mattakkuliya. As important financial districts like Kandy and Galle, there are similar congestion within their city limits. The city of Colombo demonstrating related problems surfaced at their peak level in the most of its inner cities, is an ideal point to set out in readjusting socio economic pressures acting on the environment and vice versa..



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Country's urban development has often been focussed on clear cut one, by widening of the major vehicular routes for easy flow of traffic and providing large open spaces such as playgrounds and parks for public welfare. But things are not used by the entire population and hence do not represent what seems like a positive response to much of the urban problems.

Small open areas between buildings such as alleyways, are instead found to be good community spaces in most of the urban settings. The alleys hidden behind more or less orderly quarters of certain other towns, from semi self governing and nucleated residential wards (divisions of the city)

4.4.2 Basis for selection

The areas that are dealt with here in after have been selected taking in to account their particular location existing situations and importance or value. Some inner cities possess great cultural heritage, strengthened by the societies living within .The other are found functioning at their heights as public transitional spaces, which are essential elements of the city, in terms of pedestrian movement. Alleys containing net works of a mixture of residential neighborhoods and public throughways are found in certain other areas surviving the dual role. Among many other inner cities of Colombo, can be identified Pettah, Maradana and Slave Island as distinct of paying the above roles respectively. But here focussed the attention to Colombo – Pettah area because that was the first appearance place among the other areas.

The selection of the forgoing locations, as a case study can thus work as an effective tool to illustrate the manner in which the changers should occur to strengthen functions they are included to performs, may be advantages in an event of preservation develop, emphasize the contribution to the urban life and evaluation and re-vitalized.

Case study

Wolfendal Street - Petah

SEE PAGE 70 - Q

Formation and Built Environment

Pettah being one of the busiest towns in Colombo. Therefore Wolffendal street is also busiest and well known commercial and residential area. It is popular in certain specialist tread such as

stationary and printing, whole sell goods such as dhal, rise dry fish....etc.

Major road of Wolfendal Street is being taken over the heavy traffic of lorries, buses and other automobiles. The pavements allocated for parking vehicles. There fore road become further narrowed due to that. Hoe ever the all the commercial activities found on the road .

Fig 41 - Between main arteries, alleys run deep in to the inner city



Among those buildings there are small small ways to the residential area of the city. There are nine number of alleyways in this area. One of them is connected to the two major road. It is very complex one. It consists of several branches also. But its main feature is it is describe all the feature in the typical alley.

In this alley area there are few boutiques, which face to the alleyway. Some of the door ways are directly face in to the alley and some of the doorways are not directly faced to the path. There are few recessed doors also. There fore width of the alleyway is different through the alleyway and also those houses have not used the windows. They have only single or double door opening. Most

of the houses have this single door opening. That is only way they get light and ventilation.

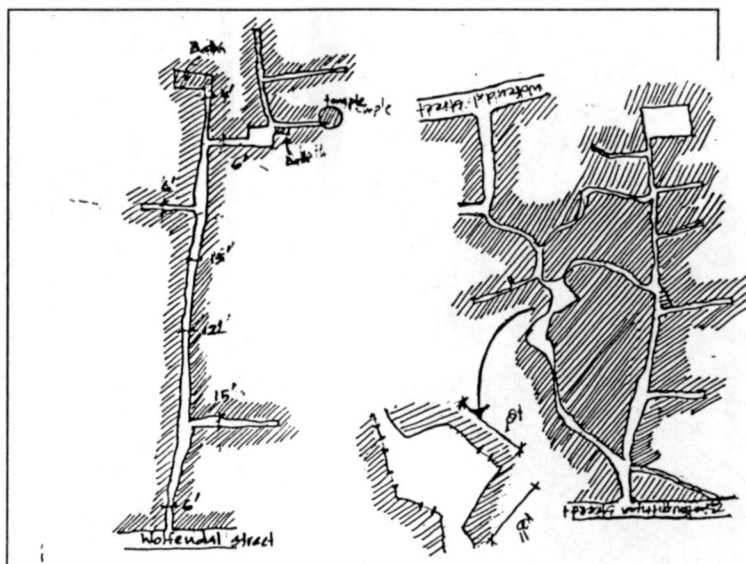
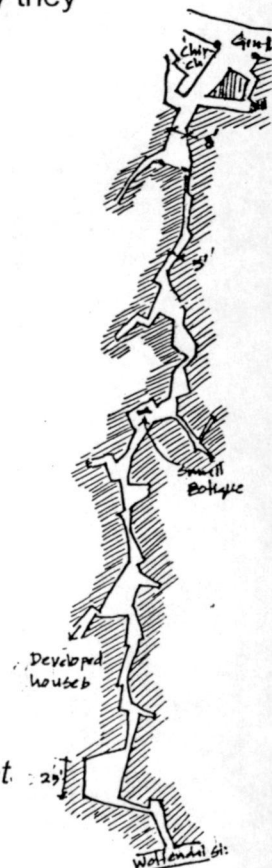


Fig 42-Plan of the main alleyway which consist of activity pocket.



Another one of the alley in this area is like follows

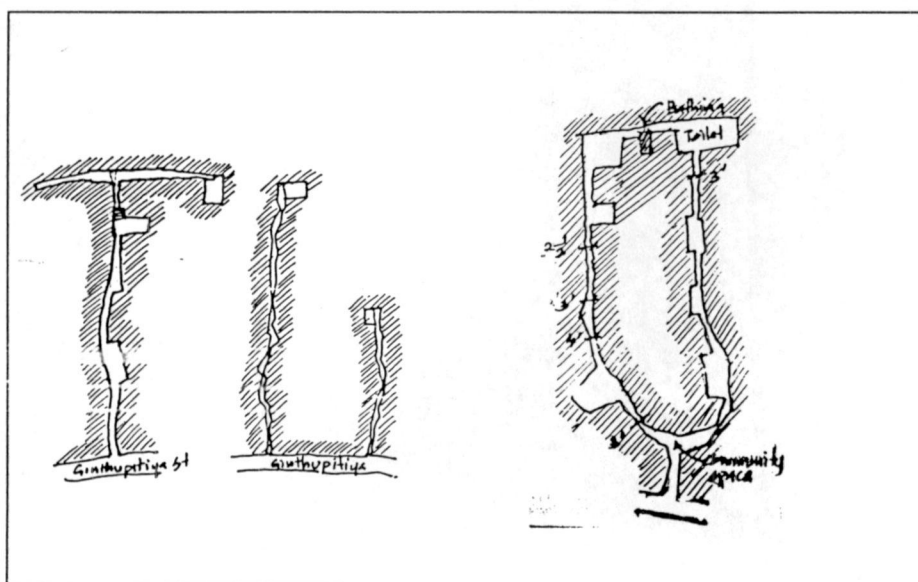


Fig 43- Cul-de-sac formalley

And other common type of alley way s are dead end . In here some branches adding to that.

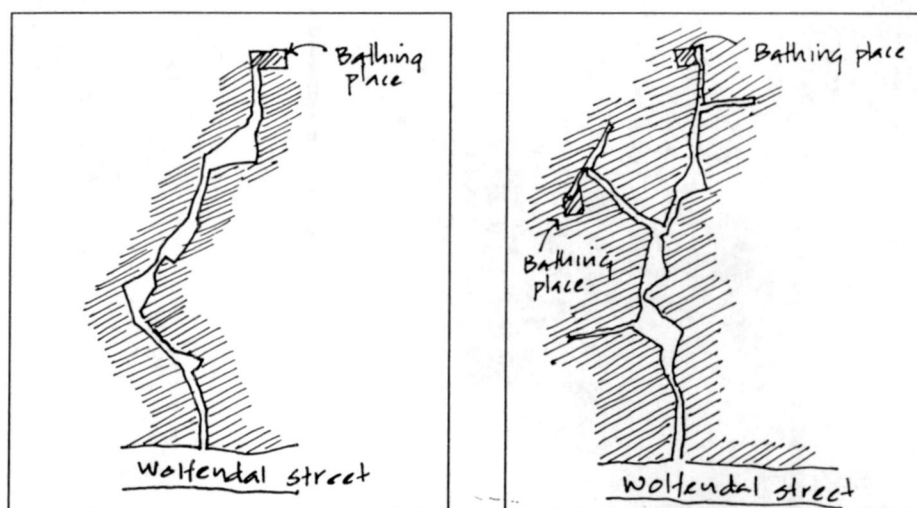


Fig 44- Branched type alley



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Eventhough in these area occupied by poor people each and every space used in very efficient way. They have no any space, which can't use.

In this area other alleys haven't the boutique like commercial activities because of they are dead end ones. But they are full of residential activities, and most of the inhabitants done home base jobs like making of paper bags....etc

Social life In this area ten present of the total population are singhalese. Others are tamilians, Muslims and few amount of others. Even though there are different social group they help to each others. And the social interaction of that neighborhood is in higher level. The children are play on the road, and people are sit and chat on the alley. As well as alley act as a informal business place at the evening.

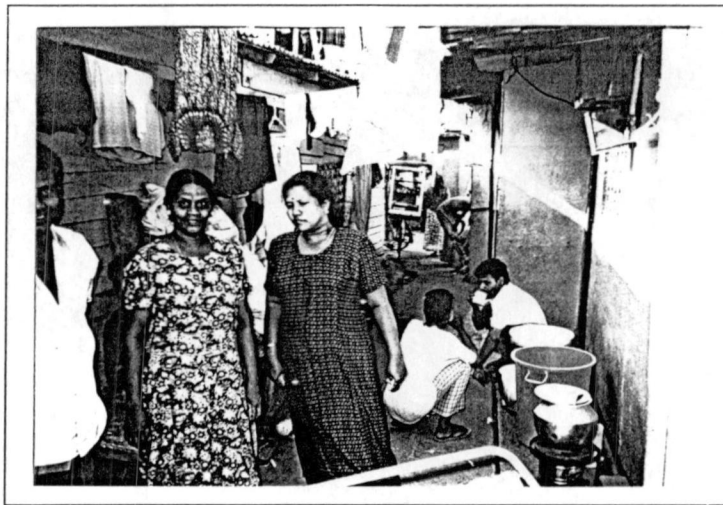


Fig 45- Alley act as informal business place at the evening

Some times there wash place beside or Conner of the alley or part of the alley. Same as the toilets also. They haven't individual wash place or individual toilet place. They have only common facilities and amenities That is the main reason for there positive way of social interaction among the inhabitants. So the alley space act as a place of communication and the living room like multi purpose place.

Fig 46- People and there activity - Informal sector employes at Woliendal street



As a urban element

Those are kind of character to the city. Specially in the night time, all the activities are empty in the Colombo city because that city is running by the commercial basis. But due to close proximity of the residential activity, it gives life to the city and there built form give the urban sense also.



*Fig47- There individuality
And privacy demarcate by the
'bata palala'*



*Fig 48 Individuality and identity
within the context of an
underlying territoriality
wolfendal street*

Identity territoriality and privacy

Every person need to demarcate their territory and want to show their identity and the privacy. But unlike other situation, here these things are limited. Most of the time privacy is limited to the front door or curtain. It is in several way. Some time here it limited to the 'bata palalla', and by recessing the door.... etc. And identity also the same. With the limited space their identity also limited to the built material and colour, which paint. They have not enough

wealth to do more than that as well as no enough space also. And the territoriality also limited to their doorstep and four walls, because other area is common to all neighborhood simultaneously.

Crime and social order

In here there are some small small spaces which are dark, sudden change of the width of the alley etc like place have potential to create the crime . But it is very rear because of the peoples attention is very high.



Fig49- Spaces which encourage the crimes

Hulfsdope –Pettah

See page 70-b

Formation and built environment

This urban block covered by road such as Messenger street, Hussainia street and quarry road. Here also have one major alley

with consist of branches and that main alley connected to two major road.

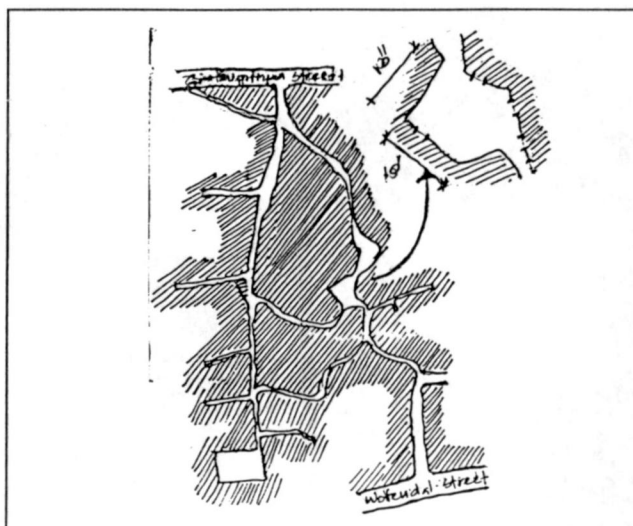
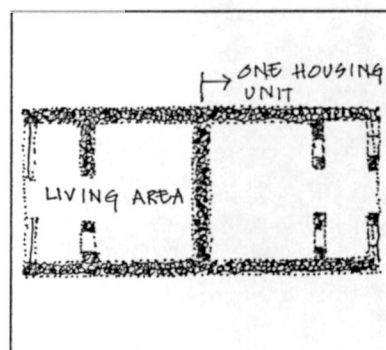
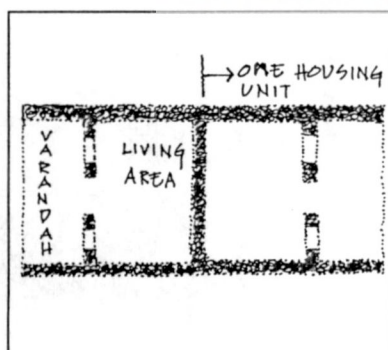


Fig50-Way of Connection of Alley to the Main road

But other alleys are dead end and their considerably shorter in length. Here all the alley-houses are faced to the alley way.



Earlier there was a verandah

People encroach that place

Fig51-Transformation of alley-row house

Because of that the alley width become narrow. Most of the alley paved with cement tiles or cement rendering. Here also most of the domestic activities are happen in the out side of the houses. There fore limited open spaces are use as living room, as a

communication place, because their houses are very small. That is not enough to live even single family also.

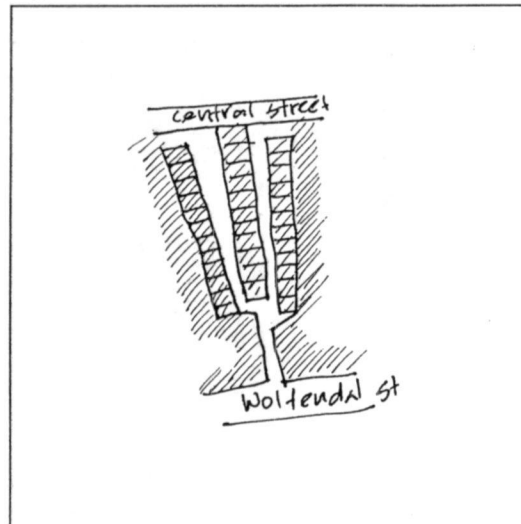


Fig52-Spacelessness of the alley-house, this formation is discourage the extension

Social life



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Fig 53- Small cooking space in a house



An indigenous community of Muslim who proudly possess strong socio cultural roots to their location, is said to have been living for generations in the inner-city of Colombo, in the area east

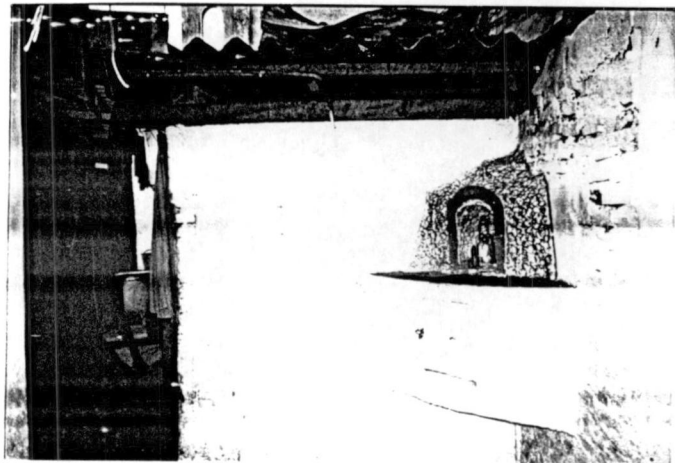
of Pettah known as Hulfsdope. The historical evidence reveals their originality of being one which dates back to the port of Colombo before the first Portuguese ship arrived in the year 1505.

Fig54- Communal wash space



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Fig55- Shrine in alley



Strong communal attitudes among members of such an urban society have formed, a hybrid of distinctive values, norms and ethics, governing their lifestyle and behavioral pattern. The



area under consideration of the study therefore qualities characters of such social cohesion in and around their comparatively bunched up neighborhood. In here the people are low and lower middle income social groups. The majority who are engaged in informal sector employment, earn their living working as casual or semi-permanent laborers in the Colombo port.



Fig56- Entrance to main alley in Hulfs - dorp



Fig57- Topographical variation variation experienced in Hulfsdorp

Fig58- Informal sector employee and thoroughway alley which connected the main artery



Fig59- Communal wash space - Hulfs Dorp



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

As a urban element

Those are also give life to the city, because most of the alleyway inhabitants jobs are starting with the evening. The fry 'wade' fry 'patis' like short eats boiled 'kadala' etc., and sell to the alley people as well as city people and those allies are supported to enhance the urban and social fabric of the city- Colombo.

Identity territoriality and privacy

Same as the other s, those alley people also concern about their privacy identity and the territoriality, but due to limitation of space that people unable to do it in significant way. There fore these territoriality and privacy is limited to the four walls surrounding the house., But to achieve the identity , they used colours(painting) trellis work, Meshes like element. Some people try to achieve their identity with adding various decorative elements.

And also some people built vertically upward also. But it is not only their identity that is because of the problem of the space.

*Fig60- Different cement
Concrete tile paving
showing their identity*



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Crime and social order



Fig61- Spaces which encourage the crimes

In those area chances for those illegal activity are very very limited, because of here the inhabitants attention are in higher level because houses are located as a row houses and very lesser number of niches like thing. Those row houses are not developed in haphazard way. It is done by the previous government as a development of shanty settlements.

Messenger street - Pettah

see page 70-b

Formation and built environment

In earlier along the messenger street there were Muslims sellers and their residential. But now it is convert into different commercial activities like selling bathroom fittings and plastic goods....etc. And also the road is full of vehicular traffic also. However in there found very lesser number of alleyways, which start from Messenger street.

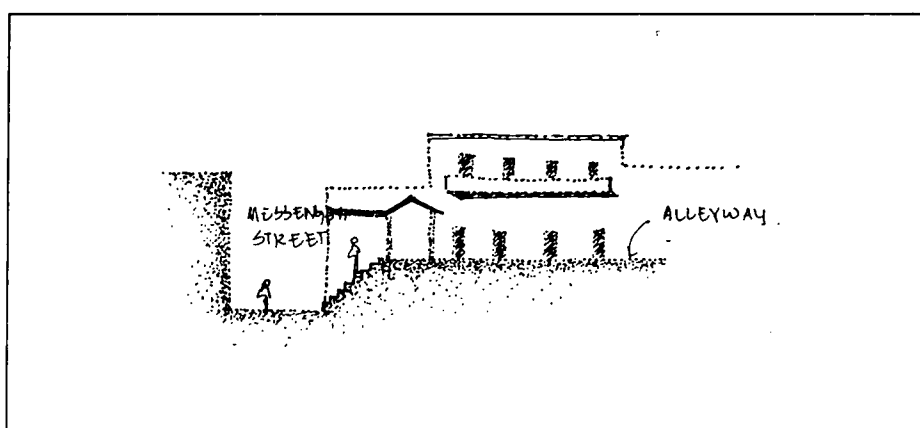
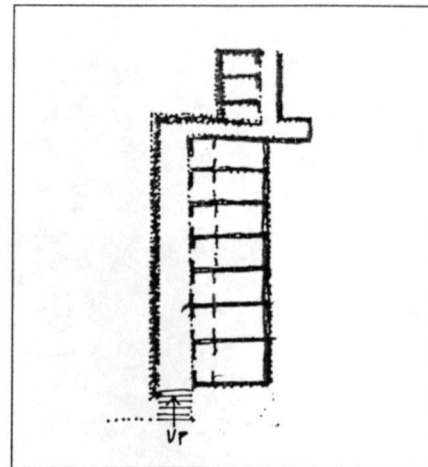


Fig 62-Series of steps which discourage vehicles

One of the alley way found here , has about six feet level difference from the Messenger street.

Fig63- One of the edge demarcate by blank wall and other is row houses



It is consist with row houses by one side and other side is a higher parapet wall. The width of the alleyway almost similar throughout the length. But end of the way there are bath and toilet place. The alley path is cement rendered and that level deference connected by series of steps. All the door openings are open to the alley and that is only opening to get the light And ventilation to the house.



Fig64- Stepped alley discourage the vehicular traffic through that and encourage the pedestrians

Social life

In this area hundred present of the community is Muslims. Here also the most of the domestic activities are happen on the alleyway. Drying cloths, children play on that, residents sit and chat on that etc. But there are several number of families live in the 100sqft or 120 sq.ft floor area.

Identity Territoriality and privacy

In here also most of the alley houses are done by the previous government. Therefore all the houses have similar characters. But as a human being they need any kind of identity. So they achieve that by using the different colours. But privacy and territoriality is limited to four walls because of the limited space.



Fig65- Houses located in both sides are faced to each other. Its encourage the social interactions.

Crime and social order

Even though those are small alley and due to dead end ones those inhabitant's attention is more than the others, and therefore chances for the illegal activities and social unhealthy situation is very lesser that is because in here all the community is Muslims and their social interaction is very higher between the same ethnic group than others.

Ginthupitiya street

See page 70 -a

Formation and built environment

This is more congestive built area. Therefore those alleyways are very very narrow considering the others. Most of them are dead end and dead end with branches.

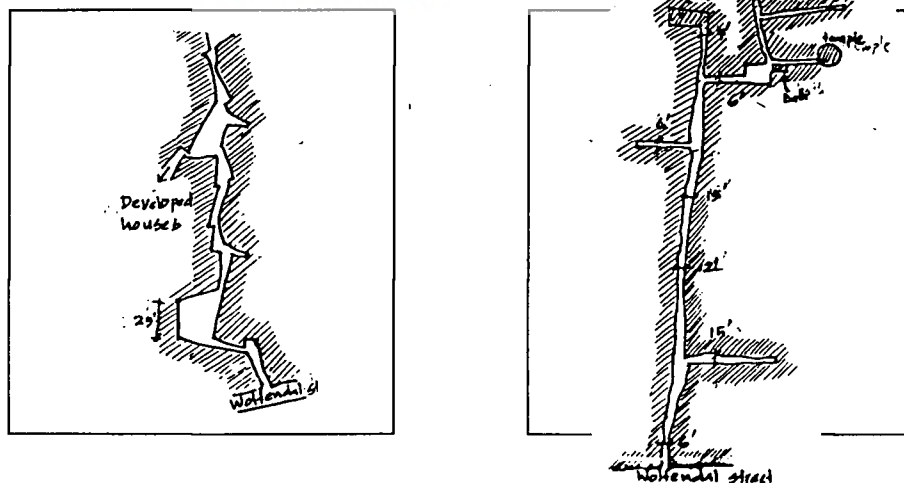


Fig66-Branched alleys which shows the differential pattern of neighborhood

The end of the alley or Corner of that there is washing place or toilets. And there are some places which illegally tapping the water also. Here some of the house are old buildings which are

abandoned. There fore in there living condition is very poor and unhealthy.



Fig67 Topographical variations experienced in Ginthupitiya area

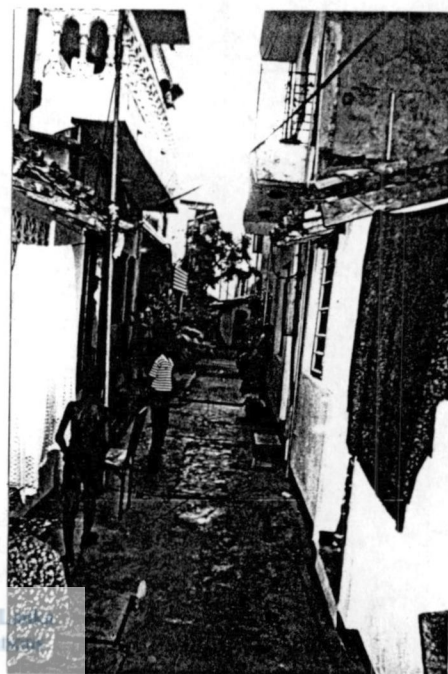


Fig68 Row houses are facing to the cement rendered alley Path

Social life

In those area total population is consist of tamilians. There are large number of very very narrow alleyways, and lived unaffordable number of families in one unit which is about 100 or 150 sq.ft. Here the people are workers of the harbor labours, small pavement sellers, 'nattami's, and labours of C.M.C, smugglers , people who working under heroine businessmen',...etc .And most of the younger generation are addict to the drugs and social unhealthy activities, and some innocent peoples are prepare



'kadala', frying 'wade' or other short ears, and sell in the evening at the Galle face ground or near the station, bus stand....etc.

In here also same as the other due to limited space most of the domestic activities are happen on the alleyway. There also have common washing space, toilet space. But there are insufficient to the whole neighborhood.

Fig69 Alley ful of day today Activity



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

Fig70- Informal gathering after the funeral



Fig71- Over head element and dead end alley





*Fig72- communal wash
place and its encorage*

the social interactions

University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
nic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk



*Fig73- infoemal sector employe-
- ment*

Identity privacy and territoriality



Fig74- colonial building encircling the residential enclaves

Here also same as the other places, due to lack and limited space there Identity privacy and territoriality is limited to the four walls.

Crime and social order

Even though there is no place create to the crimes. Those people are more potential to doing illegal and social unhealthy activities like selling drugs, drug addicts smugglers...etc



REFFARENCES

1. Brohier, R.L. De Wolvendalsche kerk, Colombo (1938).
2. Hullugalla, Century Volume of the Colombo Municipality council,
Colombo, (1865-1965)



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk









University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

CHAPTER - 5

CHANGING CHARACTERS OF ALLEYWAYS IN COPLOMBO

CHAPTER – 5

Changing characters of Alleyways in Colombo

When considering those alleys in Colombo – Pettah area, very important because it generate life of the city. And give character to the city. The urban alleyways, which contribute to the life of the city, have diminished due to various development process and activities.

Most of the alleyways in those areas, were thoroughfares ones. But due to various security reasons there were obstruct by high parapet wall, which could unable to go other side. Because of that people who lived in that kind of situations are very unhappy, due to subpress of three sides. They have only one opening, which is alley entrance.

In earlier in those alleys have built up to some extent which were in livable condition. But due to increasing of the population those are developed. As a result of that people encroach the open space such as alley- way. Because of that the alleyway become thinner and thinner. There fore those days alleys become unhealthy place for inhabitants.

And most of the people go to abroad to earn money because those people are low or lower middle class poor people. Then they built single story houses up to two three stories, and add various decorations and various elements, various colours to give there own identity and territoriality. Developments of the people are very good. But that should not be give bad effect to the character of that area.

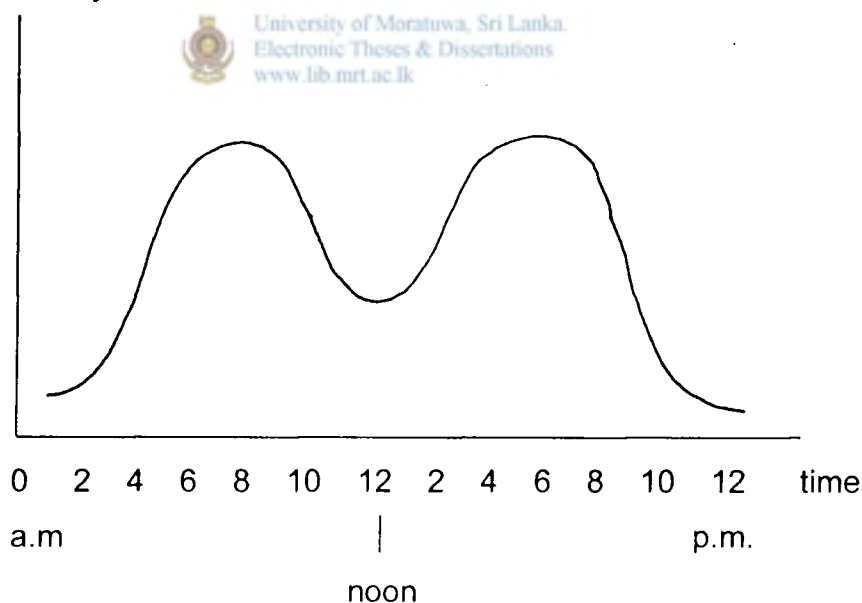
Other than that some people who live those area are shifted to their residences to another places. And new comers are

established here. They change those places to suit to them. It will be good way and same as the another way. Some times it may change the whole character of that fabric and effect to the city character also. And the same time it will be the start of the socially unhealthy and unexpected thing.

Increasing of the population of this area is affected to the space of this are. People who are able to by the land in another area are shifted to there. But people who unaford that are live the same place by increasing the units by encroaching the alley space. That is bug problem. Because that is affected to the facilities and amenities which are available. There for their living standard go down and increasing the unhealthy situations.

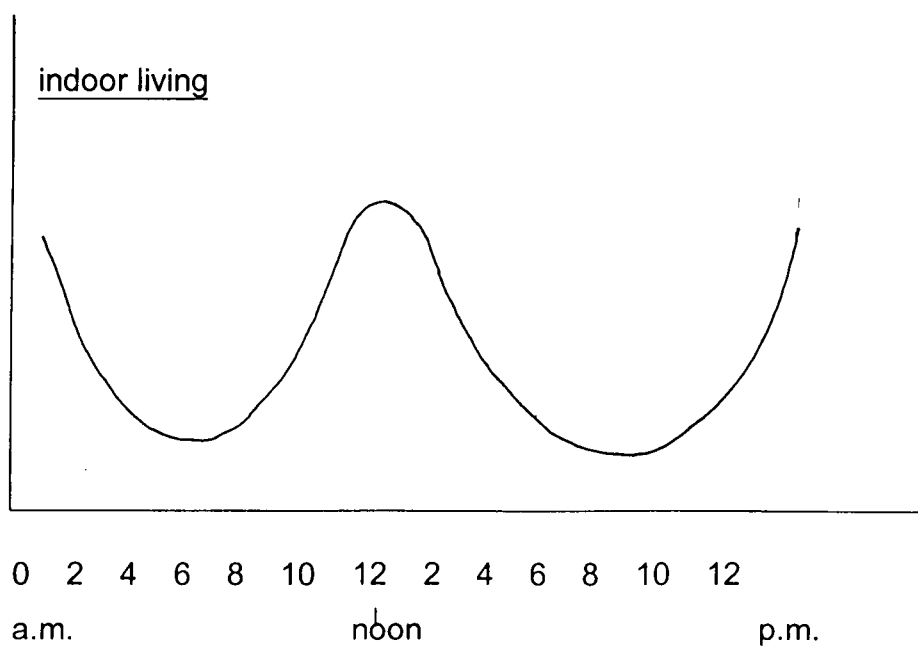
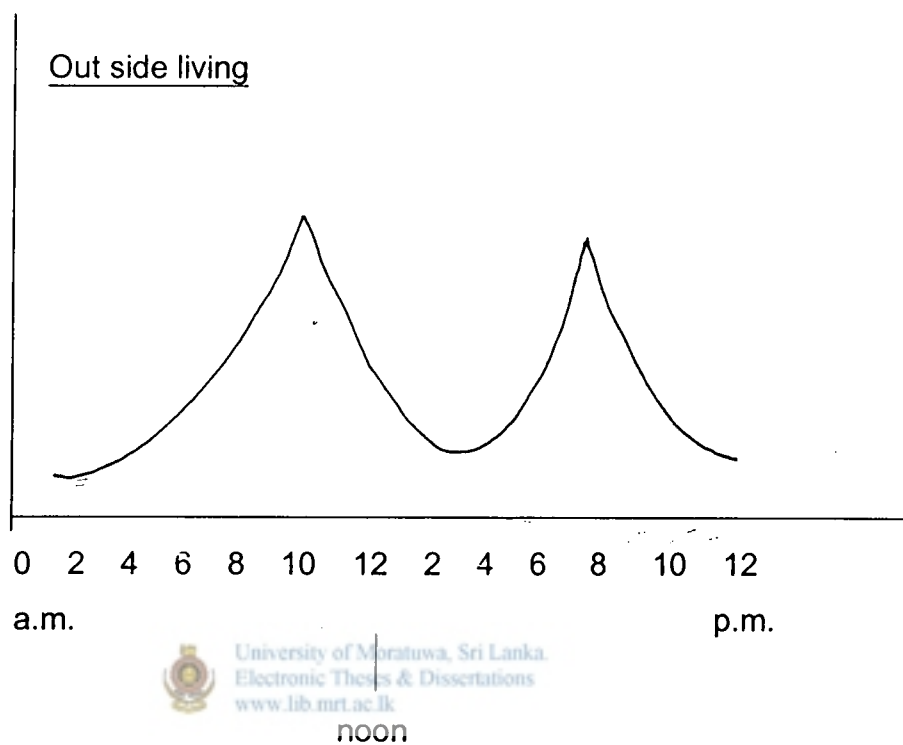
Near the water tap

Activity rate



Above graph shows the behavior of the people near the water tap. Due to limited water facilities people who are live there are shared that facility among the neighborhood. So they start to

activate about three o'clock early in the morning activities which rearguard to washing, bathing...etc.



Other thing is , most of the people who live in those area low or lower middle class people. In those area labeled as urban shanty people our administration authorities. There fore they have special identity as a urban poors, urban shanty people.... etc. It is problem for the children when selecting the favorite school. They have no opportunity to participate that kind of situations. That is also considerable social problem.

How ever the land value of those urban area are rising up very quickly because those area are very close proximity to the city limits. There fore those are have potential to commercial development and institutional development rather than residential development. Because of that UDA also had proposed some kind of commercial development in to this area, by removing those residential to some where else. But most of the people who live in those area are don't like shift the place because they say that they have each and every facilities, amenities and services close proximity to their residences. Eventhough in previous time , people who resettle in another area came again to their previous places again by selling those lands, which have far away. That is because place belongings of the people of that area.

But to be live city only the commercial activities are insufficient./ Because if have only commercial activity after 7-8p.m. city become totally dead. There fore to be live city there should be a mixed development. So instead of removing of these settlements, by keeping by developing and upgrading those thing is very important, to enliven the city character. In nowadays role and function of the alleyways in urban fabric have been disregard by many professionals and other authorities.

So, if not the sustainable action are taken in to investigate the problem, the urban fabric of the city of Colombo also, consist

of large number of alleyways and those alleyways are not exemption from gradual degradation trends.





University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

Colombo – Pettah , congested untidy and dilapidated condition is, leading a casual observer to condemn it as an anachronism. Eventhough it is obscure, but vital institutions of urban social life. Urban planners and politicians, intended to tidying up this situation, ruthlessly sweep away the rich environment by replacing it with a cultural vacuum based on western solution.

The inhabitants of low income group and the rural migrant s, who together constitute the bulk of the population of the cities, seeking protection and employment behind the commercial envelop, meant for the more privileged society, but cannot be ignored as and unavoidable outcome of over urbanization, to let grow haywire. (become – disorganizes) . This study thus highlights the importance of alleyways as resource of urban and city fabric rather than as an unproductive anti social space in the city.

The apparent and salient features of alleyways and streets are the former inviting and more in alleys while strengthening them as residential neighborhoods respective of communal attributes, It can these be used to concentrate social life of cities in alleyways, parallelly dealing with a regeneration of public realm, in addition to involving better environments with respective to the urban content at large. The low income level and the large family size of these inhabitants have resulted in the increasing subdivision of houses, in adequate maintenance, encroachment, litigation over property and sharing of adequate civic amenities.

Entirely demolition of existing urban element and make new, is not an acceptable solution in a context, where the land finances are get low. There fore as effective strategy specially case of alleyways the extension and substitution may good. Then as a result 'ditches' formed in between existing structures.

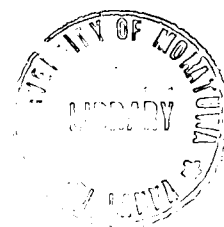
In third world eastern cities, the local population of the city area has strong socio economic linkages with the environment. There fore having began to touch the area in an enormously, complicated aggregate of interrelated aspects, there is a growing awareness of the inevitable need to make the inhabitants participate in any kind of development. It has to be thus made compulsory for the developers who usually try to make the highest profit by fragmentation through eviction, to accommodate the community, in the neighborhood they are met to regulate and control a fate, either through subsidized tenancy or through transfer of owner ship. Legitimization of property , for the owner ship and bringing them under control of local authority in the name of entire cityzeny, will all contribute to the vitality of an indigenous urban scene.

Each city has its own characteristics their social groups are get again different, eventhough the same city, their characters also different from place to place according to the complexity of area, topography, social groups, occupation....etc., which make strategies worked out in the from of options to suit a wide range of consumers in the society. Each options would be useful in being to allow for occupants own making, and their contribution. This will enable social interaction more compatible with their lifestyles than the unsuccessful solutions of planners unfortunate out comes. If developers, planners or politicians should think following as a guide lines if any variations or development take place to that particular area;

Affect on the physical and social fabric

Due to that psychological effect

Hoe, that variation or development affect to the surrounding city fabric and social life.



Acceptance of people (occupants)

So the strategies should therefore be implemented on concerned situation, rather as guidelines and not as hard and fast rules, in regulating and uplifting the living standards and the environment.



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk



BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 Alexander, Christopher. A Pattern Language, New York, Oxford University Press, (1977)
- 2 Appleyard, Donald. Livable street, California, University of California Press ,1981)
- 3 Brambille, Roberto; and Longo, Gianna. For Pedestrian Only Planning,Design Management Of Traffic Free Zone, New York: Watson - Guptill Publications,(1977).
4. Brohier,R.L. De Wolvendalsche kerk, Colombo (1938).
- 5 Correa, Charles. The New Landscape, Bombay, The Book society of India,(1985)
- 6 Gehl,Jan. Life between Buildings, Using Public space,Copenhagen,Denmark Arkitektens Forlog.
- 7 Hakim, B. Selim. Arabic-Islamic Cities, Building And Planning Principles, London,KPL Limited (1986).
- 7 Hosken, Fran P. The Function of Cities, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Schenkman Publishing Company , (1973).
- 9 Hullugalla, Century Volume of the Colombo Municipality council, Colombo,(1865-1965)

- 10 Jacobs, J. 'Death and Life Of Greart American Cities, New York, Random House,(1961).
- 11 Jacobs A.B. Great street, United State , America MIT Press, (1993).
- 12 Kostof, Spiro. The City Assembled, Elements of Urban Form Through History London, Thames and Hudson Ltd, (1992).
- 13 Kostof, Spiro. The City Shaped, Urban pattern And Meanings, Through History London, Thames and Hudson Ltd, (1992).
- 14 Oliver,Paul. Shelter And Society, London , Barrie & Jenkin,(1969).
- 15 Rapoport, Amos. History and Precedent in Environmental design, New York, Plenum Press, (1990).
- 16 Rudofsky, Bernard. Architecture without Architects, New York. Doubleday & Company, Inc, (1969).
- 17 Rudofsky, Bernard. Streets For People, New York. Doubleday & Company, Inc, (1969).
- 18 Sommer, Robert. Tight Spaces, Hard Architecture and How to Humanize it, New Jercey, Prentice-hall, Inc, (1974).
- 19 Suttles, Gerald. D. The Social order of The Slum Ethnicity and Territoriality in the Inner city, Chicargo, The University of Chicargo Press, (1971).



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt.ac.lk



PERIODICALS

- 1 Khan, Hassan-Uddin(Ed.). "Contemporary Moroccan Architecture".
Mimar , vol. xxx , London , Concept media Pte Ltd ,
Oct/Dec , 1986. P
- 2 Khan , Hassan-Uddin(Ed.). "Public Sector Mass Housing".
Mimar, vol. xxx , London , Concept media Pte Ltd , 28 th
June, 1988. P
- 3 Khan , Hassan-Uddin(Ed.). "The Historic Urban Centre". Mimar,
vol. xxx , London , Concept media Pte Ltd, 24 th June,
1988. P



University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Electronic Theses & Dissertations
www.lib.mrt

